# Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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# September 2011

# Commander's Corner

This month September 12th to the 18th, the USS Razorback Association will be will be holding their annual reunion in North Little Rock. and will be working aboard the boat with the goal of starting the #4 main engine. I hope to be there to see and smell the old rock crusher roar to life one more time. To help support this effort by the association, the morning of Friday September 16th the Base along with AIMM will cook a pancake breakfast for the members of the association. I encourage everyone who can make it down to the boat to come on down and help out with the breakfast, and hopefully we'll see #4 send a smoke signal across the river that will make everyone on the Little Rock side wonder "What Was That"?

Thanks to everyone who helped out with cleaning up the Matthews Barge to get it in condition for our August Base meeting. A great deal of work was done by a small number of individuals, but the effort really paid off, and I think it

was worth the effort. There is still more work to be done to bring the old barge up to usable condition for normal monthly meetings, but I think it will be worth it, in order to have a place for regular base meetings. Again thanks to all those who helped out.

Our next base meeting will be October 22nd onboard the Matthews Barge. Billy Hollaway is planning a potluck chili dinner with a Halloween theme, costume contest and treasure hunt aboard the USS Razorback. This should prove interesting, so start planning your costume now.

Greg Schwerman

Base Commander



# **Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of September**

USS S-5 (SS-110) 1-Sep-1920. No loss of life. All the crew escaped through a hole cut in hull in the tiller room

USS S-51 (SS-162) 25-Sep-1925. 32 men lost

**USS Pompano (SS-181) 1-Sep-1943**. All hands lost (76)

**USS Grayling (SS-209) 9-Sep-1943**. All hands lost (75)

**USS Cisco (SS-290) 28-Sep-1943**. All hands lost (76)

# USS CISCO (SS-290) September 28, 1943 – All Hands Lost - 76



USS Cisco (SS-290), a Balao-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the cisco, a whitefish of the Great Lakes. Her keel was laid down by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. The sixth boat in the new Balao class, she was launched on 24 December 1942 sponsored by Mrs. A.C. Bennett, through her proxy, Mrs. N. Robertson, and commissioned on 10 May 1943 with Commander James W. Coe in command. "Red" Coe was a well-known skipper having successfully captained the submarines S-39 (SS-144) and Skipjack (SS-184) earlier in the war and was rewarded by commissioning the new Cisco.

She reported to the Pacific Fleet. Cisco sailed from Panama 7 August 1943 for Brisbane, Australia, arriving 1 September to assume local patrol duties, until 18 September, when she docked at Darwin. With Coe anxious to get back into the war, she topped up with fuel and departed immediately on her first war patrol. However, the boat had a problem with the main hydraulic system and returned to port that same evening. With the system checked over and fixed Cisco sailed the following day. She put out on her first war patrol 20 September, but never returned.

Japanese records show that on 28 September 1943 one of their aircraft detected a submarine trailing oil and made a bombing run on the area of the source. The pilot then called in surface vessels to depth-charge the area producing even more oil and this continued to float to the surface even until 10 October. Japanese records also state that the submarine was attacked by Type 97 "Kate" attack bombers of the 954 Naval Air Squadron and the riverboat Karatsu (originally a U.S. gunboat, USS Luzon (PR-7), captured by Japanese forces and put to work against its former owners). The area in Sulu Sea where the attack took place was the Cisco's patrol area and she was the only boat operating in that section.

Thus, a fighting skipper, a fine crew and a new submarine were lost before getting their chance to fight. However, Cisco was awarded one battle star for her service. The only survivor from the crew was Chief Radioman Howell B. Rice (USN ret.), who was taken sick in Darwin and sent ashore to the Navy hospital prior to Cisco's final voyage.

"We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds," Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN.





# USSVI Razorback Base Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2011

The Razorback Base was called to order by the base commander Greg Schwerman at 1605 hours on the Matthew barge at AIMM in Little Rock, AR. There were 20 members present. Greg Zonner gave the invocation. Greg Schwerman led in the Pledge of Allegiance, and read The Creed. The Tolling of the Bell for Lost Boats was presented by Billy Hollaway and Gene Prohl.

A welcome was given to members who had not been at a meeting for a while, Glenna & Bill Butler and Fred Weilminster.

The minutes of the June 25, 2011 meeting were read by Jane Farmer. Minutes were accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was given by Bob Bolin. The balance in checking account, as of June 2011, was \$8059.66. A motion was made and seconded to accept treasurer's report as read. Motion passed.

### Committee Report

- 1. Membership-John Barr reported the base membership at 209 members. We have two new members, John Mitchell and Charles Waddell, and two members who are now on Eternal Patrol, Earle Aucion and Mary Lemons.
- Memorials and Ceremonies-Paul Honeck is still making plans for Veteran's Day which will be on Nov. 11, 2011.
- 3. Activities-Ray Wewers reported that the national convention will be in Sept. in Springfield, MO. A motion was made and seconded that Billy Hollaway would plan the Navy birthday dinner in Nov. Motion passed. The Christmas

- party will be Dec. 10, 2011 at AIMM.
- 4. Holland Club-Tom Salisbury had nothing to report.

## Old Business

 A pancake breakfast will be held on Sept. 16, 2011. A motion was made and seconded to take \$250 of the base's general fund for expenses, and Sherri Hollaway will be in charge. Motion passed. This breakfast will be for the people here with The Razorback Asso., and any base member who wants to come.

### **New Business**

- A motion was made and seconded to send \$50 to the Cole Land Transportation Museum scholarship fund in Bangor ME .in memory of Earle Aucion. Motion passed.
- Sheri Hollaway will head a committee to look in to updating AIMM's kitchen.
- 3. Billy Hollaway ask members to get there orders in for 2012 calendars.

# Good of the Order

- David Boyer thanked everyone for all the help after the tornado in DesArc, AR.
- The base wanted to thank Joe Mathis for all his work getting the Matthew barge ready for meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1650 hours.

Benediction by Carl Schmidt

Recording Secretary Jane Farmer

### **Base Activity**

The October 22, 2011 Base Activity is currently in the infancy planning stages however the theme will be fall and Halloween. Tentative plans call for a pot luck affair and if any member is a chili chef, they are encouraged to enter their cuisine. All who attend are encouraged to come in masquerade and a surprise prize

will be given for best dressed. Also, a treasure hunt on board RAZORBACK will be conducted. The party will be on the Matthews Barge starting at 1700 (5:00 PM) on Saturday, October 22, 2011. A short business meeting will be conducted during the festivities at the Commander's discretion. More details will be provided as plans are firmed up.

Bill Hollaway retldousn@earthlink.net Pride Runs Deep

# 2012 USSVI Calendars on Sale - Notice

The 2012 USSVI Calendar theme is "Cold War Submarines." Both diesels and nukes are featured, along with a brief history of submarines and the Cold War. There's something here for every submariner: Diesel, GUPPY, Regulus, Fast Attack and Boomer!

Orders are being taken for the new calendars from USSVI. They will feature Cold War Submarines. To preclude ordering too many and losing money or not ordering a sufficient quantity and someone not being able to enjoy a calendar, I am going to change the process this year.

If you want or think you will want a 2012 calendar, and we have a quantity of 2-5, your unit price is \$10.50 each; 6-10, \$9.50; 11-50, \$7.50; over 50, \$6.50 each. Sale price will include postage except to an overseas, FPO or APO.

The deadline for your order to me will be thirty (30) days past the USSVI National Convention in Springfield, MO, 5-11 September 2011, or 12 October 2011 at which time no orders for 2012 calendars from the USS RAZORBACK Base Store will be taken. During the past four years, I have attempted to order calendars based on verbal commitments or special requests. This has resulted in a loss to the base treasury for unsold calendars and in some cases; members were unable to obtain a calendar.

Thanks for your cooperation. Let me know via e-mail, snail mail (3220 N Cypress St., N. Little Rock, AR 72116-9138), or telephone (501 758-3266) or contact me at the August 27 base meeting.

Bill Hollaway retldousn@earthlink.net Pride Runs Deep

# District Commander's Keep Their Posts

At the close of our 2011 District Commander Election, all four Central Region District Commander's remain the same.

CD1 Ray Wewers CD2 Victor Vanhorn CD3 David Farran CD4 Wyvel "Tom" Williams



# **Patriot Day**

From the USŚVI Blueback Base
In the United States, Patriot
Day occurs on 11 September of
each year, designated in memory
of the 2,977 killed in the 11
September 2001 attacks. Many
Americans who were affected by
the events that day refer to the day
as "Nine-Eleven (9/11)",
"September Eleventh", or some
variation thereof. Initially, the day
was called the Prayer and
Remembrance for the Victims of
the Terrorist Attacks on 11

September 2001.

U.S. House of Representatives
Joint Resolution 71 was approved
by a vote of 407–0 on 25 October
2001. It requested that the
President designate 11 September
of each year as "Patriot Day".
President George W. Bush signed
the resolution into law on 18
December 2001 (as Public Law
107-89). It is a discretionary day of
remembrance.

On this day, the President directs that the American flag be flown at half-staff at individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government

buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

### **Base Dues**

The end of the year is fast approaching and that means that 2012 dues will be due shortly. Avoid the rush; please pay your dues now. Don't become a DINK... Thank you!



<u>Sept 9, 10 & 11</u>- USSVI Annual Convention in Springfield Mo. **Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Base Activity at AIMMS



# **AIMM Winter Schedule**

AIMM will return to our fall schedule on September 5th. We will be open on the following schedule:

Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday - 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

As always, we are available for group tours, especially school groups, during the week by appointment, and we continue booking evening events, including our popular birthday parties and overnight group events.

To book a group tour or other special event, contact the museum at 501-371-8320.

In honor and remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum (AIMM), home of the historic submarine USS Razorback (SS-394), will offer ½ price admission on Sunday, September 11th, 2011. The adult admission, normally \$6, will be \$3. Admission for seniors, children and active duty or retired military, normally \$4 each, will be only \$2.

The museum will be open on its regular schedule, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The last tour will start at 5:30 p.m.

As always, the museum will be available, by appointment, for school groups or other similar group tours during the week.

Group tours may be arranged by calling the museum at 501-371-8320.

# Navy News

Service Honors Henry Native Who Commanded WWII Submarine Congressional Medal of Honor winner went down with his ship



HENRY — A ceremony Sunday preceding a large 9/11 memorial service will honor a local war hero and attach additional meaning to a torpedo that has stood mounted in Central Park downtown for nearly four decades.

The service, scheduled for 2 p.m., will honor the memory, valor and sacrifice of John Phillip Cromwell, a Henry native who earned the Medal of Honor for actions as commander of a submarine during World War II.

The service is being organized by the Peoria base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc., said James Hafele, a Peoria attorney who served on a submarine in the 1950s and is now commander of the Peoria unit. Cromwell was born in Henry on Sept. 11, 1901, so this special commemoration will come on the 110th anniversary of his birth, Hafele noted.

"Our whole purpose is to call attention to the Congressional Medal of Honor," Hafele said. "It's so unusual for a small town like Henry to be the birthplace of a Medal of Honor recipient."

Cromwell was awarded that honor posthumously for his actions as commander of the USS Sculpin submarine in November 1943 near the Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific. After a battle with a Japanese vessel left the sub seriously damaged, he ordered most of his crew to abandon ship so they could be rescued.

Cromwell himself, however, had extensive knowledge of broader military intelligence and planning, and he chose to sacrifice his life rather than risk disclosing secrets under the pressure of enemy interrogation, Hafele said.

"He voluntarily went down with the sub so he would not reveal any information," Hafele said. The torpedo memorial in Central Park was dedicated in 1974. It contains plaques honoring Cromwell and the submarine service.

"There have been 66 submarines that have been lost since the birth of the submarine service," Hafele said, "all the way from the old diesel boats to the current nuclear boats."

One person paying respects at the memorial Tuesday was Chip Lanham, a Vietnam veteran from South Carolina who is a crew member on the USS LST 325, a restored World War II battleship, which has been docked in Henry for tours since Friday and will be in Peoria later this week. "I heard about (the Cromwell memorial) from another crew member, and I decided to jump ship and take a walk," Lanham said.

Cromwell's descendants have scattered to distant areas, and none are expected to attend Sunday's service, according to email exchanges provided by Hafele.

"We very much appreciate the

"We very much appreciate the significance of the memorial service you are conducting," wrote his grandson, John P. Cromwell III, in California.

A large 9/11 service featuring comments from a retired New York police officer who was at the scene will take place later Sunday. That will begin about 6:15 p.m. with a solemn procession of emergency vehicles from the Henry Fire Department.

**SSGNs Finally See Combat** 

Strategypage.com, Aug 30, 2011

August 30, 2011: With nearly all of Libya overrun by rebels, it was possible to get a close look at how well the American Tomahawk TLAM-E did in its first combat use. The missile performed as predicted. Most of these Tomahawks were fired during the initial air attack on March 19th. Moreover, most of the Tomahawks (over a hundred) launched on that day were fired by one ship; the nuclear submarine USS Florida. This was the first time an SSGN saw combat, but not the first time nuclear subs have fired missiles in wartime (U.S. SSNs have fired Tomahawks several times.)

The USS Florida was one of four Ohio class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) converted to cruise missile submarines (SSGN). The USS Florida and the other three SSGNs entered service over the last five years, and this is the first time one of them fired its missiles in combat. Each of these Ohio class boats now carry 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, and provides space for 66 commandos (usually SEALs) and their equipment.

The idea of converting ballistic missile subs, that would have to be scrapped to fulfill disarmament agreements, has been bouncing around since the 1990s. After September 11, 2001, the idea got some traction. The navy submariners love this one, because they lost a lot of their reason for being with the end of the Cold War. The United States had built a powerful nuclear submarine force during the Cold War, but with the rapid disappearance of the Soviet navy in the 1990s, there was little reason to keep over a hundred nuclear subs in commission. These boats are expensive, costing over a billion each to build and over a million dollars a week to operate. The four Ohio class SSBN being converted each have at least twenty years of life left in them.

The idea of a sub, armed with 154 highly accurate cruise missiles, and capable of rapidly traveling under water (ignoring weather, or observation) at a speed of over 1,200 kilometers a day, to a far off hot spot, had great appeal in the post-Cold War world. The ability to carry a large force of commandos as well was also attractive. In one sub you have your choice of hammer or scalpel. More capable cruise missiles are in the works as well. Whether or not this

multi-billion dollar investment will pay off remains to be seen, but it certainly worked off Libya.

And then there's the new Tomahawk. The RGM-109E Block IV Surface Ship Vertical Launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missile weighs 1.2 ton, is six meters (18 feet) long, has a range of 1,600 kilometers, getting there at a speed of 600-900 kilometers an hour, flying at an altitude of 17-32 meters (50-100 feet) and propelled by a jet engine generating only 600 pounds of thrust. Accuracy is on a par with JDAM (10 meters/31 feet). The Block IV Tomahawk can be reprogrammed in flight to hit another target and carries a vidcam to allow a missile to check on prospective targets.

But there's always something new. Last year, there was a successful test of the new JMEW (Joint Multi-Effects Warhead System) warhead for its Tomahawk Block IV cruise missile. The new, 450 kg (1,000 pound) warhead is designed mainly for penetrating underground bunkers, but it will also provide excellent blast effect for less robust targets. Exact penetration was not revealed. JMEW uses laser terminal guidance, enabling it to hit within a few meters (ten feet) of its aiming point. JMEW can also hit moving targets.

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# **Boeing Tests Submarine Drone Off Santa Catalina Island**

By W.J. Hennigan, LA Times, Aug 19, 2011

LOS ANGELES -- An 18-foot, bright-yellow submarine drone is being tested off the coast of Santa Catalina Island for possible use by the U.S. military to stalk enemy waters, patrol local harbors for national security threats and scour ocean floors to detect environmental hazards.

Although robotic aircraft already play a critical role in modern warfare, taking out insurgents with missile strikes in the skies above Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, the same robotic revolution hasn't taken place in the world's oceans.

Submarine drones have had limited use in ocean exploration, but Boeing Co. hopes to forge a much more sweeping role in national defense and environmental protection, said Mark Kosko, program director for the company's Unmanned Underwater Systems division.

"We're at the point that we can take this show on the road," he said. "This is a technology that can now move beyond the test role into a more meaningful role."

The mini-sub was made at Boeing's defense systems facility in Anaheim.

The unmanned sub can withstand the crushing pressures of the deep ocean, diving to depths of 10,000 feet to glide above the seabed, dodging craggy mountains on its own. Engineers can envision a day when the vehicle is equipped with long-range torpedoes and sent on covert missions that last for months.

Boeing built the robotic submarine, dubbed Echo Ranger, in 2001 to capture high-resolution sonar images of underwater sea beds for the oil and gas industry. But now the company believes it has evolved the sub's onboard computers into a sophisticated system that will usher in a new era of unmanned submersibles.

The Echo Ranger program is not funded by the Navy; rather the endeavor is funded entirely by Boeing itself. The company would not disclose how much it has poured into research and design of the submarine.

Kosko did say the program benefited heavily from lessons learned during a five-year, \$100-million contract in which Boeing developed a clandestine mine reconnaissance system for the Navy.

"It has been a long road," Kosko said. "But this is the future."

Boeing first tested the sub in its 1million-gallon test pool at its Anaheim facility that was the birthplace of the guidance systems for the world's first nuclear submarine and developed components for the manned space program.

Boeing is moving from the facility, which boasted 36,000 workers at its Cold War peak, to its growing complex in Huntington Beach.

The Echo Ranger ran some missions capturing high-resolution sonar images of sea beds for oil and gas companies including Exxon Mobil Corp. It is now running tests off Catalina Island at the University of Southern California's Wrigley Marine Science Center.

Kosko hopes that it won't be long before its running missions for the Navy.

"It's ready to be sent in harm's way," he said.

The Navy has a number of aerial drone programs in the works, including its carrier-launched, batwinged X-47B drone and MQ-8 Fire Scout unmanned helicopter, both made by Northrop Grumman Corp. They also have used robotic mine sweepers, such as Boeing's mine reconnaissance system.

But the chief of naval operations, Adm. Gary Roughead, said in a speech on Friday that submarine drones will be vital to future battles and reconnaissance missions.

"Unmanned systems will play an even larger, more critical, and more crucial role in the years ahead, particularly in contested environments," he said. "Few times in history have we been presented with a technological opportunity in the way we are today."

He characterized unmanned systems as a "game-changer," technology that is cheaper and safer for sailors than current technology.

"We in the Navy have reimagined our future," Roughead said.

Technology, however, is still catching up to that vision.

Unlike aerial drones, which rely on GPS data for guidance and location, submarines plummeting the depths of the ocean cannot receive satellite signals. For this reason, a robotic submarine needs to have complete autonomy and "smarts" to know where it is and where it is going.

The autonomy issue is of particular concern if the robots are to be armed one day. Roughead recently ordered Navy lawyers to examine the legal and ethical issues of unmanned systems in warfare.

Along with the technological and ethical hurdles, robotic submarines also face bureaucratic head winds among some Navy brass, said defense expert Peter W. Singer, author of "Wired for War," a book about robotic warfare.

"It takes a lot to change the mind set of military officials," he said. "With aerial drones, it was a little easier to convince the brass because troops were losing their lives in roadside bomb attacks. They realized there was an immediate need for the technology.

"We're not engaging in undersea combat," he said. "That need isn't as clear."

Current concerns about the size of the federal deficit may increase interest in the cheaper submarine drones, he said. Today's class of nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarines cost \$2.8 billion a piece, according to the latest Government Accountability Office report. Drone subs will cost a fraction of that, Singer

"The same benefits apply to underwater drones as they do to aerial drones: It saves lives and money," he said. "Just like what happened in the air, it's bound to happen beneath the sea."

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!-

Sep 4<sup>th</sup> – Stephen Pittman

Sep 5<sup>th</sup> – Leslie Nichols

Sep 5 – Leslie Nichols
Sep 9<sup>th</sup> – Joseph Mathis
Sep 10<sup>th</sup> – June Eubanks
Sep 15<sup>th</sup> – Jud Rouch
Sep 20<sup>th</sup> – R. Casto

Sep 20 – H. Casto

Sep 21<sup>st</sup> – Thomas Howard

Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> – Joseph Talbert

Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> – Gary Reynolds

Sep 24<sup>th</sup> – Mad Max Bassett

Sep 28<sup>th</sup> – Mac McCammon

Sep 30<sup>th</sup> – Donald Bice

Sep 30<sup>th</sup> – Sammy Baugh

Sep 30<sup>th</sup> – Jeffrey Gerard

Happy Birthday!

Treasurer's Report: Aug 2011 Will be in next month's newsletter.

# HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT IN GOD WE TRUST

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# **OUR CREED:**

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their Country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. A pledge of loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government its Constitution."



# Razorback Base Executive Committee

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