



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Published monthly by the USS Razorback Base of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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Upcoming Events:

September 2008

Commander's Corner

I have just returned from the National Convention in Fort Worth. Due to the Hurricanes and gas prices many people had to cancel so the attendance was not what the bases expected. However, the convention was a wonderful experience with visits with many other shipmates and lots of good food. The national election results were announced with Pat Householder becoming the National Commander. I will forward the remaining results later. The two Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws regarding the Holland Club did not pass and will be addressed again at a future date.

Due to lack of interest, Murry's Dinner Theater activity had to be cancelled. We will plan for the anniversary dinner in October and hope many of you will be able to attend. Our next official meeting date will be

determined in the next few weeks. The fourth Saturday falls on Thanksgiving weekend so we may move it up to the third Saturday.

Work days on the Razorback have taken a hit recently with work on the barge prohibiting work in August and the National Convention being in progress during September. We will schedule a workday for October 11 and attempt to get some much needed work done then.

With the recent inclement weather, if anyone who has suffered severe damage to their properties due to wind and flood, let me know as we may be able to assist through the Brotherhood fund of USSV Charitable Foundation.

Again, this next year I would like for the base to consider participating in the

Opportunity drawings conducted by National. The way it works is: You purchase tickets for \$10.00 each. \$5.00 of that is retained by the base and the other \$5.00 goes into a fund and a percentage of that goes to the Charitable Foundation and the remaining is raffled to the participants. This year, over \$7500 was won by the grand prize winner and nine other participants won over \$850 each. The exact amount will be announced after all the money is counted and divided. This year the participating bases received in excess of \$18000 for their half of the ticket sales.

Again, let's get involved in the base activities and bring ideas to the meetings for us to become more involved in community activities, such as parades, kps4kids, visiting schools and the VA hospitals.

Ray Wewers,
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 S-5 (SS-110)

September 1, 1920 – No Hands Lost

Photo # NH 41806 USS S-5 underway



S-5 departed Boston Navy Yard on 30 August 1920 to undergo full-power trials off the Delaware Capes. On 1 September, she commenced a dive for a submerged test run. Water unexpectedly entered the submarine through the main air induction system pouring into the control room, engine room, torpedo room, and the motor room. Normal procedure was to leave the main air induction valve open until the engines had a chance to come to a full stop, this operation being so timed as to occur just prior to complete submergence.

In the case of the S-5, however, the man responsible for operating this valve was momentarily distracted. Noticing the mistake, he grabbed the valve lever and jerked hard, causing the valve to jam open. After considerable difficulty, the system valves in the other compartments were closed, but all efforts to secure the torpedo room valve met with failure. The abandoned torpedo room flooded, making the boat bow heavy.

An additional 80 tons of water in the motor room bilges caused her to settle on the bottom. It was now impossible to eject water from the torpedo room. An attempt was then made to pump out the motor room, but a gasket blew out and there were no means for repair. Lying 194 feet on the bottom, the crew had little hope of being found, much less being rescued. Their situation now called for some original thinking.

They reasoned that sufficient buoyancy in the after section could tilt the sub on her nose and extend the stern above the surface. The tilt would cause the water in the motor room to drain forward and increase buoyancy further. However, there was great risk involved because this would allow salt water into the battery room, which would generate deadly chlorine gas. They hoped to have enough time, after the water had entered, to close the watertight door before the gas could reach a dangerous level.

After making preparations, air was applied to the after ballast and fuel tanks, blowing them dry. The stern began to rise and then shot to the surface. Men, floor plates, bilge water, and other loose objects fell through the length of the submarine. One man nearly drowned in the battery room, but was fished out and the compartment door was sealed against the gas. By tapping on the hull, it was determined that the stern extended about 17 feet above the water. With inadequate tools, they took turns trying to cut a hole in the thick hull.

After 36 hours, they had only succeeded in making a hole three inches in diameter. The steamship ALANTHUS, however, detected the plight of the submarine. With assistance from the steamship GENERAL GOETHALS, a much larger hole was cut, and the entire crew was rescued. Later, the battleship OHIO (BB-12) secured a towline to the stern of the S-5 and proceeded to tow her to more shallow water. The towline, however, parted and the loosed sub bobbed, and then plunged to the bottom. No attempts were made to salvage S-5, and she was struck from the Navy list in 1921.

Razorback News

Shipmates:

The Razorback Base is establishing a "Sea Daddy" program. Its purpose is to have some of the members routinely call and talk with 5 or 6 other members just to see how they are doing. Too often there are issues or concerns for our members that we know nothing about. USSVI is a fraternal organization, and we need to improve this type of communication.

I would like to have 20 to 25 volunteers for the program. We have about 125 regular members that are submarine veterans that we need to include in this program. Thus with 20 to 25 volunteers, you will only need to call 5 or 6 people.

I would suggest that any volunteer have a cell phone that does not cost extra for long distance calls. You can set your own schedule for calling, but once a month would be preferable. Besides just checking in with them, we also need to advise them of upcoming events such as Base meetings, social activities and work days on the Razorback.

Please consider volunteering. Send me an e-mail. Your participation will be sincerely appreciated. (And Ray Wewers would like for me to get this program going.)

Thanks!

John C. Barr
Membership Chair
Razorback Base – USSVI
501-663-6622 (H)
jcbarr@aristotle.net

Razorback Base Storekeeper News

I have ordered 2009 calendars for resale at a member price of \$10.00 each or two for \$18.00. Don't think of these as just another calendar with twelve

months, each with an individual picture. The 2009 USSVI calendar has color photos of each museum submarine including our own USS RAZORBACK (SS 394). Now you might ask, "Why would I pay for a calendar when I get them in the mail or at a local retailer?" In promoting our museum boats and their efforts to preserve our national heritage, purchasing them is one way to ensure their legacy never ends. Let me know if you are interested.

Thanks, Billy Hollaway
Base Storekeeper
retldoun@earthlink.net

Time to Nominate New Base Officers

Submitted by John C. Barr,
Membership Chair

At our regular Base meeting on Saturday, July 26, 2008, we decided to ask for nominations for Base officers for 2009 – 2010 (2 year terms now) via e-mail. We will send letters to those members that do not have e-mail. This process is necessary because we will have no regular meetings in August or September. Your participation is strongly encouraged.

The existing 5 officer positions are - Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Base Treasurer, Chief of the Boat, and Chaplain. The incumbent officers - Ray Wewers, Paul Honeck, Greg Schwerman, Joe Mathis and Carl Schmidt - -all are willing to accept nominations to continue in their respective positions. All regular members of the Base (for at least one year) are eligible to be an officer. Associate members are not eligible to be elected officers.

I will accept nominations for Base officers until October 15th by e-mail, by telephone or in writing. Please ensure that your nominee is willing to accept.

Ballots will be sent out with the November issue of the Scuttlebutt. Ballots must be returned prior the Base meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2008. Nominees must be present at that regular Base meeting.

News from AIMM:

Just to prove that museums aren't all about stuffy history stuff, we have added a couple of "fun" things to our website.

We have added two crossword puzzles:

1. All the submarine museums in the United States
2. General submarine history

One of the neat features is that the puzzles can be done online, or they can be printed out to finish at your leisure. The crossword puzzles can be found at: <http://www.aimm.museum/lessons.htm>

More crossword puzzles and some word search puzzles will also be added. If you have a particular topic that you think would make a good puzzle, please send it in.

Greg Stitz
Curator

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum
www.aimm.museum
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)
501-371-8320



USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS

USSVI National and Region Election Results

Submitted by: Board Report on 9/6/2008

National Cdr: Pat Householder
National SR Vice Cdr: Jon Jaques
National JR Vice Cdr: Mike Bircumshaw
National Secretary: Al Singleman
National Treasurer: John Markiewicz
Past National Cdr: Tom Conlon
East North Region Dir.: Paul Orstad
East South Region Dir.: George Boyle
Central Region Dir.: Carl Schmidt
Western Region Dir.: Jim Dunn

Constitution Rewrite: Passed
Bylaws Rewrite: Passed
Creed Amendment: Passed
USSVI Creed: *"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."*

Holland Club Amendment 1: Failed
Holland Club Amendment 2: Failed

2008 USSVI National Election Turnout by Base

The overall voting turnout was 26.25%.

This is the approximate percentile of members who actually participate in USSVI meetings and activities. The remainder is, in essence, magazine subscribers. This turnout far surpassed the 2006 election returns, which were around 11%. Any base that achieved better than 26% should take a victory lap for a job well done!

Some special recognition is due those bases who achieved 50% or better voting turnout. Good on you, shipmates! That is a spectacular Turnout!

First Coast Base: 65%
Philadelphia Base: 65%
West Tennessee Base: 64%
Charleston Base: 59%
Bonfish Base: 56%
Tautog Base: 55%

Seattle Base: 55%
Fort Wayne Base: 52%
USS Chicago Base: 52%

A special mention is due the mammoth Groton Base! For a group this large, it is very nearly impossible to turn out a large vote, but Base Commander Mike Munhall and his team turned out 625 votes for a 32% voting turnout! This FAR exceeds any previous Groton base voting turnout of which I am aware. All Groton members should be proud!

At the wrong end of the scale, several bases had a very disappointing turnout. Those bases with less than 10% turnout included:
Green Mountain: 1/23 4%
Nebraska: 4/49 8%
Peoria: 3/101: 3%
Ponce DeLeon: 2/28: 7%
Scorpion 599 Mem: 1/12 8%
Triton: 3/37 8%
Wisconsin: 5/78 6%

Hopefully they will do better next time around.
http://www.ussvi.us/t_Docupdate.asp?DocId=217

USSVI Shipmate of the year! Tim VeArd

Joe Negri was a WWII Subvet and later COB on USS Piper. He was a prime mover in the creation of USSVI along with several others, and is considered to be our primary founder. Now deceased, Joe was a legend on the Groton Sub Base waterfront, and also well known for signing up new members using the back of a cocktail napkin as an application form!

Each year a select panel of previous award winners of this top award put their heads together to select from nominations the next USSVI Joe Negri Shipmate of the Year. It is a very select group and it takes considerable accomplishment to be selected into this group.

Tim had some very heavy competition this year for this award. Tim VeArd has made gigantic contributions to the advancement of this organization. While Tim prefers to remain in the

background, it is only right that his accomplishments and dedication see the light of day and he receive just recognition for his work.

Our online database, WebPages, association database and voting system are all testimonial to his expertise and generosity. He hangs his hat at Snug Harbor Base and if you see him there or anywhere, tell him how much you appreciate what he has done for us all, and buy the man a beer in salute! Our appreciation is the very least we can show to one who has given so much to us all.

An interesting story at the USN Academy

My friendship with John McCain

By Captain Frank Gamboa, USN (Ret.)/For the Sun-News

My friendship with John McCain began when we were assigned to the same company at the United States Naval Academy as freshmen. We became friends and later decided to be roommates the next year.

John and I came from vastly different backgrounds. He was from a legendary, American Military family whose record of honorable service dates from the start of our nation. I am a first-generation American citizen. My parents were born in Mexico. To escape the Mexican revolution, they came to America early in the 20th century, with only the clothes they were wearing and their bags, but with hope in their hearts. John entered Annapolis right out of high school. I entered after two years of junior college.

Because John and I lived in close quarters 24 hours a day for three years, we got to know each other very well. John McCain's parents, Captain and Mrs. Jack McCain, lived on Capitol Hill in Washington. I learned about Navy culture from them; they treated me like a son, inspired me and gave

me confidence. I got to know John McCain's family, John's character, his values and his heart. Despite our different backgrounds, we found common values and purpose in the Naval Academy.

Young men and women go to the Naval Academy to become officers and leaders. We were tested by the upperclassmen to determine whether we had the character to lead and command with competence and concern for our people. The seniors wanted to find out if we understood the obligation of service to country that we had sworn to defend. Regardless of who we were, the upperclassmen would find out if we had the right stuff.

Equally importantly, we learned the same about our classmates we learned who we could trust, who we could count on when we needed help.

One day at lunch in the mess hall I saw John's true mettle. We sat at a table with Midshipmen we did not know. As we ate, I sensed that John was tensing up. He had noticed the senior was mistreating a Filipino messman who was serving food to our table and could not bear to ignore it. I heard him say to the senior at the head of the table, "Mister, you are picking on that steward!" Startled, the senior replied "What did you say Mister?" John said, "That steward is doing the best he can so why are you picking on him?" This time the red-faced senior snarled, "What's your name, Mister?" John shot back, "McCain, what's yours?" The senior stared at John in disbelief. I was almost choking on my food to stand up to an upperclassman was unheard of at the Academy. John had reacted instinctively without regard to personal consequences, demonstrating courage and daring I had never seen. Embarrassed, the senior abruptly got up and left the table.

This incident became legend among our classmates. We were amazed at John's moral courage and bravery. He was fearless. He became our moral compass through his displays of courage and leadership. He was only 18 years old.

Many years later I learned of his torture as a prisoner of war, and of his heroic conduct. I was not surprised that he resisted so courageously, or that he had put the welfare of his fellow prisoners and his country before his own self-interest.

I know John McCain as a person; his character and his values. He is a good and decent man. I know he will look after the best interests of our country and of our Hispanic community.

Throughout our nation's history, in times of crises Americans have chosen strong, bold and visionary men to serve as our president. As a nation, we can solve all our problems if we are properly summoned and honorably led. John McCain will call on the best in each of us. He has the character and judgment to lead the American people to a better future. That is why I support him to be our next president.

Capt. Frank Gamboa, USN (Ret.) is the first Mexican American to command an amphibious squadron of ships in the U.S. Navy, the first to command a ship as a commander, and later, as a captain. He later served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity Policy.

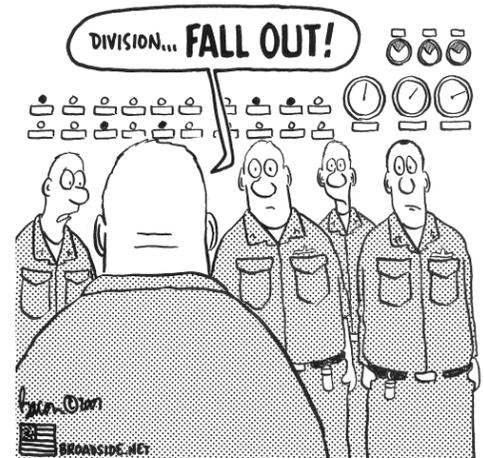


September Birthdays

September 3rd – William Flynn
 September 4th – Stephen Pittman
 September 5th – Leslie Nichols
 September 9th – Joseph Mathis
 September 15th – Jud Rouch

September 20th – R. Casto
 September 21st – Thomas Howard
 September 22nd – Joseph Talbert
 September 23rd – Gary Reynolds
 September 24th – Max Basset
 September 30th – Donald Bice
 September 30th – Sammy Baugh
 September 30th – Jeffrey Gerard

Happy Birthday!



Things you shouldn't say in the Reactor spaces

Treasures Report: August 2008

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 6551.08
DEPOSITS:	
DC1 Banquet Reimbursement	250.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 250.00
EXPENSES:	
USSVI Dues	120.00
Ships Store	79.20
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$189.20
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 6611.88
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	
BEGINNING	718.03
ENDING BALLANCE	\$ 718.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 1700.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1797.26
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$10827.17

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer

