

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans

September 2013



Home of the Submarine Force
(Submarine Base Website)

Naval Submarine Base New London is the Navy's first Submarine Base and the "Home of the Submarine Force." Naval Submarine Base New London had its beginning as a naval yard and storage depot on April 11, 1868.

Envisioning the economic potential of a local military installation, the state of Connecticut and its southeastern cities and towns had donated land along the Thames River to the Navy for the establishment of a base. The citizens of New London were especially generous, as their City Council appropriated \$10,000 to purchase the land that would be donated.

The first Commander of the Yard was retired Commodore Timothy A. Hunt, who was called back to service. Living in New Haven, Commodore Hunt used the Central Hotel on State Street, New London when in town to attend to Yard duties on an "as needed" basis. Despite being physically located in the Town of Groton, the name New London became associated with the Navy Yard.

The Navy Yard was first used for laying up inactive ships. The Congressional appropriations were small and the Navy had little need for the Yard, which was actually closed from 1898 to 1900 and the personnel reassigned. In 1898, Congress approved a coaling station be built at the Yard for refueling small naval ships traveling through the waters of New England. By 1912, oil replaced coal in warships and again the Yard was scheduled for closure and the land relinquished by the Navy.

The Navy Yard was spared permanent closure in 1912 by an impassioned plea from local Congressman Edwin W. Higgins of Norwich, who was worried about the loss of Federal spending in the region. Strangely, Higgins thought it was cheaper for the Navy to keep the Yard open than pay for its closure. Within six years, the Federal government would spend over a million dollars at the Yard.

October 18, 1915, marked the arrival of the submarines G-1, G-2, and G-4 under the care of the tender USS Ozark. Submarines E-1, D-1 and D-3 with the tender USS Tonopah bolstered this small force. The first ship built as a submarine tender, the USS Fulton (AS-1), arrived on Nov 1, 1915.

(Continued on Page 7.)

Table of Contents

Commander's Corner	Page 2	Joe Mathis, new USSVI tasks	Page 4
Veterans Day Ceremony Notice	Page 2	Atkinson's Diary	Page 5
Base Activities	Page 2	WWII Mystery Medals	Page 7
Base Minutes	Page 3	Scout Troop 435	Page 8
Treasurer's Report	Page 3	Dues Renewal	Page 8
Booster Club	Page 3	Birthdays	Page 8
Lost Boats	Page 4	Base Officers	Page 8

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. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.



Commander's



Greetings Shipmates!

As I write this, some of our Base members are in Minnesota at the national convention. I have been able to attend these before, and I know you are having a blast. If you haven't been able to make one of these events, plan to go to one soon. They are fun, and you have people who listen when you lie to them about how good you once were back when you were on the "USEDTAFISH". I wasn't able to attend this year due to the birth of our new granddaughter. Addison Faith Malone was born August 25th to her proud mother and father who is still serving in the Navy in San Diego. Consider this an application for a scholarship! If not a full application, at least it served as an introduction to Scholarships. A scholarship funded by our base exclusively and awarded by us exclusively is one of the ideas we are considering. It is a good way to spend some of our funds and seems like a popular idea but we have yet to work out the details. Ideas on this or any other ones are certainly appreciated whether you send me an email or come to the meeting and discuss. We are purchasing "Med Lights" for the RAZORBACK so you will see her shining soon.

The Vice Commander Billy Holloway is starting a new base for spooks that is an online base. He is the new commander of that base and as such has resigned effective on the first day of October. Billy has served well as a Vice Commander as well as previously as Commander and many other things. Thank you Billy for all your help to me in my time as Commander. The good news is that he is staying a member and remaining as our Storekeeper. Upon Billy resigning, I have appointed Paul Honeck to assume the duties as Vice Commander. I am very happy Paul has agreed, and I personally feel it is a proper meshing of Vice Commander and the Ceremonies positions. Something we might consider keeping tied together??

I have two more things and yes, they do beg for more involvement. One....if you haven't helped on overnights....consider it a bonus for you to be able to stay on a submarine again. The kids enjoy it and you will too. Second, we have the Birthday ball event coming up in October and so far, we don't have anyone in charge of it and no plans are solidified. Consider taking on this event and making a celebration one to remember.

Alan Malone Base Commander

Our Base will host a Veteran's Day candlelight ceremony on board USS Razorback at 4:30 PM, Monday, November 11, 2013. Our guest speaker will be Karilyn Brown, President of the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery Beautification Committee. Paul Honeck, Base Memorials and Ceremonial Rep will solicit base members to serve as Color Guard and side boys. More info will be promulgated at the September business meeting. Billy Holloway

RAZORBACK BASE ACTIVITIES - 2013 (Base meetings every other month.)

- ⇒September 21 - Base Meeting—1730 at AIMM.
- ⇒October 26 - Navy Anniversary Dinner (TBD).
- ⇒November - Veterans Activities (TBD - see above).
- ⇒December 14 - Christmas Party, AIMM Barge.



USSVI Razorback Base Minutes—August 17, 2013

Met on August 17, 2013 on AIM barge at 17:30. From here on out per discussion at July 2013 meeting, only motions, rejections and approvals will be noted both in the newsletter and website.

1st motion was to accept minutes from previous meeting. Was seconded and approved.

2nd motion was to accept treasurers report. Was seconded and approved.

3rd motion was from Tom Salisbury to do Holland club at anniversary dinner in October and pay for their dinner and their guest. Seconded and approved

4th motion was regarding what to do with money in treasury. Motion was to provide up to \$500 to purchase a reel of rope lights, seconded but then a discussion caused this motion to be withdrawn.

5th motion was to research first, e.i. Will they stay on, how will they work. Further discussion so this motion was withdrawn as well.

6th motion was to go ahead and buy 300 feet to test and see if works. Allow up to \$500. was seconded, 14 approved, 3 opposed.

7th motion was to adjourn meeting and eat. Seconded and approved.

**Barbara Schwerman
Base Secretary**

**Funds from the *Booster Club* will be used for restoration of the *USS Razorback* and other special projects appropriate to the mission of *USSVI*. Your donation will be recognized for 12 issues of the newsletter. The number beside your name below is the number of times remaining to be listed.
Send donations to Razorback Base – USSVI, 9 Broadview Dr., Little Rock, AR 72207-5113 (Memo – Booster Club).**

Booster Club

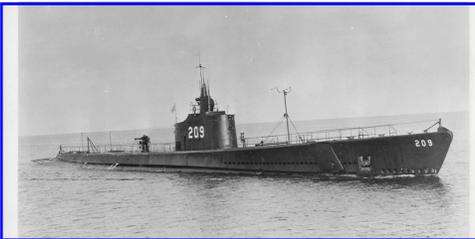
- Suzann & John Barr (10)
- James Bjorklund (10)
- Bob & Mary Christians (13)
- Bruce Dart (12)
- Jane Farmer (1)
- Cecil Goins (1)
- Ronald Hines (13)
- Billy Hollaway (6)
- Alan & Wanda Malone (10)
- John Mitchell (6)
- Terence & Kathleen Murphy (13)
- Carl Schmidt (12)
- Frederick Weilminster (12)
- Ray & Barbara Wewers (10)
- George Wrightam (14)

TREASURER'S REPORT	AUGUST, 2013
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14,199.42
General Fund Beginning Balance	\$6,017.37
DEPOSITS	
Dues	\$35.00
EXPENSES	
	\$0.00
General Fund Ending Balance	\$6,052.37
Designated Funds Beginning Balance	\$2,862.20
Maintenance Fund Beg. Bal.	
Booster Club	
John Barr	\$50.00
Ronald Hines	\$100.00
Terence & Kathleen Murphy	\$100.00
Bob & Mary Christians	\$25.00
Frederick Weilminster	\$25.00
Bruce Dart	\$25.00
Maintenance Fund End. Bal.	\$1,414.34
Base Charity Fund Balance	\$367.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance	\$1,405.86
Designated Funds Ending Balance	\$3,187.20
Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)	\$9,239.57
Other Funds	
Regions Bank CD	\$5,212.85
Interest	
CD Balance	\$5,212.85
Cash on Hand	\$107.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE	\$14,559.42
Respectfully submitted, Mark Taylor, Base Treasurer	



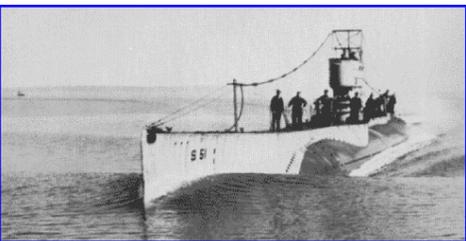
USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.



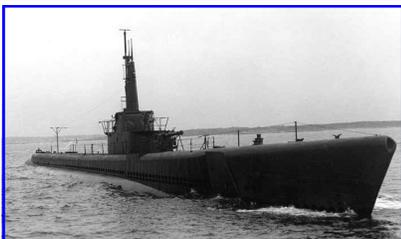
USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.



USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.



USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.



Joe Mathis

I have been appointed to the USSV Charitable Foundation Library Fund Committee. That means I am the Librarian for the AIMM and USSVI libraries. I have started a complete inventory of the library holdings. The collection will be reorganized and segregated between AIMM and USSV holdings. Since the library has over 3,000 items, the inventory will take me a few months. Once complete, an updated database will be placed on the AIMM website under the Library tab. The library is now a research by appointment library and not for general borrowing.

Donations of submarine related books or media will be accepted on a case by case basis. I have also been appointed to the USSV National Archives Committee as the Archivist. I am not sure what that entails, but I'm told there are boxes of USSV archive material in the Engineering building on the NLR city compound. I haven't yet inventoried that material, since I'm still working on the Library inventory and reorganization.



Editor's Note: This is part of George Atkinson's diary from WWII. The remaining parts will be published over the next several issues of *Hawgfish Scuttlebutt*. Comments from Cal Moon [CM] who also made all five war patrols as a Radar Technician are also included.

DEAR RAZORBACK DIARY

3rd War Patrol

1 Feb., 1945

Our trials over and all stores aboard we departed Guam this afternoon for our 3rd war patrol. We had a fair idea where we were going because we did not get our E.C.M. back. We learned later that we were going to patrol in the East China Sea, just south and west of the Japanese mainland. This should be pretty good hunting. There are three boats in our wolf pack called Fulp's Fiddlers. The Segundo (pack leader), the Sea Cat and us.

6 Feb., 1945

We started our all day dives this morning and from the dope I hear we will have 30 days of this.

21 Feb., 1945

The night of the 21st we were ready to fire on a Jap DE when he zigged and got away from us. The 22nd is when we fired 5 fish at the ship now believed to be a hospital ship. [Calvin Moon: Because of the fog, we did not see the red cross on the scope until after we fired!] We have not been attacked once by aircraft but have been coaxed by Jap torpedo boats to chase them, but their little trick did not work, thank God.

25 Feb., 1945

In the past twenty days of patrol we have had a few exciting moments. We have gone to battle stations several times but have only fired torpedoes once, and that was five at what may or may not have been a Japanese hospital ship. Anyway we missed, but it does make our record look bad. We have had several chances to sink ships, but we were waiting for a Jap task force which we were going to try and keep from reaching Japan. [CM: The task force was the BB Yamato with cruisers and DDs heading for Nagasaki. We picked it up on radar at 45 miles, but the Captain didn't believe me and did not report the contact.] We had our instructions from ComSubPac to remain undetected until they appeared, but unfortunately they did not reach us, turning off in another direction. We must have been detected some how. Probably by direction finders while we were sending weather reports. About five days ago we gave up waiting for them and returned to our patrol area southwest of Kyushu. We had been just south of the Straights between Honshu and Chosen [Editor's Note: Chosen was Japanese name for Korea.] waiting for the task force consisting of 2 BBs, 1 CA and 7 DDs which would have been quite a prize.

1 March, 1945

Today we went to battle stations for about the sixth time this patrol. We fired three stern tubes at a 3-masted, 150 foot schooner and again missed. We figured the fish must have gone under him because we had a perfect set up and range was only 750 yards. (Are we having the luck.)

5 March, 1945

Today we are heading north on the surface, for what I don't know. We were forced down 3 times by aircraft by noon today. The last time we were forced down we sighted two fishing boats. Since we had to run on the surface all day to get to our destination we had to either wait until the boats were gone or battle surface on them. Since we couldn't wait, we chose the latter and at 1350 we had battle stations gun action. We fired about all the guns we had from the 4 inch down to pistols, and after about 20 minutes sank the two boats and then picked up three prisoners. One prisoner had his left arm nearly shot off at the wrist where a slug went through. One had been hit in the leg with a 20mm and the third was not wounded at all. The prisoners are now in leg irons and separated so they cannot talk to each other. After this we proceeded toward our destination, unknown to the crew

(Continued on Page 6.)

George Atkinson, RM1(SS)

George J. Atkinson, 83, passed away on Saturday, June 16, 2007 in Titusville, FL. At the time he was survived by his wife of 59 years, Anna Marie Atkinson; sons, Jon (Linda), James (Terrie) and Thomas (Lowynn); seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



(Continued from Page 5.)

6 March, 1945

At dinner today the deep fryer almost blew up and sent a very penetrating smoke throughout the entire boat. It got so bad we had to surface. While we were surfaced, we had battle stations gun action on a two-masted schooner. Seven minutes after the first shot was fired, we secured from battle stations having sunk our third boat in two days by gunfire, or rather our third boat in 24 hours. Never a dull moment on the Mighty Razorback. The Jap prisoners we have aboard almost went nuts when things started to happen and our guns were heard going off. Another lucky day for the Razorback. We were going to stay surfaced today but were driven down by aircraft at 1325.

CM: About March 10, we were following a fishing fleet while submerged. Hoping to enter their harbor and possibly sight a Jap ship. Shortly after tracking them for awhile, the boat took a sudden down angle. The cook was trying to get lunch ready early and had the deep fat fryer hot with oil. The sudden down angle set the deep fat fryer to blazing and creating black smoke in the air conditioning. We had to surface to clear the air and man the guns since one of the boats had a large antenna and could radio for help. We destroyed that boat and hauled out of there on 4 main engines. It was bitterly cold topside and the gun crew were freezing since they had no time to put on jackets. After this we headed to Guam to leave the prisoners.

7 March, 1945

Today again we sighted two sub chasers. We surfaced about 3 miles away to look them over, and if they weren't going to attack we were all prepared with the ammunition broke out and gun action battle stations manned. When the two sub chasers saw us they turned tail and we couldn't catch them. I guess they are scared of the Mighty Razorback's guns.

9 March, 1945

Skipping one day with very little action, today we came upon a Japanese junk about 100 feet long with two masts, and again the Mighty Razorback goes into gun action. We attacked, setting the craft afire and in a condition what we thought was fatal, but, as we started to leave, the Nips started to make preparations to get underway again so--we turned around and again pounced upon our enemy. When we finished this time she was going to the bottom. We picked up one survivor dressed in silk clothing with about 650 yen in his pocket. So our total for this run is 2 sea trucks, 1 two-masted schooner, 1 junk, plus four Jap prisoners and 40 dead Japs (good ones). We are now out of ammunition for two of our guns and are heading for Guam to get rid of our prisoners, take on fuel and proceed to Pearl for refit and two weeks at the hotel in Honolulu. O-Happy Day!

14 March, 1945

We arrived in Guam and tied up alongside the Apollo (AS-24) [Editor's Note: Anthedon was AS-24; Apollo was AS-25.], delivered our prisoners, took on fuel and seven fish, plus some chow and fresh fruit which we had nearly run out of. The next day we departed at 1600 for Pearl Harbor and a two week rest at the Royal Hawaiian.

26 March, 1945

Today we arrived at Pearl Harbor for refit. On 27 March we went to the Royal in Waikiki. April 1 I was rated 1st class. On the 16th we returned to the boat after 20 days of rest. On the 3rd I went over to ComServPac and shot the breeze with a friend from home, Sonny Connolly.

18 April, 1945

Today we started our trials.

5 May, 1945

We were in dry dock three times from April 18 to today. Our port shaft was fouled up and was finally replaced. Today we are loading stores and torpedoes and ammo.

A clarification from Cal Moon regarding 2nd war patrol in printed in August issue – I think I forgot to clarify the 1st attack of the second patrol. When we picked up the ships contacted just as we were about to dive, George says there were a freighter, a DD & 2 PCs. There was no freighter – only hunter-killer group of DD and 2 PCs. We sank the DD and were tormented at 500-600 feet all day by the PCs. [Editor's Note: Cal is generally referencing his copy of the Razorback's official log book.]



(Continued from Page 1.)

President Franklin Roosevelt created a series of Federal Government employment programs that contributed significantly to the Submarine Base. Over 26 high quality warehouses, barracks and workshops were built at the base under these Federal job-spending programs.

The Submarine Escape Training Tank, long known as the "Dive Tower," was constructed during this period and became a prominent feature to the local landscape from 1930 to 1992. Generations of submariners practiced escaping from sunken submarines through the Dive Tower by ascending in a 100-foot column of water.

The second largest expansion of Submarine Base New London occurred during World War II when it grew from 112 acres to 497 acres. The Submarine Force leaped in size, and the Base accommodated thousands of men to service the growing combat fleet.

Immediately after WWII the Submarine Force was significantly reduced and many famous submarines were sent into storage. Most of the WWII fleet was sold for scrap metal during the early 1960s. The remainder were modified for better underwater capabilities and served until the early 1970s.

The arrival of nuclear power with the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the world's first nuclear powered vessel, and the USS George Washington (SSBN-598), the Navy's first nuclear ballistic submarine, created changes at the Base.

Commissioned in 1954, and home ported at the Base, Nautilus became the first vessel to transit the North Pole during an historic trip across the Arctic in 1958. Retired from service in 1980, Nautilus became an historic exhibit at the Submarine Force Museum, adjacent to the Base, in 1985. Technological changes contributed to a cycle of renewal and reconstruction of the various physical facilities that supported both submarine operations as well as the Submarine School. The Fleet Ballistic Missile program further expanded the Base.

The Base was the headquarters for Squadron 14 for many years, which represented the "two crew per boat" philosophy of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. Two crews would rotate on one submarine. In the early days, the limited range of missiles required long term forward positioning of the ballistic missile submarine and a supporting dry dock and tender. The Squadron 14 forward site is Holy Loch, Scotland. By the 1990s, advances in missile capability eliminated the need for these forward bases and Submarine Base New London became home to only "attack" submarines.

Today, Naval Submarine Base New London stretches along the east side of the Thames River, straddling the communities of Groton and Ledyard. While Groton is often referred to as the "Submarine Capital of the World," the Base proudly bears the title - "Home of the Submarine Force." Almost every submariner in today's Navy will be stationed here for training. A tour of duty in one of the fast-attack submarines home ported here or with a pre-commissioning crew for a new submarine under construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton may follow.

Occupying more than 680 acres, with more than 160 major facilities and 15 nuclear submarines, Naval Submarine Base New London supports fleet readiness by providing quality service and facilities to our Fleet, Fighters, and Families. The Base mission is twofold: to homeport and put Submarines to sea; and to support the Submarine Center of Excellence that trains Sailors to take Submarines to sea.

Naval Submarine Base New London is also home to more than 70 tenant commands and activities including Commander Submarine Group Two; the Submarine Learning Center; Naval Submarine School; the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory; and, the Naval Undersea Medical Institute. Naval Submarine Base New London is the Navy's first Submarine Base and the "Home of the Submarine Force."



Mark Taylor participated in a Memorial Service for a WWII Submarine Veteran who was lost on the USS Scorpion, SS-278 while on war patrol in the South China/Yellow Sea sector of operations, on March 6, 1944.

MM3 Robert Williford was only 19 and on his 4th war patrol at the time. He was a resident of Cortez, CO. Recently, a small box containing his decorations was found in a wooded area of Mena, AR. It remains a mystery how these decorations turned up there.

A relative has now been found in Colorado, and Mark is coordinating an "Iron Horse Express" relay with various Patriot Guard units to personally transport the medals to the family. **Mark, thank you for your dedication to our veterans!**



Had the pleasure of hosting Scout Troop 435 of Greenbrier, AR for an overnight stay on the boat. They enjoyed the movie "U-571" followed by a VIP tour of the boat! They racked out at 0700HR and squared away their berthing compartment before having a continental breakfast on the barge. All had a great time!

Sub Vets are always needed to host these groups. Please let Zonner know if you would like to volunteer. Its a great experience and opportunity to educate our youth about Submarine Service! Thanks to the AIMM staff for supporting these events!

Mark Taylor

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Veterans.*

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**Time to renew
your dues.**

Dues are payable before the end of 2013. Standard dues are \$20 for USSVI and \$15 for the Razorback Base. This all depends on your Holland Club and/or LIFE status with the Base and USSVI.

More information will be provided later. Can contact Membership Chair Greg Schwerman at telephone - email listed below.

September + Birthdays

Stephen M. Pittman	4
Leslie L. Nichols	5
Joseph R. Mathis	9
June R. Eubanks	10
Julian Rouch	15
R. B. Casto	20
Thomas P. Howard	21
Gary L. Reynolds	23
Max R. Bassett	24
Richard A. McCammon	28
James L. Baugh	30
Donald A. Bice	30
Jeffrey G. Gerard	30
Frank E. Likert, Sr.	30

October

James W. Barnes	1
Scott Pursley	2
Gregory Wade Stitz	3

Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Base Vice-Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.com
Chief of the Boat	Bob Christians	501-922-8451	bobchristians@sbcglobal.net
Chaplin	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	joe.manning@att.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Memorials and Ceremonies Past Base Commander	Paul Honeck	501-319-5888	pnecker@gmail.com
Yeoman	Barbara Schwerman	501-804-0687	baschwer@suddenlink.net
Membership Past Base Commander	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Base Newsletter	John C. Barr	501-663-6622	jcbarr346@att.net
Holland Club Representative	Tom Salisbury	501-337-0788	tomann@ipa.net
Base Historian	Joe Mathis	501-565-6021	usnjrm@yahoo.com
Past Base Commander	James W. Barnes	501-778-6583	jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net
Activities Past Base Commander District Commander CD1	Ray Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@suddenlink.com
Past Base Commander USSVI Vice-Commander	Carl Schmidt	501-843-7855	bonnyclyde@classicnet.net
Base Web Master Past Base Commander	Greg Zonner	501-307-5522	gzonner@aimm.museum