



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

Greg Schwerman
Base Commander,
501-804-0386, gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Editor, David Grove
501-951-1314; dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



Upcoming Events:

2nd Sat. of each month is a boat work day.

Next work day on the Razorback will be February 13th 0900.

February 2010

Commander's Corner

The Base is looking for a volunteer to assume the position of Treasurer. The work of the Treasurer only requires a very small amount of time each month to make and document deposits, and produce the monthly report for the news editor and base Commander. All records are kept on Quicken Books which makes the job very simple to do. If anyone is interested in assuming the treasurers position Email or call me, and I can let you know all that is required.

January's base meeting was a little short on attendance with only eleven members and one guest. I know that the forecast of bad weather was probably a factor to many of our regular members, but it still makes me wonder what we can do to make the meetings and events more appealing to more of our membership. As I stated last month, I would like to try and move the base meetings and or events around the state to make it easier for members outside the central Little Rock area to attend. This will require a bit of help to find locations and make arrangements. Ray Wewers is in

the process of making our reservations for the May campout and picnic on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd at Lake Dardanelle State park. Some of the other suggestions for events for this year are attending an Arkansas Twisters arena football game, weekend stay and dinner in Hot Springs and or Eureka Springs, an evening at the Arkansas Reparatory Theater, or Murray's Dinner Theater. We have also been offered the American Legion hall in Dardanelle as a location for a base meeting. If anyone would like to volunteer for the activities Chairman position or to co-chair with Barbara Schwerman, or if you have any ideas for locations or events that you would like the base to set up, please let me know.

At the January meeting it was decided that February's event will be on Thursday February 11th at the North Little Rock Veterans Hospital from 1300 to 1500. We have been invited by the Department of Veterans Affairs to participate in their annual "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" held at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System the week of

Veterans Day, February 8 – 14 2010. It is a special time to recognize the men and women in VA facilities around the country who are facing daily personal battles of illness, pain and loneliness. One of the things we will be doing is touring the facilities and passing out valentine's cards made by school children for the vets. This is a very worthwhile cause, and I encourage anyone who can to attend. Blue USSVI vests are encouraged.

Work on the Razorback will begin on February 13th at 0900. We don't have a work list at this time, but I'm sure there will be plenty of projects to keep everyone busy. Our next base meeting will be on 27 March, place to be determined. This is your base, Please join us and help make Razorback Base the Best in the South West.

Greg Schwerman
Base Commander

Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of February

[USS Shark \(SS-174\)](#) **11-Feb-1942**. 59 men lost

[USS Amberjack \(SS-219\)](#) **16-Feb-1943**. All hands lost (72)

[USS Scorpion \(SS-278\)](#) **1-Feb-1944**. All hands lost (78)

[USS Grayback \(SS-208\)](#) **26-Feb-1944**. All hands lost (80)

[USS Trout \(SS-202\)](#) **29-Feb-1944**. All hands lost (79)

[USS Barbel \(SS-316\)](#) **4-Feb-1945**. All hands lost (81)

USS Scorpion (SS-278) February 1, 1944 – All Hands Lost (78)



USS Scorpion (SS-278) a Gato-class submarine — was the fifth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the scorpion, an arachnid having an elongated body and a narrow segmented tail bearing a venomous sting at the tip. Her keel was laid down by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard of Kittery, Maine, on 20 March 1942. She was launched on 20 July 1942 sponsored by Ms. Elizabeth T. Monagle, and commissioned on 1 October 1942, Lieutenant Commander William N. Wylie in command.

Departing Pearl Harbor on 29 December, Scorpion stopped at Midway to top off with fuel, and left that place on 3 January 1944 to conduct her fourth war patrol. Her assigned area was in the northern East China Sea and Yellow Sea.

On the morning of 5 January, Scorpion reported that one of her crew had sustained a fracture of the upper arm and requested a rendezvous with Herring which was returning from patrol and was near her. The rendezvous was accomplished on that afternoon but heavy seas prevented the transfer. "Scorpion reports case under control." Scorpion was never seen or heard from again after her departure from that rendezvous. On 16 February, Steelhead and Scorpion were warned that they were close together, and that an enemy submarine was in the vicinity.

No Japanese information indicates that the loss of Scorpion was the result of enemy anti-submarine tactics. There were, however, several naval mine lines across the entrance to the Yellow Sea. The presence of these mine lines and the "restricted area" bounding them was discovered from captured Japanese Notices to Mariners at a much later date. In the meantime, several submarines had made patrols in this area, crossing and recrossing the mine lines without incident, and coming safely home. It is probable that these mine lines were very thin, offering only about a 10% threat to submarines at maximum, and steadily decreasing in effectiveness with the passage of time. Scorpion was lost soon after these mines were laid, at a time when they were the greatest threat. She could have been an operational casualty, but her area consisted of water shallow enough so that it might be expected that some men would have survived. Since there are no known survivors, the most reasonable assumption is that she hit a mine.

The loss date given is an approximate one.

"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.

Shipyard Story

by Bob Sykes

From June '67 to Nov.'73 I served aboard the USS Sculpin (SSN590). She went into Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for a refueling overhaul in Feb '68. During the first half of the refueling, things were going along smoothly with only a glitch now and then. Then the Nuc. Test Department assigns us a new chief test engineer for our refueling. This guy was very experienced but a pure ass. I'll call him "Fangs". Within two weeks the whole refueling and overhaul process in the engineering spaces was in turmoil. The test engineers were arguing with our EOOWs and vice-versa and both were arguing among themselves. Thing were going downhill fast.

I, being Bull Nuc, (Senior Nuc, and Chief E9) just before lunch one day, went into talk to the XO about the situation back aft. He listened to my story, said he would talk to the skipper about it and I left. At 1 PM that afternoon all the skippers of all the Nuc. Ships in overhaul, of which there were three (two subs and, If I remember correctly the Long Beach), had a meeting with the Shipyard's Senior Nuc. Officer in Charge (forgot his title), a Captain. At the end of the meeting he asked all the skippers if there were any questions or problems. Our skipper, Cmd. Pete Lions, told the SNO that he wanted the Shipyard's Chief Test Engineer "Fangs" replaced. The Captain looked at our skipper and said that he will not do that and we would have to adjust to him, like him or not as he was one of their best. From what was told to me by one of the attendees, Pete Lions looked the Captain straight in the eyes and said, "Then he'll have to do it from the pier because he is not coming aboard my sub." That afternoon we got a new Chief Test Engineer. Thank God for skippers with balls. We had a good refueling overhaul and left the shipyard for San Diego in Sept. '69.

Personal Items Collection for VA Patients

Things are progressing well on collections for the veterans. I have sorted the things we have received, by

type, into boxes in the lower level in the entry barge at AIMM.

We have \$220 in cash to purchase items we need but do not have so far. As yet I cannot find a good deal on flip-flops (shower shoes) anywhere. Guess they are hard to find in the winter. We need some more deodorant, some combs, more mouth wash (non-alcohol), maybe some more socks, skin lotion and shampoo, some more tubes of toothpaste, and more shaving cream/foam. We will probably purchase coffee with the funds we have.

We have plenty of time. We will take the items to the VA sometime after our January Base meeting. If you want to donate items, please take them to AIMM. You can contact me at jcbarr@aristotle.net or 501-663-6622.

John C. Barr
Membership Chair

Gerald "Jerry" Carlson - Obituary

Gerald "Jerry" E. Carlson, 80, of Alma died Monday, Jan. 18, 2010, in a local hospital. He was born June 14, 1929, in Melrose, Mass., and spent half his life serving his country, a true patriot. A retiree of the U.S. Navy, he was involved in the Submarine Service, 1948-68, Classified Submarine Patrol, 1949-61, the U.S. Merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy Resale System. He retired from Hughes Aircraft in 1992 and was a former Realtor/broker in New Hampshire. He was a member of DAV Post 42, American Legion Post 31, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 467, U.S. Submarine Veterans, Fleet Reserve Association, TREA and a lifetime member of the VFW. He was also a 1997-98 Arkansas State Veteran of the year, and attended New Heights Baptist Church in Alma.

Gerald qualified on the USS Halfbeak, SS-352, in 1949, and was a member of the Holland Club, the USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.), and a Charter Member of the Razorback Base-USSVI. Gerald also served on the USS Cod, SS-224, the USS Growler, SSG-577 and the USS Trout, SS-566. He retired from the Navy as an ENC (SS).

Razorback Base Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2010

The Razorback Base meeting was called to order by base commander Greg Schwerman at 1600 hours at the American Legion Post in Little Rock, AR. There were 11 members and 1 visitor present. The Creed was read by Greg Schwerman.

The Tolling of the Bell for Lost Boats for January and February was present by Billy Hollaway and Greg Zonner. Invocation was given by Carl Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Billy Hollaway.

Chaplain Carl Schmidt presented a bible to Mrs. Iris Tate. Her husband was Executive Officer on the Razorback Feb. '67-'68. Captain John Tate went on Eternal Patrol in Dec. 2009.

Minutes Of the November 21, 2009 meeting were read by Jane Farmer. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Greg Schwerman. The balance in the checking account as of Dec. 2009 was \$6064.18. The motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. Treasurer's report filed with the secretary.

Committee Reports

1. Chaplain: Carl Schmidt reported on Gerald Carlson's funeral. L.C. Richards brother died, and Marvin Blair's wife Baylor died. Carl will send a bible to Marvin in honor of his wife. Ray Wewers still having trouble with his knee.
2. Membership: John Barr reported 3 new members giving us 210 members. A motion was made and seconded to mail out the 5 yr. and 10 yr. pins to members who earned them. Motion passed.
3. Storekeeper: Billy Hollaway has Silent Service T-Shirts for sale at \$14.
4. Memorials: Billy Hollaway reported a request to distribute a person's ashes from the boat. A Tolling of the Bell Ceremony was suggested on the boat for the beginning of Navy Week in May.
5. Activities-John Barr reported a good time had by all at the Christmas party. Items collected for the V.A. Hospital has really gone well, and these items will be taken soon to the hospital. The camp-out in Russellville will be on May 21-23. Ray Wewer's

will set it up. John asks for people to help with the Sea-Daddy program.

6. Communications-There will be a Hospital Salute to V.A. Hospital Veterans Feb.8-14, 2010. There will be two locations, Little Rock, Feb 12 at 9 a.m., and No. Little Rock Feb.11 from 1-3 p.m. The base was asked to go as a group to the No. Little Rock location.

Old Business

1. By-laws-The executive Board recommended several changes to the old by-laws. The new changes were read by Joe Mathis. A motion was made and seconded to accept the first reading of the new changes. Motion passed. There will be two more readings before adoption, and voted on by membership.

2. Caps for Kids-Carl Schmidt will talk with someone at Children's Hospital. Billy Hollaway has some small t-shirts from convention to donate to hospital.

New Business

1. New treasurer: Greg Schwerman ask for a volunteer to fill position, if no one volunteers will ask, he will ask Barbara Wewers to accept this position.

2. Possible Activities This Year: Barbara Schwerman suggested some possible activities for this year. She would accept co-chairman for activities, if someone else would help. The event at V.A. Feb. 12 will be our Feb. activity.

Good of the Order

1. Invitation to birthday party for Kelly Driver at his home on Sun. Jan. 28, 2010

2. Navy Week on the Razorback in May 24, 2010.

3. Loading of out three torpedoes between now and March 1st.

4. Greg thanked John Barr for a good job of collecting this year's dues.

Benediction-Carl Schmidt Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Jane Farmer

Navy News

World War II Lost Boats Memorial Dedication

Undersea Enterprise News Daily
February 4, 2010

The long awaited opening of the Submarine Veterans of World War II Lost Boats memorial was conducted at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant South Carolina appropriately on a day which many Americans lost their lives

in service to their country, December 7. Over three hundred active duty personnel from the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command, the Naval Honor Guard and members of local submarine organizations attended and participated in the event. Honored guests Vice Admiral Baciocco, USN Retired and the Honorable Billy Swails, Mayor of Mount Pleasant attended this historic event. This memorial is a tribute to the 52 submarines and over 3000 sailors who lost their lives during World War II but who also established the traditions and ceremonies we now follow. During the Opening ceremonies, Retired Vice Admiral Baciocco echoed the words of Pacific Fleet Commander Chester Nimitz that the submarine force carried the load in the Pacific until the fleet loses at Pearl Harbor were repaired and rebuilt. The submarine force was responsible for the destruction of Japanese supply lines and the loss of over 5 million tons of Japanese ships.

This was not an easy task for the local submarine organizations. The original World War II Amberjack memorial was established at the Battery Park in Charleston, but with little or no support in maintaining the site provided by the local community the Swamp Fox Chapter of the World War II veterans took on an aggressive and challenging task to provide the proper setting for this tribute to the submarine sailors of WWII who gave their lives. Working with the staff of Patriots Point a suitable site was identified near the Cold War Submarine Memorial. Spearheaded by the World War II Submarine Veterans State Commander Lee Allison, CS1 (SS), USN, led the development of the new memorial. The local chapter of the WWII submarine veterans has over time lost many of their shipmates with only about 16 members remaining. Lee Allison took on this task using his personal funds so the development would be completed. The US Submarine Veterans, Charleston Base learned of the plight of the group and through donations by the executive board and the membership over \$2400 was collected. The construction of the memorial was performed by Low Country Monuments in Summerville SC using state of the art technology. The granite

monument included specially designed color plaque identifying the 52 boats lost during the war, the USS Amberjack and a map of the Pacific Ocean where the majority of submarine action took place.

Lee Allison said it was important to honor those men who gave their lives in submarines. The ceremony followed a Pearl Harbor Memorial ceremony 7 December 2009 on the Yorktown, put on by the Mount Pleasant chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. And that, Allison's colleagues said, was the perfect time to do it.

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Navy Confirms Sunken Sub In Balabac Strait Is USS Flier

From Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

(PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii)

– Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny announced today that a sunken vessel located in the Balabac Strait area of the Philippines is in fact the World War II submarine USS Flier (SS 250).

“I am honored to announce that, with video evidence and information provided by a team from YAP Films and assistance from the Naval History and Heritage Command, USS Flier has been located,” said McAneny. “We hope this announcement will provide some closure to the families of the 78 crewmen lost when Flier struck a mine in 1944.”

USS Flier, a 1525-ton Gato class submarine built at Groton, Connecticut, was commissioned in mid-October 1943. She departed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for her first war patrol in January 1944. While entering the harbor at Midway Island during a storm, she went aground and was seriously damaged.

The damaged submarine was towed back to Pearl Harbor and finally reached the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, where she was repaired. Flier made another start on her first war patrol in May 1944, heading from Pearl Harbor to the waters off Luzon. While en route on 4 June she attacked and sank the transport Hakusan Maru. On June 13, she attacked a Japanese convoy off Subic Bay, receiving a depth charging in return, and on June 22-23, hit another convoy off

Mindoro, apparently damaging one or more ships.

In early August 1944 Flier left Fremantle, Australia, for her second war patrol. On 13 August, while transiting shallow water to enter the South China Sea, she struck a mine and quickly sank. Fourteen of 86 crewmen escaped, but only eight survived the subsequent long swim to reach shore. After making their way by raft to Palawan and being protected by local people and a group of guerrillas, at the end of the month they were evacuated by the submarine USS Redfin (SS-272).

The last surviving crew member of Flier, Ens. Al Jacobson, never gave up the search for his lost shipmates. Sadly, Jacobson passed away in 2008, but his family was determined to continue the search. The family provided notes and research to the production company YAP Films, which investigates nautical mysteries, and Jacobson's son Steve and grandson Nelson participated in the search.

"After my father retired in 1990, he became very active in the quest to understand more of what happened," said Steve Jacobson. "He put together as much information as he could from naval records of the investigation and put together charts of where he believed Flier was. We provided YAP Films with everything my father had collected."

In the spring of 2009, with the aid of the Jacobson family, the team from YAP Films located wreckage of a submarine in the area that USS Flier was lost. Father and son divers Mike and Warren Fletcher of the television show "Dive Detectives" captured the first views of the sunken submarine in more than 64 years. YAP Films provided the Naval History and Heritage Command with footage taken in the Balabac Strait to aid in the identification.

"The Flier discovery presented the Dive Detectives with one of our most challenging dives," said Warren Fletcher. "At a depth of 330 feet there is little margin for error. As my father and I descended into the dark blue water, the unmistakable shape of a Gato-class submarine came into view. That moment made all of the hard work and danger pale in comparison with the feeling of pride it

gave me to know that the Flier and her crew will not be forgotten."

With the information provided by YAP Films, COMSUBPAC and the Naval History and Heritage Command examined the evidence and historical records and determined that the submarine found at the reported position could only be USS Flier. No Japanese or U.S. submarine other than Flier was ever reported lost in the area, and the gun mount and radar antenna clearly identifiable in the video matched historical photographs of USS Flier. Additional identifiable characteristics of the hull indicated that the wreck is indeed a Gato-class submarine. These factors taken together led COMSUBPAC and the Naval History and Heritage Center to conclude that the wreck found by YAP Films could only be that of USS Flier.

"The Flier was found because all the right people came together for all the right reasons," said Mike Fletcher. "But mostly the Flier was found because of the love a family has for their dad."

"It was a pretty emotional experience," said Jacobson. "Although I was really confident of the position, you still don't know. Literally, it was exactly at the coordinates he said it would be. It is tremendous closure and I wish that my dad could have experienced this."

Former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz once said, "When I assumed command of the Pacific Fleet on 31 December 1941 our submarines were already operating against the enemy, the only units of the Fleet that could come to grips with the Japanese for months to come. It was to the Submarine Force that I looked to carry the load until our great industrial activity could produce the weapons we so sorely needed to carry the war to the enemy. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

By the end of World War II, submarines had made more than 1,600 war patrols. Pacific Fleet submarines like Flier accounted for more than half of all enemy shipping sunk during the war. The cost of this success was heavy: 52 U.S. Pacific Fleet submarines were lost, and more than

3,500 submariners remain on "eternal patrol."

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--



February Birthdays

Feb 4th – Paul Honeck
 Feb 5th – Michael Meriweather
 Feb 6th – John Archer
 Feb 12th – Colin Stockdale
 Feb 13th – Gil Houston
 Feb 22nd – Dick Winchell
 Feb 24th – Frank Hampson
 Feb 26th – Robert Walls
 Feb 28th – T. Wesley Dodson
 Feb 28th – Bruce Dart

Happy Birthday!

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

Treasures Report: JAN 2010

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 6064.18
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	355.00
Donation – Frank Tillery	50.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 405.00
EXPENSES:	
Dues Paid to National	260.00
Meat: Exp. From Christmas Party	188.21
Store Keeper	267.29
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 724.50
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 5744.68
CHARITYS	
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1366.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 650.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1255.86
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5074.59
Interest Earned	25.39
Total in CD	\$ 5099.98
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14116.55

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Submarine Museum Trivia

Last Month: Museum submarine most visited by a Pirate's Fan (or Steeler's fan or a Penguin's fan)?

A: USS REQUIN

Q: Michigan's museum submarine? (answer will be posted in next issue)

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT
IN GOD WE TRUST**

David Grove
144 White Oak Ln.
Little Rock, AR 72227
dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



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

Base Commander	Greg Schwerman	gschwerman@suddenlink.net	(501) 804-0386
Vice Commander	Joe Mathis	usnjrm@yahoo.com	(501) 565-6021
COB	Billy Hollaway	retldousn@earthlink.net	(501) 758-3266
Chaplain	Carl Schmidt	bonnynclyde@classicnet.net	(501) 843-7855
Treasurer	Greg Schwerman	gschwerman@suddenlink.net	(501) 804-0386
Yeoman	Jane Farmer	dcfarmert2@sbcglobal.net	(501) 753-8824
Webmaster	Greg Zonner	zonner632@horizonbroadband.net	(501) 316-6641
Membership	John Barr	jbarr@aristotle.net	(501) 663-6622
Storekeeper	Billy Hollaway	retldousn@earthlink.net	(501) 758-3266
Holland Club	Lee Huss	lee393sub@sbcglobal.net	(501) 922-1216
Memorials/Ceremonies	Billy Hollaway	retldousn@earthlink.net	(501) 758-3266