

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans



October 2013

Helicopter Lands on Deck of USS Corporal

(From the *Key West Citizen*)



April 27, 1956 The sleek silhouette of the Submarine USS Corporal (SS-346) coming to the rescue was a welcome sight to four Navy airmen aboard a disabled helicopter off Key West yesterday afternoon.

With only a few fleeting moments of air time left, the helicopter, number 51 of squadron VX-1, and piloted by Commander W. F. Culley, hovered over the submarine and landed safely on the fantail with only a few inches to spare.

Commander Culley, his co-pilot Lieutenant J. K. Johnson, and two other crew members, G. A. Dechamp, SO3, and M. R. Dronz, AT2, were participating in exercises some 18 miles from Key West when their plane had a mechanical failure.

The Copter radioed a distress signal to the other planes in the area and the message was relayed to the Corporal who had just surfaced after completing part of her operation.

The call was answered immediately by the submarine and it proceeded at maximum speed to the disabled plane. As the helicopter prepared to land it began communications with the submarine's radio room.

Nearing the submarine's fantail the 'copter received the message "Do You Think You Will Make It?" The reply was prompt and meaningful: -- "We're on your deck and damn happy to be here!!"

The crew was welcomed aboard by the Corporal's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander E. O. Proctor, USN, and after the plane was secured to the submarine, the vessel proceeded immediately to the Naval Annex and arrived there about 6:30 PM.

Cars and spectators crowded the pier and within a short time after docking the helicopter was again back in its own element, leaving the seas for ships and submarines like the fast - cruising Corporal.

On May 5th, 1956 The USS Corporal was steaming near Key West when it received an emergency message from a US Navy Helicopter stating that it was having engine problems and was going down.

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**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

Corner



Greetings Shipmates!

We are in for a busy end of the year! I personally am looking forward to the several events we have upcoming. I hope you will take the time to come to celebrate with us as we observe the **Navy Birthday at Café Klaser in Heber Springs**. Information is provided in this newsletter. We also have a day to work on the float and a parade for Christmas.....not to mention our Veteran's Day ceremony. It makes me proud to be a submariner when we get together for these events. I look forward to seeing each of you.

The first event is our Navy Birthday on the 26th. While at the dinner, I would like to hold an Executive Board Meeting....not a full meeting but at least an Executive Board meeting. If you are EB and aren't going to make it, please let me know and I will discuss with you this meeting before we meet.

Thanks again for your service....I truly hope someone thanks you everyday.

Pride Runs Deep,

Alan Malone
Base Commander

Navy Birthday at Café Klaser in Heber Springs, 6 PM, Saturday, October 26
1414 Wilburn Rd., Heber Springs, Ar. 72543; 501-206-0688
Contact Wanda Malone at wandamalone11@yahoo.com or 501-362-2623.

Menu Choices

1. 5 oz. Stuffed Steak \$16.95
 - ◆ stuffed w/ rice and topped w/crawfish etouffee
 - ◆ choice of baked potato or sautéed green beans
2. Lemon Pepper Catfish \$11.95
 - ◆ 1 fillet, grilled
 - ◆ served w/rice & sautéed green beans
3. Creamy Artichoke Chicken \$13.95
 - ◆ served over rice w/ sautéed green beans

All entrees include salad bar and homemade bread. 18% gratuity added. Soft drinks \$2.00 / tea or lemonade \$1.50 / coffee \$1.25. Adult beverages available.

Hotels

1. Holiday Inn Express
 - ◆ 501-887-9500
 - ◆ \$90. (mil. discount)
2. Red Apple Inn
 - ◆ 501-362-3111
 - ◆ \$130- \$160 depending on room type
3. Quality Inn
 - ◆ 501-362-1000
 - ◆ \$ 75. (mil. discount)

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 Chair is asking for volunteers to serve as Color Guard, side boys and other functions. Refreshments will be served in the AIMM Gift Shop following the ceremony. Anyone interested in helping please contact me at pneckerar@gmail.com , or John Barr at jcbarr346@att.net. Thanks for your support. Paul Honeck .

RAZORBACK BASE ACTIVITIES - 2013

- ⇒October 26 - Navy Birthday Anniversary Dinner (see above).
- ⇒November 11- Veterans Activities (see above).
- ⇒December 14 - Christmas Party, AIMM Barge.



USSVI Razorback Base - Minutes - September 21, 2013

Met on September 21, 2013 on AIMM barge at 17:15. 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 Treasurer's report. Was seconded and approved.
- ◆ 3rd motion was for base to pay \$15 of each person's food only at Navy Birthday party in October. Seconded and approved. Was decided after each will pay their own bill, then the base will reimburse each person the \$15.
- ◆ 4th motion was Paul asking for \$50 for Veteran's Day activities to purchase cookies and drinks. Was seconded and approved except for one opposed-Tom Salisbury.
- ◆ 5th motion was Greg Zonner asked for \$250 for meat for the Christmas party in December. Was seconded and approved.
- ◆ 6th motion was Ray Wewers to participate only in the North Little Rock Christmas parade. Do not have that we seconded and approved.
- ◆ 7th motion was to have a work party for the float which needs some work on 11/16/ at 10:00. Seconded and approved except for one opposed-Tom Salisbury.
- ◆ 8th motion was Pay Wewers to bring up fund raising ideas at January 2014 meeting. Was seconded and accepted.
- ◆ 9th motion was to adjourn meeting. Was 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 (9)
James Bjorklund (9)
Bob & Mary Christians (12)
Bruce Dart (11)
Jane Farmer (0)
Cecil Goins (0)
Ronald Hines (12)
Billy Hollaway (17)
Alan & Wanda Malone (9)
John Mitchell (5)
Terence & Kathleen Murphy (12)
Carl Schmidt (11)
Frederick Weilminster (11)
Ray & Barbara Wewers (9)
George Wrightam (13)

TREASURER'S REPORT	SEPTEMBER, 2013
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14,559.42
General Fund Beginning Balance	\$6,052.37
DEPOSITS	
EXPENSES	
Med Lights	\$577.49
USSVI Dues	\$20.00
General Fund Ending Balance	\$5,454.88
Designated Funds Beginning Balance	\$3,187.20
Maintenance Fund Beginning Balance	\$1,414.34
Booster Club	
Billy Hollaway	\$20.00
Maintenance Fund Ending Balance	\$1,434.34
Base Charity Fund Beginning Balance	\$367.00
Johnson Family Contribution	\$80.00
Charity Fund Ending Balance	\$447.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance	\$1,405.86
Designated Funds Ending Balance	\$3,287.20
Checking Bal. (Gen. + Designated Funds)	\$8,742.08
Other Funds	
Regions Bank CD	\$5,212.85
Interest	
CD Balance	\$5,212.85
Cash on Hand	\$107.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE	\$14,061.93
Respectfully submitted, Mark Taylor, Base Treasurer	



Lost Boats—October

USS Seawolf (SS-197)



Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155)



Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238)



Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

USS Dorado (SS-248)



Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294)



Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314)



Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227)



Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

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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

4th War Patrol—part 1 of 2

7 May, 1945

Today we departed Pearl for Midway and our 4th war patrol. **[Calvin Moon: R & R was at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Refit at Pearl included ST periscope installed, ST-2 air search radar and antenna inside periscope window.]**

12 May, 1945

We arrived at Midway and I was thrown overboard and nearly drowned. Was helped out by Lucky Langford and Hustead. That's what a guy gets for making a rate and can't swim. We also departed Midway for Life Guard Station at the mouth of Tokyo Bay where we will attempt to rescue a few zoomies and possibly get some shipping, we hope.

15 May, 1945

We have been three days with only enough fresh water to drink. The evaporators went on the blink and spoiled the battery water. For washing we use condensate water from the air conditioning units. There will be no showers for a while, possibly one a week if things go right.

16 May, 1945

At 1500 we sighted a floating mine and sank same at 1540 with a terrific explosion in position 33° 08' N, 161° 11' E., sighted by lookouts at a distance of 1000 yards. At 1600 sighted our second floating mine and sank same at 1620 with 20mm gun fire; position 33° 10' N., 160° 59' E. This mine sighted 100 yards from us by lookouts. **[CM: #2 still making potable water.]**

20 May, 1945

At 1400 sighted floating mine and sank same with 20mm fire. Position 34° 25' N., 141° 00' E.

23 May, 1945

At 0300 this morning we made a quick dive. A torpedo or a very fast small boat was picked up on the TDM and after we got down, crossed our bow, probably a couple hundred yards ahead of us.

25 May, 1945

Today at 1400 we rescued one fighter pilot (Colonel Taylor) of the 21st Fighter Group operating from Iwo Jima. While strafing a mine layer his tail controls were either shot away or he zoomed too low and hit the mast of the ship. He was forced to bail out. He was in the shower within 15 minutes after bailing out over us.

27 May, 1945

In the past few days we have come very close to several mines. We are hoping we don't come any closer. One was 10 yards and one was 30 yards away. Today we received the following message from ComSubPac:

LIFEGUARD LEAGUE FROM COMSUBPAC X FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM
MUSTANG FIGHTER COMMAND X QUOTE X WE DESIRE TO EXPRESS
WHOLEHEARTED APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION OF YOUR HEADQUARTERS

(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.)

IN PROVIDING LIFEGUARD SERVICE FOR FIGHTER MISSION X COOPERATION AND EXCELLENT WORK OF SUBMARINES A MATTER OF CONSTANT COMMENT BY PILOTS OF THIS COMMAND X REQUEST OUR GRATITUDE BE RELAYED TO OFFICERS AND MEN OF SUBMARINES INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY TO 419 and 394 FOR SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF TWO FIGHTER PILOTS ON 25 MAY X UNQUOTE MAY 27 1945.

The coded message from ComSubPac dated 27 May 1945 read:

PIPEFISH RAZORBACK AND BLUEFISH RECEIVE COMSUSPAC CONGRATULATIONS TODAY FOR RESCUING AVIATORS FROM THE BRINY DEEP.

Today we are searching for survivors from twenty-five B29s shot down over Tokyo the night of 25-26 May. So far have had no success.

30 May, 1945: 35°15'N., 140° 30' E.

Yesterday we were 46 miles from the heart of Tokyo on lifeguard station for a fighter raid on Tokyo. I had a good look at the Japanese mainland through the periscope today at a distance of 15 miles.

28 May, 1945

At 2200 we had another torpedo fired at us and we were forced to submerge. There is a fighter-bomber raid today. I hope we get a pilot or two if they go down.

2 June, 1945

Sighted mine close abeam - exploded same. Posit 33°N., 136°E.

We followed SOS distress signals all day, results negative, believed to have been Jap originated on land nearly causing us to run aground. We went directly over a sunken ship, sunk in shallow water in 1935, only four miles from the beach. We took bearings from light house on the beach. It was raining hard or we would probably have had a few holes in us by now.

Lost Boats—continued from page 4.

USS Tang (SS-306)



Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the lost of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66)



Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababgarez off the Panama Canal.

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Corporal immediately contacted the helo and offered it's deck as a helipad. The craft landed successfully and the USS Corporal brought the helo and the crew back to Key West high and dry. It was the first successful landing of a helicopter on the deck of a submarine.

Several years later the Corporal picked up a downed Navy flight crew and dropped them off at Bermuda. Seems the aviators didn't take to the submarine lifestyle.



Razorback Association Reunion Aboard USS Razorback at AIMM September - 2013



Smoke Boat Engine Start



WWII Razorback Veterans at Reunion

Charles Edwin Brown (Charlie), CSC(SS)



Charlie joined the US Navy in 1941 and retired in 1961. He was aboard the Razorback for the 3rd and 4th war patrols.

He also made the 1st war patrol aboard the USS Puffer, SS-268 and the 3rd, 4th and 5th war patrols aboard the USS Bowfin, SS-287.

Charlie served aboard a total of 13 submarines and 2 tenders during his career. He now lives in Albuquerque, NM.



Calvin Moon (Cal), RT1(SS)



Cal is shown at the left with his son and grandson that both joined him during the reunion.

Cal made all 5 war patrols on the USS Razorback. He kindly contributes comments to Atkinson's Diary we have been publishing. Following the war, he also served briefly aboard the USS Steelhead, SS-280.

Picture to the right shows Cal at a familiar place—his radar watch station.



Ladies' Luncheon



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

Editor, John C. Barr
501-663-6622
jcbarr346@att.net



ATTENTION: Retired Members of USS Razorback Base.

From Billy Hollaway

The Retired Veterans Affairs Office at the Little Rock Air Force Base will host a conference at 0800, Saturday, 12 October 2013 at the Thomas Community center on the LRAFB. You are all cordially invited at no charge and will have access to many information centers and personnel pertaining to retired affairs. You are requested to wear your USSVI vest if possible. No reservations are required.

(see <http://www.littlerock.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=6105>)

**Holland Club Induction
At Navy Birthday Event**

Three members will be inducted into the Holland Club at the Navy Birthday event in Heber Springs on Saturday, October 26th. Inductees are:

Tom Desaulniers, MM3(SS), of Conway, AR. Tom Qualified on the USS Thornback, SS-418, in 1963.

Leslie L. Nichols, MMCM(SS), of Hot Springs Village, AR. Les qualified on the USS Trigger, SS-564, in 1963. He also served aboard the USS Skate, SSN-578, the USS Ray, SSN-653, the USS Kamehameha, SSBN-642 and the USS George C. Marshall, SSBN-654. Les also had shore duty at the Submarine School and Submarine Repair Facility in New London.

Marvin E. Vaughter, EM2(SS), of Hot Springs, AR. Marvin qualified on the USS Redfish, SS-395, in 1963. Marvin also served aboard the USS Pomodon, SS-486.

October + Birthdays

James W. Barnes	1
Scott Pursley	2
Gregory Wade Stitz	3
Robert C. Howard III	12
Dexter D. Bates	13
Don L. Booker	15
James William Mason	15
Kenneth Douglas Brenton	17
Mark Taylor	18
John F. Cameron	20
David E. Dinwiddie	25
Miles E. Williams	25
Michael J. Wingeier	28
Forest E. Harrell	29

November

Enrile Del Fierro Trinidad	1
Donald L. David	2
Paul G. Plemmons	2
Kenneth E. Chambers	4
Richard Herbert Delozier	4
James Paul Hammack	4
Emma Jane Farmer	8

Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Base Vice-Commander Memorials and Ceremonies Past Base Commander	Paul Honeck	501-319-5888	pnecker@gmail.com
Chief of the Boat	Bob Christians	501-922-8451	bobchristians@icloud.com
Chaplin	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	joe.manning@att.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Storekeeper Past Base Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.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