



April 2004  
Volume 10 - Issue 4



<http://perch-base.org>

### What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch

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### Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

#### APRIL ETERNAL PATROLS

<b>USS Pickeral</b>	<b>SS177</b>	<b>April 3, 1943</b>	<b>74 men</b>
<b>USS Snook</b>	<b>SS279</b>	<b>April 8, 1945</b>	<b>84 men</b>
<b>USS Thresher</b>	<b>SSN593</b>	<b>April 10, 1963</b>	<b>129 men</b>
<b>USS Grenadier</b>	<b>SS210</b>	<b>April 22, 1943</b>	<b>4 men (as POW's)</b>

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 10, 2004**  
American Legion Post #62  
11001 N. 99th Ave.  
Starts at 1200 hours  
Lunch provided at \$3 a head





**BASE OFFICERS**

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# Sailing Orders



**Next Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2004**

**DON'T FORGET  
Picnic at the Railroad Park  
April 17**

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**District 8 Convention  
Denver, CO  
May 14 & 15, 2004**

*(See pages 14 and 15 of this news-  
letter for greetings letter, map and  
registration form.)*

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**2004 National Convention  
Albany-Saratoga, NY  
Sept. 15 - 19, 2004**

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## From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

Our March meeting was another great meeting.

Our guest speaker was Mike Edwards, Royal Navy Submarine Service, Scottish Branch, with his wife Joann. He made a presentation to our very own "Master Craftsman and Carver of Dolphins," Ed Brooks. Ed received a lovely plaque, along with a letter of commendation thanking him for his hands across the waters donation, of the Royal Navy Submarine Dolphins. Shipmate Brooks had donated the dolphins for their fund-raising project for challenged children.

With the award went a bottle of British Navy Rum. As 'tis the custom of "the passing of the rum," Ed shared with his shipmates. It was passed around the room for each to partake. Ed, I still have your balance of the bottle . . . for safe keeping of course. This is a true test of the honesty of the Base Commander. What the hell, I've flunked a few tests in my time!

Finally, the Holland Club patch designer receives his patch! Frank Rumbaugh designed the patch for those qualified for 50 years shortly after Perch Base was started. Frank, it is great to have you back with us.

The Pigboaters, WW2 SubVets, and Perch Base vote to have a combined meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month starting July 17.

Some additional thoughts: we had re-election of past Base officers, with Tim Moore as new Vice Commander. Thanks Tim for stepping up. Our membership continues to grow. Ramon Samson tells the board that we are getting very close to 100% retention of membership for this year. Ramon this Bravo Zulu is for you, thanks. Chuck, you have done it again. Another great newsletter, BZ's to you again. We have received our first advertising fee of \$ 100.00.

See you at the April meeting.

Faternally

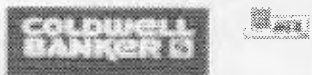
Glenn Herold

Base Commander



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## March Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1302 hours, 14 March 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Base Chaplain Howard Doyle led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats@ ceremony for submarines lost during the month of March.

According to the sailing list, there were 34 Perch Base members and 2 guests at the meeting. Those present welcomed our guests – Shipmates Buck Crouch and a guest from Royal Navy Submarine Veteran's Association – Michael Edwards. Our guests were welcomed with a resounding round of applause from the membership.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as published in the Base newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of March, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The process whereby Officers and Committee Chairmen make their monthly reports was dispensed with in the interest of conserving time.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ed Brooks reported that two of the seven survivors from service on U.S.S. Perch SS-176 during WWII had returned the applications for Honorary Membership in Arizona SubVets – Perch Base and regular members of USSVI.

Glenn Herold announced that work to restore and redesign the cover for the Perch Base Parade Float was proceeding and would result in a much better cover for storage and transport of the float trailer. Ed Brooks announced that the components for the float's new sound system had all been procured and will soon be tested and configured for the next parade event.

The members were reminded to look for potential advertisers for the Perch Base Newsletter. The business card size ads are to be offered at \$100 per year.

Dave Harnish reminded members that applications for Schol-

See "MINUTES" on page 6

## From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

I want to thank everyone for attending and voting for officers at our March meeting. All our officers were voted back in, with the addition of a new Treasurer, Karen Emmett. I know she will be a real addition to our Board.

Our great news of the YEAR is that the WWII veterans have decided to merge with Perch Base. I could not be more excited. We have had the privilege of having many of these great Ladies, as members, since our inception, and being able to meet them all will be a great pleasure for me. Their knowledge & experience is invaluable to our organization. WELCOME, to all of you. Our first joint meeting will be in May 2004, but starting in July our meetings will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, April 11<sup>th</sup> is National Submariner's Day.

The below poem is one of our Tributes to our men who served, or are serving in the Silent Service.

### Submariners – A Special Breed By Sandra Kicklighter

*Deep, under the Ocean  
The Submarine sails on  
Carrying out its mission,  
With Sailors who will bond.*

*In the really small quarters, which they share,  
One rises from bed, another goes there.  
Space is limited, for all of the crew,  
So they bond together, as families do.*

*The bond that forms between them,  
Time will never take away.  
It's a brotherhood of Sailors,  
Working together, day by day*

*In times of war – in times of peace,  
They're always out there patrolling the seas,  
Their constantly ready for a call of need,  
Yes! Submariners are a Special Breed!*

Sandra wrote this for her husband Ken, who proudly served his time in the Navy aboard the USS Grenadier, [60-61], USS Ethan Allen, [61-62], USS Woodrow Wilson, [66-67], USS Seacat, [67-68], and retired 1970 off the USS Tirante in Key West, FL.

THANK YOU SUBMARINERS.

Here's a BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY, from the SubVettes of Perch Base to:

Lori Bergstedt – 4/4

Carolyn Newman – 4/12

Muriel Grieves – 4/16

Sandi Herrington – 4/20

Our next meeting will be held @ the Americana Restaurant @ Noon on April 10, 2004. Hope to see you all there.

Best Wishes & Regards to all

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

## SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES March Meeting

The sixth monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at the Americana Restaurant, Peoria, Arizona at 1218 hours, March 13, 2004. There were 16 members and two guests in attendance. President Nancy Nelson called the meeting to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy then led the members in a prayer of invocation and a moment of silence for Art McClure.

A motion was made by Lainie Rumbaugh and seconded by Kay Harnish that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The Midwatch". Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Newell reported on the Base's financial status as of February 28, 2004. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Kay Harnish and seconded by Karen Emmett. Motion carried.

President Nancy Nelson reminded members that raffle tickets were available for two drawings—one for a Poncho hand made and donated by Jackie Hawkins and a watch donated by our guest Joan Edwards.

### OLD BUSINESS

President Nancy Nelson distributed to all members copies of the Base Constitution and By-Laws that incorporated revisions made and voted on by members at the February meeting.

Nancy Nelson read to members a poem written by Sandra Kicklighter and offered it as part of our tribute for National Submariners Day coming up on April 11, 2004.

Bobbie Chapman gave members an update on her husband's medical condition and Nancy let her know that all members wish him a speedy recovery.

Nancy then advised members that a check in the amount of \$100 was sent to the Scholarship Fund in Ed Brooks' name as way of showing the Subvettes' appreciation for all of his assistance. Kay Harnish advised members of Ed's comments regarding his appreciation for the donation. Bobbie Chapman spoke of the benefits offered by the Scholarship Fund.

### NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Kay Harnish introduced special guest Joan Edwards, whose husband was a submariner in Great Brit-

See "SUBVETTES" on page 10

(continued from "MINUTES," page 4)

arship Grants from the USSV-Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Fund are currently due (the cut-off date is March 15).

Ed Brooks announced that the efforts to gain approval for the temporary removal and refurbishment of the Mk 14 torpedo at the Submarine Memorial on the grounds of the National Cemetery – Phoenix had been successful. The U.S. Veteran's Administration has responded to the Perch Base letter with their approval. A committee of two (Frank Rumbaugh and Dave Harnish) will pursue finding a contractor to perform bead blasting and powder coating the torpedo body as well as lifting and transporting the assembly to and from the National Cemetery.

Glenn Herold informed the membership that the Arizona Pigboat Chapter – SubVets WWII had voted to hold their monthly meetings in conjunction with Perch Base starting with the May meeting. It has been proposed that both groups will then meet at American Legion Post 62 in Peoria. If the proposal is approved by the members, the next meeting will be on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, the following meeting will be on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, the June meeting will be our summer meeting in Snowflake, AZ on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Then beginning in July, the meeting date will shift to the third Saturday of the month (July 17<sup>th</sup>). Future meetings will continue to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting changes as indicated. The motion carried by voice vote.

Glenn Herold announced that three of the Base Officers terms (Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer) were expiring and the floor was opened for the nomination of candidates for those positions. Current nominees are:

Secretary – Ed Brooks

Treasurer – Bob May

Vice Commander – Adrian Stuke elected not to serve any additional terms as Vice Commander, and withdrew his name for consideration as a candidate for that post.

Shipmate Tim Moore then agreed to offer his services in that position. His name was then placed before the members as a candidate for Vice Commander.

No more nominations being offered from the floor, the nomination process was closed.

A motion was made and seconded to elect the nominees through acclamation. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The newly elected officers are:

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore

Base Secretary – Ed Brooks

Base Treasurer – Bob May

## NEW BUSINESS

The newly elected Perch Base Officers were asked to assemble front and center. They were then sworn in by USSVI Western Regional Director – Dave Harnish. The membership welcomed the new officers to their positions for the next year.

Perch Base's special guest, Michael Edwards was then introduced and asked to speak to the membership regarding his services in the Royal Navy Submarine Service. Michael



gave the members an inside view of submarine duty in the Royal Navy including the specialized training, qualification requirements, at sea activities, and distinctive differences between the two submarine services.

As a final gesture, Michael asked Ed Brooks to join him at the front of the group. Michael then presented Ed with a Plaque and framed letter from the President of the Royal Navy Submariner's Association - Scottish Branch. The letter thanked Ed for carving and donating a replica of the

Royal Navy Submariner's Dolphins to benefit the Scottish Branch's charitable aims and made him an Honorary Member of the organization. Ed was

also given a bottle of fine English Rum.



Following the presentation, Ed was asked to follow Perch Base tradition of passing the bottle. By tradition, Ed uncorked the bottle, took the first drink and passed the bottle from member to member.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

USSVI Western Regional Director - Dave Harnish asked all Perch Base Holland Club members to assemble front and center. After their assembly, Dave informed the members that the USSVI Holland Club logo was designed by a Perch Base member who would today receive the honor or induction into that group of submarine veterans who qualified more than 50 years ago. Dave then asked Frank Rumbaugh

(continued next page)

to present himself in front of the Holland Club members. Frank was then inducted into the group through a special ceremony.

After the induction ceremony, Frank was given a Holland Club Patch, membership card, lapel pin, coffee mug, certificate, Perch Base patch and letter from Bill Britt (President of the USSVI Holland Club). The existing Holland Club members welcomed Frank into their group and the membership showed him their appreciation with a resounding round of applause.

#### 50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Ed Brooks was the winner of a \$60 share. Ed announced that the winnings would be donated to the "Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship" and the USSV-Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Fund.

#### ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1403 hours.

Edgar T. Brooks B Base Secretary



### This Old Boat . . .

*No one guessed last month's boat so I'm back to batting 1000! The boat was the USS Argonaut (SS-166.) SEE PAGE 12 FOR DETAILS ON THE ARGONAUT.*

*Now, try your luck on this one.*



Do you recognize this old boat? Send your answer to the editor

[chuckster41@earthlink.net](mailto:chuckster41@earthlink.net)

## SHIPMATES COLUMN

EDITOR: My I take this opportunity to also extend my congratulations to Ed Brooks. My job took me out of town for the last meeting. I'm sorry I missed it.

Please keep articles and ideas for the newsletter coming. To keep it fresh and interesting, we need your input.



### Birthdays

- April 2 Jerome Becker
- April 7 Jim Thomson
- April 8 Larry Patterson
- April 12 George Crider
- April 13 James Wall
- April 16 Steven Coe
- April 16 James Edwards
- April 17 Clair Prokupek
- April 19 James Johns
- April 19 Rick Simmons
- April 20 David Carpenter
- April 21 John Welsh
- April 22 Gerald Holloway
- April 22 Tim Moore
- April 25 Ron Young
- April 30 Davy Jones

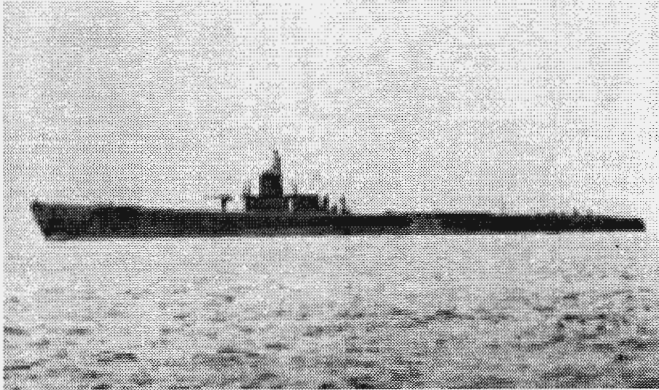


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[http://perch-base.org/  
perch\\_base\\_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)**

## Eternal Patrol April 3, 1943

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

### U.S.S. Pickeral (SS-177) 74 men lost



PICKEREL commanded by Lt. Cmdr. A. H. Aleton, Jr., the first submarine to be lost in the Central Pacific area, set out from Pearl Harbor on 18 March 1943. After topping off with fuel at Midway on 22 March, PICKEREL began her seventh war patrol off the eastern coast of northern Honshu. She was never heard from after her departure from Midway.

She was ordered to remain in her area until sunset 1 May 1943 and then to return to Midway. Standing orders required her to transmit by radio prior to entering a circle of radius 500 miles from Midway, and this report was expected by 6 May. When it was not received, a message ordering an immediate reply was repeatedly sent. No answer was received, and plane search along her expected course, revealed nothing. As a result, she was reported lost on 12 May 1943.

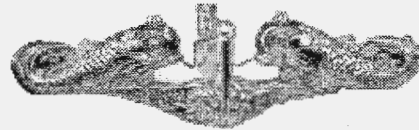
Antisubmarine attack data submitted by the Japanese at the end of the war list one attack which could conceivably have been on PICKEREL. This attack occurred on 3 April, 1943, off Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the northern tip of Honshu. This position is outside the area assigned to PICKEREL, but no other submarine was there. FLYING FISH was en route to the area between Honshu and Hokkaido and arrived there on 6 April, but PICKEREL might well have moved into the northern area for a few days until FLYING FISH's arrival if she found hunting poor in her own area. Indeed, unless the Japanese attacked a submarine which was the product of their own imaginations, they must certainly have attacked PICKEREL on 3 April, since no other boat of ours was near the area of the attack.

However, a special notation is made on the Japanese records

to the effect that they are inaccurate for the month of April 1943. Thus there is every reason to speculate that, if PICKEREL did survive the attack of 3 April, she may have been attacked later in her own area and the attack may not have been reported. We know that there were Japanese mine plants along the coast of Honshu, but a study of the track chart for PICKEREL's sixth war patrol, conducted in the same area, shows that the Commanding officer was accustomed to stay outside the 60 fathom curve. Mines are normally ineffective in water that deep.

The probability as to the cause of PICKEREL's loss is that she was sunk by enemy depth charge attack. Operational casualties for mine explosions represent possibilities, but are not thought to be likely.

During the six patrols before her final one, PICKEREL sank five ships totaling 16,100 tons, and damaged 10, totaling 9,100 tons. On her first patrol she did no damage to the enemy. Her second, conducted between Manila and Surabaya, resulted in the sinking of two freighters. PICKEREL's third patrol was conducted along the Malay Barrier and again no successful attacks were made. In her fourth patrol, in the Philippines, six attacks were made, but none resulted in damage to the enemy. PICKEREL's fifth patrol was a passage from Australia to Pearl Harbor for refit, with a short patrol in the Marianas en route. She damaged a freighter on this run. On her sixth patrol this ship went to the Kuriles to patrol the Tokyo-Kiska traffic lanes. In sixteen attacks, she sank a freighter and two sampans, and did damage to another freighter and eight sampans.



### Chaplain's Column



There has been no information sent to the Base Chaplain about any member or family in sick-bay. If we have missed anyone, our thoughts and prayers are with them. Please don't let a shipmate in need go un-noticed.

*Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or the wife or family member of a shipmate? Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:*

(623) 935-3830  
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net



**Tucson**



**Base**



Tucson Base members Gary Bartlett and Wayne Brasstad receive their plaque from Dave Harnish



**Nautical Nuances  
or,  
Did You Know?**

**Coxswain**

A coxswain or cockswain was at first the swain (boy servant) in charge of the small cock or cockboat that was kept aboard for the ship's captain and which was used to row him to and from the ship. The term has been in use in England dating back to at least 1463. With the passing of time the coxswain became the helmsman of any boat, regardless of size.

**Dogwatch**

A dogwatch at sea is the period between 4 and 6 p.m., the first dogwatch, or the period between 6 and 8 p.m., the second dog watch.

The watches aboard ships are:

Noon to 4:00 p.m. Afternoon watch

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. First dogwatch

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Second dogwatch

8:00 p.m. to midnight 1st night watch

Midnight to 4:00 a.m. Middle watch or mid watch

4:00 to 8:00 a.m. Morning watch

8:00 a.m. to noon Forenoon watch

The dogwatches are only two hours each so the same Sailors aren't always on duty at the same time each afternoon. Some experts say dogwatch is a corruption of dodge watch and others associate dogwatch with the fitful sleep of Sailors called dog sleep, because it is a stressful watch. But no one really knows the origin of this term, which was in use at least back to 1700.

**Perch Base Inducts New Holland  
Club Member**



*"The requirement's for membership in the Holland Club is determined by Section 5 of the USSVI Constitution. Basically a member must be qualified 50 or more years, and is either, a life member and a member in good standing for one year, or an annual member in good standing for 5 consecutive years."*



The Shipmate who created the patch finally gets his: Frank Rumbaugh is inducted as the latest Holland Club member of Perch Base.



The honored and elite club, named after the father of the modern submarine, Holland  
Shown standing L/R: Frank Rumbaugh, Ed Hawkins, Dick Weber, Billy Grieves, Dick Caraker and Lester Hillman. Sitting L/R: Bob May, Ted Asbell, Chück Chapman and Wayne Brasstad.

**("SUBVETTES" from page 5)**

ain. Mrs. Edwards commented on the life of a submariner in London. She told members of the efforts and her enjoyment in the organizations she is involved in. She told of the pageantry of and the recognition submariners received during Centennial celebrations in London. She concluded by thanking Dave and Kay Harnish for their invitation and hospitality.

Kay Harnish announced to members that a vote was taken by USSVI and USSVWWII organizations to hold joint meetings, which will begin with the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kay offered a special "thank you" to the WWII ladies for their efforts in this matter.

President Nancy Nelson announced that USSVI Perch Base is hosting a picnic on April 17, to begin possibly at Noon, but a definite time has not been determined. The picnic will be held at the Maricopa Live Steamers railroad park at 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave & Pinnacle Peak Road. Nancy also let members know that an invitation to the picnic has been extended to Holly and her family, as she has worked so hard getting our vests made.

Nancy advised members that the District 8 meeting is in Denver, May 13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> and is to be a combined meeting of USSVI and USSVWWII. Information and registration are available in the newsletter and need to be submitted by April 15, 2004.

Nancy then advised members that Perch Base will hold their June 12 meeting in Snowflake instead of Prescott and that Jim Clewett has volunteered his property for campers and RV'ers.

President Nancy Nelson announced that the election of officers would begin. Since Nominating Committee Chairperson Kathryn Otreba was unable to attend the meeting, her assistants, Brandi Hershey and Heather Newell, announced the proposed slate of officers:

Nancy Nelson was nominated to continue in her position of President

Kay Harnish was nominated to continue in her position of Vice President

Debbie Newell was nominated to continue in her position of Secretary

Karen Emmett was nominated for the position of Treasurer

Brandi then asked for nominations or volunteers from the floor. Being none, Brandi called for a vote on the proposed slate of officers and the nominations were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Nancy announced that this would be the first full term for all officers and offered a special thank you to Kay and Debbie for their work in helping to make this auxiliary a success, as well as a special thank you to Karen Emmett

for her willingness to be involved as an officer. It was also noted that all members are making history with the Subvettes of Perch Base.

Betty Weber then conducted the installation and swearing in of the officers.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Happy Birthday wishes went out to the following members:

Sandy Prophet (March 1)

Iris Vaillancourt (March 13)

Karen Emmett (March 14)

Debbie Newell (March 28)

Brandi Hershey (March 31)

Nancy asked members if they were satisfied with the current menu choices offered at this meeting location, and noted that it should cut down on ordering and serving times. Members should advise Nancy or the restaurant off any suggested changes.

Special guest Joan Edwards was given the opportunity to make members aware of additional contributions made by Ed Brooks to Veterans Group in England. She told members that Ed donated a set of dolphins, which the group was able to use to raise funds for their organization.

Betty Weber asked if anyone had information regarding the Valentine's gifts left at the February meeting and Nancy let members know that the gifts were from Karen Emmett, and a special "thank you" went to Karen from all members.

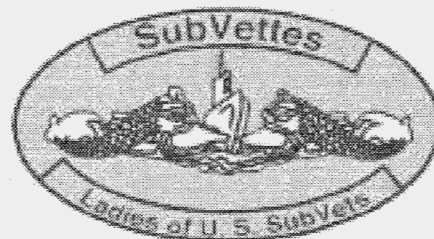
**DRAWING**

The raffle for the poncho donated by Jackie Hawkins concluded and Joan Edwards was the winner; after which, the raffle for the watch donated by Mrs. Edwards concluded and Lainie Rumbaugh was the winner.

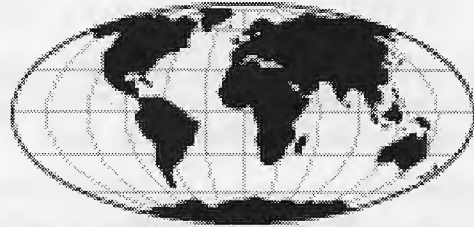
**ADJOURNMENT**

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made by Muriel Grieves and seconded by Jackie Hawkins that the meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours.

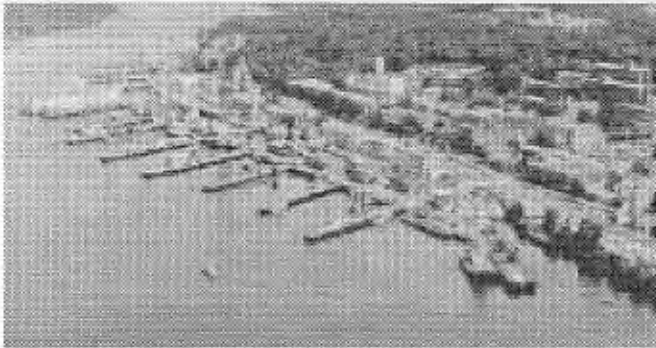
Signed: Debbie Newell, Secretary



# Around the World



## Sub School to Close? New London may on base closure list.



Local lawmakers, business leaders and private citizens are girding for a battle to save the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, which could be targeted by the Department of Defense in what one base advocate called "the mother of all base closures."

Leaders of the Sub Base Realignment Coalition, an ad hoc committee formed to fight a previous effort to close the submarine base in 1993, told the General Assembly's Public Safety Committee that state funding could make or break efforts to keep the base on the bank of the Thames River. A bill before the committee would steer \$350,000 from the state's general fund to the coalition to help finance opposition to any effort to close the base.

The submarine base will be reviewed by the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure Commission, or BRAC, which has been ordered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to shutdown as many as 100 military installations worldwide in 2006.

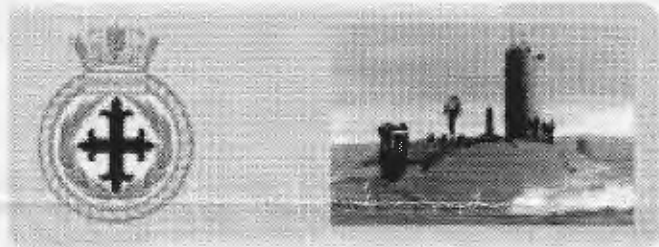
"The clock is ticking," said Rep. Andrea Stillman, D-Waterford, who was among those who lobbied the Public Safety Committee to raise the legislation. "The potential closing of the sub base would be devastating, not only to southeastern Connecticut, but to the state."

While losing the base alone would be a shock, Stillman said, the economic ripple effect could be even worse, especially if Electric Boat, one of only two manufacturers of nuclear submarines in the country, left the region as well. The other submarine builder, Northrop Grumman Newport News, is

located near the Navy's base in Norfolk, Va.

The submarine base, which is the homeport of about 17 submarines and employs roughly 11,000 military and civilian personnel, is the Navy's largest. But there are four others in California, Georgia, Virginia and Hawaii.

## Post-it Notes KO Brit Sub Sub's screens obscured by sticky notepapers



A Royal Navy nuclear submarine crashed into rocks on a training exercise while the attention of two senior officers was distracted and navigation aids were deliberately obscured by Post-it notes, a court martial was told yesterday.

Although the £300 million Trafalgar was equipped with highly sophisticated navigation equipment, student submariners were not allowed to use it on the challenging Perisher training course, which simulates battle conditions.

CDR Robert Fancy, 39, the submarine's commanding officer, and CDR Ian McGhie, also 39, who was in charge of the training course, failed to notice that a student had incorrectly calculated the vessel's position and depth as it undertook a maneuver off the Isle of Skye in November, 2002.

The subsequent collision put Trafalgar out of action for several months and repairs cost £5 million. Both men admitted negligence at the Portsmouth court martial. Fancy was severely reprimanded and McGhie reprimanded.

Lt CDR Alison Towler, prosecuting, said no action was being taken against Lt CDR Tim Green, whose error led to the collision. His mistake should have been detected.

(see "TRAFALGAR" next page)

*("TRAFALGAR" from previous page)*

Although the navigation aids were obscured to the students, they were available to the two senior officers who should have realized a miscalculation had been made.

It involved sticking a Post-it note over the Global Positioning System and turning down the illumination for the Ship's Navigation and Positioning System (Snaps) and forbidding the use of the Ship's Inertial Navigation System (Sins).

The prosecutor said: "Having denied the students the use of the Sins and the Snaps and GPS, both CDR Fancy and CDR McGhie had a responsibility to ensure the submarine's position. Neither did so."

CDR Fancy was concentrating on ship control rather than checking the submarine's navigation.

An aircraft simulation, to make the students think they should go deeper, added extra pressure and their poor navigational route was insufficiently checked. "Both men placed too much reliance on Lt Cdr Green's ability to navigate.

"Having denied the students the use of the navigational aids, both commanders had a responsibility to ensure the submarine's position was independently checked. Neither did so."

Both officers were highly respected and regarded as "high flyers". Fancy was awarded the OBE for his command of Trafalgar during the offensive against targets in Afghanistan.

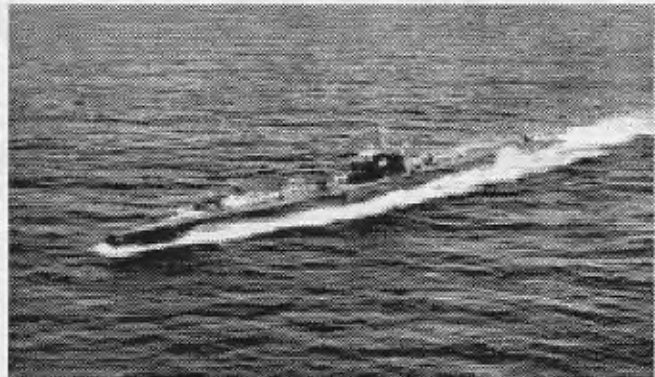
CDR Stephen Taylor, defending Fancy, said that he had never shirked from shouldering the blame. CDR Hugh Anderson, defending McGhie, said he was in charge of one of the most demanding courses in the Navy, which could make or break careers.

CDR Peter Wilkinson, president of the court, told the two officers: "Because of the negligence that you showed on that day, Trafalgar was hazarded, the ship's company was placed in danger and the fleet was deprived of one of its ships for some considerable time."

Trafalgar, based at Devonport, is about to undergo trials after repairs and a refit.



**This Old Boat . . . (con't.)**



**Displacement: 3128 tons (surf.), 4164 tons (subm.)**  
**Length: 381'; Beam: 33'6"**  
**Speed: 15k (surf.), 8k (subm.)**  
**Armament: 1-6"/53 fwd., 1-6"/53 aft., 4-21" tt. fwd.**  
**Complement: 8 officers - 80 enlisted men**

Keel laid by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME,  
1MAY25;  
Launched: 10NOV27; Sponsored by Mrs. Phillip Mason  
Sears, Jr.;  
Commissioned: 2APR28 with LCdr William M. Quigley in  
command;  
Lost 10JAN43.

USS ARGONAUT [ex-V4] (SS-166) was the first of the second generation of V-boats commissioned in the late 1920's. These submarines were exempt by special agreement from the armament and tonnage limitations of the Washington Treaties. V-4 and her sister ships V-5 (SS167) and V-6 (SS168) were designed with larger and more powerful diesel engines than those which had propelled the earlier series of V-boats which had proven to be failures. The specially-built engines failed to produce their design power and some developed dangerous crankshaft explosions. V-4 and her sister ships were slow in diving and, when submerged, were unwieldy and slower than designed. They also presented an excellent target to surface ship sonar and had a large turning radius.

V-4 was designed primarily as a minelayer. She was the first and only such experimental ship ever built. She had four torpedo tubes forward and two minelaying tubes aft. At the time of her construction, V-4 was the largest submarine ever built in the United States. Following commissioning, V-4 served with Submarine Division 12 based at Newport, R.I. In January and February 1929, V-4 underwent a series of trials off Provincetown, Mass. On a trial dive during this period, she submerged to a depth of 318 feet. This mark was the greatest depth which an American submarine had reached up to that time. On 26 February 1929, V-4 was assigned to Division 20, Submarine Divisions, Battle Fleet,


and arrived at San Diego, Calif., her new home port, on 23 March. From there, she participated in battle exercises and made cruises along the west coast.

V-4 was renamed ARGONAUT on 19 February 1931 and was redesignated as a minelaying submarine, SM-1 on 1 July of that year. On 30 June 1932 she arrived at Pearl Harbor, where she was assigned to SubDiv7. The vessel carried out minelaying operations, patrol duty, and other routine work. In October 1934 and again in May 1939, ARGONAUT took part in joint Army-Navy exercises in the Hawaiian operating area. ARGONAUT became the flagship of SubRon4 in mid-1939. The submarine returned to the west coast in April 1941 to participate in fleet tactical exercises.

On 28 November 1941, ARGONAUT left Pearl Harbor and was on patrol duty near Midway Island when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After sunset on 7 December, ARGONAUT surfaced and heard naval gunfire around Midway. It was assumed that the Japanese were landing a large invasion force. ARGONAUT then submerged to make a sonar approach to the "invasion force." While designed to be a minelayer and not an attack submarine, ARGONAUT made the first wartime approach on enemy naval forces.

The "invasion force" turned out to be two Japanese destroyers whose mission was shore bombardment on Midway. The ships may have detected ARGONAUT, and one passed close by the submarine. They completed the bombardment then retired before ARGONAUT could make a second approach.

One week later, ARGONAUT made contact with three or four Japanese destroyers. Her captain, Stephen Barchet, wisely decided not to attack. On 22 January 1942, she returned to Pearl Harbor and, after a brief stop there, proceeded to the Mare Island Navy Yard for conversion to a troop transport submarine.

 **Nautical Nuances  
or,  
Did You Know?**

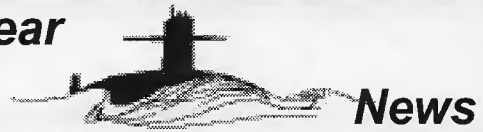
**Binnacle List**

*A ship's sick-list. A binnacle was the stand on which the ship's compass was mounted. In the eighteenth century and probably before, a list was given to the officer or mate of the watch, containing the names of men unable to report for duty. The list was kept at the binnacle.*

**Charlie Noble**

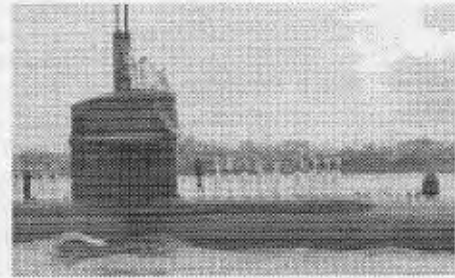
*Charlie Noble is an "it," not a "he." A British merchant service captain, Charles Noble, is said to be responsible for the origin, about 1850, of this nickname for the galley smokestack. It seems that Captain Noble, discovering that the stack of his ship's galley was made of copper, ordered that it be kept bright. The ship's crew then started referring to the stack as the "Charley Noble."*

**Nuclear**



**Last PACFLT Shooter Returns from Iraqi Freedom**

The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Key West (SSN-722), one of four Pacific Fleet submarines to strike at targets in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor on 24 July 2003.



Key West left for deployment on 24 January and was in the Arabian Gulf when coalition forces began the initial strike against targets in Iraq. "We were ready when the call came, and our crew performed flawlessly in combat," said Commanding Officer CDR Chuck Merkel, who has the unique distinction of being the only submarine commander who has led his crew into back-to-back combat operations since World War II.



For one Key West crewmember, just 22 years old and with only two years in the Navy, this was a memorable milestone in his career. Fire Control Technician Seaman David G. Young, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, was on duty when the call came to go to war. "I was on watch in the Vertical Launch Center, where we open the hatches and prepare the missiles to be shot... It was tense,

but everyone was ready to go," said Young.

As for getting to be part of the action, Young and his fellow Sailors were glad to be able to contribute to Operation Iraqi Freedom. "You sit out there for a long time, and you finally get to do something. I feel proud. We did a good job. We've been hearing a lot of good things being said about us," said Young.

As for his first deployment, Young was glad to be a part of something he will never forget. "This is my first deployment. It's a good way to start out. Most Sailors don't ever get a chance to do what we've done, but I got to do it my first time. You can't beat that!"

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Base!

Enclosed is the registration form for the District 8/W W II State Meetings. We are honored to be hosting the annual USSV ID-8 Meeting. Also, the W W II Submarine Veterans have decided to combine their annual State Meeting with the Grayling Memorial Service. We are pleased to have both groups as our guests.

When you arrive Thursday evening for the Welcome Aboard Dinner, you will receive a packet containing your Thursday dinner and Saturday luncheon tickets, name badges, local tourist information and directions to the Memorial Service and Heritage Square. Inform address for Thursday's dinner (no shorts please).

For you RV'ers, go to [www.lakewood.org](http://www.lakewood.org), select Regional Parks, Bear Creek Lake Park which has a great campground and is only 20 minutes from the activities. Reservations are highly recommended.

We will also be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful 20" Submarine hand carved by our own Dan Moss, past D-8 Commander. Your choice, Fleet or Nuc.

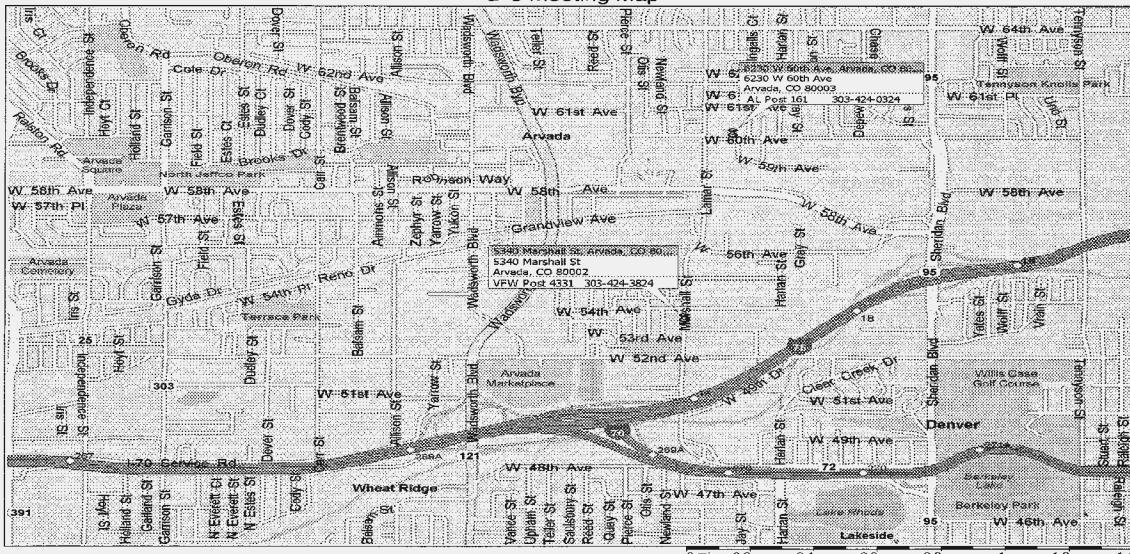
For info on the wonderful Heritage Square, go to [www.heritage-square.info/](http://www.heritage-square.info/)

We are looking forward to seeing you in May. We know you will enjoy your stay in "Colorful Colorado".

Green Board

Dave Linker, Commander  
303-987-9358  
xssn@msn.com

D-8 Meeting Map



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UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC. DISTRICT 8  
 AND  
 US SUBMARINE VETERANS WORLDWIDE COLORADO STATE  
 MEETINGS



MAY 13-16, 2004

SUBVET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST/SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have personal transportation while in Denver? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

	Number	Total
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable) \$5.00/person		
Thurs. May 13 - Welcome Aboard Dinner VFW Post 4331 1800 Cash Bar Social 1900 Dinner Choice: Prime Rib ___ Chicken Corion Bleu ___ \$20.00/person		
Fri. May 14 - Meetings American Legion Post 161 Food available at bar (cash) 1100 - 1300 USSVID District 8 1300 - 1400 USSVW WICO State  (Optional) 1500 Heritage Square Shopping and Entertainment Village 1800 AL Post 161 Dinner Menu (cash), Entertainment		
Sat. May 15 - USS Grayling SS 209 Memorial Service 1100 - 1200 Sloan Lake Park 1300 Picnic Lunch - cash bar American Legion Post 161 Fried chicken/potatoes/gravy, cole slaw, etc. Lunch - \$10.00/person Raffle Drawing		
Sun. May 16 - Farewell breakfast (Optional) American Legion Post 161 0900 American Legion breakfast menu (cash)		

TOTAL PAID \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: United State Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
 Mail check and registration by April 15, 2004  
 Mail to Dave Linker, 2641 S. Hoyt Court,  
 Lakewood, CO 80227  
 Tel. 303-987-9358 E-mail: xssn@msn.com

**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



65006+1 23064422



**Next regular meeting - April 10, 2004  
John J. Morris America Legion Post #62  
10995 N. 99th Ave.  
Peoria, AZ 85345**