



December 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 12

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



<http://perch-base.org>

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Sealion	SS195	Dec. 10, 1941	5 men
USS F-1	SS20	Dec. 17, 1917	19 men
USS S-4	SS109	Dec. 17, 1941	34 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - December 18, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no serious efforts since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

2004 Booster Club

Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Ted Asbell	Bob Bailey
Gary Bartlett	Jerry Becker	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Harold Bidigare	Wayne Braastad
Mike Breitner	Ed Brooks	Dave Carpenter	Charles Chapman
Jim Clewett	Steve Coe	Roger Cousin	Don Craig
Earl Crowley	Steve Day	Jeff Ducan	Doug Eddy
Charles Emmett	Joe Errante	Tom Fooshee	Ray Graybeal
Charles Greene	Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Warren Grossetta
Mike Haler	Dave Harnish	Bill Hatcher	John Hellem
Glenn Herold	Les Hillman	Steve Hough	Mike Keating
Ron Kloch	Darell Lambert	Bob Lancendorfer	Doug LaRock
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Dennie McComb	Bill McNay	John McVeigh	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Jim Nelson	Brent Nelson	Jim Newman
Jerry Yowell	Joe Otreba	Tom Patterson	Ray Perron
George Petrovitz	Scott Prothero	Larry Rankin	Dan Reel
Stan Reinhold	Robie Robinson	Stab Rud	Frank Rumbaugh
Mel Rycus	Ramon Samson	Emil Schoonejans	Billy Scott
Tyler Smith	Wayne Smith	Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke
Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley	Dick Waid	Jim Wall
Kenny Wayne	John Welsh	Paul West	Don Whithead
Ed Wolf	John Zaichkin		



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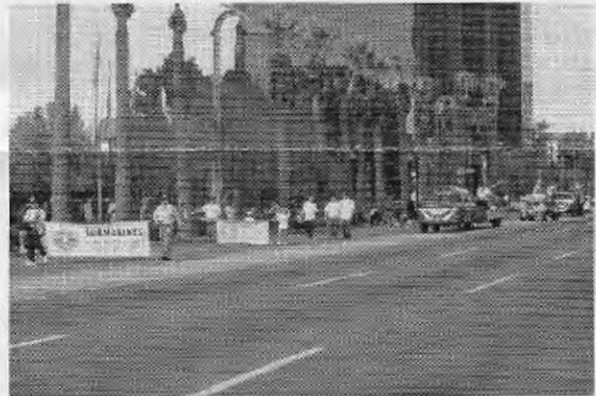
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Sailing Orders



NEXT REGULAR MEETING
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American Legion Post #62
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Starts at 1200 hours



We won! See page 9

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From the Wardroom

Shipmates

December has arrived and 2004 is coming to an end. Looking back at what has taken place over the past year. Our membership is holding its own, with three new bases being formed in our state. The USSVI is expanding not only in our state, but also through out the country.

Our contributions to the scholarship fund as a base, is something we all can be proud of.

Thanks to Ed Brooks, our guru of the carved dolphins, as he continues to amazes us, with his many talents. Not wanting to leave anyone out, I would like to thank all members for their donations and support this past year.

Our Ad Hoc committee has met with the board and given us some very good ideas as to ways we can booster the base's treasury. These ideas are great food for thought with a number of ways and directions we can take. To those members I want to express to you, Bravo Zulu, for a task will done.

For the shipmates that didn't get the word yet, Perch Base's Float, won First Place in the Military Class, at the Veterans Parade. Tom Tilley had to be a very proud shipmate, as the float passed in front of him, with the "first place banner" leading our float.

Past Commander Frank Rumbaugh, and his lovely and charming wife Layne, attend the dinner and presentation of awards at the V.A. hospital, and accept the award for the base. Thanks Rummy and Layne, the pictures were great.

Shipmates we are still are looking for candidates for next years base officers. Please step forward, and let a friend know that you would be willing to serve the base, the base needs all the new blood it can get.

The canned foods drive, and drive for sandals for Iraqi children, needing the protection for their feet, from all the debris of war. Went very well, it looked like Ramon Samson had

(See "WARDROOM" on page 14)

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November Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 20 November 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

The "Call to Order" was followed by a prayer of Invocation, the "Pledge of Allegiance", a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", the Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony.

According to the sailing list, there were thirty-five (35) members and three (3) guests at the meeting. Those present welcomed special guests – Robert (Bob) Bell, Butch DeShong and Jim Adams. Each of the quests stood and introduced themselves and summarized their service in or involvement with the Submarines Service. The guests were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the October 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 November, 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

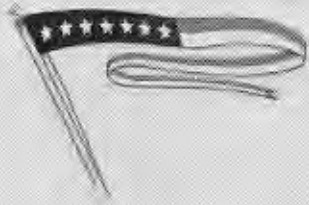
Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore had nothing new to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore was unable to attend the meeting. Glenn Herold, speaking on Bob's behalf reported that the American Legion Post would no longer prepare sandwiches for the members, due to the variation in the number of those partaking each month. However, Shipmate Stan Reinhold has volunteered to prepare lunch for the group for future meetings. Glenn also reported that the Post's construction project had progressed to the next level and they were currently in price negotiations with contractors.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was absent from the meeting because of illness in his family. In the Chaplain's absence, Ramon Samson informed the members that two of our members had departed on Eternal Patrol during the past month. Shipmates William (Bill) Hatcher and Larry Krieger both passed away during the month.

Base Commander – Glenn Herold briefed the members on the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade and the First Place award received for the combined entry of Perch Base, SubVets WWII and APS' Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. Glenn also informed the members that Sanderson Ford of Phoenix had provided a stake-bed truck for our use in the parade and

(See "MINUTES" on page 14)



COMMANDER
SUBMARINE SQUADRON SEVEN
UNIT 25110
FPO AP 96601-5207

25 October 2004

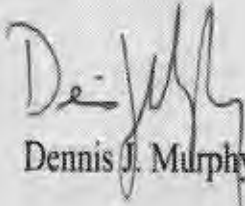
Dear Mr. Herold,

Thank you so much for the Perch Base US Sub Vets sponsorship of American Submariner Magazine. My staff and I enjoy reading it and it is made available to visitors to read.

Submarine Squadron 7 has two submarine deployed right now and boasts the "First to Shoot" in Operation Iraqi Freedom, USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773).

Today's submariners remain grateful of the service and legacy of the earlier generations. Thank you for your continued support.

Most Sincerely,


Dennis J. Murphy

Mr. Glen Herold
Perch Base Commander
839 Rogers
Mesa, AZ 3849

Eternal Patrol December 17, 1927

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

The Final Patrol

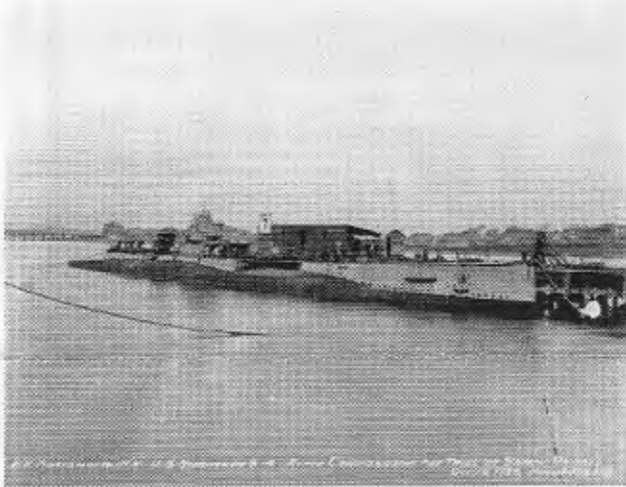
Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best.

Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol

Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

U.S.S. S-4 (SS-109) 34 men lost



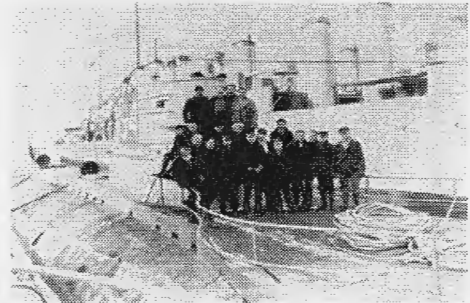
Keel laid down by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME, December 4, 1917
Launched: August 27, 1919
Commissioned: November 19, 1919
Lost: December 17, 1927
Salvaged: March 17, 1928
Decommissioned: March 19, 1928
Recommissioned: October 16, 1928
Decommissioned: April 7, 1932
Struck from the Navy List: January 15, 1936
Scuttled: March 15, 1936

Following acceptance trials and a visit to Havana, Cuba, from 14 to 19 January 1920, and subsequent operations along the Gulf and New England coasts, USS S-4 (SS-109) departed New London on 18 November 1920 to rendezvous with her assigned division, SubDiv12, and SubDiv18 off New Hampshire. The two divisions were about to embark on a historic voyage which, at that time, was to be the longest cruise undertaken by American submarines. Assigned to SubFlot3 of the Asiatic Fleet at Cavite in the Philippine Islands, they sailed via the Panama Canal and Pearl Harbor and arrived at Cavite on 1 December 1921.

S-4 operated out of the Cavite Naval Station, with occasional visits to Chinese ports, until late in 1924, when the two divisions were reassigned to the west coast. Departing Cavite

on 29 October, they arrived at Mare Island, California, on 30 December.

Remaining at Mare Island in 1925, she operated along the west coast through 1926, mainly at San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. She departed Mare Island on 10 February 1927 and sailed to the Panama Canal Zone, where she operated through March and April, then proceeded to New London, arriving on 3 May. For the remainder of the year, she operated off the New England coast.



On 17 December 1927, S-4, having recently received extensive refitting at PNSY, was one of the Navy's most serviceable submarines, albeit an old one of WWI vintage. She had just completed her run of the measured mile prior to returning to the fleet and, having checked the surface for other vessels in her vicinity, her periscopes were housed as she planned up to be rammed by USCGC PAULDING, sending her back down to the oceans depths for the last time.

Paulding was making nearly eighteen knots when a lookout spotted the periscopes and shears of S-4 coming up close aboard on the port bow. The lookout reported and the OOD ordered the engines full reverse and the rudder hard to port, hopefully to pass to port over the still submerged stern of S-4. Paulding, however, struck S-4 at nearly the point of max beam half-way between the forward and aft Battery Compartment bulkheads about two feet above the battery well deck. The blow was somewhat glancing. The forefoot of the cutter telescoped and broke off in the hole torn in S-4's side. The hole in the sub was nearly four feet long and two feet high in the ballast tank and two and a half feet long by a foot high in the Battery Compartment pressure hull. About three feet of the crumpled forefoot girder was stuck in the hole, not enough to stem the blast of cold water hosing through.

S-4 heeled far to port and started down by the bow. Paulding got on her radio and announced she had just collided with a submerged object, probably a submarine and gave her position. She then stopped and waited for the sub to surface. It didn't. The men inside the boat were thrown about by the impact. Some in the Battery Compartment started to jam whatever was handy into the stream of water to stem the flow. The inrush was, however, too great and it was readily obvious that the Battery Compartment would have to be abandoned. Six men were in the Torpedo Room and slammed the

(see "ETERNAL PATROL," page 8)

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

Hope everyone is having a wonderful and healthy Holiday Season.

On December 8, Kay, Karen and I delivered all the donations and contributions to the New Life Center and Operation Warm Hearts at Luke AFB. Both groups were very appreciative. Thank you all for your generosity that made it possible.

I have two reminders for our members. First, your dues need to be paid by the end of the year and second, our next meeting is on December 18 at the Der Kaffee Kuchen starting at noon.

Happy birthday to JoAnne Norwood on January 24.

I wish you all the greatest Holiday Season!!

With warm Regards
Nancy Nelson, President
SubVettes of Perch Base

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES November Meeting

The twelfth monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at Der Kaffee Kuchen, Peoria, Arizona at 1226 hours, November 20, 2004. There were 20 members in attendance. Vice President Kay Harnish led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Sandy Bernard led the members in a Prayer of Invocation, followed by the Dolphinettes purpose. President Nancy Nelson read the SubVettes purpose.

Nancy then asked all members to be sure to sign in and announced that there would be three items for auction: a dolphin candlestick holder and candle, a pumpkin roll donated by Debbie Newell and a poncho donated by Jacque Hawkins.

President Nancy Nelson then asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting as printed in the MidWatch. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Karen Emmett reported on the base's financial status as of October 31, 2004. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy asked members about items collected for donation to the New Life Center. Any items brought to the meeting were collected and given to Kay Harnish for delivery to the center. Karen Emmett, of the Ways and Means Committee,

updated members on plans to split donations between the New Life Center and Luke AFB Operation Warm Heart. Members were advised that Sue Caraker had met with the Luke AFB Chaplain. After the committee met, it was decided to split the available funds and that monetary donations would be made. Members then discussed the issue and agreed that an amount of \$750 should be divided between the two organizations. Kay Harnish motioned to divide \$750 evenly between the New Life Center and Luke AFB Operation Warm Heart. Linda Wall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Nancy Nelson then updated members on the progress of the new Legion building.

Nancy reminded members that the Christmas/Hanukkah party is coming up on December 11 at Luke AFB with cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 7:00. The cost is \$30 per person. Reservations and money need to be in to Dave Harnish before December 3 so that he may inform the base security of the information needed to get everyone on base.

Nancy then asked members if anyone was having difficulty receiving the MidWatch. No problems were reported.

Nancy then asked members if there was any other old business that needed to be discussed and Kay Harnish announced that she had received the Lifetime Membership cards for which, Sandy Harrington graciously donated both her time and the necessary supplies. Kay then proceeded to hand out the cards to those with lifetime membership.

NEW BUSINESS

President Nancy Nelson announced to members that there will be a December meeting which will be held on the 18th, 12 o'clock at the same location.

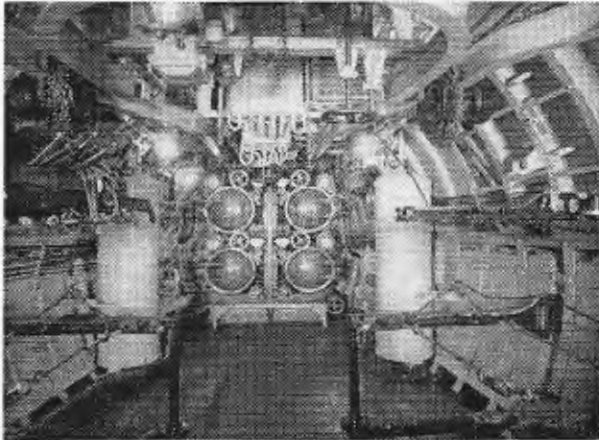
Nancy then advised members that she had received the National Constitution and by-laws from Ella on November 19 and Kay Harnish reported that there were no major differences between the local and national constitution and by-laws. Currently Arizona is the only state in the Western region to have a base; therefore, a Regional Director is not needed at this time. Kay advised members that dues are to be paid by the end of the year and that the National Constitution and By-Laws states that if they are not paid by April, your name may be removed from the roster. Members were advised that they will be kept updated on any developments regard new groups in District 8 during the upcoming year.

Members were then told of efforts being made by Nancy and Kay to have the meeting moved back to its previous location, which has had a change in management and name and is now known as "The Chowhound". Nancy reported to members that she and other members dined there and that the atmosphere and conditions were much more pleasant, and the goal is to have something in place so that the January meeting could be held there.

(See "SUBVETTES," on Page 10)

("ETERNAL PATROL," continued from page 6)

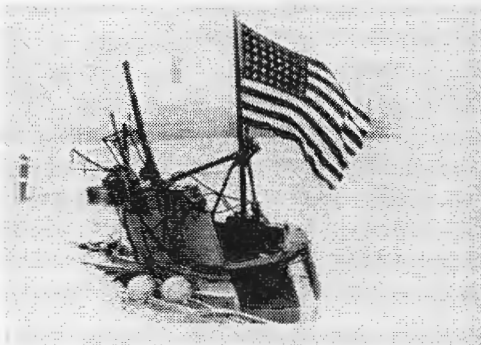
door shut, dogging it tight. The remainder of the crew that were in the Battery Compartment made their way up the steepening deck to the Control Room door and when all had made it through, the door was shut and dogged. The water continued to fill the Battery Compartment, compressing the air inside. The battery well held tight and did not leak too much. The pressure in the bubble of air in the



upper aft end of the space rose to about 50 pounds per square inch flooding Control.

The initial stream of water spray and air had shorted sections of the switchboard throwing the entire boat into the dark. The commanding officer ordered the space evacuated and when all the personnel in Control had made their way back to the Engine Room, he slammed and dogged the door. Now the crew was in serious trouble. There were fourteen men in the Engine Room with an additional fourteen in the

M o t o r Room. The air was foul with chlorine; it was dark and getting cold fast. When at last, the noise of rushing water had stopped



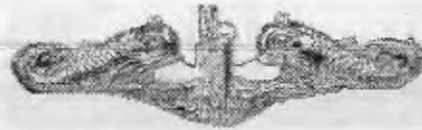
and the boat got quiet, it was obvious that access to Control Room was out of the question. There was no way to lift the stern of the boat as USS S-5 (SS-110) had done. The only thing left was to wait for help.

The rest of the story is a tragedy of divers struggling to save those left of the crew and failing. The boat was a pivot point in the story of submarine design. The first production model

of a standard government design, she had a tragic accident which lead to better cooperation in navigation by setting aside areas for submarine operations and requiring other ships not transit these places. The death of her crew and the painful inability of the Navy to be able to rescue them became the basis for an effort to make submarine escape and salvage a viable option. The men died but the legacy they left saved the life of at least forty-six others because they used the devices invented and may have saved an untold number more because of the improved safety and navigation required after the accident.

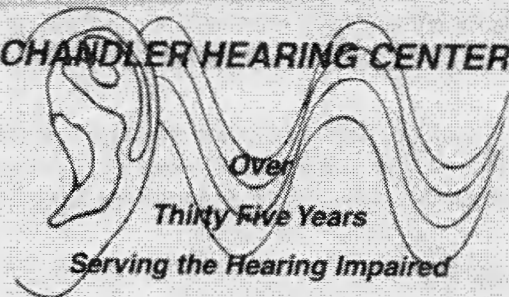
S-4 was finally raised on 17 March 1928 and towed to the Boston Navy Yard for dry docking. She was decommissioned on the 19th.

S-4 was recommissioned on 16 October, after repairs. She served at Key West, Florida, early in 1929 and 1930, and in the northeast during the remainder of those years. In 1931, she operated again at New London until departing there on 3 January 1932 for Pearl Harbor. Sailing via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Pearl on 29 August. On 7 April 1933, S-4 was decommissioned and laid up. She was struck from the Navy List on 15 January 1936 and destroyed on 15 March by sinking.



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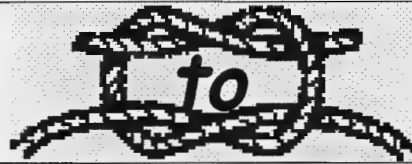
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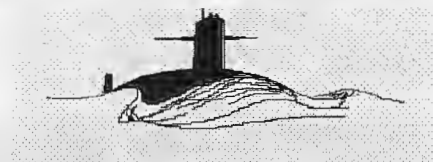
We knew we were good . . . but THAT good! This is the crew who attended the 2004 Veterans Day Parade just after we were informed we had won. The banner led our group during the actual parade but, we had to return it after the parade. You just had to be there to appreciate it!



Frank Rumbaugh attended the awards banquet for the Base. In this photo, Frank is receiving the first place trophy from Elissa Thompson, Public Affairs Intern at the VA Hospital, sponser of annual Veterans Day Parade.

Two Perch Base Members, One Boat

The following two photos show Brent and Jim Nelson in Pearl Harbor with the U.S.S Salt Lake City (SSN-716) just before Jim started his "Tiger Cruise." Brent , MM2 (SS,) is a Perch Base active-duty member and crewman on the Salt Lake City. The nation is safe -- they wouldn't let Jim work during the Pearl Harbor to San Diego cruise.



Gudgeon



Base

November Meeting

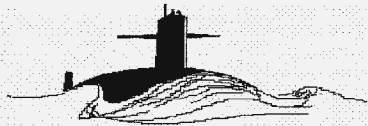
The membership of the Gudgeon continues to grow with 13 members in attendance at the November meeting held at the Elks Lodge in Prescott Valley. The Gudgeon Base now has a full slate of officers with Dave Herrington being appointed COB.

Paul West has activated our Ship Store with Gudgeon Base Ball Caps and calendars being best sellers at the November meeting.

A Christmas pot luck get together with guests is planned for our regular meeting in December. This will be on the same day as the Perch Base party so those of us that are going to both will have a big lunch and dinner.

All are reminded that USSVI Life Membership Dues will be increased effective January 1, 2005 and all those interested in Life Membership are encouraged to make application prior to the end of the year.

Base Commander Jack Messersmith briefed the members on activities at the Prescott Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital and procedures for obtaining VA eligibility ID cards.



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("SUBVETTES" continued from Page 7)

Nancy then advised members of upcoming convention dates and locations. The are as follows:

2005 – Kansas City, Missouri (August 29 – September 4)

2006 – Cleveland, Ohio

2007 – Alaskan Cruise

2008 – Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas

Nancy asked members for ideas and suggestions for place settings and door prizes for the 2004 Christmas/Hanukkah Party. She announced that \$300 was being given from the Subvets to aid in purchasing the door prizes, Karen Emmett is in charge of the purchases.

Jacque Hawkins and Layne Rumbaugh volunteered as the committee to oversee the place setting goodies.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Millie Hillman – 11/25 (Thanksgiving Day)

Patty Leo Lira – 12/6

Kathryn Otreba – 12/11

Mary Lou Nance – 12/16

Members were notified that Mary Lou Nance's husband was recovering from a broken kneecap injury he sustained while bowling and that Betty Weber was hospitalized for medical treatment necessary for a leg injury.

Special note was made of the fact that the Subvets float won 1st Prize at the Veteran's Day Parade held in downtown Phoenix on November 11.

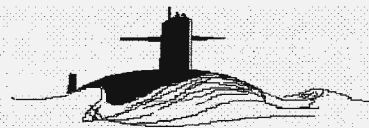
DRAWING

Heather Newell conducted the drawing for a candlestick which was won by Karen Emmett. The pumpkin roll was won by Marygrace Veek, and the poncho which was won by Linda Wall.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made and seconded that the meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1304 hours.

Signed: Debbie Newell, Secretary



Around the World



China Test New Ballistic Submarine

By Bill Gertz

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

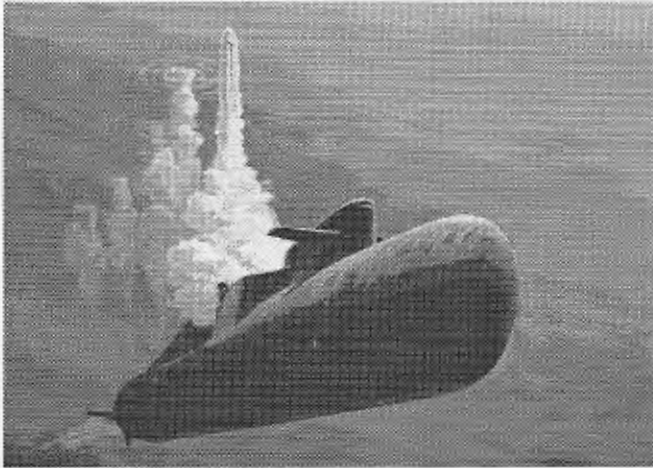
China's military has launched the first of a new class of ballistic missile submarines in what defense officials view as a major step forward in Beijing's strategic weapons program.

The new 094-class submarine was launched in late July and when fully operational in the next year or two will be the first submarine to carry the underwater-launched version of China's new DF-31 missile, according to defense officials.

"When fully operational, it will represent a more modern, more capable missile platform," said one official familiar with reports of the new submarine.

A second intelligence official said building submarines is a top priority of the Chinese, and the Type 094 will be "China's first truly intercontinental strategic nuclear delivery system."

The new Type 094 was spotted by U.S. intelligence agencies at the Huludao shipyard, located on the coast of Bohai Bay, some 250 miles northwest of Beijing.



The submarine is in the early stages of being outfitted and is not yet equipped with new JL-2 submarine-launched nuclear missiles.

The submarine is believed to be based largely on Russian nuclear submarine technology, the officials said.

A CIA report made public last week stated that Russia was a major supplier of technology to China's naval nuclear propulsion programs.

The launching of the new missile submarine appears ahead of schedule. A Pentagon report on Chinese military power made public in May stated that the new Chinese missile submarine would not be deployed until around 2010.

A Defense Intelligence Agency report produced in 1999 and labeled "secret" states that the new submarine is part of a program by China of "modernizing and expanding missile force."

"Mobile, solid-fuel missiles and a new ballistic missile submarine will improve force's ability to survive a first strike," report said, "while more launchers, on-board penetration aids, and possibly multiple warheads will improve its ability to penetrate missile defenses."

The DIA report stated that China is expected to field one new ballistic missile submarine by 2020.

A Chinese Embassy spokesman had immediate comment.

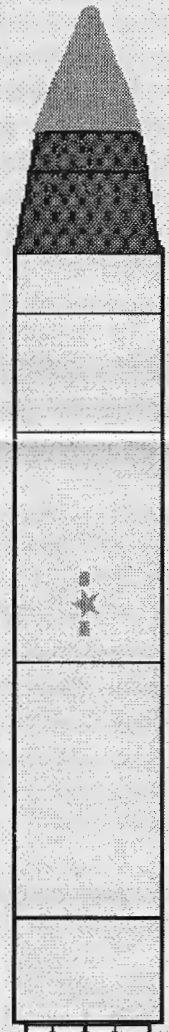
In a related development, U.S. intelligence officials said the Chinese suffered a setback in their JL-2 missile program when a test flight of the JL-2 missile failed over the summer.

The JL-2 missile program was delayed by the test failure but is continuing to be developed, the officials said. China conducted tests of the JL-2 in 2002 and last year.

Richard Fisher, vice president of the Washington-based International Assessment and Strategy Center, said the launch of the new missile submarine is "an astounding development."

"The 094 has followed 093 development more rapidly than the assessments in the annual Pentagon reports on the PLA," Mr. Fisher said, referring to the China's People's Liberation Army.

China also recently launched a new attack submarine known as the Type 093. Additionally, U.S. intelligence agencies were surprised by China's disclosure in July of a third new



(see "CHINA," next page)

(CHINA," from previous page)

type of submarine known as the Yuan-class, a diesel-electric attack submarine.

"In the very near future, China will have a secure, second-strike nuclear attack capability that it will use to bolster its nuclear strategy of seeking to deter the United States from aiding Taiwan after a PLA attack," Mr. Fisher said.

Mr. Fisher said the JL-2 likely will have multiple warheads.

The new submarine will make it more difficult for the U.S. military to take part in a defense of Taiwan because of the threat of nuclear retaliation, he said.

The Pentagon has deployed a new missile defense system, but a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency has said the current interceptor system is designed to stop a long-range North Korean missile, but not an attack from Chinese or Russian missiles.

A 1999 report by the House Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China stated that the new missile submarines will likely benefit from stolen U.S. nuclear warhead designs.

The report stated that the JL-2 is expected to have a longer range than the DF-31 and those 16 JL-2s will be deployed on the new submarine.

The range of the JL-2 is estimated to be about 7,500 miles, enough "to strike targets throughout the United States," the report said.

"Instead of venturing into the open ocean to attack the United States, the Type 094-class submarines could remain near [Chinese] waters, protected by the [People's Liberation Army,] Navy and Air Force," the report said.

The new submarine will be a major improvement over China's current ballistic missile submarine known as the Xia, which is equipped with medium-range missiles.

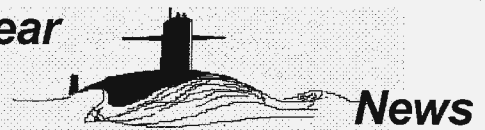
The current Xia submarine is considered so noisy to underwater detection gear that its chances of surviving attack submarine strikes in ocean waters are limited.



Nautical Nuances or, Did You Know?

The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.

Nuclear



USS Georgia - New SSGN

Two stories on the new use for Trident boats.

NAVY TIMES 18 OCT 04

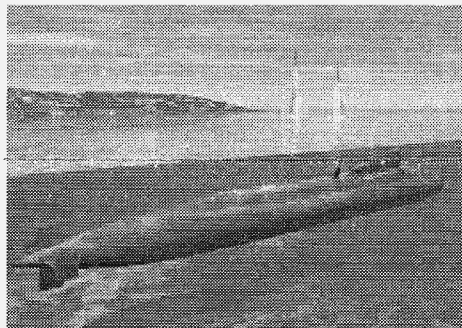
Silent Service Packs More Punch Exercise Tests Spec-War Mission

By Gidget Fuentes

ABOARD USS GEORGIA - For the crew of this ballistic-turned-cruise missile nuclear submarine, the ongoing Silent Hammer experiment isn't just a sea trial.

It's nearly a sea change.

The experiment, which was scheduled to run Oct. 4 through Oct. 14, is examining how special operations forces, including Navy SEALs, can conduct large-scale, joint clandestine missions while operating undersea from a cruise missile-capable nuclear submarine.



To test and flex the power of advanced systems, sensors and technologies installed for command and control, the beefy submarine is spending more time

close to the waterline, often in shallow water off San Clemente Island, west of San Diego. For a Trident submarine that's spent 20 years in deep seas on long hunts to track enemy boats, that's a little too close for comfort.

"Shallow water - we used to never go near that," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class (SS) Corey Wood, a 22-year-old former missile technician from New Orleans. "Now we do it on a regular basis, staying at periscope depth for hours on end."

That's quite a change from typical patrols in deep water, where courses are plotted and checked every 30 minutes, a more relaxed pace, especially when standing a six-hour watch. But the Silent Hammer sea trial has required lots of surfacing and diving.

With conditions and depths changing more often, the Georgia's navigators have seen their workload climb exponentially. "If we're plotting every three minutes, you're staring at the clock," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Brian Klein, 23, of Phoenix. "It's a little bit more than we're

(Continued on next page)

used to.”

Silent Hammer program managers also are evaluating how the submarine can launch a “flexible payload module” fired from a

affordable capsule” shot from the submarine missile tube could conceivably release un-manned aerial vehicles, missiles, weapons of other “plug and play” systems in the military’s inventory.

Later this year, the Georgia will head to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Va., to begin its refueling and conversion to SSGN. The Navy will spend \$3.8 billion to convert a total of four Tridents - the Ohio, Michigan and Florida are also on tap - said Cmdr. David M. Duryea, program manager for Advanced Submarine Systems Development at Naval Sea Systems Command and former Florida commander.

Officials say the Silent Hammer experiment holds great promise for joint special operations forces, including Navy SEALs. “This is just one medium for us to work with,” said Capt. Rick Bremseth, Naval Special Warfare Group Three commander and NSW Task Group commander for Silent Hammer. “It’s a really good one because of its clandestine nature.”

SEALs have largely stayed to themselves while planning missions and training but have joined the crew in the lounge for movies. “For the most part, you don’t really see them,” said Command Master Chief Bob Krzywdzinski, chief of the boat. With ample room on-board, “it’s been a non-issue.”

But they are here. “They eat a lot,” said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SS) Joe Kelley. “It is amazing to see how much they eat.”

Freezer stocks have shrunk as cooks tap into twice the usual food. Forget midrats; commandos are hungry at 3 a.m., he said. So a refrigerated case is packed with yogurt cups and breakfast burritos, and the soup pot is always full.

“They’re going to be as much a part of this as we are,” Klein said of SEALs, adding: “They will probably set a standard doing PT while underway.”

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE 11 OCT 04 Navy Subs Get Life Extension Ships May Be Turned Into Undersea Command Posts

By James W. Crawley

The ballistic-missile submarine Georgia lurks off San Clemente Island. Its missile tubes have been emptied of their nuclear warheads.

A team of Navy SEALs has taken over several compartments and vacant tubes. Contractors and naval engineers have modified other spaces into a battle command center.

The Washington state-based Georgia and its 155-member crew are the centerpiece of a Navy experiment called Silent Hammer.

The Navy is studying ways that four former boomers - the

nickname for missile subs - can become stealthy, undersea command posts, surveillance centers and launching pads for hundreds of Tomahawk cruise missiles.

“We’re pushing the envelope” for submarines, said Cmdr. Dave Duryea, Silent Hammer project manager.

The trial began a week ago and ends Thursday.

Over the next few years, the Pentagon will convert ballistic-missile subs Georgia, Ohio, Michigan and Florida into nuclear guided-missile submarines, known by the Navy acronym SSGN.

Each submarine’s 24 Trident intercontinental ballistic missiles will be replaced by up to 154 cruise missiles. The subs were scheduled for the scrap heap to comply with a strategic arms reduction treaty, but Pentagon planners realized the subs could be converted into launching pads for cruise missiles.

Several other changes are planned, including the modification of two missile silos and several compartments into special chambers and berthing for commandos and their gear. Also, an air lock and a docking hatch for the SEALs’ new minisub, called the Advanced Delivery System, will be installed.

Putting Navy SEALs and their minisub aboard the large submarines and newer attack submarines should expand the number and types of missions the commandos can accomplish, said Scott Truver, a naval analyst and group vice president of Anteon Corp. in Washington.

Duryea said that’s exactly the purpose of trials such as Silent Hammer.

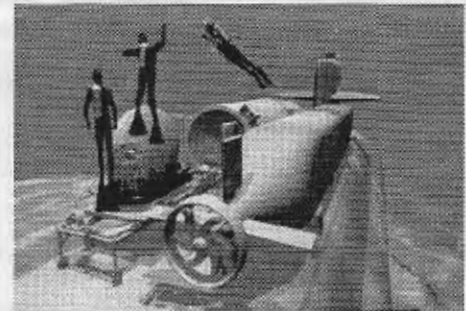
“We’re continuing to work on developing teamwork between special-operations (forces) and submarines,” he said.

For Silent Hammer, a prototype battle-management center has been carved out in the Georgia, Duryea said.

“It’s the first time to have an embarked commander and staff on a sub who can command and control (special-operations) forces,” he said. Because of submarines’ stealthy nature and cramped quarters, the undersea vessels have never been command posts.

The sub has room for up to 60 SEALs and their gear - many times the number that could be carried on smaller attack submarines.

Besides Tomahawk missiles, the former ICBM launch tubes, which are 88 inches across and more than 44 feet high,



(See “SSGN,” on Page 15)

(continued from "WARDROOM," page 4)

several hundred pounds of new and used sandals. Ramon thanks again for your help and support. And to all that donated and reached into your pockets to see that these children get sandals, thanks to you... Many children will benefit from your generosity.

We still need more help and input, for holding the regional meeting and the national convention in Phoenix. These are some of the issues I would like to discuss at our December meeting.

The next event, for Perch Base will be our Christmas Dinner and Dance, I hope to see as many of you and your wives there, as possible.

I would like to wish everyone a very special Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Shipmates let us all pray for a Peace on Earth, and that our servicemen and women will be home with their loved ones, soon.

Fraternally yours,
Glenn Herold
Commander
Perch Base



(continued from "MINUTES," page 4)

Perch Base would be sending a special recognition plaque to the company to show our appreciation for their generosity and support.

Parades for 2005 involving the Perch Base will include the Spring Festival Parade in Yarnell, the July 4 Parade in the Overgaard/Heber area and the November 2005 Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade. Glenn also asked the members to keep their ears and eyes open for areas where the Perch Base float could be stored in doors.

Membership Chairman and Webmaster – Ramon Samson reported that a sizable portion of the active members have responded to the dues renewal/recruiting letters he mailed.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett reported that the cost for producing and mailing the newsletter has gone down significantly since it is being posted and downloaded from the Perch Base Internet Web Page. Anyone having difficulty downloading the newsletter should contact him for assistance.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson asked for the members help in identifying new Ship's Store merchandise that interests them and others. Member input will help him to offer more items of interest to the members.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold reminded the members of the Perch Base's annual Christmas Party that will be held again at the Luke AFB Enlisted Club. The Party will be held on Saturday evening, December 11th. Anyone wanting to attend must make arrangements through Dave Harnish by December 3rd. The price for attendance is \$30 per person, paid in advance.

Glenn also reminded the members that there will be a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance and dinner at Luke AFB on the evening of December 7. The guest speaker will be the Commander, Submarine Force – Pacific. Anyone interested in attending should contact Shipmate Larry Rankin.

Dave Harnish reminded the members of the special USSVI National Convention for 2007 that will be held on a cruise ship making an excursion to Alaska from Seattle. Reservations can be made now with a \$385 down payment not due until March 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold reminded the members that Perch Base will be hosting the 2005 District Eight meeting during the first week of April 2005. He also reminded everyone that the SubVets WWII will hold their 2005 Southwest Caucus in Laughlin, Nevada starting on April 11, 2005.

Glenn announced that nominees for Base Officers are being solicited. Anyone wanting to serve as a Base Officer should let him know and anyone that would like to nominate another shipmate for a Base Officer's position should do so. The elections will take place in March 2005.

Glenn also announced that there would be a regular monthly meeting on Saturday, December 18 with out regard to the annual Christmas Party.

Joe Bernard took the floor and briefed the members on his involvement at the Phoenix VA Hospital. Joe has served as representative for the Submarine Veterans – WWI for several decades and suggested that someone from Perch Base take up the banner and become designated and the primary representative for the Submarine Veteran Community. Glenn Herold indicated that he would be interested in that role. The designation requires that USSVI write a letter of appointment to the VA Hospital.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members have responded to different drives for items to support the needs of Servicemen and their families. Many members have donated canned goods and non-perishable food items that will be donated through the Arizona National Guard Armory. Ramon Samson spearheaded filling a request from one of our troops in Iraq who wanted to collect as many children's sandals as possible to provide to Iraqi children. The children of Iraq end up walk bare foot over fields of the

(continued next page)

dangerous debris of war. Ramon received numerous donations of new and used sandals to send to our troops and fill a portion of this need.

Dave Harnish again reminded members of the increase in USSVI Life Membership dues that takes effect on January 1, 2005. The current dues will as much as triple at that time. Those interested, should pay for life membership prior to the end of December.

Glenn Herold announced that a plaque is being prepared for presentation to Sandra Lee Headrick of APS - Palo Verde. Sandra has been the driving force behind the efforts to produce and provide parade tee shirts, food and drinks for the Submarine Veterans participating in the Veteran's Day Parade. She deserves all our thanks. Another plaque is being prepared to present to Sanderson Ford in appreciation for their loan of a flat-bed truck that we used in the parade.

50/50 DRAWING

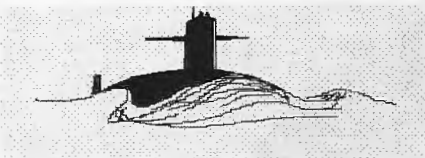
The 50/50 drawing was held and Butch DeShong was the lucky winner.

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 Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1347 hours.

Edgar T. (Ed) Brooks B Base Secretary



(continued from "SSGN," page 13)

could be loaded with modules containing unmanned aerial or underwater vehicles or other short-range missiles, Duryea said.

"There are a lot of things you can put in those tubes," Duryea said.



ast week, one of Georgia's missile tubes released a capsule containing a mock-up of an unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle that is under development. Although no drone was launched, two Navy airplanes orbiting nearby are sending live surveillance video to the

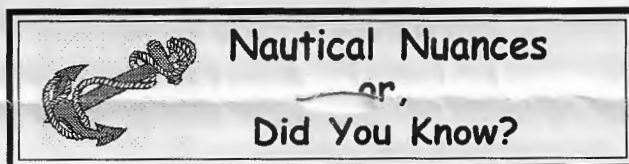
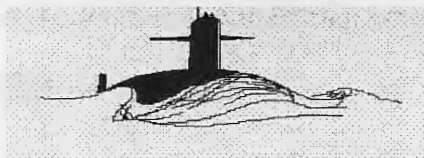
submerged Georgia for analysis as part of the experiment, Duryea said.

The submarine exercise also is linked electronically with another Navy trial, Trident Warrior, which is running simultaneously off the West Coast.

Trident Warrior involves San Diego-based amphibious ships Tarawa, Pearl Harbor and Cleveland; the destroyer John Paul Jones; and the cruiser Chosin. The ships are testing new ways to use satellite and computer communications to speed up coordination and attacks by far-flung ships and aircraft.

"The technology being tested is essential to conduct battles in the future," said Rear Adm. Robert Conway, who commands Expeditionary Strike Group 1, based on the Tarawa.

Experiments such as Silent Hammer can benefit the Navy, analyst Truver said, adding, "It is important, and the results need to be addressed honestly and candidly."



John Philip Holland built several submarines before the USS Holland, which became the first undersea craft commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The Holland was accepted on April 11, 1900 for a price of \$150,000. Today's nuclear powered submarines cost in excess of \$30,000,000 exclusive of the power plant.

Alexander the Great (356 to 323 B.C.) ruler of Macedonian and conqueror of the known world in his time, is the first person known to have descended into the sea in a vessel of any kind.

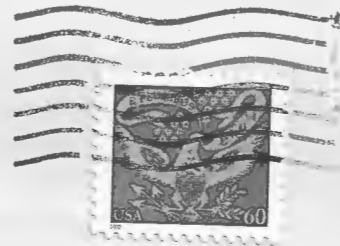
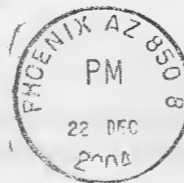
Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."

Interest in submarines extends to royalty and presidents. The King of England and the King and Queen of Spain are among those who have made submerged cruises in submarines. As a result of a trip in an early United States submarine, President "Teddy" Roosevelt ordered extra compensation for personnel serving in the "Silent Service." President Harry Truman made a 440 foot dive in a captured German submarine. The first President to cruise aboard a nuclear submarine was President Eisenhower who rode the USS SEAWOLF out of Newport, Rhode Island on September 26, 1957.

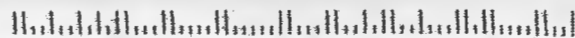
Return To:

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

<http://perch-base.org>



85006+1128 14



NEXT REGULAR MEETING - December 18, 2004

American Legion Post #62

11001 N. 99th Ave.

Starts at 1200 hours