



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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Upcoming Events:

- November 11, Veterans Day

November 2008

Commander's Corner

The holiday season is almost upon us and the election is past. Now is the time for us to be thinking of how blessed we are to be citizens of the greatest country in the world. Let us take the time to be thankful for all our blessings.

Our dinner at the Cock of the Walk was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was good to see Juanez Stiltz again. She has been through some difficult but still wants to be part of our group, so please welcome her anytime she attends our functions. Bob has been laid to rest at sea as he wished and Juanez has the Navy memorabilia that they provided her in his honor.

Also, this month let us remember all our shipmates who have honorably served in the Submarine Force. And don't forget all the veterans of all the services who have served and those who gave their all. We could not enjoy the freedoms we have without the sacrifices these men and women have made. On November 11, we will have a special ceremony at the State Capitol at 1100 honoring all our veterans. This includes us also. Afterwards, those who wish will go to the Veterans hospital at Ft. Roots to visit the veterans who are

residing there. If you can at all please make the effort to go with us.

On November 17, All Golden Corral restaurants will provide a free meal for any veteran who identifies himself as such between the hours of 1700 and 2000.

We have been making good progress on chipping paint on Razorback. We have completed chipping and priming approximately 75 linear feet of hull and ballast tank surfaces since our last work day. We will have another work day on Saturday, November 8 to continue this work. Other work will be the replacing of rollers on the torpedo room racks. Razorback is looking better and the AC is doing wonders for the comfort of visitors and those who do perform work internally. Razorback also has a head and sinks operable for your convenience. AIMM has installed a shower on the barge for those who participate in the work days and want to clean up a little before returning home.

Our next meeting will be on November 22 at 1600 at the American Legion Post in Little Rock. The address is 315 East Capitol. Please try to attend as we will be discussing how to invest some of the funds we have in our treasury. Also, since Hurricane Ike did

severe damage to Cavalla and Sea Wolf Park in Galveston we will discuss donating some of our charitable fund to USSVI Charitable Foundation for repairs to Cavalla and the other submarine structures at the park.

Our Christmas Party will be held on the barge on Saturday December, 13. More information will be promulgated as the time gets closer. Put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. There is always good food and lots of sea stories floating around.

Although the slate of officers is the same as the ones who are serving now, John Barr is sending out a ballot for you to submit with your vote. This is intended to give all base members a chance to vote on your officers for the next two years and not just the vote of the members who are able to attend the November meeting. So please, voice your opinions and vote for the slate presented or write in a candidate that you would like to see as your officers.

From all the base officers, we wish each of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and remember to thank the One who has provided us with the life we are able to enjoy today.

Ray Wewers,
Base Commander

Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of November

USS Corvina (SS-226) 16-Nov-1943. All hands lost (82).

USS Sculpin (SS-191) 19-Nov-1943. 40 men lost. 42 taken as POW, only 21 survived the war. Captain John P. Cromwell, USN, Commander of a Submarine Task Group (Wolfpack) went down with the ship to ensure his knowledge of impending operations was not compromised. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

USS Growler (SS-215) 8-Nov-1944. All hands lost (85).

USS Albacore (SS-218) 7-Nov-1944. All hands lost (86).

USS Scamp (SS-277) 16-Nov-1944. All hands lost (83).

USS SCULPIN (SS-191)

November 19, 1943 – 40 Men Lost – 42 POW

En route to Johnston Island, SCULPIN, under Cmdr. Fred Connaway, left Pearl Harbor on 5 November 1943. After topping off with fuel, she left Johnston on 7 November to conduct her ninth patrol in an area in the Caroline Islands. Her mission was to support the action of our surface forces in the Gilbert Islands by intercepting and attacking any enemy forces which might be proceeding from Truk toward the Marshall Islands to oppose our surface forces. She was to leave her area on 14 December, and return to Pearl Harbor, stopping at Johnston for fuel if necessary. SCULPIN was not heard from following her departure from Johnston Island on 7 November.

During the patrol, Commander John P. Cromwell (promoted Captain during the patrol) was aboard SCULPIN. He was to take charge of a coordinated attack group consisting of SCULPIN, SEARAVEN, and either APOGON or SPEARFISH, if formation of the group were directed by dispatch. Should the group be ordered formed, Captain Cromwell would transmit his orders to them by low frequency radio from SCULPIN. On the night of 29 November, the vessels were directed to form and APOGON was named as the third member of the group. When Captain Cromwell gave no rendezvous orders after 40 hours, ComSubPac sent new orders. SCULPIN was to proceed immediately to Eniwetok, make a close observation, and report any enemy shipping. This was done in order to avoid confusion among the other submarines, and to determine whether SCULPIN was all right. Although the new orders to SCULPIN were sent repeatedly on 1 December and other orders a few days later, no answer came from her. On 30 December SCULPIN was reported as presumed lost.

Meanwhile, long before tension mounted at the bases concerning her, SCULPIN was meeting her test. The story presented here is reconstructed from statements made by members of her crew recovered from enemy prison camps since the close of the war.

On the night of 18 November, SCULPIN made a radar contact on a fast convoy, and made an end around at full power. Submerging on the enemy track for a dawn attack, SCULPIN began what promised to be a successful approach. However, she was detected in the attack phase, and the convoy zigged toward, forcing her deep. There was no depth charge attack at this time. About an hour later, the ship surfaced to begin another end around, but immediately dove again, having surfaced 6,000 yard from a destroyer which was lagging the convoy. Depth charging started as soon as she dove again.

Early in the ensuing attack a string of depth charges did the ship minor damage. Lt. G.E. Brown, the only officer survivor, was relieved as diving officer to make an inspection and found her fundamentally sound. At this time the submarine had succeeded in shaking the enemy, but before Brown returned to the control room the ship had broached when the diving officer had tried to bring her to periscope depth and the depth gauge had stuck at 125 feet. The depth charge attack was renewed at once.

About noon on 19 November, a close string of 18 depth charges threw SCULPIN, already at deep depth, badly out of control. The pressure hull was distorted, she was leaking, steering and diving plane gear were damaged and she was badly out of trim. Commander Connaway decided to surface and to fight clear. The ship was surfaced and went to gun action. During the battle Commander Connaway and the Gunnery Officer were on the bridge, and the Executive Officer was in the conning tower. When the destroyer placed a shell through the main induction, and one or more through the conning tower, these officers and several men were killed. Lt. Brown succeeded to command. He decided to scuttle the ship, and gave the order "all hands abandon ship." After giving the order the last time the ship was dived at emergency speed by opening all vents. About 12 men rode the ship down, including Captain Cromwell and one other officer, both of whom refused to leave it. Captain Cromwell, being familiar with plans for our operations in the Gilberts and other areas, stayed with the ship to insure that the enemy could not gain any of the information he possessed. For this action, ComSubPac recommended that he be given the Congressional Medal of Honor. In all, 42 men were taken prisoner by the Japanese destroyer, but one was thrown over the side almost immediately because he was severely wounded. Another man escaped being thrown overboard only by wrenching free of his captors and joining the other men.

The group of 38 enlisted men and 3 officers were taken to Truk where they were questioned for ten days. Then they were loaded on two carriers (21 on one, 20 on the other) and started for Japan. En route to its destination, the carrier CHUYO, carrying 21 SCULPIN survivors, was torpedoed and sunk by SAILFISH on 31 December 1943, and only one American escaped. This was a particularly coincidental and tragic event since SCULPIN stood by SQUALUS (later recommissioned SAILFISH) when she sank off Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1939. At Ofuna, the 21 survivors were repeatedly questioned, and they learned they were in an unofficial Navy prison camp. They were released from the camp a few at a time when the enemy became convinced that they could get no information from them, and were sent to work in the copper mines of Ashio. There they were allowed to register as prisoners of war, and received at least enough food to live on, although not enough to maintain health properly. They remained at Ashio until released by American forces on 4 September 1945. *Continued on next page*

Con't - USS SCULPIN

This submarine on her first eight patrols sank nine ships for 42,200 tons and damaged then, totaling 63,000 tons. Her first patrol off the east coast of the Philippine group resulted in one sinking, the 3,124 ton transport KANKO MAUR on 10 January 1942. During her second patrol in the region east of Celbes, she sank a destroyer type vessel and did damage to a light cruiser. Her third patrol was conducted in the Molukka Sea, and SCULPIN damaged a freighter. On her fourth patrol, conducted in the South China Sea, she is credited with having sunk a freighter, damaged another freighter and three tankers.

SCULPIN went to the Solomons area for her fifth patrol, and is credited with sinking two large tankers and a transport. She damaged a freighter on this patrol. Going back to the Solomons for her sixth patrol, SCULPIN damaged a tanker. SCULPIN made her seventh patrol in May and June 1943 in the Aleutians. Here she sank two small patrol craft and damaged two freighters. On her eighth patrol in the East China Sea, SCULPIN sank a freighter-transport.

Navy News

Transplant complete, attack sub floats again

By Philip Ewing - Wednesday Oct 22, 2008 7:56:42 EDT

More than three years after a devastating underwater crash killed one sailor, injured 100 more and crushed the bow of the fast-attack submarine San Francisco, the ship has returned to the water after a first-of-its kind overhaul.

In the maritime equivalent of a major organ transplant, workers at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Wash., amputated more than 1 million pounds' worth of the bow section of the decommissioned attack sub Honolulu and grafted it onto the ailing San Francisco.

"The engineering and production teams proceeded to manipulate the mammoth structure with orchestrated precision," according to an announcement from Naval Sea Systems Command. "In

some areas, the bow of this massive structure was moved to within 1/16 of an inch of the original structure." With the surgery complete, the San Francisco floated off its dry dock for the first time Oct. 10. The ship has been in the yard since December 2006.

The systems transferred from the Honolulu — a newer Los Angeles-class sibling commissioned in 1985, four years after the San Francisco — included its active sonar sphere and its forward ballast tanks.

Although the Honolulu is four years younger than the San Francisco, the older sub's nuclear reactor had been refueled three years before the accident at a cost of roughly \$170 million. The Honolulu was scheduled to be decommissioned in 2006 even before Navy planners decided to use its bow section on the older sub.

Navy engineers determined it would be cheaper to transplant the Honolulu's forward equipment to the San Francisco, for an estimated \$79 million, than it would have been to refuel the Honolulu, for another estimated \$170 million, if it were kept in commission.

The San Francisco crashed into an undersea mountain Jan. 8, 2005, suffering damage so severe that the warship almost sunk. The ship struggled to Guam, and after temporary repairs, the ship sailed 5,600 nautical miles to Puget Sound on the surface, the longest trip a U.S. submarine has made without submerging.

Although the San Francisco is the first submarine to get another submarine's bow, the procedure is common with surface ships. In 1956, for example, the battleship Wisconsin collided with a destroyer in heavy weather off Norfolk. To repair it, Navy engineers sliced the bow off one of the two unfinished Iowa-class battleships, the Kentucky, and replaced the Wisconsin's original bow.

CNO bullish on subs

Roughead calls boats 'the ultimate in stealth'

MCLEAN, Va. — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary

Roughead jokes that his fellow surface warfare officers believe he's gone to the "dark side," but he's proud of it.

"I love submarines," he said Wednesday at the annual meeting of the Naval Submarine League. Roughead said in a former job as commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, he considered the undersea force his "killer arrow in the quiver," and not a Cold War leftover as some perceived. "As a commander in the Pacific you rely on submarines more than anything else," he said. "There's nothing that represents the ultimate in stealth like a U.S. Navy submarine."

Submarines are used extensively these days for intelligence gathering and surveillance and now as CNO, Roughead said he has heard more debriefs from submarine commanders home from patrol than from returning — and higher-ranking — strike group commanders.

Calling American submariners the "most professional and competent force we have," he said the community nonetheless faces a growing fleet of undersea competition with 40 nations operating 350 subs with a projected 280 more on the way. "They are not bush league submarines," he said, noting that not all are allies. "These are pretty capable boats we'll have to deal with." Roughead also said the Navy needs to "move aggressively" toward fielding unmanned underwater vehicles, as well as unmanned aircraft.

The theme of this year's two-day event is the operational debut of the four Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines converted to carry a high load of conventional ordnance and to conduct larger force special operations missions. The SSGNs Ohio and Florida are currently on deployment, Michigan will deploy in the coming weeks and Georgia deploys in 2009.

November 11 – VETERANS DAY Base Members,

As you see below we have been invited to attend the Veterans' Day memorial ceremony at the State Capitol. Anyone who can is encouraged to attend. Please wear your vests.

After the ceremony we will have lunch and then proceed to the Ft. Roots Veterans' Hospital to visit our veterans there. You can not know the emotions of a visit to these brave men. It was such an uplifting experience for me last year when we visited them. They were all so appreciative of our visit.--Ray

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs would like to extend an invitation to you to join us at this year's Veterans Day ceremony to be held Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at precisely 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd floor rotunda of the State Capitol. This year is especially important as only one WWI veteran remains alive in the United States. This year will be the 90th anniversary of the signing of the WWI armistice. Veterans Day has a great deal of meaning for our country at this time. It is the service of the brave men and women in uniform that has helped protect our country and others throughout the years. It is important for us to recognize their dedication to our nation. We look forward to this upcoming ceremony and hope you can join us as we honor our veterans. If you have any questions regarding this event please contact Susan King at 501-370-3820 or susan.g.king@arkansas.gov

Susan King
Public Affairs Specialist
Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs
Building 65, Room 119
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
(501) 370-3820

AIMM Website Gets Facelift, Breaks Records, Base Members Get Preview

AIMM's website (www.aimm.museum) has completed a long anticipated facelift with a new look and new format. The new format was developed by a team of students at UALR and the idea for the project originated with John Barr. Without the help of John and his wife Suzanne (a professor at UALR) this project would have not been possible.

The new format will "go live" in the next few weeks, but Razorback Base members can get a preview of the new look at a

temporary site – www.ussrazorback.com. This temporary website has been set up so base members (and members of the Razorback crewmembers association can have a preview. It is not being advertised.

If you spot an error, a misspelling, or a bad link, please e-mail the details to Greg Stitz, the museum's curator and webmaster at gstitz@aimm.museum.

Once everyone has had a chance to look at the new site and check it over, then it will be rolled out to the public.

In related news, visits to the website have been increasing dramatically. In the last 12 months, people have visited the website over 50,000 times. Both June and July of this year saw nearly 5,000 people visit the website each month. Obviously, we're very excited and pleased that our website has seen this much traffic, and we hope the new format will increase traffic even further.

USS Razorback Featured in Bank Travel Management Magazine and on Local TV

Central Arkansas has become a significant destination for corporate travel, including annual conferences such as the upcoming [Bank Travel 2009](#), to be held at the Peabody Hotel in February 2009.

In preparation for the conference, the current issue of [Bank Travel Management Magazine](#) features a multi-page article about Central Arkansas. A picture of Razorback is featured prominently on the first page of the article, and a description of the museum takes up nearly the entire last page of the article.

On Saturday, October 4th, AIMM hosted seven surviving crew members and their families from a World War II cargo ship, USS Alhena (AKA-9). They had dinner aboard the barge and many of the family members and even some of the World War II veterans, toured Razorback.

Stories about their visit ran on Channel 4 and Channel 11. Channel 4 ran live footage during the evening news and ran a follow-up story during the late news.

New References in the Library

The AIMM Library has three new reference works:

Submarine Fleets of the World, 1863 to the Present by Norman Henderson

Japanese Submarine Losses to Allied Submarines in World War II by Vernon J. Miller

Chronology of U.S. Submarine Operations, 1939-1942 by David L. Kimble

All three of these references are in Adobe PDF format, so bring your laptop.

In addition, a number of new books have arrived in the past couple of months and even more are on their way.

Greg Stitz - Curator

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum
www.aimm.museum
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)
501-371-8320

Golden Corral Restaurants Salute America's Heroes with Free Dinner on Military Appreciation Monday

On Monday, November 17, 2008 from 5 to 9 pm, all 485 Golden Corral restaurants across America will offer any person who has served in the United States Military (including National Guard and Reserves) a free "thank you" dinner buffet and beverage - no identification required. This will be the eighth annual "thank you" dinner for our nation's heroes from Golden Corral restaurants, who have provided over 1,835,000 complimentary meals to military personnel over the history of the event. Golden Corral with their local media partners, guests and the Disabled American Veterans' organization have raised over \$2,540,000 in contributions for the DAV state and local chapters.

For the second year, Golden Corral's guests and restaurant teams may send personal greetings to America's military personnel on active duty overseas. From September 1 through November 17, 2008, special postcards will be available at all Golden Corral restaurants for sending messages of thanks and encouragement to the troops overseas. They will be delivered to our troops prior to the Holidays. In 2007, over 55,000 Military Appreciation post

cards were delivered to military troops stationed overseas.

Gary Sinise, celebrated actor/director and longtime advocate for our fighting men and women (active and retired) is supporting Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday through a public service announcement recognizing the contributions made by members of the military.

The DAV is an 87 year old non-profit organization dedicated to providing services – free of charge through its nationwide network – to disabled veterans and their families. Visit www.goldencorral.com



October Birthdays

- November 1st – Enrile Trinidad
- November 2nd – Don David
- November 4th – Kenneth Chamber
- November 4th – Herb Murphy
- November 7th – Earle Aucoin
- November 8th – Emma Farmer
- November 16th – Charles McMinn
- November 17th – Barney Carroll
- November 18th – Robert Cagle
- November 19th – Bill Woods
- November 24th – Eugene Prohl
- November 26th – Herschel Holtman
- November 28th – Bill Keel
- November 30th – Roger Lyle

Happy Birthday!

AAAAA

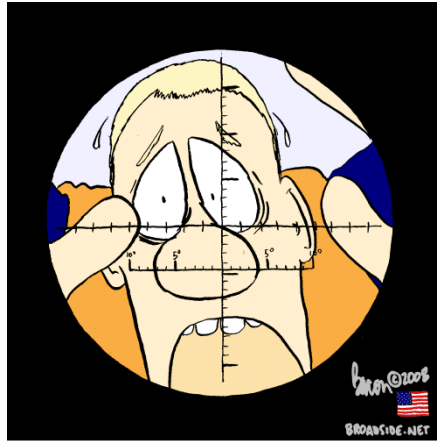
Treasures Report: October 2008

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 6710.88
DEPOSITS:	
Account Reconcile	+86.17
Dues Collected	1150.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	1236.17
EXPENSES:	
Holland Club Items	22.81
USSVI (Ships Store)	185.78
TOTAL EXPENSES:	208.59
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 7738.46
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	
BEGINNING	718.03

ENDING BALLANCE	\$ 718.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 1700.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1797.26
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$11953.75

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer

AAAAA

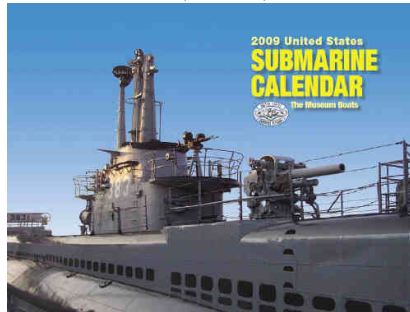


The Blue crew was a little rusty on diving procedures.

AAAAA

Razorback Base Storekeeper News

A NEW ORDER of 2009 USSVI calendars are here and for sale at a member price of \$10.00 each or two for \$18.00. Don't think of these as just another calendar with twelve months, each with an individual picture. The 2009 USSVI calendar has color photos of each museum submarine including our own USS RAZORBACK (SS 394).



Now you might ask, "Why would I pay for a calendar when I get them in the mail or at a local retailer?" In promoting our museum boats and their efforts to preserve our national heritage, purchasing them is one way to ensure their legacy never ends. Let me know if you are interested.

Contact Billy Hollaway Base Storekeeper retldoun@earthlink.net

AAAAA

Below is a ballot you may use to vote for base officers for 2008 - 2009. We had no nominations and the existing officers have stated they are willing to serve again if elected. Note there is a place for a write in name also. I need all votes by no later than November 30 at jcbarr@aristotle.net. Also below is your first gentle reminder to pay dues.

RAZORBACK BASE BALLOT
2009-2010 Razorback Base Officers

Base Commander

Ray Wewers: _____

Write In: _____

Base Vice Commander

Paul Honeck: _____

Write In: _____

Base Treasurer

Greg Schwerman: _____

Write In: _____

Chief of the Boat

Joe Mathis: _____

Write In: _____

Chaplain

Carl Schmidt: _____

Write In: _____

Mail completed **BY November 30, 2008** ballot to:

John C. Barr, Elections
9 Broadview Drive
Little Rock, AR 72207-5113
OR E-Mail to jcbarr@aristotle.net

Please Pay Your Dues

Dues are payable by January 1, 2009. Members not paying by that date are subject to being dropped from membership. Quite a few of you have already paid, and 20 of you have elected to pay LIFE dues for the Base. I really appreciate that. Be sure to make your check payable to: Razorback Base and mail to me at: John C. Barr
Membership Chair
Razorback Base – USSVI
9 Broadview Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207-5113
501-663-6622 (H)
jcbarr@aristotle.net

