

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base United States Submarine Veterans

April -June 2022



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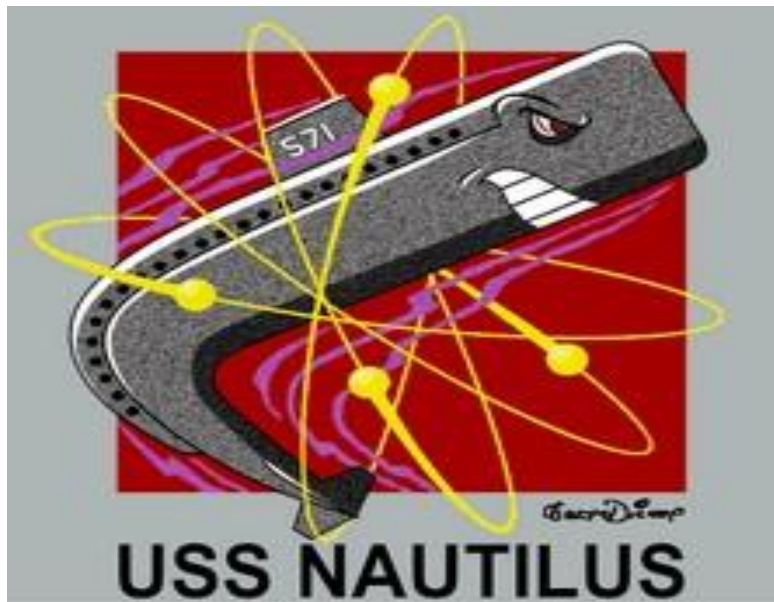
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Commanders Corner

Hi fellow Bubbleheads. I hope you are all healthy, wealthy, and wise. We had a great meeting and good food last month at American Pie Pizza. We solved several things and discussed several more. One issue discussed was hosting a future national convention. A committee was formed to research the possibility of doing this. To do so, we will need a lot of volunteers and it is significant work. Please provide input on your thoughts about this to me or Pete Jilek. Our next meeting will be Mike's place in Conway for the Submarine Birthday on May 9. Please contact Wanda to let her know if you are coming! We have not gotten many replies so far! Stay involved and enjoy our Base! I know I love seeing everyone and hearing all their stories whether true or enhanced! Thanks to John Barr for keeping the members with no net access informed by sending the newsletter to you. Please email or call me with ideas for activities which we can add at any time.

Alan Malone





A Story of Firsts

Everyone who has served in the US Navy Submarine Service knows the story of the first US Nuclear Submarine, the USS Nautilus SSN 571. Several books have been written about the Nautilus including the story of how the Nuclear Navy came to be. One of the best books I have read about the Nautilus, *Nautilus Ninety North*, was written by Captain William R Anderson the second Commanding Officer of the Nautilus. Captain Anderson was the CO when the Boat made history by Transiting from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean via the North Pole.

My Story of firsts however was less well known than traveling to the North Pole, in fact very few people were even aware it happened but had they known the story of the first meal underway on nuclear power they might have been quite upset. This story was told to me First hand and it is not a story that starts off in the usual sailor disclaimer of this ain't no _____.

This story was told to me by a dear friend who happen to be the lead Cook on the Nautilus, CS 1(SS) Jack Beard.

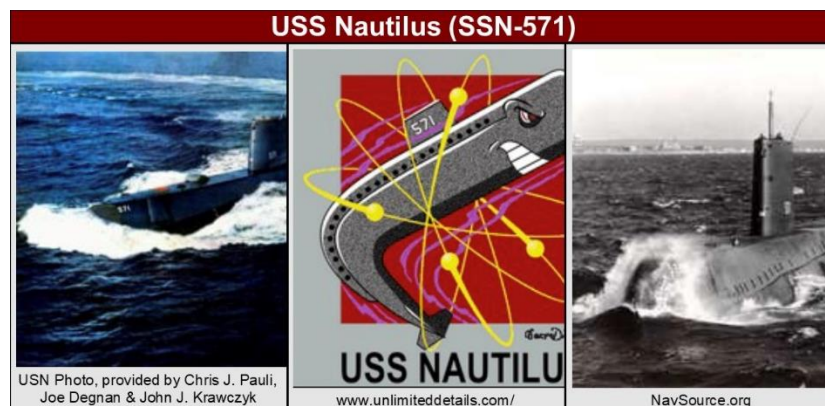
Some of you might have ran across Jack after he retired at his restaurant in Niantic Ct. Aptly Named the Nautilus Restaurant. OK I know what you are thinking, get on with the story.

On January 17 1955 at 11.00 AM EST the Nautilus's reactor was critical and CO Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson declared, Underway on Nuclear Power. What history is not real clear about the first criticality was instead of being tied to the pier at Electric Boat the Nautilus was actually sitting in the middle of the Thames River. Since this was the first time a Nuclear reactor had been critical inside a submarine there was concerns about the amount of radiation escaping through the hull thus the Nautilus was moved away from the pier before the reactor went critical.

This first sea trial had attracted a lot of attention from the Navy upper Echelon and the Management of EB and both groups were well represented aboard including the Father of the Nuclear Navy Admiral Rickover. As the Nautilus made its way down the Thames River the Ships Bridge and control room was crowded with everybody that was anybody. Meanwhile in the boats Small Galley CS 1 Beard was busy preparing the noon meal, Spaghetti and meat balls along with garlic toast and all the fixings.

For those of you that have traveled down the Thames and out to Long Island Sound on a Submarine you are aware that it's not a straight shot out into the Sound. Traffic must go through what is Lovely call the "Race". For those of you who are unfamiliar with the waters in Long Island Sound The Race is located between Fishers Island and Little Gull Island, and is about 3.5 miles wide, and serves as the main entrance into Long Island Sound. During the changing of the tides the Race can be tricky for a Submarine to Maneuver on the surface especially for someone who hasn't experienced its tricky currents.

Now that I have bored you with all the boring facts about the Long Island Sound let's get back to real story. As The Spaghetti was boiling on the range Jack took a minute to get himself a cup of coffee and to chat with one of the shipyard workers that was aboard to help repair any problem that might arise. Just as Jack turned to check on his boiling pot of Spaghetti the boat took an unexpected roll, remember the Race, and the boiling Pot about the size of a 5 gallon bucket slid across the range top and landed upside down in the passageway outside the galley. This passageway was the main thruway through the boat and had been walked on by several hundred shoes since it had been last cleaned. The 5 second rule didn't apply and the possibility of postponing lunch was not an option so Jack and the Shipyard worker scooped the hot spaghetti back into the pot and placed it back on the range while mopping up the water that had spilled. Lunch went on as scheduled. Jack and the Shipyard worker had tuna fish sandwiches for lunch. Now you know the story of the first meal underway on Nuclear Power.





LOST BOATS

April

USS PICKEREL SS-171

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

USS SNOOK SS-279

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.

USS THRESHER SSN-593

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

USS GUDGEON SS- 211

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

USS GRENADIER SS-210

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

May

USS LAGARTO SS-371

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.

USS SCORPION SSN-589

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.

USS SQUALUS SS-192

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.

USS STICKLEBACK SS-415

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking

June

USS HERRING SS-233

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sunk a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS GOLET SS-361

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS BONE FISH SS-223

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

S-27 (SS-142)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS 0-9 (SS-70)

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS RUNNER SS-275

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4 when she was due back at Midway.



Base Officers

Base Commander		
Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Base Vice Commander		
Past Base Commander		
Base Webmaster		
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Joe Manning	501-366-0331	apologeticpastor@gmail.com
Newsletter		
Ed Force	501-226-8791	eaforce46@yahoo.com
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Interim Treasurer		
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Past Base Commander		
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Past Base Commander		
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Past Base Commander		
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Past Base Commander		
David Boyer	479-227-9633	chopper1267@yahoo.com
Past Base Commander		
Billy Holloway	501-758-3266	retdousn@earthlink.net



MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2022

Base Commander Alan Malone opened the meeting at 1200 on February 26, 2022

- Proud to have survived the COVID year and starting the year with one of our largest meetings.
- Treasurer's Report---Move to approve by Greg Zonner, second by Johnnie Baker. Motion approved unanimously
 1. Pete Jilek was called into active duty, so John Barr will continue as Interim Treasurer
 2. The Certificate of Deposit has been withdrawn and awaits our decision on how to proceed.
- Secretary Report---Motion to accept minutes of January as published by Greg Schwerman, second by Barbara Wewers, motion approved unanimously.
- Newsletter will be published quarterly on line and hardcopy sent to the 15 members who do not have access to a computer.
 1. Pete Jilek volunteered to print the 15 copies at no charge to the base.
 2. All approved this change.
- Booster Club donations will now be included in the General Fund. Motion made by Ray Wewers, second by Greg Zonner, motion approved unanimously.
- Disposition of the Certificate of Deposit---Discussion was held as to where to invest the funds. One suggestion was to purchase bonds and one suggestion was to invest in the USSV Charitable Foundation Memorial Fund in an account designated for Razorback Base future projects. After some discussion, it was recommended that we need more information on how these funds would be allocated.
- Base meetings will be held 4 times a year temporarily until the Covid epidemic or endemic is over. Motion made by Barbara Wewers, second by Wanda Malone, motion approved unanimously.

NEWBUSINESS

1. National Convention---The Little Rock Convention Bureau has requested we consider holding another USSVI National Convention in Little Rock. Discussion ensued that many members who implemented the 2006 convention were not able or enthused about this.
- Motion made by Greg Zonner and second by Judd Rouch to form a committee to investigate taking this on; motion approved. Wanda Malone and Pete Jilek volunteered to lead the committee.

1. September Base Activity proposed to be a Community Theater production in North Little Rock. Decision to be made later.
1. National Awards---It is time to nominate members for national awards. We have members that deserve to be recognized and last year there were no nominees for some of these awards in our District.

GOODOFTHEORDER

- Base member R.B. Casto of Heber Springs passed away. His passing was not known until several days after. We need to have all our members notify the Base upon the passing of one of our Sub Vet relatives or members.

FUTUREATIVITIES

- April 9 at 6PM---Dinner at Mike’s Place in Conway .Let Wanda Malone know if you plan to attend.
- June 5 at Dickey Stephens for our annual baseball game. Room has already been reserved. \$15.00/person.

Meeting adjourned at 1320 on February 26.

Members attending:

- Greg Zonner, Myna Miller, Mark Taylor, Ray Wewers, Barbara Wewers, Greg Schwerman, Barbara Schwerman, Pete Jilek, Wanda Malone, Alan Malone, Judd Rouch, Ron Hudson, Johnnie Baker, John Barr.



BIRTHDAYS

		May	June
		Robert B. Hickey	John C. Barr
		Greg Zonner	Ralph E. Slutts
		Suzann W. Barr	John Hertzberg
		Joe Manning	Ronald W. Hines
		George R. Conro	David B. Boyer
		Dominador F. Alvarado	Clifford Thomas Swires
		Steven David Shelton	Curtis D. Borud
		Robert C. Sykes	Calvin Moon
		Thomas R. McLeod	Victoria Baker
		John A. Harrel, Jr.	William N. Smith
		Wayne Herbert Welch	Frederick 'Carl' Schmidt
		Lowell Royce Blue	Harold D. Butler
		Marcial M. Pamintuan	James F. Franks
April			
James C. Bjorklund	2		
Adrian M. Wills	2		
Richard Wayne McCarstle	4		
Edward John Alves	5		
Herbert F. Wise	8		
Bobby L. Barge	9		
Tom Desautniers	11		
Robert David McBride	14		
Harold D. Haislip III	15		
James W. Morehouse	18		
Paul Harless	23		



Financial Reports

TREASURER'S REPORT	Mar-22
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE	\$13,327.05
General Fund Beginning Balance	\$ 3,444.79
Credits	
Dues - USSVI	\$25.00
Dues - Base	\$15.00
Debits	
Dues - USSVI	(\$25.00)
General Fund Ending Balance	\$ 3,459.79
Designated Funds	
Maint. Fund Bal.	\$ 2,652.66
Charity Fund Bal.	\$ 372.00
Snook Mem. Fund Bal.	\$ 1,386.86
Designated Fund Balance	\$ 4,411.52
Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)	\$ 7,871.31
Other Funds	
Savings - Cash Balance	\$ 5,369.41
Cash on Hand	\$ 101.33
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE	\$ 13,342.05
Respectfully submitted,	
John C. Barr, Interim Base Treasurer	

UP COMING EVENTS

Saturday June 25th.
Traveler's Baseball
game. We have the
Dickey Stevens room
again. Tickets are \$12
dollars each, it
includes Hamburgers,
Hot Dogs and Cookies
and the fixings.
Contact Greg Zonner
for tickets.