



# The Dolphin Brotherhood

## We Are A Submarine Sailor

by Mike Hemming

We are not the first of them and we will not be the last. Our heritage runs back to the first submarine. This heritage line continues forward into an unseen future. Each generation is trained by the one before. This will remain so until there is no more use for submarines, which will be never.

If one of us goes aboard a new or old submarine, we are comfortable with the men there. For they are us and we are them. Stand us in a line in all our dress uniforms or naked in our coffins, we are the same. We are and forever will be submarine sailors. We are one.

We can have everything taken from us, uniforms, medals, our sanity and our lives, but we will always be recognized by others and ourselves as a submariner. This status can not be removed from us. Our Dolphins worn on our chests then, hung on our walls now, or later pinned on moldering uniforms in our

graves mark us forever. We are first, last, and always men that stepped forward and worked long and hard to become what we are. We are unique among sailors for we sail down deep into dark and always dangerous waters. We do this not with foolhardy go-to-hell bravery, but with cool calculation and care. We challenge the dangers with training and practice. We know that the time for bravery will come when two shipmates close themselves in a flooding compartment, knowing that the whole boat and crew depends on them to control the flooding.

We believe in each other, because we must. Alone at sea, the crew and a pressure hull are all we have to reach the surface again. Men with confidence in each other dive and surface submarines countless times. Each man trained by others holds the lives of those shipmates in his hands. Dolphins are the symbol of this tradition.

*(See "We Are..." on page 5)*

## Commander's Corner

by Patrick Householder, Base Commander



2002 was a good year for Seattle Base. To recount some of the milestones, our membership increased

substantially (to 137); we helped create a new Tacoma area (South Sound) base led by John Mansfield, our long time Base Secretary; our participation in the operation of the District 9 meeting with the SVWWII in Everett was very successful; we formed a working relationship with Submarine Attractions that gives our members free access and many of our group are volunteer docents on the Foxtrot there.

During Sea Fair, nearly 40 of our number got to tour USS Bremerton during her port visit (We bribed 'em with Krispy Kreme donuts!). Our past Commander, Cliff Nutter, got elected as District 9 Commander; Cliff and Robbie Robertson also arranged for a spectacular trip back in time for a dozen of us to visit, work and live aboard the Pampanito in San Francisco. I was elected as

*(Continued on page 12)*

**Reminder: Have you paid your membership dues? If not, please do :)**

## The Demise of Jack Tar

From the ROYAL NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION (<http://www.rnca.org.uk/>)

"The Demise of Jack Tar.....  
The traditional male sailor was not defined by his looks. He was defined by his attitude; his name was Jack Tar. He was a happy go lucky sort of a bloke; he took the good times with the bad.

He didn't cry victimisation, bastardisation, discrimination or for his mum when things didn't go his way. He took responsibility for his own, sometimes, self-destructive actions. He loved a laugh at anything or anybody. Rank, gender, race, creed or behaviour, it didn't matter to Jack, he would take the piss out of anyone, including himself. If someone took it out of him he didn't get offended; it was a natural part of life. If he offended someone else, so be it.

Free from many of the rules of polite society, Jack's manners were somewhat rough. His ability to swear was legendary. He would stand up for his mates. Jack was extravagant with his support to those he thought needed it. He may have been right or wrong, but that didn't matter. Jack's mate was one of the luckiest people alive.

Jack loved women. He loved to chase them to the ends of the earth and sometimes he even caught one. (Less often than he would have you believe though) His tales of the chase and its conclusion win or lose, is the stuff of legends.

Jack's favourite drink was beer, and he could drink it like a fish. His actions when inebriated would, on occasion, land him in trouble. But, he took

it on the chin, did his punishment and then went and did it all again. Jack loved his job. He took an immense pride in what he did. His radar was always the best in the fleet. His engines always worked better than anyone else's. His eyes could spot a contact before anyone else's and shoot at it first. It was a matter of personal pride.

Jack was the consummate professional when he was at work and sober. He was a bit like a mischievous child. He had a gleam in his eye and a larger than life outlook. He was as rough as guts. You had to be pig headed and thick skinned to survive. He worked hard and played hard. His masters tut-tutted at some of his more exuberant expressions of joie de vivre, and the occasional bout of number 9's or stoppage let him know where his limits were.



The late 20th Century and on, has seen the demise of Jack. The workplace no longer echoes with ribald comment and bawdy tales. Someone is sure to take offence. Where as, those stories of daring do and ingenuity in the face of adversity, usually whilst pissed, lack the audacity of the past.

A wicked sense of humour is now a liability, rather than a necessity. Jack has been socially engineered out of existence. What was once normal is now offensive. Denting someone else's over inflated opinion of their own self worth is now a crime.

And so a culture dies..."

## USSVI Membership by the Numbers

from Pat Householder, USSVI National Secretary

### BASES CLASSED BY PRIMARY MEMBERSHIP SIZE

**1,001+ members:** (1 base)  
Groton

**501 - 1,000 members:**  
MAL membership Base

**401 - 500 members:**  
None

**301 - 400 members:** (1 base)  
San Diego

**201 - 300 members:** (3 bases)  
Long Island, Mare Island, NJ South

**101 - 200 members:** (16 bases)  
Blueback, Bowfin, Bremerton, Buffalo, Chesapeake, Hampton Roads, LA/Pasadena, Lockwood IB, Minneapolis, NJ North, Peoria, Perch, Redfish, Seattle, Snug Harbor, Thresher.

**51 - 100 members:** (33 bases)  
Albany-Saratoga, Barb, Base 51, Bullhead, Central Fl, Cod, Corvina, Crash Dive, Dallas, Drum, Escolar, Gold Country, Great Lakes, Hawkbill, Hoosier, Hudson Valley, Kings Bay, Marblehead, Mid Atlantic, Mobile, Northern VA, Razorback, Reading, Requin-Pittsburgh, Rocky Mtn, Seawolf, So Tier NY, Tang, Topeka-Jeff City, Tri-State, Triton, Wisconsin

**26 - 50 members:** (20 bases)  
Batfish, Boston, Cuttlefish, Dennizens of the Deep, First Coast, Grayback, Green Mtn, Maine, Montana, Nautilus, Ozark-Runner, Pocona, Ponce De Leon, Seawolf, So Colorado, Springfield, Stryker, Sturgeon, Wahoo, Western Lake Superior

**5 - 25 members:** (24 bases)  
All other bases

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### OFFICER members in USSVI.

In the national DataBase , under Qualifying Rank, we show 414 officers (about 4.35% of our total membership).

ENS 98  
LT-JG 204  
LT 100  
LCDR 8  
CDR 2  
CAPT 1

On the other hand, under **Highest Rank achieved:**

POTUS 1  
ADM 6  
VADM 12  
RADM 28  
CAPT 222  
CDR 206  
LCDR 331  
LT 241  
LT-JG 38  
ENS 1  
CWO 161

### ENLISTED by rate in USSVI

(Note, a number are entered in by grade (e,3,e4,e5, etc or sn or fn, and those are not included.)

**Chiefs** (All Rates)  
ALL 2577

**Snipes**  
EM 598  
IC 230  
EN 441  
MM 764

**Weapons**  
TM 477  
MT 64

**Operations**  
ET 492  
FT 212  
QM 544  
SM 37  
RM 368  
CT 17  
ST 360

**Commissary** (CS,MS, BKR, SD)  
All 154

**Docs and SKs**  
HM/PHM 94  
SK 71

**Associate Members**  
All 419

## United States Submarine Deployments in Cuban Waters, 1961-62 GUPPY vs. Foxtrot?

By Charles R. Ryan

Recently published October Fury reported four Soviet Foxtrot Class submarines attempted to deploy to Cuba during the 1962 Missile Crisis. How active were U.S. submarines in Cuban waters during that era? Precise missions and accomplishments remain classified, but it's possible to draw some conclusions about submarine operations against Cuba by reference to campaign medal credits.

small area contiguous to Cuba qualified for a campaign medal. AFEM (Cuba) requirements were 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of service in an area delimited by 12N to 28N Latitude and 66W to 84W Longitude. Although the Awards Manual does not specify NEM award criteria, presumably they were the same as for the AFEM. Since the number of days' service necessary to receive an AFEM are waived for personnel on "duty which is equally as hazardous as combat duty", which is usually interpreted to include submarine, it appears anyone serving at least one day on a submarine within the designated area between 3 January 1961 and 31 December 31 qualified for either the NEM or AFEM. No one can receive both medals even if an individual served during each separate qualifying period; if

someone qualified for the NEM and subsequently qualified for the AFEM they could, if so desired, "turn in" their NEM for an AFEM.

OPNAVNOTE 1650 (official Navy register for unit citations since 1941 and campaign medals issued since the Korean War, <http://neds.nebt.daps.mil/o1650.htm>) indicates seventeen submarines qualified for either the NEM (Cuba) or the

| <u>Submarine</u>         | <u>Deployments in Theater</u> | <u>Overall Deployment Dates</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Seacat, SS-390           | 248 days on 3 occasions       | 09 Mar 62 and 24 Nov 62         |
| Atule, SS-403            | 161 days on 47 occasions      | 18 May 61 and 10 Dec 62         |
| Spikefish, AGSS-404      | 133 days on 6 occasions       | 07 Jan 61 and 20 Jul 62         |
| Picuda, SS-382           | 85 days on 6 occasions        | 06 Feb 61 and 13 Jun 62         |
| Grenadier, SS-525        | 61 days on 3 occasions        | 07 Mar 61 and 28 Nov 62         |
| Quillback, SS-424        | 47 days on 3 occasions        | 15 May 61 and 2 Nov 62          |
| Clamagore, SS-343        | 32 days on 1 occasion         | 23 Jan 62 and 23 Feb 62         |
| Sablefish, SS-303        | 24 days on 3 occasions        | 01 Mar 62 and 31 Mar 62         |
| Cutlass, SS-478          | 16 days on 7 occasions        | 05 Jan 62 and 20 Oct 62         |
| Sea Poacher, SS-406      | 16 days on 1 occasion         | 29 Nov 62 and 14 Dec 62         |
| Cobbler, SS-344          | 14 days on 1 occasion         | 13 Apr 61 and 26 Apr 61         |
| Sirago, SS-485           | 14 days on 1 occasion         | 13 Apr 61 and 26 Apr 61         |
| Chopper, SS-342          | 12 days on 2 occasions        | 01 Jan 62 and 31 Mar 62         |
| Threadfin, SS-410        | 12 days on 1 occasion         | 18 Apr 61 and 29 Apr 61         |
| Sea Lion, APSS-315       | 10 days on 2 occasions        | 08 Nov 62 and 29 Nov 62         |
| Thomas Edison, SSBN- 610 | 10 days on 1 occasion         | 13 Jun 62 and 22 Jun 62         |
| Sea Leopard, SS-483      | 2 days on 1 occasion          | 20 Oct 62 and 21 Oct 62         |

Two campaign medals recognized Cuban service in the early 1960s. Navy and Marine Corps units could qualify for the Navy Expeditionary Medal (NEM) from 3 January 1961 through 23 October 1962. All military branches could qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) from 24 October 1962 through 1 June 1963. NEM authorization coincided with the United States breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba in January 1961. When the Missile Crisis developed in October 1962 and Air Force as well as Navy and Marine Corps units deployed to the Cuban theater the authorized campaign medal switched on 24 October 1962 to the AFEM. Although qualification for the AFEM lasted until June 1, 1963, the Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual (SECNAVINST 1650.1G) says no Navy or Marine Corps units were eligible after 31 December 1962.

Although American military units were on worldwide alert during the Missile Crisis, only those serving in a relatively

AFEM (Cuba). Because these submarines accumulated 85 qualification periods it is not practical to list them all. Ranked by total days of service in the Cuban theater they include:

### Statistical analysis of separate qualifying dates indicates:

Seacat entered Cuban waters 9 March 1962 and operated there continuously, presumably based at Guantanamo, through 23 October 1962. Apparently leaving Cuban waters at the height of the Missile Crisis, Seacat returned during 8-24 November.

Excluding Seacat, from 3 Jan 1961 through 14 Dec 1962, sixteen American submarines (15% of total SS/SSN strength) operated a total of 649 days in Cuban waters. Seven subs accounted for half of deployment time during 14 patrols averaging 24 days each.

Longest patrols were 32 days: Clamagore in Jan-Feb 62 and Spikefish in Apr-May 62.

Cobbler, Sirago, Spikefish and Threadfin deployed to Cuba for 12-30 consecutive days during dates coinciding with the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961. Did they play a role in that action or were they simply observing?



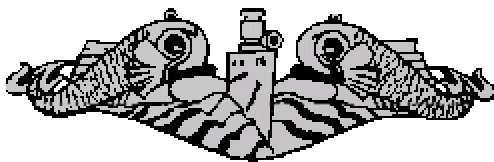
During 1961-62 the USN had an average of 16 SSNs and 14 SSBNs in commission. The only nuclear submarine deployed in Cuban waters was SSBN Thomas Edison for 10 days in June 1962. This implies, ironically, that the U.S. introduced ballistic missiles into the Cuban theater before Cuba and the USSR deployed their ballistic missiles.

Eight submarines deployed to Cuban waters for some period at the height of the Missile Crisis, 24 October through November 1962: Seacat, Atule, Quillback, Cutlass, Sea Leopard, Grenadier, Sea Lion and Seacat.

Sea Poacher was the last submarine to leave Cuban waters when it wrapped up a 16-day patrol on 14 December 1962.

(“We Are...” - continued from page 1)

Submarine hulls have numbers and men have hearts and souls. We carry those numbers in our hearts in life, and they mark our souls in death. Silver or Gold, Dolphins are the symbol of this.



To us Dolphins are it, no other symbol matters or means anything as important as they do.

## Transformation is better than termination, the Navy figures.

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) -

The USS Florida and three other nuclear subs faced decommissioning as a result of the START II arms reduction treaty and a subsequent Navy review, but about a year ago, the Defense Department decided to convert the vessels and use them in different ways.

The Florida will be converted to carry conventional weapons and used as a stealthy platform to deploy SEALs. The sub, its nuclear weapons already removed, arrived Thursday at its new homeport of Norfolk Naval Station from its former base in Bangor, Wash.

In January, two Tomahawk missiles - minus their warheads - will be fired from one of the Florida's missile tubes in a test that will be the first launch of cruise missiles from an Ohio-class submarine. The date of the test off the coast of Florida was not released.

During the third week of January, the hulking, black 560-foot sub will go to the Bahamas and take part in a weeklong experiment called Giant Shadow. In the simulation, SEALs, unmanned air and underwater vehicles and various sensors will work together to try to confirm reports that terrorists are building a chemical weapons plant, the SEALs will look for the plant and the submarine will try to destroy it.

The intent is to learn what else the converted subs may be capable of doing to fill in gaps in joint warfighting, said Capt. William Toti, who will run Giant Shadow.

The sub will head to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard next August to begin 32 months of conversion and refueling.



(See “Conversion” continued on page 11)

## Pigboat 39: An American Sub Goes to War

- a review by Charlie Ryan

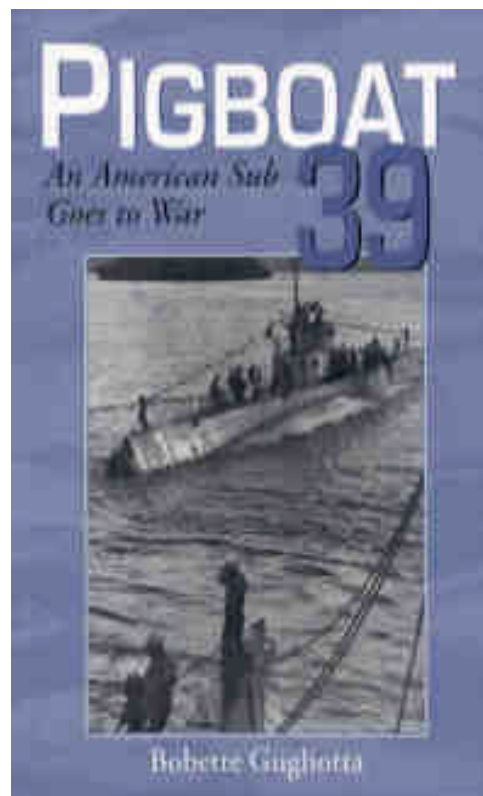
**Pigboat 39: An American Sub Goes to War, Bobette Gugliotta, The University of Kentucky Press, 1984; 224 pages; \$17.00.**

This fine book, written by the wife of a submarine officer who served on S-39, provides a unique look at the lost world of late-1930's submarine duty in the US Navy's "Asiatic Fleet" as well as early war patrols. Tales of pre-War submarine training and Navy life and liberty in the Philippines and China set the backdrop for the story. Unlike some WWII submarine books this one includes lots of perspective from the sailors, and their wives and sweethearts, as well as the ship's officers.

In December 1941, S-39 and other "pigboats" made the first war patrols. When it became clear the Japanese would conquer the Philippines S-39 withdrew, shooting, from the ruined Cavite Navy base near Manila: foraging for supplies among island villages, sinking two Japanese ships, suffering depth charge and bomb attacks, refitting in soon-to-be-conquered Dutch Indonesia and finally limping into Fremantle, Australia on one engine. By March 1942, S-39 had three war patrols in her log book.

S-39's captain, now one of the most successful of the early-War skippers despite having a broken, antiquated boat, is transferred to command a shiny new fleet boat. A few months later, after extensive repairs and operating from Brisbane with a new skipper, S-39 makes a short breakdown plagued patrol and then, on her fifth patrol in August 1942, runs hopelessly aground off a remote island near New Guinea. Unable to re-float the stranded sub, S-39's crew scuttles

the vessel and swims through dangerous stormy waves to a nearby reef to await rescue from an Australian destroyer. After some of the crew spends the night standing on a reef in water that rises above their waist during high tide, everyone makes it safely back to Australia. In an afterword we learn, sadly, that both of S-39's skippers and several other crew members we've come to know through this book perish in other submarines lost during the War.

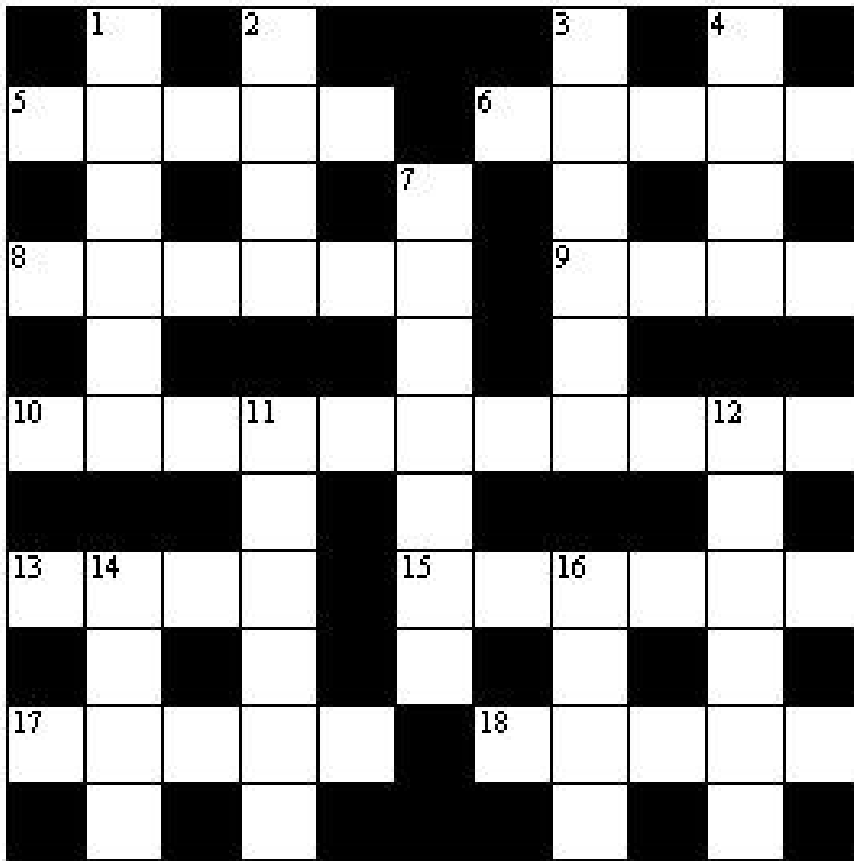


There are useful sketch maps of each patrol. The best feature of the book may be the 57 black and white photos. Most of them are of the men whose words and actions are portrayed in the book. There are snapshots of long-closed liberty hangouts in Tsingtao and one classic scene of naked sailors washing themselves in port on the sub's deck.

The "official" World War II submarine history is well known, but Pigboat 39 is an outstanding example of the ephemeral recollected history that must be recorded before all the men and women who lived those times are gone. I recommend this book highly to everyone interested in naval

and submarine history. It's a chance to look beyond the "big picture" of strategies and admirals to recall the importance of the day-to-day struggle to persevere and succeed even when circumstances or equipment conspire against us. Even though S-39 was not the ideal vessel to aggressively pursue the Imperial Japanese Navy in early 1942, her officers and crew lived by a code articulated, many years later, by none other than Miss Piggy: "You gotta go with whatcha got."

## Bubblehead Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 5** WI museum boat  
**6** First of its class  
**8** Cute little smoke boat  
**9** SS-426 (Lost 11 while rescuing the entire COCHINO crew.)  
**10** \_\_\_\_\_, 3 Down, Trigger, \_\_\_\_\_  
**13** SS-328 (Three WWII patrols, rescued a pilot during Vietnam war.)  
**15** Tender young thing.  
**17** Torpedo loading devices  
**18** Bal'mer museum boat

### Down

- 1** SS-165 was V-3, SS-552 was an SSK.  
**2** NJ museum boat  
**3** See 10 across  
**4** SS-164 (Originally V-2, had engine rooms forward and aft of control room)  
**7** SS-233 (Supported North Africa invasion, lost on third Pacific patrol)  
**11** SS-248 (Lost between NLON and the Panama Canal, 1943)  
**12** Not if  
**14** SS-256 (Nine WWII patrols, witness to surrender in Tokyo Bay.)  
**16** Das \_\_\_\_\_

(Go to Ray Stone's website for more puzzles: <http://www.olgoat.com/xword/xword.html>)

## 2003 BASE-NATIONAL DUES ARE DUE!

Our USSVI Dues are due! As of 3 January, 60% have paid their dues. Last year there were some DINKS well into April.

**Every Base member has received a membership renewal letter and I personally request and will be thankful for your cooperation in easing our paperwork load by paying your dues soon.**

Make your check to "USSVI Seattle Base" and mail it to Jim Harper, 12105 48th Drive SE Everett, WA 98208-9106 425-357-6485 . Regular member dues are still \$20.00/yr. (\$10.00 Base - \$10.00 National) Life members owe just \$10.00 Base dues (unless they are also Seattle Base life members). Holland Club members have no dues owing.

Wish to donate to the Charitable Foundation? To make your donation tax deductible to the full extent of the law, make a separate check to "USSVCF" and send it in. Our national 'goal' is to raise \$10.00 per member in 2003. It's completely voluntary and a matter of personal interest. If you have questions about the various funds, call me at 425 392-0440 or email me at [holderp@attbi.com](mailto:holderp@attbi.com) Can't remember if you've paid? Email Jim Harper at [KH6CN@earthlink.net](mailto:KH6CN@earthlink.net) or call him at 425-357-6485 & he'll let you know.

## It's Time to Ship Over Shipmates!

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2003.

Please send your dues to:

**Jim Harper**  
**12105 48th Drive SE**  
**Everett, WA 98208-9106**

### PRESERVING SUB SCHOOL HISTORY

by Pat Householder

Most submariners start their journey towards qualification with graduation from Submarine School in New London. As far as I recall, each graduate received a diploma and a class photo was taken to commemorate the event.

As the years slip by, sometimes these precious reminders of our past are lost, perhaps in house-cleaning or when we move. After making inquiries, it appears that the Sub School does NOT have an archive of these photos from over the years.

Gary Walker, a USSVI shipmate and Internet web operator of the USS Atule website, decided to do what he could to resurrect those photos with an on-line archive of Sub School Photos. Where does Gary get those photos? He gets them from guys like us who still have our photos; he scans them and mounts them on the 'Web' for all to see.

Take a look at Gary's Web site to see if your Sub School photo is there. If it is not, and you still have yours, do the subvet community a favor and ask Gary to post your sub school photo there.

BASIC ENLISTED SUBMARINE SCHOOL  
 CLASS PHOTOS AND ROSTERS:  
[http://www.atule.com/  
 sub\\_class\\_photos.htm](http://www.atule.com/sub_class_photos.htm)

GARY WALKER: [walker@atule.com](mailto:walker@atule.com)

### 2002 Seattle Base Officers and Chairs

|                   |                     |              |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Commander:        | Patrick Householder | 425-392-0440 |
| Vice Commander:   | Bob Oppe            | 425-747-1247 |
| Secretary:        | John Mansfield      | 253-922-7551 |
| Treasurer:        | Jim Harper          | 425-357-6485 |
| Membership Chair: | Jim Harper          | 425-357-6485 |
| Ceremonies Chair: | Ric Hedman          | 253-922-7551 |
| Base Chaplains:   | Mike Bennett        | 206-767-1934 |
| Chief of the Boat | Ted Taylor          | 425-228-3764 |
| Editor:           | Don Gentry          | 425-227-5410 |

### Upcoming Meetings—Seattle Base

|  |  |
|--|--|
| January 15, 2003<br>Wednesday                              | VFW Hall, Renton<br>6:30 Social, 7:00—10:00pm Mtg<br>Annual Business Mtg / Elections                       |
| February 19, 2003<br>Wednesday<br>Spouses/partners welcome | Bellevue VFW Hall<br>6:30 Social, 7:00—10:00pm Mtg<br>Bruce Meyers, Lockout Operations,<br>a Marine's View |

### Welcome Aboard to New Crewmembers

| Name                         | Qual Boat                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| William Broz (Gina)          | Richard B Russell SSN-687—7/81  |
| William Giese, SK (Diane)    | Queenfish SSN-651—5/78          |
| Leonard Stefanelli QM        | Catfish (Honorary Seattle Life) |
| Phil Carlson (Mary) ET       | John Marshall SSBN-611— 2/73    |
| Michael O'Byrne (Penny)<br>O | T. Roosevelt SSBN-600 1/64      |
| Steven Shelton (Lynda) IC    | Razorback SS-394—10/68          |
| William Baker IC             | Aspro SSN-648                   |
| David Schueler (Lynn) ET     | Nevada SSBN-733—8/86            |
| Floyd Davis (Dorothy) CS     | Hawkbill SSN-666                |





The above image is a poster that was at the Escape Training Tank in New London and was sent to Pat Householder by Bill Reed of Hawkbill Base.

**THE DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE, LIKE THE THIRST OF RICHES, EVER INCREASES WITH IT'S ACQUISITION**  
 LAURENCE STERNE (1713-1768)

Our U. S. Submarine Veterans Scholarship Fund is exclusively directed towards helping our children and grand-children realize their dream of higher education.

Few gifts are greater than the gift of knowledge. With it comes strength of spirit and purpose, inner confidence, awareness of self, sensitivity to the needs of others and a humbling of the mind.

Your tax-deductible gift (and by your encouraging others to make similar donations to our Scholarship Fund) is the engine that makes this possible.

Also consider making a bequest to the Sub Vet Scholarship Endowment Fund in the name of anyone you wish. (For more information on this op-

tion please contact Gordon Clark, M&C Chair, at 570 553-2460 or email [clark626@aol.com](mailto:clark626@aol.com).)

Sub Vets helping other Sub Vet's children and grand children realize their dreams of higher education is a very worthy cause. Our gift is one that never stops giving... every day of their lives.

Make your checks payable to "USSVCF Scholarship Fund" and mail it directly to the USSVI National Office at PO Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870.

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have a child or grand-child you would like considered for a Scholarship award, contact Paul Orstad (Scholarship Chairman) at 860 889-4750 or email [porstad@ebmail.gdeb.com](mailto:porstad@ebmail.gdeb.com) for the application forms.

## HOW USSVI GOT STARTED

The United States Submarine Veterans was started by a group of United States Submarine Veterans of World War II led by Dominic "Joe" Negri and others who shared a belief in the need of an organization open to ALL submariners from the very beginning of the Submarine Service through to the present and into the future - not limited to just those who



Joe Negri

served so ably in the Second World War.

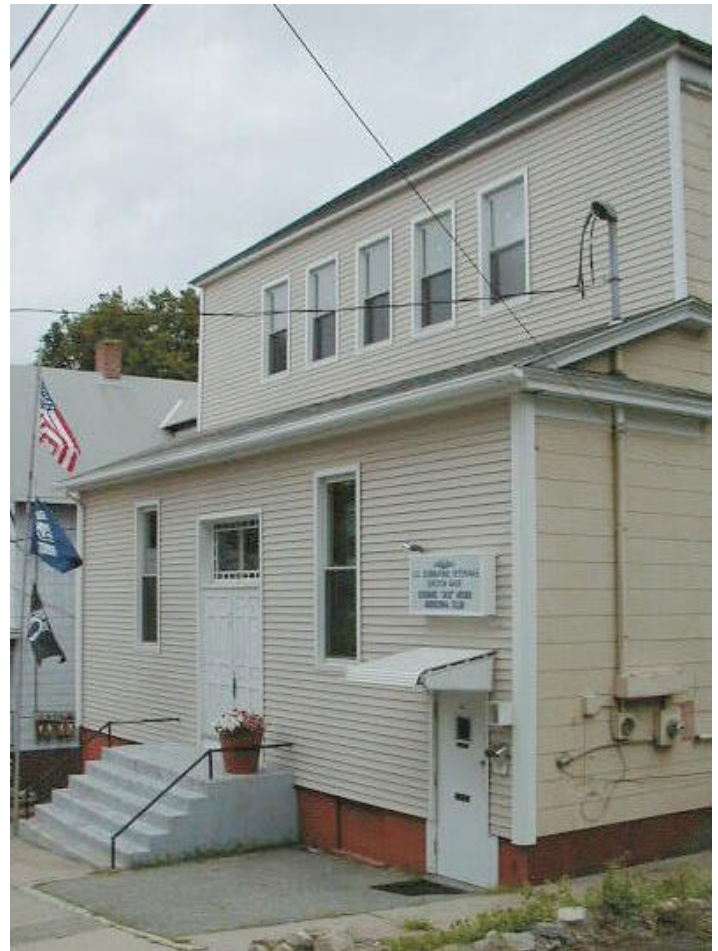
They took this action following two unsuccessful votes to open up regular membership in SVWW II to U.S. Submariners of all eras and their determination was made stronger with the loss of USS Thresher in 1963.

In Groton, Connecticut, the "Submarine Capitol of the World," these men started contacting past shipmates. They hit a responsive chord and favorable response came from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and many more from Connecticut.

After holding preliminary meetings in the

above states, a final meeting was held October 12, 1963 in Orange, NJ and the United States Submarine Veterans organization was born. The following officers were appointed to serve in an acting capacity until regular elections could be held in the summer of 1964. Robert Link: President; Ken O. Walkington: V- President; Joe Burges: Secretary; Mike Drucker: Treasurer

Several months later, on May 24, 1964, the organization was officially chartered in New London (Signers: Joe Negri, Ken O. Walkington and Joe Marion) and Incorporated in the State of CT, with additional plank owners being Warren "Ed" Gannon, Angelo La Pelosa, Robert Link, Thomas Rowan, & Hugh Trimble. Joe Negri was elected the first state commander and Dick Higham was elected the first Base Commander of Con-



40 School Street Clubhouse

(see page 11) continued on page 11

necticut Base #1 (Later known as Groton Base). This charter gave USSVI the license to operate and conduct business in all fifty states

The "Clubhouse" at 40 School Street became a reality in 1966. Due to the fact that the Groton Base was incorporated within the state of Connecticut and they had their own building, it was voted that Groton become the National Headquarters of USSVI.

The purposes of USSVI can be defined as "Remembrance" of our departed submarine shipmates and the sacrifices they made in the name of freedom; Comradeship and good times with our USSVI Subvet brothers at meetings and conventions, and Benevolence, by doing charitable works in support of our creed for all submariners and our offspring.

To better establish communication and rapport, an organization magazine, "SUBMARINE NATIONAL REVIEW" came into existence in May, 1966, later to become the AMERICAN SUBMARINER.

In the intervening nearly 40 years, USSVI has grown to 10,000 members, with 97 Bases located throughout the U.S. and a active charitable foundation established to support the good works "Subvets" wishes to carry out. Groton Base has grown to nearly 2,000 members, far outstripping all other Bases, and the National Office has moved to Silverdale, WA, reflecting the National nature of USSVI.

Joe Negri and the other founders of USSVI would be proud and we honor our finest with the annual prestigious "Joe Negri" award in honor of this farseeing WW II Subvet who wanted to create a organization for all submariners, no matter when they served.

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*Note: Information compiled from a variety of sources, including personal recollections, newspaper articles, archive information, Groton Base records, etc.*

*Pat Householder, National Secretary*

*("Conversion" - continued from page 5)*

It is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2007 after testing.

The conversion is part of a continuing effort to use technology to transform the Navy as its roles change, said Toti, assistant chief of staff for requirements for the commander of the Navy's submarine forces.

"Transformation isn't just about buying more stuff," Toti told reporters aboard the docked submarine. "Transformation is about using the things we already have in ways nobody dreamed of."

Conversion work began in November on the USS Ohio at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. The USS Michigan and USS Georgia are slated to begin conversion in 2004.

The cost of converting and refueling all four subs is being reviewed but is roughly \$3.8 billion, Toti said.

Critics argue that the money would be better spent developing new weapons and attack submarines. The subs, however, will have enough nuclear power to last at least 20 more years, and the Navy figured it would be cheaper to convert them than to create something new. Toti estimated it would cost about \$12 billion to build four new subs.



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To:

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*"No matter where you travel, when you meet a guy who's been...  
There's an instant kind of friendship 'cause we're brothers of the 'phin."*  
— Robert Reed, G.W. Carver (SSBN-656)

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*("Commander"—from page 1)*

National Secretary and several of us participated in the National Convention in Duluth.

The annual parade in Auburn had the largest participation of Subvets we've ever seen. Don Sass got the Sub Amateur Radio club going down on the Foxtrot, which is being whipped into shape by the COBRA COB, Dave Goodson. On a more somber note, we said good-bye to several fine shipmates as Chuck Piper and Ernie Walk departed on their eternal patrols.

Now, we're about to hold our annual business meeting and elect officers for 2003. John Mansfield has to step aside as Base Secretary because he is Base Commander of SSB and there is a national C&B

article prohibiting base officer positions in more than one base. We've been very fortunate to have John in that position and I very much appreciate his service as Secretary. Fortunately, Charlie Ryan has stepped up to run for Base Secretary.

Bob Oppe is running unopposed for Senior Vice Commander, as is Jim Harper for Treasurer. No one has stood for Base Commander to date, so I guess you're stuck with me again for another year.

In the new Junior Vice Commander position, two shipmates are running and they both are excellent choices for the position. Ric Hedman and Peter McCafferty both have tossed their hats into the ring and it's one of those cases where you'd want

them BOTH to win. But, only one can, and I hope and believe the runner up will continue to stay active and contribute to the quality of our base.

I think Seattle Base bubbleheads are some of the very best in the whole USSVI organization. When the call came to support the Charitable Foundation, our members were very generous and far exceeded the donations of most other bases. I feel good about that and I hope you do as well.

In 2003, I hope you find all your expectations exceeded and your lives are full and satisfying. I'm proud to call you all my bubblehead shipmates.

Faternally, Pat