



# The Dolphin Brotherhood

## Change of Command

Our overall goal this year was to increase attendance at meetings and membership in the Base. In 2003 our goal was to raise the meeting attendance average to 40 and the membership count from 135 to 160. We achieved our meeting attendance goal and our membership count grew to 145, 15 short of our goal.

We continued our monthly speaker program and it continues to be well received, and we continue to partner with Seattle Submarine Attractions and the Foxtrot sub to provide Docents and light restorative work in exchange for free admission at any time for

any USSVI member, merchandise selling rights in the Store for the Base, and placement of a donation container for our Charitable Foundation.

We led a successful multi-base effort to create a Submariners Memorial at Tahoma National Cemetery. We had a very enjoyable picnic this summer in conjunction with South Sound Base. We participated in several parades, most notably the Auburn and Sedro Wooley Parades, plus several events at Tahoma Cemetery.

We continued to lead the way in participation in our National Charitable Foundation. We had an-

other scholarship winner come from our group when Jennifer Aaby, Shipmates Tom Rice's grand-daughter was chosen in 2003.

We had significant attendance from Seattle Base in Reno at the joint convention.

We started our quarterly dinner meeting program in 2003.

We had a very successful Holland Club induction and Tolling the Boats ceremony on the pier alongside the Russian Submarine, and had a wonderful Christmas luncheon at the Seattle Yacht Club in conjunction with SubVets of WWII, Lockwood Chapter.

*(See "Command" on page 11)*

## Commander's Corner

by Robert Opple, Base Commander



It is with a great deal of honor that I assume the responsibility of USSV

Seattle Base 2004 Commander. I do so knowing that Patrick Householder had the base in great order and the transfer would be seamless. I also know that those elected to office and the returning committee heads are committed in seeing our base continue the excellence established by Patrick and his crew.

My 2004 goals will not only be to continue the excellent tradition already established, but to set goals that will distinguish our base as one of the top in USSVI. You will note that I called the Seattle Base "Our Base". We are all brothers of the dolphin and as such, we know very well that it takes a qualified crew to dive a

*("Corner" - Continued on page 12)*

**Christmas of '43**  
**Lockwood Chapter Submarine**  
**Veterans of World War II &**  
**Seattle Base United States**  
**Submarine Veterans Inc. Joint Holiday**  
**Lunch**

On December 20<sup>th</sup> more than a hundred members of the Puget Sound submarine veteran community (19 World War II submarine veterans, 33 post-WWII submarine veterans plus guests, friends and sponsors) gathered for a truly memorable and historic occasion at the Seattle Yacht Club. The 2003 Submarine Veterans Joint Holiday Lunch brought together Navy veterans whose active duty years spanned from the 1930s through the 1990s. It was an occasion for shipmates to get better acquainted or reacquainted and celebrate and



commemorate U.S. Navy Submarine Service history and traditions.

Subvets were breaking down the door almost 45 minutes before the 11:00 starting time. As members and guests arrived at the beautifully decorated clubhouse, everyone received enameled lapel pins commemorating the occasion, ladies got a gorgeous corsage (courtesy of shipmates Doug and Connie Abramson) and each sailor or couple was photographed in the Club foyer. Then there was an hour-and-a-half of socializing over cocktails in the "Ward Room", overlooking Portage Bay and with 1940s Holidays tunes being played on the piano.

At 12:30, following group photos of the subvets, everyone adjourned to the Fireside

Lounge. Pat Householder and Cliff Nutter made opening remarks, Bob Opplé lead the traditional Tolling of the Boats, Commander Hugh Latham – spectacularly attired in full dress uniform with medals – gave opening remarks on behalf of WWII vets, and Base Chaplain Mike Bennett – also resplendent in miniature medals – provided the prayer. Then followed a scrumptious banquet of London Broiled beef or Salmon Fillets; both food and service at the Seattle Yacht Club were first rate.

After the meal, and before coffee and desert, Charlie Ryan led a round of champagne and sparkling cider toasts to both WWII and Cold War submarine veterans. Then, from 2:00-3:00 a microphone was passed around and many of the World War II combat veterans regaled the gathering with tales of how they spent the Christmas of '43 or other Holiday seasons during the War. Finally, the group sang the Navy Hymn and God Bless America accompanied on the piano by Leilah Smith (Admiral Horton Smith's wife).

The gala ended with distribution of door prizes that included original December 1943 Life, Readers Digest and Saturday Evening Post Magazines; two gift sets of Silver Lake Winery wine donated by shipmate Phil Ward; Caterpillar jackets and insulated mugs donated by shipmate Bob Opplé; and USSVI 2004 calendars.

Everyone agreed this was the Seattle-area submarine veteran social event of the year. And I was especially pleased when one of our WWII combat veteran shipmates approached me as he left the clubhouse and said "This was the best party I've ever been to in my life!" Of such days memories are made.

### Sponsors

Without these people's generous support to Christmas of '43 the event's full ambiance and color would not be possible. Their contributions

are a sign of respect and appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions of World War II and post-World War II submarine veterans. Remember these friends of the submarine veteran community when you need the services their businesses provide.

Joe Baer, Vice President, Bernstein Investment Research and Management and Alliance Capital Management, LP - \$1,000: Bernstein Investment Research and Management provides comprehensive estate and wealth management services for private families and individuals, as well as institutional asset management. Private clients are the firm's central focus, and Bernstein, a unit of Alliance Capital LP, manages \$44 billion for a private clientele that includes some of the nation's most prominent families and individuals. The Seattle Office is at Two Union Square, Suite 4650 in Seattle. To learn about the firm's investment track record, capabilities and services contact Joe Baer at (206) 342-1300.

Edward DeVito III, Vice President, Maust Corporation - \$500: Eddie (USS Plunger, SSN-595) is a new Seattle Base shipmate. Maust Corporation has provided trucking services in Seattle since 1902. They provide freight brokerage services – specializing in frozen and refrigerated cargo - for full truck load or less than truck load transportation between Seattle and any location in the United States. Call Maust Transportation Services at (206) 431-0676 if you need reliable, competitively priced freight services.

Seattle Base, USSVI - \$500

Ann Nichols Foundation - \$500

Richard Hagen, The Hagen Company: Dick was our sponsoring Seattle Yacht Club member. Hagen Company provides commercial real estate brokerage services – purchase, sale, management throughout Puget Sound, with emphasis on the East Side. Dick Hagen can be reached at (425) 455-1005.

— article by Charlie Ryan

District Nine Annual Meeting Apr 30, May 1 & 2, 2004 (Arrive Fri Apr. 30th - Depart Sun May 2nd)

Sheraton Hotel - Portland Airport

8235 Northeast Airport Way

Portland, Oregon

(503) 281-2500

Rooms \$69.00 each includes Cont Breakfast (Non-hotel residents \$ 11.00 each for Breakfast)

Local Attractions:

Hillsboro Evergreen Aviation Museum. <http://www.sprucegoose.org/>

USS Blueback at OMSI <http://www.oms.edu/visit/submarine/>

PT 658 is at the Naval Reserve Center, Portland, OR. PT 659 is at the Oregon Military Mus., Portland, OR. The PT 658 is being restored, using some parts from the '659. Save the PT Boat, Inc. and PT Boat Restoration, Inc. are involved in the restoration. The 659 boat is to be moved to the Fort Vancouver National Historical Site in Vancouver Washington. Here is a link <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mandm/ptboatp1.htm> Look up PT 658. According to Blueback Base Commander, the PT boat is being restored at Swan Island, which is a industrial area in Portland.

May 1st Dist. Meeting at 9 am to Noon (Free time until evening dinner, Hospitality Room open for chewing the fat and sharing hydraulic sandwiches (if you so desire) with your favorite bubbleheads/

May 1st Banquet dinner: 6:30 pm: \$30.00 each

Entree choices:

Pacific Salmon Fresh Boneless Filet' Grilled, served with Tomato Caper Classic Cordon Blue chicken Breast filled with julienne ham, Swiss ches,

London Broil Charbroiled, Thinly Sliced, Served with Burgundy Mushroom Sauce

For the dinner send at note stating the entree you desire for the meal with a check to

Chuck Lytle [cdlytle@juno.com](mailto:cdlytle@juno.com)

2805 SE Balboa Dr.

Vancouver, Wa 98683-9184

For the RV'ers among us:

RV'err Portland Meadows R.V. Park (503) 285-1617

222 NE Gertz Rd.

Portland, Ore

Columbia River RV Park (503) 285-1515

10649 NE I3s Ave.

Portland, Ore

Sheraton Parking lot has NO Hook-ups

For further information:

Contacts : Collie Collins, BC: [Collie@Teleport.com](mailto:Collie@Teleport.com)

Bob Walters: [caiman.ss323@Comcast.net](mailto:caiman.ss323@Comcast.net)

## Little Known Facts

by Bill Wolfe, Editor of Polaris

- ? The first Japanese casualty to American arms during WW-II was an aircraft shot down on Dec. 7th, 1941 by the Tautog.
- ? The first submarine force casualty suffered in WW-II was G. A. Myers, Seaman 2, shot through the right lung when Cachalot was strafed during the Pearl Harbor raid.
- ? The first "live" torpedoes to be fired by a Pearl Harbor submarine was fired by the Triton (Lent), 4 stern tubes fired on the night of Dec. 10, 1941.
- ? The first Pearl Harbor boat to be depth charged was the Plunger (White) on Jan. 4, 1942 - 24 charges.
- ? The first "down the throat" shot was fired by Pompano on Jan. 17, 1942.
- ? The first Japanese warship to be sunk was torpedoed by Gudgeon (Grenfell) at 9 AM on Jan. 27, 1942, the IJN I-173 (SS).
- ? The first major Japanese warship lost to submarines during WW-II was the heavy cruiser Kako which fell victim to S-44 (Moore) on Aug. 10, 1942.
- ? The first submarine to fire on a battleship was Flying Fish (Donaho) Sept. 1942, damaging a Kongo class BB.
- ? The first submarine to fire on an aircraft carrier was Trout (Ramage), Damaging Taiyo, August 28, 1942.
- ? The first Japanese ship to be sunk by gunfire was by Triton (Kirkpatrick), near Marcus Island on Feb. 17, 1942. At the time, Kirkpatrick was the youngest skipper to get command at Pearl.
- ? The first man to die in submarine gun action was Michael Harbin, on Silversides, May 1942.
- ? The first rest camp for submarine crews was established at a military encampment at Malang, in the mountains of Java, 89 miles from Soerabaya. Three days were allotted to submarine crews there in January 1942.
- ? The first TDC (Mark 1) was installed in the Cachalot.
- ? The Plunger was the first boat to sustain an "arduous" depth charge attack and survive.
- ? In September 1936, Cdr. C. A. Lockwood Jr., assumed command of SubDiv 13 composed of the new boats Pike, Porpoise, Shark and Tarpon.
- ? On December 31, 1941, Captain Wilkes evacuated Corregidor on board the Seawolf to establish a new base at Soerabaya, Java. Simultaneously Capt. Fife boarded Swordfish and sailed to Darwin, Australia.
- ? Expressing the view that Japan could not hope to be victorious in a war with the U.S., Admiral Yamamoto was "shanghaied" to the post of Commander of the Combined Fleet (from the Naval Ministry) to thwart a possible assassination at the hands of his many dissenters.
- ? A survivor of the Jap carrier Kaga, at the Battle of Midway, told how some of his shipmates saved themselves by clinging to the air flask of a torpedo fired from Nautilus which hit the carrier and failed to explode, the concussion separating the warhead from the air flask.
- ? LtCdr. Francis White was the only skipper who lost two submarines in combat, the S-39 and the S-44.
- ? The IJN I-176 (Cdr. Kosaburo Yamaguchi) was the only Japanese boat to sink an American submarine (Corvina) during the war.
- ? The last Japanese submarine to be sunk in the Pacific, the I-373, was torpedoed by Spikefish (Monaghan) on the morning of 13 Aug. 1945, in the East China Sea.
- ? As late as July 1945 Japanese guns on the cliffs of Lombok Strait shelled the Loggerhead as she proceeded through the strait on the surface.
- ? In July 1945 Bugara (Schade) operating in the Gulf of Siam, sank 12 junks, 24 schooners, 16 coasters, 3 sea trucks and one naval auxiliary, all by gunfire.
- ? In the early morning hours of June 22, 1945, Barb, (Fluckey) fired a dozen 5-inch rockets into the town of Hokkaido from 5000 yards off shore.
- ? A Japanese prisoner, recovered from a wrecked aircraft by Atule (Mauer) had the following items in his pockets: 7 packs of Jap cigarettes, 1 pack of British cigarettes, calling cards, ration books, club tickets, diary, note book, flight record and two magnetic detector tracers, with notes concerning them, a thick wad of money, a vial of perfume and a number of other personal items.
- ? On the night of 8-9 December 1944, in a coordinated attack with Sea Devil, Redfish heavily damaged the aircraft carrier Hayataka; ten days later she sank the newly built carrier Unryo.
- ? When Robalo was sunk, presumably by a mine, on 26 July 1944, five of her crew swam ashore and were captured by Japanese military police

- and jailed for guerrilla activity. They were evacuated by a Jap destroyer on 15 August and never heard from again.
- ? On 27 Oct. 1944 Rock fired 9 torpedoes at Darter, stranded on Bombay Shoal.
  - ? In Feb. 1943 Tautog (Sieglaff) laid mines off Balikpapan, Borneo. In April 1944, the Jap destroyer Amagiri struck one of these mines and sank. This was the same destroyer which rammed the PT-109, commanded by J.F. Kennedy.
  - ? The first boat to be equipped with QLA sonar for locating mines, was Tinosa.
  - ? When Admiral Nimitz assumed command of the Pacific Fleet in Jan. 1942, he raised his flag on the submarine Grayling. Relinquishing command nearly four years later, he lowered his flag on the submarine Menhaden.
  - ? America's first Japanese POW was sub-Lieut. Sakamaki, captured when his midget submarine, launched from the I-18, struck a reef in Kaneohe Bay and he swam ashore and surrendered.
  - ? The second Japanese submarine sunk, a midget caught inside Pearl Harbor and sunk by the sea-plane tender Curtiss, was later raised. Too badly damaged for intricate examination, it was used as fill-in material in the construction of a new pier at the submarine base.
  - ? During 520 war patrols in 1944, submarines fired 6,092 torpedoes, more than in 1942-43 combined (5,379).
  - ? Statistically it took 8 torpedoes to sink a ship in 1942, 11.7 in 1943, 10 in 1944.
  - ? During 1944, 117 navy and air force personnel were rescued by U.S. Subs; The Tang (O'Kane) picked up 22 for the leader in this category.
  - ? During 1944 Japan lost 56 submarine, 7 to U.S. Submarines.
  - ? On Nov. 21, 1944, Sealion II (Reich) fired a salvo of fish at each of two BB's, the Kongo and Haruna. The Kongo was hit and sunk, but the DD Urakazi intercepted the fish meant for Haruna and was instantly sunk.
  - ? Message to all submarines on 13 April 1944: "Until further notice give fleet destroyers priority over maru types as targets for submarine attacks.
  - ? During 1944 U. S. submarines sank 1 BB, 7 Cvs, 2 CA's, 7 CL's, 3 DD's and 7 SS's of the Japanese navy.
  - ? So numerous were submarine attacks on the Singapore-to-Empire trade routes in 1944 that a common saying in Singapore was that "one could walk from Singapore to Tokyo on American periscopes.
  - ? Emperor Hirohito, upon learning of the Bataan death march at the conclusion of the war, stripped General Homma, the responsible commander, of his medals and decorations.
  - ? When the loss of Saipan was announced to the Japanese people on July 18, 1944, Prime Minister Tojo and his entire cabinet resigned.
  - ? On Feb. 22, 1945 the Flounder fired four fish at a Jap patrol boat. Two of the fish ran in a circle, causing Flounder to maneuver frantically to avoid disaster. On the following day she collided with Hoe.
  - ? The Flounder (Stevens) sank the only German U-boat that was credited to U.S. Submarines in the Pacific.
  - ? The last of the German commerce raiders, the Michael, was sunk by Tarpon (Wogan) on Oct. 18, 1943 while enroute to a Japanese port.
  - ? On December 28th the Dace (Cole) torpedoed the Japanese collier Nozaki, the last ship to be sunk in 1944.
  - ? The last large merchantman to be sunk by submarine during WW-II was the Hokozaki Maru, sunk March 19, 1945 by Balao (Worthington).
  - ? The last Japanese warship afloat in the South Pacific, the light cruiser Isuzu, was sunk by Charr (Boyle) after she was previously hit and badly damaged by Gabilan (Parham)
  - ? The Flasher sank more tankers than any other submarine.
  - ? The largest merchant ship sunk by submarines during WWII, the Tonan Maru #2 was sunk by Pintado (Clarey) on 22 August 1944.
  - ? Except for those officers who received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Commander Davenport was the most decorated man of the war.
  - ? During 1944, 14% of the CO's were relieved for non-productivity, 30% in 1942 and 14% in 1943.
  - ? A total of 7 reserve officers achieved command of a fleet submarine in WW-II

**Binnacle List**

None to report this issue!



Jennifer Jameson, (Russian Foxtrot) Operation Manager, donating \$50.00 to Pat Householder for the USSV Charitable Foundation on behalf of Seattle Submarine Attractions during Christmas 2003.

**2004 Seattle Base Officers and Chairs**

Commander:	Bob Opple	425-747-1247
Sr. Vice Commander:	Karl "Dutch" Krompholtz	425-201-6461
Jr. Vice Commander:	Ric Hedman	206-335-7424
Secretary:	Charlie Ryan	206-525-0935
Treasurer:	Jim Harper	425-357-6485
Membership Chair:	Peter McCafferty	206 784-8920
Ceremonies Chair:	Don Masoero	253 941-4133
Base Chaplain:	Don Smith/Mike Bennett	
Chief of the Boat:	Ted Taylor	425-228-3764
Newsletter Editor:	Don Gentry	425-227-5410
Base Storekeeper	Bill Giese	425-355-5590
Webmaster	Ric Hedman	206-335-7424
Foxtrot COB	Dave Goodson	425-823-3507

**Why English?**

An officer in the U.S. Naval reserve was attending a conference that included admirals from both the U.S. Navy and the French Navy. At a cocktail reception, he found himself in a small group that included personnel from both navies. The French admiral started complaining that whereas Europeans learned many languages, Americans learned only English. He then asked: "Why is it that we have to speak English in these conferences rather than you speak French?"

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied: "Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you would not have to speak in German." The group became silent.

**Upcoming Meetings—Seattle Base**

<b>Location: VFW Hall, Redmond</b>	
<b>6:30 Social Gathering</b>	<b>7:00—10:00 pm Mtg</b>
Wed - Feb 18th, 2004	Speaker, Dick Phillips: Bring the Tusk Home!

**Welcome Aboard to New Crewmembers**

Scott Milne	Daniel Webster 1/68
Robin Johnstone	Daniel Boone

**Participate in a Seattle Mariners Event!**

**From Don Masoero, Ceremonies Chair:** VFW supporting a pre baseball event on April 7th and they are asking for Subvets to participate. The game is \$10.00 and is Mariners against Anaheim. We'd have to purchase a block of 40 tickets.

If you are interested, contact Don at dmsea-[bee@comcast.net](mailto:bee@comcast.net) or 253-94194133 - Ext 2. The ceremony includes the circling of the field with veterans, so there may be the possibility that we would be on the field prior to the game.

## News from the Foxtrot Amateur Radio Club (FARC)

By Don Sass

Although we have not been as active as I and others would like to see operating from the Foxtrot, over the past year, we have made some interesting contacts with other amateur stations around the world. I brought some of the cards that we have received to the last meeting of the USSVI Seattle Base for show and tell. Most of the members of this group are still in the working class and can only get there on weekends, which limits our time there, however, we will continue to actively operate the station and make improvements as time and weather permit. Our station is pretty well known in the local amateur community, as well as with the Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association (SVARA). This group is on the air everyday except Sundays with

anywhere from 20-50 members checking in from all over the US. Occasionally, there are special event or museum ships other than submarines that check in. Examples would be the Missouri, Yorktown and the Smithsonian. Sometimes, we even get foreign museum ships to check in when band conditions are good.

One event that we like to work are the Submarines On the Air contest the last weekend in April, where lot's of museum submarines get on to see how many contacts they can make, especially with the other museum submarines. Almost all of these subs have an amateur radio station aboard. I have put together a list here of the US museum submarines and their web sites.

Boat Name	Web Site
Clamagore	<a href="http://home.sc.rr.com/tom/">http://home.sc.rr.com/tom/</a>
Blueback	<a href="http://www.oms.edu/visit/submarine/">www.oms.edu/visit/submarine/</a>
Cavalla	<a href="http://www.cavalla.org/">www.cavalla.org/</a>
Batfish	<a href="http://www.ussbatfish.com/">www.ussbatfish.com/</a>
Torsk	<a href="http://www.usstorsk.org/">www.usstorsk.org/</a>
Requin	<a href="http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/exhibits/requin.asp">www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/exhibits/requin.asp</a>
Bowfin	<a href="http://www.bowfin.org/website/index.cfm">www.bowfin.org/website/index.cfm</a>
Pampanito	<a href="http://www.maritime.org/pamphome.htm">www.maritime.org/pamphome.htm</a>
Nautilus	<a href="http://www.ussnautilus.org/">www.ussnautilus.org/</a>
Cod	<a href="http://www.usscod.org/">www.usscod.org/</a>
Albacore	<a href="http://www.portsmouthnh.com/harbourtrail/albacore.html">www.portsmouthnh.com/harbourtrail/albacore.html</a>
Cobia	<a href="http://www.wimaritimemuseum.org/">www.wimaritimemuseum.org/</a>
Growler	<a href="http://www.wa3key.com/growler.html">www.wa3key.com/growler.html</a>
Ling	<a href="http://www.njnm.com/">www.njnm.com/</a>
Silversides	<a href="http://www.silversides.org/">www.silversides.org/</a>
Narwhal	<a href="http://www.nssdc.us/">www.nssdc.us/</a>
Razorback	<a href="http://www.diodon349.com/US_Sub/uss_razorback_ss394_returns_to_america.htm">www.diodon349.com/US_Sub/uss_razorback_ss394_returns_to_america.htm</a>
Becuna	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/becuna.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/becuna.htm</a>
Croaker	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/croaker.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/croaker.htm</a>
Drum	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/drum.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/drum.htm</a>
Lionfish	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/lionfish.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/lionfish.htm</a>
Marlin	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/marlin.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/marlin.htm</a>
German U Boat	<a href="http://hnsa.org/ships/u505.htm">http://hnsa.org/ships/u505.htm</a>

## Biographies of Holland Club Members Inducted on 20 September 2003

*Regrettably, there wasn't room for these bio's last issue so here several—more to come next issue. They were prepared by Charlie Ryan, Seattle Base Secretary — Ed.*

### **Fred Ensslin (qualified USS O-10 in 1941)**

In February 1941, one day after his seventeenth birthday, Fred Ensslin enlisted in the Navy. He went to boot camp at Newport, RI and completed submarine school at New London. On 1 December 1941, just six days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor while he was still only 17 years old, Fred earned his dolphins on submarine O-10, a training vessel commissioned in 1918 that had patrolled the Atlantic during World War I.

Fred joined the crew of the brand new USS Greenling (SS-213) in January 1942. Greenling transited to the Pacific and in April departed Pearl Harbor on her initial war patrol. Greenling's first kill occurred 4 May when she torpedoed the cargo ship *Kinjosan Maru*, breaking her in two. Fred completed three war patrols on Greenling during which she sank or damaged at least eleven Japanese ships with torpedoes or deck guns, withstood destroyer and aircraft attack and was awarded one of the earliest Presidential Unit Citations. During World War II it was common practice to disperse combat-proven veterans like Fred among new submarines as they arrived in the war zone. After 1942 Fred transferred to USS Sawfish (SS-276) for two war patrols, USS Snook (SS-279) for three war patrols and finally joined USS Cabezon (SS-334) for a final war patrol in the summer of 1945.

Among Fred's most vivid combat memories are capturing a POW from one of the ships Greenling sank who later provided valuable intelligence about Japanese strength on islands that were to be invaded. Less pleasantly he recalls shipmates being shot by Japanese adversaries during a surface gun battle and enduring depth charge counterattacks on several occasions after sinking Japanese ships.

Cabezon and Fred stayed in the western Pacific after the war ended. Having survived nine dangerous war patrols, Fred contracted malaria

while operating out of the Philippines and was medically discharged in December 1946 as a First Class Gunners Mate.

### **John McFarland (qualified USS Besugo in 1944)**

John McFarland joined the Navy in 1943. He completed boot camp at Sand Point, ID, and then reported aboard USS Besugo (SS-321) as an Electrician's Mate while she was still under construction. John became a Plank Owner and qualified in submarines shortly after Besugo was commissioned June 1944.

From September 1944 through July 1945, John completed five war patrols on Besugo. He and his shipmates pursued the enemy through Bungo and Makassar Straits, the Java Sea and the South China Sea. On those patrols Besugo sank five enemy ships, including a strategically important large oil tanker. Perhaps Besugo's most distinctive victory occurred 23 April 1945 when she sank the German submarine U-183 in the Java Sea.

John's most unforgettable submarine experience was enduring a depth charge attack by three Japanese destroyers. Besugo was detected near the Philippines while operating in just 80' of water and subjected to a near-fatal barrage.

After the War John served with an evaluation crew that conducted tests on the Japanese submarine I-400, which the U.S. Navy sailed back from Japan and was operating out of Pearl Harbor. At 5,500 tons, I-400 was the largest submarine ever built until USS Triton was commissioned in 1959.

John went on to serve on other submarines and participated as an advisor in constructing and opening the Turkish submarine base at Gulcuk. That base became the final home port for several American diesel submarines transferred to our NATO ally, some of which are still in service.

John completed 25 years of service to his country and retired from active Navy duty in 1967 as Chief Electrician's Mate.



### **Victor Horgan (qualified USS Segundo in early 1945)**

Victor Horgan joined the Navy in 1940 as an NROTC Cadet at the University of Washington. He and his NROTC classmates were called to active duty in 1942. Vic volunteered for submarine service, and after initial training in San Diego completed Submarine School at New London.

In 1944 Vic headed for the Pacific war zone. He flew by PBY seaplane to a remote submarine tender at Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Within two days he was assigned to USS Segundo (SS-398) and departed on his first war patrol in November 1944. The evening of 6 December Segundo, in company with USS Trepan and USS Razorback, sighted an escorted convoy of seven Japanese merchant ships between Luzon Strait and the South China Sea. Before the dawn of 7 December 1944, Segundo and her sisters sent all seven to the bottom of the Pacific.

Vic qualified in submarines on his second war patrol and stayed on Segundo the rest of the war. During Segundo's fourth war patrol the ceasefire was announced, and Segundo was ordered to Tokyo Bay. Enroute Segundo detected a Japanese submarine that turned out to be the giant I-401. After attempting to evade Segundo, I-401 allowed some of the Americans to board her as a prize crew. The two submarines proceeded together and when Segundo passed control of I-401 to a US destroyer at dawn on 31 August the famous Japanese warship flew an American flag. Vic and Segundo continued into Tokyo Bay where they anchored with 11 other fleet boats at a place of honor near USS Missouri to witness the Japanese surrender.

Returning stateside, Segundo called at several Northwest ports, including Olympia and Seattle. After sailing in Segundo for another three-month deployment to Australia and China in 1946, Vic left naval service with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

### **Ralph Sterley (qualified USS Sea Owl early in 1945)**

Ralph Sterley joined the Navy in August 1943 and completed boot camp at Farragut Naval Station in Idaho. Slated to be a Radio Technician – later know Electronic Technicians Mate – John trained in the most advanced electronic theory, radio, radar and sonar maintenance and then volunteered for submarines. Upon completion of additional radio training in New London he headed for the Pacific.

Ralph went by troop transport to Pearl Harbor and then hitched a ride on a submarine tender to recently-liberated Guam, where Japanese soldiers still held out in the jungle. There he served as relief crew on submarines refitting between patrols. Ralph soon joined USS Sea Owl (SS-405) where he earned his dolphins in early 1945.

During his first war patrol Ralph was credited with being the first to spot an enemy submarine on radar as she slipped into port at Japanese-held Wake Island. Early on the morning of 18 April Sea Owl sunk the RO-35 class Japanese submarine at her moorage. On Ralph's second war patrol Sea Owl torpedoed a Japanese destroyer in her ammunition magazine, instantly vaporizing the warship. Japanese destroyers and patrol craft then vengefully dropped 84 depth charges during the following 14 hours before Sea Owl, critically low on oxygen, finally managed to escape.

Ralph earned a bottle of whiskey from Sea Owl's executive officer for being the first man to spot the enemy submarine off Wake Island. Thinking the whiskey would be awarded immediately, he chose to raffle it off among his shipmates, which fetched Ralph a pretty penny. It was only after the raffle was complete that the disappointed winner found out he couldn't get the whiskey until Sea Owl returned to port.

Ralph was enjoying rest camp at the famous Royal Hawaiian Hotel when the war ended. Sea Owl returned to the States by way of Panama, Galveston, Tampa and, eventually, New London, where Ralph was discharged in April 1946 as a Second Class Electronic Technicians Mate.

## Thomas G. Rice, Holland Club Inductee

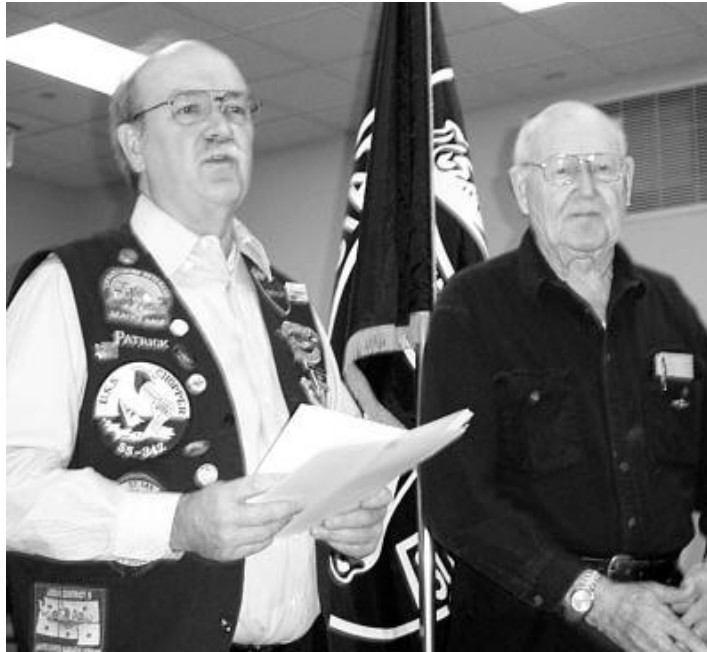
Our newest Holland Club member was honored at the January meeting and inducted into the Holland Club. Tom Rice joined the Navy in 1934 because he didn't see much future in his \$0.19 per hour Cincinnati foundry job. While at the Norfolk boot camp he visited a submarine and was so impressed with the chow and how well the crew treated him that he volunteered for sub duty.

After Electrician school and Submarine School at New London, Tom went to the sub tender USS Beaver in Hawaii. Soon he transferred to S-23 where he earned his Dolphins in 1935.

Following a stint on S-22, Tom returned to New London and became a plankowner on USS Skipjack (SS-184) in June 1938. After shakedown and training Skipjack went to the Philippines in late 1941, where, on 7 December she was undergoing repairs at the Cavite Navy Yard. On 9 December Skipjack departed Manila on her first war patrol. On Christmas Day she fired three torpedoes without success at an enemy aircraft carrier and destroyer. Then on 3 January she fired three torpedoes at an enemy submarine, resulting in two explosions, but a sinking could not be confirmed.

En route to Australia, Skipjack refueled at a Dutch base on Borneo. Tom said Skipjack remained submerged outside the harbor during the day to avoid Japanese planes that attacked daily. Even more dangerous was a Dutch-laid minefield designed to pro-

tect the harbor. It had already sunk a Dutch submarine attempting to make it to the base. When a Dutch harbor pilot came aboard Skipjack that night it turned out he wasn't sure how to safely get through the minefield and was drunk to boot. Desperate for fuel the captain entered the harbor as everyone held their breath. A lot of the crew went ashore during refueling and many – but surely not Tom – returned drunk on Heineken. The captain was furious because there were barely enough sober sailors to get Skipjack back through the minefield and safely submerged again before daybreak.



Operating from Australia Tom completed six war patrols on Skipjack, during which several Japanese ships were sunk and the crew received depth

charge counter attacks. Having made Chief with just one hash mark – a so-called "Tojo Chief" – Tom was awarded a Bronze Star with V device and went on to become warrant officer and then a commissioned officer. The remainder of Tom's WWII service was on USS Seal (SS-183), in which he completed another four war patrols with additional Japanese ship sinkings, photo reconnaissance of amphibious landing sites and aircrew lifeguard duty.

Tom served in more submarine billets after the War including USS Spinax (SS 489) and retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 1964 after 30 years of service to his country. He and wife Lola make their home in Everett.

## 2003 Base Commander's Awards

We've have many shipmates & their spouses who make significant contributions to Seattle Base. Men like Jim Harper, who quietly works in the background making sure our finances are in order and our member records are straight with the National Office. Or Doug Abramson, who always helps out with chow for picnics and events, drives his vintage car in parades and, along with wife Connie, made the beautiful wreath for our tolling Ceremony and the lovely flowers for the ladies at the Christmas Luncheon.

And how about George Debo, who always adds a spark to our gatherings, takes on projects when asked, and financially supports our efforts where he sees the need. Phil Ward is another who contributes time, money and hard work to our Base Events and operations. Don Gentry is another, whose single handed hard work produces our bi-monthly newsletter. Cliff Nutter is always there to lend a hand, as is Robbie Robertson, our Base COB Ted Taylor, Cobra COB Dave Goodson, Don Masoero, Don Smith and Karl Krompholz, to name a few.

The list goes on and on, but I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our favorite Spook and NQP; Charlie Ryan and his service to Seattle Base.

Charlie always makes himself available to help whenever help is needed. Not only is he Secretary for USSVI Seattle, but he is VP for Lockwood Chapter SVWWII as well. Always cheerful and helpful, he 'sweats the small stuff' and has made my job much easier this year, and I very much appreciate his hard work.

Finally, for those who don't know, Charlie was the brains and muscle behind most of the planning and execution of the Christmas Party we held at the Seattle Yacht Club. He

REALLY went all out and made it a event we'll not soon forget.

For his hard work and dedication to our Subvets of all ages, I'm awarding Charlie Ryan our 2003 Base Commander's Award and a \$50.00 gift certificate to "McCormicks Seafood Restaurant in appreciation of his service.

Next time you see Charlie, buy him a beer and tell him "Thanks"! He deserves it, even if he IS a NQP.

Patrick Householder  
2003 Base Commander

*("Command" - Continued from page 1)*

On a personal note, during my tenure as Seattle Base Commander, I very much appreciate all the assistance and encouragement given me by so many members of Seattle Base, and I hope and expect that you will join with me and do the same for our 2004 Base Commander Bob Oppe. Bob has many good ideas and lots of energy. I have no doubt that he will take our base to an even higher level than you have already achieved under my watch.

Now, I take my place on the 'retired rooster' perch alongside my predecessor, Cliff Nutter. I couldn't ask for better company and both of us will continue to boost and support our splendid group of Submarine Veterans in every way we can.

Fraternally,

Patrick Householder  
Immediate Past Commander, Seattle Base

### On Television

Cliff Nutter informs us that the History Channel's "Sea Detective" series will air an episode entitled "Guam." The episode will include interviews with some crew (Ike Peterson) from the USS Snapper SS-185—stay tuned!

USSVI Seattle Base  
c/o Robert Oppe  
4607 142nd PI SE  
Bellevue, WA 98006

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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boat. One person cannot do it by himself and I believe the same is true in the operation of the Seattle Base. Your input, recommendations, suggestions will very much be appreciated.

I have listed several objectives I would like to work on through the year. As we settle into our new roles, I am sure that we will add and modify this list. Please feel free to comment and make any suggestions.

? To continue to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country and to

- pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government.
- ? Increase the membership by 15% to 165.
- ? Assure that the meetings are educational, informative and fun to come to. When possible, have an outside speaker.
- ? Schedule one and possibly two trips to visit submarines (How about the Razorback?).
- ? Schedule a 2004 Tolling of the Boats Ceremony.
- ? Develop a plan for base support of the Russian Cobra.
- ? Explore the possibility of having our own display boat on pier 48?

- ? Increase the involvement in the community by presenting programs to schools, associations and interested parties. Offer a speaker service.
- ? With other bases, participate in parades, picnics, baseball games and other sporting events. Co-sponsor with the Lockwood base the 2004 Christmas luncheon etc.

Please send me your thoughts and ideas if there are additional items you would like to see added to the list. I look forward to working with all of you.

Respectfully,  
Robert Oppe