



# HAMPTON ROADS BASE

## ≈ CURRENTS ≈

Website Address: <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org>

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01 March 2020

Issue No: 20-003

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### Our Creed:

***To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country.***

***That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.***

***In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.***

***The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.***

***The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."***

### From the Acting Base

#### Commander

#### Shipmates:

I regret to inform all that due to Ted's recovery I am acting as your base commander. If you have any concerns, please call or email me.



I have been in contact with the COMSUBLANT CMC in regards to the Sailor of the Year. No firm plans have been set yet, but we are looking at the middle of March. We still don't have firm plans on the sub ball yet. The commissioning of the Delaware and other commitments for the Virginia Beach convention center have prevented firm plans and location for the sub ball. I suspect that the sub ball will be in May. Emails will come out to keep you up to date.

Fran has been doing a great job with the storekeeper items. If you want any sub items you can email Fran or bring your list to the meeting.

V/R Gary



## *From the Editor*

Some, but not all, of you know that Craig Werner is on the binnacle list. At last report he is home but will be returning to the hospital this week. He expects to be out of commission for the next couple of months

Please join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

That said, here are a few bullet items that I think Craig would cover:

- Sailor of the Year is upcoming (all TBD).
- WWII Memorial Ceremony and the Hall-of-Fame Boat Ceremony, honoring the USS SPADEFISH, are coming on 21 May.
- The Annual Base Individual Sponsor Program (for 2020) is still available for anyone who wishes to support the Base.
- The Base is running the Life Dues by Installments program again this year.
- Applications for the HRB 2020 – 2021 Scholastic Scholarship must be submitted no later than 15-APRIL.
- Contact person(s) for the above activities are TBD.

Again, keep Craig, Ted and the rest of the binnacle list in your prayers.

V/R Marlin

## *Boats Lost in March*

**We remember.... We Honor**



**USS F-4 (Skate) (SS 23):** Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater in to the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

### **USS H-1 (Seawolf) (SS-28):**



Lost 26 March 1920 while being towed by USS Vestal. On March 12, Seawolf ran aground

about 400 yards off of Santa Margarita Island, Baja California. Due to the ship's condition and rough sea, the CO, LCDR James Webb, ordered the ship to be abandoned and the crew to make for shore. Of the crew of 25, the CO and three other men were lost.

### **USS Perch (SS 176):**



Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her first war patrol. She survived two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 61 officers and men taken prisoner, 55 survived the

war and six died as POWs. **Late Hampton Roads Base member Turk Tuner was among the POWs**

### **USS Grampus (SS 207):**



Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging two Japanese destroyers.



**USS Triton (SS 201):** Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with three Japanese destroyers. Triton was the first boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine, and a destroyer.



**USS Tullibee (SS 284):** Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her fourth war patrol. It is believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



**USS Kete (SS 369):** Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her second war patrol. She was probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.



**USS Trigger (SS 237):** Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese anti-submarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.



## **February Guest Speaker**

Last year we ran an article on R.O. Bradford and his work with the Tidewater Wooden Boat Workshop (TWBW). R.O. arranged for the founder and Executive Director, Tom Brandl to give us a presentation.

Mr. Brandl, a USNA Alumnae ('79) and 29-year USMC officer, gave an impressive briefing on the mission and accomplishments of TWBW since its founding in 2014. In short, TWBW mission is to teach as many youths as possible life skills through building wooden boats and other aquatic activities.

Based near the Elizabeth River waterfront, TWBW serves the local youth and those from farther afield. After-school workshops extend into the early evenings as STEM academics are taught and practical tool use transforms hunks of wood into sleek and useful boats.

Some of the finished boats are donated to other charitable organizations while others are sold to help offset expenses.

Speaking of money, we passed the hat and donated over 200 dollars to TWBW after Mr. Brindl's presentation.



**R. O. Bradford & Tom Brindl (l-r)**

For more information, TWBW has a website and Facebook page.

<https://twbw.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Tidewater-Wooden-Boat-Workshop-348147892060840>







### Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) News

On 18 February the HRB crew visited three boys and three girls at NMC-P. The kids' ages ranged from eighteen days to 9 years. The crew consisted of George Williams, Marlin Boyle, Rebecca Kingsley, Lynn Moran, Joe Demnicki, Lynn Merriman, Bob McClaren and Sid Sidlovski. All are pictured below along with our host Chris Brogan. (between Joe and Lynn).

Please note that even though Chris Brogan was not a submariner per se, he made a few runs as one of those guys who spent their time aboard in Radio listening to whatever they listened to.



This photo was taken by Meaghan, Chris's volunteer assistant.

#### UPCOMING VISITS:

24 March, 21 April and 19 May



### HRB March Birthdays

- 1: Bob Saenz
- 2: Mike Amann
- 6: Dave Coffield, Jay Stokes
- 9: Larry Hayes, Jenny Dugan
- 12: John Donaldson, Roy Vess
- 14: Dave Bridges
- 15: Dennis Olson
- 17: Pat Urello
- 19: Joe Demnicki
- 22: Barry Porter
- 26: Bud Warren
- 27: Ron Pervere, Ed Cirucci, Jake Melton, Carl Boyd
- 30: Eric Strickland



### Welcome Aboard

At our February meeting **two** new members joined us.

STSCS(SS) Hamilton Felt qualified when aboard USS Georgia (SSBN-729) in 2000.



Since Georgia, has served on USS Miami (SSN-755), USS Bremerton (SSN-698), USS Jefferson City (SSN-759), USS Greenville (SSN-772) and is currently the COB on USS New Jersey (SSN-756).

Fist is ETC(SS) Michael Chagnon qualified when aboard USS Guardfish (SSN-612) in 1975.





Since then he has ridden USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23) and USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720). He is currently assigned to USS New Jersey (SSN-756).

## Upcoming Events

### March 2020

?? SOY (location also TBD)

21: Base Meeting

24: KAP(SS) 4 KIDS(SS) @NMCP

### April 2020

15: NSL Meeting

18: Base Meeting

21: KAP(SS) 4 KIDS(SS) @NMCP

### May 2020

?: Sub Ball (location also TBD)

16: Base Meeting / Holland Club Induction

19: KAP(SS) 4 KIDS(SS) @NMCP

21: WWII Memorial & Hall of Fame

24: Scorpion Memorial

25: 136<sup>th</sup> Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

### June 2020.

17: NSL Meeting

20: Base Meeting/Picnic/Scholarship Announcement

2: KAP(SS) 4 KIDS(SS) @NMCP

## March Historic Events

**Mar 03 1776** - Under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins and Marine Capt. Samuel Nicholas, the Continental Navy makes the first American amphibious landing operation at New Providence, Bahamas, and captures the fort for much needed ordnance and gunpowder.

**Mar 27 1794** - President George Washington signs "An act to provide a naval armament" authorizing the construction of six frigates: United States, Constellation, Constitution, Chesapeake, Congress, and President.



USS CONSTITUTION

**Mar 20 1912** - USS Skipjack (SS-24), the first US submarine with diesel engines, was running on the surface of Hampton Roads when Fireman W.T. Walsh lost his footing and fell overboard. Walsh, a non-swimmer was quickly foundering. Upon seeing Walsh's plight, the Commanding Officer, LT Chester A. Nimitz, dove in to the rescue. Due to Walsh's panic and an outgoing tide, return to the Skipjack was not possible. Nimitz kept both afloat until they were picked up by a boat from the battleship North Dakota. (from 'The Admirals' by Walter T. Bornmen)



**Mar 03 1942** - USS Perch (SS 176), after being depth-charged and irreparably damaged by Japanese destroyers Ushio and Sazanami, is scuttled by her crew in the Java Sea. All hands survive but are taken prisoner.

***Late HRB Member Turk Turner was one of those who endured more than three years of captivity.***

**Mar 13 1944 -| USS Sand Lance (SS-381):** Sand Lance came up to periscope depth and found herself in the midst of a Japanese convoy, consisting of 5 merchantmen and 3 heavily armed warships. Sand Lance had only 6 torpedoes remaining, but she made them count. At least 2 of the ships went to the bottom, light cruiser Tatsuta and cargoman Kokuyo Maru, carrying over 1,000 enemy troops. For her success, Sand Lance underwent a 16-hour, 100 depth charge pounding from the accompanying destroyers.

**Mar 08 1961-** USS Patrick Henry (SSBN 599): When Patrick Henry surfaced off Holy Loch, Scotland, she had set a record for her type, cruising submerged 66 days and 22 hours.



## **USWN ARTICLES**

### **Effort underway to save USS Bremerton sail as monument**

**Josh Farley, Kitsap Sun, February. 6**

**BREMERTON** — Former Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent is spearheading an effort by the local chapter of the Navy League to save the sail and rudder of the city's namesake submarine.

The USS Bremerton, a fast-attack submarine that came to Sinclair Inlet in 2018 following a 37-year career at sea, awaits inactivation and decommissioning at the Puget

Sound Naval Shipyard. Lent and others hope there's time to lobby Navy leaders to preserve its sail and rudder as a point of pride for the city.

"We want people to see it — we think it's a pretty important legacy for the city," said Lent, mayor from 2009 to 2017 and a longtime member of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League. "We can get it, and it will be a big celebration."

But the effort is only in its infancy. The league will have to get permission from the Navy to attain the sail and rudder, find a spot in the community and raise what is likely to be millions of dollars to pull it off.

"This will take the efforts of many people and government agencies beyond the Navy League to make this happen," said David Ellingson, the league chapter's incoming president, in his installation remarks.

Lent points out the local Navy League, which advocates for and provides education to the public about the nation's sea services, successfully raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to place a Lone Sailor statue on the Bremerton Marina's breakwater. But not every effort to save a sub's sails have been successful. For instance, while \$500,000 was raised for a museum to house the USS Narwhal on the Ohio River in Newport, Kentucky, the effort needed \$2 million and was abandoned in 2006, according to The Cincinnati Post. The Narwhal is currently being recycled at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Kitsap County already has three submarine sails preserved. The sail of the USS Parche, famous for its secret missions during the Cold War, sits outside the Puget Sound Navy Museum. The sail of the USS Woodrow Wilson is positioned at Deterrent Park on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The sail of the USS Sturgeon, an early nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, is permanently stationed at the Naval Undersea Museum at Keyport.

Should it get the money and the Navy's blessing for another, the Navy League will have to find a spot.





Evergreen-Rotary Park, the city's most popular green space, has been floated as a possibility and was mentioned in Ellingson's remarks.

But Bremerton Mayor Greg Wheeler doesn't believe Evergreen-Rotary Park is the right place for the sub sail.

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## **The Navy Is Arming Attack Submarines With High Energy Lasers**

**HL Sutton, Forbes, February 9**

The U.S. Navy's Virginia Class attack submarines are formidable weapons platforms. They carry advanced-capability (ADCAP) torpedoes and Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles. But apparently this is not enough. They are to be the first subs in the world armed with a powerful laser as well.

Documents suggest that the High Energy Laser (HEL) could be incredibly powerful, around 300 kilowatts. And eventually be up to 500 kilowatts. The power will come from the submarine's nuclear reactor which has a capacity of 30 megawatts. And there are indications that it may already have been tested using a towed power generator instead.

It is likely to be incorporated into the periscope system of the submarine. The periscope mast, nowadays called a Photonics mast, is already a highly sophisticated device. It isn't like periscopes of old where the captain looked directly through it. Instead it has an array of cameras which can snap high resolution photos in 360 degrees. So the submarine only has to put the mast up for a fleeting moment to get full all-round awareness. With the laser, if it can see it, it can kill it.

It is unclear why the Navy wants to fit a laser to submarines. One of the possible uses will be as a last-ditch defense against aircraft such as drones and anti-submarine helicopters. Traditionally submarines were

equipped with machine guns to defend against air attack when they were on the surface. But postwar submarines spend very little time on the surface. The U.S. Navy hasn't built subs with guns for around 70 years.

During the Cold War the British developed the Submarine Launched Airflight Missile, or SLAM. This used a mast with an optical sensor and 6 Blowpipe missiles which could be slaved to the periscope. The missiles had a very short range but could engage enemy helicopters. SLAM was to equip Israeli submarines but it was

ultimately never fitted. Today the German Interactive Defense and Attack System (IDAS) uses missiles fired from the torpedo tube to engage aircraft.

But the high energy laser could have some advantages over missiles. The submarine will only have to reveal itself briefly to zap the threat. And because the laser travels at the speed of light it is very difficult to defend against. Low cost drones are proliferating and submarines operating inshore may face swarms of them. A laser would be cheaper per-kill and not run out of ammunition in the way that a missile system would.

The laser may also be intended for swarms of speed boats such as those used by Iran and North Korea. Individually these are not worth expending torpedoes on and also move very fast which makes torpedo attacks harder. In the old days submarines would surface and use their deck guns on lower value targets. But today the submarine has to let them pass so the laser could provide an alternative.

For the moment the Navy is not providing very much information on the project. So it may be years before the full capabilities of this system are revealed. Whatever the rationale it could quickly become a differentiating capability for American subs.



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### Special Biographic Tribute

*Similar to last month, we not be including Undersea Warfare News articles in this edition. Instead, Gordon Taylor's diary from late 1944 thru the end of the war are below. This is taken directly from his hand written account.*

Dec. 27, 1944 -

Reported in at U.S.S. Submarine Base, New London, Conn. & was immediately transferred to the U.S.S. Carp (SS 338).

Dec. 28, 1944 - Feb. 28, 1945 -

Looked ship over & started learning it. Met crew and officers. Went to "School of the Boat". Had commissioning party at the Club Woodland, Waterford, Conn. Boat finally commissioned on Feb. 28, 1945 at U.S.S. Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Boat was built by E.B.Co., Groton, Conn. It was launched Nov. 12, 1944.

March 1, 1945 - April 14, 1945 -

Loaded spare parts, stores & personal gear. Got boat ship-shape & running. Had trial runs in L.I. Sound & went to Newport to fire fish.

April 14 - April 26 ~

Shoved off S/M Base, N.L. & started cruise to Panama. Had practice runs & dives en route. Entered Canal Zone morning of 26<sup>th</sup> & passed Cristobal & Colon. Passed through Canal & tied up in Balboa in afternoon. Made a fast liberty into Balboa & Panama City. On the trip down the coast had a run in with exec. about battery charging.

April 17 ~

Put out of Balboa for a few days for practice battle problems.





April 17 ~

Put out of Balboa for a few days for practice battle problems.

May 2 ~

Tied up at S/M Base Balboa.

May 3 ~ May 5 ~

Exec. fell down a ladder. In Hospital. Got boat squared away for sea. Had a beach party. "Germany started to break up. Two armies surrendered." Sent parcel home.

May 5 ~

Left Balboa for P.H.T.H. Exec in Balboa hospital due to falling on his head.

May 8 -

Germany Officially Surrenders!

Hooray

HOORAY!!!

May 21 -

Tied up along side of U.S.S. Fulton at S/M Base, P.H.

May 22 - June 8 -

Made one liberty in town & spent the night at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Made practice runs & took on a few more spares. Visited the Thresher and saw most of the old gang. Missed the party because the cubicle broke down at the last minute. Pallela was transferred. We found Thies, who was transferred in N.L. & is now aboard the U.S.S. Sperry.

June 8 -

Made last minute trips & got boat squared away. Shoved off for parts unknown, probably Guam or Saipan.

**See next page**



June 20 -

Tied up along side the Orion anchored in the harbor at Saipan.

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June 20 -

Tied up along side the Orion anchored in the harbor at Saipan.



Gordon at the Royal Hawaiian

June 20 - June 27 -

We had swimming parties every afternoon & ballgames some of the mornings. One morning, we took a sightseeing trip around the island. There were an awful lot of caves in which the Japs hid & some, about 1,000 are still hiding out. We saw 3 Jap prisoners being brought in. There were two internment camps, one for Japs & one for Koreans & others.



June 27 ~

Shoved off on the U.S.S. Carp's first war patrol.

June 27-July 2 -

Traveled north to Japan & patrolled entrance to Kobe & Osaka at the southern tip of Honshu.

July 2 -

Manned battle stations and got a "probable" (later noted as "definitely sunk"). A fish aft was fired by mistake & got a hit on a small ship.

July 2 - July 13 -

Did more patrolling & then went out to sea. We then swept in a N.W. direction to Tokyo. We swept the path clear for Halsey's 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet to come in & raid Tokyo. Blew up three mines. Patrolled north of Tokyo.

July 13 -

Battle stations again: fired three fish forward & one aft - no hits. Not so good!

July 13 - 18 -

Patrolled northward up the coast of Honshu & Hokkaido.

July 18 -

Manned stations for battle submerged & fired one fish - No hit! Battle surfaced in the afternoon & we sank 2 small ships (500T.) & damaged 4 more with our 5 inch deck gun & 2 - 40 mm's. We received 2 aerial bombs - one close! This was all off the middle island of the 3 largest Kuril group.

**See next page**





July 18 - July 20 -

Moved into the "Sea of Okhotsk" & patrolled between Hokkaido & Sakhalin Islands.

July 20 - July 21 -

Sighted several Russian ships all lit up, covered with lights. There were large Russian flags painted on their sides.

July 22 -

Moved S.E. closed to the Kursils & patrolled off shore. I managed to get a look through the scope & saw the N.E. corner of Hokkaido. It was rugged terrain with a large snow spotted mountain towering above the clouds. We could see a good sized waterfall and a farm hacked out of the mountainside. It was very picturesque.

July 22 - July 25 -

Came out of the Okhotsk Sea north of Etorofu Jima & patrolled up & down the coast.

July 25 -

Manned "Battle Stations Submerged" on the surface - sank 2 ships the size of L.S.T.s in the fog. They scored a few hits in the superstructure with small ammunition.

July 26 - July 30 -

Kept on patrolling the island. Got a few contacts, but nothing materialized. Looked in on a few harbors. Ran across a ship beached. There were 10 sampans unloading it.

**See next page**



July 31 -

Manned "Battle Stations Submerged" & blew the ship up. Fired another fish & probably got another small ship that was dropping depth charges.

August 1 -

Went back into the Okhotsk Sea & found a Whaler. Fired fish & missed. Got a few depth charges. Went back out into the Pacific & started in off patrol, probably to Midway.

August 7 -

Tied up alongside the U.S.S. Griffin at Midway Island.

Total For Run:

6 small ships sunk

1 small ship (possible)?

4 small ships damaged

3 mines sunk or exploded

August 8 -

Went to rest camp for two weeks rest & recuperation. Began hearing rumors that the war was over. We understand the war was to be over as of the 14<sup>th</sup> of August.

August 22 -

Leave over. We have taken over the boat again. Made a few trial runs. All gear in good shape, spares aboard.

Sept. 1 -

Left Midway for P.H., T.H. Had about 4 hours notification before getting underway.



## *2020 INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS*

Brian Daugherty

Earl Dentsen

John (Sid) Sidlovsky

Bud Warren

### *Base Officers & Key Personnel*

**Base Commander:** Ted Vorce

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### Executive Committee:

**Base Commander:** Ted Vorce

**Senior Vice Commander:** Gary Galles

**Junior Vice Commander:** Adam Kingsley

**Secretary & Treasurer:** Craig Werner

**Immediate Past Base Commander:** Brian Daugherty

**Appointed Member:** Ken Swan

**Appointed Member:** Marlin Boyle

**Appointed Member:** John Sidlovsky

