

## UP SCOPE

SEPTEMBER, 2008

# PALMETTO BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS NEWSLETTER



**SS Popeye**

## Base Commander - Ron Friend

### Palmetto Base Members

Joe Gawronski – Vice Commander

DW Eggleston – Secretary

Tommy Richardson – Public Relations

Brian Steffen – Storekeeper

Russ “Pappy” Cline - Treasurer

Mark Basnight – Chaplain

Jim “Snake” Stark – Chief Of Boat

Jerry Stout – District 4 Commander

Milt Berkey

James Charbonneau

Tracy Charbonneau

Judy Cline

William Cox

Allen “Buzz” Danielsen

Mae Friend

Joe Geiger

Kelly Grantham

John Green

Glenn Harris

Stoney Hilton

Mike House

Jim Kirby

John Krause

Dick Lane

Bill Lindler

Ken Middleton

Bob Miller

Tom O’Brien

Rebecca Richardson

Sam Sanders

Ted Schneeberg

Leonard Snell

John Solis

LE Spradlin

Jeffrey Wagner

## Palmetto Base, USSVI

### Treasury Summary Report

1/2/2008 Thru 8/19/2008

Deposits - \$2059.00      Payments - \$825.47      Balance - \$1233.53

USSVI - \$300.00

Base Expenses - \$500.35

Bank Charges - \$25.12

Total - \$825.47

8-21-08



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UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.  
Palmetto Base

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Minutes – August 19, 2008

- Meeting called to order by Vice Commander, Joe Gawronski
- Sixteen members and one guest were present, with three new members. Welcome aboard Milt Berkey, Sam Sanders and John Solis
- Minutes of July 15, 2008, were reviewed and approved
- Treasurer's report details will be in the September newsletter. Total in the treasury is \$1,233.00
- The date for the base outing has been set for Saturday, October 4, 2008. A list of folks who are planning on attending is being developed. All interested need to contact Buzz Danielsen at 803-892-9897 or [allin1965@pbtcomm.net](mailto:allin1965@pbtcomm.net) (include number of guests). Cost will be \$5/adult, kids 12 and under are free.
- The development of a submarine float is still in the planning stage. We will need to provide a substitute float for the Lexington Veterans Day Parade on November 8.
- We missed shipmate Ron and Mae Friend at the meeting. Ron's mother has recently passed and we extend our condolences to Ron and Mae.
- It was agreed that a flower fund needs to be established for our members personal losses
- We now have commitments for 16 base flags. It was decided to delay ordering until input is received from Jerry Stout, District Commander regarding possible use of the flag as a SC base flag.
- Captain Joseph Thornburg, Senior Naval Science Instructor at White Knoll High School JROTC program, has contacted us regarding meeting with the base and discussing the

JROTC program. It was suggested that the JROTC might be interested in participating with us in the Lexington Veterans Day Parade.

- A future meeting site was discussed since we seem to be outgrowing the facilities at The Crab Shack. Gilligan's restaurant in Lexington has a large meeting room that looks promising. It was agreed that we try and stay at The Crab Shack until at least Jan. 2009
- A base Christmas party was discussed and members decided to have it on the regular meeting night, December 16. Time will be 1830 until... Arrangements will be made with Gilligan's. This will give us an opportunity to evaluate the facilities for future meetings.
- The depth charge contributed \$55.50 to the treasury.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at The Crab Shack in Lexington. Time is 1830.

Respectfully submitted,

D W Eggleston, Base Secretary

Attendees:

Mark Basnight  
\*Milt Berkey  
Russ Cline  
Allen Danielsen  
D W Eggleston  
Joe Gawronski  
John Krause  
Bob Miller  
Tom O'Brien  
Rebecca Richardson  
Tommy Richardson

\*Sam Sanders  
\*\*Krystine Schneeberg  
Ted Schneeberg  
Leonard Snell  
\*John Solis  
Jim Stark  
  
\*New Member  
\*\*Guest



**Submarine Flag** We presently only have committed

**orders for 16 flags. We will place an order after the September meeting. Money will need to be collected before we order. If you are interested in a flag let DW know.**

*Story Told By Rear Admiral  
Jay Donnelly At the North  
Central Regional held at Des  
Moines, Iowa, Lifted from the  
Illinois Scope Newsletter  
(courtesy Joe Geiger)*

"In the beginning was the word and the word was God and all else was darkness and void without form. So God created the heavens and the earth. He created the sun and the moon and the stars so that the light might pierce the darkness. And the earth God divided between the land and the sea and these He filled with many assorted creatures.

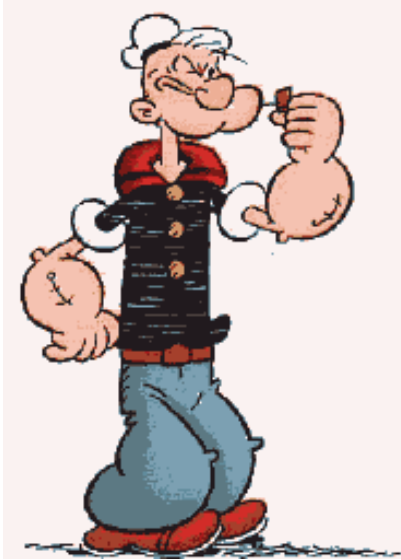
And the dark smelly creatures that inhabited the land, God called ARMY and dressed them accordingly like trees and bushes. And the flighty creatures of the air, He called AIR FORCE and these he clothed in uniforms of light blue to match the sky, and the creatures who sailed on the surface of the sea, God called SKIMMERS. Then, with a twinkle in His eye and a sense of humor that only He could have, God gave them big gray targets to sail on. He gave them many splendid uniforms to wear. He gave them many wonderful and exotic places to visit. He gave them pen and paper so they could write home every week. He

gave them afternoons off, movies and ice cream makers and he gave them a laundry to keep their splendid uniforms clean. When you are God, you tend to get carried away.

And on the 7th day, God rested. On the 8th day at 0700, God looked down on the earth and He was not happy. So He thought about His labors and in His infinite wisdom, God created a "divine creature" which he called a SUBMARINER.

And the SUBMARINERS that he created in His own Image were to be of the deep, and to them He gave the Dolphin insignia. He gave them black messengers of death to roam the depths of the seas, waging war against the forces of Satan and evil! He gave them submarine pay so they might entertain the ladies on Saturday nights, and impress the Hell out of the SKIMMERS. And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down on the earth and saw that all was good, but still God was not happy. In the course of His labors He had forgotten one thing. He himself did not have a submariner's dolphin. He thought about it and He thought about it and Finally satisfied Himself, knowing that not just anybody could be a SUBMARINER!

# MEMBER PROFILE



## Popeye the sailor (SS) Honorary Member

I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man  
I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man  
I'm strong to the finich  
Cause I eats me spinach  
I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man

I'm one tough gazookus  
Which hates all palookas  
Wot ain't on the up and square  
I biffs 'em and buffs 'em  
An' always outroughs 'em  
An' none of 'em gets nowhere

If anyone dasses to risk me fisk  
It's "boff" and its "wham",  
un'erstand  
So, keep good behavior  
That's your one life saver  
With Popeye the Subsailor Man.

I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man  
I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man  
I'm strong to the finich  
Cause I eats me spinach  
I'm Popeye the Subsailor Man

An I'm mean cause I'm  
Qualified on a submarine

\*Editors note: The only profile received from the Palmetto membership indicates a lack of interest in the member profile addition to the newsletter. Need we discontinue?



### When Capt. Nemo visited Seattle

A potent deterrent against war, the USS Nautilus, docks at Pier 91 in Seattle as newsmen and dignitaries mingle with the crew. The atomic submarine visited Everett Saturday before making the Seattle call. (P-I photo by Harvey Davis June 16, 1957)

Fifty years ago this week, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer was running a daily "Sputnik Watchers" column, telling readers where in the night sky they could look to find the Soviet space satellite orbiting above that had shaken up the United State's Cold War fears.

While anxious and curious eyes were raised toward space, under Arctic Ocean waters on Aug. 3, 1958, the world's first atomic-powered submarine, [USS Nautilus](#), was about to give the Soviet Union a Cold War fear, executing the first North Pole submarine crossing.

It's something most people (except, perhaps, the extensive Navy and submarine community around Puget Sound) might have forgotten. Yet it's a significant anniversary to think about given the current international climate over the Arctic, as global warming melts the ice creating sea lanes and potential political and economic conflicts.

It's also a story with a Seattle connection. But more on that later.

The story of the Nautilus's top secret Arctic mission was not disclosed until Aug. 9, 1958 when the Seattle P-I's front page headline pronounced "A-Sub crossed pole under ice."

"The White house disclosed today that the atom-powered submarine Nautilus has completed man's first voyage across the North Pole under the ice pack," the United Press International story read.

Traveling from Pearl Harbor, the submarine nosed under the Arctic ice on Aug. 1, and emerged Aug. 5 near Greenland, having traversed the North Pole at 11:15 a.m. on Aug. 3. It had cruised 400 feet below the 10-15 foot thick icepack, traveling 1,830 miles in four days.

The Nautilus and its crew received the first ever Presidential Unit Citation given in peacetime for their Arctic fleet. The Soviets both "assailed and praised" the feat, newspapers reported.

In the infancy of nuclear propulsion, it was seen as a Cold War victory, an answer to Sputnik. Hearst military writer Julian Hartt wrote:

"This writer has been aboard the Nautilus as neutrons in the atomic firebox of her belly silently smashed the atomic plankton, driving the big boat up a 20-mile wide channel undetected, despite three conventional subs, 10 destroyers and numerous aircraft arrayed in mock 'defense.'

"The speed, secrecy and precision with which Nautilus changed oceans carries a tacit but stern warning to the Reds," Hartt wrote.

While nuclear powered submarines did not yet carry nuclear missiles, U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., foreshadowed the big Trident "boomer" submarines now based at Bangor on the Kitsap Peninsula, predicting he could "foresee the day when atomic powered subs will launch guided missiles from beneath the water..." the P-I reported.

Other Congressmen, meanwhile, scolded the White House for leaving the man regarded as the "father of the nuclear Navy," Adm. Hyman Rickover, out of the White House ceremony announcing the transpolar passage. Rickover had stepped on toes in his long battle to get the nuclear submarine program going, the P-I reported.

The Nautilus was fresh in Northwest minds before its historic voyage was revealed. The sub's skipper during the North Pole crossing, Capt. William R. Anderson, had taken command of the vessel in Seattle on June 18, 1957 from Capt. Eugene P. Wilkinson, the sub's first commander, in ceremonies at Seattle's Pier 91.

Wilkinson's envious colleagues had dubbed him "Capt. Nemo" when he received the coveted command, for the fictional commander of a submarine named "Nautilus" in author Jules Verne's futuristic novels.

The sub had made two public trips to Seattle in June 1957 and June 1958, billed as public relations tours as its Arctic aspirations remained top secret.

"Sub Nautilus here on last year's gas," the P-I reported on June 4, 1958, "nucleating along on a year old tank of fuel..."

A P-I reporter who toured the sub noted it was "difficult to conceive" that the power to move a vessel with a 3,000-ton water displacement "comes from literally a handful of uranium that is the heart of the reactor."

But the public relations tours were largely a mask.

After the successful transpolar crossing in August 1958, Anderson revealed that the sub two months earlier was staged in Seattle for an Arctic run to the Bering Straits and the Chukchi Sea, but headed back to Pearl Harbor to wait. Later reports indicated bad weather delayed the trip.

Anderson also revealed that in September 1957 the sub tried to reach the Pole from the Atlantic Ocean and came within 180 miles of the North Pole before being turned back by "some difficulties

A P-I reporter who toured the sub noted it was "difficult to conceive" that the power to move a vessel with a 3,000-ton water displacement "comes from literally a handful of uranium that is the heart of the reactor."



### *USS New York*

*It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center . It is the fifth in a new class of warship - designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.*

*Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite , LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on Sept 9, 2003, 'those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence,' recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. 'It was a spiritual moment for everybody there.'*

*Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade center steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the 'hair on my neck stood up.' 'It had a big meaning to it for all of us,' he said. 'They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back.' The ship's motto? "Never Forget"*

## Subject: KURSK Submarine remains

THE REMAINS OF THE KURSK Kinda interesting...the scrapping of the Kursk. The bow was sawed off with a diamond rope while she sat on the bottom of the Arctic Sea .. You can see the anti-ship missiles still in their launchers...all foamed in. And... a nuclear power plant is in that mess somewhere.



K-141 Kursk was a Russian nuclear cruise missile submarine which was lost with all hands when it sank in the Barents Sea on August 12, 2000. It was named after the Russian city Kursk , around which the largest tank battle in military history,

The Battle of Kursk , took place in 1943.

The Kursk sailed out to sea to perform an exercise of firing dummy torpedoes at Pyotr Velikiy, a Kirov class battlecruiser.

On August 12, 2000 at 11:28 local time , the missiles were fired,

An explosion occurred soon after on Kursk .

The only credible report to-date is that this was due to the failure and explosion of one of Kursks new/developmental torpedoes. The chemical explosion blasted with the force of 100-250 kg of TNT and registered 2.2 on the Richter scale.. The submarine sank to a depth of 108 metres, approximately 135km (85 miles) off Severomorsk. A second explosion 135 seconds after the initial event measured between 3.5 and 4.4 on the Richter scale, equivalent to 3-7 tons of TNT. Either this explosion or the earlier one propelled large pieces of debris far back through the submarine.

Kursk was eventually raised from her grave by a Dutch team using the barge Giant 4, and 115 of the 118 dead were recovered and laid to rest in Russia . Russian officials have strenuously denied claims that the sub was carrying nuclear warheads. When the boat was raised by a salvage operation in 2001 there were considerable fears moving the wreck could trigger explosions.

# United States Submarines lost in September

## USS S-5 (SS-110)

[View Ship's Log for SS-110](#)

[View full profile of SS-110](#)

Lost on:

**9/1/1920**

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.



Class: **SS S**

Commissioned: **3/6/1920**

Fate: **She commenced a dive for a submerged test run. Water unexpectedly entered the submarine through the main air induction system pouring into the control room, engine room, torpedo room, and the motor room. S-5 sank, but the entire crew managed to escape.**

Launched: **11/10/1919**

Builder: **Portsmouth Navy Yard**

Length: **231**, Beam: **22**

#Officers: **4**, #Enlisted: **34**

# USS Grayling (SS-209)

[View Ship's Log for SS-209](#)

[View full profile of SS-209](#)

[View the memorial for SS-209](#)

Lost on:

**9/9/1943**

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.



Class: **SS 206**

Commissioned: **3/1/1941**

Fate: **Lost between 9 and 12 September 1943 either in Lingayen Gulf or along the approaches to Manila. 76 men lost.**

Launched: **9/4/1940**

Builder: **Portsmouth Navy Yard**

Length: **307**, Beam: **27**

#Officers: **4**, #Enlisted: **54**

# USS S-51 (SS-162)

[View Ship's Log for SS-162](#)  [Website for SS-162](#)

[View full profile of SS-162](#)

Lost on:

**9/25/1925**

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 32 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.



Class: **SS S**

Commissioned: **6/24/1922**

Fate: **S-51 was rammed and sunk off Block Island, N.Y., by the merchant steamer, City of Rome. Only three survivors of the 36 men on board the ill fated submarine were recovered.**

Launched: **8/20/1921**

Builder: **Lake Torpedo Boat co**

Length: **240**, Beam: **22**

#Officers: **4**, #Enlisted: **34**

# USS Cisco (SS-290)

[View Ship's Log for SS-290](#)

[View full profile of SS-290](#)

[View the memorial for SS-290](#)

Lost on:

**9/28/1943**

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.



Class: **SS 285**

Commissioned: **5/10/1943**

Fate: **Departed on her 1st war patrol, but never returned. Japanese records tell of sighting a submarine leaking oil in the area where was known to have been on duty. Japanese records state she was sunk by bombs and depth charges. 76 men lost.**

Launched: **12/24/1942**

Builder: **Portsmouth Navy Yard**

Length: **312**, Beam: **27**

#Officers: **6**, #Enlisted: **60**