



UNITED STATES
SUBMARINE VETERANS INC



STRYKER SIGNALS

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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States government.”

Social

Our next function will be a social gathering at the home of John and Lucile Buchanan on Saturday, October 20th, at 1300 hours.

Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the VFW in Schertz (1000 FM 78) at 1400 hours with a pot luck lunch at 1300 hours on November 18th, 2007.

Minutes From the Meeting of September 16th, 2007

Invocation

An invocation and blessing for the food was given at 1310 hrs.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1341 hrs. and A Moment of Silence for All Submariners Still on Patrol was observed.

Pledge of Allegiance

USSVI Creed

New Member Introduction

Joe Towey was introduced. He has transferred in from Denver, and is retired with 30 years service.

Reading the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the July 15th, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Old Business

- A. A memorial sent for Diane Ostentasky.
- B. \$100 donation for the International Submarine conference I San Diego was sent.
- C. Ten grave markers and five stakes were purchased.
- D. The August social at the Clear Springs Restaurant was a success; sixteen people attended. The manager is ex-Navy. Senior lunches are available anytime.
- E. "Lost Boats" board report; John Buchanan has a board we will be using.
- F. Calendars for 2008 are \$10 each. Only 12 will be available; first come, first served.

New Business

- A. Annual dues are now payable to the Treasurer. If you received a notice please make payment to Barry martin before December 14th or you will lose the *American Submariner* magazine after January 1st.
- B. A donation to VFW Post 8315 for use of the meeting room was approved and paid.
- C. The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association is joining with family members to increase their membership. Should the USSVWWII and USSVI merge? P. C. Stryker, Jr. Base merged with the Nimitz Chapter three or four year ago.
- D. Discussed storage place for flags, plaques, and memorabilia.
- E. Volunteers needed for veteran's Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies.
- F. Report on Ground Breaking Ceremony for the "Wounded Warrior's Home."
- G. **Tolling the Boats Ceremony** will be held during the November 18th meeting. RSVP to Barry Martin at (830) 885-5080 or Gary English at (830) 980-2858 ASAP to insure we have enough food on hand.
- H. October's social will be held at the home of John and Lucile Buchanan.
- I. Tejada School Annual History Faire will be held April 5th, 1000 to 1600 hours. Volunteers will be needed.
- J. Boat sponsorships for the USS Texas and USS Corpus Cristi were approved.
- K. Volunteers needed to speak at the regular meetings. Sea Stories and other Fairy Tales welcome.

For the Good of the Order

- A. Barry and Jennelle Martin will be "out of pocket" for the October gathering; going cruising.
- B.** Gary and Barbara English will be out of state for the November meeting; going to California to settle estate.
- C.**

Benediction

Adjourned at 1505 hours.

FROM THE HUMOR BILGE

A woman was playing "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" She had reached the last question, and with a correct answer she would win the \$1 Million. The question was: "Which of the following birds does not build a nest, but lays its eggs in another's nest?" Her choices were:

- A. Condor

- B. Buzzard
- C. Cuckoo
- D. Vulture

The woman was stuck; she had already used her 50/50 Lifeline and her Audience Poll Lifeline. All that she had left was her Phone a Friend.

She could only think of one friend who would be home, and she was a blonde! But with no other choice, she called. The blonde gave her the answer, cuckoo, without hesitation. The woman used it winning the \$1 million. Later she asked the blonde how she had known that the cuckoo does not build it own nest? The blonde replied: "Silly, everybody knows cuckoos don't build nests, they live in clocks!"

(These were heard on a local radio station this last week!)

If a couple get married in Arkansas, then move to another state and get a divorce, are they still brother and sister?

A man walked into a bar in Arkansas and ordered a beer. From his accent the bartender knew he was from out of state, so he asked: "Where yer from?" The man replied he was from Pennsylvania. The barkeep asked what he did for a job? He replied he was a taxidermist. "A what-a-dermist?" The man said: I am a taxidermist, I mount animals." The barkeep yelled at the other patrons: "He's OK, boys! He's just like us!"

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS TRITON (SS 201)

March 15, 1943 - 74 Men Lost

The fourth of our submarines lost in the Solomons-Bismarck area in the early part of 1943, TRITON, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. G. K. MacKenzie, Jr., left Brisbane on 16 February 1943 to begin her sixth patrol in that area. She hunted for traffic between Rabaul and Shortland Basin on her way north, and began to patrol the equator on 23 February.

She reported on 26 February having seen smoke on 22 February, and had obtained evidence of enemy radar on Buka. Moving westward, she patrolled areas northwest of SNAPPER and southeast of TRIGGER from 26 February to 6 March, when she left her area to attack a convoy in TRIGGER'S area. Her report on 7 March, amended by another on 8 March, stated that the convoy had been composed of five ships and one DD escort.

She reported their course and speed and the fact that she had sunk two AK's of the convoy and damaged another, claiming three hits out of six torpedoes fired, at noon 6 March. A circular torpedo run forced her deep, where she was depth charged by the destroyer. She had later tried two night attacks, one dawn attack, and one afternoon attack, all without success, and was returning to her area at the time she sent the message. About eight hours after this message came, TRITON transmitted another telling of another night attack on the convoy.

She claimed five hits of eight torpedoes fired, and, although she could not observe results due to gunfire and attack by the escorting destroyer, she believed two more freighters to be sunk.

The last word received from TRITON came on 11 March when she reported: "Two groups of smokes, five or more ships each, plus escorts...am chasing." She was ordered to stay south of the Equator, and was informed of the area (an adjacent one) assigned to TRIGGER.

On the morning of 13 March TRITON was told that three enemy destroyers had been sighted southeast on a northerly course. She was informed that they were probably on a submarine hunt or were a convoy cover and had missed contact.

TRITON, on 16 March, was ordered to change her area slightly to the east. TUNA and GREENING were placed in adjacent areas (to the south and west, respectively) on 22 March, and all were to disregard areas when on the chase, and to avoid when encountering a submarine. TRITON was told to clear her area on 25 March, and return to Brisbane. When she failed to make her Report of Position, new results, and ETA when it was expected, she was ordered to do so. No report was received and she was reported as lost on 10 April 1943.

Information available after the war shows that TRITON was, without a doubt, sunk by the enemy destroyers of which she was given information on 13 March. Enemy reports show that these ships make an attack on 15 March. Their position was slightly north and west of TRITON's area, but she undoubtedly left her area to attack the destroyers or the convoy they were escorting. The report of the attack by the destroyers leaves little doubt as to whether a kill was made, since they say: "a great quantity of oil, pieces of wood, corks and manufactured goods bearing the mark 'Made in U.S.A.'." In addition, TRIGGER, in whose area this attack occurred, reported that on 15 March she made two attacks on a convoy of five freighters with escorts. At this time she was depth charged, but not seriously, and she heard distant depth charging for an hour after the escorts had stopped attacking her. Since she was only about ten miles from the reported Japanese attack cited above, it is presumed that she heard the attack which sank TRITON. Apparently by this time the destroyers had joined their convoy.

TRITON was a most active and valuable member of the Submarine Force prior to her loss. In total, she is credited with sinking sixteen ships, totaling 64,600 tons, and damaging four ships, of 29,200 total tons. Her first patrol, conducted around Wake Island, resulted in no damage to the enemy, but her second, in the northern part of the East China Sea, was very productive. In ten days she sank two freighters and damaged a freighter-transport and another freighter. She went back to the East China Sea for the third patrol, and again was most successful. She sank a trawler, two freighters, a freighter-transport, two sampans, and a submarine. The latter was the I-64, torpedoed south of Kyushu on 17 May 1942. TRITON's fourth patrol was made in the Aleutians. During it, she is credited with sinking two escort-type vessels.

On her fifth patrol, TRITON went into the Solomon area. She sank a tanker, and two freighters, in addition to damaging a tanker of 10,200 tons and a freighter. She is credited with having sunk two medium freighters on her last patrol.