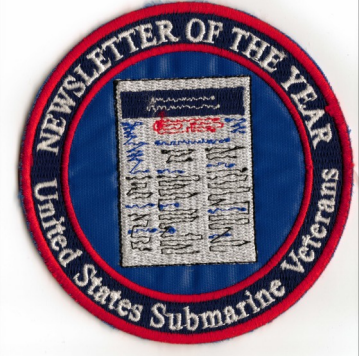


Piedmont Periscope



Issue 1201

January 2012

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USSVI Creed

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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.

Winter Got You Feeling Down? - from Chaplain Ray

A good reminder when feeling a bit "down..."

Happiness is something you decide about ahead of time.

Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged ... it's how I arrange my mind. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memo-

ries I've stored away...just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!

Thank you for your part in filling my Memory Bank. I am still depositing.

'Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

1 Timothy 6:6-8
ESV Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.



Lost Boats - January

"Sailors, rest your oars"

USS S 36 (SS 141)
USS S 26 (SS 131)
USS ARGONAUT (SS 166)
USS SCORPION (SS 278)
USS SWORDFISH (SS 193)

January 20, 1942
January 24, 1942
January 10, 1943
January 5, 1944
January 12, 1945

CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



Happy 2012 to all of you. I do hope that all of you had a safe and wonderful Holiday season. And may our base have as good of a 2012 as we did in 2011. There are still a few that have not renewed their dues as I write this. I do hope that you send it in so we do not lose any of you. Remember, once you are dropped off the rosters at the end of January, you will no longer receive the American Submariner. But speaking of membership, it is a responsibility of each of us to try to recruit new members, whether for our base or another. Let all of us try to help USSVI grow.

This year will be an election year for USSVI. One of the next two issues of the American Submariner will have all the necessary information. Of course once we get any of that, we will pass it on to you. I do know that the four National Offices and our Regional Director position will be on the ballot. Not sure if any of those will have more than one running, but we will know shortly. Also there may be changes to the Constitution and By-Laws on the ballot. As I write this, I do not know what they will be, but I am sure there will be some. Voting is done electronically and is a very simple process. So when it comes that time, I ask each of you to do your homework, vote as you feel is appropriate. But please vote. Voter

participation is low, so let's do our job to get that up.

It may be a little early, but please do not forget that we host the annual gathering of NC Subvets in May to pay tribute to the lost submarines of WWII. If you have been to one, you know what I am talking about. If you have not been to one, well, you are missing a pretty good time in the mountains of North Carolina. I encourage each of you to consider joining us this year. It is not expensive and a good time is had by all. So mark your calendar for the weekend of 18 May 2012.

I am sure that soon we will be making calls for any that want to join us to make some of our rounds at the schools for various submarine and/or flag etiquette lectures.

These are very self-rewarding. So if you can and get the opportunity, please join us. Each of you qualifies for this, nothing hard at all about it.

Feel free to send in a sea story or two to Moe for our newsletter. He can never get too many of these. And it is your input that helped make it an award winning newsletter, so keep it up.

Parade season will start in March and will extend throughout the year. We will be letting you know the when and where for these. Again, if you have not participated in one of these, I encourage you to do so, they are worth the effort.

I look forward to serving as your Base Commander for 2012, as well as your Commander for the NC Subvets.

(con't on Page 3)

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XO's Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries

I want to start by saying THANK YOU for making 2011 a great year for Carolina Piedmont. We continue on as an AWARD WINNING base. The awards we received are due to an active membership. Our retention is great and I know it will continue to grow with new ship-mates.

We have a busy calendar coming up with lots of opportunities for participation of the membership, these will include the continuation of our entertaining the shut-ins at various locations, the presentation of "The Submarine Story" Flag Education for schools and civic groups, the Eagle Scout presentation, we also are in the process of planning our KAP (SS)4KID(SS) program at Victory Junction, the Levine Children's Hospital as well as individual visits for the very deserving persons.

As the Ways and Means Chairman I would appreciate your input on how we can raise funds for our many useful projects, please don't think that I can do this without your help. I want to thank our members that live out of the area for

their continued support and your ideas are most welcome also.

Better than a Flu Shot!

Miss Beatrice, The church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all. One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom! When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist. 'Miss Beatrice', he said, 'I wonder if you would tell me about this?', pointing to the bowl. 'Oh, yes,' she replied, 'Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the Park a few months ago and I



found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter?

MASSING OF THE COLORS

We have been invited to participate in the Massing of the Colors in Greenville SC on March 4 at the Scottish Rite Temple. Those who want to participate should let Howard Dachs know prior to Feb 1 so he can send in the application. We need to let them know if we will be Color Presenters or Color Guard. We do have drill

Commander (con't)

I consider it a privilege and an honor to do both of these jobs. I can only hope that I can hold up to my end of the bargain. Hope to see each of you at our next meeting. May God bless you all.— Commander Steve

rifles this year that if we have 4 people, we can do a proper presentation. Moe (SS) said he would go again this year. We need 3 more "volunteers".— Howard Dachs— email how-voot@bellsouthwest.net

Flag Trivia—Where did this Flag fly in our Nation's history? See Page 11



Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

There was no “Formal” meeting in December. We had a dinner prepared by the VFW and held a “Tolling of the Boats” for December.



The Clan

My Clan hails from Holy Loch
to the island of Guam.

From the ice of the Arctic Circle
to the blackness of the Challenger Deep.

We are Qualified, we are
Shellbacks and Golden Dragons.

We stand between our people
and war's desolation.

Many have stood against us
their all gone, we're still here.

We are the Denizens of the Deep
we are the Brothers of the Pin.

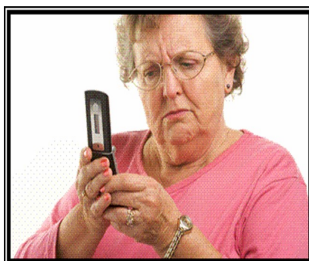
We are Clan Polaris! - Mike

Observations On Growing Older

- ~Your Kids are becoming you...and you don't like them...but your grandchildren are Perfect!
- ~Going Out is good. Coming Home is better!
- ~You Forget names ...But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything... Especially Golf.
- ~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's Called "pre-sleep".
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" Switch.
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ..."what?"..."when?"... ?
- ~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody Whispers.
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet ...2 of which you will never wear.
- ~But Old is good in some things: Old songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Texting for Seniors

Since more and more Seniors are texting and tweeting there appears to be a need for a STC (Senior Texting Code). If you qualify for Senior Discounts this is the code for you.



ATD:	At The Doctor's
BFF:	Best Friend Farted
BTW:	Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT:	Bring Your Own Teeth
CBM:	Covered By Medicare
CGU:	Can't get up
CUATSC:	See You At The Senior Center
DWI:	Driving While Incontinent
FWB:	Friend With Beta Blockers
FWIW:	Forgot Where I Was
FYI:	Found Your Insulin
GGPBL:	Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low!
GHA:	Got Heartburn Again
HGBM:	Had Good Bowel Movement
IMHO:	Is My Hearing-Aid On?
LMDO:	Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL:	Living On Lipitor
LWO:	Lawrence Welk's On
OMMR:	On My Massage Recliner
OMSG:	Oh My! Sorry Gas.
ROFL... CGU:	Rolling On The Floor Laughing... And Can't Get Up
TTYL:	Talk To You Louder
WAITT:	Who Am I Talking To?
WTFA:	Wet The Furniture Again
WTP:	Where's The Prunes?
WWNO:	Walker Wheels Need Oil
GGLKI:	(Gotta Go Laxative Kicking In)

New members Binnacle List

Welcome Aboard

Happy Birthday to:

January

Bill Widell 1/1
Don Eggleston 1/3
Gary Mitchell 1/26
Perry Blake 1/30

If your birthday was
missed, please notify
Jack or Dale

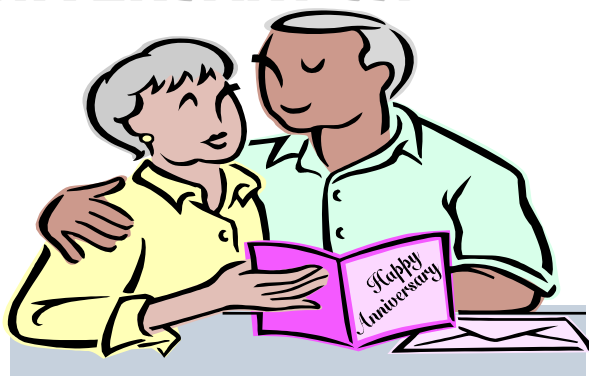


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

January

Carolyn and Charles Cross 1/1
Anna and Joel Tuchfeld - 1/18
Marlene and Gary Mitchell 1/26

Good judgment comes from
experience, and a lot of that
comes from bad judgment. -
Will Rogers



SubVettes

Happy New Year Sassy Sisters. I hope all of you and yours have a healthy and prosperous upcoming New Year. Our meal for the January meeting will be our famous 'this and that.' Don't forget that we have started the new secret sister for 2012. I am guilty of this too but we need our 10 recipes so we can get our cookbook ready I hope to get it together by April but I have not heard from the cookbook company so we may just

do it our way, as Frank Sinatra would say. We are also collecting coupons to send to our fellow sisters for their overseas grocery shopping. I would like for each of you to think of 1 inexpensive service project we can do for 2012, as money is tight with all of us. May God Bless You and Yours and our great country the USA.....and remember CAROLINA PIEDMONT ROCKS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SEE YOU SOON



Chipotle Bean Burritos

Add homemade guacamole and organic blue chips to this hearty vegetarian dish for an easy Mexican meal.

Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 1 burrito)

Total: 30 Minutes

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon canola oil	1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 teaspoon chipotle chile powder	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup water	1 (15-ounce) can organic black beans, drained
1 (15-ounce) can organic kidney beans, drained	
3 tablespoons refrigerated fresh salsa	6 (10-inch) reduced-fat flour tortillas (such as Mission)
1 cup (4 ounces) pre-shredded reduced-fat 4-cheese Mexican blend cheese	
1 1/2 cups chopped plum tomato (about 3)	1 1/2 cups shredded romaine lettuce
6 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions	6 tablespoons light sour cream

Preparation:

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add garlic to pan; cook 1 minute, stirring frequently. Stir in chile powder and salt; cook 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Stir in 1/3 cup water and beans; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salsa. Partially mash bean mixture with a fork.

Warm tortillas according to package directions. Spoon about 1/3 cup bean mixture into center of each tortilla. Top each serving with about 2 1/2 tablespoons cheese, 1/4 cup tomato, 1/4 cup lettuce, 1 tablespoon onions, and 1 tablespoon sour cream; roll up.

Nutritional Information:

Amount per serving: • Calories: 361 • Fat: 10.3g • Saturated fat: 3.8g • Monounsaturated fat: 3.1g • Polyunsaturated fat: 2g • Protein: 16.8g • Carbohydrate: 52.2g • Fiber: 11.4g • Cholesterol: 19mg • Iron: 3.3mg • Sodium:

Piedmont Funnies Page

Supplied by Jack:

An old pastor lay dying. He sent a message for an Internal Revenue Service agent and his lawyer to come to the hospital. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the pastor held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The pastor grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the IRS agent and lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled because the pastor had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them. Finally, the Lawyer asked, Pastor, why did you ask the two of us to come here? The old pastor mustered all his strength, and then said weakly, Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I would like to go.

One winter morning at breakfast a couple was

listening to the radio. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8-10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through." The wife went out and moved her car. A week later while they are eating breakfast, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10-12 inches of snow today, you will need to move your car to the odd-numbered side of the street so the snowplow can get through." So the wife went out and moved her car again. The next week, while they were eating breakfast, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 12-14 inches of snow today and you must park..." Then the power went off! The wife was very upset. With a worried look on her face she said, "Honey, I don't know what to do. Which side of the street am I supposed to park on?" With the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, her husband said, "Why don't you just leave it in

the garage this time."

The Gorilla and the Redneck

A small zoo in Georgia obtained a very rare species of gorilla. Within a few weeks the gorilla, a female, became very difficult to handle. Upon examination, the veterinarian determined the problem. The gorilla was in heat. To make matters worse, there was no male gorilla available. Thinking about their problem, the Zoo Keeper thought of Bobby Lee Walton, a redneck part-time worker responsible for cleaning the animal cages. Bobby Lee, like most rednecks, had little sense but possessed ample ability to satisfy a female of any species. The Zoo Keeper thought they might have a solution. Bobby Lee was approached with a proposition. Would he be willing to mate with the gorilla for \$500.00? Bobby Lee showed some interest, but said he would have to think the matter over carefully. The following day, he announced that he would accept their offer, but

only under five conditions:

"First", Bobby Lee said, "I ain't gonna kiss her on the lips." The Keeper quickly agreed to this condition.

"Second", he said, "She must wear a 'Dale Earnhardt Forever' T-Shirt." The keeper again readily agreed to this condition. "Third", he said, "you can't never tell no one about this." The keeper again readily agreed to this condition.

"Fourth", Bobby Lee said, "I want all the children raised Southern Baptist." Once again it was agreed.

"And last," Bobby Lee said, "I'll need another week to come up with the \$500.00."

CELIBACY

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his wife Ann listened to the instructor declare,

"It is essential that husbands and wives know the little things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men.

"Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Frank leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently, and whispered,

"Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it?"

And thus began Frank's life of celibacy...

A guy is 72 years old and loves to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up.'

He looked around and couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, 'Pick me up.'

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, 'Are you talking to me?'

The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you.' Pick me up then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it

up carefully, and placed it in his front pocket.

The frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride.'

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog.'

With age comes wisdom.

GOD LOVES DRUNK PEOPLE TOO

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!"

He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife.

"Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks.

"No, I did not, it is 3:00 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his wife.

"Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys; helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too."

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain.

He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes," comes back the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing set," replied the drunk.

ADULT TRUTHS

Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.

Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.

There is great need for a sarcasm font.

Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.

Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.

I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Light than Kay.

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey -but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

Ladies.....Quit Laughing.

Chaplin's Corner - Ray Fritz, Base Chaplain



Wow, it's past the middle of January already!

Diana and I pray that all our shipmates and families are blessed with a happy and prosperous New Year.

As I am writing this, our son and grandson are preparing to fly back to Asheville, NC from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Dakota [with his dad or mom] was awarded a full-expense paid trip, for two, to Hawaii when he took first place in the Pearl Harbor Association of Hendersonville, NC's essay contest on Pearl Harbor.

When they arrived they found that they had been upgraded to a Family Suite at the Marriott Waikiki. They now had 4 beds, other furniture, and a kitchenette, on the 15th floor from which they have a great view of Diamond Head. Life doesn't get any better! I offered to go with him but his dad won out!



To say the least, we are proud grandparents. This young man, who is 15, was reading Spurgeon's sermons at 14! I like that.

We believe they have been blessed mightily by God which leads me to my thoughts for this little article – when we surrender our lives to God, He always surprises us in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

Time out: I do not adhere to what is called the "Prosperity Gospel" which says, "**Just believe God and you will have loads of money dropped on your head!**" That is a lie from the pit. I have seen folks who turned their lives over to God and things got a whole lot worse – don't know why – can't tell you, but in the end I saw that God was faithful

none-the-less.

Picture this; here is our son, who at 41 flat lined on in the emergency room of Mercy Hospital in Asheville a little over a year ago, was revived after two shocks, had stents put in and was back to work as soon as the doctors allowed, with no real heart damage. Last year, after being on 32 hour weeks for three years, he was laid off and then terminated from his job of over 10 years because the company had to almost close the engineering office where he worked. He now works for a Temp agency – this would not look like a blessing to many. He has diabetes with no health insurance at the moment. Three managers are trying to get him hired full time but have not succeeded so far – this would not look like a blessing to many. They have 4 sons at home to care for; his wife has an e-bay store which has helped the family financially – but this would not look like a blessing to many. In all of this his faith is strong and who knows what more God has in store for them. But, he is

in Hawaii with his son at the moment.

In all this I am reminded of God's words to the people of Israel in the Old Testament:

Jeremiah 29:11-14 *(NASB)* 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.' ¹² 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.' ¹³ 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.' ¹⁴ 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

God never changes; the same God who voiced these words to the prophet Jeremiah is God today. His principles are in effect today just as they were then. He knows the plans that He has for you, regardless of whether you believe it or not.

Con't on Page 12

Need Supplies?

The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. Just let the SK know and he'll fix you up with an order form.

USSVI vests are also available to order thru the SK.

Patches, the SK is now able to order patches from BC Patch LLC at wholesale prices. This is usually \$2 - \$3 less per patch than we normally see. Let the SK know what you need.



**Symbol of a
Bilge Rat**

Deadline for the February Issue will be the 10th.

A drunken cowboy named Kenny, lay sprawled across three entire seats in a posh Dallas theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The cowboy groaned but didn't budge.

The usher became more impatient: "Sir, if you don't get up from there, I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment he returned with the manager.

Together the two of them, tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success. Finally they summoned the police.

The Texas Ranger surveyed the situation briefly, then asked, "All right mister, what's your name?"

"Kenny," moaned the cowboy.

Answer to the Flag Trivia:

The Calvert Arms/King's Colors has the antique gold and black diamonds of the Calvert coat of arms as the field. The Calverts were the Lords Baltimore, lords proprietors of the Royal Colony of Maryland. This is the same design that is used in the first and fourth quarters of the flag of the State of Maryland.

The King's Colors of 1606 is used as the canton, yielding a black, gold, red, white, and blue flag.

The last official use of this is unknown. The Third Maryland Regiment used the flag now also known as the cowpens flag at the battle of Cowpens, S. C. in the revolutionary war. The current Maryland flag was officially adopted in 1904. To the best of my knowledge, no other flag was used only by American colonial troops.



Chaplin's Corner (continued)



USS Grant SSBN 631,
Pearl Harbor, HI, 1965

Allow me to end with a personal story that happened when I was aboard the USS Grant, assigned to the Blue Crew (Plank Owner). The submarine had just been commissioned and she was headed for Guam with the Gold Crew in command. I was scheduled to meet her in Guam from Hawaii after she arrived there from Connecticut. Since I only had less than a year left on my enlistment they would fly me to Hawaii but not Diana and our first son.

However, like the government, we found that they would pay for us and our belongings to get to California from Connecticut. Duh! If I paid for Diana's flight to Hawaii, they would cover the expenses for the return trip to anywhere in the US when I was discharged.



We did not have a lot of money so I decided to sell **Filter Queen** vacuum cleaners to make some extra cash [**We couldn't afford one ourselves, at the time**]. They were used in the Reactor Compartments, at the time, because of the filtering capabilities that they had. The government later found some more expensive ones to use but that's another story. We decided we needed a certain amount of money for the trip and out I went door-to-door. The first week I sold several cleaners and had more than we had thought we needed. But, I decided we needed even more [**greedy**]. God's plans were not my plans. I did **not** sell one more cleaner in the next two or three weeks or really knocking on a lot of doors! God said, "**You have enough!**"

He was right, I was wrong. He came through, I didn't. But he blessed us with a great time in Hawaii – 46 years ago!

The purpose for sharing this with you is this – many people in the US, including perhaps some in our Base, are going through some pretty severe times. Don't give up! If you don't believe in God, He just might surprise you anyway. If you do, surrender your life to Him and ask Him to lead you through – He just might surprise you as well.

Well, anyway, there are two ways that our family has gotten to Hawaii!

I think I will enter the contest next year! What do you think?

God Bless You All in magnificent and marvelous ways!

Chaplain Ray and Diana

Golden Saloon

Les comes home completely drunk one night. He lurches through the door and is met by his scowling wife, who is most definitely not

happy. "Where in tarnation have you been all night?" she demands.

"At this fantastic new bar," he says. "The Golden Saloon. Everything there is golden. It's got huge golden doors, a golden floor, the works - heck, even the urinal's gold!"

Bev still doesn't believe his story, and the next day checks the phone book, finding a place across town called the Golden Saloon. She calls up the place to check her husband's story.

"Is this the Golden Saloon?" she asks when the bartender answers the phone.

"Yes it is," bartender answers.

"Do you have huge golden doors?"

"Sure do."

"Do you have golden floors?"

"Most certainly do."

"What about golden urinals?"

There's a long pause, then the woman hears the bartender yelling, "Hey, Duke, I think I got a lead on the guy

that peed in your saxophone last night!"

WALMART INTERVIEW

Jennifer, a manager at Wal-Mart, had the task of hiring someone to fill a job opening. After sorting through a stack of 20 resumes, she found four people who were equally qualified. Jennifer decided to call the four in and ask them only one question. Their answer would determine which of them would get the job.

The day came and as the four sat around the conference room table, Jennifer asked, "What is the fastest thing you know of?"

The first man replied, "a THOUGHT. It just pops into your head. There's no warning."

"That's very good!" replied Jennifer.

"And now you, sir?" she asked the second man.

"Hmmm... let me see... A BLINK! It comes and goes and you don't know that it ever happened. A blink is the fastest thing I know of."

"Excellent!" said Jennifer. "The blink of an eye, that's a very popular cliché for speed!"

She then turned to the third man, who was contemplating his reply.

"Well, out on my dad's ranch, you step out of the house and on the wall there's a light switch. When you flip that switch, way out across the pasture, the light on the barn comes on in less than an instant. Yep, TURNING ON A LIGHT is the fastest thing I can think of."

Jennifer was very impressed with the third answer and thought she had found her man. "It's hard to beat, the speed of light," she said.

Turning to ol' Bubba, the fourth and final man, Jennifer posed the same question.

Bubba replied, "After hearin' the previous three answers, it's obvious tah me that the fastest thang known is diarrhea."

"What!??" said Jennifer, stunned by the response.

"Oh sure," said Bubba. "Ya see, the other day, Ah wasn't feelin' so good, so Ah ran fer the bathroom, but before Ah could THINK, BLINK, or TURN ON THE LIGHT, Ah had already shit my pants."

Fine Wine

A man asked a waiter to take a bottle of Merlot to an unusually attractive woman sitting alone at a table in a cozy little restaurant. So the waiter took the Merlot to the woman and said, 'This is from the gentleman who is seated over there'.... and indicated the sender with a nod of his head.

She stared at the wine coolly for a few seconds, not looking at the man, then decided to send a reply to him by a note. The waiter, who was lingering nearby for a response, took the note from her and conveyed it to the gentleman.

The note read: 'For me to accept this bottle, you need to have a Mercedes in your garage, a million dollars in the bank and 7 inches in your pants'.

After reading the note, the man decided to compose one of his own in return. He folded the note, handed it to the waiter and instructed him to deliver it to the lady.

It read:

'Just to let you know things aren't always

what they appear to be, I have a Ferrari Maranello, BMW Z8, Mercedes CL600, and a Porsche Turbo in my several garages; I have beautiful homes in Aspen and Miami, and a 10,000 acre ranch in Louisiana. There is over twenty million dollars in my bank account and portfolio. But, not even for a woman as beautiful as you, would I cut off three inches. Just send the wine back.



Q: What's wrong with this picture ?

A: If you don't know, then you need my Flag Etiquette Class — which is available to any group: Church, civic, 4H, Scouts, etc.—Moe(SS)

VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

USS IOWA Museum:

The last surviving World War II battleship without a home is docked at the Port of Richmond, where it is being prepared for its journey to the Port of Los Angeles for a new mission as a museum and memorial to Navy might. The Pacific Battleship Center raised \$8 million to rescue the 68-year-old ship from the Ghost Fleet in Suisun Bay. The 800-foot Iowa, commissioned in 1943, served in World War II and the Korean War. It last sailed in 1990. The ship is drawing hundreds of tourists already in Richmond, where the vessel's exterior is undergoing refurbishment. More than 1,000 people showed up 10-11 DEC when the ship was opened for limited weekend tours for the first time, said Robert Kent, president of the Pacific Battleship Center, the nonprofit organization that received the ship donation from the Navy last year.

Despite some "hiccups" on the leasing negotiations with the Port of Los Angeles, Kent said it appears the ship will arrive in San Pedro sometime from February to April. The timing of the final tow south is

"completely weather-dependent," Kent said. There are still details to be worked out with the Port of Los Angeles regarding the ship's lease. If all goes as planned, local tours could begin as early as 20 JUN in a "soft" opening, with the grand opening still slated for July Fourth. In Richmond, work is proceeding quickly to paint and preserve the ship's exterior, Kent said. The idea is to get the ship's exterior, including the mast, refurbished before it comes to San Pedro. "She's going to come down looking fit and trim," Kent told a San Pedro Chamber of Commerce committee last week.

Work on the interior will be ongoing, with new areas opened for tours as they're finished. Once it's towed south, the ship will remain anchored six miles off the coast near Long Beach while workers clean the hull, an operation expected to take about a week. A celebration will be scheduled to bring the ship up the Main Channel in the Port of Los Angeles, with the vessel carrying 1,000 to 1,500 invited guests on-board. The governor of

Iowa is among those who plan to be on hand for the festivities, which could also include ship escorts by the Los Angeles Tall Ships and the SS Lane Victory. Iowa residents will receive special courtesies. "Anyone with an Iowa driver's license will get a general tour for no charge," Kent said.

It is still unclear where the Iowa will initially be berthed, but its permanent home has been designated as Berth 87, just north of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum and the fireboat station. Fundraising is ramping up on the project as well, with about \$1 million already invested in the ship by the Pacific Battleship Center. A \$3 million grant from the state of Iowa is expected to be in hand by the end of this year and a \$5 million bank loan is in the works. Tours will feature an interactive experience, with part-time actors who will demonstrate Navy life. The



ship, nicknamed "The

Big Stick," served from the 1940s through the 1980s before it was de-commissioned. The Pacific Battleship Center is asking for \$10 admission for adults (\$5 for children 12 or older) and raised \$15,000 in its first weekend. The group also is selling holiday gift certificates that give the recipient "plank" ownership status on the Iowa project. [Source: Long Beach Press-Telegram Donna Littlejohn article 18 Dec 2011 ++]

Old Time Radio: If you're an old retiree who enjoyed listening to radio shows such as Jack Benny, Mysterious Traveler, Inner Sanctum, Nick Carter, Phillip Marlowe, et al, when you were a kid or listening to radio shows that were broadcast by AFRS\AFRTS while you were overseas, you can still listen to the shows via the many web sites that stream Old Time Radio (OTR) shows. Following are a few of the sites that stream OTR shows each day. (During this holiday season, many of the sites are currently streaming special nostalgic holiday radio shows.)

□ Relic Radio [http://](http://relicradio.com/otr/stream)

relicradio.com/otr/stream

□ Radio Spirits <http://radiospirits.com> (login required)

□ OTR Now <http://www.otrn timeradio.com/otrn timeradio/index.htm>

□ Antitoch OTR <http://radio.macinmind.com>

□ AM600 Conyers GA <http://radio.bobmermitt.com>

□ Yesterday USA <http://www.yesterdayusa.com>

You can get links to other OTR sites by searching for "streaming OTR," "OTR shows," etc., or you can visit the Graymatters OTR Streaming Links at <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/lifespring/page6.html> (this site provides a list of links to OTR sites). If you're interested in a particular show or character, the OTR Archives web site is available at <http://www.archive.org/details/oldtimeradio>. This site has copies of just about every OTR show that was ever aired. The radio shows can be listened to while you're online or downloaded for your MP3 player, iPhone, etc. [Source: Links for Mil\Ret\Vets Milton Bell article Dec 2011 ++]

Credit Card Charitable Donations:

Imagine if you made a \$10 charitable donation, but you later found out that some unrelated third party pocketed \$3 of it. If you or I did that, it would be called theft. But when a bank does it, we call it a credit card processing fee. Nonprofit organizations agree to these fees for the same reasons that businesses do: Performing a credit card transaction is so easy (for both cardholders and recipients) that the fees are considered just a cost of doing business. When you charge money to your credit card, the processing network and your bank earn a merchant fee, also known as a swipe fee. These charges tend to consume around 3 percent of the transaction – even when it's a nonprofit accepting the funds. So how do you make sure that a charity receives the most benefit from your donation? Follow these steps...

1. Consider other ways to donate. Every type of donation has its own inherent costs. For example, cash donations require labor to accept and count it, security to store it, and transportation to deposit it in the bank. But a wireless bank transfer is probably the least expensive way for a charity to accept cash, followed by checks, then pa-

per money.

2. Use your debit card. If you want to minimize merchant fees but still use plastic, try your debit card. Thanks to recent legislation, debit card fees have been drastically reduced. This means that charities will benefit from lower merchant fees, just as businesses have.

3. Donate via PayPal. PayPal processes donations for charity by charging them 2.2 percent – and 1.9 percent for nonprofits that receive more than \$100,000 a year. This is less than standard credit card merchant fees, and you can use your favorite card.

4. Look for merchant fee waivers. Credit card processors have shown some recognition that their merchant fees are impacting charities, but only when a major disaster makes worldwide news. For example, most credit card processors waived their merchant fees during the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Japan.

5. Use a card with lower merchant fees. Among retailers, it's well known that American Express charges higher merchant

VETERANS NEWS by the RAQ Bulletin

fees than competitors Visa and MasterCard. As someone making a charitable contribution, you can at least try to use the less costly cards to make sure that your chosen charity receives more of your donation. If you are a Capital One cardholder, you can make donations to your favorite charity without incurring merchant fees. Just go to their Giving Site and choose from any charity listed on the Network for Good site <http://www1.networkforgood.org>.

By waiving merchant fees for all charitable donations, Capital One has become the only major card issuer to send 100 percent of its cardholder's donations to the nonprofit of its choice.

[Source: Money-TalksNews Jason Steele article 21 Dec 2011 ++]

Hotel Guest Phone

Scam: Many people will be traveling to see family and friends in the next few weeks. Scammers know this too, and may try to trick you into divulging your credit card information by posing as hotel employees. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning holiday travelers to beware of a telephone phishing scam designed

to steal credit card numbers. A hotel guest in the Memphis area alerted the BBB of the Mid-South to the scam. However, BBBs around the nation have received similar calls. Since travel and hotel stays tend to increase over the holidays, the scammers may be ramping up their efforts during the holiday season.

How the Scam Works:

A hotel guest receives a phone call in the wee hours of the morning. The caller claims to be a hotel employee who needs to get your credit card number because:

1. The hotel encountered a problem processing your credit card and they need to verify your number.
2. The hotel's computer system has crashed and they need to get your credit card information again.
3. The hotel's system has crashed and your credit card information is needed for an audit to be conducted shortly.

The crooks are counting on catching you while you are sleeping, so you aren't thinking clearly. And they might even offer you a discount on the room for the inconvenience. The callers are

very convincing. According to one hotel guest, the caller sounded very professional. However, hotels generally handle any questions about billing at the front desk, not over the phone. And they certainly wouldn't be calling you in the middle of the night. The BBB Tips to protect yourself from being victimized are:

- ☐ Never give your credit card or banking information over the phone to someone you don't know.
- ☐ If you're staying at a hotel and get a call from someone claiming to be a hotel employee, hang up the phone and call the front desk yourself. Better yet, go down to the front desk. Chances are the call didn't come from the hotel.
- ☐ Remind friends and family not to provide credit card information over the phone during a hotel stay.

[Source: BBB Press Release 20 Dec 2011 ++]



VA Service Connection:

A chronic residual from an illness or injury that happened to the veteran while that veteran was on active duty may qualify as a service-connected (SC) condition. A veteran did not have to serve in a war or during a period of wartime, to have a SC condition. For any medical condition to be service-connected, the first thing a veteran has to do is submit their claim to the VA for adjudication. If it is the veterans first application for benefits, they need to complete VA Form 21-526. The VA has created an alternative to submitting the paper form. Veterans can actually apply on-line by going to <http://www.va.gov>. On that page, place the cursor over Veteran Services. That will cause a submenus to display. Click on the link to Disability Compensation. The apply on-line link is on this page. If you are mailing in your form and have any of the following material, attach it to your application:

☐ Discharge or separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)

Dependency records (marriage & children's

birth certificates)

☐ Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

Once the VA Form 21-526, or on-line application, is submitted, the VA will notify the veteran the application has been received. The veteran will then be scheduled for a Compensation and Pension (C&P) examination. The VA will arrange for this examination. The examination may be at a VA Hospital or the VA Regional Office may refer the veteran to a non-VA provider. Either way, the VA will pay the veteran for travel to their appointment. Make sure you either get your travel pay or submit the appropriate paperwork for it to be mailed to you before leaving your appointment. After all the medical information has been received, and all supporting information has been obtained, the VA will adjudicate the claim. Three elements must be met in order for a condition to be SC.

1) Evidence of in-service relationship.

What actually happened on active duty that caused or contributed to the current medical condition? Was there an in-

jury? Was this a disease? Was the veteran exposed to something? The burden of proof is on the veteran to establish this relationship.

2) Current diagnosis.

This is pretty straight forward. What is the actual diagnosis? The veteran needs to ensure they received a diagnosis by a licensed provider if they are using a non-VA provider and the veteran should be diagnosed by the appropriate discipline. If the veteran is seeing a Dentist and asks them about a heart condition, the VA may not find the condition service-connected.

3) **Medical nexus.** What is medical connection between the current diagnosis and the in-service occurrence. This is quite often the part of the claim that will or won't connect a condition to service.

Once all three elements have been answered, the VA adjudicator can determine the claim. If the condition was related to active duty and the physician finds the current diagnosis is at least —as likely as not— related to active duty, then the claim may be service-connected. [Source: Veterans Advice blog David

Peters article 21 Dec 2011 ++]

Notes of Interest:

US Mint. The United States Mint spent a lot of money trying to convince Americans to use dollar coins vice bills. It is now shutting down production. The decision came after the Federal Reserve told Congress earlier this year that it wanted to spend \$650,000 to build a storage facility at its bank in Dallas to store all of the surplus coins in one place and it planned to spend another \$3 million to transport all of the surplus coins to the new warehouse.

Made in America. If builders of American homes would use just 5% more American materials it would create 220,000 jobs. Take a look at this ABC News report at http://cdnapi.kaltura.com/index.php/kwidget/wid/0_04vzdsr5/uiconf_id/5590821.

Walgreens. As of 29 DEC barring a last minute change, after 31 DEC Walgreens will no longer be part of TRICARE's pharmacy network.

Vet Population. As of SEP 2010 there were 22.7 million vets. For a breakdown by war era and gender by state refer to http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp. [Source: Various 16-31Dec



Lost Boats— USS Argonaut SS 166

Originally named V-4, Argonaut was commissioned in 1928. At the time, she was the largest submarine in the U.S. Navy, a distinction she retained until the advent of nuclear submarines in the 1950s. Designed as a minelayer, Argonaut was 385 feet long and displaced 2,710 tons (4,080 submerged), with 4-21" torpedo tubes, and two minelaying tubes aft. As originally configured, 60 mines were carried. She also carried a pair of 6"/53-calibre deck guns, one forward and one aft. Argonaut was assigned to Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack, but was at sea near Midway on 7 December 1941. In company with U.S.S. Trout, Argonaut approached a suspected enemy force. Mindful of his boat's unsuitability as an attack submarine, Argonaut's captain, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Barchet, prudently elected to make a submerged sonar approach.

The "invasion force," which proved to be a pair of Japanese destroyers sent off on a hit and run mission to shell Midway, did not detect Argonaut—though it appeared at the time that

they had—nor was the submarine able to set up an attack. While this was looked on as a missed opportunity, it was conceded that, in view of Argonaut's size, slow speed, lack of maneuverability, and relatively shallow test depth, Barchet acted correctly.

(This was, of course, before anyone had become aware of the flaws in the Mark 14 torpedo, which at that time would have been far more likely to simply inform the enemy of Argonaut's presence, probably resulting in her loss, than do any damage to the enemy.)

Contrary to some published reports, Barchet was not relieved for "lack of aggression" at the end of Argonaut's first war patrol. His executive officer, William Post, was sent to a staff job at Pearl Harbor and Argonaut's dive officer, Richard O'Kane was temporarily moved up to XO. Barchet then took the boat back to Mare Island for a much-needed refit and modernization. At that point, having commanded Argonaut since 1939, he turned over the boat to Lieutenant Commander John Pierce and O'Kane left to join the pre-

commissioning crew of U.S.S. Wahoo. Barchet went on to serve in a number of important posts both during and after the war.

Still designated as a mine-layer upon her return to Pearl Harbor, the decision was made to convert Argonaut into a transport submarine. Her mine handling gear was removed and her mine tubes were cut out and blanked off at the after bulkhead, with the remaining sections outside the pressure hull pierced to allow them to be free-flooding. The space formerly allocated for mines was now filled with bunks, heads, mess facilities, and washroom. About 120 Marines could be accommodated. She was redesignated APS-1 after this conversion.

Argonaut's conversion to a troop carrier was a concession to reality. It had already been recognized that giant submarines like Argonaut, and the similar "cruiser" submarines Nautilus and Narwhal, were impractical for normal operations. Their heavy gun armament, intended for commerce raiding, lacked the centralized fire control system it would have needed to be of any practical value

against a warship. Transporting raiding parties and other special missions appeared to be the most practical use for these oversized boats. Also, in Argonaut's case, the development of mines that could be laid from ordinary torpedo tubes essentially ended the need for specialist mine-layer submarines.

In August 1942 Argonaut, under the command of Lieutenant Commander John Pierce, transported 121 members of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion to Makin Island, in the Gilberts chain. Nautilus, unlike Argonaut fitted with only temporary troop accommodations, carried another 90 Ma-

rines. Both submarines attacked shipping during the raid, then picked up the raiders after two days.

On 10 January 1943, Argonaut attacked a five-ship convoy, escorted by three destroyers. Pierce's torpedo damaged one of the escorts. The others, Isokaze and Maikaze, attacked at once with a heavy depth charging.

An Army Air Force bomber, returning from a raid with all bombs expended, reported seeing Argonaut's bow break surface after a depth charge attack. The Japanese destroyers opened fire with their guns, sinking Argonaut with the loss of all hands. She carried a crew of 105 at the time of her loss.

A wife asks her engineer husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, get 6."

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk.

The wife asks him, "Why the hell did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"

He replied, "They had eggs."



USS Argonaut SS 166

**Next Meeting is at
VFW POST 9138
January 28th
at VFW Post 9138
Bring a passing dish
Dinner 1730
Meeting—Tolling of the
Boats
Please Remember to support
VFW Post 9138
Attend their
Breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of each
month**



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 VFW Break-fast 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 CP Base Meeting—1730 Dinner & Meeting 1900
29	30	31	February 1	2 	3	4
5 Super Bowl Chili Cook-off VFW Post 9138 3PM	6	7	8	9	10 PP Deadline PPeditor@carolina.rr.com	11
12 VFW Break-fast 8 –11 AM 	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15	16	17	18 CP Base Meeting—1730 Dinner & Meeting 1900
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	March 1	2	3

One way to support VFW Post 9138 is to attend their Sunday Morning Breakfast held on the second Sunday of each month from 8am to 11am—Come on out!

