

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates,

The submarine of the month for June is one of the more storied Boats of WWII, the USS Barb SS-220. I probably first heard of her on one of those old "Silent Service" episodes that so captured my fancy. In 1947 she was converted to a GUPPY conversion. In 1954 she was "loaned" to the Italian Navy and rechristened the Enrico Tazzoli. Looking back, it could very possibly have been that Italian Boat we made fun of in the Med in 1969-and there's no way I would have known and appreciated her true history at that time. Now I think I could, but she's not around anymore-scrapped in 1972.

That makes me appreciate even more the Museum Boats that we can still walk aboard. I've been on the Drum, the Pampanito and the Bowfin-all true to their WWII origins. I do appreciate the other Museum Boats like Croaker which are exhibited in the GUPPY formats they later acquired. It's still nice to know, though, that an old black and white movie (or calendar) isn't the only option for remembering and honoring the heritage those old Boats have passed down to us.

And that's the best lead in to remind you of our July meeting: Frank McCoy is going to regale us with stories about his recent East Coast Museum Boat Visit. He couldn't see them all, but come join us in July to get the skinny on the ones he did visit.

Don't wait 'til July, however. Our June meeting two weekends from now will be featuring shipmate Phil Jaskoviak from the LA-Pasadena Base. Phil wrote a book about his time aboard the USS Casimir Pulaski, "The Polack: Memoirs of Family Tragedy, Heroism and Cold War Submarine Adventure." (A guy with a Polish name writing about a ship with a Polish name-think there's a joke he hasn't heard?) Or a couple of stories he didn't put in the book? Come join us and find out.

In addition, you'll get the latest on the progress of our Subvet's Memorial Plaque for Riverside National Cemetery. Our progress is most impressive.

For current business, I anticipate that, after taking into account any member feedback, the EBoard will approve proceeding with our Brass Plaque memorial to be placed at Riverside National Cemetery. This is a tremendous beginning toward our goal of a substantial Submarine Memorial there. We'll have an update for you at the next meeting on April 27th.

With much appreciation for his support and steadfastness on the EBoard, I have regretfully accepted Andy Anderson's resignation as our Senior Vice Commander. Andy decided he wasn't able to continue to the end of his term. We're happy he intends to continue his presence with us going forward. In his place, I am happy to announce that I have appointed Mike Williamson to fill the position going forward. (I initially tried to talk him out of it, but truth is I am both delighted and thankful for his continuing support.)

Thank you for your vote! Since our beginning, Bonefish Base has always had one of the highest participation rates in all of the USSVI elections and we'd like to continue that record. There's currently an election going on for our new District 6 Commander. San Diego Base CDR Bob Bissonette is running unopposed-you can vote for him or for a write in-but please vote. I've attached a ballot. You can print it and deliver back to me or do it the easy way-just send me an email with your choice. That's all there is to it. I'd like to be able to say we once again are leaders in the participation listings.

One more attachment this month is the Bonefish XO's recollection of her final days around the fire. It expands well beyond what we were able to cover in last month's program. If you have difficulty printing the attachments let me know and I'll bring your hard copy to the meeting.

As to the Binnacle List, our chaplain tells me most of you are in much better shape than you were last month. Well Done!! Keep it up, and who knows—maybe John Raplee will earn a liberty card this month.

Finally, our Nostalgia Note:

"Post a menu on the kitchen door informing your family that they are having steak for dinner. Then make them wait in line for an hour. When they finally get to the kitchen, tell them you are out of steak, but they can have dried ham or hot dogs. Repeat daily until they ignore the menu and just ask for hot dogs."

Mind your bubble. I look forward to seeing you at the Spaghetti Factory on June 22nd.

Frank

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Frank Campbell

Base Commander
USS Bonefish Base USSVI