



VENTING SANITARY INBOARD

Issue 264, July 2016



OUR CREED:

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

FORWARD BATTERY

BASE COMMANDER

George Hudson
503.843.2082
gghudson@aol.com

VICE COMMANDER

Jay Agler
503.771.1774

SECRETARY

Bill Long
503.939.4134

TREASURER

Mike Worden
503.708.8714

COMMANDER'S LOG

IT'S VOTING TIME AGAIN!

It is voting time again for USSVI National officers and new by-law changes. There is a "mail-in" ballot in the latest edition of the American Submariner (Volume 2016, Issue 2). If you prefer, you can also vote on line. Electronic on line voting begins after June 21st.

For on line voting, sign in to the USSVI web site at <https://www.ussvi.org>. Select the third button on the left link column which will activate after June 21st to access the ballot. Each member must complete his own ballot, as proxy voting is not allowed.

In past years we have had low participation in our USSVI National elections, so let's change that and get out the vote! Think about it! All of your USSVI candidates are the good guys, fellow Brothers of the Pin! Plus, you won't have to hold your nose to vote, like in that "other" election. So please vote and support the USSVI!



CHAPLAIN/NOMINATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Scott Duncan
503.667.0728

CHIEF OF THE BOAT

Arlo Gatchel
503.771.0540

WAYS & MEANS OFFICER

Vacant

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR/SMALL STORES BOSS

Dave Vrooman
503.466.0379

PUBLICITY & SOCIAL CHAIR

Gary Schultz, Jr.
503.666.6125

BYLAWS CHAIR/PAST BASE COMMANDER

Ray Lough
360.573.4274

TRUSTEE

Gary Webb
503.632.6259

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Alan Brodie
360.247.6640

HISTORIAN/POC/ALL- AROUND GOOD GUY

Bob Walters
503.284.8693

(See "Commander's Log," Page 10)

ON ETERNAL PATROL: BOATS LOST IN THE MONTH OF JULY

USS S-28 (SS-133)
Class: S-Class
Launched: 20 Sep 1922
Commissioned: 13 Dec 1923
Builder: Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp., Quincy, Massachusetts
Length: 219' 3"
Beam: 20' 8"
Lost on 4 July 1944
49 Men Lost



On the morning of 3 July 1944, USS S-28 began training operations off Oahu with the United States Coast Guard cutter Reliance. The anti-submarine warfare exercises continued into the evening of 4 July. At 1730, the day's concluding exercise began. Contact between the two ships became sporadic and at 1820, the last, brief contact with S-28 was made and lost. All attempts to establish further communications failed.

Assistance arrived from Pearl Harbor, but a thorough search of the area failed to locate the submarine. Two days later, a slick of diesel fuel appeared in the area where she had been operating, but the extreme depth exceeded the range of available equipment. A Court of Inquiry was unable to determine the cause of the loss of S-28.

USS Runner (SS-275)
Class: Gato Class
Launched: 30 May 1942
Commissioned: 30 Jul 1942
Builder: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine
Length: 311' 9"
Beam: 27' 3"
Lost on 11 July 1943
78 Men Lost



On 27 May 1943, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Joseph H. Bourland, USS Runner departed Midway for the Kuril Islands chain and waters off northern Japan. No report was heard from her. However, captured Japanese records indicated that she sank the cargo ship Seinan Maru on 11 June in Tsugaru Strait off Hokkaidō and the passenger-cargo ship Shinryu Maru on 26 June off the Kuril Islands.

Runner was declared overdue and presumed lost on 11 July 1943 and was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 October 1943. Runner was awarded one Battle Star for World War II service.

USS Robalo (SS-273)
Class: Gato Class
Launched: 9 May 1943
Commissioned: 28 Sep 1943
Builder: Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., Manitowoc, Wisconsin
Length: 311' 9"
Beam: 27' 3"
Lost on 26 July 1944
81 Men Lost



Robalo departed Fremantle on 22 June 1944 on her third war patrol. She set a course for the South China Sea to conduct her patrol in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. After transiting Makassar Strait and Balabac Strait she was scheduled to arrive on station about 6 July and remain until dark on 2 August 1944. On 2 July, a contact report stated Robalo had sighted a Fusō-class battleship, with air cover and two destroyers for escort, just east of Borneo. No other messages were ever received from the submarine and when she did not return from patrol, she was presumed lost.

From various sources, it was concluded Robalo was sunk on 26 July 1944, 2 miles (3.2 km) off the western coast of Palawan Island from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy mine. Robalo earned two Battle Stars for her service in World War II. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 16 September 1944.

USS Grunion (SS-216)
Class: Gato Class
Launched: 22 Dec 1941
Commissioned: 11 Apr 1942
Builder: Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut
Length: 311' 9"
Beam: 27' 3"
Lost on 30 July 1942
70 Men Lost



Grunion departed Hawaii on 30 June 1942, heading toward the Aleutian Islands for her first war patrol. Her first report, made as she patrolled north of Kiska Island, stated she had been attacked by a Japanese destroyer and had fired at her with inconclusive results. She operated off Kiska throughout July and sank two enemy patrol boats while in search for enemy shipping. On 30 July the submarine reported intensive antisubmarine activity, and she was ordered back to Dutch Harbor.

(See "Boats Lost in the Month of July," Page 3)

BOATS LOST IN THE MONTH OF JULY

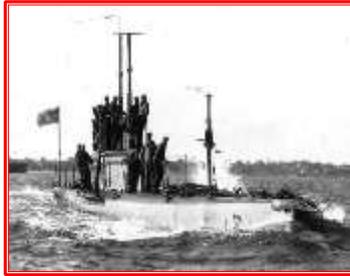
(Continued From Page 2)

Grunion was never heard from nor seen again. Air searches off Kiska were fruitless; on 16 August Grunion was reported overdue from patrol and assumed lost with all hands. Her name was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 2 November 1942.

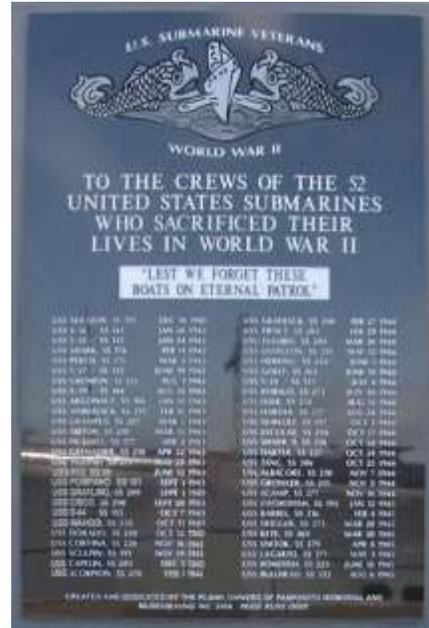
It is now generally accepted that Grunion was sunk on July 30, 1942 by the armed Japanese freighter Kano Maru, approximately 10 miles northeast of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands.

USS G-2 was decommissioned on 2 April 1919 and was subsequently designated as a target for depth charge and ordnance net tests in Niantic Bay, Connecticut. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew on 30 July, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 feet (25 m), drowning three members of the inspection crew. Too deep and too old to salvage, the submarine was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 September 1919.

USS G-2 (SS-27)
Class: G-Class
Launched: 10 Jan 1912
Commissioned: 1 Dec 1913
Builder: Lake Torpedo Boat, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Length: 161' 3"
Beam: 13' 1"
Lost on 30 July 1919
3 Men Lost



USS G-2, a 400-ton Lake-type submarine, was built under contract with the Lake Torpedo Boat Company and completed by the New York Navy Yard. She was originally named Tuna, but was renamed G-2 in November 1911, prior to her launching. Commissioned in February 1915, she operated along the Atlantic coast for the next year, then received a lengthy shipyard overhaul. G-2 returned to the active fleet in late June 1917. She primarily spent the remainder of her service career on experimental and training assignments, based at New London, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts, though she briefly conducted anti-submarine patrols in the Long Island Sound area in mid-1918.



*There is a point of no return, where ships
 may ride at anchor for a little space
 And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
 leaving an eddy at the mooring place...
 Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
 No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*

~ Leslie Nelson Jennings



- July 4Independence Day
- July 4Independence Day Parade, Canby, Oregon (Staging: 0830 @ NW 4th & N. Cedar Avenue)
- July 14 Base Meeting (1900 at VFW Post 4248, 7118 SE Fern St, Portland – No Chow this Month)
- August 1 Armed Forces Day
- August 6Blueback Base Meeting/Picnic (1100 at Clackamette Park, Oregon City)
- August 7National Purple Heart Day
- August 14 VJ Day – 71st Anniversary of Japanese Surrender, WWII
- August 15-20 USSVI National Convention, Reno, Nevada
- September 5 Labor Day
- September 8 Base Meeting (1900 at VFW Post 4248, 7118 SE Fern St, Portland – No Chow this Month)
- September 119/11 Remembrance Day
- September 16 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- September 25 Gold Star Mother's Day



BLUEBACK BASE MEETING MINUTES

9 June 2016

1730 E-Board Meeting called to order by Commander George Hudson. Members present were Commander Hudson; Trustee Gary Webb; Secretary Bill Long; Treasurer Mike Worden; and Chief of the Boat Arlo Gatchel. Bills were submitted and ordered to be paid. Discussed the Base's participation in this year's upcoming parades. It is too late to enter the Starlight Parade and would be very costly to enter the Rose Parade. Gary Webb will follow up and provide more information on signing up for the 4th of July parade in Canby. Discussed the possibility of camping over night at the annual base picnic at Clackamette Park this year. Commander Hudson will follow up with the park and report back to the base on his findings. It was mentioned that it will soon be time to start thinking about making reservations for this year's Base Christmas party and next year's Submarine Birthday Brunch. The Base will need to decide where we want to hold these events. Treasurer Mike Worden is still looking for a volunteer to serve as back-up Treasurer. The meeting was adjourned at 1800.

1800 Another great dinner was served by our wonderful Base ladies. Thank you!

1905 Base Meeting called to order by Base Commander George Hudson.

Invocation: Chief of the Boat Arlo Gatchel

Flag Salute: Commander George Hudson

Tolling of Lost Boats: Alan Brodie/Chief of the Boat Arlo Gatchel

Moment of Silence for Lost Shipmates

Reading of USSVI Purpose and Creed: Commander George Hudson

Introductions: Commander George Hudson

Secretary's Report: Base Secretary Bill Long

Treasurer's Report: Base Treasurer Mike Worden

Commander's Report:

- Commander Hudson mentioned that National elections are approaching and urged all hands to get out and vote.
- Commander Hudson called the Rose Parade officials about entering the Base's float in the Rose Parade and was told that the float has to be covered with vegetation and that the application deadline had already passed (in March). Chief of the Boat Gatchel talked about promoting awareness in the community and indicated that being involved in local parades was a great way to do so. The possibility of entering the float in next year's Starlight Parade can be re-visited in the Spring.
- A discussion was held about the current storage situation for the base float and trailer. The Base would like to find another option for storage. It should be in an enclosed space out of the elements. Secretary Bill Long volunteered to research different options and report back to the Base on his findings.
- Clackamette Park (where the base Picnic is being held in August) does not currently have a camp host, and we cannot camp at the park unless a host is hired. Commander Hudson will call the Parks Department to find out if they anticipate hiring a camp host and will report back.
- Commander Hudson asked for a show of hands to see who would be interested in participating in the Canby 4th of July Parade. There was sufficient interest, and Gary Webb has agreed to contact the officials for the Canby 4th of July Parade to see if we still have time to enter our float for the parade. The Base general membership will be notified via email if we are able to participate.

BLUEBACK BASE MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from Page 5)

Old Business:

- Chief of the Boat Arlo Gatchel brought in some personal photos from his collection to share with the general membership, along with several 2001 submarine calendars to hand out to those members who would like to have them for the photos.
- Gerald Floyd, who served on USS George Washington (SSBN-598) is in attendance and might be interested in becoming a new member of the base. Welcome, Gerald!

50/50 Break

New Business: Newsletter Editor Alan Brodie asked the Base members to assist in providing information for the Binnacle List to appear in the "Venting Sanitary Inboard" newsletter.

For the Good of the Order:

- Gary Schultz provided an update on shipmate Tim Smart's son, Tim, Jr., who is recovering from a very serious medical condition. Please keep Tim, Jr. and the entire Smart family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Base Treasurer Mike Worden announced that Base Chaplain Scott Duncan has volunteered to act as the back-up Base Treasurer. Thank you, Scott!

Benediction: Base Chaplain Scott Duncan

Meeting Adjourned: 1954

Sailing List: Brodie; Bryan; Daniels; Duncan; Floyd; Gatchel; Hudson; Heckman; Jackson; Long; Lough; McLaughlin; Musa, S.; Musa, W.; Nowland; Savage; Schultz; Sumner; Thrall; Walters; Webb; Worden

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Long

William Long
Secretary
Blueback Base



USSVI DUES



Annual Membership	National	Blueback Base
One-Year Term	\$25	\$15
Three-Year Term	\$70	\$45
Five-Year Term	\$115	\$75
Life Membership	National	Blueback Base
Age 45 and Under	\$500	\$300
Age 46-55	\$400	\$250
Age 56-65	\$300	\$200
Age 66-75	\$200	\$150
Age 76 and older	\$100	\$50



THIS MONTH IN SILENT SERVICE HISTORY



July 1, 1943 - **USS Thresher (SS-200)** attacks a Japanese convoy off the northwest coast of Celebes, in Makassar Strait, damaging destroyer Hokaze, 00 43'N, 119 34'E, and sinks army cargo ship Yoneyama Maru, 00 20'N, 119 32'E, 38 miles from Balikpapan.

July 2, 1945 - **USS Barb (SS-220)** bombards Japanese installations on Kaihyo Island, Japan in the first successful use of rockets against shore positions.

July 5, 1942 - **USS Growler (SS-215)** torpedoes and sinks the Japanese destroyer Arare in the Salmon Lagoon, off Kiska. In the attack, Growler damages destroyers Kasumi and Shiranui.

July 6, 1944 - **USS Paddle (SS-263)** attacks a Japanese convoy northwest of Halmahera and sinks destroyer Hokaze off Sangi Island. Also on this date, **USS Sealion (SS-315)** attacks a Japanese convoy in the East China Sea and sinks merchant passenger cargo ship Setsuzan Maru off Ningpo, China while **USS Tang (SS-206)** sinks Japanese freighter Dori Maru in Chosen Bay.

July 7, 1944 - **USS Mingo (SS-261)**, **USS Skate (SS-305)**, **USS Sunfish (SS-281)**, **USS Flasher (SS-249)**, and **USS Bonefish (SS-223)** sink up to eight Japanese ships.

July 10, 1945 - **USS Runner (SS-476)** sinks Japanese minesweeper No. 27 off Tado Saki, Honshu.

July 11, 1944 - **USS Sealion (SS-315)**, in the Yellow Sea off the west coast of Korea near Shosei Jima, sinks two Japanese freighters.

July 15, 1942 - **USS Grunion (SS-216)** sinks Japanese submarine chasers 25 and 26 off Kiska, Aleutian Islands.

July 17, 1944 - **USS Gabilan (SS-252)** sinks Japanese minesweeper W 25 northwest of Zenizu, Japan.

July 20, 1960 - In the first launch of the Polaris missile, **USS George Washington (SSBN-598)** successfully fires two operational Polaris missiles while submerged off Florida.

July 24, 1942 - **USS Narwhal (SS-167)** sinks Japanese guardboat Shinsei Maru at Utsutsu Bay, Hokkaido. USS Narwhal also sinks freighters Nissho Maru off Etorofu Maru, Kuril Island, and Kofuji Maru off Oito.

July 27, 1943 - **USS Scamp (SS-277)** torpedoes and sinks the Japanese submarine I-168, which had sunk USS Yorktown (CV 5) and USS Hammann (DD 412) at the Battle of Midway. Scamp also damages the Japanese oiler Kazahaya.

July 28, 1926 - **USS S-1 (SS-105)** surfaces and launches a Cox-Klemin (XS-2) seaplane flown by Lt. D. C. Allen. The submarine recovers the aircraft and submerges, successfully completing the first airplane transport on board a submarine.

July 29, 1944 - **USS Balao (SS-285)** shells and sinks Japanese sampan Nissho Maru about 100 miles off Palau, 09 27'N, 133 19'E. **USS Drum (SS-228)** sinks Asahi Maru with gunfire in the same general area, 09 18'N, 133 20'E and takes survivors prisoner. Also on this date, **USS Perch (SS-313)** sinks Japanese guardboat Kannon Maru I-Go in the Philippine Sea, east of Dinagat Island.

July 31, 1944 - **USS Parche (SS-384)** participates with **USS Steelhead (SS-280)** in a predawn attack on a Japanese convoy off Takao, Taiwan. Under Commander Lawson P. "Red" Ramage's brave command, Parche's crew sinks the Japanese cargo ship Manko and the tanker Koei while also badly damaging three other enemy cargo vessels. For his conspicuous gallantry on this occasion, Commander Ramage is awarded the Medal of Honor.

NAVY SAYS GOODBYE TO ANOTHER FAST-ATTACK SUBMARINE IN HAWAII

Aaron Kidd | Stars and Stripes | June 8, 2016

The Sailors, submarine veterans, and friends and families of the USS Houston (SSN-713) crew bid farewell to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine Monday after more than 30 years of Navy service.

"It is a celebration of our time in Pearl Harbor," Cmdr. Scott McGinnis, Houston's commander, said during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. "You can see the energy and amount of people here who are just happy to be a part of the Houston family and celebrate the success."

Houston – the fourth Navy ship to be named after the Texas city – is on its way to Bremerton, Washington, where it is scheduled for decommissioning on August 26, a Navy statement said.

The 362-foot-long sub, which can be fitted with Mk-48 torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles, was commissioned September 25, 1982.



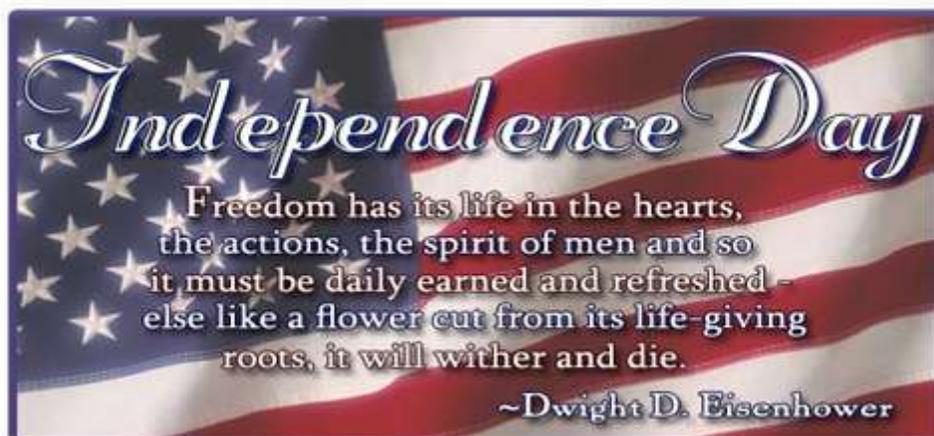
The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Houston (SSN-713) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii for the final time, June 6, 2016. Michael Lee/U.S. Navy

The vessel recently served as a training platform for 46 submariners across five boats and hosted command courses for prospective commanding officers, the statement said.

"The Houston is going to be sending off some outstanding sailors," Paul R. McCrory, Chief of the Boat, said in the statement. "Everybody has put their best foot forward. We've come through so much with the age of this ship, it's really hard to maintain after 33 years of active service. It's been special to watch the guys take advantage of being a part of what's going to be history."

The base hosted a decommissioning ceremony for another Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN-705), on Memorial Day.

City of Corpus Christi, the first submarine of its type to deploy to the Pacific Fleet, was inactivated after 35 years.



ADMIRAL WARNS: RUSSIAN SUBS WAGING COLD WAR-STYLE “BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC”

Sam LaGrone | U.S. Naval Institute News | June 6, 2016

Russia has stepped up its submarine operations and is regularly probing U.S. anti-submarine networks in a new “Battle of the Atlantic,” the commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet said.

In an article for the U.S. Naval Institute’s June issue of *Proceedings*, Vice Adm. James Foggo III outlined a new era in U.S. and Russian submarine warfare he dubs “The Fourth Battle of the Atlantic.”

In his piece, Foggo compares the current uptick in Russian submarine posture to the great submarine battles between the Allies and the Germans in World War I and World War II and the Soviets and the U.S. during the Cold War.

“Once again, an effective, skilled, and technologically advanced Russian submarine force is challenging us. Russian submarines are prowling the Atlantic, testing our defenses, confronting our command of the seas, and preparing the complex underwater battlespace to give them an edge in any future conflict,” Foggo wrote.



Borei-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)

“Not only have Russia’s actions and capabilities increased in alarming and confrontational ways, its national-security policy is aimed at challenging the United States and its NATO allies and partners.”

Since the Russian seizure of Crimea

in 2014, Russian Navy surface ships, aircraft and submarines have been much more active in presence operations – particularly the submarines.

Russian officials have been open about increased submarine operations over the last two years. Russian Navy head Adm. Viktor Chirkov said in March of 2015 that submarines operations have increased by 50 percent.

“This is logical and necessary to guarantee the security of the state,” he said at the time in the Russian state-controlled press.



Russian submarine Severodvinsk

While Russian surface ships and aircraft trail behind their U.S. equivalents technologically, Russia has maintained a strong submarine industrial base since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In late 2014, the U.S. officer in charge of U.S. submarine construction told a conference he was so impressed with the Russian Navy’s new Yassen-class attack submarine he had a model built of the first-in-class attack boat K-329 Severodvinsk.

“We’ll be facing tough potential opponents. One only has to look at the Severodvinsk, Russia’s version of an SSGN,” then-Program Executive Office Submarines Vice Adm. Dave Johnson said at the time.

“I am so impressed with this ship that I had [the Navy] build a model from unclassified data.”



Model of Russian submarine Severodvinsk built for NAVSEA (U.S. Naval Institute Photo)

In addition to nuclear submarines, the Russians are improving the technological capability of their diesel-electric submarines, including the ability for Russian Kilos to launch long-range Kalibr NK cruise missiles.

“These are the platforms that are the most challenging for us to deal with because of their inherent stealth,” Foggo wrote.

“As demonstrated last December by Kalibr launches into Syria from the Eastern Mediterranean, Russian leaders will use such weapons at will, without the same qualms we have about collateral damage.”

All told, Foggo outlines an “arc of steel” of Russian submarine strength from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

“Combined with extensive and frequent submarine patrols throughout the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea, and forward-deployed forces in Syria, Russia has the capability to hold nearly all NATO maritime forces at risk,” he wrote.

For the Good of the Order

- The Blueback Base is still seeking a volunteer to fill the position of **WAYS & MEANS OFFICER**. This is an Executive Board position; for a detailed description of duties and responsibilities, see [the Blueback Base Constitution and Bylaws](#), Article IX, Section 7.
- Planning on attending the **2016 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION** in Reno in August? Be sure to [visit this link](#) for everything you need to know, including the Plan of the Week, Boat Reunion information, convention and host hotel registration forms, and lots more!



BINNACLE LIST



Tim Smart, Jr., son of our shipmate Tim Smart and his wife Cindy, is bravely fighting – and slowly but steadily winning – a battle against Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis. Tim, Jr. has been hospitalized since mid-March, but hopes to be home soon to continue his recuperation and rehabilitation. Despite the severity of his illness, Tim, Jr. has recently achieved two very significant milestones: earlier this month he turned eighteen, and more recently, he graduated from high school. Please keep the Smart family in your thoughts and prayers as Tim, Jr. continues on the road to recovery.



Collins ♦ Gatchel ♦ Hickens ♦ Huston ♦ Keffer ♦
Nelson ♦ Schumacher ♦ Toycen ♦ Warden



COMMANDER'S LOG

(Continued from Page 1)

THE RV PARK AT CLACKAMETTE PARK WILL SOON BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!!

I recently spoke with the Oregon City Parks Department and was informed they have hired a new campground host for the Clackamette RV Park. The campground host will be on duty as of June 27th, so we will now be able to camp there for our August 6th Base meeting and picnic.

The downside to the RV Park is that the spaces are only available on a "first-come, first-served" basis, so you'll want to plan accordingly (you might want to consider arriving on a weekday when there likely will be more open spaces available).

Fraternally,

George

George Hudson
Base Commander