

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 4, Issue 7

August 2008



## THE GREEN BOARD

ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE



### Columbus Base Newsletter



### Annual Awards Banquet August 2, 2008



On Saturday August 2, 2008 the Columbus Base held it's fourth annual awards banquet at the Maennerchor in Columbus.

The annual banquet honors this years inductees into the Holland Club. This year our honorees are Clem O'Brien, Dick Trace and Bob Wells. We are pleased to add their names to the roster of the Holland Club. Clem O'Brien was also presented a WWII appreciation plaque. George Trace was unable to attend the banquet.



Bob Wells with his Holland Club award

This is also the time that we honor the Base Shipmate of the Year. We were privileged to have on hand Gordon and Paul Larson to present the first **Richard A. Larson Memorial Shipmate of the Year Award**. Recipient of the award this year is Cliff Dodson.



Clem O'Brien receiving his Holland Club



Cliff Dodson receiving the Shipmate of the Year award from Gordon and Paul Larson

There were several other awards presented as well. The Commander's Award was presented to Tom Baughman and Jim Tolson. The Editor's award went to Jim Koogler and a certificate of appreciation was presented to Ken Sewell for allowing the base to promote the book *All Hands Down*. Our speaker, State Senator John Carey was also presented a certificate of appreciation.

Finally the Bravo Zulu awards went to the Book Committee for their effort in promoting *All Hands Down* for the Base treasury and charities, and also to Cliff Dodson for the Base website.



Joe presenting Ken with an appreciation award. Bob Wells in the foreground



Jim Tolson receiving the Base Commander award.



Jim Koogler being presented the Green Board Editor's award. Marv Pastor in front



Gus Hoehl second from left, his wife Helen and John Leers. To Gus's right is one of his daughters.



Tim Barker on the left, Ben Grimes and his daughter Susan



State Senator John Carey, to his right is Bob Wells and to his left is Clem O'Brien



Dave Creekmore to the left, Marv Pastor, Joe Testa, Bill Anderson receiving BZ award



Elaine Williams to the left, James Williams, Dottie Mather and Lee Mather



Joe Testa presenting Tom Baughman the Commander's Award



Newest member Brian Farnsworth winning a 50/50 prize



Phil Philipps to the left buying 50/50 tickets, Opal Philipps next to him. Mamie & Joe Murphy in the foreground



Bruce Rinehart to the left was the 50/50 winner and Bill Meyer is on the right.

Columbus Base,

Greetings from the Western Pacific. Your boat is about 75 percent done with its Western Pacific deployment. Our operations have been very successful thus far, with the ship receiving kudos for its performance in some innovative and demanding operations. Of course, since you are all submariners, you know that I can't provide any details. Anyone who has been to sea on a boat knows that "we do not discuss submarine operations". But, trust me when I say that the Sailors of the COLUMBUS have performed magnificently thus far. I could not be more proud of their achievements, especially those who served their apprenticeships in the 'bad old days' of the shipyard. Their perseverance has been an inspiration, and it is immensely satisfying to serve alongside them as they enjoy deployed success.

As for ports, we have called at Saipan, Guam, and in Sasebo, Japan. Saipan was a highlight, with beautiful beaches and very friendly people. Any World War II history buffs will also know that Saipan was the site of a key battle in 1944 that made eventual victory all but assured. I was pleased to visit the historical areas and appreciate the sacrifices made on all sides.... We were scheduled to visit Hong Kong, but the schedule changed and we were needed at sea. Later on, we will likely visit Yokosuka, Japan and make another visit at Guam before we start making our way back across the Date Line in the direction of Pearl Harbor and homecoming.



I should have one more opportunity to visit Columbus while I am in command. I hope that it will be in the fall of this year. We will work out the details with the ROTC unit at Ohio State, and I will let everyone know when the schedule becomes set. I have enjoyed my visits previously, and very much look forward to returning. Though I don't know how another visit could top marching with the Base and the parade sub during last year's Veteran's Day parade. In any case, I do hope to see you all one last time, and thank you for your service and continued support of our nation, our navy, and--most of all--the world's pre-eminent submarine force.

Best Regards,  
CDR Jim Doody  
Commanding Officer

USS COLUMBUS (SSN 762)



John Falter

## Upcoming Events

<i>Aug. 14-16</i>	<i>????</i>	<i>Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival and Parade—watch e-mail for details.</i>
<i>Aug. 19, 2008</i>	<i>1800</i>	<i>Officers Meeting</i>
<i>Sept. 13, 2008</i>	<i>????</i>	<i>Next meeting for the Base. A picnic is planned for this date. More information to follow.</i>



## Lost Boats



### August

**USS S-39 (SS-144)** Lost on 14 August 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island Louisande Archipelago. All the crew were rescued.

**USS Flier (SS-250)** Lost with 78 men on 13 August 1944 when sunk by Japanese mine in the Balabac Strait south of Palawan. Eight men survived and were later rescued by USS Red fin (SS 272).

**USS Harder (SS 257)** Lost with all hands (79 men) during a Japanese depth charge attack off Luzon, Republic of the Philippines, on 24 August 1944.

**USS Bullhead (SS-332)** Lost with all hands (84 men) off the Bali Coast by a Japanese air attack on 6 August 1945.

**USS Cochino (SS-345)** Lost with one man lost on 26 August 1949 off the coast of Norway due to a battery explosion and fire. Six men from the USS Tusk (SS-426) were also lost in the rescue operation.

**USS Pompano (SS-181)** Lost with all hands (76 men) by possible Japanese mine off Honshu, Japan between 8 August and 27 September 1943

### 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.  
Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government”**

## Commander's Corner

By Joe Testa



As I prepare to head to the USSVI convention in a couple of weeks, I need to reflect on some of the issues we face in the Columbus Base. First, let me make the offer that if there is anything you want me to address in Ft. Worth please let me know. This will be my first USSVI convention, and I look forward to attending the Base Commander's Breakfast to pick the brains of my counterparts around the country.

I would like to thank Jim Koogler for once again putting on a wonderful Awards Ceremony and Holland Club Induction. We had a great turn out, good food and hopefully a good time was had by all. I would like to congratulate Cliff Dodson on winning the first Columbus Base – Rick Larson Memorial Shipmate of the Year award. All three nominees were excellent choices, and any of them would have been deserving of the award. It was great to have Paul and Gordon Larson hand out the first award named in honor of their brother, and they have a standing invitation to come join us whenever they choose. I know Kay would have loved to have been there, but they already had a trip to Florida planned. As I have told the entire Larson clan, Rick was an extraordinary member of the Columbus family, and they will always be part of our rather dysfunctional yet unique group. I would also like to recognize Commander's Award winners Jim Tolson and Tom Baughman; it was nice to be able to publicly thank these two for stepping up and filling the Vice Commander and Secretary positions.

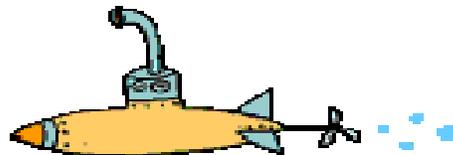
I get a note from USSVI about every other day concerning the current status of the national election and C&B changes. As of today, only 15% have voted, and voting ends at midnight one week before the start of the USSVI convention. I encourage everyone to vote, either on the USSVI website or using the paper ballot in the recent issue of the American Submariner. You have to be a registered user of the USSVI website in order to vote, but that is very easy to do. This is your organization, take an active role.

Next, it is not too early to be looking into the planning of 2009. Please let me know if there is anything you think the Columbus Base should be doing, or doing better. I look back at how far this base has come, and we will always owe those who formed and grew this base, for their efforts. The Columbus Base is a nationally recognized group, and you should all be proud.

Finally, there is one thing that the Columbus Base is going to renew. We are going to start the Pens for Patients program again, so be thinking of that the next time you go to the doctor for any reason. For those that are not aware, most doctors have loads of pens and pads that they are given by medical manufacturers that literally go to waste. So the next time you go to any doctor for any reason, simply explain that we collect them and take them to the VA hospital for the patients to use, and see if they have any to donate. You would be surprised how many welcome getting rid of all the extra boxes they have, especially for a good cause. We will collect these donations over the next couple of months, and hopefully have them delivered before the holidays later this year.

## Vice Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson



### **Reminder! February 2009 is right around the corner.**

In one of Commander Testa's previous *Weekly Commander's Broadcasts*, he mentioned that analog TV (think rabbit ears) is going away February 2009. I want to remind Columbus Base shipmates to email me [tr600jt@earthlink.net](mailto:tr600jt@earthlink.net) with any questions or ask at one of our meetings if you think you may be affected by this change. If your TV is connected to cable or satellite, the change in February 2009 will not affect your TV.

There are groups in central Ohio that are helping with the transition from analog to digital TV. WOSU-TV has joined forces with LifeCare Alliance and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging to collect donated digital TV converter box coupons that will be used to purchase and distribute conversion boxes to the neediest senior citizens in central Ohio. The boxes will enable those without cable or satellite TV to continue to receive television broadcasts after the conversion from analog TV in February 2009. I ordered and received the two free coupons from [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) and forwarded them to the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging. If you have any extra coupons, you can give them to me at the next meeting and I'll forward them to the proper group.

### **Don't forget to vote in the USSVI election.**

You can vote using the ballot that came in your copy of American Submariner or on the USSVI web site: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

On the web site, click on the VOTE 2008 button, log in, read the bios and information provided (click the VIEW) button alongside each name and proposed amendment, then vote. Let Joe Testa, Clutch Koogler, Tom Baughman or me know if you have questions.

### **Congratulations to the Columbus Base Holland Club Inductees of 2008!**

Congratulations to the three new Columbus Base Holland Club inductees, Clem O'Brien, George Trace and Bob Wells and to the first "Richard A. Larson Memorial Shipmate of the Year" Cliff Dodson. If you were not able to attend, you can see the pictures at [www.columbusbase.com](http://www.columbusbase.com) Thanks to our base treasurer Clutch Koogler for organizing an excellent awards dinner. I also want to thank Commander Testa for the Base Commander award. You are a great group of shipmates to serve.

**As the result of a trip in an early U.S. submarine, President "Teddy" Roosevelt ordered extra compensation for personnel serving in the "Silent Service."**

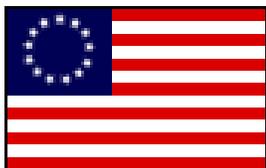


## August Birthdays

Dick Young	08-02
Woody Cook	08-04
Mike Wilson	08-07
Ken Sewell	08-08
Dale Loney, Jr.	08-09
Phil Philipps	08-09
George Sanderson	08-14
Lee Mather	08-19
John Probst	08-24
Galin Brady	08-26

## Spouses

Wyn Ferguson	08-18
Bonnie Koogler	08-30



### Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail  
[creek636@columbus.rr.com](mailto:creek636@columbus.rr.com)



### The Conn

#### Base commander

Joe Testa

#### Vice Commander

Jim Tolson

#### Treasurer

Jim Koogler

#### Secretary

Tom Baughman

#### Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd

#### COB

Marv Pastor

#### Membership Chairman

#### Storekeeper

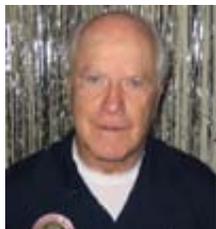
Frank Lloyd

#### Activities Chairperson

#### Editor

Jan Creekmore

Our Holland Club profile this month is Dave O'Carroll. He was inducted into the Holland Club in August 2007. Here he shares some of his experiences with us.



Dave was drafted into the U.S. Navy on March 13, 1956 in Pittsburgh, Pa. He went through boot camp at Great Lakes, IL and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August was on his way to New London, Conn. to attend Submarine school.

Out of sub school Dave was assigned to the USS Salmon SSR 573. At the time the Salmon was under construction in the Portsmouth Naval Ship Yards in New Hampshire. Dave was a plank owner. After sea trials the Salmon headed through the Panama Canal on its way to San Diego, it was assigned to Squadron Five where it tied up along side the tender. Dave was promoted to EN3 while aboard the Salmon and on May 22, 1957 was awarded his Dolphins. In November of 1958 Dave moved on to the USS Sea Devil SS 400 also in San Diego.

In May of 1959 Dave was released from active duty.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1963 Dave and Joanne were married in Pittsburgh. They had four children, one girl, Patricia and three boys, David, Dennis and Daniel. Dave spent eight years in the Navy.

What was his motivation for submarines? Dave said he was drafted into the navy and decided to look for some thing he could be proud of. I do believe he found it.

Dave's favorite port and duty station, USS Salmon in San Diego. There wasn't a sub base in San Diego so the boats tied up along side their tender, Nereus and Sperry.

One thing that sticks out in his memory is from May 1958, when he was able to spend a day at sea aboard the USS Nautilus. At that time it was a big deal Dave said.

On March 12, 1962 in Pittsburgh, Pa., back where it all started, Dave was discharged.

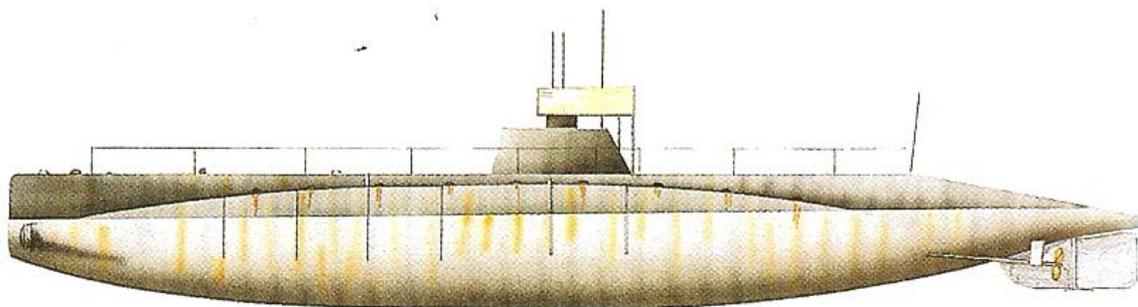
Thank you Dave for your time and service.

*Secrets of the Deep*

*Motto of the U.S. Submarine Force: Remain undetected. This is because stealth is everything.*

*Official Navy op orders usually start with, "Paragraph 1, remain undetected"*

# Grayling



**G**rayling was formerly numbered *D2*, and later became *S18*. She was one of the last submarines in the US Navy to have petrol engines, which were a source of constant anxiety to her 15-man crew. *Grayling's* engines developed 600hp, giving her a surface range of 2356km (1270nm) at cruising speed. The three boats of this D class began service off the East coast. All American submarines were named after fish; during World War II, so many new boats were built that the Navy ran out of existing fish names, so they invented names that in the future could be given to fish of newly-discovered species. When America entered the war, over half the submarines in commission were of World War I vintage. It was a telling indictment of US Naval policy during the interwar years, and it resulted in needless losses in the early months of the Pacific War.

Country:	USA
Launch date:	June 1909
Crew:	15
Displacement:	Surfaced: 292 tonnes (288 tons) Submerged: 342 tonnes (337 tons)
Dimensions:	41m x 4.2m x 3.6m (135ft x 13ft 9in x 12ft)
Armament:	Four 457mm (18in) torpedo tubes
Powerplant:	Twin screws, two petrol engines, two electric motors
Surface range:	2356km (1270nm) at 10 knots
Performance:	Surfaced: 12 knots Submerged: 9.5 knots

## Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

For more information on this go to [www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm)

### Subject: "The Wall" goes digital!

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has gone digital. The digital version is stitched together from more than 6,000 photographs. You can search for a name on the wall quickly and easily using the search box. It will take you to the name instantly.

Once you find the name, you can click on it. This will bring up details on the person, such as rank, hometown and cause of death. But you can help show the person behind the name. You can add photos and comments about your loved one. This is a fitting way to pay homage.

<http://go.footnote.com/thewall>

**Remember to bring your coffee, tea or hot chocolate donations for the VA Hospital to the monthly meetings! We are also accepting copies of the American Submariner that you may be done reading or get two in your household. They do appreciate our members donations for the veterans.**

# Poacher Patrol Pleases Penny Pinching Politicians

June 8, 2008: South Africa has found a novel use for its new Type 209/1400 class submarines; catching poachers. It works like this. South Africa owns two islands (Marion and Prince Edward), some 1,800 kilometers to the south, nearly half way to Antarctica. The islands are uninhabited (except by scientific researchers), and surrounded by valuable fishing grounds, which are for the use of South African fishing boats only. Keeping the poachers out has proved to be a problem. That's because of the weather. It's raining 90 percent of the time, overcast and windy. Very windy, with 15-20 foot waves. The temperature is chilly all the time. A very nasty part of the world.

South African patrol boats could not safely, or adequately, patrol the area. But it was known that foreign fishing boats would wander in, drop their nets, quickly fill their holds with a very valuable catch, and be off. This is where the new subs come in. Subs, even diesel-electric ones that spend most of their time on the surface, are better able to handle nasty weather. Moreover, subs are stealthy, and can get close to foreign ships illegally fishing and collect evidence. The government can then sue and collect a lot of money, not to mention discouraging other poachers. The sub has a sonar that can detect, and track, ships at long distance. And the high tech periscope can detect heat, and has night vision.

The South Africa subs are also quite good at more conventional pursuits. One of them, SAS Manthatisi, recently distinguished itself during exercises with a NATO/South African task force. The sub avoided efforts by surface ships and aircraft to detect it, and proceeded to "destroy" several NATO ships.

Unfortunately, because of money and personnel shortages, only two of these subs can operate, with the other one basically just sitting in port with a skeleton crew. That one is also undergoing maintenance, so the crew shortage is not a total loss.

South Africa only received its first Type 209 sub two years ago. The second one entered service a year ago, and third one arrived recently. The German built Type 209 is one of the more widely used diesel-electric subs in the world. The South African boats displace 1,300 tons, are 183 feet long, have eight torpedo tubes and carry 14 torpedoes and a crew of 36.

The South African Navy needs \$1.2 million each year to operate each Type 209 boat. The government has not been providing enough money to cover all those costs. To make matters worse, the expanding oil industry, and high tech sectors of the economy, have been tempting experienced officers and NCOs to leave the submarine service. Currently, an experienced submarine petty officer earns about \$13,400 a year. Civilian jobs offer two or three times that. The navy needs about a hundred submarine sailors to provide full time crews for the two boats it has in service. Another fifty qualified sailors are needed for the third boat.

If the poacher patrol is a success, the government may be motivated to provide the cash needed to keep all three boats in service. There are 59 Type 209 boats in service worldwide, in a dozen different navies. South Africa had previously operated 860 ton French Daphne class boats. The new Type 209 boats cost South Africa \$285 million each.

Submitted by: Jim Koogler

## A Super Secret Sub Base?

Norman Polmar | May 12, 2008

Has China "secretly built a major underground nuclear submarine base that could threaten Asian countries and challenge American power in the region"? Thomas Harding, writing in the London *Daily Telegraph* early this month, has declared that it is.

According to Hardy, "Satellite imagery, passed to *The Daily Telegraph*, shows that a substantial harbour has been built which could house a score of nuclear ballistic missile submarines and a host of aircraft carriers."

The threat from Chinese submarines, long touted by "hard liners" in the West, now includes the ballistic missile submarine base and protective tunnels for the craft being constructed at Sanya on the southern tip of Hainan Island in the South China Sea.

The report comes almost simultaneously with word that a Chinese Type 094 (NATO Jin-class) ballistic missile submarine was sighted at the base in satellite images. Also visible was a newly constructed pier that appears to be a demagnetization facility for submarines. Demagnetization is conducted before a submarine deploys to remove residual magnetic fields to reduce the craft's vulnerability to magnetic mines.

The satellite image was taken by the Quick Bird commercial satellite on 27 February 2008, and purchased by the Federation of American Scientists from Digital Globe.

China is believed to have completed two Jin-class SSBNs with at least one more unit under construction. (An older SSBN is also in service; see below.) The U.S. Intelligence Community estimates that China would probably build five SSBNs if it wants to have a near-continuous deterrent at sea. Each Jin-class SSSBN will carry 12 JL-2 nuclear-armed ballistic missiles. A "score" of such submarines -- as reported in some newspaper accounts -- seems highly unlikely.

While some Western defense analysts as well as journalists are touting this new Chinese capability, it should be noted that there have been submarine tunnels in southern Hainan for probably two decades or more and that similar (albeit smaller) tunnels are also found at the Northern Fleet's Jianggezhuang naval base. Indeed, China has long constructed tunnels for military (and civilian) purposes in the event of a nuclear conflict. This writer visited some of those near the base complex of Dairen, near the Soviet-Russian border.

Further, while submarines could be "hidden" in the tunnels, they could be observed by U.S. reconnaissance satellites as they enter and leave the tunnels. This possibility, coupled with the likely noise level of the Jin-class SSBNs would increase their vulnerability to U.S. detection and surveillance methods.

Also, in wartime, any submarines in the tunnels at the outbreak of hostilities would be vulnerable to the tunnels being easily blocked by U.S. conventional or nuclear weapons.

Certainly the Chinese Navy is being modernized, although it is significantly smaller than it was during the Cold War era. The slow development pace of China's SSBN force, the failure of the first Chinese SSBN, the Type 092 (NATO Xia) completed in 1988, to have ever made a deployment, and persistent reports that a ballistic missile for the SSBNs is not yet available, raise major questions about this aspect of the "Chinese threat."

Continued on page 13

## About Norman Polmar

**NORMAN POLMAR** has been a consultant to several senior officials in the Navy and Department of Defense, and has directed several studies for U.S. and foreign shipbuilding and aerospace firms. Mr. Polmar has been a consultant to the Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Mr. Polmar also served as a consultant to three U.S. Senators and to two members of the House of Representatives, as a consultant or advisor to three Secretaries of the Navy and two Chiefs of Naval Operations, and as a consultant to the Deputy Counselor to President Reagan.

Mr. Polmar has written or coauthored more than 40 books and numerous articles on naval, intelligence, and aviation subjects. His comparative analysis of U.S. and Soviet submarine design and construction, *COLD WAR SUBMARINES*, written in collaboration with Mr. Kenneth J. Moore and the Russian submarine design bureaus RUBIN and MALACHITE, was published in late 2003.

For the past three decades he has been author of the reference books *Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet* and *Guide to the Soviet Navy*.

Mr. Polmar's articles and comments appear frequently in various newspapers and periodicals and he is a columnist for the *Proceedings* and *Naval History* magazines, both published by the U.S. Naval Institute.

From 1967 to 1977 Mr. Polmar was editor of the United States and several other sections of the annual *Jane's Fighting Ships*.

Submitted by: Joe Testa

### *Sub Talk*

The ship is a boat, and the boat is a ship. Submarines are quite properly called ships because they are vessels that displace more than a thousand tons. But the tradition of the old days is never forgotten, from when submarines were tiny and were not ships. Back in World Wars I and II, submarines were correctly called *boats*. The terms are almost interchangeable, but not quite. You "surface the ship," "submerge the ship," and "rig ship for dive," but the leading chief is the "chief of the boat" and training for the unqualified is the "school of the boat." By the way, never ever call a Navy destroyer, frigate, cruiser, or, God help you, aircraft carrier a "boat" - you'll be laughed off the ...*ship*.

