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Jurassic magic

Scientists reawaken 250-million-year-old bacteria locked inside a salt crystal.

Nation/World /A-5

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny; windy, 60s **JA-16**

Navy veteran Vince DeRocher ties up his five-foot model of the U.S.S. Bogue in the swimming pool of the Four Points Hotel Hyannis/Cape Cod. DeRocher, of Avon, spent two years building the replica. Members of the Bogue's crew meet annually for a four-day convention.

An F-6F aircraft model atop the deck of the U.S.S. Bogue replica. The carrier's machine guns, in the foreground, are made of more than 40 tiny pieces of wood.



Detail of the U.S.S. Bogue model's radio tower. The model has a full complement of remote control features including plane propellers that spin.

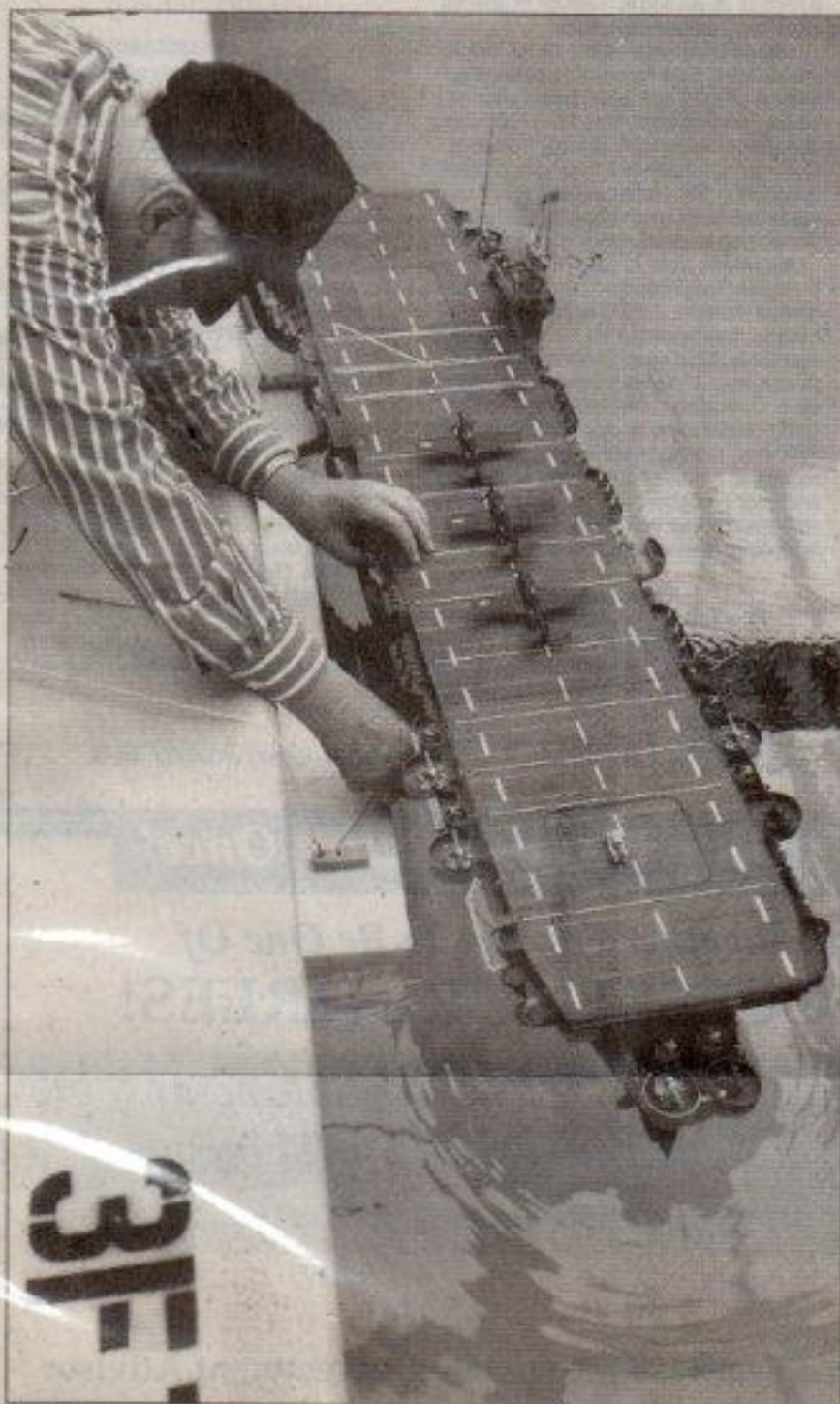
STEVE HEASLIP
photos
/Cape Cod Times



The U.S.S. Bogue model steams around the pool. The Bogue, a Navy CVE-9 aircraft carrier stationed in the North Atlantic during WWII, is credited with sinking 13 enemy submarines. DeRocher's model is made on a scale of one inch to 96 feet.

A MODEL SAIL

Warship replica on Cape



HYANNIS - As models go, this one really turned heads. Some 50 naval veterans who served on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bogue during World War II got a chance to see a five-foot-long working model of the ship in the pool at the Four Points Hotel Hyannis/Cape Cod yesterday-morning.

The model, built by Avon native Vincent DeRocher, 75, took two years to build. It comes equipped with dual motors, a light that flashes Morse code, rotating aerial antennas, working elevators and bilge pumps and three model Grumman Hellcat fighter planes.

The crew of the Bogue was credited with sinking 13 submarines, including a Japanese submarine carrying two tons of gold to Germany that was sunk near the Azores in 1945. "The wreck's been located but the gold's still there," says DeRocher, who served on the Bogue and now lives in Lakeville, Pa.

Members of the Bogue's crew gather every year for a four-day convention. Next year they'll meet in Tennessee. Their vessel was named after Bogue Sound in North Carolina.

- JACK COLEMAN

23 June
1944

Sub-hunting crew reunites

By GREG WILKERSON
Staff Writer

October 2001



Photos by Curt Habraken
Boat builder and retired Seaman 1st Class 1st Division Vince DeRocher, right, ties up the USS Bogue replica after patrolling the pool. The reunion association's president Julian Allen, above, sits in front of medals awarded to the USS Bogue.

shipmates to meet at Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge for this year's reunion.

"The guys are dying off," said the reunion association's president, Julian

Please see CREW/A2

The USS Bogue undocked in Pigeon Forge this week as members of its World War II crew stood at the water's edge with memories and stories to share.

This USS Bogue was only a fraction of the size of the original though, and was built by one of the aircraft carrier's former residents.

The model ship is a "replica of a CVE," said the remote controlled Bogue's builder, Vince DeRocher, who spent 13 months aboard the real thing. DeRocher spent two years building the replica he carries with him to reunions across the nation.

"It's basically scratch built," he said. "Just from plans."

DeRocher was one of 34

CREW/Prisoners taken from subs

◀ From Page A1

Allen. In order to be a World War II veteran, you have to be at least 75 years old.

The USS Bogue first undocked from Seattle in 1942. It then went through the Panama Canal into the Atlantic where it was used to sink German and Japanese submarines.

"We sunk 13 subs," Allen said. "Twelve Germans and one Japanese."

That Japanese submarine became their most notable, because with it sank two metric tons of gold that remain three miles deep today.

"We didn't get a single survivor out of it," Allen said.

Through the war, the Bogue did take several German prisoners from submarines though.

"We treated them good," Allen said. They always went through the food line first and were allowed to walk the deck once a day for exercise.

While out at sea, the Bogue carried torpedo banks and fighter planes, and took with it five destroyer escorts to face the challenges of war and weather.

"Sometimes we were in some pretty bad storms out there," Allen said.

He recalled one storm that tipped the boat over so much that water came over the side and pulled a gunner out to sea. He treaded water for several hours before one of the destroyers picked him up.

The crew of the USS Bogue lived with the fear that their fate could match that of the USS Lexington or Arizona that were sunk during the war, yet they found time to enjoy themselves during their stay at

sea by playing a game of volleyball in the airplane elevator shaft.

They would lower the deck down enough to keep their volleyballs from getting knocked into the sea.

You just have to "make up your mind, well, I hope we get through," Allen said.

And get through they did. The USS Bogue was eventually scrapped and the metal was sold to the Japanese in the 1960s.

What was once a 490-foot submarine killer now only exists as a 5-foot-3 model.

"That brings back a lot of memories," Allen said.

DeRocher began building the model about 12 years ago when he first started attending the reunions.

"I was starting to get the parts ready at that time," he said. "I've had it over 10 years."

The small boat looks and sounds like the original. The lights flash in Morse Code and the radar towers turn. When the stairs go up on the side, the three fighter planes' propellers start turning. A three-inch life boat on the side has 127 parts.

"Certain things I had pictures of that I could do," DeRocher said.

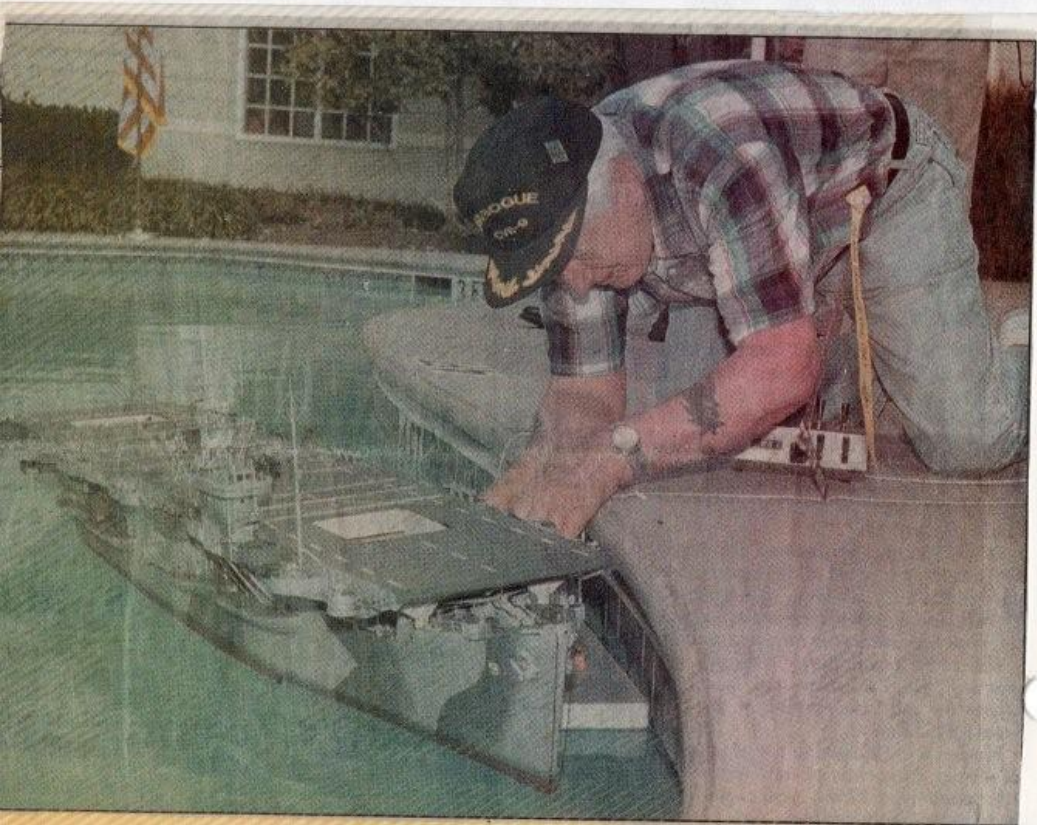
He had to guess at other parts that weren't documented, but several reunion-goers commented on the detailed accuracy.

The model is "just exactly like it," Allen said.

"We sunk 13 subs. Twelve Germans and one Japanese."

Julian Allen

Greg Wilkerson can be reached at gregw@the-mountainpress.com



USS Bogue Reunion at Toledo, September 2004 in Toledo, Ohio.



"The Sandpiper" River Cruise



Wyndham Toledo Hotel



Greta & Vince DeRocher



Vince DeRocher's Bogue "Junior"