

Phillip Parotti

Radar Contacts off Da Nang

Like green varmints, *skunks* creep across the scope
Nosing their way between the darkened waves,
Shunting as they try to remain unseen.
Hull down black on a moonless, starless night,
They scurry over crests to sniff the trough
And then course down their meandering ways.
Russian trawlers stalking prey, sampans, junks?
The sweeps trace only unknown blips,
While hunters, standing quiet on the bridge,
Remain alert, watching, lest they be sprayed.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, **Phillip Parotti** now teaches English at Sam Houston State. He is the author of two collections of short fiction about the Trojan War: *The Greek Generals Talk* and *The Trojan Generals Talk*. He is also the author of the novel *Fires in the Sky*.