

Annual LeRoy Stone
Picnic Details on Page 5

E-Board Meeting
via Zoom This Month
NEW Calendars: Page 25

THE PERISCOPE

A monthly publication of the Los Angeles/Pasadena Base • United States Submarine Veterans



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PRIDE RUNS DEEP



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

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Editor's Corner

So much subvet business going on it's hard to keep track...or keep up! As always, I've tried to cover everything in the following pages. Hope you enjoy—and also hope to see you at the picnic at Dennis' place on the 17th! Till then, you can find me here in the Yeoman's Shack as always. Stop in for a bull session sometime.—Jeff

U.S. Navy Fast Attack Sub Arrives in Cuba One Day After Russian Sub and Warships Do

(Reproduced from the New York Post website - Published June 13, 2024.)
by Ronny Reyes



The Russian fleet includes the nuclear-powered cruise missile sub Kazan. (REUTERS photo.)

An American fast-attack submarine has sailed into Cuba a day after a Russian fleet, including one of the nation's most advanced nuclear subs, docked in Havana, according to the U.S. Navy.

The USS *Helena*, a nuclear-powered *Los Angeles*-class submarine, arrived at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Thursday as part of a scheduled port visit, U.S. Southern Command said.

"The fast-attack submarine USS *Helena* is in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as part of a routine port visit as it transits the U.S. Southern Command geographic area of responsibility while conducting its global maritime security and national defense mission," SOUTHCOM said in a statement.

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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

In the last week of July, the U.S. Army Field Band organized a video interview with some of our shipmates. The interviews will be part of a program for Veterans' Day and will be broadcast on PBS Television stations on November 8th. Our four participants are: Pat Zilliacus (service in WWII), Ron Jones ('60s and '70s), Darin Detwiler ('80s-'90s), and Ramon Aguilar ('90s-2000s). The work was done on the U.S. Coast Guard Station in San Pedro, which provided a gorgeous background for the photographs, and certainly for the video. The Army's coordinator for this effort assured me she will send edited material to us, and if there are no copyright concerns, I will send it to you.

We are preparing a Request for Proposal from masonry contractors for placement of our memorial bricks on the WWII Submarine Memorial – West. Captain O'Brien and her staff at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach have helped us navigate the Navy's constraints for projects such as this on federal reservations, and we sincerely appreciate their help! More to come as we proceed.

The Base Elections Committee has struggled to attract candidates for this year's elections. Some incumbents are willing to run for re-election, but we are in a quandary about the Treasurer job. The base's By-Laws limit job holders to six years in office. During our July Board meeting, we decided to make another run on likely candidates first, and to set up a fallback position of amending our By-laws to allow the Board to extend the number of years a person can hold an office. Joe Koch has offered a draft amendment—currently being vetted by the Board members—and when that's complete, we'll circulate it for a vote among general members. One way or another, we'll announce the slate of candidates for this year's election during the August meeting. The voting will occur soon afterward, with the elected slate to be announced at the September meeting. Installation of the new Board will occur at the October meeting as our By-Laws require.

Speaking of elections, voting is underway for USSVI's National officers. The easiest way to vote is to access ussubvets.org, key "Election" near the top of the menu, complete your ballot and submit it. Alternatively, you will find a ballot in your current issue of *American Submariner* magazine, which you can pull out, complete, and mail to USSVI's national office in Groton, CT. Please do vote and provide reinforcement for the shipmates who volunteer their time to keep our veterans' organization strong.

This year, our annual Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic and Auction will be held during August. Last year we found our indoor effort was underwhelming and we decided a picnic works best outside. As we struggled to identify a suitable park, Dennis Walsh graciously offered to host us in his extensive backyard! When plans are complete, I will send the particulars via email to members located in SoCal, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as we can attract! Be sure to bring the "white elephants" from your garage or attic so you can see them auctioned for the Base's benefit.

As always, please trust your own good sense in protecting your health. Three of our members contracted COVID in recent months while traveling, and gratefully all survived. Most of us are out among the public with all its willingness to share whatever ails it. As a popular radio host says, "don't get dead."

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Minutes of July 20, 2024 General Meeting



July General Meeting Sailing List

Kathleen Carder
 Darin Detwiler
 Ron Jones
 Joe Koch
 Bill Moak
 Jeff Porteous
 Chuck Senior
 Mike Swanson
 Ray Teare
 Cindy Teare
 Dave Vanderveen
 Ron Wagner
 George Walrath
 Dennis Walsh
 Stan Westrick
 Pat Zilliacus
 Mercedes Zilliacus



Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1115 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was given, followed by Dave's reciting of the USSVI Purpose and adding a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave explained that the Minutes of the June meetings had been reviewed during the E-Board meeting and accepted into the base record. They're published in the previous issue of *The Periscope* for members who wish to review them.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson provided the Treasurer's Report—as of July 19, 2024—to the members in attendance, and Dave noted that the E-Board had already reviewed and accepted it into the base record. *(The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.)*

Memorial Report:

It was noted that with the summer heat, the Memorial grounds' irrigation timers will need to be checked.

Having now secured the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station leadership's approval regarding our Memorial Brick Project, we're looking for masonry contractors (who meet state safety requirements) to install the bricks. The USVCF Memorial Fund will be used to cover this expense. Location for the bricks will be verified before work proceeds. We're looking for appropriate local contractors.

The Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce has now been laying monthly flowers at the Memorial for four months. Darin Detwiler is coordinating this effort with the Chamber. They're also interested in replacing the deteriorating street signs for the Subvet Memorial Highway, and this will be looked into.

Membership Update:

Marilyn Senior summarized in a recent email that as of 7/18/24, our chapter has 98 members in good standing, 63 being USSVI Life Members, 58 being Base Life Members, and 66 members who belong to the Holland Club.

We have three WWII subvet base members who will be turning 100 this year. Harold Staggs on August 26th, Bill Dillon on September 6th, and former President Jimmy Carter in October. Bill Dillon is to be the Dodgers Hero of the Game on September 6th, so his family is wishing him well and is rescheduling his 100th birthday bash for September 7th so he can enjoy this hero's welcome from the Dodgers organization on his actual birthday.

Patrick Zilliacus, our youngest WWII member, just turned 98 in May of this year. At the meeting, he shared with us his "Men of Legend" experience at the Normandy event. Large crowds and traffic. For hours, people took his photo and shook his hand. The ceremony at the American Cemetery was met with an outpouring of friendship from the French. Pat also found himself on TV sitting (visibly) behind President Biden.

(concluded on next page)



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Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

Hey, know anyone on boats out of New London? Or, planning a visit to Groton yourself? Drop anchor at this local dive: **Wings'n'Pies** at 924 Route 12, just down the road from the Base's Main Gate. Your editor enjoys firsthand knowledge that the pizzas here are some of the tastiest and sloppiest around. Forget those extra napkins—just wipe your greasy fingers on your shirt and they'll think you've been hanging out with the A-Gang!



General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

2024 Christmas Luncheon:

It was re-confirmed that the event will take place at The Eagle's Nest at the Navy Golf Course—our usual spot—on the third Saturday in December (the 21st).

Western Regional Roundup, 2025

Prices being generally so high in the Los Angeles market, our goal is to fundraise \$10,000 to help reduce the cost of meals, etc., for participants. Note: volunteers are needed to help with logistics—arranging for buses, for instance. See Dave V.

New Business:

Election Committee Report: Two officer spots are open, needing volunteers to run: Secretary and Treasurer. Darin volunteered to run for Secretary for a second term. Solutions need to be looked into for finding a new Treasurer.

Joe Koch moved to prepare an amendment to the bylaws concerning term limits for officers in order to eliminate situations where a lack of persons running for office would leave the seats vacant due to term limits. Pat Zilliacus seconded the motion. Though there was opposition voiced, the motion was carried.

U.S. Army Field Band PBS project for Veterans Day will be filmed on 7/24 at the San Pedro Coast Guard location. A few veterans will be interviewed. Pat Zilliacus, David Vanderveen, Ron Jones, Darin Detwiler and Ramon Aguilar will be among them.

The August 17 meeting—our annual LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic and Auction—will be held in Dennis Walsh's backyard in Brea. Many thanks for the generous venue donation, Dennis! Details will be published in *The Periscope*.

The Good of the Order:

The WWII Submarine Veterans Associate Member vest of George Walrath's late wife, Valerie, was passed via a brief ceremony to Pat Zilliacus' wife Mercedes.

Dave Vanderveen presented a USSVI thirty-year service pin to Chuck Senior.

We discussed flag replacement and the new miniature flags now being seen at the Memorial site. The identity of the good samaritan secretly providing and placing these flags remains unknown.

During the 4th of July parade in Huntington Beach, the submarine veterans won the "Novelty Entry" trophy. *(See photo coverage elsewhere in this issue.—ed.)*

50/50 Raffle

\$40 was raised, \$20 of which would be the prize. Dave Vanderveen drew the ticket of Joe Koch, who donated his winnings back to the Booster Fund.

There being no further business, Mike Swanson motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1207 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

**LeRoy Stone Picnic
at Dennis Walsh's House!**

Aug. Meeting

Date: Aug. 17, 2024

This month we're in for a treat! Our annual LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic and White Elephant Auction will be held in Dennis Walsh's backyard! Said yard sports a pool and two BBQs, so bring your trunks and something to grill and you're good to go! Remember the rest of the party is traditional potluck, so be sure to bring your own beverages, utensils and plates, plus a dish to share (see below). Also, folding tables if possible and definitely your own folding chair for the afternoon. Some are already bringing coolers, but additional coolers and/or ice would be helpful too—the more the merrier! Don't forget your sunscreen and White Elephant items too. See you there!

Location:
Dennis Walsh's House
925 Carlson Drive
Brea, CA 92821
(714) 257-0443 (cell)

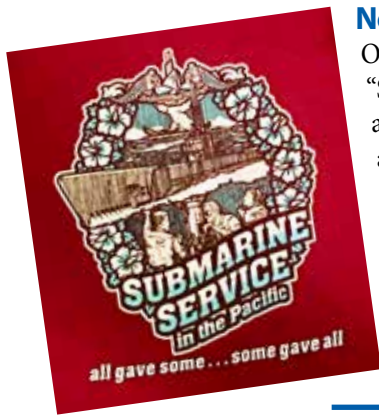
Time:
• E-Board meets by Zoom in the days before the meeting, so only a brief on-site (By-Laws-required) general meeting will take place before picnic fun begins. Arrive after 10:00 a.m.—and come hungry!

Lunch: Potluck. Assignments by last name as follows. Remember to bring needed serving utensil(s).
A-H — Salad/Vegetable/Snacks
I-R — Dessert/Snacks
S-Z — Rolls & Butter/Snacks

Aug. Birthdays

Our happiest wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base celebrants!
Ramon O. Aguilar 8/9
Jack Mahan 8/11
Dennis Walsh 8/23
Sam Aboulafia 8/25
Harold Staggs 8/26
Stan Westrick 8/29

Ship's Store



New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Service" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere **ten bucks** apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Bill Moak for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!

2025 Calendars Now Available!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak by the end of August or you'll have to get it from National later at a higher price!



Get in touch with our base Storekeeper, Bill Moak, at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more information!



USSVI Logo Patch
(9¾ x 6¾)
\$11.00 ea.



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch
(3¾ x 5)
\$5.00 ea.



Holland Club Member Patch (3x3)
\$6.00 ea.

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2024 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our base activities and charitable functions possible:

Ken Dorn • Dennis Bott • Bill Moak • Mike Swanson
Sally Moran • Ron Jones • Joe Koch • Greg Paulson



Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Mike Swanson at 1149 W. Santa Cruz Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check.

Happy 100th Birthday!

Harold Staggs Celebrates His Century This Month!

WWII SubVet and Longtime Member Ready to Kick Up His Heels, and We Wish Him the Best!

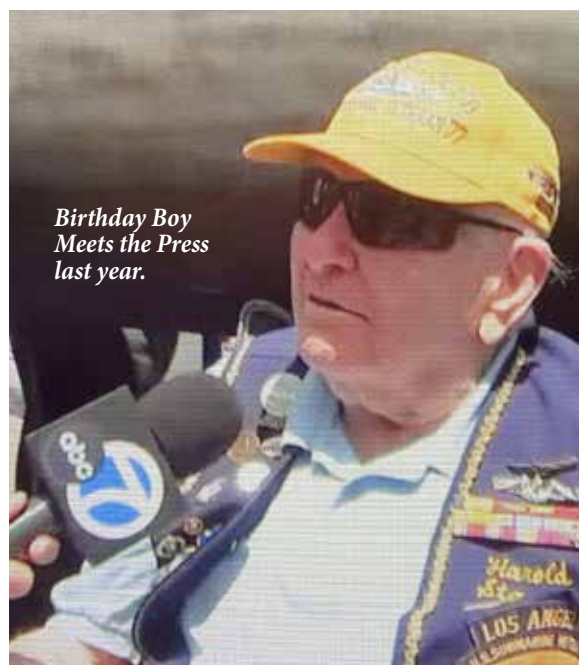
August 26 marks the hundredth time around the sun for our own Harold Staggs, proud WWII submarine veteran of L.A.-Pasadena Base. Harold enlisted in the Navy in L.A. on October 20, 1941 and was released after the war in '45, though he was later recalled

to also serve in '50 and '51. He's a veteran of nine total war patrols on five different subs, including USS *Tambor* (SS-198—his qual boat in '42) and USS *Parche* (SS-384). As a torpedoman, he sent more than his share of fish the Japanese' way.



The ever boyish Harold Staggs.

Birthdays are never for taking it easy, right, Harold?



Birthday Boy Meets the Press last year.

Harold will always be a celebrity with his L.A.-Pasadena Base subvet brethren. Forget about blowing out those cake candles, buddy, just enjoy a tall cold one on your big day!

Harold joined USSVI in 1998 and is a Life Member; for many years, of course, he belonged to the WWII subvet organization. He's also an 82-year Holland Club member, and has long been beloved by his L.A.-Pasadena shipmates. We all hope you have a super 100th birthday, young man!

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

“I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths.”

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

AUGUST TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS BULLHEAD (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 in the Lombok Strait during her third war patrol, *Bullhead* was sunk by a depth charge dropped from a Japanese army aircraft. She was the last U.S. submarine lost during WWII. Eighty-four officers and crew went down with her.



USS FLIER (SS-250)

Lost on August 13, 1944 during her second war patrol. *Flier* had been transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a large explosion—probably a mine—and the ocean closed over her in less than a minute. Thirteen survivors, some injured, made it into the water to swim ashore. Eight survived, and six days later, friendly natives guided them to a coastwatcher who arranged for their safe evacuation by the USS *Redfin* (SS-272). Seventy-eight of *Flier's* total complement were lost.



USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 14, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island in the southwestern Pacific during her third war patrol. Her entire crew was able to get off the boat for rescue by the HMAS *Katoomba*.



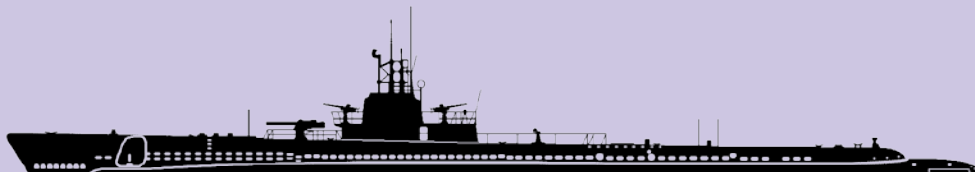
USS HARDER (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 from a minesweeper's depth charge attack near Hermana Mayor Island off the west coast of Luzon. It was her sixth and final war patrol. *Harder* had received a Presidential Unit Citation for her first five patrols, and her skipper, Commander Sam Dealey, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Known as “The Destroyer Killer” for her notable success against these capable anti-submarine vessels, *Harder* is tied for ninth among American submarines in number of enemy ships sunk. Seventy-nine brave souls rode her to the bottom on their Eternal Patrol.



USS COCHINO (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway. Effects of the severe storm ignited an electrical fire and battery explosion, generating deadly hydrogen and chlorine gasses aboard the boat. In continued extreme weather, men of the *Cochino* and of the nearby *Tusk* (SS-426) fought for fourteen hours to save the stricken submarine. After another withering explosion, “Abandon Ship!” was called, and *Cochino* finally gave up her struggle and went down. Under the direst of emergency circumstances, *Tusk's* crew managed to rescue *Cochino's* entire complement except for one civilian engineer. Six *Tusk* sailors were tragically lost during the heroic rescue effort.



WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country WE REMEMBER

U.S. Navy's \$500 Million Deal with Blueforge Bolsters Sub Industrial Base

Founded in November 2022, BlueForge Alliance has quickly gained recognition by partnering with the U.S. Navy and General Dynamics/Electric Boat.

(Reproduced from the Interesting Engineering website - Published June 8, 2024)

by Bojan Stojkovski



A ballistic missile submarine.

The U.S. Navy has invested \$500 million in collaborating with the Texas-based non-profit BlueForge Alliance to strengthen the submarine industrial base, with expectations of further increasing this investment, according to a leading Navy service official.

Founded in November 2022 by two former Texas A&M engineers, BlueForge Alliance has quickly gained recognition by partnering with the U.S. Navy and General Dynamics/Electric Boat to strengthen the submarine industrial base in preparation for the AUKUS pact.

Matthew Sermon, the executive director of the program executive office for strategic submarines at the Navy, stated during a June 6 roundtable at Naval Sea Systems Command that there is \$605 million allocated for supplier development in the fiscal year 2024 national secu-

rity supplemental. "I expect to engage those projects via BlueForge," he said.

Sermon, among the earliest Navy officials to discuss BlueForge Alliance publicly last November at a trade show, noted that the organization's founders, Kiley Wren and Rob Gorham, initially approached the service after collaborating with Texas A&M.

He also noted that BlueForge has expanded its efforts, leading an additive manufacturing consortium across multiple universities. They also collaborate with specific original equipment manufacturers and additive manufacturing firms to ensure comprehensive coordination between industry and academia, focusing on the necessary material maturity to enhance capacity.

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Blueforge Bolsters Sub Industrial Base

(concluded from page 8)

Tackling the Navy's workforce shortage

BlueForge's efforts, like the BuildSubmarines.com website, aim to address the Navy's need for 100,000 new workers over a decade. They've promoted this message through billboards and ads at major events such as the MLB season opener, NASCAR races, and the Oscars.

Furthermore, BlueForge proposed supplier and workforce development pilot programs to Electric Boat and the Navy. Electric Boat approved these programs and designated the non-profit as the sole executor.

"They did very well at it. They showed that they added capacity to that group, the shipbuilders. That's how this got started," Sermon noted.

BlueForge's initiatives and rapid expansion mirror a larger trend within the U.S. Navy to enhance its industrial capabilities. Simultaneously, the Navy's partnership with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) to attract and

train proficient workers echoes a shared objective.

Jeannine Kunz, SME's Chief Workforce Development Officer, stressed the importance of these collaborations in addressing the skills gap within the defense manufacturing sector.

Kunz emphasized the potential for both local and national impact, stating that the collaboration with BlueForge would "enhance, expand, and expedite this joint program." This partnership aims to address immediate workforce requirements while also striving to inspire and equip future generations. Initiatives such as the SME PRIME program aim to enhance technical education in high schools as part of this effort.

Thus, the Navy's substantial investments and strategic collaborations with BlueForge Alliance, DARPA, and various industrial and educational partners demonstrate a focused endeavor to bolster the nation's shipbuilding and submarine capabilities.



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SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-771)	USS <i>Montana</i> (SSN-794)
USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

Questions?

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China Freaked: The Navy Surfaced Three Missile Submarines Simultaneously as a Warning

The Ohio is a nuclear-powered submarine, capable of firing ballistic missiles. The third largest submarine class in the world, the Ohio can carry 24 Trident II missiles. So, when three Ohio submarines surfaced in the Indo-Pacific carrying a combined 72 ballistic missiles, the message to China was clear, if not explicit.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published June 5, 2024.)

by Harrison Kass



U.S. Navy Ohio-class SSBN missile submarine (U.S. Navy photo.)

China's Naval Rise and the U.S. Response: A 2010 Retrospective

The year 2010 feels like a long, long time ago. Today, when the news cycle is seemingly instantaneous—leaving citizens with the impression that more is actually happening—the 13 years that have passed since 2010 feel historically action-packed, making 2010 feel like some other epoch.

A lot has happened. A coronavirus pandemic and the corresponding economic collapse. Populist uprisings across the globe, resulting in the elections of Trump, Orban, Bolsonaro, and the UK's Brexit. The Chicago Cubs won the World Series. The Americans withdrew from Afghanistan. The Russians invaded Ukraine. ISIS, Crimea, Occupy Wall Street, Libya, MeToo.

Looking at the Past

Back in 2010, President Obama was still in his first term. In March, Obama signed his hallmark achievement, the technocratic Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, or “Obamacare.” U.S. forces were still engaged in Iraq—and Afghanistan. The “Pivot to Asia” would not occur for two more years. Yet, trouble was surfacing in the Pacific—as underscored by a June 2010 incident. China had become fully impossible to ignore. The world's most populous nation was beginning to realize her awesome potential, and America, for the first time since the Soviet Union's demise, was at risk of facing a true rival, a regional hegemon in Northeast Asia.

(concluded on page 11)

Three Surfaced *Ohios* Warn China

(concluded from page 10)

“China is the key to understanding the future distribution of power in Northeast Asia,” John Mearscheimer wrote in his seminal 2001 text, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. “Because of the vast size of China’s population, it has the potential to become much wealthier than Japan, and even wealthier than the United States. To illustrate China’s potential, consider the following scenarios. Japan’s per capita GNP is now more than 40 times greater than China’s. If China modernizes to the point where it has about the same per capita GNP as South Korea does today, China would have a GNP of \$10.66 trillion, substantially larger than Japan’s \$4.09 trillion. If China’s per capita GNP grew to be just half of Japan’s present per capita GNP, China would have a GNP of \$20.04 trillion, which would make China almost five times as wealthy as Japan.”

More importantly, China has the power to meet and surpass the United States.

“Another way of illustrating how powerful China might become if its economy continues growing rapidly is to compare it with the United States. The GNP of the United States is \$7.9 trillion (in 2001) ... If China’s per capita GNP equals Korea’s, China’s overall GNP would be almost \$10.66 trillion, which is about 1.35 times the size of America’s GNP.” Still, despite China’s unrivaled potential, the Bush 43 administration instigated two wars in the Middle East—a resource suck that directly interfered with the more important mission of balancing against China.

Pivot from Trade with China to Defense

Obama would pay closer attention to China than his predecessor. And rightly so. China was a potential great-power rival—the only nation with such potential. And where China’s potential—and ambition—had become most obvious, was in the maritime realm, where China had convened the largest naval force expansion in modern history.

Ohio Class

In 2000, China’s People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) had roughly 100 maritime platforms available. By 2005, PLAN’s force size had doubled, to over 200 maritime platforms. “This tsunami of Chinese shipbuilding has tremendous potential implications for the PRC’s effort to coercively envelop Taiwan, resolve other sovereignty disputes in its favor, carve out the region as a zone of exceptionalism to international rules and norms, and project Beijing’s power and influence around the world,” maritime-executive.com reported. In June 2010, amidst China’s shipbuild-

ing frenzy, the U.S. chose to send a pointed message to Beijing: “The U.S. still controls the seas.” The message’s courier: three *Ohio*-class submarines, which surfaced in the Philippines’s Subic Bay.

The *Ohio* is a nuclear-powered submarine, capable of firing ballistic missiles. The third largest submarine class in the world, the *Ohio* can carry twenty-four Trident II missiles. So, when three *Ohio* submarines surfaced in the Indo-Pacific carrying a combined 72 ballistic missiles, the message to China was clear, if not explicit.

Still, in the years since the *Ohio* incident, China has proceeded with its shipbuilding efforts. “Sometime between 2015 and 2020, China’s Navy crossed a critical threshold: it fields more battle force ships than the U.S. Navy, making it the world’s largest navy numerically,” maritime-executive.com reported. “Today, at around 360 hulls, it exceeds its American rival by more than sixty warships.”

Hopefully, the Biden administration can maintain focus on China and the Pacific, without getting too preoccupied with Russian-related concerns, for Russia, while aggressive, lacks the hegemonic potential of China.



Nuclear behemoth: *Ohio*-class submarine (U.S. Navy photo.)

Harrison Kass is an attorney, pilot, guitarist, and minor pro hockey player. He joined the U.S. Air Force as a Pilot Trainee but was medically discharged. Harrison has degrees from Lake Forest College, the University of Oregon, and New York University. He lives in Oregon and listens to Dokken. Follow him on X @harrison_kass. Kass has published over a thousand defense and national security articles during his career.

Astute: The Royal Navy has Submarines as “Quiet as a Dolphin”

The Astute class is among the most capable submarines in service today. Each boat is equipped with world-leading sensors, carries Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles and Spearfish heavy torpedoes, and can circumnavigate the globe submerged, producing its own oxygen and drinking water.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published June 17, 2024.)

by Peter Suci



Royal Navy Astute-class submarine (Creative Commons photo.)

The *Astute* class is among the most capable submarines in service today.

Each boat is equipped with world-leading sensors, carries Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes, and can circumnavigate the globe submerged, producing its own oxygen and drinking water.

Only the U.S. Navy can match these underwater warships.

As noted by naval analyst H. I. Sutton, the *Astute*-class subs are the only ones outside the U.S. Navy able to launch the Tomahawk, a capability that truly sets them apart.

Quite *Astute*

The *Astute*-class program began in February of 1986, when

the Ministry of Defence (MOD) launched a number of studies intended to determine the capabilities and requirements for the replacement of its *Swiftsure* and *Trafalgar*-class fleet submarines.

Astute Class

Each of the submarines costs a reported £1.6 billion to build, but the capabilities offered are essentially priceless. The *Astute*-class boats are roughly 97 meters (318 feet) in length and have a crew of around 100 sailors, with a capacity for 109 in total.

The final two of the planned seven of the class, the future HMS *Agamemnon* and HMS *Agincourt*, are now under construction in Barrow, England. The boats are being

(concluded on page 13)

Astute Class is “Dolphin-Quiet”

(concluded from page 12)

constructed by BAE Systems Submarines at Barrow-in-Furness and the first of class, HMS *Astute*, was launched by Queen Consort Camilla, then-Duchess of Cornwall, in 2007. The submarine was commissioned in 2010 and declared fully operational in May of 2014.

Astute Class: Quiet as a Dolphin

Each of the Royal Navy’s nuclear-powered *Astute*-class fleet submarines (SSNs) has been outfitted with many technological firsts, including not having an optical periscope.

Instead, high-specification video technology has been employed, which enables the crew to scan the horizon and get a 360-degree view to address any potential threat.

In addition, unlike other nuclear-powered submarines, the *Astute*-class was developed to utilize state-of-the-art anti-acoustic tiles. Each hull is fitted with more than 39,000 acoustic tiles that mask the vessel’s sonar signature and allow the submarines to glide through the water almost silently.

The little noise the boats give off has been compared to that of a “baby dolphin.”

Unlimited Endurance

The fleet attack submarines are powered by a Rolls-Royce PWR2 (Core H) reactor and fitted with a pump-jet propulsor, the same reactor that was developed for the Royal Navy’s *Vanguard*-class ballistic missile submarines.

That particular nuclear reactor, which powers the submarines and has a 25-year lifespan before needing to be refueled, is also used to recycle air and water. It provides a theoretically unlimited endurance for the submarine and can circumnavigate the globe without surfacing. Each of the boats is typically supplied with about 90 days of food.

Varying Deployments Means Different Crews

As deployments on the submarines can vary in length, with overall assignments lasting three years, two full crews rotate shifts to allow the vessel to remain at sea for as long as possible.

Crews may serve between 60 and 80 days before resurfacing and rotating out.

True Attack Subs for the Royal Navy

The *Astute*-class submarines have stowage for 38 weapons and typically carry a mix of Spearfish heavy torpedoes and Tomahawk Block IV cruise missiles, with the latter capable of hitting a target to within a few meters at a range of 1,000 miles (1,600 km). The missiles can be also re-directed at a new target mid-flight, and can “beam” back images of the battlefield to its mother sub.

Each of the boat’s Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes—nearly two tons apiece—can further attack targets up to fourteen miles away (which can increase to thirty miles at low speed), and is capable of blowing an enemy submarine clean out of the water. Guided by either copper wire or inbuilt sonar, the Spearfish delivers 660 lbs of explosive charge either when it impacts with the intended target or via an acoustic proximity fuse underneath.

The submarines’ countermeasures suite includes decoys and electronic support measures (ESM).

Moreover, the *Astute* Combat Management System (ACMS), which is an evolved version of the Submarine Command System (SMCS) used on other Royal Navy subs, was developed to receive data from sonars and other sensors and, using advanced data handling and algorithms, displays this data as real-time images on the command consoles.

Underwater Ears and Piggyback Riders

For detecting enemy vessels, the *Astute*-class submarines are equipped with Sonar 2076—an integrated passive/active search and attack sonar suite featuring bow, intercept, and towed arrays.

The *Astute*-class boats are also fitted with a dry deck shelter, allowing Special Forces—such as the Royal Marine Commandos or Royal Navy Special Boat Service (SBS) operators—to deploy whilst the submarine is submerged.

Peter Suci is a Michigan-based writer. He has contributed to more than four dozen magazines, newspapers, and websites with over 3,200 published pieces over a twenty-year career in journalism. He regularly writes about military hardware, firearms history, cybersecurity, politics, and international affairs. Peter is also a Contributing Writer for Forbes and Clearance Jobs. Follow him on X: @PeterSuci.

“Sir, We Hit Another Submarine”: British and French Nuclear Missile Subs Collide

In 2009, a collision occurred between two nuclear-armed submarines, the UK’s HMS Vanguard and France’s Le Triomphant, deep in the Atlantic Ocean.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published June 14, 2024.)

by Maya Carlin



Vanguard-class SSBN submarine, Royal Navy. (Creative Commons photo.)

Summary and Key Points: In 2009, a collision occurred between two nuclear-armed submarines, the UK’s HMS *Vanguard* and France’s *Le Triomphant*, deep in the Atlantic Ocean.

- Despite both submarines being damaged, no radioactivity was released, and there were no reported injuries.
- The incident, which caused visible damage to *Vanguard*’s starboard side and missile compartment, raised concerns about the dangers of nuclear-armed vessels.
- While NATO allies typically share general submarine locations to avoid collisions, ballistic missile submarines are excluded from this agreement. Historical submarine collisions have led to calls for increased data sharing, though some argue that maintaining secrecy is crucial for national security.

Collision of Nuclear-Armed Submarines in 2009: The HMS *Vanguard* and *Le Triomphant* Incident

While many have heard of submarines crashing to the bottom of the ocean floor or colliding with underwater mountains, it’s harder to imagine that sometimes a ship’s greatest danger is simply another ship.

In 2009, two nuclear-armed submarines from France and the United Kingdom collided deep under the Atlantic Ocean. While no radioactivity was released, both ships were damaged when the Royal Navy’s HMS *Vanguard* struck France’s Trident-class *Le Triomphant* submarine. No crew members or injuries were reported by either country.

Overview of the Incident

When the HMS *Vanguard* returned to her base in Scot-

(concluded on page 15)

UK and French Subs Collided in 2009

(concluded from page 14)

land days later, it had visible damage on its starboard side and near its missile compartment. A whistleblower who served in the UK's nuclear submarine program later claimed that, "The French submarine had took a massive chunk out of the front of HMS *Vanguard* and grazed down the side of the boat. The High Pressured Air (HPA) bottle groups were hanging off and banging against the pressure hull. They had to return to base port slowly, because if one of HPA bottle groups exploded it would've created a chain reaction and sent the submarine plummeting to the bottom."

Perhaps the British government was minimizing the damage inflicted on the submarine in an effort to quell public concern over the potential dangers of nuclear leaks.

This freak accident was especially alarming since nuclear reactors power the ships, and both countries' vessels routinely carry nuclear warheads onboard. Although "water-space management" agreements among NATO allies direct member-states to advise one another of the general locations of submerged submarines, ballistic-missile-carrying ships are not included in the arrangement.

France's *Le Triomphant* submarine could carry sixteen M45 ballistic missiles, and the *Vanguard* could carry the same number of Trident II missiles. Additionally, each submarine could carry 4 and 6 nuclear warheads, respectively.

The *Triomphant-Vanguard* incident did not mark the first time two submarines collided. During the Cold War, Western and Soviet ships collided on several occasions, according to *The New York Times*. In 1992, the American-made *Baton Rouge* nuclear submarine was struck by a surfacing Russian sub in the Barents Sea. Only one year after this mishap, the Russian *K-407* collided with the USS *Grayling*. Decades earlier, in the mid-1970s, the U.S. Navy's USS *James Madison* collided with a Soviet Victor-class attack submarine roughly 30 miles off the coast of Glasgow, near Holy Loch.

While some analysts argue that allies should share more data to mitigate the risks of future collisions, others argue that maintaining secrecy around nuclear-armed submarines is of the utmost importance. As Lee Willet of the Royal United Services Institute in London once put it that these vessels are the "strategic crown jewels" of any nation, and relaying such sensitive intelligence, even to allies, would be risky.

Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin



Le Triomphant SSBN submarine, French Navy. (Creative Commons photo.)

Helena Arrives in Cuba After Russians Do

(concluded from page 1)

The arrival of the Cold War-era hunter-killer sub follows Russia's move to sail a frigate, a nuclear-powered submarine, an oil tanker and rescue tug into Cuba a day earlier to conduct military exercises in the Atlantic.

Of most interest to the U.S. is the presence of the the *Kazan*, a *Yasen*-class cruise missile submarine, which is equipped with Zircon hypersonic missiles—reportedly capable of traveling nine times the speed of sound.

The missiles, which can be armed with nuclear warheads, have a range of 625 miles and are designed to overwhelm anti-air defenses with their speed.

SOUTHCOM said the USS *Helena*'s visit was pre-planned, suggesting it was not dispatched as a result of the arrival of the Russian fleet.

Defense officials said the Russian vessels are being monitored closely.

The USS *Helena* is a *Los Angeles*-class fast attack submarine that was launched in 1986. The 360-foot-long nuclear vessel is armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles and MK48 torpedoes, and can travel nearly 29 mph, according to the Submarine Industrial Base Council.

In contrast, the *Kazan* is one of the Russian navy's newest weapons, commissioned in 2021. The Kremlin vessel measures nearly 460 feet in length and has a top speed of about 23 mph, according to the U.S. military.

Yasen-class submarines carry between 64 and 85 crew members, whereas the *Los Angeles*-class submarines carry 143 aboard.

U.S. and Cuban officials have said that while the submarine is nuclear powered, it is not carrying nuclear weapons. The U.S. said it is closely monitoring the Russian fleet, which officials said has no nuclear weapons aboard. American officials added they expect the *Kazan* and its entourage to remain in the region through the summer, with a possible stop scheduled in Venezuela.

Russian ships and submarines have been docked in Havana since 2008 as part of Russian military exercises.



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

More on this story...

Russian Sub That Just Left Cuba Appears to Be “Falling Apart” with Its Soundproofing Panels Falling Off, Analyst Says

(from the Business Insider website - Published June 17, 2024.)

by Thibault Spirlet

One of Russia's newest and most advanced submarines, which just left Cuba, appears to be “falling apart” and to have damage to its hull, an open-source-intelligence analyst said.

Marijn Markus, a managing consultant at Capgemini, shared four photos of the nuclear-powered *Kazan* in a *LinkedIn* post on Monday.

Markus said it appeared the sub's soundproofing panels were “falling off” the front part of the submarine's hull. He said that would make the vessel “very” loud underwater and compromise its stealth capabilities.

He also pointed to what he described as a “gaping” hole at the sub's midsection.

“While docked, Russian divers were seen around the sub, presumably trying to repair the tin tub,” he said.

Markus didn't immediately respond to a request for comment from *Business Insider*.

However, military experts told *BI* that the damage seen in the photos is common and probably wouldn't affect the sub's operational capabilities.

Richard Kouyoumdjian Inglis, an officer in Chile's naval reserve, told *BI* that tiles are made of rubber and can get loose and fall off. Losing a lot of the tiles would make the sub easier to find, Inglis said, but the photos showed only a few tiles were missing.

“Russian naval vessels are not state of the art and sometimes are not well maintained,” he said.

John Hardie, the deputy director of the Russia Program at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, told *BI* that these tiles falling off is a “quite common” problem for all navies, including the U.S. Navy.

The *Kazan*, along with three Russian surface ships, left Havana's port in Cuba on Monday after a five-day official visit that included planned military drills in the Atlantic, The Associated Press reported .

Movies on Smokeboats

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

Smallest theater in the world. Most crowded. Most uncomfortable seating. Screen the size of a *LIFE* magazine cover. World’s worst audience too, of course.

Movies on submarines were our only on-patrol links to the world of sanity and pretty ladies. If Edison hadn’t invented those reels of celluloid magic, submarine crews would have chosen up sides and killed each other in the middle of the second week out.

You picked up movies at the U.S. Naval Station Motion Picture Exchange. There were “in port” movies and sea prints. Hollywood logic said don’t give the sons of Popeye anything that will keep them from spending their hard-earned wampum at the theaters; aka, don’t give the idiots anything that’ll compete with stuff we are charging to see. But, since ships at sea were manned by folks who had no opportunity to shell out their bucks to catch a flick, the Hollywood folks sent a couple of prints of every first rate new release for strictly controlled viewing at sea. These films were called “sea prints.” Sea prints were issued by WAVES—lady sailors at the main base (N.O.B., Naval Operating Base, Norfolk), and they operated out of the Motion Picture Exchange.

If you were of dubious gender, uglier than a wild boar, had heavy body hair, an attitude like a gahdam snake and the vocabulary of an Irish sewer digger, chances are you eventually wound up shuffling sea prints at the Motion Picture Exchange. They were one tough bunch of honeys.

Some officer intimated that our chances of getting a lot finer class of film entertainment would be greatly enhanced if one of our lads would volunteer stud services for the ladies. These gals were ugly! You could toss ‘em into an Iraqi P.O.W. camp and the inmates would have quickly helped them back over the wire. You would have to lie to a blind man to find someone to bed down with one of these atomic darlings. They also did not appreciate terms like “fat ankle lesbians.”

We used to draw a bunch of sea prints every time we went out. One big, round-the-clock “movie marathon” and you had seen everything—or part of everything—in five days. By the end of the third week, you were turning off the sound and assigning speaking parts to the guys watching. For example, Errol Flynn in *Robin Hood*:

“Marion, what a cute fanny you have.”

“Robin, you nasty devil, get your muddy boots out of my clean castle.”

Keep a zero
bubble...

Dex.



“To hell with you, sweetheart. Little John, Friar Tuck and yours truly are gonna hit Bells, get a load on, come back and lose our lunch in King John’s A/C intake.”

We rarely developed dialog above a second grade level. When you got bored with looping new dialog, you could always fall back on the last resort: show the entire film backwards. That’s the absolute end of the line on the road to boredom.

When you watched a flick, you were unbelievably lucky if you found a comfortable horizontal surface upon which to park your butt. We had things called sharpshooter buckets. A sharpshooter bucket was a tapered stainless steel can designed to take nylon trash bags. We would weight those babies and shoot them out the garbage ejector. Anyway, you could take this stainless steel sharpshooter bucket, put a heavy duty clipboard on top, fold up a foul weather jacket on the clipboard, and plant your worthless fanny on top of it all. This wasn’t the best seat in the house, but it came close.

Somewhere in reel two, the nerve endings in your butt gave out—and fanny novocaine set in. Then your legs atrophied. When the film ended and you stood up, you found that sometime during the darkness Pinocchio had swapped legs with you.

We did have popcorn. You had to fight for your share at first, but after the first three bowls, gentlemanly behavior returned and you could get popcorn without fear of dismemberment or sight loss.

One gentleman returned from the Motion Picture Exchange with *Hygiene for WAVES*, an anatomically correct training film. “Never in the field of human conflict have so many laughed so hard at so little...”—to paraphrase Winston Churchill.

Yes, the smallest theater in North America, but definitely the most fun. Every time someone passing through the crew’s mess walked in front of the screen, twenty idiots yelled: “Down in front!” “Get outta the movie!” “Debbie Reynolds looks a helluva lot better than Ralph Bednar. No offense, Ralph.”

It went on and on, a verbal pile on—behavior a lot more interesting than a film you’d seen so many times you’d memorized the names of all the electricians and makeup people in the credits.

Hollywood never made any Cold War diesel boat films. Like everyone else, they ignored our contribution. I had two daughters; to them the Navy was Richard What’s-his-name in *Officer and a Gentleman* or Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*. Why didn’t they cast Wildass Willie with the 6th Fleet Shore Patrol Posse and film *Riders of the Last Smokeboats*?

They missed a gold mine.

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Laurie Ann Mabry

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Ron Jones
Spouse: Harry
5923 Mildred Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4631
cell: 714-309-2367
laurieannmabry7082@gmail.com

Kelly Van Wagner

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Stan Westrick
Spouse: Bill
20244 Septo Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311-3947
cell: 818-497-0988
email: kellyjvw@hotmail.com

Mari-Lynn Lake

Associate; niece of Shipwreck Kelly; sponsor: Gary Lee Wing
Spouse: Tim
P.O. Box 694
Snoqualmie, WA 90865-0694
cell: 425-445-7173
email: mlhlake@gmail.com

Roger K. Onaga

(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) No Spouse
600 N. Atlantic Blvd. Apt. 416
Monterey Park, CA 91754-7752
cell: 626-999-6878
email: rkonaga@yahoo.com
Qualified in 2000 on USS Nevada (SSBN-733) - served twenty years: 1996-2016.

Brooke Bland Nafarrete

Associate; Anthony's daughter; worked on Key West in shipyard; sponsored by Mike Swanson
Spouse: Carlo
6251 Ferne Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4829
cell: 714-822-1025
BrookeBNafarrete@gmail.com

Anthony R. Bland

Associate; sub builder/engineer & Air Force veteran; sponsored by Bill Moak
6251 Ferne Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4829
cell: 714-822-1025
BrookeBNafarrete@gmail.com



"Get'cher Chapter News Here — Read All About It! —"

When News Breaks, We Pick Up the Pieces...



Mercedes Zilliacus gratefully accepts from Dave the women's subvet vest donated by the late Valerie Walrath through her husband George.



Dave Vanderveen presents to Chuck Senior a subvet pin denoting thirty years of service. Between the two of them, that's a lot of experience devoted to our local subvet cause!



Pat Zilliacus gave everyone at our July 20th chapter meeting an 8.5" x 11" printout of this photo of his recent trip to Normandy to commemorate D-Day. In it a number of WWII veterans (including Pat, far left) are featured at the head of the crowd filling the streets of this very appreciative small French town.

(more next page)



[More Chapter News...](#)

An L.A.-Pasadena Tradition: Appearing in the Huntington Beach Fourth of July Parade

The annual event was another fun success story. Here are some photos.



Top Left: "The Winnah!" Dave Vanderveen proudly holds the subvet trophy for the "Novelty Award" in the parade.

Top Right: Bonefish Base's magnificent USS *Bonefish* (SS-223) float.

Middle: The Boys at the Front: Bill Moak, Chuck Senior, Dave Vanderveen and Ray Teare.

Below Left: Darin Detwiler and Paul Riggs enjoy the proceedings.

Below Right: Trophy is "Ready for Its Closeup, Mr. DeMille!"





More 4th of July Photo Coverage...



Check out the crowds!



Bonefish Base gets into the action.



Standby to dive!



Brothers of the 'Phin: elements of L.A.-Pasadena Base and Bonefish Base combine for a group shot.



More 4th of July Photo Coverage...





**L.A.-Pasadena
Base 50-Year
Holland Club**

*(75-year members noted with *)*

- Scott Hultner..... 2024
- Stanley O. Westrick 2024
- Ronald R. Jones..... 2023
- Gerard A. Krudwig..... 2022
- Gregory M. Paulson 2022
- Michael J. Swanson..... 2022
- Ralph J. Hansen 2021
- Robert F. Schive, Sr..... 2021
- Larry D. Long..... 2021
- G. Judson “Jud” Scott, Jr... 2021
- Edward E. Kushins 2020
- Bruce Evan Neighbors 2020
- David H. Vanderveen..... 2019
- Dennis Bott 2018
- Robert “Mike” Cailor 2018
- Robert Miller..... 2018
- John A. Anderson..... 2017
- Roger C. Dunham, MD ... 2017
- Richard McPherson..... 2017
- Harry “Bill” Moak..... 2017
- Louis A. Myerson 2017
- Elliot Rada 2017
- Ronald G. Wagner 2017
- Dennis J. Walsh..... 2017
- Michael Kish 2016
- Gary Wheaton..... 2016
- Lawrence R. Butler 2015

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**Los Angeles-Pasadena Base
2024 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- January 20 Monthly Meeting - Marni’s in Seal Beach
(formerly Glory Days Beachside Grill)
- February 17 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
- March 16 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
- April 20 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
- May 11 Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
- May 18 Monthly Meeting
Nominating Committee Confirmed
Call for nominations for 2025 Base Officers
- May 25 Tarp Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
- May 27 Memorial Day Service - 1100
Submarine Memorial, West
- June 15 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
Annual “Steakfest”
- July 4 115th Annual...
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- July 20 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
(Potluck)
- August 17 LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic/Dennis Walsh’s Backyd.
2025 Base Officer Candidates Announced**
- September 21 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - VFW Hall
Election of Officers
- October 19 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall
Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
- November 16 Monthly Meeting - VFW Hall - Thanksgiving Theme
- December 21 Annual Christmas Luncheon



E-Board Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2024

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, July 20, 2024.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Base Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Bill Moak, COB
- Jeff Porteous, *Periscope* Editor

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the VFW Hall in Anaheim to order at 1000 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of both June 2024 meetings were reviewed with no revisions requested. Mike Swanson moved to approve and accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer’s Report as of July 19, 2024 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson.

Checking	\$21,076.24
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$185.54
Total	\$20,940.70

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$1,105.00
Expenses:	\$2,678.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Greg Paulson	\$20.00
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Inkind Donations:

It was noted that \$2,000 was donated to send our WWII vets to Normandy (\$1,000 from our base, matched by \$1,000 from the USSVI Brotherhood Fund).

There were no questions nor corrections needed. Dave Vanderveen moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously.

Memorial Report:

It was noted that with the summer heat, the Memorial grounds’ irrigation timers will need to be checked.

Having now secured the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station leadership’s approval regarding our Memorial Brick Project, we’re looking for masonry contractors (who meet state safety requirements) to install the bricks. The USVCF Memorial Fund will be used to cover this expense. Location for the bricks will be verified before work proceeds. We’re looking for appropriate local contractors.

The Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce has now been laying monthly flowers at the Memorial for four months. Darin Detwiler is coordinating this effort with the Chamber. They’re also interested in replacing the deteriorating street signs for the Subvet Memorial Highway,

- Samuel T. Higa 2015
- Harry P. Ross 2015
- Charles H. Senior 2015
- Larry E. Smith 2015
- Sam Aboulafia 2014
- David Palagyi 2014
- Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr. 2014
- David D. Semrau, DDS 2014
- Ray Tracy Teare 2014
- Milton Harry Boudov 2013
- Kenneth Jon Dorn 2013
- M. Mark Hoffer 2013
- Michael P. Klein 2013
- Ronald L. Levenson 2013
- Edward L. Arnold 2012
- T. Michael Bircumshaw ... 2012
- Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
- John V. Mahan 2012
- Lee Melody 2012
- Clyde Matthew Turner 2012
- George R. Walrath 2012
- John L. Weisenberger 2012
- Edward A. Barwick 2011
- Joseph W. Koch, Jr. 2011
- Stephen D. Diumentti 2009
- David Whittlesey 2009
- Dennis A. Yure 2009
- Armen Bagdasarian 2008
- Paul A. Riggs 2008
- Rex L. Shields 2008
- Francis R. Traser 2006
- Ronald K. Thompson 2004
- James Rogers 2003
- *James E. Carter 1999
- *William F. Long 1999
- *Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
- *Patrick Zilliacus. 1994
- *William J. Dillon 1993
- *Harold Staggs 1992

How We Earned Our Dolphins

(Forwarded from Facebook by Bill Moak)

by Anonymous

Here's to us, one and all
Who heard the message and answered the call
To break away from the old mainstream
And live our lives on a submarine.
Submarine School gave us the chance to pass the test
To declare that we were The Best of the Best.
When we left Fort Blockhouse with orders in hand
Some headed out for distant faraway Scotland.
Some went East Coast some went West
But no matter where you ended up,
your first boat's the best.
You reported on board not knowing how it would be
And now you're known to all
as a worthless part three.
You learn about Tradition and learn about Pride,
You learn about Honor and the men who've died,
You learn about the heritage passed on to you
Because now you're considered one of the crew.
You study that boat from bow to stern
From the conning tower to the bilges,
it's your duty to learn
Where and what makes that boat go,
How it operates and in what direction the flow
How to charge those batteries and keep them alive
Or how to rig the boat for dive
Draw those systems fore and aft,
Blow the sh*tters, Check the draft
These are duties that you must glean
When you live your life on a submarine
When you've learned all there is to
know about your boat
You show 'em you know it by your walk-through vote
You go before the Board, part three book in hand
Where they question and grill you to beat the band
And when you think you can take no more
They tell you to wait just outside the door.
For what seems like eons, Time stands still
And when they call you in, you feel quite ill!
But they congratulate you for doing so good
And welcome you into their Brotherhood.
Right of passage declares that you
must drink your "fish."
And the large glass of neaters is not
something you wish
But you wear those dolphins on your chest with pride
Because down deep in your heart,
you know you're Qualified.
It seems like yesterday, it seems like a dream
That I truly lived on a submarine
Most Boats are gone, a memory of time
I wonder what happened to those crew mates of mine?
The Old Boats that are left, all are museums
And even if you sailed 'em,
you pay admission to see 'em.
So here's to us, those who remember
Who rode the boats out in all kinds of weather
To those past, present and even the future
To those young, hardy lads who still seek adventure
So let's lift our glasses and have a toast
To the memory of those daring young matelots
and their undersea boats.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

and this will be looked into.

We discussed leveraging VIP seating at the Memorial event for awareness and contributions. We cannot raise money on federal property, but we can work with the contribution committee to make it all work. Darin Detwiler will work on a draft document for this fundraising.

Membership Update:

Marilyn Senior summarized in a recent email that as of 7/18/24, our chapter has 98 members in good standing, 63 being USSVI Life Members, 58 being Base Life Members, and 66 members who belong to the Holland Club.

We have three WWII subvet base members who will be turning 100 this year. Harold Staggs on August 26th, Bill Dillon on September 6th, and former President Jimmy Carter in October.

Patrick Zilliacus, our youngest WWII member, just turned 98 in May of this year.

Bill Moak will acquire birthday cards for base members to sign during our August meeting.

Western Regional Roundup, 2025:

We have already received a donation through Barry Wyatt at the regional level and from Bremerton Base.

Multiple fundraising efforts are underway; most are not amounting to any donations. Efforts will continue, with the goal of raising \$10,000.

We are going to explore a lapel pin as opposed to a patch for the swag bag. A company to support this will be found; Bill Moak already suggested a likely prospect.

New Business:

VFW Anaheim has offered to store some of our USSVI gear, and that process began today.

Dave Vanderveen, Darin Detwiler, and Bill Moak will work to determine items to remove from the garage/attic at Greg Paulson's house. We'll ultimately look to divide items between L.A. Maritime Museum, Simi Valley Military Museum, and L.A.-Pasadena Base members.

U.S. Army Field Band PBS project for Veterans Day will be filmed on 7/24 at the San Pedro Coast Guard location. A few veterans will be interviewed. Pat Zilliacus, David Vanderveen, Ron Jones, Darin Detwiler and Ramon Aguilar will be among them.

The August 17 meeting—our annual LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic and Auction—will be held in Dennis Walsh's backyard in Brea. Many thanks for the generous venue donation, Dennis! Details will be published in *The Periscope*.

The Good of the Order:

A Letter of Appreciation will go out to USSVCF Brotherhood Fund for their \$1000 in support of getting our WWII Veterans to the Normandy event.

We'll recognize our three 100-year member birthdays with cards and in *The Periscope*.

There being no further business, Ray Teare motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Mike Swanson and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1110 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

2025 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar

DEADLY QUIET

Virginia-class submarines deliver state-of-the-art stealth, endurance, and firepower, effectively addressing the threats and challenges of 21st-century naval warfare.

Just \$15!

It is our purpose 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 of America and its Constitution.



Deadly quiet Virginia-class submarines deliver state-of-the-art stealth, endurance, and firepower, effectively addressing the threats and challenges of 21st-century naval warfare. Read all about the ongoing development of this, the vanguard of the U.S. Navy's attack submarine fleet—patrolling the world in assorted cutting edge “block” configurations, ready to take on any adversary.

2025 Calendars Available Now!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak by the end of August or you'll have to get it from National later at a higher price! Contact Bill, our base storekeeper, at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more info.



Quantity discounts available.

The Very Latest and Greatest Boats



USS NORTH CAROLINA (SSN 777)
 USS North Carolina (SSN 776), the second of four Block I submarines, joined the fleet in February 2006, after problems with the boat's steam valve and internal piping system had forced two delays in the acceptance of the vessel. The boat has physical connections to four previous ships named North Carolina. Sections of the test decking from USS North Carolina (BB 55), a fast battleship that served in World War II, are reused within the submarine, and several pieces from a silver serving set made for USS North Carolina (ACR 12), a World War I-era armored cruiser, transferred through the state governor to the battleship will be used aboard the submarine.

March 2025

(Eight submarines and 422 men lost)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February	March	April	May	June	July
S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S	S M T W Th F S
26 27 28 29 30 31 1	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31 1 2 3 4 5	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Proceeds to benefit USSVI operations and projects.



*In memory
of the
fifty-two
submarines
lost in
World War II*

SEALION
S-36
S-26
SHARK I
PERCH
S-27
GRUNION
S-39
ARGONAUT
AMBERJACK
GRAMPUS
TRITON
PICKEREL
GRENADIER
RUNNER
R-12
GRAYLING
POMPANO
CISCO
S-44
DORADO
WAHOO

CORVINA
SCULPIN
CAPELIN
SCORPION
GRAYBACK
TROUT
TULLIBEE
GUDGEON
HERRING
GOLET
S-28
ROBALO
FLIER
HARDER
SEAWOLF
DARTER
SHARK II
TANG
ESCOLAR
ALBACORE
GROWLER

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

