



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

Enjoyed seeing our local subvets interviewed on PBS. Will hate to witness PBS possibly going dark soon. The incoming administration, claiming all who serve in the military "are suckers and losers," have been trying to curtail or eliminate public broadcasting for ages. Now they likely can. A real shame.—Jeff

U.S. Navy Wants to Double Sub Production

The U.S. Navy has launched an aggressive plan to double submarine production as part of its broader initiative to modernize its fleet and maintain maritime dominance.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published September 24, 2024)

by Stavros Atlamazoglou



In-progress Virginia-class submarine USS Arkansas (SSN-800) as "pressure hull complete," meaning all her hull sections are now joined to form a single, watertight unit. (U.S. Navy photo.)

The U.S. Navy wants to aggressively modernize its submarine force with a new industrial initiative. The plan is to double submarine production and keep the Navy in command of the seas.

The Challenge: Doubling Submarine Production

"In order to meet submarine production requirements, and in support of Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro's Maritime Statecraft initiative, the Navy and its submarine industrial base partners are committed to rebuilding a manufacturing base that has shrunk to just one-third of its capacity from 30 years ago," the Navy stated in a press release.

However, to meet these production requirements, the Navy needs to to nearly double its current production capacity and add between 3.5 million and 4.5 million work hours annually. This is no easy feat. It would require a significant review of current processes, as well as solid cooperation with the defense and shipbuilding industries.

(concluded on page 13)



BASE COMMANDER - CO

Dave Vanderveen
6061 Broadstone Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-374-7349
d.s.vanderveen@hotmail.com

VICE COMMANDER - XO

Ray Teare
602 E. Mountain View Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741-2765
626-831-5463
rtteare@yahoo.com

SECRETARY - OPS

Darin Detwiler
205 Seventh Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6180
425-232-5743
ddetwiler680@gmail.com

TREASURER - WEPS

Mike Swanson
1149 W. Santa Cruz Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
310-832-5981
swanmike@gmail.com

CHIEF OF THE BOAT - COB

Bill Moak
2865 Helm Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065
805-660-4776
golfnsurf46@aol.com

MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Dennis Bott
202 Berth Slip #7
Wilmington, CA 90744-6722
562-355-0230
dbottsailor@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

Bill Moak

L.A.-PASADENA BASE WEBSITE

www.socalsubvets.org

The Periscope is a monthly
publication of the
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base of USSVI

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Porteous
15127 Matisse Circle
La Mirada, CA 90638-4733
714-709-6584
jefftytoo@ca.rr.com

From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

My grandkids are all of adolescent age, and although I really miss the wonder I saw in them while they learned new things, I do enjoy the confidence and broader interests they have now. I was gratified that all of them still look forward to a tradition we've developed since they were little to select a Christmas tree for grandma and grandpa's house, set it up and have them decorate it on the day after Thanksgiving. The tree height is determined by the highest reach of the tallest kid, and in the early years the trees were short. For the first time in twelve years, the selection wasn't made by the eldest one. Her sister and a cousin have grown taller than her in the past year. As always, our tree looks wonderful and this year it's tidier because their motor skills and attention to detail helped them put decorations in the best places. I am generally a happy man who enjoys life, but I especially enjoy this time of year with my family.

During our November meeting, we conducted our Annual Leroy Stone Memorial "White Elephant" Auction. Altogether, our treasury increased more than \$150! Bravo Zulu and thank you to all who opened their wallets and took home "new" treasures.

Our Base has an impressive collection of memorabilia. Books from it made up the bulk of items auctioned. Most of the surplus books will be offered for auction at the Western Region Roundup in March. The submarine model from Building 6 has been donated to MWR on the Weapons Station for display in the Community Center. Boat plaques are being shipped to those who claimed them, and our collection of boat photographs will go to a museum in Texas. There are specific pieces in our collection which we will keep because of their historical significance, and after the dust settles from the divestment process, we will publish the list and photographs of them for you.

Early in December, the Requests for Proposal to install our memorial bricks will go to masonry contractors. We have the necessary approvals in hand to do the work at the WWII Submarine Memorial - West, and can send the transfer letter to the Navy when we determine the cost of installation. The work will be paid for by the U.S. Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation Memorial Fund—to which we have contributed a substantial amount over the years. Pictures of the newly installed bricks will be in a future issue of *The Periscope*.

Once again there is a nasty virus among our population, so please continue to protect your health. That is important anytime, and especially at this time of year with so many gatherings and shopping excursions.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Nov. General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Barwick
Bonnie Barwick
Sue Bolton
Dennis Bott
Kathleen Carder
Joe Koch
Jack Mahan
Charles McCarthy
Bill Moak
Brooke Nafarette
Greg Paulson
Michael Polis
Chuck Senior
Marilyn Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Dave Vanderveen
Ron Wagner
George Walrath



Minutes of November 16, 2024 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1105 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with reciting the USSVI Purpose and adding a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Dave explained that October's meeting minutes had been published in the current issue of the newsletter and asked for questions or comments. There were none so he announced that they were reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record during the E-Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave explained that the Treasurer's Report had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board, and to comply with our By-Laws asked the Treasurer to present the report to the General Members attending today. It will also be reported in the newsletter. *(The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.)*

Memorial Report:

The condition of the Memorial and the next step for the brick project were updated for the membership.

Membership Update:

Additions to our membership were reported (Kathleen Carder and Brian Senior—Marilyn and Chuck's son). We now have 101 members.

Christmas Party and More

We discussed our Christmas party to be held December 21st, and Dave reminded folks to send their sign-up forms and checks made payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base to Sue Bolton. Forms will be in the December newsletter and in an email broadcast.

VFW Post 3173 has an event scheduled for the third Saturday of January which will occupy the entire hall, so we will conduct our January meeting at an offsite location to be determined and announced soon.

(concluded on next page)



Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your thoughts; better yet, get in touch!

• **Sam Aboulafia** is in hospice care & would welcome contact.
cell: 702-274-7256
email: boomersam5@gmail.com
c/o C.W. Young Veterans Hospital
1000 Bay Pines Ave.
Hospice Unit #G-28
Bay Pines, FL 33447

• **Charlie McCarthy's wife Anita** is undergoing neurological and cardiological tests as she recovers from a recent bad fall. Please keep this couple in your thoughts and/or contact them at:
cell: 714-720-3837
email: cbmatylca@aol.com
We all wish Anita a speedy recovery!

• **Dave Semrau** is recovering from recent eye surgery. Contact him with your good wishes at:
cell: 949-589-7777
email: ssbnsbron14@gmail.com
May Dave be tracking targets through the attack 'scope again soon!



General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

The Good of the Order:

Dave reported that attendance is good and remains consistent month-to-month, comparing favorably with other bases in District 6 (which often struggle to achieve a quorum). Thanks and BZ to the group!

Scott Hultner reported through Marilyn that an article in *American Submariner* prompted him to seek treatment for lung-related ailments through the VA, and he expressed his appreciation to Editor Chuck Senior for publishing that information!

Mike Swanson moved to sponsor three submarine crews to receive the *American Submariner* (selection of boats to be made by the administrator). This was seconded by Chuck Senior and approved unanimously.

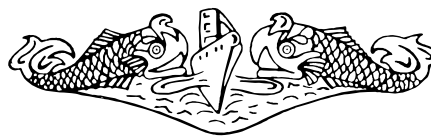
Bill Moak reminded everyone that calendars are still available for sale at \$15 each, and several were sold.

There being no further business, Bill Moak motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Joe Koch and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1128 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Vanderveen

In Relief of *Darin Detwiler*,
Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

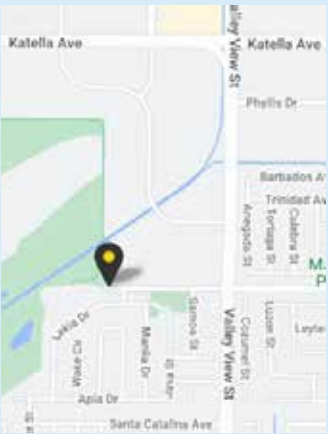
Annual Christmas Luncheon - December 21!

Dec. Meeting

Date: Dec. 21, 2024

See you all at our annual Christmas soiree on the third Saturday of the month! Fill out and send in your sign-up form (pg. 22) to Sue Bolton ASAP.

**On the Greens Conference Ctr.
U.S. Navy Golf Course
5660 Orangetown Ave.,
Cypress, CA 90630
Phone: (714) 889-1576
Starts at 11:30 a.m.**



Don't miss our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Navy Golf Course on Saturday, Dec. 21. See sign-up sheet on page 22. Hurry! Send it off to Sue Bolton now so you won't miss the deadline!

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
Sam Aboulafia • Dennis Walsh • Michael Cailor
Laurie Ann Mabry**

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.



Dec. Birthdays

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants!

- Armen Bagdasarian..... 12/3
- Keith Salazar..... 12/4
- Louis Myerson 12/9
- Joe Dow..... 12/10
- Marilyn Senior 12/10
- Charles Hinman 12/19
- Dave Vanderveen..... 12/29



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

DECEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS CAPELIN (SS-289)



USS SEALION (SS-195)



USS F-1/CARP (SS-20)

USS CAPELIN (SS-289)

Presumed lost on December 2, 1943 during her first war patrol—but *Capelin*'s exact location and cause of death remain a mystery. She may have succumbed either to mines or an operational casualty. Seventy-six men were lost.

USS SEALION (SS-195)

Lost on December 10, 1941 when she was scuttled in Manila Bay to prevent her from falling into enemy hands after receiving severe damage from the initial Japanese airstrike on Cavite. Six *Sealion* crewmen were lost: four from the harbor bombing, and two from ill treatment in Japanese POW camps after being captured during the fall of the Philippines. A third sailor was also caught and imprisoned, but survived and was released at the end of the war.

USS F-1/CARP (SS-20)

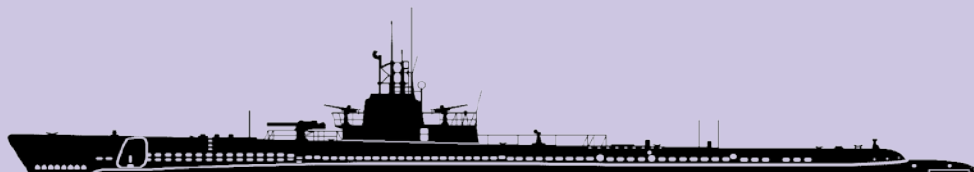
Lost on December 17, 1917 while maneuvering at sea in exercises off San Clemente, California. *F-1 (Carp)* and *F-3 (Pickarel—SS-22)* tragically collided, the former sinking in just ten seconds, her port side torn open forward of the engine room. Three crew members were rescued by other submarines also operating in the area, but nineteen officers and men were lost.

USS S-4 (SS-109)

Lost on December 17, 1927 when she sank after being accidentally rammed by USCG *Paulding*. Tragically, forty officers and men rode her to the bottom. *S-4* was eventually salvaged and recommissioned in 1928.



USS F-4 (SS-109)



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

First Coed Submarine Joins Navy Fleet

Men and women will operate a sub “side by side” for the first time. “The future of Naval warfare starts here, and it’s more inclusive, stronger and more capable than ever,” the Navy said in a video posted to social media.

(Reproduced from the NBC News website - Published September 14, 2024.)

by Rebecca Cohen



The submarine USS New Jersey pulls into Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown, N.J., on Sept. 6 in preparation for her commissioning ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by William Addison.)

The U.S. Navy has made history by commissioning its first coed submarine, the USS *New Jersey*, marking a new era of inclusivity beneath the oceans’ surface.

“USS *New Jersey* (SSN-796) is now commissioned and ready for service!” the Navy proudly announced in a post on X. “The Navy’s latest *Virginia*-class submarine joins the fleet.”

USS *New Jersey* is the “first fully integrated submarine built for both male and female sailors” in the 100-year history of submarines, according to the video posted by the Navy.

“It is an honor that we are the first to have this slice of that particular narrative,” one woman who appears to be a member of the Navy said in the video.

It’s “a testament to the strength that diversity brings to our

Navy,” the voiceover in the video said.

Men and women will operate the sub “side by side” for the first time, “united in purpose, skill and determination,” the voiceover proclaimed.

The video noted that the addition of the USS *New Jersey* to the Navy fleet is “a symbol of progress” that is “breaking barriers as it protects our shores.”

“*New Jersey* is representative of the future of the submarine force and integrating this boat is a long time coming,” the woman in the video said.

“This is really the first time that the Navy is truly planning for the future regarding manning and taking advantage of the entire population for finding those rare humans who can be and should be submariners,” a second woman in the video, who also appears to be in the Navy, said.

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First Coed Sub Joins the Fleet

(concluded from page 7)

Modifications aboard the ship included more doors and washrooms to install separated sleeping and bathing areas for the coed crew, *Stars and Stripes*, a publication providing news for U.S. military members, reported.

Other modifications include lowering overhead valves and making them easier to turn, and installing steps in front of triple-high bunk beds and stacked laundry machines.

The changes to the ship's design were made to accommodate the growing number of women who join the Navy as submariners, *Stars and Stripes* further reported. According to the outlet, the Navy has seen the number of female officers double and enlisted sailors in the submarine force triple in the last five years.

Currently there are in excess of 60,000 enlisted women serving in the U.S. Navy, according to WomenInTheNavy.com. As of August, 730 women were assigned to operational submarines, *Stars and Stripes* reported.

The *New Jersey* was commissioned during a Saturday morning ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown Township, New Jersey, according to the Department of Defense.

It is the third Naval ship named for the state, according to the DoD. The first was a 1906 battleship that was part of the Great White Fleet during World War I. The second, also a battleship, was commissioned in 1943 and was used in World War II as well as the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

The name of the USS *New Jersey*, a “nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine,” was first announced in May 2015, the DoD said. It was finally delivered on April 25.

“The future of Naval warfare starts here, and it’s more inclusive, stronger and more capable than ever,” the Navy video said.

Rebecca Cohen is a news reporter for NBC News Digital.

U.S. Virginia-Class SSNs Rotate for Maintenance

(From the Naval Technology website, September 11, 2024 - by John Hill)

One *Virginia*-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine (SSN) will replace another for maintenance according to U.S. Navy updates released Sept. 10, 2024.

USS *Hawaii* (SSN-776) has departed HMAS Stirling from an historic maintenance period under the auspices of Royal Australian Navy personnel, while USS *North Carolina* (SSN-777) enters Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for modernization.

This rotation ensures a persistent availability of SSNs at sea at a time when U.S. submarine capacity has taken a hit due to a major labor shortage in the naval industrial base.

The Navy has stated that industry best practice would call for about 20% of the SSN force to be in main-

tenance (and for none to be idle) at any given moment.

However, 33% of the force has been out of service over the last two fiscal years. Moreover, the last time that less than 20% of the SSN force was out of service was in FY2015.

Currently, there are 22 *Virginia*-class units in active service, whereas the Navy aims to operate 66—the ‘ideal’ force level put forward in June 2023.

Although the service has procured boats at a rate of two per year, the actual production rate has fallen short, and since 2022 has been limited by shipyard and supplier challenges to about 1.2 to 1.4 boats per year, resulting in a growing backlog of boats not yet built.

Furthermore, this shortage does not even consider U.S. obligations to supply *Virginia*-class boats to the Royal Australian Navy under the first pillar of the AUKUS alliance.

With demand at an all-time high and capacity at an all-time low, the U.S. is increasingly leaning on partner nations for the upkeep of its platforms.

Handing responsibility to Australian personnel for USS *Hawaii*, with the support of experienced American SSN operators, at HMAS Stirling, the decision supports Australia’s ability to manage and operate a nuclear-powered sub in the future.

Training Australian service people to maintain SSNs predates this milestone. Australian sailors have shadowed U.S. technicians since late 2023. In fact, in December, Australian personnel witnessed maintenance at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

This “historic” milestone began in mid-August, when the U.S. submarine tender USS *Emory S. Land* (AS-39) arrived in Western Australia to support Royal Australian Navy maintenance of the SSN.

Chinese Type 09IIIB Nuclear-Powered Attack Sub Surfaces in Clearest Image Yet

New image is only the second ground picture of China's newest SSN-design. Key details of the new configuration remain unconfirmed.

(Reproduced from the Naval News website - Published October 13, 2024.)

by Alex Luck



The new Type 09IIIB SSN; edited image shared on Chinese social media.

A new image circulating on Chinese social media and subsequently on “X” (formerly Twitter) revealed more details on the new Type 09IIIB nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) produced at Chinese shipyard Bohai in Huludao for the Chinese Navy (PLAN). The image shows the new submarine underway, presumably taken from a boat or coastal location nearby. It is only the second ground-based photo of the new generation SSN, with previous imagery being exclusively satellite-sourced.

The new photo shows a very streamlined design, notably improved from earlier Type 09III variants. Armament, including the much speculated upon VLS, remains obscured by inherent nature of perspective, submarine design and low fidelity of the image.

Type 09IIIB background and details

The overall configuration is a striking match for a previously known SSN-model apparently authorised by the 702 Research Institute of the Chinese State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC). The model, sometimes erroneously described as showing the next generation Type 09V SSN, has circulated online since at least 2022. Notable technical details of the configuration include a VLS, with 18 cells in three rows of six launchers, and a pump-jet propulsor or ducted propeller. The latter feature should be treated as indicative of the type of propulsion, without reading too much into the exact design as shown on the model.

A related variation of this SSN design appeared in a video

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New Chinese Sub Photographed

(concluded from page 9)

presentation of the Harbin Engineering University in August 2023. A graphic of the design on a wall in the University exhibition showed an overall identical SSN. The major distinction of the boat is a visible VLS-row of eight launchers. The number of rows is not clearly visible but may suggest up to 24 launchers for VLS ordnance.

Previous satellite imagery of the new design at Bohai confirmed the presence of the pump-jet, a first for a Chinese submarine design, and strongly suggests presence also of a VLS in unknown configuration. Apart from those two features, the new hull is notably more streamlined, including the sail, compared to previous variants of the class. Detailed technical specifications including armament or performance figures remain unknown by virtue of PRC officials not disclosing related information. This includes the type or types of missile launched from the presumed VLS.

Previous Type 09III variants explained

China, according to U.S. government reports, has produced a total of six 09III- and 09IIIA SSNs. It's worth noting the designation is sometimes written as Type 093 or Type 09-III in various discussions. Those boats have displayed a remarkable divergence in design details and equipment carried. Such diversity may reflect the initially very protracted design effort dating back to the 1990s. Bohai had launched the original two Type 09III hulls in the early 2000s. The design succeeded China's first generation SSN, the Type 09I. Bohai produced five Type 09I SSNs between 1968 and 1990 under the original Project 09 started in 1958.

After launching two boats of Type 09III, Bohai proceeded with a series of individual modifications. All boats are commonly grouped together as Type 09IIIA. The four hulls of this type included enhancements such as flank and towed sonar arrays (TAS). The newer boats also display distinct variations in the limber hole layout of the outer hull and in the hull configuration behind the sail, as represented by a "hump" in at least two variations. The rationale for this feature is unclear, with possibilities including space for gear required for the TAS. All variants are around 108 metres long, with an estimated displacement between 6,000 and 7,000 tons submerged.

All variants of the Type 09III—before appearance of the newest design—exclusively carry torpedo tubes. These boats are capable of launching the most modern Chinese heavyweight torpedo, the Yu-6, and likely also the YJ-18 antiship missile.

Bohai as production hub for nuclear-powered subs

Bohai, located in the city of Huludao, Liaoning Province, is the original and sole shipyard for construction of nuclear-powered submarines. Related facilities were first established for the aforementioned Project 09 in the 1950s. The yard constructed the Type 09I and earlier Type 09III variants at its original facilities, and additionally the Type 09II and 09IV ballistic missile submarines.

Since 2014 the shipyard has seen considerable expansion and modernization of production facilities. The work so far added four large new assembly and module construction hulls and associated workshops. Based on estimates and observed activity at the yard, the builder appears capable of producing between two and three SSNs per year at present. A further increase of production is plausible based on the overall configuration of the facility. Bohai is still undergoing further expansion, with the most recent addition being new berthing facilities added since mid-2022.

Observable production activity at Bohai's expanded facilities dates to 2019. The exact number of Type 09IIIB hulls the shipyard has launched to date remains uncertain. Reasonable estimates based on activity at the launch dock suggest the builder may have launched between three and six new SSNs from 2022 until now. Satellite imagery via Sentinel shows at least four unidentified submarines at different times, starting from May 2022, sitting in the launch dock. Flooding and draining of the launch dock at two additional points in time may indicate further hulls have been launched. It is conceivable that not each observed boat represented a new launch.

The Chinese Type 09IIIB should be viewed within context of the larger PRC effort of submarine development and modernization. Production will eventually transition to the next generation Type 09V SSN. How many further Type 09IIIB's are planned remains unknown, with speculative figures going as high as sixteen hulls at present. Similarly, the present status of the Type 09V effort is unclear, though the new design may plausibly appear at Bohai within the next few years.

Alex Luck is a freelance writer and analyst, with a focus on German military modernization, NATO and naval programs worldwide, particularly with the Chinese Navy (PLAN). Originally from Germany, Alex is presently based in Brisbane, Australia.



Six Foot “Hole”: British Nuclear Sub Seriously Damaged Tracking Russian Ships

In 2015, the British submarine HMS Talent, a Trafalgar-class hunter-killer, collided with floating ice while tracking Russian ships, resulting in a six-foot hole at the top of her conning tower. Despite the damage, the submarine continued to serve the Royal Navy until her decommissioning in 2022.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published October 12, 2024)

by Maya Carlin



Trafalgar-class submarine at sea. (Royal Navy photo via Creative Commons or Shutterstock.)

Although modern military submarines largely feature the most cutting-edge technologies available, these mighty vessels are not immune to accidents. In 2015, the United Kingdom’s HMS *Talent* suffered a blow when it collided with floating ice while tracking Russian ships. In images widely circulated on social media, the *Trafalgar*-class hunter-killer submarine appeared to have a severely damaged fin. The collision inflicted a six-foot large hole at the top of the ship’s conning tower. Despite this unfortunate event, the British submarine continued to service the Royal Navy until 2022.

Overview of the *Trafalgar*-class submarines and capabilities

As the sixth *Trafalgar*-class submarine constructed in the early 1970s, HMS *Talent* was designed as the Cold War arms race was heating up. These powerful boats were designed largely based on the preceding *Swiftsure* class.

HMS *Trafalgar*—the lead submarine of her class—was completed in 1983, followed by six sister ships. The UK-based manufacturer Lickers Shipbuilding and Engineering at the Barrow-in-Furness shipyard constructed each *Trafalgar* submarine from start to finish.

Like the *Swiftsure* boats, the *Trafalgar* submarines feature the Rolls Royce PWR1 nuclear reactors. Notably, however, the newer ship class possesses a reduced acoustic signature, which makes these submarines much harder for adversaries to detect.

HMS *Talent*, like her sister ships, measured about 280 feet in length with a submerged displacement of 5,200 long tons. *Talent*, along with HMS *Torbay*, HMS *Trenchant*, and HMS *Triumph* were all fitted with the SONAR 2076 system, which has previously been claimed to represent a “step change” over past sonars according to its manufacturer

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Brit Sub Damaged Tracking Russians

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BAE Systems. Over the years, the *Trafalgar* ships underwent several upgrades to incorporate the latest and greatest technologies. Back in 2021, HMS *Talent* would carry out trials of the upgraded Spearfish torpedo variant off the coast of Scotland. According to *Naval Technology*, the British submarine fired four of these weapons, helping the torpedo achieve Initial Operating Capability with the service.

The newest *Trafalgar*-class submarine, the HMS *Triumph*, is equipped with an even more powerful armament. As detailed by the Royal Navy, “HMS *Triumph* carries an impressive arsenal to quell any threat. Tomahawk cruise missiles can pick off targets from a range of up to 1,000 miles, and local surface targets can be dealt with by the onboard Spearfish and Harpoon missiles.”

While the HMS *Talent* collision was a blow to the Royal Navy, another British sub collision followed shortly thereafter. In 2016, the *Astute*-class nuclear attack SSN HMS

Ambush struck a merchant vessel near Gibraltar, suffering external damage. Although no sailors were injured and the submarine’s nuclear plant was not affected, this collision followed closely on the heels of the HMS *Talent* incident.

The Royal Navy may not have the best luck when it comes to submarine safety out at sea. However, its ships represent some of the best in service across the globe. Today, the *Astute* class is recognized for its powerful armament, advanced electronic support measures suite, and quiet acoustics. These submarines will undoubtedly remain an integral component of the Royal Navy for decades to come.

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 bylines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on X: @MayaCarlin.

European Navies Chase White Whale of Torpedo-Busting Torpedoes

(From the Defense News website, Sept. 24, 2024
- by Sebastian Sprenger & Rudy Ruitenberg)

COLOGNE, Germany – The technology promises to be a game changer: a torpedo-seeking torpedo fired by surface vessels for head-on intercepts, missile-defense style.

Yet after more than a decade of research, lead nations Germany and the Netherlands are still years away from fitting their navies with hard-kill torpedo countermeasures.

Germany’s navy has been toying with a product called SeaSpider, developed by Atlas Elektronik, for several years. Work on the sole technology option under consideration in Europe goes back even further, with engineers studying it for at least fifteen years, according to the firm’s website.

But while Atlas has tried to market the system as ready for combat, no navy has yet taken the bait, and the Dutch Ministry of Defence has repeatedly pushed back the start of a formal purchasing program based on SeaSpider.

The German sea service did tests some years ago, but decided against adopting the system. And the Canadian navy, deemed a prospective SeaSpider launch customer due to the timing of its large-scale surface combatant program, made no mention of the capability in its initial lineup of technologies for the future fleet.

A spokesman for Atlas’ parent company, Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems, declined to discuss SeaSpider, pointing to requests by the German navy to keep the system under wraps. A spokeswoman for the German Ministry of Defense said the technology’s classification and contractual status prohibit the disclosure of details.

Still, officials in Berlin believe that intercepting torpedoes with torpedoes is a critical force-protection technology in principle, the spokeswoman told *Defense News*.

Torpedoes have historically been one of the main threats to surface vessels, with the weapon involved in more than half the sinkings of U.S. Navy ships during WW2, according to U.S. Coast Guard data.

Defense against torpedoes remains essentially a losing proposition, according to experts, leaving surface ships relatively vulnerable once such a weapon is headed their way. The main defensive measures consist of maneuvering or launching decoys. But the latter is ineffective against so-called wake-homing variants, which align their travel path to hit ships in a straight line from behind.

The U.S. Navy experimented with an anti-torpedo interceptor aboard

(concluded on page 14)

U.S. to Double Submarine Production?

(concluded from page 1)

“Today’s announcement underscores our commitment to finding innovative ... solutions to accelerate submarine production and is emblematic of my Maritime Statecraft initiative that seeks to incentivize expansion of our national shipbuilding capacity by engaging new, forward-leaning stakeholders and leveraging the power of public and private investment,” Del Toro stated.

The Navy currently has two ongoing submarine-building programs—the *Columbia* class and *Virginia* class. The *Columbia* program seeks to produce nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, which would carry out America’s nuclear sea deterrence missions. The *Virginia* class is the most advanced nuclear-powered attack submarine in the world.

But the Navy is also working on another sub program, the SSN(X), or Next-Generation Attack Submarine, a program still in its very early stages of development.

“This announcement answers my call for investment into small-to-medium size shipyards, both active and dormant, that were previously the backbone of our Nation’s maritime power, and I look forward to continuing to work with industry on future initiatives to strengthen our maritime industrial base,” the Navy’s top official added.

“By revitalizing infrastructure supporting the maritime industrial base to enable increased production capacity, the Alabama Shipyard investment supports the U.S. Navy’s continued maritime dominance, enhances strategic deterrence, and protects the nation’s interests well into the future,” the Navy stated in a press release.

The Navy’s Submarine Fleet

The U.S. Navy has the largest and most advanced submarine fleet in the world. Currently, the Navy fields approximately 71 subs divided into three categories and four types.

Specifically, the Navy’s submarine fleet is divided into attack, ballistic missile, and guided missile submarines. Attack submarines (53 vessels of the *Virginia*, *Los Angeles*, and *Seawolf* classes) are tasked with tracking and sinking enemy shipping. Ballistic missile submarines (14 vessels of the *Ohio* class) use ballistic missiles to take out strategic targets. Guided missile submarines (four vessels of the *Ohio* class) pack cruise missiles. All vessels are powered by nuclear energy, giving them unlimited operational range and a great operational advantage. Only the ballistic missile subs carry nuclear warheads.

Stavros Atlamazoglou is a seasoned defense journalist holding BA and MA degrees from Johns Hopkins University.



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SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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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>Greenville</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?

Jack Messersmith
(928) 227-7753
or e-mail
MesserJ109@gmail.com

Roger Ramjet

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

I have no idea who Roger RamJet is... Only that it's damn fortunate we rode SUBRON SIX boats at different times in the history of the petroleum force. Jeezus, if one-tenth of the stuff in his epic piece of literary endeavor is true, it's fortunate for said Roger that “Three Strikes, You're Out” legislation was enacted well after his return to civilian life. Roger was one of those “All the King's Horses and All the King's Men” (to include Johnny Cochran, F. Lee Baily and Jesus) couldn't keep out of hot water.

This Thanksgiving, the entire world should drop to its knees and give thanks to the Great White Buffalo—or whatever diety they believe in—that Mr. RamJet and I never pulled liberty together. I never understood the concept of “Enough is enough,” and lived in a world where it was impossible to be too outrageous, or to

comprehend the point where idiot behavior and the UCMJ collided. Señor RamJet seems to have engaged in similar research.

We were diesel boat sailors—a downline link in a continuous chain of seagoing knuckleheads who rode naval vessels the EPA, Food & Drug Administration, and Humane Society would condemn today. We *invented* second-hand smoke. We were good at what we did, but registered heavily on the Richter scale of improper social behavior. It was our freely admitted legacy.

I hope Mr. RamJet is currently under lock and key—or at least chained to an 80-ft. oak tree.

Keep a zero bubble... *Dex.*



Anti-Torpedo Torpedoes?

(concluded from page 12)

three of its aircraft carriers in 2017, before uninstalling the system in 2018, saying that while the hard-kill measure showed “some capability to defeat an incoming torpedo,” reliability was uncertain and its lethality remained untested.

SeaSpider can intercept all types of torpedoes, combining data from sensors installed on the carrier ship and the interceptor torpedo to compute collision paths with the inbound weapon, the manufacturer promises on its website.

The system has been in further development by a European Union program, led by Germany and the Netherlands, labeled simply “Anti-torpedo Torpedo,” or ATT.

A one-sentence description for the project on an EU website describes a desire for “bringing a developed anti-torpedo torpedo demonstrator to the production-

ready design, with a qualified effector and a proven functional chain,” an apparent reference to the Atlas product—confirmed by the Dutch Ministry of Defence.

A spokesperson there said the SeaSpider technology is still too immature to warrant setting up a formal program, though Dutch defense officials have planned to take such a step since 2022. If it all comes to pass, perhaps in 2025, budget analysts have slotted a torpedo-killing torpedo capability into a category of programs consuming anywhere between €250 million and €1 billion, according to the Dutch Ministry of Defense.

That's in addition to a related effort to sharpen the technology for torpedo detection that would go into an anti-torpedo torpedo suite, a spokesperson told *Defense News*.

Notably, the German MOD declined to disclose even the industry team of Atlas and TNO as lead

companies of the European Union program. A spokeswoman in Berlin said no contracts had been signed in the matter.

Also unanswered were questions about the shortcomings that the German navy sees in SeaSpider. *Defense News* has learned that the depth of the intercept sequence is at issue, with the Atlas system currently limited to surface hits.

In the end, the timing of a European anti-torpedo torpedo program could line up with Dutch navy plans for new anti-submarine warfare frigates, the first of which is expected to become operational in 2029. That's because German officials expect their program to yield a production-ready system that passes all regulatory requirements by the end of the decade, with a prototype built in 2028.

Sweden, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Spain are also interested in the program, according to experts.

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Brian M. Senior, Life Member
(EM1-SS E6—Petty Officer 1st Class)
Son of the Seniors; Spouse: Tamar
2015 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307-1951
cell: 202-594-2050
email: briansenior@hotmail.com
Served '82-'94; qual'd on *Silversides*
(SSN-679) in '86; Nuc Operator;
in Navy Reserves 1990-1994.

Kathleen A. Carder
Associate; Significant Other of
Bill Moak; sponsor: Ray Teare
2865 Helm Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065-5257
cell: 662-335-5602
e: KathleenCarder@Outlook.com
Is now our new Sunshine Gal!

David “Dave” Geske
(ICC-SS) E-7 Chief Petty Officer)
Spouse: Evelyn
4567 Pennyroyal Drive
Corona, CA 92878-3283
cell: 801-889-0178
email: dave.geske@outlook.com
Served '75-'86; qualified on *Thomas
Jefferson* (SSBN-618) in '77. Also
aboard *Ohio* (SSBN-726) '79-'82.

Charles B. “Charlie” McCarthy, Jr.
(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita
19068 Shadow Ridge Lane
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763
cell: 714-720-3837
email: cbmatylca@aol.com
Qualified in 1966 on *Geo. Bancroft*
(SSBN-643); served 1959-1976.
Former M.A.L.; docent, *USS Iowa*.

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



**“Get’cher Chapter News Here
— Read All About It!” —**

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



Four of our members—Ramon Aguilar, Darin Detwiler, Ron Jones and Pat Zilliacus—are interviewed at the local Coast Guard Station for a PBS Veterans Day TV special. Great stuff—congratulations, guys!



Our own Joe Dow tied the knot with his beloved Sue at Glen Annie Golf Club in Goleta, CA back on September 29. We hereby present a shot of the happy couple, plus one of their whole adoring gang. They honeymooned in Hawaii and even got to spend some time with fellow base member Charles Hinman while out there. Hearty congrats, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Dow, Jr.!



Our friends at the *USS Cod* (SS-224) in Cleveland were gloriously set up for Veterans Day.

(more next page)



More Chapter News...

L.A.-Pasadena Chapter WWII SubVet Visits King's Bay Submariners' Celebration

He sends back this note to Marilyn Senior. Plus, here are just a few photos.



Our Pat Z. enjoys the recent COB luncheon at King's Bay.

Dear Marilyn, I was the only WWII guy there, so I had to hang the wreath and do stuff like that. Unfortunately, my 102-year-old buddy Tony Faella was attending his granddaughter's wedding in Banff, so didn't make it there. The year before we had shared the honors. We were driven



Pat attended the CPO BBQ as well. The guy gets around!

home by Bill Dillon's wonderful daughter, Tanya. Trying to get him to come to our next L.A.-Pasadena meeting. He and I had a great time at the Jonathan Club and City of Industry with Dwight's crew of six. We were the only submariners. You are the greatest, *Pat Zilliacus*



Pat played a part in the Memorial service held there too.



We're so proud to have him represent us at these events!

Our boys, Pat Z. and Bill Dillon, bulk up on breakfast before the big Veterans Day event. Eat hearty, you guys!





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



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
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr....	2016
Gary Wheaton.....	2016

(concluded next page)

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

Lawrence R. Butler 2015
 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



E-Board Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2024

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, November 16, 2024.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Bill Moak, COB
- Kathleen Carder, Associate Member
- Jack Mahan, Member
- Sue Bolton, Associate Member
- Brooke Nafarette, Associate Member

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the VFW Hall in Anaheim to order at 1002 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of October’s E-board and General meetings were reviewed. Dennis Bott moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Mike Swanson and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer’s Report as of November 15, 2024 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson.

Checking	\$22,874.32
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$2,035.42
Total	\$20,888.90

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$980.00
Expenses:	\$771.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Sally Moran	\$25.00
Dennis Walsh	\$22.00
Robert Cailor	\$80.00

There were no questions nor corrections needed. Ray Teare moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Mike Swanson asked the Board to approve a request for Pacific Premier Bank to remove outgoing Treasurer Michael A. Swanson from the L.A.-Pasadena Base bank account(s) and to add Susan M. Bolton, our newly elected Treasurer, to the account(s). Dennis Bott moved to approve the request; it was seconded by Chuck Senior and approved unanimously. Mike will present the declaration letter to the bank.

(concluded on next page)

Russian Borei-Class Boat Sidelined Three Years

(From the Zona Military website - published September 6, 2024.)

According to recent reports, one of the Russian Navy's modern nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines of the *Borei* class (Project 955) will remain out of service for the next few years. Specifically, this concerns the *Yury Dolgoruky*, the lead unit of the class, assigned to the Northern Fleet, which has recently entered the Sevmash shipyard for scheduled maintenance.

The *Yury Dolgoruky* (K-535) is the flagship of the *Borei*-class ballistic missile submarines, also known as Project 955. With a submerged displacement of nearly 24,000 tons and equipped with up to 16 Bulava ballistic missiles, the K-535, along with the rest of the class units, represents the most modern nuclear deterrent currently in operation within the Russian Navy.

Although construction began in 1996, Russia's economic crisis in the 1990s delayed its entry into service until late 2012. Subsequently, another six submarines of the class were commissioned, operating with the Northern and Pacific Fleets. Additionally, the construction of two more of the more advanced Project 955A version are planned.

Sevmash shipyard sources confirmed that the *Yury Dolgoruky* has recently entered their facilities for work. It's likely this involves more extensive tasks than inspections or routine repairs, considering it's been nearly twelve years since the boat's commissioning.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Memorial Report:

The WWII Submarine Memorial – West is in good condition, though littered with leaves and detritus from the recent winds. The brick project will proceed to Requests for Proposal in early December.

Membership Update:

We now have 101 members with two recent signups: Kathleen Carder and Brian Senior—Marilyn and Chuck's son. Welcome to you both!

Memorabilia Update:

The material stored in Greg & Vanessa Paulson's garage is being dispersed as follows: The submarine model will go to the Navy's MWR at Seal Beach for display in their community center; the bin of submarine plaques will be shipped to various claimants (at their expense); the bins of boat photographs will be taken by Bill Moak to the museum in Texas which has claimed them; and the bins of books will be offered for sale during the Western Region Roundup. Transfer will begin when Jeff Porteous is available.

Christmas Party Update and More:

Our Christmas party will occur on December 21st at the Eagle's Nest on the Navy Golf Course in Cypress. Sign-up forms will be available in the December newsletter and in an email broadcast. We'll enjoy a submarine-related presentation and have two from which to select.

VFW Post 3173 has a commitment for their entire hall on the third Saturday of January, so we will hold our monthly meeting at an offsite location to be determined and announced by email.

The Good of the Order:

Marilyn Senior asked for stickers to be made using our base patch artwork, and Bill Moak will pursue that with the supplier of the WRR patches and pins. These will be a hit with kids and grandkids!

There being no further business, Mike Swanson motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1055 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Vanderveen

In Relief of *Darin Detwiler*,
Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

2025 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar

DEADLY QUIET

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The Virginia Boats

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!

Individual calendars are **\$13.75 + \$4.63 shipping**. Order yours today by credit card at ussvination-alstorekeeper.com or by sending your check or money order made payable to USSVI to:

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Email: NSK.USSVI@yahoo.com
Phone: (925) 679-1744
Quantity discounts available.



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	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	29 30 1 2 3 4 5

Proceeds to benefit USSVI operations and projects.



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

by Anonymous Bubblehead

(with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore;
provided by Paul Riggs from the internet)



'T was the night before Christmas and what no one could see,
the men with the Dolphins were under the sea.
Most of the crew lay out flat on their backs,
snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.

Those men on the watch were making their rounds,
some manning the planes or listening for sounds.
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,
they all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time were now due,
and hoped for some sleep, just an hour or two.
Against better judgement I took a short stroll,
and found myself wandering into Control.

The NAV had the Conn, the COW was in place,
the COB had the Dive with a scowl on his face.
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,
the QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with Night Orders the NAV told the Dive
to bring up the boat with a minimum rise.
The bubble came up and soon they were there,
at periscope depth with a 'scope in the air.

The QM confirmed our position with care;
the broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.
The NAV on the 'scope let out a small cry—
he shook his head twice and then rubbed his eyes.

He looked once again to find just what it was
interrupting his sweep and causing this pause.
Try as he might there was nothing to see,
so down went the 'scope and us to the deep.

I asked what it was that had caused his dismay.
He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say.
It could've been Northern Lights or a cloud,
or a meteorite, perhaps," he wondered aloud.

"But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,
whatever it was, it looked like a sleigh.
And though it passed quickly and never was clear,
I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer."

We laughed and we teased him and got up to go,
when the moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."
They told us a message was just coming in...
We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,
your attempt at a joke is too far delayed.
If it had been sooner it might have been neat,
but I doubt we're receiving at four hundred feet."

"Oh Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,
we're not playing games to any degree."
I then headed aft—nothing better to do—
surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

Once ended, 'twas sent to Control to be read;
the NAV checked it slowly and then scratched his head.
Once again he began, but this time aloud,
to all those who waited, a curious crowd:

"Denizens of the deep are you men of the sea,
who risk your lives daily so others stay free...
I rarely have seen you, on this my big night,
for so many times you're all hidden from sight.

"But purely by luck I did see you tonight...
as your 'scope coaxed the plankton to glow with a light.
And lucky for me I have finally won
the chance to say thanks for all you have done.

"I know that you all miss your families back home,
and that sometimes you feel as if you're alone.
But trust what I say and I'll do what is right:
Something special will go to those families tonight.

"Along with the gifts I'll drop off with your kin,
I'll visit their dreams and leave word within.
They'll hear of your love and how sorely you miss them;
I'll tell them that soon you'll be once again with them.

"It might not be much, I know that is true,
to thank you for all the things that you do.
But I'll do what I can, while you do what is right,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

With Warmest Holiday Wishes from The Periscope

THE LA/PASADENA BASE USSVI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Saturday, December 21, 2024, the L.A.-Pasadena Base USSVI will hold its annual Christmas luncheon for the year 2024. The party will be held at the Los Alamitos Golf Course: On the Greens Conference Center, 5660 Orangewood Ave., Cypress, CA 90630.

It's a time of year to visit with our submarine friends and their guests. More time will be devoted to this activity.

This year rather than Tolling the Boats, Dave Vanderveen is preparing a special presentation.

Social Hour: 11:30AM. - Luncheon served 12:15PM

This Year's Menu is as Follows:



Tossed Garden Salad with Ranch and Italian dressings on the side

Entrée Selection:

Chicken piccata

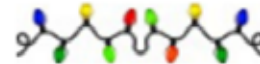
Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter

Grilled flat iron steak

Oven-roasted Potatoes and Green Beans Almondine, Dinner Rolls and Butter

Vegetarian Option

*Mushroom Raviolis
Dinner Rolls and Butter*



Beverage: Coffee, Iced tea

Dessert: Cheesecake with Raspberry Drizzle

Sparkling Cider/Champagne Toast

As always, it's very important to get your reservations in ASAP so that we can give the Golf Course a firm headcount no later than 12 days before the luncheon.

The cost of the luncheon will be \$45.00 per person. Cocktails will be available from the main bar.

Please send your check and reservations (checks made out to LA/Pasadena Base USSVI) to the address shown below. Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée and how many of each.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Mail to: Sue Bolton
13561 Iowa Street
Westminster, CA 92683
Phone: 714-932-6222

Chicken piccata _____

Flat iron steak _____

Mushroom ravioli _____

Total # of dinners _____ X \$45.00 \$ _____



Late-Breaking Chapter News...



Gato-class Model Submarine Happily Donated to the Naval Weapons Station

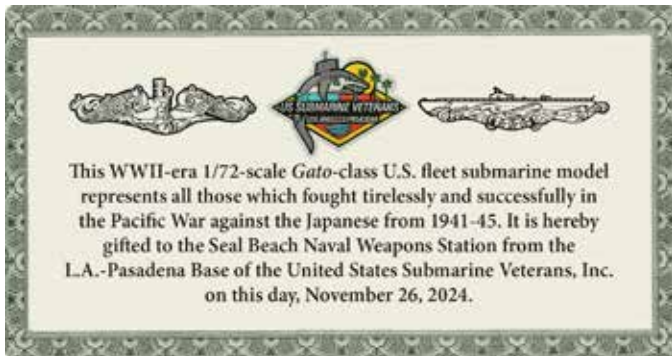
Picked up from its storage at Greg and Vanessa Paulson's, cleaned up and delivered by Dave Vanderveen and Jeff Porteous, this model will now remind visitors to the Naval Weapons Station Community Center of the critical importance of U.S. Navy fleet submarines in World War II.



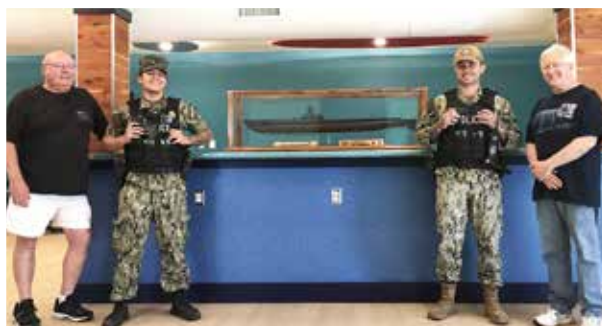
Jeff's customized submarine transport vehicle. ;-)



Dave tackles Windexing the plexi case while Jeff (off-camera) handles model dusting and wood frame polishing.



Simple donation plaque created for inside the model's big wooden display case.



A couple of guys from base security make the model handoff at the new Community Center official. Our thanks to Shirley Duclos, base Recreation Director, and Jacki Rodriguez, base Marketing Director (neither shown, unfortunately), for making getting on the base a smooth process. A room like this, featuring a pool table, dartboard and cozy sitting area, is just crying out for a nice ship model!

Impressive fleetboat happy in her new home. BZ to us for finally getting this task off our base's collective to-do list!



USS Tucson (SSN-770) celebrates the holiday. (USN photo.)



*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

