



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."

What's Inside

Commander's Message	2
General Meeting Minutes	3
Tolling the Boats	6
Columbia to be Ready in 2030	7
First Virginia Goes to Guam	9
Quiet Brit Astute-Class Subs	10
Dex Armstrong	13
Chapter News	14
Calendar of Upcoming Events	16
E-Board Meeting Minutes	17
"We Knew. And Yet, We Went"	18
2025 Sub Calendars Available	19

Editor's Corner

In your snail-mailbox at some point in the last week or two was the latest issue of *American Submariner*—the finest regular publication out there about

our fave topic! Enjoy, you lucky stiffs! :-)

—Jeff



What a Catch: Norwegian Fishermen Snag U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine!

The young men were sailing for halibut, but nab a cruise missile attack submarine instead!

(Reproduced from The Barents Observer website - Published November 13, 2024)

by Thomas Nilsen



It was a Virginia-class submarine like this one that sailed into a fishing net north of the island of Senja on Nov. 11, 2024. (Archive photo: Helene Sofie Thorkildsen / Norwegian Armed Forces)

“We had just emptied the nets and put them out again, and was on our way back to shore at Sommarøya when we were called by the Coast Guard on channel 16 on the VHF radio,” says Harald Engen (22) to NRK Troms. Engen is captain on *Øygutt*, a ten-meter small fishing vessel.

The Coast Guard later informed all that a submarine had sailed into the net and dragged it two nautical miles north, where it was cut off.

The net was lost deep down, but the fishermen, in their early 20’s, now have a good story to tell at the local pub.

(concluded on page 12)



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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

The Western Region Roundup we're hosting aboard the RMS *Queen Mary* is coming up on March 6-8. To date, over 120 people have committed to attend, and more are signing up daily. Our preparations are well in hand, and the Region's organizing committee continues its work. I believe this event will be very worthwhile! We have Captain Obrien (CO of NWSSB) and Captain Wiley (Subron Eleven Commodore) slated to speak at our opening and closing sessions. The Tolling the Boats will be conducted on the ship's Gun Deck, which was used in World War II. There's a wide variety of things to do and see on the ship and in the Long Beach area. Most impressively, the ship herself is a stunning piece of maritime history. I hope you can join us!

The Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce has settled into a smooth routine for placing flower bouquets on monuments each month at the Memorial for boats lost in that month. We appreciate that they bear the cost for those but are more pleased that the businesses in town have stepped forward to do that work. It is an excellent example of civic engagement by folks who appreciate the value of the Memorial and what it represents to our lost shipmates' families and to our country.

We will resume meeting at the Anaheim VFW Hall on February 15th with our usual Potluck lunch and will conduct a critique (Plus/Delta) of the Roundup so we can provide that information to Area 51 Base in Las Vegas, which will be hosting the 2026 Roundup.

The recent fires in Southern California have been horrific, but we're grateful that none of our shipmates or their families have been directly affected by them. The fires may continue, given the weather and wind patterns, so please be aware that USSVI is prepared to help any of our families which may need it. You can contact me at lapasadenabase@gmail.com or go directly to the USSUBVETS.ORG site and key in USSVCF-Brotherhood Fund. Pete Juhos, the Western Region Director, is coordinating between us and the Charitable Foundation.

As always, please protect your health. An additional concern for those of us in the Los Angeles area is the micro-particulates which have become airborne from the ash after the fires, and that's aside from the smoke hazard while the fires are burning. It's always *SOMETHING!*

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Jan. General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Barwick
Bonnie Barwick
Frank Bereznay
Sue Bolton
Dennis Bott
Kathleen Carder
Darin Detwiler
Ken Dorn
Dave Geske
Sam Higa
Jack Mahan
Charles McCarthy
Bill Moak
David Semrau
Chuck Senior
Marilyn Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Cindy Teare
Dave Vanderveen
George Walrath
Dennis Walsh
Gary Wheaton
Gary Wing
Pat Zilliaccus
Mercedes Zilliaccus



Minutes of January 18, 2025 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at Taco Surf in Los Alamitos at 1114 hours. Dave then recited the USSVI's Statement of Purpose.

Dave explained that November 2024's meeting minutes (no meeting in December) had been published in the prior issue of the newsletter and announced they had been 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 asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present this report to the General Members attending today. *(The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.)*

It was noted that a \$500 down payment had been paid to reserve the Christmas luncheon location. Also, the Executive Board had approved a \$175.20 bid for printing 200 copies of the memorial pamphlet for the Western Regional Roundup.

After the service for Harold Staggs, Dave Vanderveen received \$250 in donations to the Flower Fund from:

- Bud Fox (Trieste Base): \$100.00
- Bob Schieve (Bonefish and L.A.-Pasadena Bases): \$50.00
- Scott Hultner (L.A.-Pasadena Base): \$50.00
- Willie Williamson (Bonefish and L.A.-Pasadena Bases): \$50.00

Memorial Report:

Dave Vanderveen reported that the irrigation system, grass, and overall cleanliness of our Memorial site all looked good. The SBNWS is coordinating commercial trimming of hedges in April/May in preparation for the Memorial Day ceremony. Meanwhile, Dave Vanderveen is still working with the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station leadership regarding our memorial brick program. Dave will also work with Paul Riggs to replace the early drawings that were lost, then work on acquiring needed USN paperwork and final approval. Dave also announced that requests for proposals to install the bricks have now gone to two masonry contractors.

Darin Detwiler reported that the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce is in full-swing on placing flowers at the Memorial every month. The base will be preparing and sending thank you cards or letters in response to these efforts. Also, we wish to make considerations to recognize or include the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce in the Memorial Day Ceremony.

(concluded on next page)



Eternal Patrol Notice

John A. Andersen
10/23/1945—
11/10/2024

We've just learned from his son Erik that John Andersen departed on Eternal Patrol back in November. His wife preceded him in 2018. John was an L.A.-Pasadena Base plankowner and Treasurer, and also set up USSVI's Charitable Foundation. His remains will reside at Riverside National Cemetery, but no service has yet been set up. Look for updated information in next month's *Periscope*.
Sailor, Rest Your Oar

Binnacle List

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

- **Sam Aboulafia** has moved out of hospice & much welcomes contact.
cell: 702-274-7256
email: boomersam5@gmail.com
c/o C.W. Young Veterans Hospital
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg.71 CLC East Room 5-2
Bay Pines, Florida 33744-8200

General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Membership Update:

Marilyn Senior reported on the death of members Harold Staggs and President Jimmy Carter, then updated us on base member status: we currently have 100 total members, 66 Holland Club Members, 68 USSVI Life Members, 64 Base Life Members, 2 WWII members (Bill Dillon and Pat Zilliacus), and five new members.

Western Regional Roundup, 2025, Update:

A list of Activities and a Plan of the Day are coming soon. Volunteers are needed for the registration table, prepping the Swag Bags, movie night host, introductions, etc. Marilyn Senior is working on confirming Caroline Flinders for the Saturday night invocation. Sam Higa has volunteered as Event Photographer.

Chuck Senior then nominated Dave Vanderveen to be the caller for the Tolling the Boats Ceremony (to be held on the *Queen Mary's* gun deck.)

Parking at the site has been negotiated at \$20 per day.

Darin Detwiler moved for the USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base to pay a minimum of \$350.00 for sponsorship of the Roundup banner (which will allow for us to have our logo on the banner.) Our base has already donated \$1000 to the Western Regional Roundup, also pins, patches, pamphlets, etc. Several members have volunteered to personally contribute funds for this expenditure.

Tabled until the next meeting: a discussion on ordering base patch stickers (raised by Bill Moak).

The Good of the Order:

Dave Vanderveen discussed the Charitable Foundation's Brotherhood Fund being a resource for those in need as a result of the wildfires.

A question was raised about scheduling tours of submarines at the Bangor submarine base. This is possible through Squadron 9, but requires many steps to make happen, including background checks.

A reminder was then made to be sure to sign up for the Western Regional Roundup—attendance *and* volunteering.

There being no further business, Dennis Bott motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ed Barwick and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1141 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

**February Meeting
at the Anaheim VFW Hall**

Feb. Meeting

Date: Feb. 15, 2025

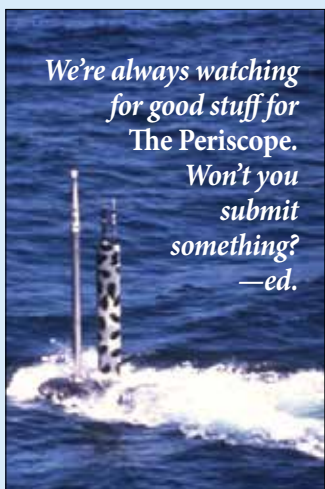
This month we're back at Anaheim's VFW Hall with our standard potluck arrangement. So please bring your own plates & utensils, plus your own drinks and a dish to share (see below). Parking's behind the building.

Location:
VFW Post 3173, Anaheim
805 East Sycamore Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

- Times:**
- E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00
 - General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon
 - Lunch: Noon
- (must vacate premises at 1:00)

Lunch: Potluck. Assignments by last name as follows. Remember to bring needed serving utensil(s).

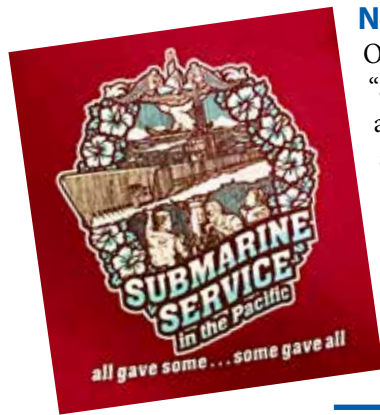
- A-H — *Main Dish*
I-R — *Salad or Vegetable*
S-Z — *Dessert*



Feb. Birthdays

- We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants!
- Mercedes Zilliacus..... 2/2
 - David Semrau..... 2/10
 - Joe Koch..... 2/17
 - Roger Onaga..... 2/19
 - Dave Whittlesey..... 2/26

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 Still Available!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak or the National Storekeeper. See the ad elsewhere in this issue of *The Periscope*.



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

2025 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:

- Bill Dillon • Bud Fox • Bob Schieve
- Scott Hultner • Willie Williamson



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 Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check. Thanks!

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

FEBRUARY TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS BARBEL (SS-316)



USS SHARK I (SS-174)



USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)

USS BARBEL (SS-316)

Lost on February 4, 1945 during her fourth war patrol. According to Japanese records, *Barbel* was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. Just the day before, she had reported having survived three depth charge attacks. Eighty-one officers and men went down with the boat.

USS SHARK I (SS-174)

Lost on February 11, 1942 during her first war patrol. *Shark* was the first American submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific—most likely falling prey to depth charges. Fifty-nine officers and men were lost.

USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)

Lost on February 16, 1943 somewhere off Rabaul on her third war patrol, where she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, a torpedo boat, and finally depth charged by a subchaser. Seventy-two officers and men perished, one additional man having been killed due to other action earlier in the patrol.

USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)

Lost on February 26, 1944 during her tenth war patrol. It appears she was caught on the surface in the East China Sea, the sad recipient of a bullseye by a Japanese carrier bomber. Earlier in the patrol, *Grayback* had sunk four ships for a total of 21,594 tons—tying her for eleventh among American submarines for number of ships sunk. Eighty officers and men were lost on the boat.

USS TROUT (SS-202)

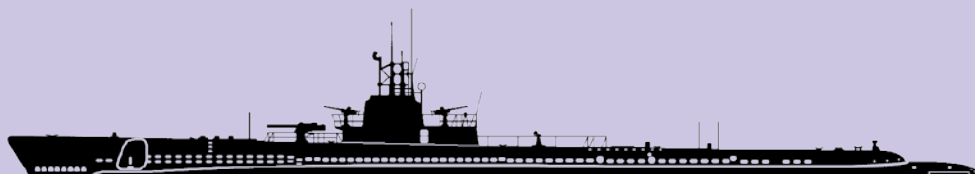
Lost on February 29, 1944 in the middle of the Philippines Basin during her eleventh war patrol. She was sunk by escorts after attacking a convoy and destroying a passenger-cargoman and damaging another ship. *Trout* had carried out several notable missions earlier in her career, including hauling over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February of 1942. Eighty-one officers and men went down with her.



USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)



USS TROUT (SS-202)



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

Navy Says First Nuclear-Armed *Columbia*-Class Submarine On-Track for 2030 Deployment

U.S. Navy's lead Columbia-class submarine, USS District of Columbia (SSBN-826), remains on schedule to deploy in 2030.

(Reproduced from the Warrior Maven website - Published November 19, 2024.)

by SOFREP



An Ohio-class submarine transits the Suez Canal, November 5, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo.)

In a bold announcement at the Naval Submarine Symposium on November 14, Matt Sermon, Executive Director of the Strategic Submarines Program at Naval Sea Systems Command, reassured attendees that the U.S. Navy's lead *Columbia*-class submarine, USS *District of Columbia* (SSBN-826), remains on schedule to deploy in 2030.

Despite facing significant production challenges, the Navy is committed to ensuring the timely delivery of this critical asset.

As you probably know by now, this submarine represents the cornerstone of the Navy's plan to replace its aging fleet of *Ohio*-class nuclear ballistic missile submarines, securing America's sea-based nuclear deterrent for decades to come.

The *Columbia*-Class Program: An Overview

The *Columbia*-class program is not just another naval

initiative; it's the Pentagon's top acquisition priority. As the backbone of the U.S. Navy's nuclear triad, these submarines are essential for maintaining strategic deterrence.

Each *Columbia*-class submarine will replace one of the Navy's 14 *Ohio*-class subs, which have been in service since the 1980s. Given the vital role these submarines play, the margin for error in their production schedule is razor-thin. To mitigate risks, the Navy has extended the service life of five *Ohio*-class submarines.

Tackling Production Delays

The journey toward delivering the USS *District of Columbia* has been anything but smooth.

Initially planned for an 84-month construction period, delays have stretched this timeline to 96 months. Supply chain issues have been a significant factor, with late deliv-

(concluded on page 8)

First of *Columbia* Class to be Ready by 2030

(concluded from page 7)

eries of key components like Northrop Grumman-built turbines, which convert nuclear reactor-generated steam into electrical and mechanical energy.

General Dynamics Electric Boat (GD), responsible for assembling the submarines, and HII's Newport News Shipbuilding, tasked with building the bow and stern sections, have had to adjust their production cadence.

These delays have forced GD to perform costly out-of-sequence work, a challenge compounded by the complex logistics of transporting and integrating submarine sections from Virginia to Connecticut.

Phebe Novakovic, CEO of GD, noted during a recent earnings call that the company had to slow down its work to align better with supplier deliveries and control rising costs.

However, Sermon remains undeterred. "We will not give up," he asserted, quoted from *USNI News*, emphasizing the Navy's relentless pursuit of its 2030 deployment goal.

Cutting-Edge Technology and Specifications

The *Columbia*-class submarines are designed to be the most advanced ballistic missile submarines ever built.

Each vessel will measure 560 feet (171 meters) in length and displace approximately 20,810 tons, making them slightly larger than their *Ohio*-class predecessors. They will feature a life-of-the-ship nuclear reactor, eliminating the need for mid-life refueling. This design not only extends operational availability but also reduces maintenance costs.

Equipped with 16 Trident II D5LE missiles, the *Columbia*-class submarines will maintain a formidable nuclear strike capability.

The vessels will also incorporate state-of-the-art stealth technology, making them nearly undetectable by adversaries. Advanced sonar systems and improved acoustic performance will enable them to operate silently in the world's oceans, ensuring they remain a credible and survivable deterrent.

Development History

The *Columbia*-class program was conceived in the early 2010s as the *Ohio*-class submarines approached the end of their operational lives.

Recognizing the strategic importance of a reliable sea-

based deterrent, the Navy initiated the design phase, emphasizing innovation and cost efficiency. The first steel for the USS *District of Columbia* was cut in 2017, marking the start of construction.

Since then, the program has faced several hurdles, including technical challenges and pandemic-related disruptions.

Despite these setbacks, the program has made steady progress.

The stern section of the USS *District of Columbia* was delivered earlier this year, and the bow is expected soon.

Each milestone brings the Navy closer to its goal of having the lead submarine on patrol by the end of the decade.

The Future Role of the *Columbia*-Class Submarines

Once operational, the *Columbia*-class submarines will serve as the linchpin of America's nuclear deterrence strategy. Their ability to remain submerged for extended periods and launch nuclear missiles from undisclosed locations provides the U.S. with a powerful and flexible deterrent.

As geopolitical tensions rise, particularly with rival nuclear powers like Russia and China, the importance of maintaining a robust sea-based deterrent cannot be overstated.

The *Columbia*-class will also embody a technological leap forward, incorporating innovations that will likely influence submarine design for generations.

With a projected service life extending into the 2080s, these submarines will safeguard U.S. interests and global stability for decades.

Final Thoughts

The USS *District of Columbia*'s journey from blueprint to battlefield-ready submarine is a testament to the Navy's resilience and commitment.

Despite production delays and logistical challenges, the program remains on track to meet its critical 2030 deployment.

As the lead ship of the *Columbia*-class, this submarine will play a pivotal role in maintaining America's strategic edge, ensuring that the U.S. Navy continues to dominate the undersea domain and uphold its vital role in national defense.

U.S. Navy Deploys One of Its Brand New Virginia-Class Nuclear Submarines to the Strategic Naval Base in Guam for the First Time

(Reproduced from the Zona Militar website - Published November 28, 2024.)

by Redacción



Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine. (U.S. Navy photo.)

Seeking to strengthen its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific, the U.S. Navy has announced the deployment of a *Virginia*-class nuclear submarine to Naval Base Guam, marking the first time a vessel of this class has been stationed there. Specifically, the submarine assigned to the base is the USS *Minnesota* (SSN-783), part of a broader deployment strategy across the region.

Reflecting the Navy's official statement, this new strategic plan "...allows flexibility for maritime and joint force operations, with forward-deployed units ready to rapidly respond to deter aggression and promote a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region." Furthermore, the Navy emphasized that "the most capable units will be stationed at the forefront" to achieve these objectives.

It is worth noting that the U.S. Navy already maintains a significant submarine presence in Guam, demonstrated by the deployment of four *Los Angeles*-class nuclear submarines: the USS *Asheville* (SSN-758), USS *Jefferson City* (SSN-759), USS *Annapolis* (SSN-760), and USS *Springfield*

(SSN-761). All these submarines operate under the Submarine Squadron 15. Additionally, the Navy has stationed two auxiliary ships (submarine tenders) at the base, the USS *Emory S. Land* (AS-39) and USS *Frank Cable* (AS-40).

This move follows a 2022 announcement promising increased readiness and maintenance for these platforms, clearly focusing on countering the potential threat posed by a numerically superior Chinese Navy. Guam Naval Base remains one of the most strategically critical outposts the U.S. maintains in the region.

In this context, it is also crucial to mention that Guam hosts Andersen Air Force Base, serving as a primary hub for air operations in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, Camp Blaz, a Marine Corps base activated earlier this year, is expected to accommodate up to 5,000 Marines in the near future. Considering this significant military presence, the Pentagon has outlined plans to establish a 360-degree air defense network for the territory, with completion projected within the next decade.

Quiet as a Dolphin: Astute-Class Submarine is Not to Be Messed With

The Royal Navy's Astute-class submarines are cutting-edge nuclear-powered attack subs known for their advanced stealth, endurance, and firepower. Equipped with Rolls-Royce PWR2 reactors, they can circumnavigate the globe submerged, recycling air and water for theoretically unlimited endurance.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published November 16, 2024)

by Peter Suci



Astute-class submarine from the Royal Navy. Their quiet operation, enhanced by 39,000 anti-acoustic tiles, rivals the noise of a “baby dolphin.” With Tomahawk cruise missiles, Spearfish torpedoes, and the powerful Sonar 2076 suite, they deliver unmatched offensive and detection capabilities. (Royal Navy photo via Creative Commons/Shutterstock.)

Astute-Class Submarines: The Royal Navy's Silent Predators

The *Astute* class represents some of 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 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.

Each of these submarines costs a reported £1.6 billion to build, but the capabilities offered are essentially priceless.

(concluded on page 11)

Brit Astute Class: “Dolphin Quiet”

(concluded from page 10)

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 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 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.

Since 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 sixty and eighty 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 within a few meters to 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—weighing nearly two tonnes 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 submarines, 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.

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

The *Astute*-class boats are also fitted with a dry deck shelter to allow 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. You can follow him on Twitter: @PeterSuci.

Fishermen Snag Virginia-Class Boat in Norway

(concluded from page 1)

“I know about other vessels that have sailed over fishing nets, but no one out here have ever heard about a submarine doing so,” says Engen.

The incident occurred outside Malangen, west of Tromsø, on the coast to the Norwegian Sea.

The submarine was the USS *Virginia*, a nuclear-powered attack submarine 115 meters long. Such submarines are in recent years more frequently surfacing in the sheltered fjords outside Tromsø. Norway’s Coast Guard have been assisting in bringing onboard supplies or new crew members.

The U.S Navy confirms the incident with the small Norwegian fishing vessel to NRK via the Embassy in Oslo.

The submarine got part of the gear from the net in her propeller, likely when she was still sailing on the surface.

Amid Tensions with Russia

The new security situation in Europe, including in the north, requires closer naval cooperation between NATO members.

Keeping track of the Russian Northern Fleet’s sub-

marines sailing out from the Kola Peninsula to the North Atlantic is a priority.

The new Northern Fleet submarines sail more silently than the older Soviet-designed vessels. And they sail more frequently out from the Barents Sea to the west of North Cape, into the deeper Norwegian Sea. That worries NATO.

Typically, an American submarine on a mission in the Norwegian Sea would not want to sail all way south to Haakonsvern near Bergen, or to a naval base in the United Kingdom, to put ashore a crew member or pick up some new devices or supplies. Surfacing near the area where the cat-and-mouse hunt with the Russians takes place saves time.



The Virginia-class USS New Mexico is similar to the sub sailing into the fishing net in Troms, Norway. (Photo: Thomas Nilsen.)

Take the Plunge!

Send three American Submariner subscriptions to your favorite boat!

- Sponsorship is only \$30 a year
- Add a USSVI Calendar for only \$7 more

Mail your check to: USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program
P.O. Box 3870
Silverdale, WA 98398-3870

Please indicate BSP and the name of the sponsored boat or organization in the memo field of your check

✓ Reach potential new members by sending three annual subscriptions of *American Submariner* to the boat or organization of your choice

✓ First-time sponsors receive a Boat Sponsorship Patch

✓ All sponsors entered into the quarterly Boat Model Giveaway drawing (one entry per sponsorship) — a \$500 value

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

Night Steaming

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

Between exercises or heading to or from station, we’d run on the surface.

Best rest anywhere was getting rocked to sleep during night steaming. Light swell... Just drifting along with the surface state. Advances in technology took that away from boat sailors, along with sunrises and sunsets. Again, I’m glad I served when and where I did.

I remember lying in my rack and feeling the slow roll and gentle rise and fall of the bow; the sound of water rushing through our limber holes, sloshing around above us in the superstructure, then cascading out and over the tank tops.

When someone passing fore or aft opened the Forward Engine Room watertight door, you’d get a brief span of Fairbanks roar, then “SLAM-click” and it was quiet again.

As crewmen entered through the air lock door in the forward end of the compartment, you got a brief moment of conversation, laughter, the clatter of dishes, the ring of silverware, some movie dialog—the late-night sounds of the messdeck.

There were also the intermittent bits and pieces of head conversations and passageway exchanges.

Sometimes the Below Decks Watch would come through to “tap out” the ongoing watch:

“Hey, Jack—’time to roll out for your watch.”

“Screw you and the horse you rode in on.”

“No, babe—it’s time. Don’t make me havta drag your worthless, good fer nuthin’ butt outta that rack.”

“I’m up, I’m up...”

And you would hear feet hitting the deck, and then some poor half-awake bastard hunting his sea boots and foul weather jacket with the light from his Zippo.

“Hey you goofy sonuvabitch, people are trying to get some gahdam sleep.”

“Yeah, yeah, and some people are trying to go to work.”

“You don’t have to sound like gahdam elephant sex to round up your gear.”

To the uninitiated, this might seem like hostility. To any raghat who rode the smokeboats, it’ll bring back memories of the friendly exchanges of nighttime pleasantries—the pointless bullshit that passes for a late-night “Howdy-do.”

Your sleep was interrupted by stored—make that stuffed—junk falling from their perches above the overhead lines: film cans, books, shoes, boots, all kind of loose crap.

Or by guys making head calls and waking you up to bum a pack of smokes or to get something out of a sidelocker.

And every now and then, one of the resident tiny livestock—migratory roaches—would take a shortcut across your face or try to homestead in an ear or nostril.

And then there were also the aromas: stale cigarette smoke, mildew from condensate, accumulated dirty laundry, fresh coffee brewing in the crew’s mess, sweet treats baking at night, No. 2 tank venting inboard... And of course, the *eau de diesel* which permeated *everything*.

“AHHOOOGAH, AHHOOOGAH—DIVE, DIVE!”

Now you would hear the vents open.

As the boat slid below the surface with the sound of rushing air leaving her tanks, it got quiet—except for the cycling of the vents in series and the pockets of trapped air gurgling their way to the upper part of the Main Ballast Tanks. Then Negative was blown to check decent when the desired depth had been reached.

And of course there was all the walrus snoring—the sounds made by fifteen guys earning Chinese coolie wages plus sub, sea and foreign duty pay, all dreaming of barmaids, car payments, and wondering how their families, their ball clubs and their bird dogs were all doing. Plus the single guys drifting off to sleep wondering who the hell knew where they were, what they were doing, or even gave a damn. Or who might be unbuttoning the blouses of their high school sweet-hearts at the drive-in these days.

That was night steaming back in the Cro-Magnon era of smokeboat sailing. There was nothing else like it. And nothing better.

Keep a zero bubble... *Dex.*



New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Frank M. Berezney

SK2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
Contact: daughter Catherine
528 S. Cardiff Street
Anaheim, CA 92806-4334
cell: 714-337-3936
email: frank.berezney@gmail.com
Qualified in 1969 on USS *Spinax*
(AGSS-489); served 1967-1971.
Also on *Greenfish* and *Gudgeon*.

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

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.

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



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

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



Sent in by Marilyn Senior: "Here's a copy of Sam Aboulafia receiving his Holland Club Certificate from Bill Moak in Las Vegas, prior to Sam going to Florida to take care of his very ill sister. Sam earned his Holland Club Certificate in 2014."



Old news but good news, also sent in by Marilyn Senior: "Here's Darin Detwiler, after recovering from multiple recent abdominal surgical procedures, and also on the road on Sun., Dec. 1, busy with his food safety seminars and broadcasts."





More Chapter News...

The Latest from our Whirlwind Elder Statesman, Bill Dillon

He sends his updates to Marilyn Senior, including this clipping.



John Lee Honors Bill Dillon

On November 8, 2024, Councilmember John Lee leads a special Council Session to honor the sacrifices and service of Los Angeles veterans.

Council District 12's honoree was World War II Veteran Bill Dillon, a man whose contributions to our nation, his family, and the world have created a legacy that will be cherished for generations. Bill's dedication and service exemplify the very best of what it means to be a hero, and we are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment to our country.

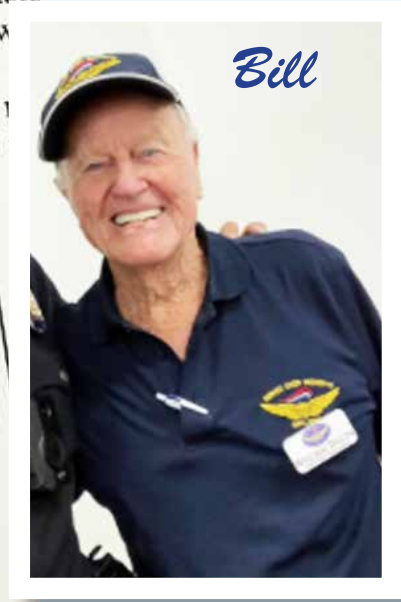
I also want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to every veteran for your courage, dedication, and sacrifice. Through your selfless service, you have secured the freedoms and safety we often take for granted. For that, and for everything you've given, we are forever thankful.

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Good morning, Marilyn,

Here's a copy of some remarks in today's *Wings Over Wendy's* newsletter. I couldn't attend this morning's meeting because I have so much I have to do.

You have no idea how much I *need* this time off. I am *more* than *old*—I am *really really tired!* I have to watch my health for my family and friends like you and Chuck!





**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
- Frank M. Berezny 2019
- David H. Vanderveen..... 2019
- Dennis Bott 2018
- Robert “Mike” Cailor 2018
- Robert Miller..... 2018
- 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)



**Los Angeles-Pasadena Base
2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- January 18: Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos
- February 15: Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall
- March 15 Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall
- April 19 Monthly Meeting
Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
- May 17 Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
Monthly Meeting
Nominating Committee Appointed
Call for participants in the
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- May 24 Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
- May 26 Memorial Day Service - 1100
Submarine Memorial, West
- June 21 Monthly Meeting - Annual “Steakfest”
Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
- July 4 116th Annual...
Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
- July 19 LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic
Location TBA
- August 16 Monthly Meeting - “Hawaii” Theme
2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
- September 20 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Election of Officers
- October 18 Monthly Meeting
Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
- November 15 Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
- December 20 Annual Christmas Luncheon
at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(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
 *William F. Long 1999
 *Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
 *Patrick Zilliacus. 1994
 *William J. Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, January 18, 2025.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Secretary
- Sue Bolton, Treasurer
- Bill Moak, COB
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Mike Swanson

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting at the Taco Surf Restaurant in Los Alamitos to order at 1000 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of the November 2024 E-board and General meetings were reviewed. Bill Moak moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Ray Teare and unanimously approved. (There had been no official meeting in December.)

Treasurer's Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer's Report as of January 17, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$21,972.90
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$280.00
Total	\$21,742.90

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$3,710.00
Expenses*:	\$3,142.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Bill Dillon	\$5.00
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*It was noted that a \$500 down payment had been paid to reserve the Christmas luncheon location. Bill Moak then moved to approve a \$175.20 bid for printing 200 copies of the memorial pamphlet for the Western Regional Roundup. This was seconded by Ray Teare and unanimously approved.

After the service for Harold Staggs, Dave Vanderveen received \$250 in donations to the Flower Fund from:

- Bud Fox (Trieste Base): \$100.00
- Bob Schieve (Bonefish and L.A.-Pasadena Bases): \$50.00
- Scott Hultner (L.A.-Pasadena Base): \$50.00
- Willie Williamson (Bonefish and L.A.-Pasadena Bases): \$50.00

Ray Teare moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously.

(concluded on next page)

We didn't come here to die. We didn't go down to the Sea to be killed by it.

But we knew. And still we went.

We knew the enemy, who wished to kill us, and rule our people. We knew the Sea, and its penchant for imposing death on the careless, the nonchalant, the clumsy and inexperienced.

We knew. And yet we went.

We knew we were hated by the enemy, who feared our silence. Our strength was in surprise, and stealth. Our weapons destroyed whole ships. We knew the Sea, and its cruel impartiality. There was no mercy to be found in the dark waters of the deep.

We knew. And yet we went.

We knew that our vessel was only as good as her builders, her officers, and her crew. We knew humans could be fickle, awkward, often mistaken. We knew that courage—that one element which could in the moment of peril make the difference—was hard. We knew that the training, and practice, and dedication to our craft was not always enough in this hostile world we entered.

We knew. And yet we went.

We went, and we met the enemy. Sometimes in peacetime, other times in war, we went and kept the line of freedom strong. We met those who would exploit our weakness, and matched them. We met other countries' enemies, and fought them. We met our own enemies, and demanded respect. We met the Sea, in all its terror and splendor. We engaged, and either vanquished all of these, or died trying.

We knew. And yet we went.

We went to the Sea silently, unknown to most of the world, knowing that our work was best done in the shadows, in silence, without glory. Our stories were short: "We were never there. It never happened" was the uncomplicated version of "I can't tell you without endangering my shipmates." The cramped, isolated, unnatural submerged life—sometimes for months at a time—tore at our minds. It wore on our bodies. And we replenished ourselves with little more than the knowledge that the crew we served with shared the privation, a poor explanation we clung to when rational thought insisted we were insane.

We knew. And yet, we went.

And crew by crew as one, many of us died. Sometimes it was our own failure. Sometimes it was misfortune, an act of the Sea, a failed component, a miscalculation. What it was didn't matter to the water that poured in and crushed our bodies.

So many of us no longer have a place among the living. But our Living, those we left behind, have their freedom, and that will have to be enough. It has been preserved by our fight.

We knew it had to be this way. And that's why we went.

—Glenn Roesener, STS1/SS

(from the web, submitted by Bill Moak)

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Memorial Report:

Dave Vanderveen reported that the irrigation system, grass, and overall cleanliness of our Memorial site all looked good. The SBNWS is coordinating commercial trimming of hedges in April/May in preparation for the Memorial Day ceremony. Meanwhile, Dave Vanderveen is still working with the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station leadership regarding our memorial brick program. Dave will also work with Paul Riggs to replace the early drawings that were lost, then work on acquiring needed USN paperwork and final approval. Dave also announced that requests for proposals to install the bricks have now gone to two masonry contractors.

Darin Detwiler reported that the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce is in full-swing on placing flowers at the Memorial every month. The base will be preparing and sending thank you cards or letters in response to these efforts. Also, we wish to make considerations to recognize or include the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce in the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Membership Update:

Marilyn Senior reported on the death of members Harold Staggs and President Jimmy Carter, then updated us on base member status: we currently have 100 total members, 66 Holland Club Members, 68 USSVI Life Members, 64 Base Life Members, 2 WWII members (Bill Dillon and Pat Zilliacus), and five new members: Brian Martin Sr.; Kathleen Carter (Associate); Dave Geske (Life); Charlie McCarthy (Life); and Frank Berezney (in first-time attendance today).

Western Regional Roundup, 2025, Update:

A list of Activities and a Plan of the Day are coming soon. Volunteers are needed for the registration table, prepping the Swag Bags, movie night host, introductions, etc. Marilyn Senior is working on confirming Caroline Flanders for the Saturday night invocation. Sam Higa has volunteered as Event Photographer.

Chuck Senior then nominated Dave Vanderveen to be the caller for the Tolling the Boats Ceremony (to be held on the *Queen Mary's* gun deck.)

Parking at the site has been negotiated at \$20 per day.

Darin Detwiler moved for the USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base to pay a minimum of \$350.00 for sponsorship of the Roundup banner (which will allow for us to have our logo on the banner.) Bill Moak seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Several members have volunteered to personally contribute funds for this expenditure.

Tabled until the next meeting: a discussion on ordering base patch stickers (raised by Bill Moak).

The Good of the Order:

Dave Vanderveen discussed the Charitable Foundation's Brotherhood Fund being a resource for those in need as a result of the wildfires.

There being no further business, Chuck Senior motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Bill Moak and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1102 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 \$13.75
plus shipping

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:

Barry Commons
USSVI National Storekeeper
2063 Main St. PMB 293
Oakley, CA 94561
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 task deck 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
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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

