

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

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PRIDE RUNS DEEP



"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

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Editor's Corner

Work continues on my 1/96-scale *Harder* (SS-257) r/c model.—Jeff



The Heart of the Boat: Inside the Auxiliary Division of USS Wyoming

(Reproduced from the U.S. Dept. of Defense website - Published November 25, 2025)

By Navy Lt. j.g. Mackenzie Jefferies, Commander, Submarine Group 10

<https://www.war.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/4342636/the-heart-of-the-boat-inside-the-auxiliary-division-of-the-uss-wyoming/>



USS Wyoming (SSBN-742). (U.S. Navy photo.)

A military submarine sails on the surface of the water. There are several service members working on top of the vessel.

Deep below the surface, in the steel belly of the *Ohio*-class *Wyoming* submarine, there is a place where wrenches never stop turning, pipes never fully sleep and the heartbeat of the ship is kept alive by a small band of mechanics who call themselves "A-Gangers."

To the untrained eye, the work might look like grease, noise and endless troubleshooting. To those who wear the "A-Gang" shirt on their backs, it's something much more: family, tradition and one of the most respected jobs on the entire boat.

(continued on page 8)

**BASE COMMANDER - CO****Darin Detwiler**

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From the Wardroom...



Darin Detwiler,
*Base
Commander*

Shipmates,



January brought new members, returning members, and even visitors (prospective new members) from the Seawolf Chapter of the Silent Service Motorcycle Association (SSMA).

SSMA has approximately 500 members nationally and internationally with 20+ chapters throughout the United States. Their members are dedicated motorcycle enthusiasts who all have a common background: having served in the Navy and earning the right to wear the Submarine Warfare Insignia. SSMA is a self-governing organization, with a credo like that of USSVI:

“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.”

We hope to welcome them as new members and look forward to collaborating with this group.

Another group of note is the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce. This organization is composed of merchants, businesses, and organizations located in and around the Seal Beach area. The Chamber’s mission is to sustain, promote and grow business and to enhance the quality of life of our Seal Beach community.

Joining the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce places our Submarine Veterans organization squarely within the civic and business life of the community where our memorial stands. It gives us a trusted platform to share our events, grow awareness of our mission, attract new members, and build relationships with local businesses and organizations that value service, history, and community. Most importantly, it strengthens our ability to honor our shipmates, educate the public, and remain a visible, engaged steward of the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII National Memorial West in the heart of Seal Beach.

I will be serving as the liaison with the Chamber since I live in Seal Beach. Our base can now be seen in their directory at <https://www.sealbeachchamber.org/>

One request: please take a moment to check your member profile online and make sure your contact information is current. Accurate records help us stay connected, share timely information, and look out for one another. If you’re unsure how to access or update your profile, or if you need help, please reach out to Marilyn Senior or to me and we will be glad to assist.

February, our monthly meeting will be held 2/21 at the L.A. County Fire Museum in Bellflower, CA.

Finally, on a historical note: February 16, 1960: USS *Triton* (SSRN-586) departed for Operation Sandblast, the first submerged circumnavigation of the globe.

Fair winds, following seas, and continued strength to all,

Darin

*Darin Detwiler, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base*

P.S. Base Commander's "Wanted List":

Photos for The Periscope Newsletter – Did you recently attend an event, visit a military base, tour a museum boat, travel to far off distant lands, celebrate a milestone, attend a reunion, etc.? Please consider sharing a few photos (even if they’re not specifically related to submarines) to contribute to a page that highlights our base members. Simply connect with me or with Jeff Porteous, our newsletter editor. (Please include enough information to help with a description.)

Meeting Lunch items - I am putting out a request for anyone to donate unused, clean napkins and plastic utensils. We have plenty of plates, bowls, and cups in a huge bag I bring to most meetings and would love to make sure that we have these items in the future. (Perhaps you purchased too many for a party and want to declutter your kitchen?)

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

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Minutes of January 17, 2026 General Meeting

Jan. General Meeting Sailing List

Susan Bolton
Dennis Bott
Bruce Danielson, SSMA (guest)
Darin Detwiler
Ken Dorn
Rob Fleming
Bach Ngoc Fleming (guest)
Ron Jones
Joe Koch
Bill Moak
Scot Shuman, SSMA (guest)
Art Schwartz
Rita Schwartz (guest)
David Semrau
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
Dave Vanderveen
Dennis Walsh
Stan Westrick



Base Commander Darin Detwiler called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim, CA at 1105 hours. Darin gave the statement of USSVI Purpose, then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

Darin explained that last month's meeting Minutes had been published in the prior issue of the newsletter and that they had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record during the E-Board meeting. (*See E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue.—ed.*)

Treasurer's Report:

Darin noted that the Treasurer's Report had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board, and that to comply with our By-Laws asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present the report to the General Members attending today. (*The same report appears in the E-Board Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

Membership Update:

Dave Vanderveen reported that two of our members have departed on Eternal Patrol (*listed in Chapter News on page 15—ed.*) and that two incoming new members are now working through the join-up paperwork.

Memorial Update:

Dave Vanderveen mentioned the old flowers will be removed from the Memorial site on the third week of every month. Stan Westrick has the duty in January, May and September; Darin Detwiler has the duty in February, June, and October; Ron Jones will take March, July and November. Other months TBD. The base will also rotate months for flower replacement.

(concluded on next page)



Binnacle List

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

• **Sam Aboulafia:** His latest PET scan shows him in remission again. He hopes to work on other health problems now while still in the hospital. He sends his best to all members of Los Angeles-Pasadena Base and thanks us all for our good wishes. You can reach him at:

Sam Aboulafia:
cell: 702-274-7256
email: Aboulafiasam@gmail.com

Ad Still Here by Popular Demand!



Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

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

General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

New Business / Good of the Order:

- 2026 Western Regional Roundup will take place in Sam's Town, NV
- 2027 Western Regional Roundup will take place in Denver, CO
- The Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade will take place on May 16th

Art Schwartz was awarded his Holland Club Patch, Coin and Certificate. (See page 16.—ed.)

Upcoming Meeting Locations:

February: The L.A. County Firefighter Museum.

March: TBD. (Possibly the Simi Valley Military Museum.)

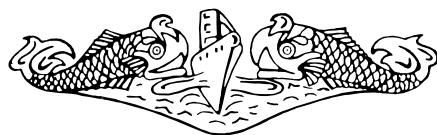
Dennis Bott then delivered a Chaplain's prayer.

There being no further business, Dennis Bott motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Joe Koch and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1150 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

February Mtg. at L.A. Cty. Fire Museum!

Feb. Meeting

Date: Feb. 21, 2026

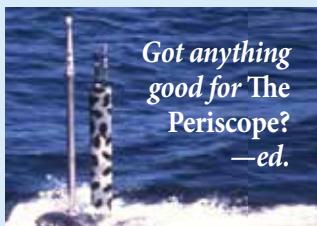
This month we're back at L.A. County Fire Museum with our standard potluck arrangement. So please bring your own plates and utensils, plus your own drinks and a dish to share (see below). Ample parking is behind the building.

Location:
16400 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706

Times:
• E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00
• General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon
• Lunch: Noon

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 Ziliacus..... 2/2
David Semrau..... 2/10
Joe Koch..... 2/17
Roger Onaga..... 2/19
Dave Whittlesey..... 2/26

Ship's Store

2026 Calendars Still Available!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak or the National Storekeeper.



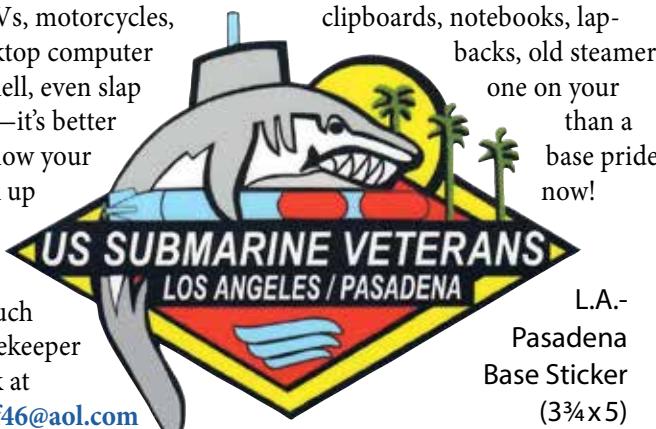
USSVI Logo Patch
(9 3/4 x 6 3/4)
\$11.00 ea.



L.A.-Pasadena
Base Patch
(3 3/4 x 5)
\$5.00 ea.



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



L.A.-
Pasadena
Base Sticker
(3 3/4 x 5)
\$5.00 ea.



Submarine Force
Challenge Coin
\$20.00 ea.

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2026 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:

Wouldn't it be cool
to see your name
listed here?



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

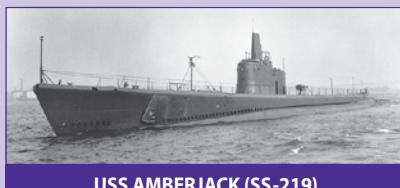
FEBRUARY TOLLING OF THE BOATS



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)

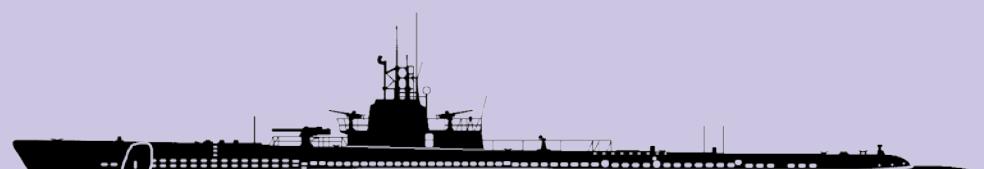
Lost on February 29, 1944 in the middle of the Philippines Basin during her eleventh war patrol. She was sunk by escorts after attacking a convoy and destroying a passenger-cargoman and damaging another ship. *Trout* had carried out several notable missions earlier in her career, including hauling over 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)



BAE Systems Secures \$36 Million Contract to Equip U.S. Navy Submarines with Multifunction Modular Masts

Radio frequency antennas provide U.S. Navy submarines with enhanced situational awareness to carry out missions.

(Reproduced from the Yahoo! Finance website - Published December 8, 2025.)

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/bae-systems-secures-36-million-150000932.html>

from PR Newswire



BAE Systems receives \$36 million production contract to equip U.S. Navy submarines with Multifunction Modular Mast systems. (AI image. Y'think?—ed.)

MERRIMACK, N.H., Dec. 8, 2025 /PRNewswire/ — BAE Systems (LON: BA) has been awarded a \$36 million production contract from Lockheed Martin to deliver Multifunction Modular Mast (MMM) systems for integration onto U.S. Navy submarines.

The MMM system is a radio frequency receiving antenna that provides U.S. Navy submarines the ability to detect, identify, and direction-find adversary communications signals before rising to the surface. The antennas will mount on new *Virginia*-class submarines and feed into Lockheed Martin's AN/BLQ-10 electronic warfare (EW) system.

"In dynamic and contested environments, stealth is key, and submarines rely on accurate communications signal information to make decisions quickly," said Michael Rottman, program area director for Maritime Sensors and Systems at BAE Systems. "The Multifunction Modular Mast system equips U.S. Navy submarines with critical

capabilities to locate and identify potential threats, enabling them to analyze and respond accordingly."

As network-centric naval warfare evolves, advanced sensors, data links, communications, and EW systems are needed to outpace threats. The MMM system plays a critical role in electromagnetic spectrum dominance and strategic situational awareness. It provides operators with a reliable secondary source to detect nearby adversaries, in addition to radar and sonar.

The tactical communications receiving antenna resides in a composite radome. Its pressure-rated and corrosion-resistant design allows the unit to survive the harsh undersea environment and maximize signal-gathering performance while minimizing visibility of the mast and platform. The system also includes a payload module that enables the U.S. Navy to incorporate additional sensors for other mission applications.

For more than 65 years, BAE Systems has developed and manufactured a range of maritime and communications solutions, including antennas, acoustic transducers, and sensors. Designed to withstand the depths of the ocean, these systems enable communication and remote sensing across the U.S. submarine fleet.

Work on the MMM system is performed at BAE Systems' New Hampshire facilities in Hudson, Merrimack, and Nashua.



USS Wyoming Auxiliary Division

(continued from page 1)



“[The] auxiliary division handles basically anything on the boat that isn’t electrical or nuclear,” said Navy Seaman Elvin Pruitt III, USS *Wyoming* machinist mate. “Plumbing, high-pressure hydraulics, diesel and mechanical systems, if it moves, pumps, drains, cools, floods, shifts or breaks, we own it.”

Their systems include air, water, hydraulics, compressors, valves and pumps. It’s a job with no shortcuts. A job that doesn’t stop underway or in port. A job that rarely gets the spotlight.

And yet, every person who interviewed for this article said the same thing in different ways: It’s one of the most respected jobs on board.

That’s because no matter what happens, someone eventually turns to the auxiliary division and says, “We need you.”

Pruitt described the division in one word: family.

“We’re kind of on the outside of every group [on the boat], which means we just bond closer with each other,” he said.

Another sailor, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alexis Cornelison, the auxiliary division leading petty officer, who

initially worked on surface ships, put it differently: “My whole little family is right there,” she said. “The camaraderie is what keeps me here.”

Even in a male-dominated environment, the women aboard formed the strongest sisterhood she’s ever experienced.

“I don’t think I’ll ever have friends like this again,” she explained. “We’ve been through everything together—good, bad, all of it.”

The division looks out for each other in ways that go beyond the job. When Cornelison’s grandfather died, she said the crew didn’t hesitate. They told her to go home, be with her family and they would take care of everything while she was gone.

“No questions, no hoops, no stress; that’s family,” she said. “And it’s why I’m glad I got to be part of this.”

Their paths to A-Gang are as different as their personalities.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Hillard’s father was a part of an auxiliary division on an older sub. Cornelison started as a cook in the surface fleet and then fought for years to switch into engineering before volunteering for submarines once it became open to females.



(concluded on page 9)

USS Wyoming Auxiliary Division

(concluded from page 8)

She laughed at how unexpected her journey has been.

"I told my family I liked mechanics, and they said, 'Who are you?'" she recalled. "Everyone thought I'd be an English major or something. But here I am, loving my life on a submarine."

Regardless of how they got here, they all agreed on something important: You don't really choose the auxiliary division...you jump in, and the job chooses you.

"It's not something you can sit and debate in the recruiter's office," she said. "You have to get thrown into it. Either you love it or you don't."

A-Gang's tempo swings hard depending on whether the boat is submerged or tied to the pier. Underway life is steady, predictable and intense. But being in port is a whole other beast.

"Honestly, it's busier," Hillard said.

Contractors moving in and out. Shipyard workers everywhere. Deadlines, repairs and upgrades.

"It's more stressful in port," he said. "Underway, we stand our watch, and we work. In port, it feels like everything is

happening at once."

When asked about the best part of the job, every single one of them said it differently, but it always came back to this: Solving a problem no one else could solve and finally getting a stubborn system to run right.

"That feeling of troubleshooting something over and over, and then you finally get it right, it's amazing," Cornelison said. "Nobody knew what was wrong, and then you just...figure it out."

For some, the job is a launching pad into a civilian career.

"It's one of the best [jobs] you can have," said Pruitt and Hillard. "You can go anywhere. Any blue-collar job you want."

For others, it's a calling, a source of pride. A tradition passed from father to son or discovered in the most unexpected way. And for all of them, it's something they'll never forget. Hard. Dirty. Respected. Full of challenges, full of laughter and full of family.

A job that runs a submarine in the shadows; unseen, but never unvalued. On the *USS Wyoming*, A-Gang isn't just a division. It's the backbone of the boat. The keepers of the systems. The unspoken pulse that makes the strategic deterrence mission possible.

It's well known that working in the engine room of a submarine can be a dirty, noisy business.



And in the cramped passageways and diesel-scented spaces where they work side by side, they've built something rare: A place where tradition still matters, where leaders raise the next generation and where the hardest jobs bring the closest bonds.

Saab Introduces “World’s First” Fifth-Generation Battle Submarine

The A26 packs fifth-generation stealth, deep-diving UUV deployment, electronic disruption tools, and long-range precision weapons into a multi-domain submarine platform.

(Reproduced from the NextGenDefense website - Published November 26, 2025.)

<https://nextgendefense.com/saab-fifth-generation-submarine/>

by Ethan M. Encarnacion



Artist's illustration of the A26 battle submarine swimming under a warship. (Photo: Saab.)

the company stated in its latest press release.

Multi-Domain Solution

Armed with long-range precision torpedoes and missiles, the A26 can serve as an offensive option for underwater, surface, and land targets.

Saab is putting forward its *Beingke*-class A26, a battle submarine described as the first in the world to have a fifth-generation design.

The A26 can dive down to seabeds and deploy unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs), swimmer delivery craft, and a suite of undersea weapons and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) tools.

With “extremely low” acoustic signatures, it can reportedly slip through sonar-choked waters like the Baltic Sea, serving as a stealthy surveillance node that can remain virtually invisible to enemy detection.

Saab also said the sub can stay at sea for extended periods, holding maritime chokepoints and listening in on adversary signals.

“The 5th-generation A26 submarine’s cutting-edge signature management and Saab’s heritage of Baltic Sea stealth make this among the world’s hardest-to-detect submarines,”

Its soft-kill capabilities include “underwater information warfare,” using electronic systems to disrupt enemy communications and sensor networks.

This versatility aligns with NATO’s Multi-Domain Operation requirements, where next-gen platforms need to sense, strike, and communicate across domains.

Docked Until Further Notice

What was once a 2028 delivery has slipped to 2033 as budget strain reshapes the A26 timeline.

Sweden tried to bring in international partners to share the 8.4 billion krona (\$882 million) cost, but ended up shouldering the program alone.

Additional production adjustments added another 8.9 billion krona (\$934.5 million) to the overall price tag, further stalling the submarine’s entry into service.



Russian Navy's Submarine *Krasnoyarsk* Successfully Launches Kalibr Cruise Missile Over 1,100 km.

*During scheduled naval exercises in the Pacific Ocean, the Russian Navy's nuclear-powered missile submarine *Krasnoyarsk* successfully demonstrated its long-range strike capabilities by launching a Kalibr cruise missile at a coastal target located at the Kura test site on the Kamchatka Peninsula, achieving a direct hit from a distance of more than 1,100 kilometers. This achievement was officially reported by the Russian Ministry of Defense on April 28, 2025, underscoring the growing reach and precision of Russia's strategic submarine forces.*

(Reproduced from the Global Defense News website - Published April 29, 2025.)

<https://www.armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/breaking-news-russian-navys-submarine-krasnoyarsk-successfully-launches-kalibr-cruise-missile-over-1-100-km>

from Naval News Navy 2025



*Russian Navy's nuclear-powered submarine *Krasnoyarsk* launches a Kalibr cruise missile during Pacific Ocean exercises, striking a coastal target over 1,100 km away. (Photo source: Russian MoD.)*

The Russian Navy *Krasnoyarsk* Project 885M "Yasen-M" class submarine executed a covert transition into a designated area of the Pacific Ocean before conducting a Kalibr cruise missile launch. This maneuver showcased the submarine's stealth characteristics, enabling it to operate undetected over vast distances before delivering a precision strike. The Kalibr missile, launched from a submerged position, accurately struck the designated coastal target, with objective control data confirm-

ing the effectiveness of the operation. The success of the strike highlights Russia's ability to conduct strategic, long-range attacks from beneath the ocean's surface, reinforcing the importance of cruise-missile-armed submarines in modern naval warfare.

Following the strike, the *Krasnoyarsk* participated in the second phase of the exercises, which simulated an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operation. During this phase,

Successful Russian Kalibr Long-Range Cruise Missile Launch

(concluded from page 11)

the submarine conducted a search for a simulated enemy submarine and successfully engaged it using a missile-torpedo system. According to the Ministry of Defense, the warhead of the missile-torpedo precisely struck the simulated underwater target, demonstrating the *Krasnoyarsk*'s dual-capability for both land-attack and anti-submarine missions. These exercises validated the submarine's combat readiness, versatility, and its crucial role in securing Russia's maritime defense perimeter.

Admiral Alexander Moiseyev, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, congratulated the crew for their successful execution of the exercises, praising their operational skills and the submarine's performance. His recognition emphasized the importance of the *Krasnoyarsk* in enhancing the Pacific Fleet's offensive and defensive capabilities.

The *Krasnoyarsk* is the second unit of the Project 885M “Yasen-M” class, Russia's latest generation of nuclear-powered cruise missile submarines, built by the Sevmash shipyard. Accepted into service in December 2023, *Krasnoyarsk* represents a significant advancement over previous designs. The *Yasen-M* class is characterized by improved stealth features, more powerful sensors, and a reduced acoustic signature, making it one of the quietest submarines in the world. It is equipped with eight vertical launch system (VLS) silos capable of firing Kalibr cruise missiles, Oniks supersonic anti-ship missiles, and the future hypersonic Zircon missiles, giving it a wide range of strike options against land, sea, and underwater targets. Additionally, the submarine boasts ten torpedo tubes capable of launching torpedoes, anti-submarine missiles, and naval mines, ensuring formidable multi-domain warfare capabilities.

The Kalibr cruise missile, specifically the submarine-launched variant used during these exercises, is a versatile, long-range cruise missile capable of carrying conventional or nuclear warheads. It is designed for high-precision strikes against land targets, enemy ships, and submarines. With a range exceeding 1,500 kilometers in some configurations, Kalibr missiles allow Russian submarines to project power far beyond their immediate operational areas. When launched from submerged submarines like the *Krasnoyarsk*, the Kalibr significantly complicates enemy detection and response, providing Russia with a potent first-strike or retaliatory strike capability.

In September 2024, the *Krasnoyarsk* completed a remarkable inter-fleet transition by navigating the Northern Sea Route, moving from the Northern Fleet to its new operational base with the Pacific Fleet. This strategic rede-

ployment strengthened Russia's military posture in the Asia-Pacific region, positioning one of its most advanced submarines in an area of increasing strategic competition. The successful live-fire exercise by *Krasnoyarsk* marks a new milestone for the operational readiness of the Project 885M submarines and demonstrates Russia's continued investment in strengthening its undersea deterrent forces.

The strategic implications of this exercise are significant for NATO and the United States. The demonstration of a 1,100-kilometer precision strike capability from a stealthy, nuclear-powered submarine poses a serious challenge to Western maritime and homeland defense strategies. Project 885M submarines, with their ability to operate quietly across vast oceanic areas while remaining hidden from traditional detection systems, could threaten critical infrastructure, military installations, and carrier strike groups without warning. The integration of Kalibr cruise missiles means that cities, ports, and bases on NATO's periphery could be targeted from stand-off ranges, reducing the reaction time for defensive systems.

Furthermore, the deployment of such advanced submarines to the Pacific Fleet strengthens Russia's influence in the Indo-Pacific region, increasing the pressure on U.S. forces operating in the Pacific and complicating the strategic balance with China and other regional powers. For NATO navies, the need to invest more in anti-submarine warfare capabilities, intelligence gathering, and forward early-warning systems becomes more urgent in light of Russia's growing underwater threat.



Lafayette-class ballistic missile submarine USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625) was launched with a message about the upcoming Army Navy game. The next day, with JFK in attendance, Navy beat Army 34 to 14.

East Main *by Bob "Dex" Armstrong*

Do-do birds, dinosaurs, three-cent stamps, and East Main Street in Norfolk, VA. What do they all have in common? Gone. Way gone. And as the old fellow said, "Ain't never comin' back."

East Main was right up there with Sodom and Gomorrah, The "Black Hole of Calcutta," and the lowest level of the largest outhouse ever built. The city fathers of Norfolk refused to admit it existed. Clergy were afraid it existed. Decent people would drive six unnecessary blocks around it to avoid it. And the Devil ran it.

If Guiness had a record for the most sleazy bars per square inch, it would read: "East Main, Norfolk." They sold enough draft beer on a Saturday night to fill the New London diving tank. And most of it got pissed away in the adjacent alleys on the way to the bus stop up on Granby Street.

Let's put it this way: When Queen Elizabeth visited the United States, she instructed her pilot to avoid flying over the place.

East Main was the K-Mart of whoredom. If you had twenty bucks and you couldn't satisfy any particular lust desire you were hauling down there, you had to be into something involving baby ducks and penguins. The place was a veritable Casbah of Carnal Delight. It was so bad, it didn't even register a blip on the Moral Richter Scale.

One of the practical factors for Torpedoman Third read, "Have you ever been rolled on East Main?" Followed by, "Was she kind enough to stick your ID and liberty card in your sock before she vanished with what was left of seventy bucks and your wallet?"

Most of the gals who worked East Main had been raised in the wilderness by wolves. But every now and then, you would come across some honey who'd grown up under something with a roof, and had once been within a half mile of a church. And those lovely ladies would just steal your money before tucking the photos of your mother, girlfriend or your great aunt Dorothy into your jumper pocket.

The sonuvabitches at New London and Great Lakes never told you about East Main. That's like taking some poor, ignorant bastard to the beach and forgetting to tell the idiot that monster sharks ate up to five or six citizens there per day.

In the late-'50s, you had to learn a lot of important submarine sailor stuff on your own. This was expensive, often involved consultation with a corpsman, and could bring in conversations with regulatory authorities and other officers. Most Senior Chiefs were indifferent, taking a "It serves you right, you dumb sonuvabitch" attitude—unless you returned with something so exotic you were a public health menace or you actually crossed the brow in flames.

Nobody gave you a diploma for an East Main education. If you rode a smokeboat in SUBRON SIX, you got "East Main qualified" way the hell before you got submarine qualified.

"Hey sailor.... Looking for a good time?"

It didn't take an E-3 long to figure out that a Norfolk gal's definition of a "good time" was leaving a blind drunk bluejacket in her wake. Walletless. Ragtag MIA. And wearing one shoe and an inside-out jumper while doing his mattress-tongued damndest to speak his mother language to totally disinterested forces of the constabulary.

East Main. You could find every sin covered in every religion in the world—in only three or four blocks! It was a place established simply for the purpose of selling beer to stupid people who passed it from mouth to kidney, to bladder, to urinal, and on into the Elisabeth River. All while enjoying the convivial company of fat women with hairy upper lips.

Fortunately, East Main was destroyed before its degenerative effect could infect the Rickover fleet. This would probably be viewed most positively by most normal people: a big step forward along the road of the kinder, gentler, more responsible undersea service of today.

But if you were once nineteen and wanted to grow old

(concluded on page 14)

East Main... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 13)

one day and be able to tell stories on a balmy summer night about jumping into an alligator-loaded septic tank and surviving it, East Main can still return a few smiles. In days long ago, you weren't allowed to call yourself an East Coast submariner until you had treated yourself to a wallow or two on East Main. And old timers hauled around seabag-loads of stories about the place.

When they eventually erased East Main, some of its establishments packed up and moved out to Hampton Boulevard—like rats leaving a warehouse fire.

So long as there are American bluejackets, there'll probably be a market for sex and beer. Whores, barmaids, taxi drivers, and shoeshine boys—and the concrete sidewalks won't get any softer. Maybe they'll install padded seats and stereo surround sound in Shore Patrol wagons, but I doubt it. And they probably won't collect those two-foot oak billy clubs they issued the SPs and give them marshmallow-coated fairy godmother wands

either. But what the hell, those of us who were a part of it, who survived it, who left a large part of their meager earnings stuffed in bra cups and cash registers there, well, the place still brings back a few good sea stories. Such stories after all, are what God gives sailors to keep them smiling in their old age.

East Main was a five-star hellhole where you could buy passion in fifteen-minute increments from women whose panties went up and down like a tin can's signal flags. Where you could drink cheap beer and pee in the street. They certainly never held a Shriner parade or Methodist ministers' convention there, but to a lot of old, bent up, stove-in bluejackets, East Main was a coming attractions preview... "Coming soon to a hellhole near you."

Keep a zero bubble... Dex.



Take the Plunge!



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



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

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Robert "Rob" Fleming
O3-LT(SS) Spouse: Bach Ngoc
14081 Magnolia St. Spc 25
Westminster, CA 92683-4738
cell: 714-334-0552
email: robflem@yahoo.com
Qualified in 1960 on *Segundo* (SS-398); served 1958-1987.
Retired; plays the sax in bands!

Paul Thomas Lundy
Assoc.; friend of Laurie Ann Mabry Kelly; served aboard sub tenders 4924 Mildred Avenue Cypress, California 90630-4632
cell: 714-827-1094
email: ssplundy@aol.com

Frank M. Berezny
SK2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
Contact: daughter Catherine 528 S. Cardiff Street Anaheim, CA 92806-4334
cell: 714-337-3936
email: frank.berezny@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.



"Get'cher Chapter News Here

— Read All About It! —

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



Our own Darin Detwiler, L.A.-Pasadena Base CO, was in the nation's capital recently on important food safety business, and sent us these photos. While there he made some time to take in a couple of Navy sights. Salute, Darin.

Our Membership gal, Marilyn Senior, just notified us of these belated Eternal Patrol departures, only recently discovered. She's always on the case, keeping tabs on our members nationwide.

Eternal Patrol Notices

• **Kenneth E. Chunn**
Qualified 1948; Eternal Patrol Oct. 5, 2024

• **Louis A. Myerson**
Qualified 1967; Eternal Patrol Feb. 23, 2025

Both Were Proud, Longtime Holland Club Members



More Chapter News...

L.A.-Pasadena Base January Meeting Pics

And Darin Joins the Two-Wheeler Crowd: Boss Hog Anyone?



Above: Holland Club membership gets proudly (if belatedly) delivered to our base's newest (2025) inductee: Art Schwartz. Hearty congrats from us all, Art!

Left: Our base CO Darin poses with Silent Service Motorcycle Association (SSMA) Seawolf chapter President Scot Shuman and fellow member Bruce Danielson—on hand at our meeting to learn all about USSVI and L.A.-Pasadena Base membership. Check out those badass bikes!

Below: Dave a Vanderveen shared what we believe is the oldest known photo of our beloved WWII Submarine Memorial. It's now safely in storage at the VFW Hall in Anaheim. Salute.





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

(75-year members noted with *)

Arthur B. Schwartz.....2025
Scott Hultner.....2024
Stanley O. Westrick2024
Ronald R. Jones.....2023
Gerard A. Krudwig.....2022
Gregory M. Paulson2022
Michael J. Swanson.....2022
Ralph J. Hansen2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr.....2021
Larry D. Long.....2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr....2021
Edward E. Kushins2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors2020
Frank M. Berezny2019
David H. Vanderveen.....2019
Dennis Bott2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor2018
Robert Miller.....2018
Roger C. Dunham, MD ... 2017
Richard McPherson.....2017
Harry "Bill" Moak.....2017
Elliot Rada2017
Ronald G. Wagner2017
Dennis J. Walsh.....2017
Michael Kish2016
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr....2016
Gary Wheaton.....2016

(concluded next page)



Los Angeles-Pasadena Base *2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events*****

January 17	Monthly Meeting - "Hobo Stew Day"
February 21	Monthly Meeting - Firefighter Museum
March 21	Monthly Meeting - Location TBD
April 18	Monthly Meeting - Location TBD Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
May 16	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 23	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 25	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 20	Monthly Meeting - Annual "Steakfest" Call for nominations for 2023 Base Officers
July 4	117th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 18	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic (Location TBD)
August 15	Mtg. at Dennis Walsh's home - "Hawaii" Theme 2023 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 19	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 17	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 21	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 19	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 Palagy 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
Robert E. Fleming 2010
Stephen D. Diumenti 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
*Patrick Ziliacus. 1994
*William J. Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2026

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted at the VFW Hall in Anaheim, CA on Saturday morning, January 17, 2026. A quorum was met so the meeting proceeded normally.

In attendance:

- Darin Detwiler, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Stan Westrick, Base Secretary
- Sue Bolton, Base Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Bill Moak, COB
- Dave Vanderveen, Immediate Past Commander

Base Commander Darin Detwiler called the meeting to order at 1005 hours. Minutes of the prior E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. Dave Vanderveen moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer's Report as of January 9, 2026 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$29,534.55
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$00.00
Total	\$29,584.55

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Expenses:

Daren Detwiler - Awards	\$87.02
Daren Detwiler - Banner	\$208.98
USSVI National Dues	\$680.70
Western Region Roundup	\$257.78

Income:

Christmas Lunch	\$1,000.00
Dues: National/Base	\$400.00
Fees for Patches and Badges	\$60.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

\$00.00

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 Chuck Senior and passed unanimously.

New Business / Good of the Order:

Sue Bolton suggested a \$400 tip be sent to the golf course staff for the great service at our

(concluded on next page)

A Royal Navy Vanguard-Class Sub Comes Home After Breaking Record for the Longest Patrol

by Steven Devine

(from the Navy Lookout UK website)

Published March 17, 2025

<https://www.navylookout.com/royal-navy-vanguard-class-submarine-comes-home-after-breaking-the-record-for-the-longest-patrol/>

A submarine returned home to the Clyde today following the longest-ever patrol by a British nuclear deterrent-carrying boat.

This submarine left Faslane in late August and has been away for 204 days. This breaks the record achieved in 2023, an extraordinarily long time for the crew to spend underwater. This sub was relieved in the last few days by another boat that sailed last week, following significant delays in getting it ready for sea. The length of patrols has been rising sharply over the last few years. The last eight deterrent patrols have all exceeded five months in duration. Today's homecoming is another epic achievement, even if spending almost half a year underwater is becoming "normal."

On paper, this is more "efficient" as it reduces the time spent in handovers and there are longer periods to conduct post-patrol maintenance, recover and prepare for the next. However, it also adds additional risk that the continuous nature of the deterrent could be compromised as these aging boats must avoid serious defects and be maintained at sea for longer.

The psychological toll on the crews is also of deep concern, given that three-month patrols used to be considered very tough. Meanwhile, maintaining the UK's continuous-at-sea deterrent is assuming ever-greater importance at a time of increasing uncertainty about European security—especially considering the Royal Navy is struggling to uphold this commitment as these submarines get significantly older.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Christmas Luncheon. A motion was made to accept this by Darin Detwiler; it was seconded by Chuck Senior and approved by the Board.

Darin Detwiler then talked about two members having departed on Eternal Patrol. He explained we didn't find out about one member's status for several months after his passing. This brought up suggestions for how the base could be notified sooner.

Some suggestions:

- Create a card with who-to-contact info. to be stored in one's wallet
- Include base info. on ICE app on cell phone
- Include base info. in member's Will or Living Trust

The next Regional Roundup will take place in Sam's Town, NV.

Next National Conventions:

- 2026 - Corpus Christi, TX
- 2027 - Reno, Nevada
- 2028 - Norfolk, VA

Flower removal will take place at the Memorial site on the third week of every month.

Darin Detwiler suggested our base join the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce. Yearly dues are \$120.00. He made a formal motion to do so. This was seconded by Dennis Bott and approved by the Board.

Upcoming Meeting Locations:

February: The L.A. County Firefighter Museum.

March: TBD. (Possibly Simi Valley Military Museum.)

There being no further business, Ray Teare motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Westrick

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



2026 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar

SILENT HUNTERS

Los Angeles-class submarines continue to play a critical role in national security. Their ability to operate undetected has ensured strategic deterrence and supported global military operations for decades.



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.

Just \$13.75
plus shipping

The L.A. Boats

Los Angeles-class submarines continue to play a critical role in national security. Their ability to operate undetected has ensured strategic deterrence and supported global military operations for decades. Show your support for the Silent Service and these crucial hardworking boats with this latest beautiful wall calendar from USSVI.

2026 Calendars Still Available!

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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Proceeds to benefit USSVI operations and projects.



USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719)
USS *Providence* was the first *Los Angeles*-class submarine equipped with the Tomahawk missile to successfully launch a Tomahawk cruise missile from the VLS using its CCS MKI combat system and software Program 4.1. In 2008, *Providence* made a historic transit under the Arctic ice cap, surfacing at the North Pole to commemorate the 50th anniversary of USS *Nautilus*'s groundbreaking journey. During Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, she earned the nickname "Big Dog of the Red Sea" for launching the most Tomahawk missiles during the conflict. The submarine also played a key role in launching Tomahawk missiles against Libyan air defenses during Operation Odyssey Dawn in 2011. In popular culture, *Providence* is featured in the 1986 Tom Clancy novel *Red Storm Rising*. Alongside her sister submarines, USS *Boston* (SSN 703) and USS *Chicago* (SSN 722), After 37 years of dedicated service, *Providence* was decommissioned on August 13, 2022.

August 2026

(Five submarines and 251 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					
*HARBOUR (SS-257) 1944						
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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	
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26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		
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27	28	29	30	31		



USS *Bowfin* (SS-287) at Pearl Harbor.

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

SEALION	CORVINA	SCAMP
S-36	SCULPIN	SWORDFISH
S-26	CAPELIN	BARBEL
SHARK I	SCORPION	KETE
PERCH	GRAYBACK	TRIGGER
S-27	TROUT	SNOOK
GRUNION	TULLIBEE	LAGARTO
S-39	GUDGEON	BONEFISH
ARGONAUT	HERRING	BULLHEAD
AMBERJACK	GOLET	
GRAMPUS	S-28	
TRITON	ROBALO	
PICKEREL	FLIER	
GRENADIER	HARDER	
RUNNER	SEAWOLF	
R-12	DARTER	
GRAYLING	SHARK II	
POMPANO	TANG	
CISCO	ESCOLAR	
S-44	ALBACORE	
DORADO	GROWLER	
WAHOO		

