

Breaking News:
USS Harder Just Found!
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THE PERISCOPE

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

Got in some personal updates from members this month—through info. clearinghouse Marilyn—so am happy to be able to include a little more "Chapter News" than usual in this issue. Just what the doctor ordered!

Still running r/c submarines with friends and working hard on three sub publications. Ah, the submarine life—it never stops! Look for me in the Yeoman's Shack as usual.—Jeff

Beneath the Waves: The Only Underwater Sub Battle in History

The only recorded instance of submarine-to-submarine combat under the ocean occurred during WWII, involving the German U-boat U-864 and the British submarine HMS Venturer.

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

by Sebastien Roblin



Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine. (U.S. Navy photo.)

Summary: The only recorded instance of submarine-to-submarine combat under the ocean occurred during WWII, involving the German U-boat U-864 and the British submarine HMS Venturer. U-864 was on a secret mission to aid Japan with advanced technology and resources but had to return to Norway for repairs due to engine trouble, unknowingly setting a course for an encounter with Venturer. Using advanced tactics and hydrophone tracking, Venturer's captain, Lt. James S. Launders, executed a precise torpedo attack, resulting in U-864's destruction without ever surfacing. This singular engagement highlighted the complexities and dangers of undersea warfare. The wreckage of U-864, leaking toxic mercury, was eventually entombed by the Norwegian government in 2017 to prevent environmental damage.

The Silent Hunters: HMS Venturer and U-864's Undersea Duel

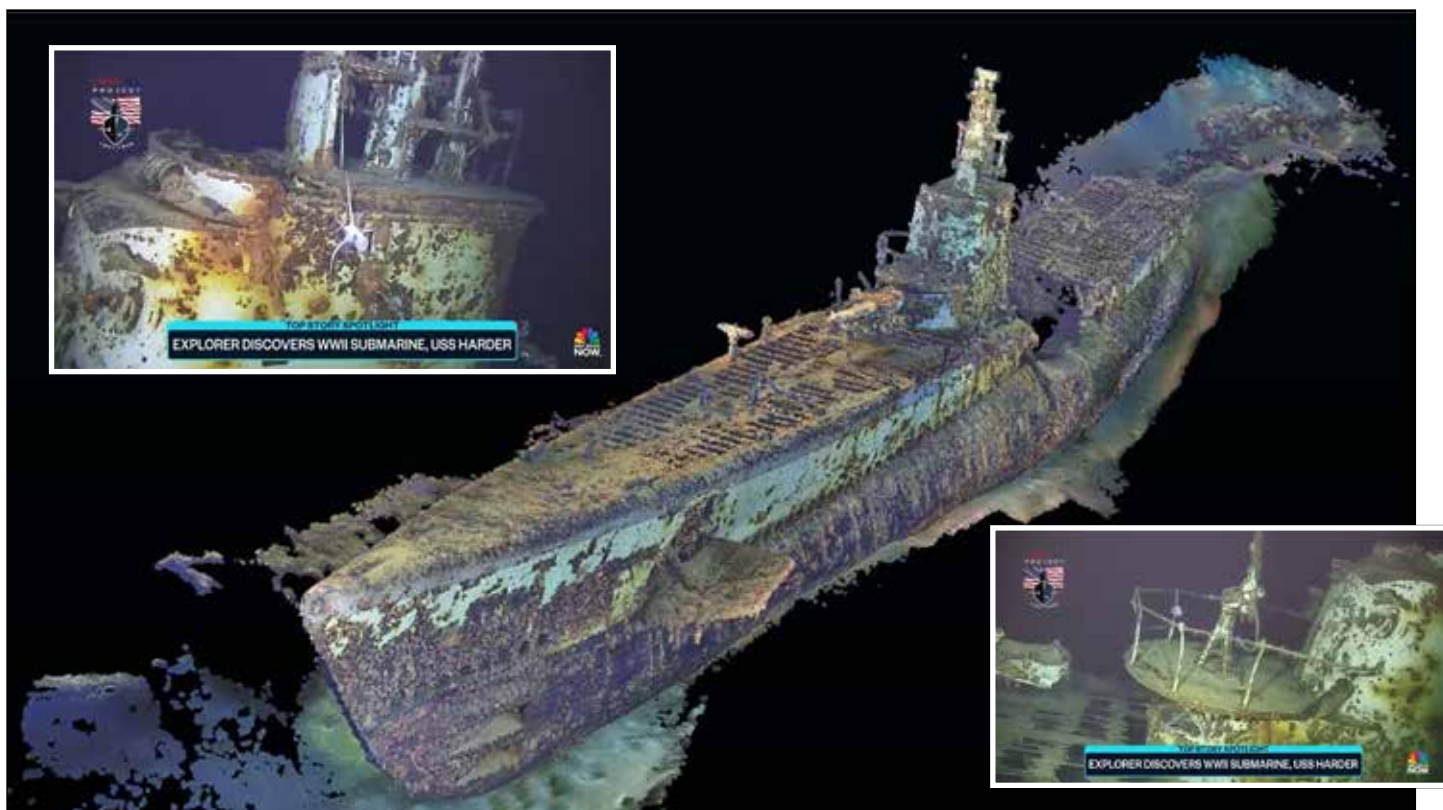
The Hunt for Red October dramatized for the public one of the tensest forms of warfare imaginable: combat between submarines submerged deep under the ocean's

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Wreck of the USS *Harder* (SS-257)—Famed U.S. Navy WW2 Fleet Submarine—Found Off the Philippines

(Reproduced from the CNN website - Published May 24, 2024)

by Brad Lendon, CNN



4D photogrammetry model of USS *Harder* (SS-257) wreck site by The Lost 52 Project. The Lost 52 Project scanned the entire boat and stitched all the images together in a multi-dimensional model used to study and explore the site off Luzon, Philippines. (Image: Tim Taylor and the Lost 52 Project/Courtesy of U.S. Navy.)

The wreck of one of the most storied U.S. Navy submarines of World War II has been found in the South China Sea eight decades after her last patrol, the Navy's History and Heritage Command said Thursday.

The USS *Harder* lies under 3,000 feet (about 900 meters) of water off the northern Philippine island of Luzon, sitting upright and intact except for damage behind its conning tower from a Japanese depth charge, the NHHC said in a press release.

Harder was lost in battle on August 24, 1944, along with her entire crew of 79 submariners, while on her sixth patrol of the war, as the U.S. sought to retake the Philippines from occupying Japanese forces.

"*Harder* was lost in the course of victory. We must not forget that victory has a price, as does freedom," NHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, said

in the press release.

According to a U.S. Navy history, *Harder* sank two Japanese escort ships off the Bataan Peninsula on August 22, 1944, and then headed north along the Luzon coast with two other subs in search of more targets.

In a battle with Japanese escort ship *CD-22* on the morning of August 24, *Harder* fired three torpedoes that missed; she was later sunk by the Japanese ship's fifth depth charge attack, according to Japanese records cited by NHHC.

The NHHC said the wreck of the *Harder* was confirmed by data provided by the Lost 52 Project, an effort led by Tim Taylor, CEO of Tiburon Subsea, to find the fifty-two U.S. subs lost in World War II.

The group has previously located at least six WWII subs, the NHHC said.

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USS *Harder* (SS-257) Just Found

(concluded from page 2)

“We are grateful that Lost 52 has given us the opportunity to once again honor the valor of the crew of the ‘Hit ‘em *Harder*’ submarine,” the NHHC’s Cox said, in reference to the vessel’s motto.

The NHHC said the wreck is “the final resting place of sailors who gave their life in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave.”

The Philippines was a U.S. territory attacked by Japan just after its strike on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. By the spring of 1942, U.S. and Philippine forces on Luzon surrendered to Tokyo’s forces, and Japan used the captured archipelago to protect its supply lines from the East Indies and Southeast Asia.

But by mid-1944, the U.S. was rolling back Japanese gains across the Pacific, and was planning landings to do the same in the Philippines.

Harder, which had the motto of “Hit ‘em *Harder*,” was captained by Cmdr. Samuel Dealey, who would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military’s highest decoration, for his actions in *Harder*’s fifth patrol,

from March to July 1944.

During that time *Harder* sank three Japanese destroyers with another two likely destroyed or heavily damaged over the course of just four days, according to the National Medal of Honor Museum.

The museum’s page on Dealey described one particularly harrowing encounter.

Coming under attack from a Japanese destroyer, Dealey ordered a head-on torpedo shot at the bow of the charging enemy, known as a “down the throat” shot, according to the museum account.

“At 1,500 yards, Dealey fired three torpedoes and ordered the sub to dive. As the *Harder* passed eighty feet underneath the destroyer, two of the torpedoes struck the ship, sending shock waves through the submarine.”

On her first four patrols after commissioning on December 2, 1942, *Harder* sank fourteen Japanese warships and merchant vessels, according to the Medal of Honor Museum.



Stern view of USS *Harder* (SS-257). (Naval History and Heritage Command/U.S. Navy archive photo.)



BASE COMMANDER - CO

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

VICE COMMANDER - XO

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

SECRETARY - OPS

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

TREASURER - WEPS

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

CHIEF OF THE BOAT - COB

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

MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

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

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

Bill Moak

L.A.-PASADENA BASE WEBSITE

www.socalsubvets.org

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

Newsletter Editor

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

From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

This year's Memorial Day ceremony was especially touching. We have three surviving World War II submarine veterans, two of whom celebrate their 100th birthdays this year. All of them were in combat and remain happy, positive shipmates. Their sea stories can raise the hair on the back of your neck or can or make your sides ache with laughter. With us, they commemorated their 3,600 shipmates who died in their submarines during the war. They and their lost shipmates are among my personal heroes.

During the month of June, our base and the Western Region Roundup Committee will turn to, knowing a lot of work must be accomplished in the nine months leading to the 2025 Roundup. It will be hosted by Los Angeles-Pasadena Base aboard the *Queen Mary* March 5th through 8th. Attendance is expected to be 150+, and aside from the business of the organization, we will have several opportunities to enjoy seeing and doing some pretty cool things—including tours of the *Queen Mary* and the ex-USS *Iowa*. Tolling the Boats will be done aboard the battleship *Iowa* and the ceremony will be closed with a gun salute from a 5"/38 caliber mount. Sign me up!

Some years ago, our base by-laws were updated, including the number of base leadership jobs plus the limiting of job holders to a maximum of six years in office. The purpose is to leverage job holders' experience and still ensure broader participation among our members. This year, Mike Swanson will complete six years as our Treasurer and cannot run again for the job. Also, Darin Detwiler, our Secretary, has found his real-life work commitments have increased and he has decided not to run for re-election. Please consider running for either of those jobs! Mike has implemented processes which make the Treasurer job less time-consuming. Those are being offered to other District 6 bases to streamline their Treasurer jobs, and he will certainly help our own new Treasurer to "learn the ropes." Next year, I'll complete six years in the BC job and will be trolling for a candidate to run in the September 2025 election.

Our base's Charitable Contributions Committee has chosen to direct our attention to the U.S. Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation for 2024, and they will recommend an amount at our June meeting.

As always, please continue to protect yourselves against the myriad of infectious "stuff" that is around us all. This is an election year, so the "news" media is already making noise about the next awful disease that will get us. Our best protection continues to be our own good sense, so please take care of yourselves.

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



May General Meeting Sailing List

Dennis Bott
Ken Dorn
Ron Jones
Joe Koch
Jack Mahan
Bill Moak
Roger Onaga
Greg Paulson
Jeff Porteous
Chuck Senior
Marilyn Senior
Mike Swanson
Ray Teare
(and Cindy Teare)
Dave Vanderveen
Ron Wagner
Stan Westrick
(and Tami)
Pat Zilliacus
(and Mercedes Z.)



Minutes of May 18, 2024 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the VFW Hall in Anaheim at 1100 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with reciting the USSVI Purpose and adding a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson provided the Treasurer's Report—as of May 18, 2024—to the members in attendance, and Dave noted that the E-Board had already reviewed and accepted it into the base record. (*The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.—ed.*)

Memorial Report:

The next preparatory steps for the Memorial Day ceremony are ready to be executed. Dennis noted that closeby parking for mobility limited folks is sparse and advised members to arrive early. The Seal Beach police will allow us to park along Seal Beach Blvd. during the ceremony.

Membership Update:

Our chapter is currently officially at 94 members after the loss of Valerie Walrath. Recently one retired submariner and four Associate Members have been added. Membership Chairwoman Marilyn Senior confirmed we're still within National's limit for Associates.

Charitable Contributions Committee Update:

The Committee is recommending that our entire 2024 contribution should go to USSVCF. They will specify the amount during our June meeting.

2025 Western Region Roundup:

Dave advised the group to be on the lookout for a task list in early June and to please consider volunteering for the work required to put on the Roundup. In answer to a question about accommodations on the *Queen Mary*, Dave noted that the ship's recent room refurbishment is very nice and had even impressed his wife! The WRR Committee is still negotiating reduced rates for family-sized rooms. The standard room will cost \$209/night.

(concluded on next page)



**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)

Holland Club and Service Pins:

Stan Westrick and Pat Zilliacus were inducted into the Holland Club. For the benefit of our guests, Dave outlined the importance of qualifying in submarines and how tough a thing it is to accomplish. Fifty-year certificates, coins, patches and cards were presented, and Dave noted that Pat's 75-year certificate will arrive soon from National.

Longevity pins were presented to eight members with service from five to twenty years. The 25- and 30-year pins had not arrived from the National Storekeeper in time for today's meeting, so will be presented in June.

June Meeting:

The June meeting will be our annual SteakFest at the Anaheim VFW Hall. Please bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share.

The Good of the Order:

Joe Koch urged members to consider volunteering to run for office in the base elections this summer. We need candidates for Secretary and for Treasurer. Those interested can contact Joe or Marilyn on the Elections Committee.

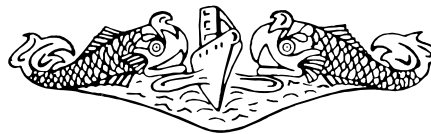
There being no further business, Dennis Bott motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1145 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Vanderveen

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

P.S. Mike Swanson won our post-meeting monthly 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings back to the base treasury. Thanks, Mike!



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

**SteakFest Meeting
at Anaheim VFW Post!**

June Meeting

Date: June 15, 2024

This month, the steaks are on the base at the VFW Hall! It's potluck for the rest, so please bring your own plates and utensils, plus your own drinks and either salad, bread and butter or dessert to share.

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 — Salad or Vegetable

I-R — Dessert

S-Z — Bread & Butter

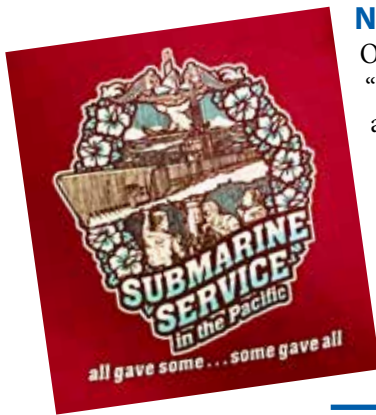


June Birthdays

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

- Brooke Bland Nafarrete ... 6/2
- Milt Boudov 6/3
- Bob Frazier 6/23
- Ken Dorn 6/26
- Angus McColl 6/29

Ship's Store

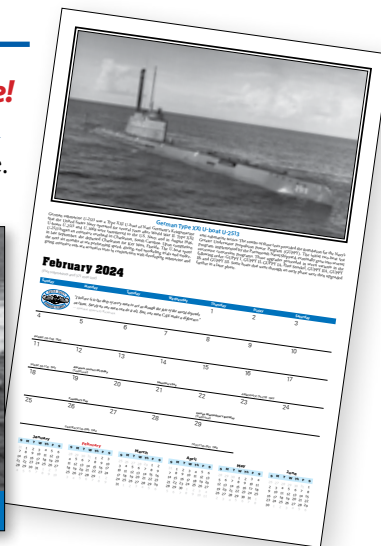


New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!

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

2024 Calendars Now Available!

Order at ussvnationalstorekeeper.com
Or see details elsewhere in this issue.
Don't miss out—they're selling fast!



Get in touch with our base Storekeeper, Bill Moak, at 805-660-4776 for more purchasing information.



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



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



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

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

**2024 FLOWER FUND
and BOOSTER CLUB**

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

- Ken Dorn • Dennis Bott • Bill Moak
Sally Moran • Ron Jones • Joe Koch**



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

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

JUNE TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS HERRING (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 near Matsuwa Island on her eighth war patrol. *Herring* was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and scored two direct hits on her fairwater, dooming the boat. *Herring* was the only U.S. submarine sunk by a land battery. Eighty-three men were lost.



USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 near Key West, Florida during a practice torpedo approach. The loss was likely due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and two other men on the bridge survived, as did eighteen crew members on liberty at the time of the accident. Forty-two went down with the boat, including two Brazilian officers aboard as observers.



USS GOLET (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 during her second war patrol when she came up short in a pitched battle with Japanese anti-submarine forces north of Honshu. Eighty-two men perished aboard the submarine.



USS BONEFISH (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 *Bonefish* was sunk near Suzu Misaki while subjected to a savage depth charge attack after sinking a passenger-cargoman. A recipient of three Navy Unit Citations, *Bonefish* had been on her eighth war patrol. She took eighty-five men with her on Eternal Patrol.



USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when she ran aground off Amchitka Island. *S-27* had been on the surface in poor visibility, charging her batteries, when she drifted onto the shoals. Once determined she could not free herself, and with a dangerous list beginning as well, the captain evacuated the entire crew to shore—some 400 yards distant—in relays using a three-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

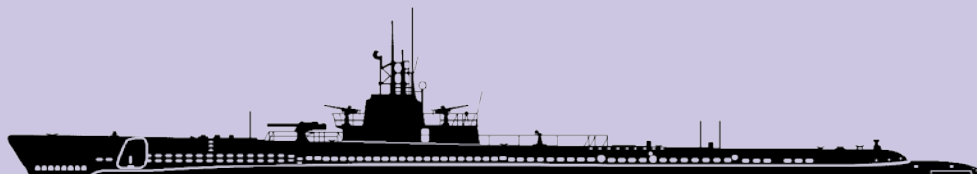
USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on June 20, 1941 when she foundered off the Isle of Shoals, fifteen miles from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Thirty-three men were lost.



USS RUNNER (SS-275)

Lost sometime between June 26 and July 4, 1943, *Runner* had been on her third war patrol when she went down, probably due a mine. Prior to her loss, she had reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargo ship off the Kuriles. Her last known attack and ship sinking had taken place on June 26, so she probably struck the mine on or after that date but before July 4, when she was scheduled to return to Midway. Seventy-eight men never came home.



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

The Navy's Ohio-Class Ballistic-Missile Submarines are Almost Unstoppable

The Ohio-class subs, comprising fourteen ballistic missile and four converted guided missile variants, serve as a critical component of U.S. nuclear and conventional strike capabilities.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published March 18, 2024.)

by Kyle Mizokami



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

Summary: The *Ohio*-class submarines, comprising fourteen ballistic missile and four converted guided missile variants, serve as a critical component of the United States' nuclear and conventional strike capabilities. Developed from a 1970s requirement for a larger missile submarine, the *Ohio*-class design incorporates advances in nuclear propulsion quieting and missile technology, enabling them to carry the next generations of submarine-launched ballistic missiles. The fleet, equipped with Trident C-4 and later D-5 missiles, ensures a stealthy, potent deterrent against nuclear aggression, with an operational strategy that keeps several submarines on hard alert for immediate response. The conversion of four submarines into Tomahawk missile carriers further extends their versatility, providing a formidable "kick down the door" capability in conventional conflicts. These technological marvels, unseen protectors of national security, highlight the strategic importance and adaptability of America's submarine force in maintaining global stability.

The Silent Guardians: *Ohio*-Class Submarines, America's Underwater Deterrent

America's *Ohio*-class ballistic-missile submarines are some of the quietest, stealthiest submarines in the world.

The *Ohio* submarines represent America's ace in the hole, megatons of nuclear firepower quietly patrolling the world's oceans, ensuring that any nuclear attack on the United States will not go unpunished. In addition to the fourteen ballistic-missile submarines, four have been converted to missile carriers, capable of unleashing more than 150 conventionally armed cruise missiles against the most heavily defended of targets.

The *Ohio*-class submarines were the result of a early 1970s requirement for a larger missile submarine capable of carrying the next generation (and beyond) of submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Submarine-launched missiles were growing longer and wider, due to the demand that

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Ohio-Class Boats Almost Unstoppable

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they carry multiple-warhead reentry vehicles while maintaining and even extending their range. The U.S. Navy's older submarines of the *George Washington* and *Ethan Allen* classes were physically unable to accommodate the newer Poseidon and the projected Trident series of missiles.

The *Ohio* class was initially meant to be a simple upgrade of the *Lafayette*-class submarines, but the Navy was anxious to include advances in nuclear propulsion quieting learned from the USS *Narwhal* submarine and its Natural Circulation Technology reactor, the S5G, and ultimately decided in favor of a clean-sheet submarine design. The submarines were designed to be 560 feet long, with a beam of forty-two feet able to accommodate two rows of twelve Trident C-4 (later D-5) missiles each. The hulls were constructed of HY-80 steel for strength. The submarine displaces 18,750 tons submerged, and has an operating speed in excess of twenty knots.

The *Ohio* boats packed twenty-four Trident C-4 missiles, each with a range of 4,600 miles and carrying eight one-hundred-kiloton warheads. This was a marked improvement over the earlier Poseidon missile, which had a range of just 2,876 miles. While Poseidon could easily hit Moscow from the Norwegian Sea, more distant targets in central Russia and Soviet Central Asia were out of reach. The C-4 allowed the *Ohio* class to strike the same area from as far as the mid-Atlantic, or the entire western half of the USSR if operating east of Iceland. Altogether, each submarine boasted a total of 19.2 megatons in nuclear weapons.

In 1990, the *Ohio*-class submarines began transitioning to a new missile, Trident D-5, that is still in service today. D-5 is a larger, heavier missile that carried eight warheads of a hundred or 475 kilotons each, and has a maximum effective range of 7,456 miles. This considerable range upgrade makes it possible for a submarine equipped with Trident D-5 to strike any point in the former Soviet Union while tied up at the submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia. Depending on the warhead configuration, each *Ohio* submarine armed with D-5s went to sea with a total of 19.2 to 91.2 megatons.

Each fleet ballistic-missile submarine spends an estimated 66 percent of its time at sea, with two sets of crews, Blue and Gold, alternately manning the boat. Patrols last for seventy days, with a twenty-five-day handover period in port between crews, meaning an average crew will spend seventy days at sea and ninety-five days ashore. A major twelve-month overhaul is undertaken every nine years.

Since the end of the Cold War a number of changes have

come about to the missile sub fleet. Under the terms of the START II treaty, the number of nuclear-armed submarines was reduced from eighteen to fourteen. The 2010 New START treaty limited the number of Trident D-5s deployed at any one time to 240 missiles. To comply with this, four missile-launch tubes per submarine are removed, reducing each submarine to twenty missiles each. Under New START each missile has an average of three to six warheads each.

Arms control experts Hans Christensen and Robert S. Norris estimate the United States has between four and five submarines on "hard alert" at any one time, capable of responding to a surprise nuclear attack, with another two undergoing overhauls. One of the least obvious but more important upgrades to the D-5 in recent years is the advent of the "super fuze" that allows them to attack hardened targets, including communications sites and missile silos. Although this ability to hand off counterforce targets to the submarine fleet is meant to make a smaller nuclear force more credible, some experts believe making such a difficult to detect weapon so deadly is inherently destabilizing.

The four *Ohio*-class submarines removed from fleet ballistic-missile submarine duty still had ten to fifteen years worth of service left in them. Rather than dispose of the hulls the Navy found a radical solution: convert each to a guided-missile submarine, or SSGN. Each submarine had its ballistic-missile tubes reworked to carry up to seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, for a total of 154 missiles per submarine.

A single sub can strike up to 154 targets with a one-ton warhead at ranges of nearly a thousand miles, a valuable capability in conventional conflict against countries like Iran, North Korea, or even Russia or China. The guided-missile variants represent a potent "kick down the door" capability, striking enemy command-and-control and air-defense assets before friendly manned aircraft come within range.

The fourteen *Ohio*-class missile submarines are unseen protectors of America from nuclear ambush. Each will probably remain in service for forty years or more, depending on how well their replacements, the *Columbia* class, stick to their timetable.

Columbia-Class SSBN Submarine

Their conventionally armed brethren offer a powerful, flexible option for dealing with everything from terrorist groups to nation states. These undersea giants are not only the most deadly war machines ever built, but some of the most flexible as well.

Los Angeles-Class Attack Submarine May Be the Navy's Best Sub Ever

The L.A.-class attack submarine stands as a pivotal element of the U.S. Navy's underwater fleet, serving as a successor to the Sturgeon class with enhanced capabilities and stealth technologies.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published March 15, 2024.)

by Brandon J. Weichert



U.S. Navy Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine (U.S. Navy photo.)

Summary: The *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine stands as a pivotal element of the U.S. Navy's underwater fleet, serving as a successor to the *Sturgeon* class with enhanced capabilities and stealth technologies. Powered by a nuclear reactor, these submarines can operate silently for extended periods, making them superior to many diesel-fueled counterparts worldwide. Equipped with Tomahawk missiles and torpedoes, they are designed for a wide range of missions, including undersea and surface warfare, special forces delivery, and reconnaissance.

The *Los Angeles*-Class Submarine: Backbone of the U.S. Navy's Silent Service

The *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine has been described as the backbone of the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet.

Developed as a replacement for the *Sturgeon*-class attack submarine, the *Los Angeles* carries an armament of Tomahawk cruise missiles. It can fire from vertical launch tubes and four torpedo tubes. A single nuclear reactor powers the vessel, meaning she can run silent and run deep for far longer than the diesel-fueled submarines that populate the fleets of many rival nations.

The sub can cruise at around 25 knots, just shy of 30 miles per hour. Manning these workhorses are about 127 enlisted sailors, with an additional 16 officers commanding them.

Speaking of running silent and deep, the *Los Angeles* class has some of the most advanced quieting technology of any submarine prowling the deep blue. This was one of the Navy's requirements when America's maritime service turned to Newport News Shipbuilding Co., which was a subsidiary of General Dynamics Electric Boat Division,

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L.A.-Class Submarines the Best Ever?

(concluded from page 11)

to replace the *Sturgeon* class.

The keel for the first Los Angeles-class attack sub was laid down on Jan. 8, 1972. The first sub was launched two years later.

The Los Angeles Class: Going Fifty Years Strong

The USS *Los Angeles* (SSN-688), which gave the class its name and was formally decommissioned in 2011, was nicknamed the “First and Finest.” That should give you an idea of how important this submarine class is for the U.S. Navy. Half a century later, upgraded variants of this attack sub continue to provide the foundation for the silent service’s fleet. There are currently forty *Los Angeles*-class vessels in commission for the Navy.

The *Los Angeles* class was supposed to be phased out and replaced by the *Seawolf*-class submarine, a far more sophisticated and expensive platform. But because of the complexity of the *Seawolf* class and the end of the Cold War, successive Congresses chose to continue funding a reduced fleet of the cheaper *Los Angeles*-class attack subs.

As my colleague, Maya Carlin, so eloquently put it, “the *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine had just one mission.” That mission was to “ensure that the Soviet Navy [and later Russia] was utterly outclassed in any sort of war.”

With its sophisticated all-quiet technology, and its capabilities for undersea warfare, surface warfare, mining operations, special forces delivery, reconnaissance, and carrier battle group support/escort functions, the *Los Angeles* class continues to prove its mettle, even at a time when rivals at sea are growing more capable.

The Los Angeles Class is a Great Counter to the China Challenge at Sea

When the inevitable conflict with China erupts over Taiwan, the *Los Angeles* class will be the weapon with the most profound strategic impact against the People’s Liberation Army. Other systems, like the *Seawolf* class or the newer *Virginia* class, are important, but they lack the numbers the *Los Angeles* class enjoys.

Meanwhile, the Navy’s preferred power projection platform, the aircraft carrier, will find itself mostly useless in the opening phases of any Sino-American conflict. This is because China’s anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities are so robust, and they are geared at deterring the

deployment of expensive, easy-to-spot aircraft carriers.

While China has developed a coterie of sophisticated (and unsophisticated) methods for tracking submerged American submarines at sea, the fact remains that U.S. submarines will be far harder to kill or deter than their surface counterparts. This is especially true of the backbone of the U.S. fleet, the *Los Angeles* class.

Woe be to America’s foes who dare to challenge this stalwart submarine. They won’t live to regret it.

Brandon J. Weichert is a former Congressional staffer and geopolitical analyst who is a contributor at The Washington Times, as well as at American Greatness and the Asia Times. He is the author of Winning Space: How America Remains a Superpower (Republic Book Publishers), Biohacked: China’s Race to Control Life, and The Shadow War: Iran’s Quest for Supremacy. Weichert can be followed via Twitter @WeTheBrandon.

Meaning of the Memorial Tolling of Multiple Bells for Veterans

At each funeral or memorial service for a Submarine veteran, the Honor Guard tolls the Bell seven times. These tolls represent the many stages in a veteran’s life. Each toll has a specific meaning:

Toll One: The Choice to Serve

This toll represents the veteran’s willingness to sacrifice his/her life for their country, a dedication to which few are called.

Toll Two: Camaraderie

The second toll represents the friendships, family, and unity that bond all service members together.

Toll Three: Patriotism

The third toll represents the veteran’s pride in their country, a duty to protect it, and the joy in celebrating the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

Toll Four: Respect

The fourth toll represents the respect given to a veteran by their community, earned by them and owed by us, for their service.

Toll Five: Dignity

The fifth toll represents the dignity with which a veteran’s community treats their fallen hero.

Toll Six: Honor

The sixth toll represents the honor that is due to a veteran when they have died, given by their fellow service members and community.

Toll Seven: The Value of Life

The seventh toll represents the ultimate sacrifice that the veteran has made. Whether killed in action, or after long years of quiet service, the value of a veteran cannot be adequately described by words alone.

As a former member of the United States Submarine Service, we honor your dedicated service. Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch.

Submitted from the internet by Bill Moak.

Forget SSN(X): The U.S. Navy Needs More *Virginia*-Class Submarines Now

The most recent upgraded version of the Virginia-class attack submarine—the Block V variant—has been around since 1998 and is the pinnacle of submarine technology. SSN(X) can wait.

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

by Brandon J. Weichert



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

Summary: The United States Navy’s decision to delay the construction of its next-generation SSN(X) stealth attack submarine into the 2040s amid budgetary and industrial constraints reflects a strategic misalignment with current maritime threats. As the *Virginia*-class submarines face reduced production, questions arise about prioritizing future capabilities over immediate needs. The *Virginia*-class Block V, praised for its technological superiority, suggests a viable path for bolstering the fleet without waiting for the SSN(X).

U.S. Navy’s Future Sub Dilemma: SSN(X) Delay and the *Virginia*-Class Solution

The United States Navy is delaying the construction of their next-generation attack submarine. Way back in 2014, the Navy first confirmed it was working on the SSN(X) stealth attack-class submarine. This was planned as a successor to the Navy’s *Virginia*-class attack submarine (which is still fairly early in its life cycle).

In 2021, the Navy’s original plan was to begin building the new attack sub in 2031. That then got pushed back to 2035. Now, as the Navy prepares for a future of constrained budgets and a stretched defense industrial base—with deteriorating shipyards, to boot—the Navy is pushing back this new stealth sub to the 2040s.

Of course, it isn’t only the new SSN(X) stealth attack submarine that is getting a short shrift. The current next-generation attack submarine, the *Virginia*-class, which is desperately needed in far greater numbers, has been cut year-by-year. Citing budget constraints, the Navy cut its request the build new *Virginia*-class submarines for fiscal year 2025 from two units to just one.

So, forget about the glamorous SSN(X).

The Navy is making all the wrong choices when it comes

(concluded on page 14)

Navy Needs Virginia Class Boats Now

(concluded from page 13)

to preparing itself for the next round of great power conflict at sea.

What's Wrong the Virginia-Class Block V?

For many, the most recent upgraded version of the *Virginia*-class attack submarine, which has been around since 1998—the Block V variant—is the pinnacle of submarine technology. Many, like this author, question the Navy's definition of “modernization” if it basically seeks to reinvent the wheel.

Why not just keep augmenting the *Virginia*-class submarines, as was done to create the Block V, until the 2040s? Wouldn't that be cheaper?

After all, the Block V version of the *Virginia*-class attack sub is unlike anything else that's in the water today. Sure, China is developing its own versions. But America still retains technical supremacy over China's submarine fleet. And the Block V is a key element behind America's submarine supremacy.

In the case of the Block V *Virginia*-class versus the SSN(X) prototype, the Navy argues that the SSN(X) is vastly different from the *Virginia*-class Block V model. My old colleagues at the Congressional Research Service assess that the SSN(X) will, “incorporate the speed and payload of the Navy's fast and heavily armed *Seawolf* (SSN-21)-class SSN design, the acoustic quietness and sensors of the *Virginia*-class design, and the operational availability and service life of the *Columbia* design.”

Whereas the *Virginia*-class subs were designed in an era when “multi-mission dominance in the littoral” zones of enemy territory were necessary, according to my colleague Maya Carlin. From the 2020s on, however, most naval experts believe that U.S. submarines will be increasingly challenged by near-peer navies undersea. Evoking Carlin's assessment again, the new SSN(X) will “carry a greater array of payloads and will be able to perform multi-mission functions with a ‘renewed priority’ in antisubmarine warfare (ASW) missions against threats in large numbers.”

Of course, this is all just posturing and theorizing.

What we know for sure is that the Block V will do just fine for the United States—even in the era of increased challenges from near peer rivals, such as China. That's because the kind of warfare that will likely occur whenever the Sino-American conflict erupts will be waged much closer to the littorals of Asian states than they will be fought in

the deep blue sea, where the U.S. Navy still dominates... and where China would not be foolish enough to fight.

Virginia-Class Submarine

No, U.S. submarines will be essential for rolling back a Chinese invasion, or naval blockade, of Taiwan. That will mean operating in the notoriously shallow and difficult South China Sea, as well as the tight spaces of the Taiwan Strait. So, a submarine more capable in shallower waters, which can get closer to shore, is preferable for the mission at hand than any theorized great power war in the 2040s or 2050s.

The Navy Needs to Stop Fantasizing About Future War and Focus on the Current War

The Navy, however, cannot help itself. The fantasists in the bureaucracy want to build systems for some future conflict that has yet to materialize; a conflict that is basically a repeat of the Second World War with slightly better technology and with mostly different actors.

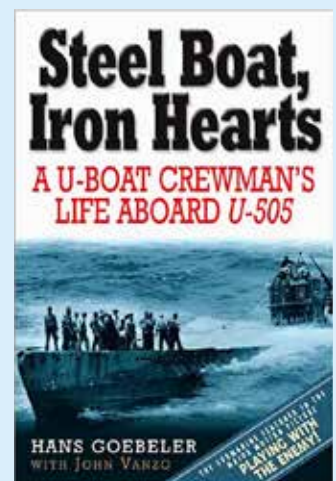
But this is flawed thinking. And it certainly is not strategic.

If there is to be a war with China over Taiwan, it will likely be fought between now and 2025. Therefore, the Navy needs to shelve its plans for the expensive SSN(X) and redirect its precious funds into building more Block *Virginia*-class submarines and maybe modernizing the existing batch of *Los Angeles*-class submarines, too. It will be the current crop of U.S. submarines, not some fantastical prototype, that will decide the outcome of an undersea war.

Recommended Reading from an Old Friend

Longtime L.A.-Pasadena member David Palagyi checked in recently with this recommendation:

Hi Jeff: Just read a book that might be of interest to our subvet members. It's called *Steel Boat, Iron Hearts* and was written by a U-boat crewmember of U-505—the boat we captured in WWII. It's available in digital format from Amazon Kindle.



Only Underwater Sub Battle

(continued from page 1)

surface, the nerve-wracked crews scouring the fathomless depths for their adversary's acoustic signature using hydrophones.

However, while hunting undersea enemies is one of the primary jobs of modern attack submarines, only one undersea sub engagement has ever taken place, under decidedly unique circumstances.

This is not to say that submarines have not sunk other submarines. Indeed, the first such kill occurred in World War I, when *U-27* sank the British *E3*. Dozens other such engagements occurred in the two world wars. However, in all but one case, the victims were surfaced, not underwater.

This was foremost because the submarines of the era needed to spend most of their time on the surface to run their air-breathing diesel engines; they could only remain underwater for hours at a time with the power they could store in batteries, moving at roughly one-third their surface speed. Therefore, submerged action was reserved for ambushing enemy ships and evading attackers.

There were additional problems intrinsic to having one submarine hunt another underwater in an era that predated advanced sensors and guided torpedoes: how could submerged subs detect each other's position? During World War II, submarines came to make greater use of hydrophones as well as active sonar; however, the latter models could only plot out a submarine's location on a two-dimensional plane, not reveal its depth.

Furthermore, the torpedoes of the time were designed to float up to near the surface of the water to strike the keel of enemy ships. Although the "tin fish" could be reprogrammed to an extent, it was not standard to adjust for depth, and guessing the azimuth of an enemy submarine with the limited targeting information available posed an immense challenge.

U-864's Secret Mission

On February 5, 1945, the U-boat *U-864* slipped from her quay in Bergen and departed on a secret mission known portentously as Operation Caesar.

U-864's compartments were filled with key technology and resources that Nazi Germany planned on transferring to Japan. These included schematics and components for Jumo 004 turbojets to aid in the development of a Japanese jet fighter, and even two engineers from the aviation manufacturer Messerschmitt. There were also guidance components

for V-2 ballistic missiles and two Japanese technical experts. *U-864* also carried more than sixty-seven tons of liquid mercury, carried in 1,857 steel flasks. The mercury had been purchased but not entirely delivered from Italy in 1942, and was a key material for manufacturing explosive primers.

Capt. Ralf-Reimar Wolfram's mission was to sail the long-range submarine north around Norway, then across the Arctic Circle past Soviet territory to deliver the goods. Germany was only months away from falling, but Berlin hoped that the technology and materials would allow Japan to stay longer in the fight and divert Allied combat power.

U-864 was a Type IXD2 "cruiser submarine," and at 87.5 meters long was larger than the more common Type VII U-boat. She was designed for long-range transoceanic patrols, and the -D2 model in particular was even bigger to accommodate enlarged cargo compartments. Before departing, *U-864* had been modified with a piece of technology then unique to Germany—a snorkeling mast, allowing the submarine to sip air from the surface while shallowly submerged.

Despite this formidable advantage, Wolfram's mission proved ill-omened from the start. *U-864* initially set off from Kiel on December 5, 1944, but ran aground while transiting through the Kiel canal. Wolfram decided to have the ship undergo repairs in Bergen, Norway. But in Bergen, its armored pen was hit with twelve-thousand-pound Tall Boy bombs dropped by British Lancaster bombers on January 12, 1945, causing even more damage.

Unfortunately for Wolfram, the United Kingdom had long ago cracked the Enigma code, which German U-boats used to communicate with the Naval headquarters. By February, the British Navy had decoded messages relating *U-864's* mission, and decided to set a trap.

HMS *Venturer*, the first of the new V-class submarines, received orders from the Royal Navy Submarine Command to hunt down and destroy *U-864* off the island of Fedje, Norway. The smaller, shorter-range British submarine carried only eight torpedoes to *U-864's* twenty-two, but was nearly 50 percent faster underwater at ten miles per hour.

Venturer arrived on station on February 6. Her skipper, twenty-five-year-old Lt. James S. Launders, was a decorated submarine commander, who in addition to sinking twelve Axis surface ships, had dispatched the surfaced submarine *U-711* in November 1944.

Though he carried an ASDIC active-sonar system offering greater detection range by emitting sound waves into the

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Only Underwater Sub Battle

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ocean—which could be tracked when they pinged off submerged ships—Launders elected to rely on shorter-range hydrophones. This was because the ping from ASDIC could be heard by adversaries from even further away.

But Launders didn't realize he was engaged in a hopeless hunt. *U-864* had slipped past him.

Back to Bergen

Many war stories tell of protagonists who avoid horrible fates out of sheer coincidence and dumb luck. More or less the opposite happened to Captain Wolfram.

U-864 was safely out of range of the *Venturer* when her diesel engine began noisily misfiring, hampering acoustic stealth and threatening to break down entirely. Only a few days out from port, Captain Wolfram decided he should play it safe by returning to Bergen for repair. He could not have known he was leading his submarine straight back into danger.

On February 9, the hydrophone operator on the *Venturer* overheard a contact that he at first believed was coming from the diesel motor of a fishing boat. Launders moved his submarine closer to the sound pickup, and spotted in the periscope what appeared to be another periscope in the distance. This was actually most likely *U-864*'s snorkel. Running submerged on batteries, Launders slipped the *Venturer* behind the German submarine and began to tail her.

He was waiting for *U-864* to surface before launching his torpedoes, but thanks to her snorkel, *U-864* could operate underwater for extended periods of time. The German submarine began zigzagging side to side, likely having detected the British sub.

After three hours of pursuit, the *Venturer* was running short of battery power and would soon have to surface herself. Launders decided he would simply have to attack *U-864* while remaining submerged. He calculated a three-dimensional intercept for his torpedoes, estimating his adversary's depth by the height of the snorkel mast protruding above the water. However, he knew the enemy submarine would quickly detect a torpedo launch, and planned his firing solution to account for evasive maneuvers.

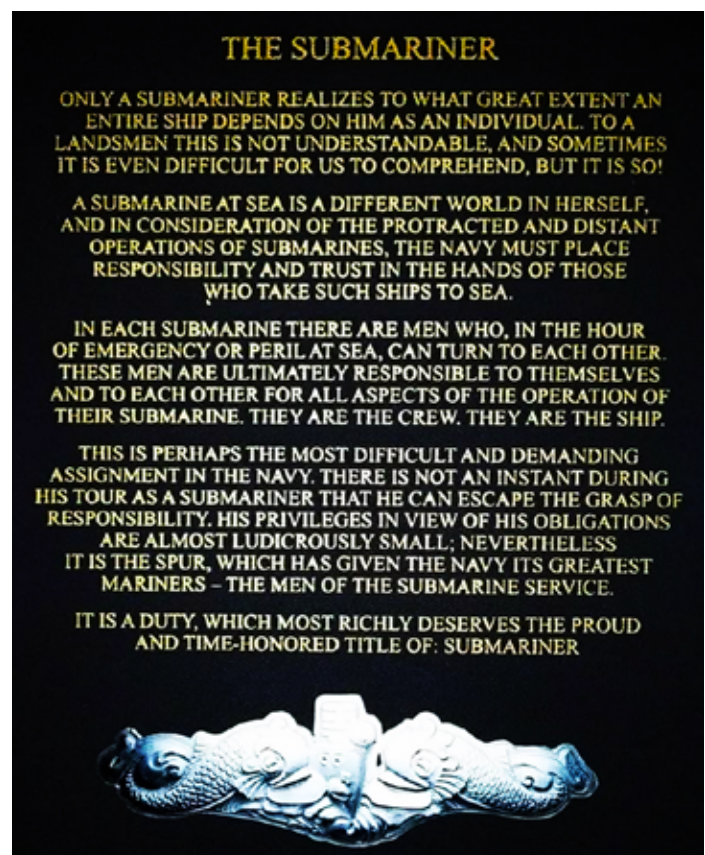
At 12:12, *Venturer* ripple-fired all four of her loaded torpedoes in a spread, with 17.5 seconds between each launch. Then the British submarine dived to avoid counterattack.

The U-boat immediately crash dived as well, then swerved evasively. After four minutes, she had managed to duck

under three of the incoming torpedoes. But Launders had launched the second pair of torpedoes at lower depths. The fourth torpedo struck home, breaking *U-864* in two; the gruesome sound of popping rivets and cracking metal filled the *Venturer*'s hydrophones. The U-boat fell 150 meters to the bottom of the ocean, taking with her all seventy-three onboard and sinking Operation Caesar along with it.

More than a half century later later, the wreck of *U-864* was found in 2003 by the Norwegian Navy, two miles off Fedje. It was discovered that the cargo of poisonous liquid mercury had been slowly seeping from the flasks into the surrounding ocean. After spending fifteen years evaluating the risks of raising the wreck and its dangerous, unexploded torpedoes, in February of 2017 the Norwegian government finally "entombed" the broken submarine with a half-meter of sand and 160,000 tons of rocks to prevent further contamination, thus forming a cairn for the German submarine that had met its terrible fate under unique circumstances.

Sébastien Roblin holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and served as a university instructor for the Peace Corps in China. He has also worked in education, editing, and refugee resettlement in France and the United States. He currently writes on security and military history for War Is Boring.



Submitted from the internet by Bill Moak.

Idiots and Pan-Fried Iguana

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

Before I entered the boat service, there were a number of things I'd never heard of. During my enlistment, that list grew. One thing the submarine service taught me: sure was a helluva lot of weird stuff out there a kid from East Tennessee never heard of.

The top of the list had to be iguanas. Those bastards have to be the ugliest living things on the planet. God must have had one helluva rough day when he started cranking out those rascals.

I figure He took your basic Mark One, Mod Six lizard, went to His Unit of Issue, One Each, major disgusting accessory locker and bolted at least one of every nasty thing in there on that stupid lizard. When He finished, He kicked back, popped open a cold one, smiled and said, "I think I'll turn these ugly looking sonuvabitches loose in Panama to amuse the idiot submarine crews I'm thinking about putting together."

Iguanas must have sex when it is very dark. Things that nasty looking sure as hell couldn't do it if they got a good look at each other. In the now famous words of Mike Hemming: "They couldn't have given it away free to a messcook."

Panama, early '60s: Eskimo Joe, Tubes and me were pulling liberty in Colon. Street vendors hawking all kinds of weird stuff to eat. Most of it looked like the feature of the week on Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. We had developed an affinity for barbecued monkey strips. Warm Pepsi and monkey jerky consumed in the hot sun can become a gastric adventure after sundown. Evidence of digestive rejection could be found roaming around in the liberty launch bilges.

Big Joe asked, "You guys ever eat iguana?"

"You gotta be kidding!"

"No, seriously. Not bad... Ate some down here in the mid-'50s. Actually the stuff's pretty damned good."

"Eskimo man, I'd have to be ten minutes away from death by starvation to intentionally consider eating a gahdam ugly lizard."

"For guys who go around bragging about trying anything once, you guys sure reshuffle the deck. You'll never get another chance to say you did it."

Somewhere in the neighborhood of four or five warm beers later, I ate iguana for the first and last time. All I can remember was a little guy with a mustache. Four inch sideburns. Three days of beard stubble. Teeth missing. Shoe soles loose. A dented skillet. The wafting aroma of rancid cooking oil and

white chunks of prime lizard: Ugly Lizard McNuggets.

Eskimo Joe always blamed the rancid cooking oil. Whatever the hell it was, the net effect was that it damn near killed us. Dying would have been the easy part, it was living that was rough. Iguana attacks you at both ends and does its damndest to turn you inside out. You get "so damn regular" that you could set the second hand on an Ingersol watch. Today, if I see an iguana on television, I start an involuntary sprint to the nearest head.

Someone once told me iguanas were an endangered species. Jeezus, they *should* be! Being a career, Hall of Fame messcook/lookout/deckape, I never fully understood or appreciated the endangered species concept. Who in the hell is gonna miss houseflies, ticks, termites, rats, skunks, horny toads, iguanas, rattlesnakes, man-eating sharks, big hairy spiders, nuke boat sailors, and komodo dragons? You take the average idiot whining about thinning out the above-named sonuvabitches, put him in a dark room with a couple of iguanas, a half dozen horny toads, and a komodo dragon, and the sonuvabitch would undergo a genuine position transformation. Just let one of the sonuvabitches crawl out from under his bunk or come crawling out of a shower drain.

I have arrived at the conclusion that a large percentage of the weird stuff that resides on this planet lives in Africa, Australia, Panama, and within a thirty-mile radius of Reno, Nevada. The stuff there walks upright and wears hand-tooled boots. That brings this old SUBRON SIX duty messcook to question Number Two: why would any grown fellow own a horse, when for the same money, he could wind up with a Harley Davidson? Take the fact that nothing ever fell out of a motorcycle's rear end that required a shovel or was good for roses. If it weren't for the Kentucky Derby and old Roy Rogers movies, horsemeat would be just one more weird ingredient in a Big Mac.

(Cowboy, I never said any of that. Ray Stone, well known horse pucky dealer and purveyor of bull dookey, is a ventriloquist.)

We were young, we were bulletproof and we were going to live forever. We never learned the arts of negotiation and compromise. We resolved disputes by beating hell out of each other. Took less time and solved most issues. Our behavior was a reflection of an attitude handed down to us by the men who pinned the tail on Tojo's donkey. But no one at New London ever said I would have to eat gahdam lizard.

Keep a zero bubble... *Dex.*



New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Laurie Ann Mabry

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

Kelly Van Wagner

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

Mari-Lynn Lake

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

Roger K. Onaga

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

Brooke Bland Nafarette

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

Anthony R. Bland

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



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

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

Eternal Patrol Notice



Valerie Walrath

9/24/1949 — 5/13/2024

We just learned from her husband George that Valerie Walrath passed away on Monday, May 13th. She was 75.

Valerie had been an Associate Member of Los Angeles-Pasadena Base and United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. since January of 2012, making her a member for twelve years. She and George were regular attendees when our meetings were held in Building 6 at the Weapons Station. Subsequently, Valerie contracted a health issue the medical community couldn't even find a name for, ultimately requiring her to make use of an electric wheelchair. Even with her assorted medical challenges, Valerie and George always made it to our Christmas Luncheons. We'll all miss her smiling face and warm personality.

Valerie's one big wish was a desire to eventually move to Idaho; we're so sorry that wish never come true for her.

Thank you, George, for taking such excellent care of our Valerie. The Neptune Society will be eventually handling both George and Valerie's cremains. Thankfully, George has pre-registered with the VA so he and Valerie can be interred in any National Veterans Cemetery with available space.

Those who wish to can offer condolences to Val's husband George at:

George Walrath
3138 Cabo Blanco Drive
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-6601
cell: 626-806-2113
email: bonanza63@hotmail.com

Our former Associate Members Judy Arnold and Marlene Mahan, now joined by Valerie, will all be watching over our Submarine Veterans.



More Chapter News...



A busy day for awards at our May base meeting. At left, Stan Westrick and Pat Zilliagus receive Holland Club certificates, coins and patches. Below, Stan Westrick, Dave Vanderveen, Greg Paulson, Ray Teare, Ron Wagner, Mike Swanson (and others not shown) all receive service pins denoting their membership in various five-year increments. BZ all around, shipmates!



Brief Member Updates...

- Our own unstoppable **Bill Dillon** was finally slowed down a little when forced to return home early from a vacation in Sedona, AZ to deal with a neck infection and some other medical treatments. We wish Bill swift healing.
- **Ed Barwick** reports in that his beloved **Bonnie Barwick** suffered a driveway fall recently, winding up with two cracked ribs and some bruising from the mishap. Ouch, that definitely smarts! We wish Bonnie quick relief from the pain and we promise we won't "rib" her about any clumsiness. ;-)
- Beloved late member **Shipwreck Kelly**'s three nieces have all decided to seek associate membership in our fine organization. Attagirl, ladies! Looking forward to welcoming you aboard in Shipwreck's honor and memory.
- Member **Pat Zilliagus** has been busy lately, attending meetings, sponsoring new members, and in general running around and spreading subvet joy wherever he goes. He sends this memory of family doings: "My father, Col. Per Wilhelm Zilliagus, was the Finnish Military Attache to the U.S. from 1938 to 1942. When Finland was attacked by Russia, my dad saw to buying weapons for them, including forty-four "Brewster Buffalo" fighter aircraft the U.S. Navy no longer wanted. He also bought the first two "PT" boats ever made by ship builder Andrew J. Higgins. With my dad, my brother and I met Higgins and his family in New Orleans, and he took us for a ride on the first PT boat ever built. When Gen. Eisenhower was later congratulated for winning the war in Europe, he said, 'Andrew Higgins won the war, not I.'" (Higgins built the landing craft used by our forces to invade European shores.) Fun story, Pat!



Shipwreck with Marilyn Senior some years back.



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

*(75-year members noted with *)*

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

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

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

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

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



E-Board Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2024

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Saturday, May 18, 2024.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Dennis Bott, Memorial Director
- Ken Dorn, Director
- Chuck Senior, Director
- Marilyn Senior, Membership Chairwoman
- Bill Moak, COB
- Jeff Porteous, *Periscope* Editor

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

Treasurer’s Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer’s Report as of May 18, 2024 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Checking | \$22,325.03 |
| Cash On Hand | \$50.00 |
| Uncleared Checks: | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$22,375.03 |

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Income: | \$260.00 |
| Expenses: | \$0.00 |

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Ken Dorn | \$400.00 |
| Joe Koch | \$20.00 |

Inkind Donations:

\$00.00

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

The group discussed matching the \$1,000 issued by the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund so that two of our WWII veterans could attend the D-Day commemoration in Normandy. Bill Moak moved we pay the matching fund from our treasury; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously. Marilyn Senior will continue to work on this project for Bill Dillon’s and Pat Zilliacus’ benefit.

(concluded on next page)

U.S. Navy Christens New USS Idaho Sub

(Reproduced from the UPI website - published in March, 2024.)

by Doug Cunningham

The U.S. Navy christened the fast-attack nuclear submarine USS *Idaho* on Saturday, March 16, in Groton, Conn.

Construction began on the sub in 2017, and it is the 26th *Virginia*-class fast-attack submarine in the U.S. Navy.

It's the fifth Navy ship to use the name. The last Navy *Idaho*-christened ship was a battleship commissioned in 1919.

The Saturday christening featured a principal address by Nickolas H. Guertin, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

Rather than a bottle of sparkling wine, the sub will be christened with water taken from several Idaho lakes.

Teresa Stackley, daughter of former Navy officer Sean Stackley, will christen the new sub.

The Navy said in a statement, "*Virginia*-class submarines are built to operate in the world's littoral and deep waters while conducting anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface ship warfare; strike warfare; special operations forces support; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions."

Although Idaho is landlocked, a Navy Acoustic Research Detachment exists on Lake Pend Oreille, the state's biggest and deepest body of water. The Navy described it as a state-of-the-art facility that helps support research, testing, development and evaluation of stealth technology and propulsor design.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

2025 Western Region Roundup:

Dave explained that a discussion among the Region Planning Committee is scheduled for next week, during which required Roundup jobs/tasks will be determined. He'll send this list out to the base via e-mail asking for volunteers to handle the work. A discussion took place about having new base patches made for the "Swag Bags" to be given to attendees at check-in. Dave noted that metal "challenge coins" are pricey and showed wooden samples as an alternative. Chuck suggested challenge coins usually go into a drawer, and Bill suggested a commemorative "hat pin" be made instead. It was decided to put the swag bag choices and financial commitment for them on the June agenda.

Memorial Report:

It was confirmed that more member help is needed on 5/25 for Field Day before the Memorial ceremony, and that Scout Troop 568 will hang tarps as a sound barrier that day. The program is being completed and it was decided the Treasurer will pay the invoice for printing the programs.

Membership Update:

Our base now officially lists ninety-four members, twelve of whom are Associates. We learned from Marilyn (Membership Chairwoman) and Chuck Senior that the IRS-driven limit on Associate Members is applied at the National level, so our base is okay at its Associate Member level.

The Good of the Order:

Dave noted that our membership's meeting participation ratio is about 15-20% of our total roster—fairly common among the bases of District 6, apparently. This represents substantially lower attendance than in years past, however, so ways were discussed to try to attract more participation. After a spirited conversation, Jeff pointed out that our members' own input would be most valuable, so we decided to provide them with a questionnaire. Dave asked for volunteers to develop one, but since there were no takers, he'll draft his own for E-Board review in early June.

There being no further business, Dennis Bott motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1050 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Vanderveen

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



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



In honor of the news release yesterday of her recent discovery off Luzon in the Phillipines at a depth of over 3700 feet, this is your editor's accurate 52" radio-controlled model of USS *Harder* (SS-257).

*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

