IMPORTANI POSE

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

Volume 18, Number 5 • May 2022





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

What's Inside

Commander's Message	2
Tolling of the Boats	4
Clamagore to be Recycled	5
Sealion Makes Tapes of Attack	6
Dex Armstrong	9
Reaching Deep: The Hood Bros.	10
Chapter News	12
Upcoming Events Calendar	13
USSVI Update Bulletins	14
Submarine Day: USS Holland	17

Editor's Corner

As Dave says in his regular column, it's a busy time at the L.A.-Pasadena Base! We moved all our stuff out of Bldg. 6 and into indefinite storage; there was a memorial held for Mark and Jan Maynard; the Lion's Club has refurbished all the memorial plaques with great success (and there is a reception for same on May 7); and our annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be back for the first time in two years on May 30th. Wow! Me? You'll find me in the Yeoman's shack as usual. Say hi as you pass down the corridor! P.S. Hope to see you at our 5/21 mtg.—Jeff

Third Virginia-Class Block IV Fast Attack **Submarine Delivered to the U.S. Navy**

Huntington Ingalls Industries delivers the 21st Virginia-class fastattack sub (Block IV USS Montana—SSN-794) to U.S. Navy on March 12.

(Reproduced from the Naval News website - originally published March 15, 2022.) Huntington Ingalls Industries press release



New Block IV Virginia-class USS Montana (SSN-794) in Alpha sea trials. (HII image.)

"We continue to be proud of our partnership with the U.S. Navy in delivering the most advanced ships in the world to our warfighters. The results of the Navy's board of inspection and survey during sea trials are a testament to our priorities of safety and quality. We are proud of our team of shipbuilders for delivering these critical capabilities to the Navy and the nation."

Jason Ward, Newport News Shipbuilding Vice President of Virginia submarine construction

SS Montana (SSN-794), which successfully completed sea trials last month, is the 10th Virginia-class submarine to be delivered by HII's Newport News Shipbuilding division and the 21st built as part of the agreement with General Dynamics' Electric Boat.

More than 10,000 shipbuilders from Newport News Shipbuilding and Electric Boat have participated in *Montana*'s construction since the work began in May, 2015. The submarine was christened by the ship's sponsor, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, during a ceremony in September, 2020.

Montana is the third of the ten-ship group of Virginia-class submarines known as Block IV. Block IV submarines incorporate design changes focused on reduced total ownership cost. By making smaller-scale design changes, the Navy will increase the length of time between main-

(concluded on page 8)



BASE COMMANDER - CO

Dave Vanderveen

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

VICE COMMANDER - XO

Ed Barwick

5408 Lanai Street Long Beach, CA 90808 562-425-6877 edsubvet@gmail.com

SECRETARY - OPS Bill Moak

2865 Helm Street Simi Valley, CA 93065 805-581-4419 golfnsurf46@aol.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

Rav Teare

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

MEMORIAL DIRECTOR

Paul Riggs

7708 Rapids Drive Huntington Beach CA 92648 714-642-1623 parhogh@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER Bill Moak

L.A.-PASADENA BASE WEBSITE

www.socalsubvets.org

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

Newsletter Editor

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

From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen. Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

April was a busy month for our base. We secured commercial storage space for the memorabilia and supplies/tools we had in Building 6

on the Weapons Station and over a two-day period, several of us boxed and catalogued it. Then we moved all of it to the storage facility. It will remain there until NWSSB has quarters available to us in which we can display it again.

Our April monthly meeting had been scheduled at a local cantina, but two nights before the meeting the place burned! There was no time to redirect folks to another venue, so we cancelled that meeting. Our May 21 meeting will be held at Bunker 33 in the Weapons Station where we have held our Annual Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic for many years.

The Lions Club of Seal Beach, the largest such club in the country, has graciously renovated the World War II Submarine Memorial! They conducted the fundraising, arranged with a refurbishment expert from Carlsbad to lead the project, and have invested many hours of their own labor in cleaning/refinishing the plaques, repainting the monuments, torpedo, and safety barriers, and polishing the brass.

On the 23rd, we held a memorial service for Jan and Mark Maynard, and it was the first ceremony conducted at the newly refurbished Submarine Memorial. Mark had been the driving force behind establishing the Memorial during the 1970s, so it was fitting that Mark's and Jan's service was the first in the newly refreshed facility. The place looks gorgeous! We owe huge thanks to the Lions Club of Seal Beach and will have an opportunity to offer that at a reception at the Memorial on May 7th from 1600-1700. I urge all submarine veterans in the Los Angeles area to please attend!

We will conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30th at the Submarine Memorial, the first in two years because of the pandemic! On May 14th we will hold a field day, and on May 21st we will conduct another field day to hang the sound barriers along the Seal Beach Blvd. fence. We have assistance from Scout Troop 568 of Huntington Beach for that work, and as Color Guard on Memorial Day. I hope we will have a good turnout of veterans for one of the most poignant commemorations of the year for our lost shipmates.

Continue to care for your health, and let's look forward to a wonderful summer!

Dave Vanderveen

Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base

May Meeting at Arec Bunker 33 Picnic Arec

Date: May 21, 2022

It's good to be back! Once again our monthly meetings take place at the Naval Weapons Station—**NOT AT BLDG. 6,** but at the Bunker 33 Picnic Grounds. We will be meeting at that site on the 3rd Saturday of every month until further notice. Note: you must present two forms of gov't. I.D. to enter the Base.

Location:

Bunker 33 Picnic Site Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station 800 Seal Beach Boulevard Seal Beach, CA 90740

Time:

Social Hour: 10:30-11:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30 General Meeting: 12:30 till the skipper says we surface

Lunch: Pot Luck Provision assignments by last name:

A-H —Salad or Vegetable

I-R — Main Dish

S-Z — Dessert

May Birthdays

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

Jeff Porteous 5/4
David Palagyi5/7
Robert Miller 5/7
Doc Dunham, MD 5/10
Bruce Evan Neighbors 5/17
Michael Bircumshaw 5/18
Dennis Bott 5/19
Dr. Darin Detwiler 5/19
Mike Swanson 5/21

Important 5/21 Meeting Attendance Information!

Did we get your attention? Our Base Commander, Dave Vanderveen, reminds everyone that in order to get on the NWSSB Base to attend this month's meeting at the Bunker 33 picnic area, you must present TWO FORMS OF GOV'T.-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION at the gate. These can include your CA Driver's License, Social Security Card, official U.S. Passport, etc. If you have questions, check with Dave, but ...

STILL MORE IMPORTANT...

Even WITH the above I.D., you will not be permitted on the base unless you have previously submitted your security background check application form to Dave. If you haven't yet done this, there's still time if you contact Dave right away at: lapasadenabase@gmail.com. Hurry!

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

LOS ANGELES/PASAL

2022 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:

Joe Dow (x2) • Ken Dorn (x3!) • Mike Varalyai (RIP)

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

MAY TOLLING OF THE BOATS







USS LAGARTO (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 near the Gulf of Siam during her second war patrol, *Lagarto* was sunk by the radar-equipped minelayer HIJMS *Hatsutaka*—which was subsequently sent to the bottom by the USS *Hawkbill* (SS-366) twelve days later. Eighty-six men went down with *Lagarto*.

USS SCORPION (SSN-589)

Lost May 22, 1968 while returning to Norfolk from a Mediterranean deployment; the nuclear-powered *Scorpion*'s last reported position had been about fifty miles south of the Azores. She was never heard from again, though her wreck was discovered in October of that same year. The exact cause of her loss has never been definitively determined, yet various operational casualty and other theories still abound. Ninety-nine officers and men perished in the tragedy.

USS SQUALUS (SS-192)

Partially flooded as a result of a major valve failure during a test dive, *Squalus* went to the bottom off the Isle of Shoals on May 23, 1939, coming to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers from the USS *Falcon* (ASR-2) rescued thirty-three survivors using the diving bell Momsen had himself invented. Tragically, twenty-six men had already drowned in flooding contained in the boat's after compartments. Later, *Squalus* was raised and recommissioned as the USS *Sailfish* (SS-192). In a cruel twist of fate, *Sailfish* later sank the Japanese aircraft carrier *Chuyo*, which had been carrying some of the surviving crew members from USS *Sculpin* (SS-191)—the very boat which had located the sunken *Squalus* and stood by her during rescue operations. Only one of the twenty-one *Sculpin* crew members aboard *Chuyo* survived the carrier's sinking.

USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)

Lost on May 30, 1958 when she sank off Hawaii while under tow after colliding with the USS *Silverstein* (DE-534). The entire crew had been taken off prior to her loss.





USS *Clamagore* Submarine Will be Destroyed and Recycled, Museum Says

(Reproduced from the CNN website - update published March 19, 2022.)

by Andy Rose, CNN



The USS Clamagore is seen in this undated U.S. Navy image. (U.S. Navy.)

The USS *Clamagore* submarine, built at the end of World War II, will be dismantled and recycled, the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in South Carolina announced Friday.

The submarine, which opened as an exhibit more than four decades ago, closed to the public in December due to "safety concerns caused by a leak in a main ballast tank," the museum said in a news release. Ballast tanks are used to control the buoyancy of a vessel.

The *Balao*-class sub has undergone repairs for more than a decade due to "extensive corrosion," the museum added. One 2019 assessment found it would cost "upwards of \$9 million" to fully restore and repair the vessel, the museum said.

There are also environmental concerns—including the presence of PCBs and lead batteries—with keeping the submarine at Patriots Point, said executive director Dr. Rorie Cartier.

"Leaving this submarine in the Charleston Harbor could cause serious environmental problems with the landfall of a major hurricane," Cartier said. The museum is located in Mt. Pleasant, less than ten miles from Charleston.

The USS Clamagore is the only submarine of its design that is

preserved in the U.S., according to the museum's website. Commissioned in June 1945, the boat operated in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean until 1962. The submarine is best known for its service off of Florida's Key West coast, where it became known as the "Gray Ghost of the Florida Coast," according to the museum. It was decommissioned in 1975 and opened as a museum about six years later.

It's the smallest of the three military vessels kept on display at the museum.

But the museum "cannot financially sustain the maintenance" of all three, Cartier said. "The USS *Yorktown* and USS *Laffey* also need repair, and we are fighting a never-ending battle against the corrosion that comes from being submerged in saltwater," Cartier said.

Some key parts of the submarine will be removed and preserved for a smaller exhibit, the museum said. Other parts will be sold and reused or recycled. The full dismantling project will take months and cost around \$2 million, according to the museum.

"The vast majority of the steel will be used to make new products, lowering the demand for mined iron ore and reducing energy costs in the steelmaking process," it said.

The Only U.S. Sub to Sink an Enemy Battleship During WWII Made Recordings of the Attack That You Can Still Listen to...

(Reproduced from the Yahoo! News website - originally published February 1, 2022.) by Benjamin Brimelow



Japanese battleship Kongo in 1943. (Keystone/Getty Images.)

USS Sealion (SS-315) was the only Allied submarine to sink an enemy battleship during the war, and her crew caught it all on tape.

wenty minutes after midnight on November 21, 1944, the U.S. Navy submarine USS *Sealion* made radar contact with a group of Japanese warships in the Taiwan Strait.

The ships weren't zigzagging to avoid submarines, and *Sealion*'s commander ordered the sub to investigate whether it could attack.

By 1:48 a.m., *Sealion*'s crew believed that they were tailing two battleships and two cruisers escorted by three destroyers. They had actually stumbled on three battleships: *Yamato* (one of the largest and most powerful battleships ever built), *Kongō*, and *Nagato*, as well as the cruiser *Yahagi* and three destroyers.

It was too good an opportunity to pass up, and *Sealion*'s skipper, Lt. Cmdr. Eli Thomas Reich, ordered the crew to battle stations to prepare to attack.

A war-fighter...

Her first war patrol began on June 8, 1944. While operating around Japan, Korea, and northeastern China, she survived repeated depth charge attacks and sank at least five ships, one of them with her deck gun.

Sealion's second war patrol began on August 17, 1944, and saw her operating in the waters of the South China Sea along with

two other American submarines, USS *Growler* and USS *Pampanito*. The subs attacked a Japanese convoy on August 31, during which *Sealion* survived a hail of gunfire to heavily damage a tanker and sink a minelayer.

On September 12, the three submarines attacked another Japanese convoy in the Taiwan Strait, sinking four ships and two escorts. *Sealion* again took fire from the deck guns of the Japanese ships.

One of those ships was transporting British and Australian prisoners. Days later, upon learning there were survivors in the water, *Sealion* returned and picked up 54 of the prisoners, four of whom died before reaching a U.S. Army hospital in Saipan.

But Sealion's 3rd war patrol was her most memorable...

After the Japanese battlegroup had been detected and Reich had ordered the crew to battle stations, one submariner set up a film recorder that a CBS war correspondent had left aboard the sub, placing a microphone near an intercom speaker in the conning tower.

The audio from the event offers rare insight into what a World War II submarine attack sounded like.

Believing the lead and rear ships in the column were cruisers and the second and third vessels battleships, the U.S. submarine decided to attack the battleships. Two of the three destroyers were also close to the middle vessels, increasing the likelihood a torpedo would hit them if missing the main targets.

(concluded on page 7)

You Can Listen to USS Sealion's Attack on the Kongo

(concluded from page 6)



USS Sealion was a Balao-class submarine commissioned in March of 1944. The sub and her crew quickly became battle-tested.

At 2:56 a.m., *Sealion* fired six torpedoes from her forward torpedo tubes at the first target. Three minutes later, she fired three more from her aft torpedo tubes at the second target.

Sealion's crew reported three of the torpedoes from the first salvo striking the first target, which turned out to be the battleship *Kongō*. One sailor can be heard saying "three hits to the Japanese 'B.' That'll put them in drydock at least."

The second salvo missed the battleship *Nagato*, but one of the torpedoes struck the destroyer *Urakaze*, which then exploded and sank with all hands. A *Sealion* crew member can be heard shouting "Woo!" in celebration.

Thinking she had only dented *Kongō*'s armor, since the battle-ship was still moving, *Sealion* momentarily withdrew to reload her torpedo tubes. The Japanese ships continued sailing, dropping depth charges in the wrong area as they went—much to the *Sealion* crew's relief.

Kongō slowed, and she and the remaining destroyers eventually broke away from the other ships. Sealion was preparing to attack the wounded battleship when one of the crew noticed something, saying, "Wait a minute! Something's happening over there!"

Kongō was more damaged than initially thought. At 5:24 a.m., she exploded, which drew cheers from *Sealion*'s crew. Some 1,200 of *Kongō*'s crew went down with the ship, including her captain and the commander of the Third Battleship Division.

Changing roles and a lasting legacy...

With the sinking of *Kongō*, *Sealion* became the only Allied submarine to sink an enemy battleship during World War II.

By the end of her third war patrol, *Sealion* had sunk at least thirteen ships: six tankers, five freighters, one destroyer, and one battleship. She conducted three more patrols before the war ended but didn't repeat her crowning achievement.

Sealion ended the war with five battle stars and a Presiden-

tial Unit Citation. She was decommissioned in 1946 but was brought back into service in 1948 and converted into a troop carrier.

The sub could carry 123 troops and support a helicopter on her afterdeck, and she conducted multiple exercises and patrols on both U.S. coasts—including training with U.S. Marines and the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams—until she was decommissioned again in 1960.



U.S. Navy submarine USS Sealion in May, 1956. (U.S. Navy.)

She was surprisingly brought back into service one more time, however, in 1961, in support of the blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. She also continued to help train U.S. Special Operations forces, including Navy SEALs, during the 1960s.

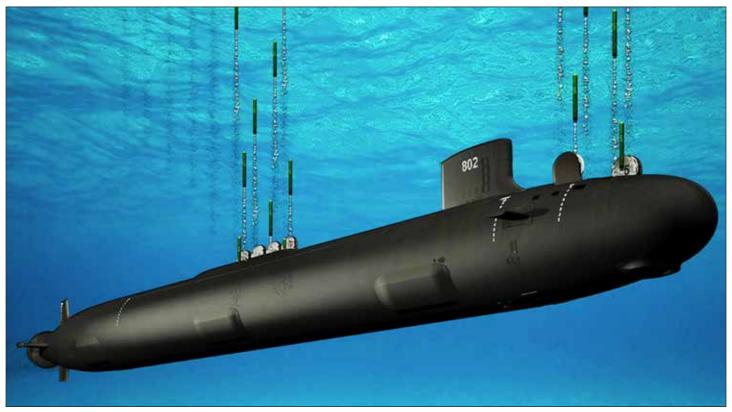
In 1970, the legendary submarine was decommissioned for a final time. Eight years later, she was sunk as a target off of Rhode Island.



Click below to visit a website featuring the actual sound recordings made aboard USS Sealion during her attack on the battleship Kongo in WW2. You can listen to them through your device at: https://maritime.org/sound/#sealion

New Virginia Block IV USS Montana (SSN-794) Delivered to the Navy

(concluded from page 1)



Artist's rendering: Block V Virginia-class subs will provide expanded capacity and advanced capabilities to the U.S. Navy fleet (Credit: GD-EB.)

tenance stops and increase the number of deployments.

About Virginia-Class SSN Block I, II, III, IV & V

Block IV submarines (SSNs 792 to 801) incorporate design changes focused on reduced total ownership cost (RTOC). By making these smaller-scale design changes to increase the component-level lifecycle of the submarine, the U.S. Navy will increase the periodicity between depot maintenance availabilities and increase the number of deployments.

USS *Delaware* (SSN-791), the last and final of eight Block III *Virginia*-class submarines, was commissioned in April, 2020. *Delaware*'s keel was laid April 30, 2016, and was christened during a ceremony on Oct. 20, 2018.

The Block III submarines are fitted with the new Virginia Payload Tubes designed to lower costs and increase missile-firing payload possibilities. The first ten Block I and Block II *Virginia*-class submarines feature twelve individual 21-inch diameter vertical launch tubes able to fire Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMS). The Block III submarines are built with two larger 87-inch diameter tubes able to house six TLAMS each.

Blocks I-III *Virginias* are planned to undergo four depot maintenance availabilities and conduct fourteen deployments. Block IV RTOC efforts are intended to reduce planned availabilities by

one to three and increase deployments to fifteen. The U.S. Navy refers to this as 3:15.

Block IV will be followed by the Block V configuration which involves ten boats and may incorporate the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), which would give guided-missile capability when the SSGNs are retired from service. On December 2, 2019, the U.S. Navy announced an order for nine new *Virginia*-class submarines—eight Block Vs and one Block IV—for a total contract price of \$22 billion with an option for a tenth boat. The Block V submarines were confirmed to have an increased length, from 377 ft. to 460 ft., and displacement, from 7,800 tons to 10,200 tons.

Submarines in Block IV Configuration:

- Vermont (SSN-792) Commissioned April 18, 2020
- Oregon (SSN-793) Delivered to the Navy February 26, 2022
- Montana (SSN-794) Delivered to the Navy March 14, 2022
- Hyman G. Rickover (SSN-795) Christened on July 31, 2021
- New Jersey (SSN-796) Christened on November 13, 2021
- Iowa (SSN-797) Keel laid August 20, 2019
- Massachusetts (SSN-798) Keel laid December 11, 2020
- Idaho (SSN-799) Keel laid 24 August 24, 2020
- Arkansas (SSN-800) Construction began March, 2018
- Utah (SSN-801) Construction began March, 2018

Things They Don't Tell You at New London

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

In high school, I watched a TV show called *Silent Service*. A retired old codger named Rear Admiral Thomas M. Dykers opened the show with, "Tonight, we bring you another thrilling episode of Silent Service stories, of warfare under the sea." I did not know it, but this was the first time I was being radiated by minute television-transmitted bull manure particles, a notion that I would come to know as "sea stories." *Silent Service* sold BS by the yard, beginning with the words, "Thrilling adventure..."

There were things they didn't tell you. Things like being the guy who threw trash over the side in heavy seas. Rigging doubler plates in a rolling boat. Reversing the blank flanges in the air lines to the fuel ballast tanks when they were empty, and you had to line them up as main ballast tanks ... And several other thrilling adventures the devil and the U.S. Navy combined their talents to bring you.

Let's begin with rigging blank flanges for main ballast tank use. (For you boat sailors, "blank flange," alias "spectacle flange," alias "dutchman plates.") For those of you not initiated in the smoke boat fraternity, imagine a dental procedure wherein you had to remove a wildcat's molars through his rectum while inside a washing machine in the rinse cycle.

A spectacle flange is a half-inch thick piece of metal that looks like a mask for a blind-in-one-eye Lone Ranger. On one side, it has a hole ringed by stud holes. The other side is solid, with a ring of stud holes. They were in all fuel ballast tank lines (600# MBT blow).

When the fuel in a tank was used up and the tank was filled with compensating sea water, the hand of the Almighty would descend on some undeserving E-3 bastards—always two, because fun must be shared. They gave you each a boxof wrenches and words of encouragement: "Go get 'em, bucko!" "Have a good time, sweetheart." "Don't be out too late dearest, you know how daddy and I worry."

You always politely responded with an all-inclusive "Screw you and the horses you rode in on."

They gave you things like dog chains—a thick window washer's belt with fifteen feet of heavy chain attached. At the end was a clamp called "the dog." The dog connected with a T-track ("safety track") which snaked its way down the full length of the topside deck. The purpose of this de-

vice was to keep a man from being washed overboard and out to sea. Any baboon with six in-line brain cells could take one look at the length of chain and recognize immediately that when an overwhelming swell hit you, the chain would position you between the limber holes and the tank tops, whereupon you would enjoy the sensation of being repeatedly smacked with a coal shovel.

To move up and down the pitching deck at sea, you had to grab the chain and pull the clamp along the track. This was known as "Walking the dog," "Strolling with Fido," "Taking Spike for a walk," etc. If you were E-3 or below, these terms held no humor. E-4 and up, they were sidesplitting gut busters.

Once you had your box wrenches and dog chain, they cracked the after battery hatch and opened it. If the engines were running and it was cold topside, the compartment below became an arctic cyclone with grown men yelling "Put the iron back in the pneumonia hole!"

It was always a soaker when you slogged your dog back to the superstructure access lid. You tried to stay clear of the exhaust lines if steam was coming off of them: contact with a hot exhaust was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences where you learned everything you ever wanted to know in a fraction of a second.

From then on, it was simple. While operating in a space not much larger than an Oldsmobile glove box, you and the poor sonuvabitch you were paired up with had to pull the ring of stud bolts, put the nuts and bolts in a coffee can that you zipped up in your jacket, reverse the flange to the open or "Lone Ranger Seeing Eye" position, then replace the stud bolts. After this, you repeated the whole fun and games procedure on the opposite 600# MBT blow line. While you were down in the devil's crawlspace, large portions of the Atlantic Ocean sloshed in and out of the limber holes, raining down on you from the free-flooding deck above. This was about the most thrilling it got— other than unscheduled major leaks, of course.

Then, there were doubler plates. I never liked the whole concept of doubler plates. You only put the damned things up when your fellow "above the surface" Navy brothers were going to shoot or drop something on you that might possibly enter your place of residence, or poke some kind of unwelcome hole in it. Even as E-3s, we instinctively knew that this kind of activity had originally germinated from a bad idea.

(concluded on page 18)

REACHING BY PHIL JASKOVIAK

Frank and Charles Hood's Silent Service stories give back to the submarine community.

nless you have been out at sea the last few years, you have already read or at least heard about the superb books of submarine service tales published by the Hood brothers.

Who are these guys, and how did they start? And why have they so generously donated the proceeds of their first four books to the USSVI Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Fund?

Frank Hood is a qualified submarine officer who served aboard the nuclearpowered attack submarine USS Seahorse (SSN-699) during the Cold War in the late 1960s and early '70s. Frank's younger brother and co-author, Charles, is a diagnostic radiologist with Prisma Health, the largest not-for-profit health organization in South Carolina. Charles Hood describes himself and his brother as "basically... no-B.S. guys-straight shooters without big egos. We didn't get into this project for any personal glory. Instead, we just wanted to honor the many, many men of the submarine force who sacrificed in countless ways of which their fellow Americans remain unaware. Our goal is to correct that oversight, in part because the stories of the silent service are so damned good!"

Charles was always intrigued by the stories he knew his brother possessed but would never divulge. When asked, Frank would always respond, "I took an oath and can't talk about that stuff," but Charles would persist. Finally, in February 2016, Charles asked him again while the two were driving down a long backcountry road in South Carolina. When Charles told Frank that his kids and grandkids deserved to know what he did for his country, finally his brother acquiesced. Frank acknowledged that there were some parts of the submarine service experience that could be readily shared without violating any confidentiality agreements—things like how the submarine was compartmentalized, how the crew was assigned and what their assignments were, what the food was like, how they coped with extended absences from home, and so much more.

For those who may've missed this in American Submariner.—ed.

Charles always enjoyed writing and had publishing experience; after only a few minutes of listening to his brother's excellent recall, he immediately realized that they had the makings of a book partnership. He then persuaded Frank to start dictating his memories and history. Frank would then email voice files, and Charles would transcribe, research and edit. As the story developed, he would send drafts back to Frank, triggering more memories. *Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots* began to grow.

The book starts as an autobiography, but beyond chapter four, the story begins to transition to a more general description of the U.S. Submarine Force during the Nixon era. Frank's personal story serves as an anchor for a broader explanation of how submarines work. Maintaining accuracy was a challenge, so they established a Facebook page in January 2018 and eventually assembled a board of submarine service advisors. As a result, *Poopie Suits...* is on its fifth and final edition and has been extensively updated and expanded.

The brothers originally had plans to write only *Poopie Suits....* They also wanted to give back to the submarine community, so they donated all profits from their book sales to the USSVI Scholarship Fund. Initially, their goal was to sell 200 books and raise \$1,000. That was in early 2018.

Charles said, "We reached the \$1,000 mark after only a couple of months in 2018. So, we upped the goal to \$10,000— which seemed pretty ambitious. In the meantime, we started working on sequel books of two distinct types. In one series, we endeavored to share some of the best and least-known submarine stories highlighting the bravery, *esprit de corps*, and humor of the submarine force. These collections of originally written tales became the basis for our second and fourth books, *Sub Tales* and *More Sub Tales*."

The second category of books they decided to produce consisted of stories



written by submariners. Charles and Frank served as compilers, editors, and publishers for those volumes, which led to their third and fifth books, The *Silent Service Remembers* (Volumes 1 and 2). As this work proceeded and additional books came into the marketplace in both softbound and eBook versions between 2019 and 2021, sales continued to climb, and they passed the \$10,000 goal in 2019 and upped the goal again to \$25,000— which they achieved in early 2020. By then, with four books on the market and another one in the works, they decided to double the final goal and shoot for \$50,000 raised.

Achieving the \$50,000 goal took a lot of work: gaining publicity for their books via press releases, local talks, radio interviews, and magazine articles. Despite the challenges, they reached the goal of donating \$50,000—once seeming impossible—in the spring of 2021.

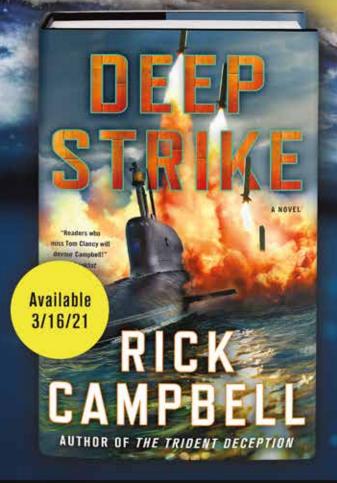
So what's ahead for this team of submarine tale tellers?

This fall, they published their fifth book (The Silent Service Remembers [Vol. 2]) and began collaborating with a professional narrator (and Navy veteran) on audio versions of their books. The first book, Poopie Suits..., is now available as an audiobook. They are also busy finishing the research and writing of a sixth book, Sub Tales 3, to be released in early 2022. According to Charles, "We plan that our submarine series will wrap up later in 2022 with the publication of the seventh book. The Silent Service Remembers (Vol. 3). It is our sincere hope that the seven books will add considerably to the legacy of the U.S. Submarine Force." On a personal note, the endeavor has brought the brothers even closer together.

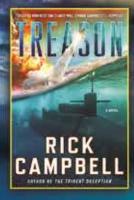
We are all incredibly grateful to Frank and Charles Hood for their generous donation to the USSVI Scholarship Fund. We also congratulate them on selling nearly 10,000 books worldwide—in all fifty states and five of seven continents.

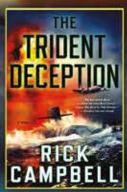
"Readers who miss Tom Clancy will devour Campbell."—Booklist
WHO WILL STRIKE FIRST IN A RACE TO STOP A ROGUE RUSSIAN
SUBMARINE FUNDED BY ISIS FROM HITTING AMERICAN SOIL?

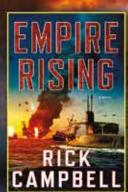
DEEP STRIKE

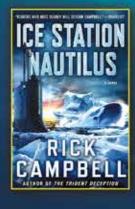


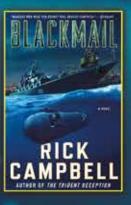
NOW IN PAPERBACK!











PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF NAVY COMMANDER (USN RETIRED) RICK CAMPBELL:

"Compelling and thrilling." —JACK COUGHLIN, New York Times bestselling author of Shooter

"A fistfight of a thriller. A masterpiece." —DALTON FURY, former Delta Force and New York Times bestselling author of Kill Bin Laden

"The best submarine novel since Tom Clancy's The Hunt for Red October." —Booklist (starred review)

"Fans of submarine thrillers will welcome Campbell." —Publishers Weekly

DEEP STRIKE - RELEASES MARCH 16, 2021 TO BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE (PRE-ORDER OR PURCHASE WHERE YOU BUY YOUR BOOKS - HARDCOVER, EBOOK, OR AUDIOBOOK)

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard our newest base shipmates:

Charles R. Hinman

(Associate Member) Wife: Keiko 2015 Lime Street, Apt. #904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-3930 *cell*: 808-561-2869 charles.hinman@gmail.com Phone number at *Bowfin* Museum: 808-423-1341

Dr. Darin Steven Detwiler

(E5-MM2SS; served 1986-1994) Wife: Gennette Zimmer 40 Cedar Walk, Unit 2414 Long Beach, CA 90802-7927 cell: 425-232-5743 ddetwiler680@gmail.com Qualified in 1989 on the USS William H. Bates (SSN-680)

Robert "Bob" John Frazier

EMC-SS E-7 CPO; served '78-'94) 4278 Hill Avenue Fullerton, CA 92833-3430 cell: 714-931-8654 Uboatman@gmail.com Qualified in 1981 on the USS Tautog (SSN-639)—'80-'85 USS Rich. B. Russell (SSN-687) '89-'92

Robert "Mike" Cailor (returning) (EM1-SS E6; served '64-'71) Wife: Rebecca 2514 Elm St., Seffner, FL 33584-5812 cell: 813-585-7615 rmcgfish@gmail.com Qualified in 1968 on the USS Guardfish (SSN-612)

Edward "Ed" Elliot Kushins

(LT-03SS; served '68-'79) Wife: Mary Hamilton 45 16th Street Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3402 phone: 310-345-3562 edkushins@gmail.com Qualified on the USS *Flasher* (SSN-613)—'69-'71, LTJG.

Ramon O. Aguilar (returning) (E5-ET Radio Div.; 1996-2001) 22736 Jody Lane Carson, CA 90745-3603 cell: 562-303-0866 octiviano89@gmail.com Qualified in 1998 on the USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN-705)



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

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

New chapter member Darin Detwiler, in addition to riding the boats during the Cold War—in his case, the William H. Bates (SSN-680)—is also an accomplished, well known and respected food safety scientist. He sends us this news clipping so that those interested might get to know him and his background better. Welcome aboard, Darin!—Jeff

Dr. Darin Detwiler, LP.D. to Receive the IAFP's 2022 Ewen C.D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award

The International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) has selected Dr. Darin S. Detwiler, LP.D. as the recipient of their 2022 Ewen C.D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award. Dr. Detwiler's selection acknowledges his "commitment to excellence in food safety" and his "years of dedicated and exceptional contributions to the reduction of risks to foodborne illness." The International Association for Food Protection will publicly present the award during an awards Banquet on August 3, 2022 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Darin is a Professor of food policy and corporate social responsibility at Northeastern University's College of Professional Studies. His students have gone on to leadership positions in industry and in state and federal agencies. For nearly 30 years, he has played a unique role in controlling foodborne illness. After losing his son, Riley, to E.coli in 1993, the Secretary of Agriculture invited Detwiler's collaboration as a special advisor on pathogen reduction and consumer education. Two subsequent Secretaries of Agriculture appointed Darin to serve on the USDA's National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection, served as the Senior Policy Coordinator for STOP Foodborne Illness, served on Conference for Food Protection councils, and supported the FDA's implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Darin's research and insights have appeared on television and in print, including his two books and chapters in others' books. He sits on numerous advisory and editorial boards and has long consulted on food safety issues with industry in the U.S. and abroad. A vociferous advocate for consumer safety, his experiences and skills make him a bridge between industry and the people it is supposed to protect. Throughout his career, Darin's goal of inspiring the Herculean Effort towards making our food safe is to prevent other parents from living with a chair forever empty at the family table.

A U.S. Navy Cold War veteran, Darin served as a nuclear Machinists' Mate aboard the submarine USS *William H. Bates* (SSN-680). He is a member of the USSVI Los Angeles / Pasadena Base. In his book his book Food Safety: Past, Present, and Predictions, Darin wrote about transitioning from active duty to the Naval Reserves at the same time of his son's illness and how it impacted his response. In describing how he chose to focus his career on impacting food safety, Darin quoted Admiral Hyman G. Rickover who said "Responsibility is a unique concept... You may share it with others, but your portion is not diminished. You may delegate it, but it is still with you...."



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

(75-year members noted with *) Gerard A. Krudwig......2022 Gregory M. Paulson 2022 Michael J. Swanson 2022 Ralph J. Hansen.....2021 Robert F. Schive, Sr......2021 Larry D. Long2021 G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr.... 2021 Edward E. Kushins 2020 Bruce Evan Neighbors 2020 David H. Vanderveen 2019 Philip J. Jaskoviak......2019 Dennis Bott2018 James A. Burnett......2018 Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018 Robert Miller......2018 John A. Anderson 2017 Roger C. Dunham, MD.... 2017 Richard McPherson 2017 Harry "Bill" Moak2017 Louis A. Myerson2017 Elliot Rada2017 Ronald G. Wagner 2017 Dennis J. Walsh......2017 Michael Kish.....2016 Gary Wheaton 2016 Lawrence R. Butler 2015 Samuel T. Higa2015 Harry P. Ross2015 Stephen C. Rowe2015 Charles H. Senior2015 Larry E. Smith2015



Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2022 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 15:	Monthly Meeting via Zoom Conference
February 19:	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
March 19	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf Restaurant
April 16	Monthly Meeting Cancelled
May 7	Lion's Club Memorial Plaque Refit Reception at the Submarine Memorial, West - 1600-1700
May 14	Field Day/Prep at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 21	Hang Up the Tarp at Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Mtg.: Bunker 33 Picnic Area on Base Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 30	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 18	Monthly Meeting - Annual "Steakfest" Call for nominations for 2023 Base Officers
July 4	115th Annual Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 16	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Bunker 33, Seal Beach Weapons Station
August 20	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme 2023 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 17	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 15	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 19	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 10	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(Holland Club Roster, continued)
Sam Aboulafia2014
David Palagyi2014
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr2014
David D. Semrau, DDS 2014
Ray Tracy Teare2014
Milton Harry Boudov2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn2013
M. Mark Hoffer2013
Michael P. Klein2013
Ronald L. Levenson2013
Edward L. Arnold2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw2012
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
Bobby O. Mahaffey2012
John V. Mahan2012
Lee Melody2012
Clyde Matthew Turner2012
George R. Walrath2012
John L. Weisenberger 2012
Edward A. Barwick2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr2011
Stephen D. Diumenti 2009
David Whittlesey2009
Dennis A. Yure2009
Armen Bagdasarian2008
Paul A. Riggs2008
Rex L. Shields2008
John L. Von Ulmen 2008
Francis R. Traser2006
Ronald K. Thompson2004
Robert L. Conboy2003
James Rogers2003
John E. Savela, Jr2003
Ben Van Devender2002
Berry S. Yolken2002
James E. Carter 1999
William F. Long 1999
Herbert J. "Bo" Bolton 1998
Kenneth E. Chunn1998
*Royal Harrison, Jr1995
*Sterling F. Higgins 1995
*Robert Clair Koplin 1995
*William J. Dillon1993
*Harold Staggs1992



Note that the following e-bulletins from Regional and National appear in these pages in the order received. The most recent information therefore appears toward the back.—ed.

FOX Traffic:

Bulletins from USSVI—Regional and National

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members. Dave

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" < NJVC@ussvi.org >

Date: April 1, 2022

Subject: American Submariner magazine 2022 2nd edition now online

Submitted by: Wayne Standerfer, National Commander

Shipmates,

Due to a continuing situation out of our control, we cannot upload the *American Submariner* 2022 2nd Quarter Edition to our current website.

As a temporary workaround, we have made this latest edition available by the use of Google Drive.

Please click on or copy and paste the following link into your web browser which will open this current edition for your viewing.

https://bit.ly/38aXQKC

This link is for USSVI Members in good standing only. It is not to be shared with anyone outside of our organization.

All the Best and please take care, Wayne Standerfer USSVI National Commander

NOTE:

To be assured all of our members receive this message it will be sent twice, first as a National Bulletin followed up by going through the Regional Directors and District Commanders.

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.

Dave

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@USSVI.ORG>

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Subject: USSVI Website

Submitted by: William C. Andrea

Good morning, USSVI. My name is Tim Carlisle and I serve as the Mare Island Base Commander in the Bay Area—and now have been appointed as the chairman of the Website Development Committee by the National Commander. Our committee includes national

(continued on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(continued from previous page)

leadership and three technical team members.

After some serious investigation of the website and the database, we discovered there are 6-7 databases that data was pulled from by our previous website. Our belief is this was due to size constraints of databases back then (this was written in SQL 2000). The cost and effort to have an outside firm discover, separate, and append all the data to one database would likely be higher than the cost of our three-year Blackbaud contract. We are taking that on internally with the goal of handing Blackbaud a backup of a usable database. In this process we will be removing a large amount of redundant data.

On another note, we are looking for a software developer (preferably a Submarine Veteran) with ten-fifteen years of experience with C#, Java, or ASP. Please reach out to me at timcarlisle00@hotmail.com if interested.

I will be sending out monthly notices regarding our progress with the website and database through the POC Manager. Thank you for your patience as we take on this project.

Tim Carlisle

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members. Dave

Dure

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@USSVI.ORG>

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Subject: Important Message from Past National Cmdr. Michael Bircumshaw

Submitted by: T. Michael Bircumshaw

Shipmates,

Out of our entire membership, I have received 611 calls from my offers to assist my shipmates with the issues of Asbestosis and Mesothelioma. Of that 611 (5% of 12,000 members), 542 (4.5% of 12,000 members) have called me again to tell me their results from the High-Resolution Cat Scan with no Contrast. 363 of the members who called with results have something wrong with their lungs. 12 of them were diagnosed with Mesothelioma and none of them thought they had any sort of problem. My dear friend Mike Milano (owner of Orion Printing) was the last one to pass just a couple of months ago. Only 2 of the 12 are still alive. 171 of the 363 who called back were diagnosed with Asbestosis. The remainder had COPD or spots on their lungs which required further testing or Lung Cancer of a different nature than Asbestosis.

If you served on any Naval vessel built before 1980, you were exposed to asbestos. Snipes got the most asbestos exposure, Shipyards and overhauls made the exposure worse, Pre-Comm crews saw more than they needed. Fire watches were an excellent opportunity to get introduced to asbestos. Neither Asbestosis nor Mesothelioma can be cured. At best whatever is offered to you may slow down the effects or make you more comfortable, but there is no cure.

About 5% of those with Asbestosis will become the victims of Mesothelioma (Asbestos Cancer). Some of the bad news is that Asbestosis or Mesothelioma can happen at any time. I had been gone from sea duty for 42 years when my Cardiologist chuckled as he looked at a Cat Scan following my Heart attack in 2009 and reported, "Well Michael, it looks like you have Pleural Plaques?" —to which I replied, "What in the hell is Pleural Plaques?" And he said, "You have had more asbestos exposure than you ever wanted!" I was immediately diagnosed with Asbestosis.

Please consider seriously about giving me a call and I will gladly give you all the information that you will need to get through the VA and help you determine if you need any legal help with the Civilian legal system. There is no charge for the information. This is a freebie. Do it for yourself, for your family. Let your friends and Shipmates know that I am here to help, whether I like you or not.

(concluded on next page)

USSVI Regional and National News Bulletins...

(concluded from previous page)

Best, Michael

T. Michael Bircumshaw CWO/EMCM (SS) National Commander 2010-2014 American Submariner Editor 2005-2010 /2018-2020 AmericanSubmariner@gmail.com 951-775-4549 (Leave a message; I will call back!)

Shipmates and Ladies,

Forwarding USSVI correspondence to L.A.-Pasadena Base members.

Dave

From: "USSVI POC: William C. Andrea" < NJVC@ussvi.org>

Date: April 27, 2022

Subject: Awards Nominations deadline extended

Submitted by: Harold W (Bill) Scott

Shipmates,

This is a reminder about the 2022 USSVI National Awards nominations and the last important deadline. The April 30 deadline has been extended as noted below to encourage additional nominations from the membership.

74 nominations have been received as of 4/26/22: 2 - Joe Negri; 20 - Robert Link; 4 - DCOY; 15 - Meritorious Individual (1 posthumous); 2 - Meritorious Base; 4 - Golden Anchor; 18 - Silver Anchor (1 posthumous); 5 - Ben Bastura and NLOY: 2 - Class I, 1- Class III and 1 - Class IV.

Last call for all awards May 15. All Nominations including any NLOY nominations are due to me NLT close of business on that day. I will then send all nominations to the on committee chairs for tabulation and selof award winners. Nominations received after this deadline will not be considered, and the sender will be notified. If mailing nominations via snail mail, they must be postmarked no later than that day to be considered.

Refer to the Awards Manual for any additional information.

When sending your nominations, be sure to include the nominee's base, base position, Base Class, BC's name and address. In addition, the NLOY award nominations should include the editor's name. I'm also suggesting the inclusion of the District Commander's name and address also for mailing any awards for the recipients in case they aren't at the convention.

Honored to Serve,

Harold W (Bill) Scott II, STSCS(SS) USN RET. USSVI National Awards Chair Chief of the Boat, USSVI Central Texas Base CTB Newsletter Editor, 512-826-8876



In Honor of Last Pay Month's Submarine Day



USS Holland SS-1 Commission October 12, 1900

Editor's Note: Bill Moak forwarded me this internet piece celebrating Submarine Day last month through its information on the Holland, the first official submarine of the U.S. Navy. Enjoy, Jeff



1901 – Crew of the USS Holland SS-1 Commanding Officer (center) LT Harry H. Caldwell (Top Row, 3rd right – "Warrant Officer Gunner" – Owen Hill)



1901 - Enlisted Crewmembers – USS Holland SS-1 Center: First Submarine C.O.B. (Chief of the Boat) William H. Reader, Chief Gunner's Mate.

Lower left (clockwise): Chief Machinist's Mate Barnett Bowie, Gunner's MateAugustus Gumpert, Gunner's Mate First Class Harry Wahab, Gunner's Mate First ClassO. Swanson, Electrician's Mate Second Class Walter A Hall, Electrician's mate Second Class, Gunner's Mate Second Class Arthur Callahan,

Here's the link: The two group photos are a little halfway down the page. http://pigboats.com/subs/holland.html

Things They Don't Tell You at New London

(concluded from page 9)

For those of you who have been fortunate enough to have never been next to a doubler plate, imagine the first cousin of a railroad locomotive wheel. Now imagine the Three Stooges trying to fasten this contraption to the inside of a rotating cement mixer. There you have it: fun and games in the Silent Service. And the service rapidly became unsilent if you ever dropped one of those sunsabitches on any of the five appendages living in your boot.

Another thing: no one at New London ever mentioned the inboard vent for #2 sanitary tank in relation to non-qual sleeping arrangements.

They also failed to mention the vertical spud lockers that masqueraded as showers on diesel boats.

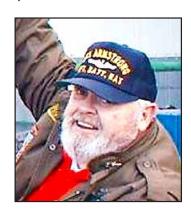
No one told us that failure to secure one little gate valve and one little kick throw could actually reverse-percolate previously digested Navy chow through your morning coffee.

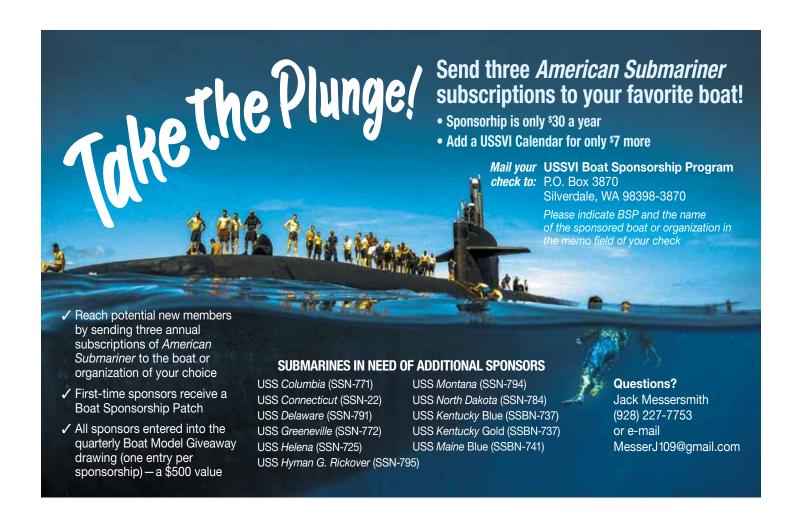
They also conveniently left out the fact that anything that came from Fleet Supply or the forward hold of *Orion*, came with free roaches. Lively ones too.

And nobody said anything about bug juice and panther piss.

Worst of all, no one mentioned that Chief Petty Officers just couldn't take a joke. Ever.

Keep a zero bubble ... Dex.







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



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