



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

Here are links to YouTube videos made by Darin D. showing where much of our Bldg. 6 memorabilia is now on display, plus video coverage of our base brewery meeting.—Jeff

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Nza2DEwP2vg?si=wJNL22rgOla-0J87>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/pBXSELJ5ZjQ?si=ZEcSntiXyZPtNvln>

Or try scanning this QR code:



The Navy's SSN(X) Submarine Will Redefine Undersea Warfare

The next-generation SSN(X) submarine is expected to deliver greater transit speed under increased stealth conditions in every ocean environment.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published February 11, 2025)

by Maya Carlin



SSN(X) class will likely resemble this Virginia-class attack submarine. (U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Christina M. Shaw – Public Domain via Wikimedia Common.)

Budgetary constraints and labor shortages have hindered the development of nearly every next-generation project for the U.S. Navy. From the service's SSN(X) submarine to its F/A-XX fighter and DDG(X) destroyer proposals, the timely arrival of any new platform will no longer be possible. Currently, the Navy's Next-Generation Attack Submarine program has been pushed back to Fiscal Year 2040. Considering the ramp-up in tensions between Washington and Beijing, the Navy's ability to maintain its sea-based dominance is critical. The service's existing *Virginia*-class and *Columbia*-class nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) are certainly advanced; however, the next-generation SSN(X) vessels are being designed with newer technologies aimed at countering near-peer adversaries.

What we know about SSN(X)

The Navy's SSN(X) program was initially revealed in 2014. While the platform is still under development and design plans are likely to change over time, the next-generation submarine class is expected to be designed for greater transit speed under

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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

It seems like today's circumstances are the same as last year at this time. I'm sitting here on a rainy morning in Southern California. My situation is still preferable to that of folks in tornado country or in snow up to their hindquarters, so please forgive my momentary complaint!

We separated our April meetings this year, holding the E-Board discussion via Zoom on the 17th, because our General Meeting on the 19th was set for Clearman's Galley in San Gabriel. That allowed us to focus the General Meeting on broader discussions and the important sea stories. Incidentally, we did not have a quorum for the E-Board meeting, so we didn't decide any business or financial commitments for our base.

As you'll see in the Minutes of those meetings, our Memorial Bricks Project will be completed in June. The work will be done by Captain O'Brien and volunteers from her command staff. We'll participate where possible and will record and photograph the work so we can offer it to the *American Submariner* staff to consider for possible publication. Captain O'Brien developed the installation plan because of difficulty we had in securing a contractor to perform such a "small" job. It also enables her command and ourselves to comply with Department of Defense requirements for a federal reservation. It'd be a good way to thank her and her staff if we can publicize the project and her role in enhancing the National World War II Submarine Memorial – West.

I hope you folks who live in Southern California can join us for the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26th. We conduct it annually to commemorate the nearly 4,000 submariners lost on their boats during WWII and the Cold War. Every year, family members of some whose names are on the Memorial's monuments attend and always express their appreciation for our remembrance. The ceremony is a moving event.

Seal Beach's Bay Theater on Main Street, built in the early twentieth century, has recently been refurbished. The owners have decided to open the theater on the evening of July 4th and will screen the film, *The Hunt for Red October*. They've invited us to participate afterward in a discussion about submarining and the film, and a panel is being put together now. If you want to attend the screening, please contact Darin Detwiler at ddetwiler680@gmail.com.

That event will be a lot of fun!

As always, please protect your health and safety. We don't want to lose you!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Minutes of April 19, 2025 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at Clearman's Galley in San Gabriel, CA at 1130 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Western Region Roundup, 2025:

Mike Swanson (WRR Treasurer) presented a check to USSVI L.A.-Pasadena Base in the amount of \$3243.72 as surplus funds from the event. Our base has no specific obligation for its use, but we should consider a donation for the 2026 Western Region Roundup in NV.

Memorial Update:

Dennis Bott is reaching out to the participants required for this year's ceremony. Some checks from the USSV CF Memorial Fund are already processed, others are coming soon. Dennis has already communicated with the Seal Beach Chief of Police about the usual requirements. Darin will gather information for the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club. He'll also check in with Chamber of Commerce regarding flowers/plants for the Memorial.

SubRon 11 Public Affairs (in San Diego) isn't confident of the availability of a speaker, and the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (NWSSB) Base Commander is also unavailable, so the base X.O., Cmdr. Jaime French, will be our welcoming speaker.

Our damaged ceremonial ship's bell will be repaired and returned to us for the ceremony.

The Memorial Bricks Project: There are a total of thirty inscribed bricks to be installed at the memorial site. Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station workers plus volunteers from the C.O.'s staff will perform the work in early June—thus, not before Memorial Day. (Construction would interrupt our Memorial Day ceremony.) The NWSSB C.O. has agreed to allow us to observe and photo/video the installation work. Our bricks will now not be installed in the originally intended location, but instead adjacent to the *Thresher* and *Scorpion* monuments. A new bench will also be added to that location by NWSSB.

Membership Update:

No changes were reported; we currently have 99 Total Members, including 66 Holland Club members, 67 USSVI Life members and 64 base Life members.

July 4th Huntington Beach Parade:

Sue Bolton is coordinating our parade participation with the city of Huntington Beach; Dave Vanderveen is coordinating with Bonefish Base to repeat past cooperation. Meanwhile, Darin Detwiler will be querying the local Navy recruiting office to determine their interest in participating or providing assistance.

July 4th Bay Theater Film Screening Event:

Plans are being put together to screen *The Hunt for Red October* at the Seal Beach Bay Theater at 5p.m., to be followed by USSVI L.A.-Pasadena members participating in a Question and

(concluded on next page)



April General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Barwick
Sue Bolton
Dennis Bott
Darin Detwiler
Ken Dorn
Ron Jones
Bill Moak
Jeff Porteous
Mike Swanson
Dave Vanderveen
Stan Westrick
Gary Wing





Binnacle List

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

• **Mercedes Zilliacus** has been in the hospital with pneumonia, but fully expects to be recuperating at home by the time this sees print.
cell: 310-740-7586
email: mvzilli@aol.com

• **Marilyn Senior** had recently been hospitalized with assorted ailments, among them a stomach ulcer, a leg infection and irregular heart rhythm—but has now moved to a rehab facility in Long Beach. She sends her best to all “the gang.” Our Marilyn *loves* to text! Send your good wishes to:
cell: (310) 503-3915... or:
email: marilyn.senior@gmail.com

**Ad Still Here by
Popular Demand!**



Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

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

General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Answer session. Doors are to open at 4:30, Q&A from approximately 7:45-8:45 p.m. Darin Detwiler is working with the theater manager to organize and execute this event. Our base may receive a portion of ticket sales as a donation.

At the meeting, Darin Detwiler collected a list of members interested in being on the post-screening panel. He'll make sure all will be updated on details and go into it with a strong understanding of questions and the flow of the event. He'll also moderate the proceedings.

Building 6 Memorabilia Update:

Our base's important and unique historical items will be stored at the VFW Hall in Anaheim. Books have been donated to the Orange County Library or sold at the the Western Region Roundup. Plaques were likewise sold at the Roundup or shipped off to museum in Leonard, TX. Many items are now on display at the VFW Museum in Simi Valley, CA. A short video showing their layout is viewable here: <https://youtube.com/shorts/Nza2DEwP2vg>.

Upcoming Saturday Meetings:

Our May meeting will be held at the Anaheim VFW Hall. (Note: On the Saturdays before and after our May meeting we'll gather at the Memorial site for Field Day prep for our Memorial Day Ceremony.) Bill Moak is working to secure the Simi Valley VFW Military History Museum as the venue for our June meeting. July's meeting remains to be determined. Also to be determined: a future meeting to be held at the L.A. County Fire Museum in Bellflower; Ken Dorn is working to secure this for us.

The Good of the Order:

Western Regional Roundup patches and pins are now available from Bill Moak.

Dave Vanderveen has retrieved base business cards for marketing purposes; he distributed some around to meeting attendees.

We discussed a motion passed in the Minutes of a 2019 meeting in which it was approved to grant any member ninety years of age or older base Life membership so long as that member has already paid for national Life membership.

This month is the 125th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force. Dave Vanderveen brought a cake for dessert with which to celebrate after lunch.

Dave Vanderveen noted we're now only four months away from Base Officer elections.

Jeff Porteous inquired about the base continuing to pay 50% of the annual subscription cost for software required to produce *The Periscope*. Bill Moak moved to accept, and Stan Westrick seconded, passing the motion to pay \$359.94 to reimburse this bill.

Gary Wing presented a *Seawolf* challenge coin (from their reunion) to Ed Barwick.

Stan Westrick shared how much he appreciated the work that went into our memorial brochure. This has made a huge impact on the NWSSB leadership. This brought up a discussion of memorial history, photos, and documentation in binders. Dennis Bott has those binders.

Bill Moak discussed how we are using University Trophy & Awards at 4221 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA, 90815 to produce our plastic membership badges. Ask for Sean Fitzpatrick.

Ron Jones said his YouTube subvet videos can be seen by searching “BIK4LIF” for his account.

There being no further business, Ed Barwick motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1226 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

May Meeting at the Anaheim VFW Hall

May Meeting

Date: May 17, 2025

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

Parking's behind the building.

Location:

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

Times:

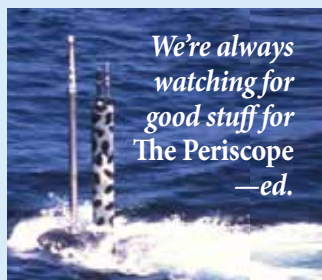
- E-Board Meets: 10:00-11:00
 - General Mtg.: 11:00-Noon
 - Lunch: Noon
- (must vacate premises at 1:00)

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

A-H — *Salad or Vegetable*

I-R — *Dessert*

S-Z — *Main Dish*

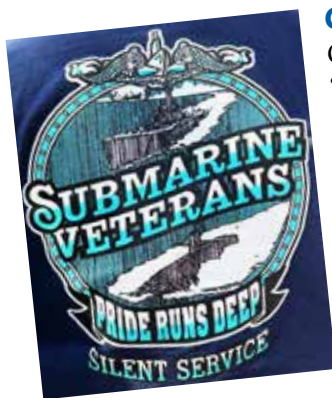


May Birthdays

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

Jeff Porteous 5/4
David Palagyi 5/7
Robert Miller..... 5/7
Doc Dunham, MD 5/10
Pat Ziliacus..... 5/11
Bruce Evan Neighbors ... 5/17
Michael Bircumshaw..... 5/18
Dennis Bott 5/19
Dr. Darin Detwiler 5/19
Mike Swanson 5/21
Kelly Van Wagner 5/27

Ship's Store



Clearance Price on T-Shirts!

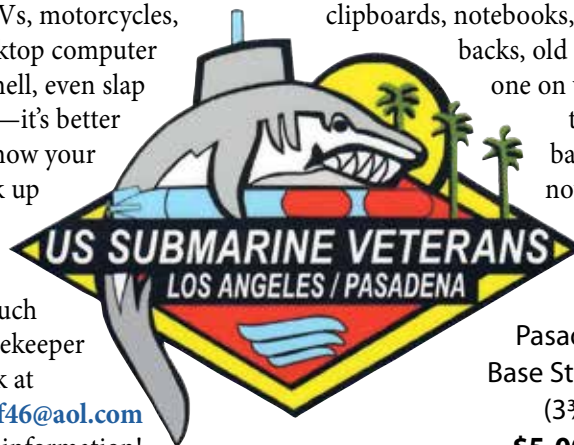
Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Veterans" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch!

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!

L.A.-Pasadena Base Logo Stickers!

They're not just for the refrigerator, bubblehead! Stick 'em on cars, clipboards, notebooks, lap-backs, old steamer one on your forehead—it's better than a base pride tattoo! Show your and stock up now!



Get in touch with Storekeeper Bill Moak at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more information!

L.A.-Pasadena Base Sticker (3¾x5) **\$5.00 ea.**



USSVI Logo Patch (9¾x6¾) **\$11.00 ea.**



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch (3¾x5) **\$5.00 ea.**



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

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2025 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

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

- Bill Dillon • Bud Fox • Bob Schieve • Ken Dorn • Sally Moran
- Scott Hultner • Willie Williamson • Ed Barwick • Greg Paulson
- Harold Staggs estate • Dave Vanderveen • Dennis Bott



Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check. Thanks!

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

MAY TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS LAGARTO (SS 371)



USS SCORPION (SSN 589)



USS SQUALUS (SS 192)

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)

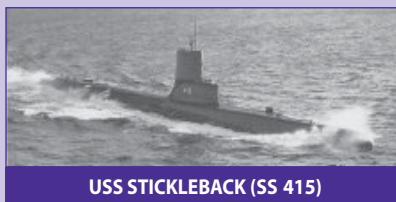
Lost May 22, 1968 while returning to Norfolk from a Mediterranean deployment; the nuclear-powered *Scorpion*'s last reported position had been about fifty miles south of the Azores. She was never heard from again, though her wreck was discovered in October of that same year. The exact cause of her loss 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)

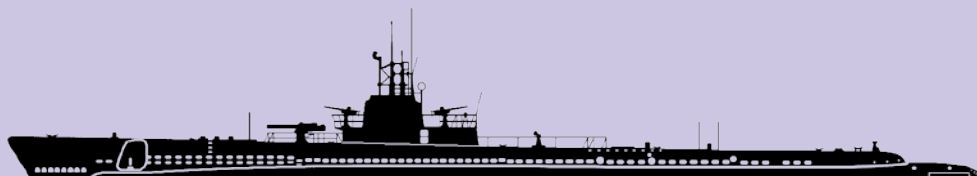
Partially flooded as a result of a major valve failure during a test dive, *Squalus* went to the bottom off the Isle of Shoals on May 23, 1939, coming to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers from the USS *Falcon* (ASR-2) rescued thirty-three survivors using the 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 STICKLEBACK (SS 415)



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

Russia's Submarine Fleet Explained in Four Simple Words

(Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website - Published February 15, 2025.)

by Kris Osborn



Akula-class submarine. (Credit: Computer-Generated Image.)

Russia's surface Navy has essentially been prevented from operating anywhere near the Ukrainian Coast along the Black Sea, in large measure due to efficient ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance), targeting, and Ukrainian use of land-fired anti-ship missiles.

The arrival of United States Navy surface drone boats in recent years likely impacted this equation, as the ships would be capable of using sensors to see and target Russian surface ships, depending upon the extent to which they are effectively networked with ground-based command and control.

This war development underscores a more significant and more broadly recognized point about Russia's surface Navy, as it simply does not present the kind of credible threat that some may have anticipated years ago. Not only has Russia's lone aircraft carrier been derailed by problems, but its fleet of surface warships has not proven particularly effective in any exchange of combat.

U.S. Navy Has Slightly More Submarines

Russian submarines, however, present an altogether different equation as they are regarded as sophisticated, stealthy and lethal. In terms of sheer numbers, Russia's submarine fleet appears roughly similar in size to the U.S. fleet.

Globalfirepower.com's 2025 military rankings list Russia as operating 63 submarines compared to the U.S.'s seventy.

Given the roughly similar fleet size, the operative question comparing U.S./Russian submarine competition relates to the maturity of each country's undersea warfare technology. Does either country operate with undersea superiority? This question likely continues to occupy the minds of Pentagon decision-makers.

Yasen-M Submarines

Russia's submarines are known to be quite advanced, as evidenced by the emergence of the *Yasen-M* class of boats in recent years, which Russia's TASS newspaper reports to be capable of firing Tsirkon hypersonic missiles.

"Among the nuclear submarines of project 885M, the fifth submarine *Perm* will be the first regular carrier of the Zircons, which will be structurally slightly different from its predecessors," the TASS paper quotes a source saying as far back as 2023.

More recently, an essay in *USNI* reports that Russia commissioned its 4th *Yasen*-class submarine in December, 2024.

Should Russia's *Yasen-M*-class ambitions come to fruition in impactful numbers, it could place Russia ahead of the U.S. pace to arm its attack submarine fleet with hypersonic weapons by 2028. Former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday told this to Congress several years ago during an earlier phase in Russia's *Yasen-M* development. Rus-

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U.S. Nuclear Submarine Visits Ally as China's Warships Close In

(Reproduced from the Newweek website - Published February 27, 2025.)

by Ryan Chan, China News Reporter



The United States Navy Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Minnesota arrives at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia on February 25, 2025. (Photo: Public Affairs Officer Lt. Corey Todd Jones/U.S. Navy.)

Australia welcomed on Tuesday the arrival of an advanced United States nuclear-powered submarine as a Chinese three-ship flotilla sailed into the waters off its southern coastline.

The Chinese Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Why It Matters

Under a trilateral security agreement known as AUKUS, the U.S. and the United Kingdom are assisting Australia in acquiring a fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered attack submarines, supported by two planned visits from America's submarines to Australia this year.

While facing criticism from China, the U.S. has implied that the submarine project could deter the Chinese military, which is expanding its reach and presence with the largest navy in the world by hull count—over 370 vessels, from attacking Taiwan, a self-ruled island.

What To Know

The arrival of USS *Minnesota*, a U.S. Navy submarine homeported at the strategic island of Guam in the Western Pacific Ocean, at HMAS Stirling naval base in Western Australia, marked the first American fast-attack submarine visit to the Australian naval base in 2025.

U.S. Submarine Visits Australia

During the *Minnesota*'s visit, the U.S. Navy will share and compare procedures, such as weapons handling, with its Australian counterparts. The 7,800-ton, 377-foot-long *Virginia*-class submarine can carry 25 torpedoes and twelve Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles.

Australia is planned to receive at least three *Virginia*-class submarines in the early 2030s under AUKUS. It will also acquire over 200 Tomahawk missiles from the U.S. for its *Hobart*-class destroyers, as well as the *Virginia*-class submarines once they are delivered.

The port visit will help the allies prepare for the start of the "Submarine Rotational Force-West" from as early as 2027, during which up to four American *Virginia*-class submarines will have a rotational deployment at HMAS Stirling, the Australian Submarine Agency added.

Meanwhile, the Australian Defense Force said the Chinese naval task group, comprised of destroyer CNS *Zunyi*, frigate CNS *Hengyang*, and replenishment ship CNS *Weishanhu*, was operating 296 nautical miles west of Hobart on the island of Tasmania as of Thursday.

The Chinese flotilla has entered the Great Australian Bight off the Australian southern coastline. It previously operat-

(concluded on page 12)

Astute Class: The 'Stealth' Submarine the U.S. Navy Can't Have

The Astute-class subs are the Royal Navy's most advanced nuclear-powered attack submarines, replacing the Trafalgar class. Known for their stealth, Thales Sonar 2076 system, and formidable firepower, these boats provide the UK with a strategic edge in underwater warfare.

(Reproduced from the 19FortyFive website - Published February 24, 2024.)

by Isaac Seitz



British Astute-class attack submarine (Creative Commons photo.)

- Despite early setbacks, including corrosion issues, leaks, and construction delays, the program has progressed, with five submarines commissioned and two more under construction.
- With continuous improvements in technology, command systems, and operational effectiveness, the *Astute*-class remains a critical pillar of Britain's naval power, ensuring dominance beneath the waves for years to come.

The Astute-Class Submarine: The UK's Most Advanced Underwater Weapon

The *Astute*-class submarines are the UK Royal Navy's newest class of submarines. These nuclear-powered fleet submarines (SSNs), designed and constructed by BAE Systems Submarines, are among the most advanced and powerful attack submarines in the world. While they've had their fair share of issues in the past, they remain among the best attack submarines in any navy.

(continued on page 10)

British Astute-Class Attack Submarine

(continued from page 9)

Replacing the *Trafalgar* Class

The *Astute*-class program began in February, 1986, when the UK Ministry of Defense (MOD) initiated studies to replace the aging *Swiftsure*- and *Trafalgar*-class submarines. Initially, the project, known as SSN20, aimed to create a revolutionary design with enhanced nuclear propulsion, firepower, and sophisticated sonar and combat systems.

However, the end of the Cold War led to a shift in priorities, emphasizing cost control and building upon the existing *Trafalgar*-class design.

The first of the *Astute*-class submarines, HMS *Astute*, was launched in 2007 and commissioned in 2010. The class is set to include seven submarines, with HMS *Astute*, *Ambush*, *Artful*, *Audacious*, and *Anson* already in active service, and HMS *Agamemnon* and *Achilles* under construction.

The King of the Seas?

One of the most significant features of the *Astute*-class submarines is their stealth.

They are among the quietest submarines ever constructed, making them extremely difficult to detect. This is achieved through advanced acoustic quieting techniques and the use of anechoic tiles on the hull. The submarines are also equipped with Thales Sonar 2076, one of the world's most advanced sonar systems, providing unparalleled underwater detection capabilities. This sonar suite includes both passive and active sonar arrays, allowing the submarines to detect and track other vessels at great distances.

The *Astute*-class submarines are heavily armed, with six 21-inch torpedo tubes capable of launching a variety of weapons. These include the Tomahawk Block IV cruise missiles and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes. The Tomahawk missiles have a range of over 1,000 miles and can strike targets with pinpoint accuracy, making them a powerful tool for land-attack missions. The Spearfish torpedoes are designed for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, capable of destroying enemy submarines and ships with a 660-pound explosive charge.

The *Astute*-class submarines are equipped with a comprehensive suite of sensors and processing systems. In addition to the Thales Sonar 2076, they feature the Atlas DESO 25 echosounder and two Thales CM010 optronic masts. These masts replace traditional periscopes and provide high-resolution video feeds for navigation and surveillance. The submarines also have advanced electronic

warfare systems and communication equipment, allowing them to gather intelligence and maintain secure communications with other naval assets.

The *Astute*-class submarines are designed with crew comfort in mind. They carry a complement of 98 personnel, with the capacity to accommodate up to 109. The submarines can produce their own oxygen and drinking water, allowing them to remain submerged for up to 90 days based on the amount of food carried and the endurance of the crew. The living quarters are designed to be more spacious and comfortable compared to previous submarine classes, helping to improve crew morale during long deployments.

The Command and Control System (CCS) on the *Astute*-class submarines is highly advanced, integrating information from various onboard and external sensors to create a comprehensive tactical picture. This system manages the firing and control of weapons, ensuring that the submarines can respond quickly and effectively to threats. The CCS operates as an integrated network of systems, providing resilience and integrity to support operations.

Astute: Some Technical Difficulties Along the Way

Despite its impressive design, the *Astute*-class has had its fair share of controversies during its lifetime. The HMS *Astute*, the lead submarine of the class, encountered numerous design and construction issues. Reports indicated that the submarine was too slow to perform some of its intended duties and experienced leaks and corrosion. During exercises off the east coast of the United States, a pipe carrying seawater to the reactor leaked, forcing an emergency surfacing. Investigations revealed that some components were made from substandard materials, raising concerns about the overall quality of construction.

The submarine's CCTV-style periscope struggled to function effectively in rough seas, and the reserve battery was deemed insufficient to power the submarine adequately. These issues highlighted the need for rigorous quality control and testing during the construction phase.

The *Astute*-class program has faced significant financial pressures and schedule delays. The Whole Life Cost (WLC) of the program increased from £10.827 billion in 2022/23 to £11.256 billion in 2023/24, primarily due to inflation and delivery pace at the shipyard. Additionally, productivity rates at the shipyard and delays in the in-water phase for Boat 6 posed risks to the overall schedule.

(concluded on page 11)

British Astute-Class Attack Submarine

(concluded from page 10)

A confidential MOD memo revealed that corrosion on the first two *Astute*-class submarines, HMS *Astute* and HMS *Ambush*, was extensive and caused by cost-cutting measures. The memo warned that severe problems could be expected in the future, potentially leading to increased maintenance and repair times.

Overcoming Challenges

Despite these challenges, the *Astute*-class program has made significant progress. The Royal Navy has successfully commissioned five submarines, with two more under construction. The program remains on track to deliver all seven boats, with ongoing efforts to address and mitigate the identified issues.

The *Astute*-class submarines have continued to play a crucial role in the Royal Navy's strategic capabilities. Their

advanced technology, stealth, and firepower make them formidable assets in underwater warfare. As the program progresses, lessons learned from early challenges will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and improvement of these cutting-edge submarines.

The *Astute*-class submarines represent a significant leap forward in the Royal Navy's underwater capabilities. While the program has faced its share of difficulties in the past, the Royal Navy has continued to iron out any issues that surface. As these submarines continue to evolve and improve, they will remain at the forefront of the UK's submarine fleet and remain a vital part of the nation's security.

Isaac Seitz graduated from Patrick Henry College's Strategic Intelligence and National Security program. He has also studied Russian at Middlebury Language Schools and has worked as an intelligence Analyst in the private sector.

Russia's Sub Fleet Explained

(concluded from page 7)

sian newspapers say they will operate as many as eleven *Yasen*-class submarines, with as many as ten being built as the modern "M" variants.

The *Yasen*-class submarines go back more than ten years to the *Severodvinsk*, yet the first *Yasen*-M variant, the *Kazon*, appeared in 2021. In subsequent years, Russia has announced plans to build more *Yasen*-M boats.

Yasen-M Copy U.S. Navy Virginia Submarines?

Russian *Yasen*-M submarines are built with a life-of-core reactor similar to the U.S. Navy's *Columbia*-class boats. This technology enables much longer deployments without needing mid-life refueling. A life-of-core reactor also brings additional quieting technologies as well and decreasing the size and space of the boats.

"The new-generation reactor will also contribute to the quieting of the submarine, meaning that the *Kazan* may surpass the *Severodvinsk* in terms of its ability to evade detection," a Rusi.org essay states.

Yasen-M submarines also incorporate an advanced, performance-enhancing conformal array sonar, improving upon previous "cylindrical array sonar" on other Russian submarines. It may not surprise many that the *Yasen*-M's conformal array sonar closely replicates the Large Aperture Bow conformal array sonar built into U.S. Navy Block III

Virginia-class attack submarines.

Conformal array sonar "allows a larger surface area for hydrophone arrays, and thus greater array gains in passive mode compared to the older spherical array sonar configuration," Rusi.org states.

Four Simple Words: Still. A. Maritime. Threat.

Russian submarine threats have long been on the radar at the Pentagon, going back to the arrival of Soviet, 1980s-era *Akula*-class submarines. Advanced technology woven into the *Akula* class was a Pentagon concern, according to an essay in Science.org as far back as 1989 called "Quite Soviet Subs Prompt Concern."

The text cited in Science.org quotes defense expert Norman Polmar: "The launch of the first submarine in 1985 shook everyone up (in the West), as Western intelligence agencies had not expected the Soviet Union to produce such a boat for another ten years."

Specifically, the essay quotes Naval experts telling lawmakers years ago that the existence of the *Akula* "threatens the survivability of our Carrier Task Forces.

Kris Osborn is Military Tech Editor of 19FortyFive & President of Warrior Maven – Center for Military Modernization. He's been an on-air military specialist at multiple TV networks.

Navy's SSN(X) Sub Ups the Underseas Ante

(concluded from page 1)

increased stealth conditions in every ocean environment. Additionally, the service has revealed that the upcoming SSN(X) vessels will pack a larger punch than their predecessors, offering a more diverse and lethal payload capacity. Exact specs and details surrounding SSN(X) proposals remain highly classified, but analysts believe the submarines could be equipped with quantum technology, additional torpedo tubes, laser weapons, larger flank arrays, and other enhanced capabilities.

Specifically, the Navy detailed, “SSN(X) will be designed to counter the growing threat posed by near-peer adversary competition for undersea supremacy. It will provide greater speed, increased horizontal payload capacity, improved acoustic superiority, and higher operational availability. SSN(X) will conduct full spectrum undersea warfare and be able to coordinate with a larger contingent of off-hull vehicles, sensors, and friendly forces. It will retain and improve multi-mission ... capability and sustained combat presence in denied waters.”

An Overview of the *Virginia* class

In 2022, the Navy disclosed that it could require sixty-six nuclear-powered fast-attack submarines by 2024. The

SSN(X) design will accompany the *Virginia* class to fill this threshold. First conceptualized during the Cold War, the *Virginia* submarines remain the backbone of the Navy's underwater fleet. These submarines displace nearly 8,000 tons with hull lengths of 377 feet and are able to reach a top speed of 25 knots. The original Blocks I-III *Virginia* class are highly capable, but the latest Block IV variant is truly a game-changer. Equipped with the new Virginia Payload Module (VPM), these submarines are designed to interact with the seafloor and can store more weapons than earlier variants. As detailed by *The Drive*, the new VPM—which will be fitted to the upcoming Block V *Virginia*-class ships—features a “similar hull plug that stretches 84 feet that would be adapted to the seabed warfare role instead of hauling around cruise, hypersonic, and other missiles.”

If the Navy's upcoming SSN(X) features the stealth and acoustic quietness of the *Virginia* class in addition to other enhancements, these submarines will undoubtedly be unstoppable underwater. Since these vessels are already suffering from service delays, any future infringement on the class's arrival will be a detriment to the Navy.

Maya Carlin, writer for the The National Interest, has published over a thousand defense-issue articles in recent years.

U.S. Nuke Sub Visits Ally Australia

(concluded from page 8)

ed north, northeast, east, and southeast of Australia, which included staging live-fire exercises in the Tasman Sea. Now they're outside Australia's territorial waters (extending twelve nautical miles from shore), but right on the edge of its 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

What People Are Saying

U.S. Navy Commander Jeffrey Cornielle, commanding officer of USS *Minnesota*, said in a press release on Tuesday: “Our visit, today is another step that continues progress toward establishing the Royal Australian Navy's sovereign, conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine force.”

Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, chief of the Royal Australian Navy, said in a press release on Wednesday: “The Australian and U.S. Navies operate on shared behaviors, shared values, and a shared commitment to assuring the prosperity and security of the Indo-Pacific region. This port visit [by USS *Minnesota*] follows the recent submarine tendered maintenance period at HMAS Stirling, which was the first time Australians [have] directly participated in the maintenance of a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine in Australia.”

ance of a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine in Australia.”

Alex Luck, Australia-based naval analyst, told *Newsweek* via email on Thursday: “In purely operational terms, I think the merits or lessons from this particular deployment [Chinese naval presence near Australia] remain very limited. There is no real distinction, as far as we can tell from observations, to other excursions that [the People's Liberation Army Navy] has conducted elsewhere. This case may be different, if reports are true that the flotilla is escorted by a nuclear-powered submarine, but this remains unconfirmed.”

What Happens Next

It's likely that the Chinese naval task group will circumnavigate Australia. According to the New Zealand Defense Force—which is assisting its Australian counterparts in tracking the Chinese navy with ships and aircraft—the Chinese ships are now heading westward.

Ryan Chan is a Newsweek reporter based in Hong Kong. His focus is on security and defense issues in the Western Pacific.

Liberty in the Land of Oz by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

The old salt at the recruiting station said, “Kid, the United States Navy will take you to faraway places with strange-sounding names. Exotic places they don’t tell you about in high school geography books. You’ll see stuff and do things you never dreamed of. The ‘keys’ to this kingdom will be your I.D. and Liberty Card.”

This was probably the only truthful thing that the sonuvabitch said all day.

“Okay, listen up: Check your I.D. and Liberty Cards. Last boats will be leaving the landing at 2400. Got that, sweethearts? You ain’t got your worthless butts parked in a launch by midnight, you’d better have money for a water taxi or be one gahdam Olympic swimmer. You got that? Now, the Cap’n wants a few words...”

“Stand at ease, gentlemen. I will expect you older men to look out for your younger mates. Show ‘em the ropes and keep ‘em off report. And for God’s sake, don’t let ‘em pick up anything Doc Rohr can’t cure.”

“Doc, you got any wisdom you wish to impart before these fine young bluejackets go ashore as ambassadors for the Land of Moderation and Proper Behavior?”

“Gentlemen, they have girls over there with germs the size of Japanese beetles Little dark-eyed darlings with stuff residing under those bright colored skirts that’ll have you tying knots in urinal plumbing in three days. I’m not a licensed physician, but I’ve seen a lot of stuff that eats Blue Ointment for breakfast and you couldn’t kill with a .45. The going rate for a cargo of human misery is two hundred Pesetas... Keep that in mind.”

The old recruiter never said anything about that stuff.

“Okay gents, launch will be laying alongside in ten. See you at morning chow. Wanna see every damn one of you: *Requin* sailors take care of *Requin* sailors—you got that?”

And over the side we went to peek into the world of

exotic life, of strange custom, and the opportunity to get rolled by some of the most devious practitioners of the art that ever lived.

It always started with a shipmate saying, “Let’s see if we can find a place to catch a couple of cold ones.”

Five minutes in any cantina in Panama was enough to tell an eighteen-year-old he’d come a long way since the Senior Prom—while your old buddies from high school were hitting the books at State U. or chasing little pony-tailed darlings around the juke box at the corner pizza joint. Here you were, tossing down suds in a flea-infested gin joint where everyone talked funny and smiled at you through teeth with a lot of deferred dental work. But, it was good to be off the boat and have the opportunity to flush your kidneys with something other than coffee and bug juice.

“Hey signor, you want to trade watch?”

“No thanks, Chico. My mom gave it to me.”

After six beers, you can sell damn near anything to an E-3 boat sailor.

Ask Old Gringo. A “three sheets to the wind” TM striker will shell out his hard-earned loot for everything from a fake shrunken head to an autographed picture of God. We all left our brains in beer glass rings. You could sell an after battery alley rat a nude photo of Eleanor Roosevelt. I once paid five bucks to see a couple of dogs’ dance. Remember that at the time, I wasn’t the only *Requin* sailor in the place and that at the time, I thought it was really neat.

Later in life, I bought a boatload of shares of something called Petro-Lewis. My money ended up in the same place and I didn’t get to see dogs do the Mambo. The guy who said “A fool and his money are soon parted” must’ve been a boat sailor in SUBRON Six.

Women who operated in the *Twilight Zone* of Naughty Behavior were “painted ladies” and “fallen angels” in the vernacular of back-home Sunday school teachers. Good lads didn’t mingle with hoochie-coochie

(concluded on page 14)

Liberty in the Land of Oz... by Dex Armstrong

(concluded from page 13)

gals. Good lads from East Tennessee rarely had the opportunity to traffic in hooch 'n' cooch in faraway locations beyond the jurisdictional limitations of good little boy behavior.

Once the door to Aladdin's Cave had opened enough for us to squeeze in, we intended to sample all the delights on a "full speed ahead and damn the consequences" basis.

I saw dancing dogs. A chicken fight. A drunk Chief ride a mad ox. A shipmate pee on the Shore Patrol from the top of a palm tree. I saw two guys from a boat out of Charleston, pull a fire alarm and fill up a bar with Argentine firemen. Saw a prostitute with "VIVA CASTRO" tattooed over her left nipple. Saw a live llama not in zoo. Iguanas. A man skin a snake and eat it raw. Saw a one-legged woman riding a bike. And Stuke and I saw a grown woman do something with a ping pong ball that remains to this day the number one thing on my list of weird stuff I've witnessed.

I have no idea what kind of liberty the guys pull today. I hope they're still allowed to nibble around the edges and sow the oats of young men's fantasies fulfilled. I hope that white hats can still be found on tables where, for fifteen cents, you can buy rum and alligator piss under a worn-out ceiling fan while weird music blares from a beat-up juke box. Where girls who never owned a bra can slip a cigar band on your finger and marry you for two hours and make you forget bad air, midwatches and Navy regs in magic moments with high humidity.

And an old boat sailor also hopes they always make that 2400 launch. And that their wives never find out half the stuff they did.

Keep a zero bubble...

Dex.



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SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

Questions?

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

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Frank M. Berezney

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

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

Kathleen A. Carder

Associate; Significant Other of
Bill Moak; sponsor: Ray Teare
2865 Helm Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065-5257
cell: 662-335-5602
e: KathleenCarder@Outlook.com

David "Dave" Geske

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

Charles B. "Charlie" McCarthy, Jr.

(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita
19068 Shadow Ridge Lane
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763
cell: 714-720-3837
email: cbmatylca@aol.com
Qualified in 1966 on *Geo. Bancroft*
(SSBN-643); served 1959-1976.

Laurie Ann Mabry

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



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

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



Our own Pat Zilliaccus recently joined a "Men of Legend" overseas veterans tour group to visit Iwo Jima. Here, Pat and friends are shown on the island.



Meanwhile, our base secretary, Darin Detwiler, continues his ongoing adventures. Above, he participates in the recent Run Seal Beach charity race event; at right, he speaks at a Food Safety Conference in Toronto, Canada. Don't know how you keep up your pace, Darin!



(more next page)



More Chapter News...

L.A.-Pasadena Base Tries Out Different Eatery for April Mtg.

Ahoy there! Come join us at Clearman's "The Boat" Galley in San Gabriel!



Shiver me timbers, mateys, good eats and grog await.



What it's always really all about, of course.



Earliest arrivals start making meeting plans.



Dave brings a delectable double-chocolate cake to celebrate this month's 125-year anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Force—then mans the knife to dole out slices for everyone. Thanks for always being so thoughtful, Dave!



"I second that emotion."



"I make a motion...."



"Backfield in motion."



John P. Holland

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

*(75-year members noted with *)*

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

(concluded next page)



Los Angeles-Pasadena Base 2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 18	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos
February 15	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
April 19	Monthly Mtg. - Clearman's Galley, San Gabriel
May 10	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 17	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall, Anaheim Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 24	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 26	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 21	Monthly Meeting - Location TBD (Simi Valley?) Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
July 4	116th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Location TBA
August 16	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 18	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 15	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 20	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

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



E-Board Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on Thursday evening, April 17, 2025.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Base Secretary
- Sue Bolton, Base Treasurer

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the virtual meeting to order at 1805 hours without a quorum present, so it was acknowledged that no financial business would be conducted.

Minutes of March's E-board and General meetings were reviewed. Sue Bolton moved to accept the minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Sue Bolton

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

Checking	\$23,303.56
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$23,353.56

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$245.00
Expenses:	\$00.00

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$200.00
Sally Moran	\$25.00
Greg Paulson	\$20.00

There were no questions nor corrections needed. Darin Detwiler moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and passed unanimously.

Western Regional Roundup, 2025:

The Roundup Committee has offered to send surplus finances of approximately \$3400 (positive balance remaining after total event hosting costs) to our base. This transaction has not yet taken place; an update will be published later.

Memorial Update:

Dave Vanderveen visited the Memorial yesterday and reported it looked nice, but trucks maneuvering in the parking lot have damaged the yellow barrier poles. The NWSSB C.O. will have them replaced or painted as needed.

(concluded on next page)

Resolution Includes More Funding for Columbia Sub

Reproduced from the
USNI News website,
March 3, 2025
by Sam LaGrone

A proposed stop-gap funding deal to keep the federal government operating includes \$1.06 billion in anomalies to cover the costs to complete 22 ships and incremental funding for the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile nuclear submarine program, according to a summary of the effort reviewed by *USNI News*.

According to the summary, the proposal would include \$419 million to incrementally fund the *Columbia* program and \$640 million in cost to complete funds to cover prior year contracts to finish ships under construction.

“Without these final increments of funding, 22 nearly-completed ships would remain unfinished in their shipyards,” reads the summary of the proposal. “This anomaly would ensure that these high-demand ships are delivered to the fleet.”

In addition to the shipbuilding funds, the proposed anomaly would include \$1.57 billion for a 10 percent pay increase for junior enlisted service members that would go into effect on April 1.

The proposal follows two previous resolutions last year to extend funding while a spending deal is worked out. December’s resolution for FY2025 included \$5.6 billion to put three *Virginia*-class submarines under contract.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

The Memorial Bricks Project: There are a total of thirty inscribed bricks to be installed at the memorial site. Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station workers plus volunteers from the C.O.’s staff will perform the work in early June—thus, not before Memorial Day. (Construction would interrupt our Memorial Day ceremony.) The NWSSB C.O. has agreed to allow us to observe and photo/video the installation work.

Prep work is underway for our traditional Memorial Day ceremony. Already booked: vocalist, bagpiper, chaplain (replacement), and sanitary facilities Friday before Memorial Day (plus later removal). Our ceremonial ship’s bell was broken during previous use; a machine shop has been engaged to fabricate a new suspension mechanism for it, and will present the repaired bell back to us during the ceremony. As is required every year, much work remains to be coordinated prior to the ceremony: hedge trimming, bleacher rental, canopy rentals, etc.

Membership Update:

Last month’s report: Marilyn Senior reported that as of March 14, 2025, we have 99 total members, 66 Holland Club members, 67 USSVI Life members, and 64 base Life members. We need to try to increase our recruitment efforts.

4th of July Parade:

Sue Bolton is following up on our parade participation with Huntington Beach; Dave Vanderveen is following up with Bonefish Base to repeat past cooperation. Meanwhile, Darin Detwiler will be communicating with the local naval recruiting office: TM1(SS) Jones is a female lead recruiter there who’s interested in participating in/helping our efforts.

Memorabilia Update:

The bottom line: important and unique base historical items will be stored at the VFW Hall in Anaheim. Books have been donated to the Orange County Library or sold at the the Western Region Roundup. Plaques were likewise sold at the Roundup or shipped off to museum in Leonard, TX. Also, many submarine photographs have been donated to the VFW Post in Simi Valley, orchestrated by Bill Moak.

Upcoming Saturday Meetings:

May and June meeting locations are as yet undetermined. Field Days at the Memorial will take place on Saturday, 5/10 and Saturday, 5/24. Our regular base meeting occurs on 5/17. The Memorial Day ceremony takes place, of course, on Monday, 5/26. Dave Vanderveen will bring a cake or other goodies to our General meeting on April 19 to celebrate the Submarine Ball—this year’s 125th Anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Submarine Force.

Good of the Order:

Remaining Western Region Roundup lapel pins and patches are available from our Storekeeper, Bill Moak.

There being no further business, Darin Detwiler motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1836 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



*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

