

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

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"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

Once again, plenty to report inside: a picnic, two big birthdays, the usual slew of subrelated articles "borrowed" from the internet. You name it! Dig in and enjoy. As usual, I'll be in the Yeoman's Shack if anyone needs me.—*Jeff*



Russia Freaked: The U.S. Navy Surfaced a Seawolf-Class Submarine as a Warning

(Reproduced from The National Interestt website - Published July 3, 2024.) by Maya Carlin



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

oped at the end of the Cold War, were designed to counter Soviet threats. Despite budget constraints limiting the U.S. fleet to three vessels, these submarines boast sophisticated undersea warfare technology.

- The Navy has used public displays of the *Seawolf*-class, such as surfacing in Norway in 2020, to deter Russian aggression. The class includes USS *Seawolf*, USS *Connecticut*, and USS *Jimmy Carter*, each with unique capabilities.
- These submarines are armed with advanced torpedoes and missiles, and could potentially be showcased in the future to deter further hostilities from adversaries.

Seawolf-Class Submarines: The Navy's Silent Sentinels of the Sea

Designed at the tail end of the Cold War, the U.S. Navy's *Seawolf*-class submarines were built to surpass the capabilities of their Soviet counterparts.

While budgetary constraints and the collapse of the USSR led to the cancellation of

(concluded on page 16)



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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

On August 26th, our shipmate and World War II veteran Harold Staggs celebrated his 100th birthday. His son and daughter-in-law hosted a gathering of his shipmates, family, and fire fighter brothers. Only one of us in the entire

group ate a cupcake, but we all had a good time spinning sea stories, learning about the city and county law enforcement and fire protection business, and dazzling some of those folks with stories about Harold's submarine combat experiences. Harold and his WWII shipmates are among my personal heroes, and I am honored to know him and to have celebrated with him. (*See pg. 22—ed.*)

Our August meeting coincided with our Annual Leroy Stone Memorial Picnic. Dennis Walsh hosted us in his home on a surprisingly comfortable summer afternoon. As often happens when boat sailors gather, there were lots of sea stories. A couple of them were even true! Because there was more time for casual conversations, I learned many things I would not have known about what shipmates did in their post-Navy civilian lives.

Unfortunately, our conversations and sea stories ran so late that many folks had to leave, and there wasn't enough "critical mass" to conduct an effective "white elephant auction," so we may have to do that during the September meeting. Altogether, it was a good time on a pleasant afternoon. Thank you and Bravo Zulu to Dennis!

Ballots for this year's base election will be emailed early next week. The slate of candidates was announced during the August base meeting, and you will find it in the Minutes for that meeting posted in this issue. Thank you to Marilyn Senior and Joe Koch for their close attention and subtle persuasion to secure candidates. The election result will be announced during the September meeting (our annual business meeting), and the installation of office holders will occur during the October meeting. We are arranging with a local Anaheim brewery and events center to host our installation lunch, and more information about that will go out soon.

We are in the process of divesting some of our memorabilia and that started with boat plaques. I have received requests for about 60% of them and will begin shipping them in early September (cost paid by the recipient). Bill Moak is working with the Simi Valley Military Museum, which wants many of our boat photographs. We may have even found a home for the not-really-USS *Harder* model in the big glass case. More information to come when we have confirmation.

The news media has begun making vague noises about the next "awful disease," perhaps because this is an election year. Regardless of whatever that is about, please remember that communicable diseases are among us and we need to use our own good sense to protect ourselves. I will again offer the words of a talk radio host, "don't get dead!"



Dave Vanderveen, Commander Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Aug. General Meeting Sailing List

Susan Bolton

Dennis Bott

Darin Detwiler

Ken Dorn

Ioe Koch

Bill Moak

(and Guest)

Mike Swanson

Ray Teare

(and Cindy Teare)

Dave Vanderveen

Dennis Walsh

Two unidentified attendees





Minutes of August 17, 2024 General Meeting

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at Dennis Walsh's house at 1155 hours.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Swanson provided the Treasurer's Report—as of August 16, 2024—to the members in attendance, and Dave noted that the E-Board had already reviewed and accepted it into the base record. (*The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue as usual.*—ed.)

Upcoming Elections:

Dave gave a rundown of the slate of base officers for the coming year. (*This information also appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes elsewhere in this issue.*—ed.)

Western Regional Roundup, 2025:

We have already received approximately \$2550.00 in donations. Multiple fundraising efforts are underway, most not amounting to any donations. These efforts will continue toward the goal of raising \$10,000.

The Good of the Order:

Be sure to contact Bill Moak by the end of August for 2025 USSVI calendar orders.

There being no further business, Joe Koch motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Ken Dorn and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1205 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



Late-Breaking News Department

Harold Staggs Turns One Hundred!







A bodacious birthday bash was held on Monday, August 26, in honor of our base's perpetually boyish Harold Staggs—now a proud Centurian! Taking place at the skilled nursing facility in San Dimas where the *Parche* submariner is recuperating from a fall, Harold's son Gordon and Gordon's wife were the proud hosts. Cupcakes were (ahem) enjoyed by visiting subvet members of L.A.-Pasadena Base, said celebrants including Ken Dorn, Bill Moak, Dave Vanderveen, Paul Riggs, George Walrath and Dennis Walsh. Everyone's favorite Cupcake—the birthday boy himself—received a formal written birthday declaration from the CEO of his regular senior residence in Monrovia. Sea stories were shared. Fun was had. And ideally, Harold will soon find himself back in fighting trim and out of the facility, kicking butt and taking names once again. ;-)





september weeting Hall at the Anaheim Ven Ven Hall

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 — Dessert

I-R — Main Dish

S-Z — Salad or Vegetable



Sept. Birthdays

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

Gary Wheaton 9/5
Bill "Skippy" Dillon 9/6
Jim Rogers 9/11
Ron Jones 9/14
John Lucio 9/20
Ernie McNeece 9/21
Vanessa Butler9/22
Ron Thompson 9/23
Dennis Yure9/27

Ship's Store



New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!

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



USSVI Logo Patch $(9\% \times 6\%)$

\$11.00 ea.



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch (3% x5)

\$5.00 ea.



Holland Club Member Patch (3x3)

\$6.00 ea.

2025 Calendars Now Available!

See Bill Moak or order by mail from the National Storekeeper. Regular price and shipping not determined by press time.



LOS ANGELES/PASADE

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

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2024 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

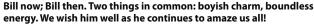
A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our base activities and charitable functions possible:

Ken Dorn • Dennis Bott • Bill Moak • Mike Swanson Sally Moran • Ron Jones • Joe Koch • Greg Paulson

> 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.

Happy 100" BRUHLAY.







Bill Dillon Celebrates His Century This Month! Our 100-Year-Old WWII SubVet Remains Unstoppable—Just Watch Him Go!

When William "Bill" ("Skippy," if you prefer) Dillon arrived on the scene at L.A.-Pasadena Base, we all knew something of a sea change was afoot. This guy, an aging WWII subvet, didn't seemed to know how old he was, and has proceeded ever since to prove it to us. A subvet firebrand in a USS *Sailfish* (SS-192) ball cap, he has been a joyful presence and a lesson to all of us to never give in. He is one dude who's proud of his service—and rightfully so!

Bill enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served until 1947. He qualified on the USS *Sailfish/Squalus* (SS-192) in 1943, so has been a proud Holland Club member for 81 years! He served on a total of four submarines, and was an RM1(SS)—



Wanna autograph, sonny?

E-6—Petty Officer First Class when he mustered out. Bill's claim to fame aboard *Sailfish* was being instrumental in sinking a Japanese aircraft carrier during a raging typhoon. Stephen L. Moore recently wrote and published a book about the experience entitled *Strike of the Sailfish*. Bill will be happy to sign a copy for you!

Bill has been a Life Member of USSVI since 2019; he joined our base upon returning from an Honor Flight. His caretaker, Bob Schieve, brought him to one of our Bldg. 6 meetings at the NWSSB; he (Bob) also signed up on th spot, becoming a Dual Member with his primary: Bonefish Base.

More recent excitment has involved Bill being honored at the Nimitz WWII Museum in Texas during Pearl Harbor Ceremonies. And now he's scheduled to be the Dodgers Hero of the Game on September 6th—the day of his 100th birthday. It doesn't get much better than that! Geez, Bill, with your schedule, how are you gonna find time to fit in a party?

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

SEPTEMBER TOLLING OF THE BOATS







USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went very wrong; she sank at a steep down angle, her bow touching bottom and her stern eventually rising about seventeen feet out of the water. In a dramatic rescue, her exhausted crew all squirmed out of a small hole cut into the exposed hull two days later. Elaborate salvage attempts were ultimately unsuccessful, and *S-5* settled to the bottom, abandoned. No deaths nor serious injuries had been suffered.

USS GRAYLING (SS-209)

Presumed lost on Sept. 9, 1943 of unconfirmed causes near the Tablas Strait during her eighth war patrol. Some evidence suggests she may have been rammed in shallow water west of Luzon, but she may also have gone down as a result of operational error or other factors. She had sunk two enemy ships before never being heard from again. Seventy-seven men were lost, including a U.S. Army Air Force passenger whose presence aboard was only recently discovered.

USS POMPANO (SS-181)

Pompano was lost at some point in September or early October 1943, while conducting her seventh war patrol. Before her loss, she had sent two cargo ships to the bottom. Japanese records indicate a submarine in *Pompano*'s patrol area off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki was destroyed on September 17 by an air and depth charge attack. But the exact cause of *Pompano*'s loss remains uncertain: if not sunk by this air/sea attack, then she likely fell victim to a mine sometime between September 9—when she radioed in a ship sinking—and October 5, when she was set to return to Midway. Her suspected final ship sinking, the *Taiko Maru*, actually took place on September 25, so it's more likely her loss to a mine is the correct theory. *Pampano* went down with seventy-seven men.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on September 25, 1925 when she sank in a collision with the SS *City of Rome*, a British ocean liner, off Block Island, Rhode Island. Thirty-three men perished in the accident.

USS CISCO (SS-290)

Lost on September 28, 1943, during her first war patrol in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao. Seventy-six men were lost.





Ranked: Five Best U.S. Navy Submarines of All Time

The U.S. Navy's submarine fleet comprises various classes, each with unique capabilities. Here's what many experts would argue are the five best U.S. Navy submarines ever.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published July 6, 2024.) by Maya Carlin



Block V Virginia-class submarine.

Meet the 5 Best U.S. Navy Submarines Ever

- Developed during the Cold War, the *Los Angeles*-class fast attack submarines remain a significant part of the Navy's fleet, designed for speed and stealth to counter Soviet missile submarines.
- The *Ohio*-class submarines form the backbone of the Navy's nuclear deterrent, carrying Trident II missiles.
- The *Seawolf* class, intended to succeed the *Los Angeles*-class, boasts impressive weaponry and advanced features, with the USS *Jimmy Carter* being particularly notable for its extended capabilities.
- The *Virginia*-class submarines, with 21 in commission, continue to enhance the Navy's undersea operations, particularly with the advanced Block V variants.
- Looking ahead, the *Columbia*-class submarines promise to set new standards in stealth and firepower, despite current manufacturing delays.

Meet the Los Angeles Class

Developed in the early days of the Cold War, the U.S. Navy's *Los Angeles*-class submarines make up the bulk of the U.S. Navy's 50 fast attack submarines in service today.

The *Los Angeles* ships were designed to counter the Soviet's advancing missile submarines in the late 1960s, and for this reason they were fitted with a range of measures to



enhance everything from their speed to their stealth. Each ship in this series featured a vertical launch missile system. They were designed to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles and Harpoon missiles. Although newer and more advanced submarines have been introduced by the Navy in recent years, the *Los Angeles*-class fast attack submarine remains a highly successful platform for the service.

Meet the Ohio Class

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines form the back-

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Five Best U.S. Submarines Ever

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bone of the U.S. Navy's sea-based nuclear deterrent strategy. The fourteen SSBNs in this class carry roughly 50% of the country's active strategic thermonuclear warheads. Each of these submarines features 20 Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

The Navy previously converted four of these SSBNs into SSGNs following the 1994 Nuclear Posture Review, which determined the U.S. only required fourteen SSBNs to deter Russia post the USSR collapse. The *Ohio-*class SSGNs are still incredible vessels despite their stripped designations, able to carry 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles in addition to a complement of Harpoon missiles.

Meet the Seawolf Class

The U.S. Navy's three *Seawolf*-class ships were introduced to service in the late 1990s to succeed the *Los Angeles* class. The service intended to field twenty-nine of these vessels, but the collapse of the Soviet Union ultimately reduced this number down to three.



Since the *Seawolf* ships are larger and faster than their predecessors, they can carry an impressive weapons load. Specifically, these ships can sport up to 50 UGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles. The third ship in the series—USS *Jimmy Carter*—is perhaps the most advanced. Due to her extended length, USS *Jimmy Carter* also featured a Multi-Mission Platform section which allows Navy SEALs and

remotely operated underwater vehicles to operate from it.

Meet the Virginia Class

There are currently twenty-one *Virginia*-class submarines in commission with the U.S. Navy. The latest Block V *Virginia*-class variant is the most capable in the series, expected to be able to perform seabed warfare operations via a brand new Virginia Payload Module inclusion.

This additional section will also allow these variants to accommodate four new vertical launch tubes. Additionally, the Block V vessels will feature the newest Tomahawk. (See photo on page 7.)

Meet the Columbia Class

The Navy's incoming *Columbia* class is expected to blow competitors out of the water when introduced. While manufacturing delays and logistical issues appear to be pushing back this series' entry date, the *Columbia*-class's unmatched capabilities will certainly be well worth the wait.



Each submarine in this series will feature sixteen missile tubes for launching Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Adversarial vessels will have a tough time detecting these submarines in the water, since the *Columbia* ships will boast cutting-edge acoustic performance according to the service.

Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin.

Russian Sub Photographed by NATO in the Baltic, Newly Surrounded by Alliance Forces

(Reproduced from the Insider Today website - Published July 5, 2024.)

by Ella Sherman and Chris Panella



Russian sub photographed by a NATO P-3 patrol aircraft while sailing in the Baltic Sea. (NATO Maritime Command photo.)

NATO ally's anti-submarine warfare aircraft captured photos of a Russian sub navigating the Baltic Sea last week, highlighting the alliance's continuous efforts to keep track of Russian activity in the undersea domain.

The surveillance photographs, which show the surfaced submarine, were taken around the same time the Russian military conducted submarine exercises in the Baltic Sea, which involved a pair of subs engaging in a torpedo duel.

NATO Maritime Command shared the photos on X and other social media platforms on Wednesday, noting that the Russian sub was photographed by a Portuguese P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, an ASW platform made by Lockheed Martin.

The P-3 Orion anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft was used by the U.S. Navy for decades until it was succeeded by the sophisticated P-8A Poseidon, an advanced aircraft introduced in 2013 and highly regarded as one of the best maritime patrol aircraft in service. Other nations continue to use the P-3s, though.

A P-8 Poseidon operated over the Norwegian Sea as recently as last month, joined by a U.S. Navy nuclear ballistic missile submarine and other vessels and aircraft, including an E6-B Mercury "Doomsday" plane, in what appeared to be an unusual flex amid persistent tensions with Russia.

While it's unclear what Russian sub was documented in these photos, Russia recently conducted a submarine exercise in the Baltic Sea. Two Russian Kilo-class, dieselelectric subs—the *Novorossiysk* and *Dmitrov*—held a training duel involving torpedo fire last week, around the same time the NATO photos were taken.

After wrapping up the duel, the Russian submarines—capable undersea assets known for being relatively quiet, especially the more advanced *Novorossiysk*—went on to

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Russian Kilo-Class Sub Surfaces in the Baltic

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conduct other combat exercises in the Baltic Sea, Russian state media said.

The Baltic Sea, where the drills took place, has seen a major geopolitical shift in recent years with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and Finland and Sweden both joining NATO. Sweden became the newest member in March of 2024.

With eight of the nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea now being NATO members—the only remaining one being Russia—the body of water is sometimes called a "NATO lake," although this term has been criticized for glossing over how strategically important the region is for both NATO allies and Russia alike.

Russian submarines are active far beyond the Baltic Sea and remain an important element of the Russian navy. For instance, the submarine *Kazan* was spotted in Cuba recently during a Russian navy flotilla visit and prior to exercises in the Caribbean. The *Kazan* is one of a class of Russian submarines which have concerned NATO allies for years.



China's Submarines Track U.S. Navy Aircraft Carriers to Practice Sinking Them

The U.S. maintains carrier superiority over adversaries, including China, in fleet size and capabilities. However, China's ability to track U.S. carriers, as seen with a Kilo-class submarine shadowing USS Ronald Reagan in 2015, is concerning. The goal would be to sink those carriers in case war breaks out.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published June 21, 2024.)

by Maya Carlin



American aircraft carrier. (Creative Commons photo.)

- Despite China's advancements, American *Virginia*class submarines and multi-layered defense systems significantly outclass Chinese counterparts.
- This layered defense reduces the likelihood of a successful attack on a U.S. carrier, ensuring that even if tracked, carriers remain well-protected and unlikely to be sunk.

U.S. Aircraft Carrier Superiority: A Look at China's Tracking Capabilities

he U.S. retains carrier superiority over its adversaries, both in the size and capabilities of its fleet. But while China's People's Liberation Army Navy may not currently have a carrier fleet that can compete with the

U.S., it has demonstrated the ability to track American carriers. Indeed, Beijing's ability and its willingness to track the exact locations of U.S. naval carriers is concerning—these powerful warships are not invulnerable to certain sophisticated weapons.

A Chinese Sub Has Tracked a U.S. Carrier Before

Back in 2015, a Chinese submarine closely tracked an American aircraft carrier near the coast of Japan. The Chinese *Kilo*-class fast attack sub shadowed USS *Ronald Reagan* for more than twelve hours in what was considered to be "more than a brief encounter," according to officials.

Beijing claimed that the American vessel was sailing

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Chinese Subs Tracking American Carriers

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in Chinese waters. The incident was reminiscent of an encounter in 2006, when a *Song*-class submarine surfaced undetected within torpedo range of the *Kitty Hawk* carrier.

While more recent Chinese provocations over the South China Sea have involved fighter jets harassing American aircraft, Beijing has been further developing its submarine capabilities in order to track American ships more diligently.

In the past, Chinese submarines were considered to be a generation behind the U.S. in terms of specs and capabilities. They were quite loud, making them easier for U.S. warships to detect. But China has allocated a lot of resources and funds to modernizing its naval assets over the last decade, and its subs could be far more capable now.

American Submariness Remain Superior

Despite this growing threat, American submarines remain superior to their Chinese counterparts.

As explained by Forbes, "If the threat is from undersea warships, the carrier can rely on *Virginia*-class subma-

rines that greatly outclass their Chinese counterparts, plus antisubmarine sensors and rotorcraft deployed on both destroyers and the carrier itself. The architecture of the defensive perimeter dictates that if an enemy penetrates one layer of protection, it will then face another, and another. So even if the adversary can find a carrier in the vastness of the Western Pacific, the likelihood its weapons will reach the carrier and do serious damage is not great. The likelihood the carrier could actually be sunk is minimal, given its design features."

Essentially, even if a Chinese submarine is successful in tracking a U.S. carrier for a period of time, it would not necessarily be able to carry out an actual attack.

Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin.





Kilo-class submarine (Creative Commons photo.)

The U.S. Navy's New *Columbia*-Class Missile Submarine Has a Problem

Maintaining a technologically superior nuclear triad is crucial as U.S. nuclear-armed adversaries grow increasingly hostile. The Ohio-class subs currently form the backbone of America's sea-based nuclear deterrent, set to be replaced by the more advanced Columbia-class submarines in the early 2030s.

(Reproduced from the National Interest website - Published June 24, 2024.)

by Maya Carlin



Artist's conception of new Columbia-class SSBN submarine. (USN illustration.)

- Delivery of the first *Columbia*-class submarine has delayed by 12 to 16 months, primarily due to slower delivery of turbine generators by Northrop Grumman. The *Columbia*-class submarines, the largest and most complex ever built, will feature advanced stealth capabilities and enhanced missile systems.
- Despite rising costs and delays, ensuring the timely deployment of these submarines is vital to maintaining national security...and it presents a challenge.

America's *Columbia*-Class Submarines: A Crucial Upgrade Facing Setbacks

onsidering the increasing hostility of America's nuclear-armed adversaries, maintaining a technologically superior nuclear triad should be a top

priority for policymakers. The ability to strike from land, air, and sea gives the U.S. the capability to respond to any nuclear attack with a barrage of its own nukes.

The U.S. Navy's 1fourteen *Ohio-*class submarines are currently responsible for America's sea-based nuclear deterrent. Upcoming *Columbia-*class ships are designed to replace these aging vessels, and are scheduled to enter service in the early 2030s.

Earlier this year, the Navy revealed that delivery of the first *Columbia-c*lass submarine is now expected to be delayed between twelve and sixteen months. According to *Bloomberg News* and other outlets, delays affect the vessels' bow section and power generators.

The Navy's top civilian asserted in April that one of the

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New Columbia Class Problem: Delays

(concluded from page 14)

most significant drivers of the delays is the slower delivery of a turbine generator constructed by Northrop Grumman. This news was detailed in a 45-day review conducted by Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro.

An Overview of the Columbia Class

Ohio-class submarines are the largest ships of their kind. Columbia-class boats will be even bigger. These vessels will measure 560 feet in length and displace nearly 21,000 tons, making them the largest and most complex submarines in history. The ships' nuclear reactors will not require refueling during their planned lifetime service.

USS *District of Columbia* (SSBN-826) and USS *Wisconsin* (SSBN-827) are the only boats in this class ordered so far, and will be followed by an additional ten submarines. Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding are constructing the ships from start to finish, as they are the only manufacturers in the country with the capacity to build nuclear-powered subs.

Few details about the *Columbia* class are unclassified, but some information has been shared. Each submarine in this class will be fitted with sixteen missile tubes for launching Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles. From boat Nine onward, the remaining submarines will be equipped with an upgraded D5LE2 ballistic missile. *Columbia*-class submarines will boast enhanced acoustic performance and Mk 48 torpedoes. They'll be extremely challenging for adversaries to detect.

What is Hurting the Columbia Class's Prospects

While the *Columbia* class is built for the essential task of managing the Navy's deterrent, the hefty price tag keeps growing. The Navy projected this fall that the lead ship of the class will cost around \$1.7 billion more than projected. The Congressional Budget Office further warned that the rest of the ships will cost roughly \$1.5 billion more than intended. "CBO estimates that total shipbuilding costs would average about \$34 billion to \$36 billion (in 2023 dollars) over the next thirty years, which is about 16% more than Navy estimates. Compared with its estimates for the 2023 plan, CBO's estimates increased by between 5% and 10% in real (inflation-adjusted) terms, depending on the alternative."

These delays and cost increases are concerning, but falling behind the capabilities of increasingly aggressive U.S. adversaries would be a greater worry still. The timely introduction of the *Columbia*-class ships, along with the Navy's

other next-generation systems, is crucial to our nation's defense.

Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin.

Texas Bourbon Now at Test Depth

Sent in by Bill Moak, from, apparently an old shipmate in Texas...

This might make a good gift for a special occasion, or even for the holidays. If you're in the spirit for submarine spirits, test some and find out!

The Chapline distillery in Bulverde, TX is owned by a former submariner. It's a neat little place that has won a number of silver medals and a gold medal for its bourbons.



The bar portion of the place has a submarine corner and a submarine visitor log, which sports probably twenty pages of subvet visitors so far. Check out their product when in the Lone Star State!



Seawolf-Class Sub Surfaces to Tick Off Russians

(concluded from page 1)

the full planned fleet of vessels, the three *Seawolf* ships constructed continue to wow naval experts and scare U.S. adversaries. In fact, the Navy's *Seawolf* boats carry some of the most sophisticated undersea warfare technology ever developed.

Although submarines usually remain silent and stealthy, in order to demonstrate their ability to strike from any corner of the world, the Navy has intentionally surfaced them as a show of force to adversaries. In 2020, the service made public displays of its nuclear submarines in Norway in an effort to deter Russian hostility in the region. On Aug. 21, 2020, USS Seawolf parked off the coast of Tromso to take on new crew members. The U.S. and Norway use this strategic port off the coast of Tromso to keep an eye on Moscow's Northern Fleet. According to senior naval officials, "the U.S. and Norway have a great relationship, and our ability to use facilities in and around Tromso would provide a strategic location for our visits," adding that "It would give us flexibility for not only the U.S. but allied countries to exercise in the High North."

Introducing the Seawolf Class

USS Seawolf, like its two sister ships, was developed late in the Cold War. The Navy required a new sub class capable of countering the USSR's Typhoon (NATO designation) class of ballistic missile submarines. Engineers designed the Seawolf ships to be quieter and faster than their predecessors. The lead ship of the class, USS Seawolf, was ordered in 1989 from the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics. USS Connecticut was commissioned a decade later, followed by USS Jimmy Carter in 2004.

In 2021, *Connecticut* was severely damaged after colliding with a seamount while sailing in the South China Sea. Fortunately, no sailors were killed in the incident, but the submarine has remained out of commission



since the mishap. The Navy expects to return *Connecticut* to service in 2025.

USS *Jimmy Carter* was developed with distinct modifications, making the submarine essentially a new class when compared to its two sister ships. The Navy uniquely designed *Jimmy Carter* for covert surveillance and special operations missions.

According to *Business Insider*, *Jimmy Carter* included "special thrusters fore and aft that allow the sub to remain stationary underwater, as well as a 100-ft hull extension known as the Multi-Mission Platform, which increased its length to 435 feet and its fully submerged displacement 12,158 tons." *Jimmy Carter* can float above undersea communications cables and physically cut into them, which enables the submarine to intercept the data streams running through them.

Basic Specs and Capabilities of the Seawolf Class

The Navy's *Seawolf*-class ships are typically armed with 533mm Mark 48 torpedoes, in addition to Harpoon antiship missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles. A Tercom-Aided Inertial Navigation System guides each missile toward its intended target. While the Tomahawk can be fitted with a nuclear warhead, these submarines rarely carry these types of munitions.

As detailed by *Naval Technology*, "Block III improvements include an improved propulsion system and Navstar global positioning system (GPS) guidance capability. The antiship Tomahawk missile is equipped with inertial guidance and an active radar and anti-radiation homing head. The range is up to 450km."

Could the Navy Surface Its Seawolf-Class Submarines in the Future?

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on, the U.S. and its NATO allies are constantly working to deter additional hostilities in the region. Showcasing the strength and capability of the U.S. submarine fleet via surprise surfacing missions could remind the Kremlin of the consequences of extending the war further.

Maya Carlin, National Security Writer with The National Interest, is an analyst with the Center for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel. She has by-lines in many publications, including The National Interest, Jerusalem Post, and Times of Israel. You can follow her on Twitter: @MayaCarlin.

Hop Sing, Fortune Cookie & Piss Ant

by Bob "Dex" Armstrong

In the movies, you see the scene where all the ladies in the remote jungle village congregate on the banks of the local creek and do the wash by banging it on the rocks—laughing and exchanging gossip.

On Pier 22, that was Hop Sing's laundry truck. Everyone knew Hop Sing was a Colonel in the communist Chinese intelligence community. The name on his truck was WAN-HO CHINESE HAND LAUNDRY... NO TELEPHONE. Yeah, it actually had "No Telephone" painted on the side of what was known as Hop Sing's mobile spy wagon. We called him "Hop Sing the Button Crusher" and his lovely bride was known throughout Squadron Six as "Four-Tooth Fortune Cookie"—or just "The Fortune Cookie." And they had a goofy kid who bummed chewing gum and LifeSavers; we called him "Piss Ant." Hop Sing, Fortune Cookie and Piss Ant: Wan-Ho Hand Laundry... No Telephone.

Hop Sing could bust buttons at a rate that must've required a lug wrench or sledge hammer. The only way your dungaree shirts could survive the Wan-Ho laundry process was to have a seamstress at Bells cut the sleeves off to short-sleeve length; turn your iron-on rate into a cigarette pocket; cut the shirttail off and hem the thing so you didn't have to tuck it in; then sew up the front so it became a pullover. This "smokeboat fashion statement" could make a Master at Arms give birth to a three-toed sloth.

"Heelo, my name not Hop Sing. Submarine mans call me Hop Sing. My name Wan Ho. Also not "No Telephone Ho." Submarine man tell much lie. No serious no time. Always make laugh, make joke. Not funny joke, stupid joke. Submarine man no serious, just always make joke. I say, 'Why submarine man always be much dirty? Tender man always clean.' Submarine man say, 'Tender man always be lazy. Sleep all time and be much worthless son-uv-bitch. Tender a floating fun house. Nobody work. Dress in clean uniform and go to circus all day. Eat Crackerjack and see surface craft officers do dog tricks.' Submarine man say, 'AS-18 stand for amusement ship for 18-year-old loafers.' *Orion* man say, 'Submarine man all full of shit. Submarine man don't know real truth, ever.'

"Submarine man always call wife 'Fortune Cookie.' Not name Fortune Cookie. One time wife go make phone call to pay phone next to Quonset hut where is all hydraulic oil. She gone far away. No can hear all bad submarine mans. Submarine man say, 'Hop Sing, is true all oriental women have cross-ways vagina?' I say, who say that? Sailor say, 'Encyclopedia Britannica,' whatever is that. Must be problem in South Chinese place—never see such thing.

"One time submarine man say, 'Mr. Chopstick man, you put starch in skivvies one more time, I take you skinny ass and bury you in parking place say "NO PARK, SQUADRON COMMANDER" and me spend eternity look at staff car oil pan.'

(<u>Editor's note</u>: I'm fully aware Dex's stuff is far from politically correct in this day and age. But it still passes the most important test to appear in this publication: it's laugh-out-loud funny. It is of its time. Deal with it.—Jeff)

"Submarine man call little number-one son 'Piss Ant.' Always give Piss Ant chew gum and candy. Also give him sailor hat say PISS ANT on front.

"Mans who ride submarine boats never have two same names in any laundry things. Mans say all names fool Russians think submarine boats have 600 mans. This is lie.

"Submarine mans steal all times. Go to sea. Only mans to steal from each other. All submarine mans crooks."

Hop Sing knew the operating schedule for every boat on the East Coast. This little guy was wired. He could drop little bundles of straight-gauge poop that would have amazed the Chief of Naval Operations.

"No take *Requin* man laundry. Just sit in truck two weeks. *Requin* go sea, make lots ping time."

"Where'd ja hear that, you little sawed-off rice-eater?"

"Wan got sources. Wan in the know. Wan no bullshit, you bet!"

"Wan gahdam chink spy, you bet!"

"Wan no spy. Wan got sources. Wan listen all time. Not all time talk silly bullshit like submarine man."

"Wan a damn communist intelligence man. Wan a commie spy. Wan major pain-in-the-ass butt-red weasel!"

"You dirty, smell-bad submarine man!"

Who knows what Wan was. To us, he was Hop Sing the Button Crusher, married to Fortune Cookie, mother of Piss Ant. You couldn't help but like the little sawed-off sonuvabitch. He was one hundred percent dependable—rain, shine, tornado, major flood or catastrophic quake.

The Button Crusher and his Second Fleet Spywagon & Laundry Truck always showed up at the pier head.

"Hokay, hokay—you get in line and have pay money ready or no get clothes. I got all day. You got morning quarter in thirty minute—I no care. I call ship name, you say 'Yo." I say fie dollah.

You say, 'Here is money.' Me take money, give you laundry. *Requin* no bring laundry no more until you get back from north run."

"Northern run! You better be pullin' my damn chain you little slant-eyed sonuvabitch!"

Keep a zero bubble... $\mathcal{D}ex$.



New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Charles B. McCarthy, Jr. (LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita/Former Life MAL 19068 Shadow Ridge Lane Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763 cell: 714-720-3837 email: cbmatylca@aol.com Qualified on the USS George Bancroft (SSBN-643) in 1966;

served till 1976. Docent on Iowa

Laurie Ann Mabry

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

Kelly Van Wagner

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

Mari-Lynn Lake

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

Roger K. Onaga

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

Brooke Bland Nafarrete

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



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

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







Three shots from last month's base picnic at Dennis Walsh's place—few, but fun!

Eleven-year L.A.-Pasadena Base member Mike Kish here enjoys a surprise 80th birthday party thrown for him back in July by spouse Patty Simeone. We don't imagine Mike is often surprised this way! A neighbor even helped Patty put together a video of his life for the party.

Mike and Patty had moved to a 55+ community in Reno just last year, and relished having their house built to their own specifications. They really love being there so close to the mountains and the snow.

Mike is also scheduled for an Honor Flight in September, and is purchasing a vest in support of the occasion. Our own Marilyn Senior is helping him with the acquisition, seeing to it that the embroidery, patches and whatnots are all correct and placed where they belong—including Mike's shiny new ten-year longevity pin. Congrats on making another trip around the sun, sir!





John P. Holland

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

Holland Club
(75-year members noted with *)
Scott Hultner2024
Stanley O. Westrick 2024
Ronald R. Jones 2023
Gerard A. Krudwig 2022
Gregory M. Paulson 2022
Michael J. Swanson 2022
Ralph J. Hansen 2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr 2021
Larry D. Long 2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr 2021
Edward E. Kushins 2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors 2020
David H. Vanderveen 2019
Dennis Bott2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018
Robert Miller2018
John A. Anderson 2017
Roger C. Dunham, MD 2017
Richard McPherson 2017
Harry "Bill" Moak 2017
Louis A. Myerson 2017
Elliot Rada2017
Ronald G. Wagner2017
Dennis J. Walsh2017
Michael Kish2016
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr 2016
Gary Wheaton2016

Lawrence R. Butler 2015

(concluded next page)



<u>Los Angeles-Pasadena Base</u>

2024 Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

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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. Diumenti	2009
David Whittlesey	2009
Dennis A. Yure	2009
Armen Bagdasarian	2008
Paul A. Riggs	2008
Rex L. Shields	2008
Francis R. Traser	2006
Ronald K. Thompson	2004
James Rogers	2003
*James E. Carter	1999
*William F. Long	1999
*Kenneth E. Chunn	1998
*Patrick Zilliacus	1994
*William J. Dillon	1993
*Harold Staggs	1992



E-Board Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2024

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted on the morning of Friday, August 16, 2024.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Ray Teare, Base Vice Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Secretary
- Mike Swanson, Treasurer
- Bill Moak, COB

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the meeting to order online via Zoom at 1640 hours with a quorum present. Minutes of both July 2024 meetings were reviewed with no revisions requested. Ray Teare moved to approve and accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Bill Moak and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Mike Swanson

The Treasurer's Report as of August 16, 2024 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Mike Swanson.

Checking	\$21,030.70
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$0.00
Total	\$21,080.70

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$40.00
Expenses:	\$186.00

There were no questions nor corrections needed. Bill Moak moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Ray Teare and passed unanimously.

Memorial Update:

It was noted that given the summer heat, the Memorial grounds are looking a bit rough.

Dave Vanderveen is still working with the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station leadership regarding the installation of the bricks from our Memorial Brick Program.

Membership Update:

We have three WWII members who will be turning 100 this year: Harold Staggs on August 26th, Bill Dillon on September 6th, and Former President Jimmy Carter in October.

We are so fortunate to still have three WWII subvets as members of our local base. Patrick Zilliacus, our youngest WWII member, just turned 98 in May of this year.

Bill Moak will bring cards to our next meeting for base members to sign.

(concluded on next page)

New Towed Array Motors Needed for *Virginia* Class

(Reproduced from the Naval Technology website published June 3, 2024.)

by John Hill

The U.S. Navy has ordered new thin-lined towed array motor assemblies for its *Virginia-*class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine fleet.

L3 Technologies was selected as a sole-source supplier to deliver these subcomponents to the Navy by August 2026 in a stand-alone contract worth \$20m according to the U.S. Dept. of Defense.

The submarine's "towed array sonar" system comprise a collection of sound sensors that straddle behind the boat along a thin line. Its detachment from the boat means that the submarine's noise will not interfere with its detection of other sounds beneath the surface.

Notably, this latest order for 22 towed array motor assemblies matches the same number of *Virginia* boats the Navy has commissioned so far.

In mid-May, the Dept. of the Navy (DoN) laid bare its ambition to deliver an "historic level of throughput" in submarine construction after years of underperformance—which was met with healthy scepticism by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

At the moment, the industry is already struggling to deliver just 1.2 boats per year.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Upcoming Elections:

Here's the lineup:

Base Commander
Vice Commander
Secretary
Treasurer
COB
Dave Vanderveen (Final Term)
Ray Teare
Darin Detwiler (Second Term)
Susan Bolton (New)
Bill Moak

Directors:

Dennis Bott (Memorial) (3 year term)
Ken Dorn 1 year left of 3-year term
Chuck Senior 2 years left of 3-year term

Western Regional Roundup, 2025:

We have already received approximately \$2550.00 in donations. Multiple fundraising efforts are underway, most not amounting to any donations. These efforts will continue toward the goal of raising \$10,000.

Bill Moak is going to explore a lapel pin as opposed to a patch for the swag bag. A company to support this effort will be found.

New Business:

The National USSVI Elections window is closing soon.

The Good of the Order:

Our Base Officer Induction lunch will be held October 19. We're exploring the idea of holding it at Radiance Brewery.

There being no further business, Bill Moak motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Mike Swanson and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1705 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI





CORVINA

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

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

SEALION

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

