



May 2026
VOL MMXXVI Issue 03

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



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



Gold Country Base Annual Barbecue and Picnic

A huge success and a great turnout. As usual the games, the Taekwondo, The great food all were part of the shared enjoyment by our future warriors, the Sea Cadets.

Head Cook Mike Goble with his right hand Alonzo Brewster made sure their were enough Dogs and Burgers to feed the hungry crowd.



Inside

- Page 2- Commander's Corner
- Page 3- Base Chaplin
- Page 4- Base & National Officers
- Page 5- Lost Boats - May
- Page 6-7- May eBoard Meeting Minutes
- Page 8- Birthdays, Lighter Side,
- Page 9- Booster Club, Vets Information
- Page 10- Gold Country Upcoming Events
- Page 11- USSVI National News
- Page 12- Publishing Information



Now Hear This!

**May 23, 2026 Bass Pro Memorial Day 0900—
1400 5472 Crossing Dr. Rockland, CA**

**May 25, 2026 Mather Memorial Day 1000
10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA**

**June 9, 2026 First Call to Morning Chow 0930
Dennys Restaurant 1000 N. Sunrise, Roseville, CA**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates

We had great weather this year for our annual picnic for our members and the many Sea Cadets. A big thank you to Nick Sadowy and his Taekwondo demonstration team. Their skills in high-energy performance showcasing martial arts through acrobatic tricks, high flying board breaks, choreographed combat and many synchronized forms were entertaining. The California Highway Patrol was present to share information handouts and answer many questions from our honored Sea Cadet guests. Of course, they put on an impressive honor guard display as always. Plenty of Hamburgers and Hot Dogs along with many tasty desserts were consumed by our honored Sea Cadets. I really enjoyed watching the kids run and play and it made this old submarine sailor feel a little younger for a couple of hours. The Sea Cadets are so polite and respectful but still enjoy being a kid.



We have a busy next couple of months coming up and I have listed our planned activities below:

Bass Pro Day – Saturday May 23 – 9am to 2 pm

Memorial Service at Mather VA Hospital– Monday May 25 – 10 am

4th of July Parade in Lincoln – Saturday 4th of July

Security support for Rotary event - Friday - September 18

Manning support for Rotary Fireworks booth - June 28th to July 4th

California Capital Airshow - Saturday and Sunday - October 10th and 11th.

Further details will be shared as we receive them.

God Bless You All!!

Next Meeting – June 27, 2026

Les Jamison - Base Commander

Glod Country Base Chaplain



Motivation

Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.

Philippians 3:13 I Paul press on to reach the end of race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.



Blessings Howard Grover Base Chaplain.



**On Eternal Patrol
USS SCORPION (SSN 589)**

Lost 22 May 1968
All 99 Crew Members Lost



Rest in Peace Silent Warriors

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club
(407) 509-7814

basecommaner@goldcountrybase.org



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
SubVet Check-in Chair
Mark Elftmann
Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 625
(916) 243-9265
mark_elf@me.com



Base Secretary
Diana Clay
Associate Member

(916) 832-0936
dianac5353@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Bill Sugnet
Qualified 1989
USS Augusta SSN 710

(916) 934-9277
me@billsugnet.com



Chief of the Boat (COB)
Gene Ratto
Qualified 1978

Uss Abraham Lincoln
SSBN 602
(279) 600-9400
gene_ratto1@comcast.net



Base Chaplain
Howard Grover
Qualified 1963 USS
Spikefish SS 404
Life Member
Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Bill Barron
Qualified 1970
USS Haddock SSN 621
Holland Club
(530) 863-0987

willy621@yahoo.com



Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member
Holland Club

(916) 600-1425
sacsubvet65@gmail.com



Holland Club
Commander
Base Historian
Lenard Lee
Qualified 1961
USS Salmon SS 573

Life Member—Holland Club
(510) 928-8500 len@trawlers.com



Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller
Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 354-1008
beowaweman319@gmail.com



Guest Speakers
Coordinator
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay
Qualified 1965

USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Parade Float Manager
John Kelly
Qualified 1976
USS Pogy SSN 647
Life Member

(916) 989-8500
thebark@gmail.com



Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland
U.S. Army
Associate Member

(530) 613-6729
wentlandn2014@gmail.com



SubVet Support
Group Commander
Penny Jamison
Associate Member

(352) 598-9611
pjamison1050@gmail.com



First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator
Harold Fisher
Qualified 1965

USS Medregal AGSS 480
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



Web Master
Events Coordinator
Ed McCarthy
Qualified 1983USS
Bergall SSN 667
Life Member

(916) 995-5196
eddie105@yahoo.com



USSVI Western District 5
Commander
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club

(916) 600-1425
sacsubvet65@gmail.com



USSVI Western
Region Director
Pete Juhos
Qualified 1980
USS Bergall SSN 667
Life Member

(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com

Lost Boats

May

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk the USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.



by



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



USS Squalus (SS-192)

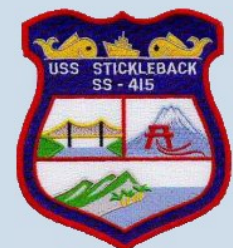
On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later



Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.

USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE EBOARD MINUTES ZOOM MEETING: May 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 9:00 am. By Commander Les Jamison.
No base meeting this month as we are going to Bass Pro with the float.

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Les had Howard open with a prayer for our military overseas.

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

No report

SECRETARY: Diana Clay

No report

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto

No report

TREASURER: Bill Sugnet

(The books are in balance. Any base member can request a report from the Base Treasurer via email.)

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Sugnet

We have 89 members. (Confirmed with National Database)

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will start to send a monthly newsletter instead of every other month. This will afford the chance for more members to keep up to date and be more consistent. This will also shorten the amount of pages in the newsletter.

Brick laying ceremony is intended for October 13, 2026, which is the Navy birthday. There will still be a ceremony on Memorial Day for the bricks that are already in place and to celebrate Memorial Day. Barry is no longer in charge of the Western Region Roundup as his term is completed.

The WRR was a great success and had amazing attendance. Irene Davis of the Bremerton, WA base, was a guest speaker with a fantastic program. Tim Carlisle video taped her presentation. There was also a wonderful presentation from the Alzheimer Association. He is looking forward to being a participant next year instead of in charge.

He was very disappointed that no one put in for any national awards this year. He would like to see greater participation in submitting award recommendations.

There are scholarships available @ \$2,000 for any student that would like to request it. The scholarship award can also be applied towards Trade Schools and Apprentice Schools. We need to see that our grandchildren or others take advantage of this.

Nominations for Base Commander will be in September. Les has decided not to run again. So, we need to keep in mind who would be interested in this position.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller

No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Howard called Jack and Pat as they have been ill. They appreciated the call.

He also called Harold Fischer. Calls are appreciated.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron

No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

No report

HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee

No report

HOLLAND CLUB: Lenard Lee

No report



(continued on next page)

WEB-MASTER: [Ed McCarthy](#)

No Report

STOREKEEPER: [Jerry Wentland](#)

There are still some calendars, hats and ties available.

Calendars are in @ \$5 discounted price

Sale on additional supplies.

Rain jackets are available to order if wanted. (cost about \$55)

If interested in yellow base cap, contact Jerry for price.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: [Ed McCarthy](#)

Saturday, May 23 is the Bass Pro event with the float beginning at 9:00am to 2:00pm. John Kelley will bring the float.

Memorial Day, May 25 is the brick laying ceremony at Mather VA. Time is 10:00 am. This is for the existing bricks. They would still like a presence of our base members. We will bring our float to show our support. Lenard Lee will bring the float.

July 4th parade will be in Lincoln again this year. Meet at the Burger King at 9:00 am

Sacramento Air Show will be October 10 and 11, 2026. We will have the base float and members present.

Veteran's Day parade will be in West Sacramento, November 11, 2026.

Pearl Harbor commemoration will be December 7, 2026 with guest speaker Tim Carlisle.

Ed has the certificate of insurance for the upcoming events.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: [Chad Clay](#)

For the June meeting, we will have a Sea Cadet member to speak to us about his experience as a Sea Cadet.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Security duty for the Rotary club, we will provide 5-6 people to help with security.

Rotary Fireworks display will need some members to help at the booth. Available slots will be announced. Location is in the Winco parking lot in Folsom.

Penny brought up that we need to start making plans for our Holiday party so we can make reservations early. Barry brought up that we should consider making it a lunch rather than a dinner as many of our members do not drive at night. We should also make more emphasis on the Awards that we present during the holiday party, such as the Tim Spooner Award.

Ed and Diana will work on the re-wording of the by-laws for submission to the District Commander.

First Call to Morning Chow: [6/9/2026 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA](#)

E-board Zoom meeting: [June 20, 2026 at 9:00 am](#)

Next Base Meeting: [June 27, 2026, potluck @12:00 and meeting @1:00pm](#)

Meeting adjournment:

Chief of the Boat surfaced @11:00am

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

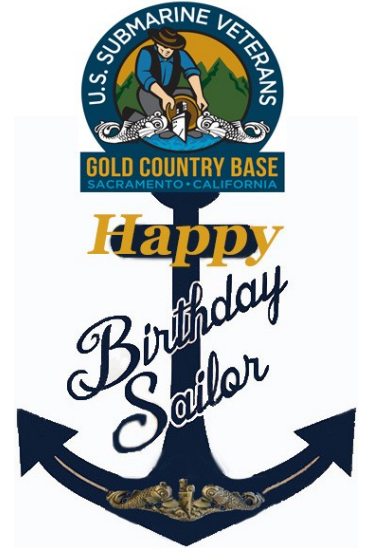
Birthdays

MAY

Burna Jamieson Marian Slayton

John Kelly Jim MacLean

Sean Wright De Brewster



On The Lighter Side





Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Bill Barron Alonzo Brewster Ken Earls**

Mark Elftmann Harold Fisher**

*Burna Jamieson * Les Jamison**

Penny Jamison Pete Juhos Lenard Lee*

Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau* James MacLean**

John Mannix Tom Moniz* Harry Pagett*

Joe Ryan Nick Sadowy* William Sugnet**

Barry Wyatt Multi-Year Donors*

Booster Fund Support Needed

Gold Country Base has always taken pride in honoring our heritage, supporting our shipmates, and keeping our traditions alive. To continue doing that, we need your help.

Over the past several years, our operating costs have steadily increased. Routine expenses such as maintenance for our submarine float, rental of tables and chairs for our December 7th ceremony, and supplies for our annual base picnic have all gone up. In 2024, we also took on a new recurring cost — \$1,200 per year to rent our meeting facility — an expense we absorbed to ensure we have a reliable, comfortable space to gather.

At the same time, donations to our Booster Fund have declined. The Booster Fund is what keeps our base running. It fills the gap between rising costs and our limited annual income. Without it, we simply cannot sustain the events, traditions, and community presence that define Gold Country Base.

If you are able, please consider making a Booster Fund contribution. Every donation — large or small — directly supports our mission and helps ensure we can continue honoring the legacy of the submarine service.



SACRAMENTO — The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) celebrates the enactment of Senate Bill 694, legislation designed to protect California veterans from predatory “claims sharks” — unaccredited individuals who exploit veterans seeking help accessing the benefits they earned through service.

For California's veteran community, access to reliable, accredited assistance remains essential when navigating the VA disability benefits process. SB 694 reinforces standards that support transparency, accountability, and confidence while helping ensure veterans can pursue the benefits they've earned without unnecessary risk.

“SB 694 is a critical step in protecting veterans and their families from bad actors who prey on trust,” said CalVet Secretary Lindsey Sin. “This bill stops false promises, illegal fees, coercive contracts, and demands for sensitive federal login information. We're grateful to the legislators who championed this effort and to Governor Newsom for standing with California's veterans.”

CalVet Secretary Lindsey Sin

About Senate Bill 694

SB 694 directly targets abusive practices used by claims sharks by:

- Prohibiting unaccredited individuals from providing veterans benefits claims assistance.
- Banning anyone from requesting or using a veteran's federal login credentials.
- Enforcing clear limits on fees, aligned with what VA-accredited professionals are legally allowed to charge. These protections help close dangerous legal loopholes while reinforcing fair, transparent access to earned benefits

Gold Country News & Events



Bass Pro Memorial Day

Saturday May 23

Assemble 08:30

Event 0930 to 1400

5472 Crossings Dr, Rocklin, CA 95677

Relaxed Parade Uniform Please

(White Shirt and Tie optional)

More information contact: Les Jamison (407) 509-7814



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Northern California Health Care System

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MAY 25TH | 10:00AM

10535 Hospital Way, Mather CA, 95655

Join us in honoring the fallen heroes who gave everything for our freedom. Your presence matters—let us stand together in remembrance and gratitude.

POC: COLLEEN.HANNA@VA.GOV

Honor the brave men and women who answered the call of duty
and made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Be part of the ceremony in person or virtually! Scan QR code to join our live stream:



USSVI National & Regional Events

USSVI 2026
NATIONAL CONVENTION

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
OMNI HOTEL
SEPTEMBER 6-11, 2026

COME JOIN YOUR SHIPMATES
FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN
THIS ANNUAL EVENT!



<https://subvetconvention.org/>



Sailors man the rails during a commissioning ceremony for the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Idaho at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut, on April 25, 2026.

The U.S. Navy commissioned the newest addition to its fleet of nuclear fast-attack submarines during a ceremony Saturday. The service formally welcomed the USS Idaho (SSN 799) to active service at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut, after several years of construction, making it the 26th Virginia-class submarine ready to participate in military operations.



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

Join Us On Facebook
[USSVI-Gold Country Base](#)



“Clear the Baffles” is the official newsletter of the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to the publisher Barry Wyatt at sacsub-vet65@gmail.com or contact me by phone at 916-600-1425

May 2026