



September 2026
VOL MMXXVI Issue 06

Clear The Baffles

USSVI 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

This Months Guest Speaker



Alzheimer" Association
Greater Sacramento
Ingrid Villeda
Program and Community
Engagement Specialist



**Bill Sugnet and Steve Thomas telling Rotary
Club concert attendees—Where To Go!**

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Now Hear This!

Base Meeting—September 26, 2026 Potluck @
12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans
Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom
eBoard Meeting (On Zoom) October 17, 2026
0900 Meet ID: 902 151 4965 Passcode: SubVet
California Capital Air Show October 10 & 11
Mather Airport
First Call to Morning Chow October 13, 2026
0930 Dennys Restaurant 1000 N. Sunrise, Rose-

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, This month we memorialize the lives loss due to the terror attack on September 11, 2001. Take time to discuss that terrible event with your grand children as most are under 25years old and have little knowledge of the history of that very sad day in American history. God Bless the USA!



Good News – we were able to add nearly \$2,700 to base bank account due our base members' participation in assisting manning in the American Legion and Rotary Fireworks booths. Good Job team!

I am pleased to announce that Mike Goble has taken on the role of Kaps4Kids Commander and will looking for team members to re-start that program.

Alonzo Brewster has taken on the role of Entertainment Commander and is gathering survey information from our members to plan upcoming events and outings. Please take time to read his report included in this monthly newsletter.

Please support Mike and Alonzo to help these functions be successful. **Our upcoming events:**

- ♦ California Air Show – October 10 & 11
- ♦ West Sacramento Veteran's Day Parade – November 11.
- ♦ California Capital Airshow - Saturday and Sunday - October 10th and 11th. Further details will be shared as we receive them.
- ♦ Pearl Harbor Memorial event at Discovery Park -- December 7th
- ♦ Holiday First Call and Gift Exchange. Denny's in Roseville -- December 8th
- ♦ Holiday Luncheon at McClellan Officer's Club -- December 19th 11am to 3pm.–

God Bless You All!!

Les Jamison - Base Commander

From Our Chaplain



BENEDICTIONS

This word meaning is "good words" and also means "blessings". So, it comes with an expectation of blessings. Who doesn't want to be blessed?



Here are a couple scriptures that give an example of blessing, Psalm 115:

14-15. May the Lord richly bless both you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Another verse: Psalm 128:5-6. May the Lord continually bless from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May Israel have peace!

Blessings, Howard Grover, Base Chaplain

Hello Gold Country Base. I am excited to have been selected to be your recreation coordinator. As the recreation coordinator my goal is to help us connect with each other. Not just once a month during our meeting, but on a daily basis. While tallying the interest sheets I could see many opportunities for us to connect with each other. Not just when we sit in meetings, but in public venues and in our own homes. The business portion of the August meeting wrapped up about 1:30pm. I anticipate this becoming the norm.



When we have a guest speaker, the meeting should end at 2pm. The remainder of our time will be available for us to compete in fun member bonding activities. We also have many hobbies in common. These hobbies are another way we can connect. Several of us share an interest in the following hobbies. Shooting, Gardening, Reading, Woodworking, Bowling and many more... To be specific, there are seven hobbies that three or more members have in common, and twelve that at least two people have in common. I can clearly see the connection happening. I can see the book readers all reading the same book and sitting together to discuss the book. I already have a book in mind to get us started. I can see us getting together at someone's house to do woodworking projects. From this list of thirty-four hobbies that we have, I can see so many opportunities for us to spend time with each other in the future. I look forward to that future.

Alonzo Brewster

Western Regional Director Pete Juhos

National Convention Report

National Commander (Jon Jaques)

Youngest BOD, qualified in 1980's. Age demographics improving; USSVI alive and continues to thrive. Outreach online is bringing in new ship-mates.

Like a business, I am the CEO; I am responsible to protect the culture, rituals and ceremonies of the submarine force. We are family; everyone has Crazy Uncle Louie. We must remember we're part of the submarine family.

CF Ambassadors: 48 of 175 Bases have filled this role. The CF Ambassador is the POC between the Base and USSV-CF. It's important we have 100% engagement. Bremerton Base Commander Ileene Davis is the CFA Coordinator.

PA for Associate Members to attain Life Membership was approved by the membership in the vote, we need to incorporate details to the Constitution and Bylaws. More information to follow.

National Senior Vice Commander (Tim Carlisle) Budget:

Income vs. Expenses:

A/S is steady except postage. <1000 members receive the electronic copy. More want paper.

Current expenses: \$26K postage.

Life Members contribute to the investment fund; USSVI operates from the dividends / interest generated by this investment

\$27K to Groton Clubhouse for a new bathroom

Every 3 years we pay for director & national officer insurance.

Technology expenses \$45K includes consulting / website upgrades in 2027

Audit Report: Financial Review by the RD's & DCOY. No major issues, recommend Financial PPM update

Transitioning from Quicken to Quick Books online

Future Convention Updates: Ozzie

2027: Reno, NV Grand Sierra Resort; Lake Tahoe; VA City 8/22-27/2027; \$129/night (Sun-Fri)

2028: Norfolk, VA; Hilton Hotel, 8/28 – 9/2 \$130/night; (Mon – Sat)

2029: OPEN: Possibilities: Charleston Base or USSVI hosting a cruise out of Seattle

National Junior Vice Commander (Tom Williams)

Membership: In 2025: 11691 compared to 2026: 11588

Largest loss due to EP; more bases are creating and utilizing FB pages to recruit and stay engaged.

BC should understand the needs of their members; broadcast events prior to via email; retention needs improvement. Every Base needs to download and read the Public Relations, Media, & Recruitment Guide

Monetary Incentive Program is not growing. Monetary award \$30 for each new member recruited beyond 10% of membership levels.



National Secretary (Dave Farrugia)

Two new Bases: Appalachian Base (39 members strong & growing), Low Country Base

National Treasurer (John 'Sid' Sidlovsky)

Rust Insurance costs are rising. BOD authorized changing contribution level from \$25/base to ranking by Class Size like awards. Most took advantage of pro-rated rate of \$25 out to 2030.

EOY: Need help to get them in on time by March 1st. Last EOY was received at the end of May.

THERE IS NO REASON TO BE LATE. All you need is the final Dec bank statement. Technology is here to stay. NT will create a fillable PDF form instead of an excel sheet.

National and Bases (combined) each have \$1.2M, we own the Groton Building free and clear; \$0 debt.

NO accepts Base payments (Dues & Rust) via Zelle. Enter Base Name in Comments line and Invoice #. Base to National will appear as USSVI to USSVI.

Help the NO to keep the books clean and accountable for incoming funds

Central Region Director (Rick Mitchell):

New Scouting program manual

Social media presence; FB Group, Page, Instagram | PR team needs help with committee members

Northeast Regional Director (Jeff Walsh)

USS IDAHO commissioning had 307 SubVets present; SubVet vest is a great recruiting tool

Southeast Regional Director (Ken Nichols / Fernando Borga)

8 years as SERD; started a new base in South Carolina; 20 Bases in FL; AL has 1

Western Region Director (Pete Juhos)

WRR 2026 – Las Vegas, NV hosted by Base 51

Western Region Roundup 2027 – Westminster, CO April 15-18, 2027, at the Westminster Marriott; Co-Hosted by Rocky Mountain and Southern Colorado Bases of WD2

Western Region Roundup 2028 – Portland, OR – Hosted by the Blueback Base of WD4. Date and hotel to be determined.

District Commander Of the Year (Mike Bost)

Elections: 1st online; Participation Rate jumped from 7-9% average to 23% regular member

Incumbents are re-elected; PA: Associate Members become Life Members – PASS

Election Buddy will be used for DC elections in 2027

District / Base voting statistics will be available

District Commander Of the Year 2026-27: CD1 Eli Dale Moses

NEW BUSINESS

Elected Officer / new DCOY were sworn in

Technology Update:

Received \$300K in online payments for the 2026 convention USSVI (voting) BOD and NOM will get USSVI.org email addresses (@ussvi.org)

Expanding Technology Team - Need Help Desk, Coders

256 bug reports – 98% completed

In Development: Convention attendance 3-ring binders will be replaced by Chromebooks

Large number of Shipmates have not logged into the new website. Click 'Forgot Password'

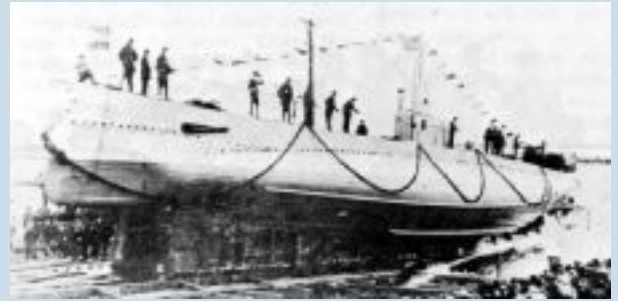
USSV-CF Report: 80 USSV-CF Scholarships at \$2,500 = \$200K Blue Forge Association – 140K new trade school opportunities. www.BuildSubmarines.com

Lost Boats

September

USS S-5 (SS-110)

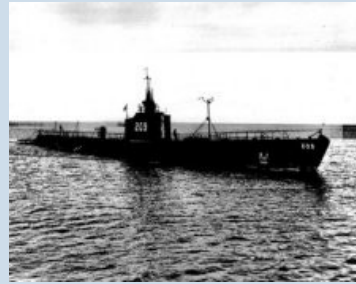
Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.



S-

USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.



USS Pompano (SS-181)

Pompano was sunk with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. On Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.



USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.



Gold Country Base Officers



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Qualified 1969
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SubVet Check-in Chair
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Lenard Lee
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USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE E-BOARD MEETING MINUTES: September 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 10:00 am by Commander Les Jamison.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave invocation and prayer for our men and women in the Gulf as their service is extended.

ATTENDEES: Les Jamison, Ed McCarthy, Barry Wyatt, Howard Grover, Mike Goble, Bill Barron, John Kelly, Jerry Wentland, Diana Clay, Pete Juhos, Steve Nelson, Gil Miller, Penny Jamison

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison Nominations for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in September.

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. (2 unresolved with National)PAO / NEWS-

LETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Western Region Roundup in 2027 will be in Denver. 2028 is TBD.

Brick laying ceremony plans are in process as there is a new director at the VA. They are working on the decision for who will be laying the bricks and such. It is intended for April 2027. Input in newsletter requested. He would like to publish this next week. He would like a basic bio of the new members.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller -No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Barron -No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

Sea Cadets would like training in firefighting. Les will look into that.

HOLLAND CLUB: Lenard Lee -No report.

HISTORIAN: Lenard Lee -No report

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy -No report

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Jerry did inventory and will order calendars for next year. Rain jackets are available to order if wanted. (cost about \$55) If interested in yellow base cap, contact Jerry for price.

KEEPER OF THE BOAT: John Kelly -The float is ready to roll.

(continued on next page)

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Air Show is on October 10 & 11. Ed has a sign-up for attending the airshow. He is checking on the equipment needed to take with us. We need someone to pick up the float. Ed can return it. Veteran's Day parade will be in West Sacramento. After the parade there will be complimentary food for all the attendees. December 7 event is in the works. it is on a Monday. December 8 is our breakfast and gift exchange.

December holiday event is at lunchtime at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday. After discussion, the cost will be \$75 per person. We still want to have a discussion regarding the price.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

September speaker was referred by John Kelly. She will discuss the process of handling veterans with Alzheimer's. Sea Cadet speaker anticipated a meeting for a future.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

National convention for 2027 is in Reno at Grand Sierra Resort, 8/22-27/2027. 2028 is in Grand Rapids, MI. New national website is up and running and looks great.

The event at the Rotary Club was a success. Everyone had a great time. They said thanks to all who participated in helping the event go smoothly. Gene was a big help.

Pete shared that you can go to NAV source website to get pictures of submarines.

Good of the Order / Communications:

Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer will be in October. September will be the nominations. Some members are interested in collecting our cans and plastics for recycling and add it to our treasury. Les is going to make sure it is okay with the Hall. Penny shared that you can order submarine shirts at boldshirts.com

OLD BUSINESS:

SUBVET SUPPORT GROUP: Penny Jamison

December holiday event is at lunchtime at the Officers Club. December 19, from 11:00 – 3:00. Saturday

First Call to Morning Chow: 10/13/2026 9:30 am Denny's Restaurant, 122 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

E-board Zoom meeting: October 17, 2026, at 9:00 am

Next Base Meeting: October 24, 2026 noon for potluck lunch and meeting at 1:00

Meeting adjournment:

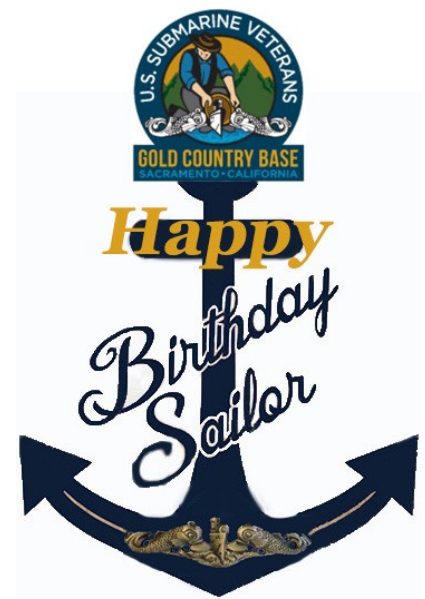
Chief of the Boat surfaced @ 10:55 am

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

Birthdays

September

No Birthdays This Month



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* Jerry Bowers*

Alonzo Brewster* Anita Bronner*

Chad & Diana Clay* Dusty Clark

Ken Earls* Mark Elftmann* Mike Goble

Dennis Hill Bill Hunt* Jack Everett

Howard Grover* Burna Jamieson*

Les & Penny Jamison* Pete Juhos*

John Kelly* Lenard Lee Alvin Lehman*

Matt Lettau* James MacLean*

Tom Moniz* Harry Pagett Roger Paul*

Gene Ratto* Joe Ryan* William Sugnet*

Steve & Suzanne Thomas Jerry Wentland *

Randall Wolley Barry Wyatt*

*** Multi-Year Donors**



VA awards California more than \$110 million in grant funding for infrastructure upgrades to state-operated Veteran nursing home.

MARTINEZ, Calif. – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced it has awarded the state of California more than \$110 million in grant funding to assist with infrastructure upgrade projects at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville.

The grant will help California construct a new 240-bed building at the facility in Yountville – one of eight Veterans' Homes in the state, and the largest in the country.

“VA’s ongoing support of State Veterans Homes reaffirms our commitment to providing Veterans at all stages of life with the care and dignity they have earned,” said VA Under Secretary for Health John Bartrum. “These funds will support much needed upgrades to California’s 142-year-old facility and help ensure the comfort and safety of its residents.”

The Veterans Home of California-Yountville is one of 172 state-operated domiciliary and nursing homes across all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Gold Country News & Events



John Kelley installs new travel signs on the USS Gold Country our parade float.



Watch Out for Scam Emails

If an email seems suspicious, pause before you act, do not open it. Scammers may pretend to be someone you know. Check the sender's full email address. If you are unsure whether the message is genuine, call the sender using a number you already know—not one in the email .

How to spot a scam

Scam messages often create urgency, promise something too good to be true, or use a distressing story to pressure you into acting quickly. Spelling mistakes can be a clue, but a polished message can also be fraudulent.

Emails claiming to be "secure messages" from USSVI National HQ officers are scams. Do not click their links or open their attachments. Mark the messages as spam or phishing, then delete them.

Want more information on how to keep you safe shoot me an e-mail or give me a call.

Ed McCarthy , Web Master



USSVI National & Regional News



USSVI
Western Region
Roundup
A Gathering of Submariners
April 15 - 18, 2027
Denver Marriott Westminster
Denver, Colorado
Hosted By
USSVI Rocky Mountain Base
USSVI Southern Colorado Base
www.wrroundup.com

Registration Opening Soon

Registration will open soon for the USSVI Western Region Roundup scheduled for April 15 – 18 2027 at the Denver Marriott Westminster in Denver and hosted by USSVI Rocky Mountain Base and the USSVI Southern Colorado Base. The preparation for this year's event has been under way since last May, and the committee is looking forward to continuing the tradition of fellowship, camaraderie, and sharing enjoyable times together.

Please Save the Date.

As always, the goal of the Roundup is to provide a way for all Submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment.

<https://wrroundup.com/>

National Base Activity Report Results

Data Point	2026 Volume	2025 Volume
Public Events	1322	1226
Civic Support Events	897	810
Recognition & Awards	783	754
Monetary Contributions	227	172

Shipmate's Story of Intrest

My nephew, LTJG Seth Evenhoe, was awarded his wings at a pinning ceremony held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Lake Tahoe on August 22, 2026 during Tailhook '26. Following the ceremony he will report to F-18 fighter school at Naval Station Norfolk. I am very proud of him and his accomplishments to date, and the awesomeness yet to come.

As part of my congratulations I reminded him there are more planes at the bottom of the ocean than submarines in the sky, come home safe. The table adjacent to mine at the event had enough brass that I thought under its weight the building was shifting on its foundation. The CNO, a Marine Corp Commandant and six more-2-and-3-star admirals rounded it out. While the event MC reminded all those being winged, they are part of special extended family he called out my nephew for having 37 family members in attendance!



Ed McCarthy, Events Coordinator



WW II Submarine News

USS Silversides (SS-236) is finally out of the water, and the bill tells the story. The Gato-class submarine was lifted onto the blocks at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, on 22 July 2026, her first dry-docking since July 1954, a gap of 72 years. Boats like her are meant to come out every 15 to 20 years, so she has gone roughly three times too long, and it shows. Because most of a submarine's structure sits below the waterline, the museum could only check her hull twice a year with divers, and decades of invasive mussels hid much of the steel. Now crews will scrape her clean, blast her down to bare metal, run ultrasonic tests to find where the plating has quietly worn thin, cut out and replace the weak steel, and finish her in modern coatings built to last 25 to 30 years. The work runs about \$3.5 million and roughly three months, with about \$750,000 from a National Park Service Save America's Treasures grant, some \$2 million from private donors, and the museum still closing the gap.

The boat earning that money is one of the great submarines of the Pacific war. Commissioned on 15 December 1941, just eight days after Pearl Harbor, Silversides ran 14 war patrols, sank a tally of Japanese ships that ranks her among the most successful American submarines of the conflict, destroyed 16 sea mines, and rescued two downed airmen. She came home with 12 battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation, later served as a training boat in Chicago, and has been a museum in Muskegon, Michigan, since 1987. If the schedule holds, she will be towed back across Lake Michigan and home to her berth by mid-October



US Navy Submarine News

Former USS Daniel Webster (SSBN-626 / MTS-626) Lafayette-class ballistic missile submarine/moored training ship being towed into Norfolk, Virginia by the Gary Chouest on her final transit to be dismantled -
August 21, 2026





2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

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August 2026

"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