



July 2017
VOL MMXVII Issue 07

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

July Guest Speaker



SGT 1st Class Julie Baumgartner

Volunteers of America
Veteran Service Center,
Employment and Training
Director and newly elected
Commander Veterans
Affiliated Council Sacramento
and Vicinity.



Full House for our annual Gold Country Base Charter Day BBQ. Lunch was prepared by our COB Tom Rumsey and his mess cook striker Warren Wiederhoeft and much appreciated by the crew.

Carmichael 4th of July Parade



(Crew Members from left to right) Less Jamison, Warren Wiederhoeft, Regy Bronner, Bill Johnson, Harry Beach, Barry Wyatt, Pat Noone, Tom Rumsey & Tim Spoon

Next Meeting —July 22, 2017

Potluck @ 1200 hrs Meeting Starts 1300 hrs
Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday July 17 @0930 Denny's 7900 College
Town Drive (Hwy 50 & Howe)

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Now Hear This!

Military & Veterans
Appreciation Day

July 20, 2017

California
STATE FAIR
JULY 14 - 30, 2017

50
YEARS
OF
CAL EXPO

Officers Country

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates,



The annual Gold Country Base Charter Day BBQ was a great success with many members brining their families and enjoying the day. Our COB, Tom Rumsey, did all the heavy lifting with help from Warren Wiederhoeft on the cooking duties. I was late due to a funeral commitment but Vice Commander Regy Bronner took care of business leaving nothing for me to do but share a few sea stories with my shipmates. The permanent Dry Dock for our Submarine float is almost complete thanks to the hard work of John Kelley and his crew (see the pictures on page 9), Jerry Wheatland our base welder has the boat back at his house for some finishing touches and then she can be moved to her new home. None of this would have been possible without the generous donation from the membership. Because of you we will have a permanent, secure place to store the USS Gold Country when she's not out on patrol. BRAVO ZULU to all.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Goat Locker



The COB is on Basket Leave this month.



Tom Rumsey, MMCS(SSUSN RET. Chief of the Boat)



Bill Hunt, Secretary

**Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes.
June 24, 2017
No official meeting was conducted during our annual Gold Country Base Charter Day BBQ.**

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



Can God Use an Army Veteran? A true Story from Acts 10. continued.

Day 2 while Peter is wondering about his vision of the sheet the Spirit said to him, "Behold, 3 men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down to the men and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them" Peter goes to the gate and invites the men in for lunch. The next morning (Day 3) they leave together with 6 other men who are with Peter. So with 10 men altogether it took them until 3 PM (Day 4) to arrive at Cornelius' house. Now Peter was very well-known because of the many miraculous healings including raising Tabitha from the dead. So Cornelius had invited his family and friends to come and meet this famous person. When Cornelius meets Peter at the door he falls down and worships him. Peter lifts Cornelius up and tells him; "Stand up I myself am also a man." *To Be Continued*



Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



Shipmates, your friendly Storekeeper has a variety of glass ware for summer time enjoyment. I have shot glasses, wine glasses, and 16 oz beer glasses. Each has the USSVI logo on them.

Stop by the stores table and check them out. There are only a couple of each type on display and I have more in storage.

Also check out the caps with a new design.

Don't forget that I can special order a cap with any boat name on it. Order this meeting and you shall have it by the next meeting.



**Tim Spoon
Treasurer, Storekeeper & Membership**

Lost Boats

July

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance.



After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.



USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.



USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.



July Birthdays

Don Carter Jim Morris

Dennis Henderson

Chuck McKinley Roger Paul

Robert Robinson

Bill Sooman Harvey Canter



Gold Country Base Officers

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On The Lighter Side



A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men. The ship steamed out of

the channel and soon the port was far behind. The ensign's efficiency has been remarkable. In fact, the deck was a buzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a destroyer under way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when another seaman approached him with a message from the captain. He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the unwritten rules. Make sure the Captain is aboard before getting under way!"



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

Thank you

Charles Almgren* Ed Alves* David Bates
Harry Beach* Anita Bronner* Regy Bronner*
Steve Buchroeder* Sam Burks Harvey Canter*
Don Carman* Dennis Cline* Jim D'orso
Winford Ellis Frank Elliott* Harold Fisher*
Janet Fisher Ernie Frost Howard Grover*
Sudsey Husaon Bill Hunt* Tony Jacobs*
Leslie Jamison* Bill Johnson Pete Juhos*
Richard Larson* Alvin Lehman* Steve Loomis*
James Maclean* Jim Mahon* Chuck McKinley*
Jerry Mitchell* George Miyao* Pat Noone*
Paul Osborn* Gene Ratto Rick Reineman*
Max Rhinehart* Robert Robinson Ron Rule*
Bernie & Evelyn Ritscher* Tom Rumsey*
Joe Ryan* Lon Schmidt* Howard Shaw
Tim Spoon* Fred Stiesberg* Warren Wiederhoeft*
Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams* Ernie Woods*
Barry Wyatt*

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information



The responsibilities and challenges of caring for a loved one can place significant stress on you as a caregiver. This stress can impact you physically, mentally and emotionally. It can also lead to serious health problems over time.

Paying closer attention to your feelings and health with regular self-care can strengthen your caregiving relationship and help you to find moments of restoration, all the while, making you an overall better caregiver.

With VA's Caregiver Support Line assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.

Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.



News From National

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Orlando, Florida September 1 – September 6, 2017

USSVI Central Florida Base is your host for the 2017 USSVI National Convention

2017 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Florida Rosen Shingle Creek

Hotel and Convention Registration can be done on line "www.ussviconvention.org/2017/" Click on the "Hotel Registration" or "Convention Registration"



We are rapidly approaching the cut-off date for making hotel reservations at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. To date we have met only 54% of our Room Night Guarantee and as of the 27th of July we will have to reduce the Room Block or be liable for several thousands of dollars in unoccupied rooms. We will also face losses in our food and beverage guarantees should we not meet the minimums contracted.

If you are planning on attending the convention, we need you to make both your hotel and convention reservations as soon as possible in order to get the convention rate of \$105 a night and still be able to make reservations for the luncheons and/or banquets. If we have to reduce the contractual blocks and minimums to reduce our potential losses, before you make your reservations, you will face much higher room rates and the probability of sold out events. As of June 26th only 122 members and 78 guests have been registered. With nearly 13,000 members this is very low and jeopardizes not only this convention, but conventions in the future since convention hotels look at the actual room nights used in previous conventions before they quote a rate. The fewer attending the higher the room rates for future conventions.

I know we all like to wait until the last minute to make reservations and commit our money for a convention and I am one of the worst offenders, however, the time to make your reservations is now. We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and having a great convention.

John Markiewicz

National Commander

The Plight of USS Ling (SS-297), a World War

II-era submarine owned by the Submarine Memorial Association which runs the New Jersey Naval Museum in Hackensack, New Jersey. Mired in the muddy bottom of the Hackensack River and damaged by Hurricane Sandy, Ling became inaccessible to the public and sadly, the museum was forced to close in 2012. Without the revenues, the museum generated from admission fees and charitable donations, the Submarine Memorial Association does not have the funds to move her or to re-



store her. Now, not only has the boat fallen into a serious state of disrepair, she is in danger of being evicted from the berth she has occupied since the early 1970s to make room for a large real estate development project. (See NY Times story) https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/12/nyregion/submarine-hackensack-uss-ling.html?_r=0

A GoFundMe page to raise funds to help save and restore USS Ling, <https://www.gofundme.com/uss-ling> has been set up with the hope that Submariners might consider helping with the preservation of this important piece of our submarine heritage and maritime history. All contributions made through the GoFundMe web site **go directly to the Submarine Memorial Association** – a qualified 501(c) (3) organization – **and all donations are fully tax-deductible.** Those who do not wish to contribute financially can still help by sharing the Ling's story with family, friends and colleagues via email or on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media. **Pride Runs Deep!**



MILITARY & VETERAN APPRECIATION DAY

Thursday, July 20, 2017

For a day revolved around immense appreciation, we invite active duty, reserve and veterans from all branches of the military to enjoy FREE Fair admission. Military and civilian guests will enjoy a MRE cookoff, a showcase of real military vehicles, representatives from military organizations and other special entertainment. The whole day is focused on paying gratitude and celebrating the individuals and organizations that keep our country safe.

Sacramento Area Veterans: Sacramento County has selected a County Veterans Service Officer. Hannah Williamson is an experienced CVSO who was previously the CVSO of Butte County, where she did an outstanding job

HANNAH WILLIAMSON served in the US Army from 1997-2003. She began on Active Duty, spending time at Fort Lewis, WA and Fort Hood, TX, before transitioning to the Army Reserve. Hannah attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Army Commendation Medal. She left service while attending California State University Chico, where she founded and was President of the Student Veteran Organization — aimed at helping other veterans on campus to achieve personal educational goals and providing assistance with education benefits. She also created LocalVeteranNetwork.com, an information and social networking website for veterans and their families. In 2016, Hannah was chosen as the Veteran of the Year by Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City).



Sacramento County Veterans Services Office 2007 19th Street, Sacramento CA 95818 PH: 916-874-6811 FAX: 916-874-8868 Monday-Thursday 8:00am- 4:00pm Friday: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Directory of Local County Veterans Service Officers

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11041 American Legion Dr. Jackson, CA 95685
(209) 267-5764

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509 East St. Charles St. San Andreas, CA 95279
(209) 754-6624

EL DORADO County Edward Swanson, CVSO
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PLACER County John Melrose, CVSO
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SAN JOAQUIN County Ron Green, CVSO
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SOLANO County Ted Puntillo, CVSO
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YOLO County Billy P. Wagster, CVSO
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(530) 406-4850

YUBA County Marvin D. King Jr., CVSO
5730 Packard Ave., Ste. 300 Marysville, CA 95901
(530) 749-6710

The Last Ride on the Kamehameha

A Sea Story by Howard Grover

Kam Ride Continued

Lila and I knew we were committed to this adventure when we made airline and hotel reservations in the middle of June. We left on August 6th and returned the 12th. We also helped many others find hotels especially those Navy retirees who didn't know about the military hotel Hale Koa in Waikiki.

I contacted my Hawaiian cousin a Kamehameha school teacher. She was going to be on another island on the 8th. I didn't know she told the officials at the school about the ceremony. So when we arrived at our hotel there were several messages on the phone. One of those messages was from the school saying the Director of the School Board, Ret. Vice Admiral Robert Ki'hune, would be attending. I called the school and asked if the Navy knew about this. She didn't know. My next call was to the Kam and asked if they knew. The answer was yes.

I promised Capt. Holwolf I would bring the checks I had collected for the reunion dinner on the 7th. So that morning we took a bus to the Bowfin. I met on the bus one the Kam ride helpers who had made up name tags for all of us. The rest of the day was mostly talking with most of guys and their wives who were there. Most of the helpers and organizers had dinner at Bubba Gump's that night.

The 8th our driver took us to Pearl at pier C. The first thing I did was take the few invitations and postage I hadn't used to the XO on board. Then to the covered area where the chairs were set up on the pier. I looked at the front row seat tags. Number 1 was Admiral Fargo COMPACFLT, the 2nd was Vice Admiral Robert Ku'hune, the 3rd was COMSUBPAC and several seats down the row was Capt. Dickieson our first Gold Crew CO.

It wasn't long before LT Donohue (PAO) asked me and Ray Binns to follow him. He introduced us to a reporter for Honolulu Star Bulletin. Some of our comments actually got in the next day paper. I was also interviewed by a local TV Station and a Navy interviewer. I was totally unaware that I might be interviewed but because I was so jazzed about being there it went okay. One of our attendees went to the TV stations and got copies of everything they did that day. I still have that VHS tape.

I was at the edge of the crowd before the ceremony when an older gentleman come up to me wearing a Hawaiian shirt and said to me; "Howard, I am Bob Ki'hune". We had short conversation about the Kamehameha School and my cousin whose comments to the school officials brought him to the ceremony. I also showed him my Kamehameha School Patch on my vest. WOW it isn't every day you get to have an Admiral introduce himself to you.

Next time the Ceremony and reception



The Permanent Dry Dock for our Award-winning Submarine Parade Float is almost completed.

The first wall is up



Roof beams nailed down.



Exterior Panels installed



The crew that John Kelly recruited to install the roof; Jim Happs on the tractor, John's Brother-in-Law Chuck Krek and Jimmer Phelan (who also donated the windows) All SMUD retirees. Who said government employees don't know how to work?



Roof's on, Windows are in, Exterior Paint is complete. John said "all we need now is the door and interior paint" The roll-up door has been ordered. John will do the painting the first week of August and the door will be installed on Aug 10th. Bravo Zulu



July 2017 Newsletter

"Clear the Baffles" is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or contact me by phone at (916) 485-6464