



November 2017  
VOL MMXVII Issue 11

# 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."*



(above) A full crew for the Sacramento Veterans Day Parade



(left) Volunteer commissary crew for the Titan Battalion Navy JROTC Drill

**Bernie Ritscher**  
Military burial service at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery



(right) Tim offers our condolence to Bernie's wife Evelyn



Our members turn out to honor Bernie

### Next Meeting—November 25 , 2017

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

### First Call to Morning Chow

**Monday November 13 @0930** Denny's 122 Sunrise Blvd. Roseville

Gold Country Base members preform the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony at Bernie's Celebration of Life in Placerville



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*Now Hear This!*

**7 December Pearl Harbor Remembrance:** 0900 (Rain or Shine) Discovery Park, Sacramento

**11 December Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange** 0930 Brookfield's, Hwy 50 and Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova.

**14 December Holiday Party:** Folsom Veterans Hall, 1300 Forrest Street, Folsom Doors open at 5:00pm Dinner at 6:00

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

### Shipmates

I want to begin by once again thanking our guest speaker for the last meeting Ryan Peterson, Airforce JROTC Instructor, Hiram Johnson HS, Chairman of the Board Capitol City K9.

While many talk about helping Veterans, Ryan's organization is actually doing the job. And making a positive difference in the lives of those who served.

*Ryan and  
his dog  
Charlie*



This is a busy time of year for Sub Vets; since our last base meeting our members have participated in the Titan Battalion Navy JROTC drill Meet and Luther Burbank High School, the Veterans Day parade in downtown Sacramento, Bernie's military burial service at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon and his celebration of life in Placerville. This is an outstanding show of comradery and I want to recognize and say thank you to the fol-

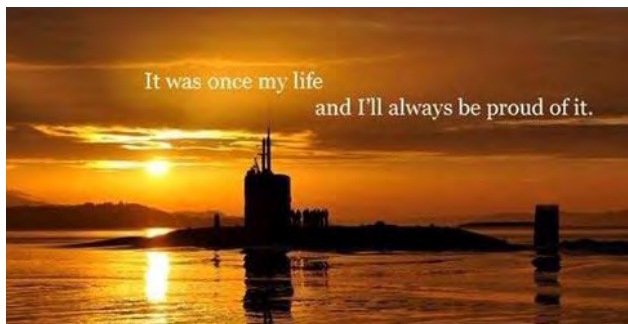


lowing members: Tom Rumsey, Harry Beach, Jerry & Naomi Wentland, Roger Paul, Ed Alves, Harold Fisher, Tim Spoon, Pete Juhos, Bill Hunt, Warren Wiederhoef, Lon Schmidt, Chuck McKinley, Howard Grover, Max shell, Jeff Saenz and Larry Williams.

Last month we also set a new bar as 4 new members were added to our crew, that's the most at one time in my memory and it proves that our variety of membership recruitment efforts are working. (see the new members on page 10)

More fun is just ahead with preparation well under way for our December 7th memorial event at Discovery Park , our Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange at Brookfield's restaurant on Dec 11 and our annual Holliday party and awards on Dec 14 at the Folsom Veterans Hall.

**Barry Wyatt, Base Commander**





# Officers Country

## Shipmates

It is that time of year for membership dues renewal.

I recently mailed out the dues reminders for what you owe. If you are:

a. National Life and Base Life - dues are not required but we offer you the chance to donate to the Base Booster fund. If you are National Life and Holland Club Member ( as of 2017) you are considered a Base Life Member.

This was changed with the last By Laws update and will not be offered to those entering the Holland after 31 December 2017. The new Life Membership dues are listed below.

b. National Life and Base Annual Member - Your dues are \$25 for our Base.

c. National Annual and Base Annual -Your dues are \$25 each for National and Base, \$50 total.

d. Secondary Member to our Base - Your dues are \$25 for Base.

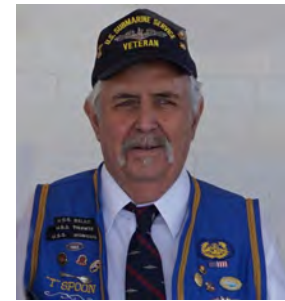
e. Associate Member at our Base - Your dues are \$25 each for National and Base, \$50 total.

Our new Life Membership dues are:

Age 75 + years	\$ 50.00
Age 66 thru 75 years	\$ 75.00
age 56 thru 65 years	\$ 100.00
Age 46 thru 55 years	\$ 125.00
Age thru 45 years	\$ 150.00

You must be a National Life Member to become a Base Life Member.

If you have any questions please ask **Tim Spoon, Membership Chair**



## Jonah the First Submariner

Jonah, a short 4 chapter book which can be read in about 15 minutes. In chapter 1 God says: <sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." Nineveh was is near what is now Mo-

FROM  
OUR  
CHAPLAIN



sul, Iraq which had for many decades had been treating Israel very badly.

Jonah runs from God by catching a ship going to what is now Spain. God is not

done with him. <sup>4</sup>... the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. The Captain and the Crew find out that Jonah is the cause of the storm. Jonah admits he is the cause and tells them: "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me." NKJV

Next time Jonah continued.

**Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain**



**Shipmates, The 2018 USSVI Calendars are here.** Stop by the Store-

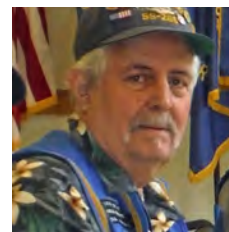
keepers table and get your

early copy to be ready for 2018.

"The theme for this years calendar is Submarine Squadrons of the Pacific Fleet"



Also your friendly Storekeeper has a variety of



glass ware for your 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.

**Tim Spoon  
Treasurer, Storekeeper.**

# Lost Boats

## November

### USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.



### USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.



### USS Scamp (SS-277)

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.



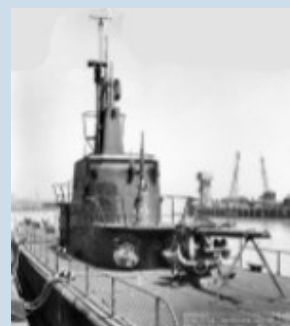
### USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.



### USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential Wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.





## November Birthdays

Bill Anderson Sam Burks

Mike Delleney

George Miyao

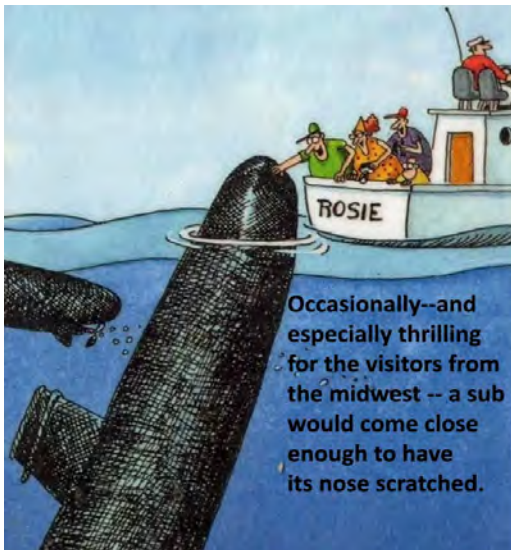
Tom Moniz Tim Spoon

Jerry Wentland

Ernest Frost



## On The Lighter Side



## Gold Country Base Officers

### Base Commander

Barry Wyatt (916) 485-6464  
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

### Vice Commander

Regy Bronner (916) 543-7370  
regybear@aol.com

### Secretary

Bill Hunt (916) 768-8057  
bikerbill@sbcglobal.net

### Treasurer

Tim Spoon (916) 966-3354  
spoon3@aol.com

### Membership, Storekeeper & POC

Tim Spoon (916) 966-3354  
spoon3@aol.com

### Chaplain

Howard Grover (209) 245-4067  
hgrover@jps.net

### Chief of the Boat (COB)

Tom Rumsey (415) 652-3745  
tomrumsey@gmail.com

### Historian

Warren Wiederhoeft (916) 224-7168  
Warrenw599@comcast.net

### Newsletter Editor & PAO

J. Barry Wyatt (916) 485-6464

### Web-Master

Rick Reineman  
rick@reineman.com

### Holland Club Commander

Pat Noone (916) 638-1728  
patgrandpa@yahoo.com

### Eagle Scout Coordinator

Gill Miller (916) 354-1008  
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org

### Awards Chairman

Regy Bronner (916) 543-7370

### Base Photographer

Roger Paul (916) 844-7059  
rapaulplus@msn.com

### Navy JROTC Liaison

Max Schell (619) 208-6622  
max@maxschell.com

### Kaps4Kids Coordinator

Les Jamison  
ljamison3049@gmail.com

### District 5 Commander

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667  
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

### Western Region Director

Robert J. Bissonnette (619) 644-8993



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

### TAX PROPOSAL WOULD REVERSE PROGRESS IN ENSURING ALL CALIFORNIA VETERANS HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME

*November 15, 2017*

Today CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani issued the following statement on the tax proposal in Congress:

"Former service members living in California could end up on the streets if Congress passes its draft tax proposal. This hasty plan would eliminate tax-exempt bonds, which help us fight homelessness and find affordable housing for California veterans.

"Two of our critical housing programs rely on tax-exempt bonds – Proposition 41, which funds affordable housing for homeless vets, and the state's 95-year old CalVet Loan program that makes homeownership possible for veterans who cannot qualify for a private loan. The CalVet Loan program has helped more than 600 veterans and their families secure affordable housing in the past year, and Proposition 41 has helped us place more than 2,000 veterans and their families into stable homes. The careless tax proposal would reverse this progress and exacerbate California's housing crisis. We owe our former service members better than that."

## Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes. October 28, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order @ 1300 by a toll of the bell. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose and new member Matt Lettau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:** Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

**TOLLING THE BELL:** The Lost Boats for the month of October were read by Vice Commander Reggie Bronner and the Chief of the Boat Tom Rumsey tolled the bell once for each Lost Boat with an additional toll for those shipmates on Eternal Patrol and one extra for Bernie Richter.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTION:** There were 19 members and 3 guests in attendance.

### **FORMAL REPORTS:**

**BASE COMMANDER:** Barry Wyatt reported the following: Memorial Service for Bernie Richter will be held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on Nov.6. Event Coordinator position is still open. Need a volunteer to assume the role. Burbank NJROTC Drill Meet will be held on November 4. Snack bar volunteers are needed. The Holiday Party has been relocated to the Veterans Hall on Dec 14. A caterer has been selected. The cost will be \$30/person, \$60/couple. The Base will participate in the Sacramento Veteran's Day parade on Nov 11. Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be at Discovery park on Dec 7.

**VICE COMMANDER:** Reggie Bronner reported the following: We are within the projected budget for the year. Master Mariner candidates are due by the end of October.

**TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP/STORES:** Base Treasurer Tim Spoon reported the following: The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not publicly release financial information in the Newsletter. Any Base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email.

Gold Country Base membership: 111 members in good standing, 7 associate members.

**PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Barry Wyatt reported the following: Member biographies are needed for the Base Newsletter. This is a good way to become familiar with the background of the membership.

**HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR:** Pat Noone was not in attendance. No report.

**EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR:** Gil Miller reported that Joseph Nunes received a Court of Honor officiated by Max Schell.

**CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST:** Chaplain Howard Grover reported that Bernie Richter will be laid to rest on Nov. 6 with a gathering to be held in Placerville later that day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A motion was made to accept the minutes from the October meeting and seconded. The membership voted in favor of approval.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief of the Boat Tom Rumsey asked those in attendance to support the Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Commemoration event.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Ryan Peterson from Capital K9s.

Burbank NJROTC Drill Meet will be held Nov. 4. Snack bar volunteers are needed. Max has the details.

Sacramento Veterans Day parade will be held 11 November.

Pearl Harbor Commemoration will be held Dec, 7 at Discovery Park.

Holiday Party will be held on December 14 at the Vets Hall. Capital Sierra Catering will be providing the meal. \$30/person, \$60/couple.

Guest Mary Griffith won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$65

**First Call to Morning Chow:** 0930 Nov. 13 @ Denny's N. Sunrise Blvd.

**Next Base Meeting:** Nov. 25, 2017

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1408 hrs.



**Bill Hunt, Secretary**

**Submitted by Bill Hunt, Base Secretary**

# News From National

## **2018 is an election year and the following National Officer positions are available:**

**1.National Commander-** Nominees for National Commander must have completed at least two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors by the time they take office as National Commander.

**2.National Senior Vice Commander-** Nominees for Senior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors, and must certify that they have or will develop a working familiarity of the USSVI bookkeeping software.

**3.National Junior Vice Commander -** Nominees for Junior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors.

**4.National Treasurer -** Must be a Regular member in good standing and Nominees for National Treasurer must have some experience in bookkeeping, certify that they have, or will develop a working knowledge of the USSVI approved bookkeeping software, use the USSVI approved software as part of his/her duties as National Treasurer, and cannot change to another software package without the Board of Directors approval.

**5.National Secretary-** Must be a Regular member in good standing.

**6.Regional Director-** Must be a member in good standing of a Base within the Region.

Note: All nominations must be sent to the Nominations Committee Chairman on or before March 1st, 2018. The nomination is accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected. The Nomination Letter includes details of the nominees qualifications in less than one hundred (100) words.

The 2018 Nominations Committee Chairman is IPNC Al Singleman,Jr. e-mail [al@ssbn657.com](mailto:al@ssbn657.com)

### **Shipmates,**

Please get a chest X-ray from your doctor and ask for the CD of the X-ray. Ask them to check to see if you have Pleural Plaques in your lungs. If you do, there is a high probability that you have Asbestosis.

Pleural Plaques and Asbestosis are recognized and compensated by the VA. Additionally, you may qualify for civil compensation and Shipmate T Michael Bircumshaw will be glad to direct you in obtaining both VA money and the civil money available. He has both diseases and knows something about the issue. Neither of these ailments can be treated, so you may as well get the money. Additionally, you may get an indicator on whether or not you have Mesothelioma. That will eventually require a biopsy and is worth the big bucks, and if you have it, you are probably a shorttimer. Contact (email) Michael and get this done, for you, for your family.

**T Michael Bircumshaw**

**USSVI National Commander, 2010-2014**

## **The electronic version of the latest issue of the "American Submariner" magazine is now available through the USSVI.org website.**

Log onto the USSVI.org website and get to the 'Home Page'. On the 'Home Page' click on the second bright blue button along the left edge near the middle of the page to bring up the 'American Submariner' web page. On the 'American Submariner' web page click on the top red button on the left edge of the page to bring up the current (new) issue of the magazine. To make it easier to work with the magazine is broken into two sections and near the top of the current issue web page, in the center of the page there are links to each of the two sections. Clicking on either of these two links will open a new browser tab to display the Adobe (.pdf) version of that half of the magazine.

You can also bring up any back issue (back through 2005) of the "American Submariner" for review by using the buttons along the left edge of the 'American Submariner' web page.

If you are still getting a hard copy the "American Submariner" magazine through the mail and are willing to forego it to see the electronic version of the magazine only, thus saving our organization the postage fee, please send an email to [ASOptOut@ussvi.org](mailto:ASOptOut@ussvi.org) requesting the change.



# Gold Country Base Upcoming Events

**25 November Base Meeting** Potluck @ 1200 hrs Meeting Starts 1300 hrs  
Folsom Veterans Hall, 1300 Forrest Street, Folsom

**7 December Pearl Harbor Remembrance:** Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral Bonnie Potter, USN (ret) the first female physician in the Navy Medical Corps selected for flag rank.

**When:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 0900 (*Rain or Shine*)

**Where:** Discovery Park, Sacramento, CA

**More Information:** Contact Barry, (916) 485-6464 [sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com](mailto:sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com)

**Please Note!** A Parking Pass for admission to the park is required by Sacramento County. If you need additional ones I will email you as many of those as you need.



**11 December Holiday First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange** 0930 Brookfield's, Hwy 50 and Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova. Get in the holiday spirit by playing "Steal a Gift". Bring a wrapped gift worth at least \$10. You will receive a number by blind draw. We then pick the gifts in numerical order with the option to steal one that was picked before your turn to draw. The basic rule is a gift can be stolen only one time.

**14 December Holiday Party:** \$30 per person \$60 per couple Doors open at 5:00pm Dinner at 6:00  
**NOTE!** Because of space we are limited to 54 total attendees if you are planning on attending email or call Tim today ([spoon3@aol.com](mailto:spoon3@aol.com)) (916-966-3354) so your spot is reserve. Payment is due to Tim at our Nov meeting.

Catering by; Capital Sierra Catering

Menu: Tri Tip with mushrooms and caramelized onions or Chicken with Fresh Cranberry Sauce



### Jeff Saenz

Jeff enlisted in the Navy 1985 and Qualified in Submarines on the USS Florida SSBN 728 Gold in 1988. In addition to the Florida he served on USS Benjamin Franklin SSBN 640, USS Nevada SSBN 733, USS Asheville SSN 758 and the USS Simon Lake AS-33 and USS Emory S Land AS-39 in La Maddalena. His shore duty assignments included Submarine Squadron 20 and the Trident Training Facility both in Kings Bay, GA, Submarine Training Facility San Diego, CA, Naval Submarine Repair Facility Groton. He retired in 2005, ETC SS/SW, submarine radioman.



Jeff was married on 07/07/07 to his wife Laurie, who is retired from Sac County Sheriff's Department. He has 2 children, Karlie 30 lives in San Diego, Ryan 27 lives in Grants Pass and a step-son 23, currently serving in the Navy, stationed in Hawaii.



He currently works for PG&E as Senior Electric Operations Specialist for Training and Simulation. Jeff and Laurie and their 3 pit bulls live in Elk Grove. They love to travel in their 5<sup>th</sup> wheel and to travel using one of their time shares. Jeff is a member of Carolina "Q" competition BBQ team.

### Matt Lettau

Matt joined the Navy in the fall of 1990 from his hometown in eastern Washington.

He went to Orlando, Florida where he attended boot camp, nuclear field "A" school as an electrician's mate, and nuclear power school. (note, the Orlando base no longer exists)

Next was nuclear power training unit in Idaho Falls, Idaho. First as a student, and then as staff instructor. He was there from 1992-1994. Then Matt was assigned to the USS Pasadena (SSN-752), home-ported in San Diego. She was the second in the so called "improved 688" class, which had vertical launch tubes and bow planes. Pasadena changed homeport to Pearl Harbor in 1996. Matt qualified in the spring of 1995 and deployed on two West-Pacs and one SouthPac He qualified every watch he could as a nuke EM (up to EWS/EDPO). Matt met and married his wife, Heidi, during the years on the submarine. He decided not to re-up a second time and discharged 1999 as an EM1(SS).

Matt is the R&D Manager at ImagePRO-cessing in Rancho Cordova. He, his wife Heidi and their 2 children live in Orangevale.



### John Mannix

John qualified in 1978 aboard the USS Guitarro (SSN-665), then sailed aboard the USS Gurnard (SSN-662) and USS Permit (SSN-594) He was an STS2 (SS) he discharged in 1982. John lives in Sacramento with his wife Tonya.



### John Armitage

Joined the Navy in 1957 and qualified on the USS Tirante (SS 420) in 1958. John also served on the USS Grenadier (SS 525). He discharged in 1963 as a IC2(SS). John is retired and lives in Citrus Heights.





"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](mailto:sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com) or contact me by phone at (916) 485-6464

## November 2017 Newsletter