



May 2018
VOL MMXVIII Issue 05

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."



First Call to Morning Chow held monthly at restaurants located on a rotating basis to better serve the membership. Great fellowship and maybe a few sea stories.



Next Meeting—May 26 , 2018

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

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday June 11 @ 9:30 Brookfield's Sunrise Ave
and Hwy 50 Rancho Cordova

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Western Region Round Up in Las Vegas.
Gold Country was well represented.



Now Hear This!

Saturday May 26 River Cats Salute to Arm Forces Night

7:05pm Raley Field, West Sacramento, CA

Monday May 28 Memorial Day Folsom Lakeside Memorial

Lawn Cemetery 1201 Forest St. Folsom. Assemble at the Hall at 10am

Saturday June 2 Orangevale Pow Wow Days Parade 0830

(Main Ave, Orangevale, just South of Greenback) (Parade starts at 0900)

Saturday June 2 Land Sea Air Dinner Open@5:00 Dinner

@6:00 Folsom Veterans Hall

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates, This month, as far as the newsletter goes all I can say is better late than never. It has been an extremely busy month for me and I would say I am sorry but I am sure you are getting tired of hearing that. Just prior to last month meeting I, along with Pete, Regy, John, Lon & wives, attended the Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas. Truth is, I hoping for a little more meat on the bone as to information sharing and maybe some workshops on how we can reach out in our communities more effectively. I am sending those thoughts to our Regional Director with hope that some of that be included in next year's agenda.



We have several upcoming events and I am hoping for a good turn out from our membership. The memorial Day event in Folsom on Monday, Pow Wow Days Parade in Orangevale & the Land Sea Air Diner at the hall next Saturday. (see page 7 for more info) We have been well represented at all these events during the last couple of years, more of the same would be great.

Please remember that next month's meeting will be on the 5th Saturday at John Kelly's home 6915 Pecan Ave Orangevale, CA 95662

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 3 or a funny thing happens on the way to prayer.

The apostles Peter and John were going to an afternoon prayer meeting at the temple. Going through the gate they both see a lame man there begging who had been begging there for decades. But this time Peter said: "Look at us." Then Peter said: "Silver or gold I do not have but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them---walking, leaping and praising God. Chapter four reveals the man had been born lame and was over 40 years

old. The man's lameness was healed but also he was able to walk, leap, and jump and had never ever done any of those for over 40 years. This scene brought a great stir in Jerusalem because everybody that had gone through that gate knew he had been lame from birth. Think about that.

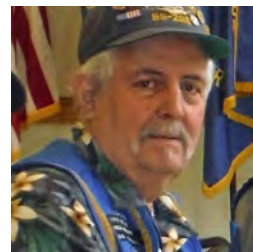
Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



The Bowfin Base in Hawaii has produced these great Submarine shirts.

You can order one direct at <http://bowfin->

base.com (click on Ship's Store tab) or from me and save some of the shipping cost. I will have a sample at the next meeting. If you order direct pay attention to their caution on size and order one size larger than you normally take.



Tim Spoon Membership, Storekeeper.

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 by the USS Hawk-bill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.



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 of 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.



May Birthdays

Al Amaro Jim D'Orso

Larry Davis Jim Foster

John Kelly Arnold Lee

Jim MacLean Paul Reed

Arthur Rutkowski



On The Lighter Side



Gold Country Base Officers

Base Commander

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USSVI Western Region Director

Robert J. Bissonnette (619) 644-8993

Rjbissonnette2011@gmail.com



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

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VA Information

STARS AND STRIPES

WASHINGTON – Lawmakers are resuming an effort that stalled in November to extend health benefits to about 90,000 sailors who served in Vietnam and were potentially exposed to Agent Orange.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced a reworked bill Friday that now includes a method to pay for extending Agent Orange benefits to Vietnam War veterans who were located on ships off the Vietnamese coast, known as "Blue Water" sailors.

Republicans and Democrats on the committee wrangled five months ago over the cost of extending the benefits to these sailors, though they all are seemingly supportive of the measure now.

"Today is a great day for Blue Water Navy veterans," Roe wrote in a prepared statement. "We owe it to the brave veterans who served in the Vietnam War to provide benefits for conditions they may have developed because of exposure to Agent Orange." Department of Veterans Affairs already presumes ground troops who served in Vietnam and others who served in the country's inland waterways were exposed to Agent Orange, a dioxin-laden herbicide that's been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease, heart disease as well as other conditions.

Blue Water veterans have been denied the same benefits. The VA has argued there is not enough evidence to link Agent Orange to sailors' aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers, cruisers and other ships.

GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES 28 April 2018



CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 1300. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Larry Williams led the Pledge.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING OF THE BELL: The lost boats for the month of April were read by the Vice-Commander Reggie Bronner and the Chief of the Boat Tom Rumsey tolled the bell for each Lost Boat; one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 23 members and 13 guests in attendance including 3 new prospective members.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BC/PAO/NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt reported: All Base Members please go online and update your personal information/bios. National Awards deadline is April 30th. Gave recap on the recent Western Regional Roundup. 28 May – Memorial Day; 02 June – Pow Wow in Orangevale and Land Sea & Air Dinner (Barry also gave brief explanation of Land Sea & Air to new members); 04 July – 4th of July Parade in Stockton, 19 July – California State Fair booth, members are encouraged to participate.

TREASURER: Les Jamison reported: 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. Check was issued in the amount of \$800 for 2 tables at the Land Sea & Air event.

MEMBERSHIP/STORES: Tim Spoon reported: Gold Country Base membership: 108 members in good standing including 2 currently joining and 2 prospective. Tim also gave information on the Disabled Veteran Mobile Services that is available to all disabled Veterans.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Nothing to report

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Nothing to report

CHAPLAIN REPORT: Nothing to report

NAVY JROTC LIAISON: Max Schell reported a change in leadership at Luther Burbank High School.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison announced the possibility of expanding KAPS4KIDS program to homeless shelters.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay announced the line up for future speakers.

FOLSOM JVO REPRESENTATIVE: Lee Kitchens announced \$500 given for new floor, date has yet to be decided. 26 May – Veterans appreciation at River Cats game.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the April meeting and seconded. The membership voted in favor of approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:

Ernie Lory (Sr & Veteran Assistance Coordinator) from El Dorado County Fire Safe Council gave a Power-Point presentation on defensible space boundaries and services available to do so around your home.

First Call to Morning Chow: 0930 May 14th @ Denny's

Next Base Meeting: May 26th, 2018

MEETING ADJOURNEMENT: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1423 hrs.

Submitted by Jeffrey Saenz, Base Secretary

LOCAL, BASE NEWS & EVENTS

**SALUTE TO ★★★★★
ARMED FORCES**
MILITARY CHALLENGE COIN PACK
CHALLENGE COIN & TICKET TO THE GAME
SATURDAY, MAY 26
TICKETS @ RIVERCATS.COM

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WWW.ORANGEVALEPOWWOWDAYS.COM
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JUNE 1 - 3

FOLSOM VETERANS HALL 1300 FORREST STREET
Land, Sea & Air
Dinner & Dance
COCKTAILS 5PM • DINNER 6PM • DANCING 7:30
SATURDAY JUNE 2ND
GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE
LIVE MUSIC BY...
UPPER HAND
TABLE OF 10 \$400 OR
\$45

STOCKTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE 2018

WHEN:
Wednesday, July 4th
Parade starts at 10:00am
Where: Downtown Stockton

HOSTED BY:
United Veterans Council
of San Joaquin County.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Linda Vasquez,
Parade Committee Chair
209.361.9422

UnitedVeteransCouncilStockton@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/UnitedVeteransCouncilSJC
www.facebook.com/stocktonfourth.julyparade/
Instagram @unitedveteranscouncil

www.Stockton4thParade.com

CITY OF STOCKTON



Folsom Veterans Hall Memorial Day Service

Muster at the Hall—1000

Service Begins 1100

Lakeside Memorial Lawn 1201 Forrest St Folsom CA

Potluck Lunch following at the Veterans Hall



News From National

NEWS-01: American Submariner Magazine 2nd quarter now on line. The hard copy will start shipping soon.

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 5/15/2018



IMPORTANT! POC's: Make SURE this gets distributed to all your personnel ASAP.

Shipmates:

The current electronic issue of American Submariner is now online. We had to make a temporary change in its location due to data transfer from the old website to the new one. The magazine can be accessed by going to our old website, www.ussvi.org and signing in. then click on the green "Documents" button. Next click on the blue "Organization" button. the current magazine is the fourth posting from the top.

NEWS-01: 2018 USSVI REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Submitted by: Ray Wewers on 5/16/2018

THIS IS THE REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO BE VOTED ON IN THE 2018 USSVI NATIONAL. THEY ARE NOW POSTED ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE (USSVI.ORG) AND THEN "DOCUMENTS" FOLLOWED BY "ORGANIZATION".

Explanation for Combining of Constitution & Bylaw Documents

The Constitution or the Bylaws, or both, are the documents that contain the basic rules and guidelines relating to an organization, as opposed to the parliamentary procedure that it follows. It is now the recommended practice by most government and taxing authorities that these documents be combined into a single instrument. Our Constitution and Bylaws Committee in cooperation with the Board of Directors have spent the last two years diligently working on this combining process. It was authored under the guide lines of: • Robert's Rules of Order, RONR (11th ed.) p 14 II.6-9 • The State of Connecticut • The IRS The intentions were to merge the documents to: • eliminate redundancy • wordiness that exist in the two current documents • update antiquated language and gender specific wording such as was found in the Auxiliary Article • incorporate all previous amendments and revisions • do so without changing the intent of the Articles. In maintaining the original intent of both documents, we eliminated the need to highlight wording changes. Shipmates, this combination has resulted in a simplified, smoother, and easier to understand document that we can use to govern USSVI.



USSVI 2018 Cruise Convention

The 2018 USSVI National Convention will be a Western Caribbean cruise, held aboard the MS NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Oct 21,2018 thru Oct 28,2018. <http://www.ussviconvention.org/2018/>

2018 brings a unique opportunity to combine the 55th annual USSVI National Convention with a fabulous Caribbean cruise! We'll sail on Holland America Line's beautiful *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, round trip out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida!



Christopher Ferguson STSC(SS) ret.

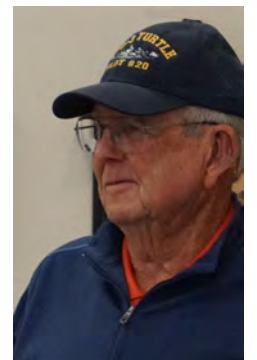
Chris served aboard and Qualified in 1980 on the John C. Calhoun (SSBN-630) (Blue). He also served on the Spadefish (SSN-668) 1983-86

Chris lives with his wife Collette in Valley Springs, CA. Together they successfully own and operate a retail transportation Insurance Agency providing Transportation Insurance to the Commercial trucking community only, and for some select small businesses.



Robert Smith Lt. USN (ret.)

Robert joined the Navy in 1954 and retired as a Mustang Lieutenant in 1977. He Qualified aboard the USS Rock (SS 274) in 1957 and also sailed aboard the Scorpion (SSN 589), Mackerel (SST-1) & Dolphin (AGSS-555). Robert was on the Commissioning Crew Of the USS Turtle (DSV-3). He lives in Pilot Hill, CA.

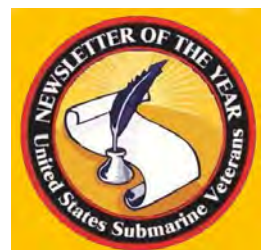


Michael Goble

Mike Joined the Navy in 1966 and served to 1973 leaving the Navy as a EM1 He Qualified aboard the Abraham Lincoln (SSBN 602) in 1968 and also sailed aboard the USS Tullibee (SSN 597). He lives in Citrus Heights with his wife Anne Marie.



May 2018 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