



April 2020
VOL MMXX 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



The Crew of the Gold Country Sub Vet Check-In OP



Les Jamison



Mark Eftmann



Tom Rumsey



Larry Williams



Chad Clay



Barry Wyatt

A few weeks ago, under the leadership of Mark, the "Check-in Crew" placed a phone call to every member with a phone. The effort was a great success and will continue. We thought you would enjoy putting a picture to the face of the members who were on the other end of the phone.

**Next Meeting— May
"Pending Sea Trials"
First Call to Morning Chow— May
"Submerged"**

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We Remember - We Honor



Now Hear This!

30 April Deadline for nominations for all USSVI National Awards (see page 8)

OFFICER'S COUNTRY

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates— My promise was to get the newsletter out before the end of the month, well, here it is better late than never. Even though we can't meet face to face, your shipmates continue to work together to ensure base business is handed while we are submerged. The March eBoard meeting was conducted with a conference call and the minutes of that



meeting are posted on pages 6 & 7. Our April Base Meeting was conducted last Saturday via Zoom online. I am sure that the late notice resulted in a lower participation than we hoped for but, with the guidance of our web guru Nick Sadowy we will get the notice out earlier for May and as he did for this meeting Nick will stand by to provide help to anyone who needs it. The most important function of the month occurred a few weeks ago with a team of your shipmate getting together to reach

out to all members by phone to do a check-in. Under the guidance of the OP director Mark Elftmann we were all given a list of names which we sent back to him with comments after completing our calls. The program was a great success with the results bringing all of us who participated a whole new batch of sea stories. Our goal is to continue the program monthly. Bravo Zulu to all who participate. Tomorrow is the deadline to submit a nomination for a National Award for a shipmate who has shown outstanding service (page 11). Vice-Commander Les Jamison is standing by to provide help if you need it. On a personal note I want to let all of you know that you are not alone as we move through this crisis. If you need anything food, supplies, a friendly voice on the phone let one of us know. Our phone numbers and email addresses are on page 4 of the Newsletter. Also please keep our District Commander and shipmate Pete Juhos in your thoughts and prayers as he moves forward with his critical medical issues.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Sermon on the Mount

Judging Others

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



Just two small verses that get to me every time I read them. They are Matthew 7:1& 2 and they say: ***"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."***

If you are anything like me it is easy to judge others. But because of pride or just plain lack of correct information about that person or thing you're judging can be totally wrong. It will be measured back to you is the part that is scary if you are judging wrongly. Especially with the wrong attitude. But God is not waiting for you to mess up so He can bat you on the head. He loves a contrite heart (Psalm 51:7) so He can forgive you. That is part of the Good News of the Bible.

God's Blessings during this Covid19 plague that you and all your family members will be kept safe.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



Lost Boats

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane planted a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.



USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.



April Birthdays

Charles Almgren

Ed Alves Ken Earls

Harold Fisher John Hintz

Alvin Lehman

Warren Wiederhoeft



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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

Thank you

Charles Almgren* Ed Alves*
Alfonso Amaro Bill Barron Harry Beach*
William Bergstrom* Regy Bronner*
Steven Buchroeder* Harvey Canter*
Chad Clay Dennis Cline* Mike Daly*
Mike Delleney* Ken Earls Mark Elftmann
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Nick Sadowy James Saunders
Robert Smith* Warren Wiederhoeft*
Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams*
Ernie Woods* Barry Wyatt*

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information

VA extends financial, benefits and claims relief to Veterans

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced, April 3, a number of actions to provide Veterans with financial, benefits and claims help amid VA's COVID-19 response.

"We want Veterans to be focused on their health and safety," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "That's why we're taking action to give those with pending debts, claims and appeals greater flexibility during these challenging times."

The financial relief actions include the following until further notice:

Suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department. Suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers.

For benefit debts, Veterans can contact the VA Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to make arrangements.

For health care debts, Veterans can contact the Health Resource Center at 1-888-827-4817 to make arrangements.

The benefits and claims relief actions include giving Veterans the option to submit their paperwork late for the following actions: Perfecting claims, Challenging adverse decisions, Submitting Notices of Disagreement, Submitting Substantive Appeals, Responding to Supplemental Statements of the Case. Veterans requesting claim extensions can simply submit them with any late-filed paperwork and Veterans do not have to proactively request an extension in advance. For added convenience, VA will also accept typed/digital signatures instead of wet signatures on its forms. Those with questions can call 1-800-827-1000.

For Veterans who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and need immediate action on their appeals, use this link for additional information <https://www.bva.va.gov/CustomerService.asp>

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Conference Call - Saturday March 28, 2020 @ 0900

Treasury Report (Nick)

The March 28, 2020 Gold Country Budget Report is available on request. February renewal payments have been sent to the National organization. Two more members paid Gold Country Base, and these will be sent to National. Harold Fisher needs to be added to the list of boosters in Clear the Baffles.



Membership (Nick)

Base active membership is 102. There was 107 active members but 5 were removed for various reasons. The unfortunate passing of Harvey Canter reduces the number to 101

Folsom JVO (Lee) (Mark)

No Folsom JVO Meeting. The Land Sea and Air Dinner in May has been cancelled but may be reschedule for the Fall

Guest Speakers (Chad)

Chad had scheduled Robert Reed, Softball coach at Vista del Lago High School to speak about the experiences his sons had in Afghanistan

Upcoming Events

Western Region Roundup March 22 – 27 (Rescheduled for November) – Barry would like to see this event more represented within USSVI in total rather than tightly controlled as it is now.

Sac Veterans Resource Center Crab Feed March 28 (Canceled)

Submarine Birthday Ball April 18 (Canceled)

American Legion Post 637's annual veterans' appreciation picnic. Rush Park in Citrus Heights May 2 (Canceled) – Barry spoke with the organizers of this event and visited the event site. He feels this would be a good event for Gold Country Base to participate in.

Kaps4Kids (Les)

The next visit has been put on hold with the current conditions in the country. When this can be scheduled the base will be notified

Wellness Check (Mark)

We are working on this to get is program going again. It seems especially important now that people may need support more now than ever before

Social Group (Penny)

Not much new here with everything on hold. Even at what seems an early date for the Holiday Party, plans are being made. The caterer we have used for the last few years may stop the business. However, Les and Penny will check again.

National Awards (Les)

Nick received a call from the editor of the American Submariner Magazine who thought Pat Noone may be the longest qualified submariner at this time. Barry checked with Pat about his qual date, the best date is October 1941.

Deadline to submit nominations is end of April. On page 11 of the March Clear the Baffles Newsletter there is information about the National Awards. In the past Gold Country Base has not done a very good job of getting ourselves recognized using the National Awards. We would like to change that beginning this year. Contact Les or Barry for guidance.

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Conference Call - Saturday March 28, 2020 @ 0900 (continued)

Update Members Infor on National Web site (Barry)

Members are reminded again to update his/her information on the national website. It's an simple process and will make the transfer to a new national site easier. Instructions can be found on page 11 of Clear the Baffles newsletter. Please check again if you have checked since the beginning of this year.

USSVI Update (Pete)

Pete is doing well after his recent surgery

Events 2020 (Currently all events have either been cancelled, reschedule or pending a final decision)

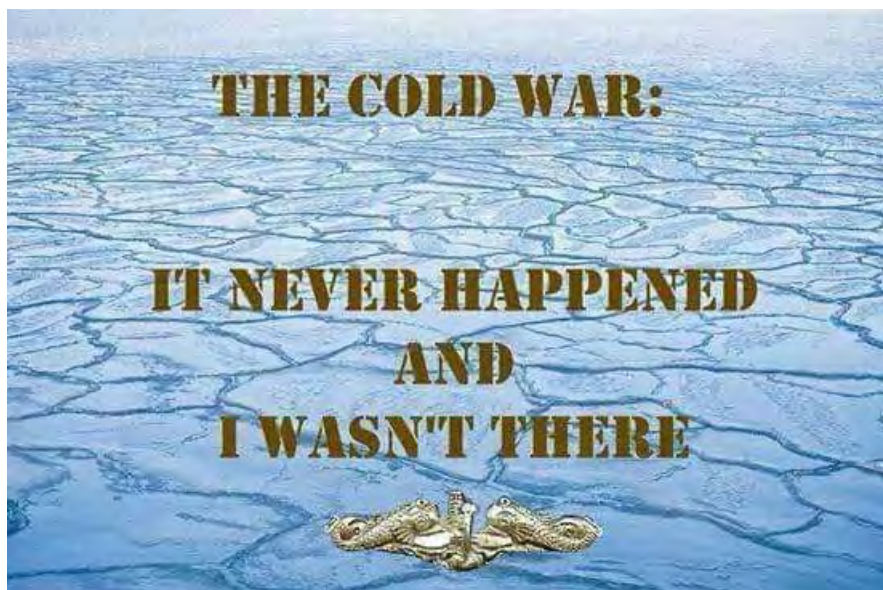
Feb	Heritage Day Mt. Vernon	July	4th of July Parade	
Mar	Kaps4Kids	July	State Fair	
Apr	Eggstravaganza	Aug	National Convention	
May	Land Sea & Air Dinner	Sept	Constitution Day Parade	
May	Memorial Day	Nov	Veterans Day Parade	
June	Orangevale Parade	Dec	Peral Harbor Memorial	
June	Charter Day Pc-Nic	Dec	First Call Gift exchange	Dec Holliday Dinner

13. Good of all.

A motion was made to sponsor 2 boats to receive the American Submariner Magazine in the "Boat Sponsor" program. The motion was moved and seconded and passed without objection. Nick will get this done.

A motion was made that the base purchase a half-page ad in the 2020 National Convention Program. The motion was moved and seconded and passed without objection.

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary



USSVI National News



2020 USSVI National Convention —Tucson, AZ

August 23 – August 30, 2020

Welcome to Tucson, Shipmates!

Your Hosts Tucson Base and Perch Base

<https://ussviconvention.org/2020/>

Final Decision Pending

Nominations for National Awards

Deadline for Submission is Tomorrow

The US Submarine Veteran's National Award Program recognizes members or bases whose contributions to the organization or their local community stand out. Any USSVI member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing (or entity such as a Base, where appropriate and stated in the Award description).

The Manual is posted on the USSVI web site, (www.ussvi.org) under the Awards tab.

Please review the Manual, with special notice to the requirements for each Award. Submit questions and nominations to:

National Awards Chairman

Harold W (Bill) Scott II hscottss242@gmail.com

or mail to:

Harold W (Bill) Scott II

901 Busleigh Castle Way



The USSVI National Awards

Joe Negri Award (Submarine Veteran of the Year)*

Robert Link National Commander's Award

District Commander of the Year Award *

Meritorious Award

Golden Anchor Award

Silver Anchor Award

Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award

Newsletter of the Year Award

* This is a Lifetime Award and will be presented only one time per Shipmate.

If Something Pisses
You off



The Last thing you want is to let a
submariner know it .

Patches

Patches from United States Submarine Bases



Next Month Submarine Squadron's

Stories of Interest

The Navy's Most Vital and Secretive Submarine Base Is In... Idaho?!?

The US Navy's submarine bases are some of the most high-security installations in the world, but one of their most important and shadowy submarine outposts is not located along the ocean, but rather in a lake in landlocked Idaho.

The Navy's Acoustic Research Detachment (ARD) at Bayview, Idaho, which is some 375 miles from the ocean, is where new submarine and surface ship shapes and subsystems are tested in a sub-scale environment that closely mimics the ocean. In other words, ARD Bayview is the Navy's lower-key subsurface Area 51, and massive Lake Pend Oreille is a water based, smaller, and more outsider friendly [Nellis Range Complex](#).

The lake's depth (it's deeper than Loch Ness at about 1150 feet), large size, clear water and quiet conditions provided by steep tree-lined shores and a flat muddy bottom, along with a constant chilly temperature under 100 feet, are all key factors that have made it such an attractive testing location for the US Navy since WWII. Also, the lake stays remarkably calm for its size, allowing for fantastic testing conditions.



The truth of the matter is that this small base has supported every major submarine design development of the last 65 years, from exotic hull shaping and acoustic dampening treatments, to high-end passive and active sonar systems. Much of this testing is done using a large network of extremely sensitive hydrophones placed in key locations on, or tethered to, the bottom of the lake. Since these listening devices can even hear rain on the lake's surface, and in some cases to stay out of sight, the most sensitive testing is done late at night.

Ranges:

The main testing area is called the Intermediate Scale Measuring System (ISMS) which is a 1,000-foot diameter circle of hydrophones mounted on the bottom of the lake or suspended via buoys. This array is paired with an amplified sound projector array and an elaborate control barge on the surface above. Within this massive circle, sub-scale test articles are put through their paces and all the information collected is piped via a fiber-optic network to a ground control and interpreting station over a dozen miles away back at Bayview. Even particular pieces of machinery that are going to be installed on submarines can be tested inside one of the Navy's miniaturized test subs so that its overall acoustic impact can be gauged.

In many ways the ISMS is watery version of the US Navy's [Missile Engagement Test Arena](#) and [Radar Cross-Section measurement facilities](#), as it is a controlled environment created to evaluate a vehicle's signature and sensors in a three dimensional manner.

The Buoyant Vehicle Test Range is used to measure the sound that the forward sections of a submarine design, mainly its bow, makes while moving through the water. This is done by towing the test article out to the range and winching it down to the bottom of the lake and then releasing it. Similar to [an emergency ballast blow on full scale subs](#), this test allows for very detailed acoustic data to be gathered as the submarine is moving through the water just via buoyancy, not its own propulsion or a tow-line. As it nears the surface the sub's dive planes are directed down so that it does not rocket out of the water at such an angle that it flips over or destroys itself. Testing using the BVTR has allowed for better bow sonar acuity and quieter subs, so pretty much two of the most important things when it comes to modern combat submersible design.

The Large Scale Vehicle Range (LSVR) is probably the most exciting of all the Navy's Acoustic Research Detachment's capabilities. This is where the 1/4 scale submarines, which usually closely resemble operational subs of both past and present, go out and run through their paces under their own power. Here many items can be tested, such as a boat's wake signature, new sail designs, propeller noise, new sub-scale propulsion concepts and [propulsor](#) configurations and a design's active handling capabilities.

(Continued on page 11)

Fleet:

(Secretive Submarine Base continued from page 10)

This micro-sized submarine base in the northern tip of Idaho has its own fleet of sub-scale submarines and ships that are purpose-built for range testing. Over the last 50 years or so, various designs have come and gone, some that were more basic canvases for which the USN could paint their techno-dreams, and others that are up to 1/4 scale mock-ups of boats currently, or soon to be in service.

There are two known Large-Scale Vehicles currently in service at ARD Bayview, although some sources say there are at least ten in inventory. The *LSV-1 Kokanee* is a 1/4 scale model of the Seawolf Class of American subs, of which three are currently active within the US Navy. She is 90 feet long and ten feet wide and is packed with batteries, generators, computer guidance systems, telemetry recorders and propulsion equipment. Just because the *Kokanee* is a sub-scale sub does not mean it is a wimp when it comes to speed. She packs 3,000hp!



The second known Large-Scale Vehicle is the \$50M pride and joy of the base known as *LSV-2 Cutthroat*. She is larger than *Kokanee*, more closely resembles the *Virginia Class* of US fast attack submarines and is more advanced in every respect. In fact she is the largest unmanned submarine in the world at 110 feet long. She was designed to be modular in nature and large parts of her hull can be switched in and out for various testing purposes with relative ease. She is driven by a state-of-the-art permanent-magnet, radial-gap electric propulsion motor that can put out up to 6,000hp.

Both of these LSVs are built to run autonomously or semi autonomously and are guided using an advanced autopilot. This allows them to prowl the lake during tests without an umbilical harness attached, which greatly enhances test results during experiments where acoustic interference is a major issue.

In addition to these three, many other smaller scale articles are used on the various ranges for testing, which possibly including models that portray our adversaries submarine designs. A series of elaborate barges that are fitted with cranes and wet-docking areas also tow the test articles out to the ranges and service them while deployed. A portion of these barges are also outfitted with elaborate command and data-collection interfaces to be used with certain tests.

It's All About The Benjamins:

The Navy's Acoustic Research Detachment in Bayview, Idaho is all about saving the Navy billions of dollars in their quest for a more perfect submarine and surface combatant. It is almost fiscally impossible to build one-off prototype submarines anymore as the investment in dollars would be in the billions. ARD does the same testing for what is probably a tiny fraction of the cost, which allows for many more tests and experiments to be done, even with highly exotic concepts that are of a high-risk nature. In the end, this means more rapid innovation of key capabilities that will allow America to keep its edge below and above the seas.



From testing an entirely new hull-form, to evaluating the acoustic signature of a toilet pump, it's bewildering just how many types of tests ARD can perform. Now that they are introducing a surface combatant capability to their unique testing stable it will be interesting to see how much faster new technologies make it to the Navy's surface fleet.

The Navy's testing grounds on Lake Pend Oreille are so valuable and important to the future of America's ability to project power that it has been called "*the US Submarine force's most important body of water.*"

So next time you see a new mast shape on an America nuclear sub, or you hear about some fantastic technology that makes our boats quieter than the rest, you can be almost certain that the innovation in question was plowing the still waters of Lake Pend Oreille with the Acoustic Research Detachment at the helm long before it ever sailed on the high seas.



April 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) 600-1425