



January 2021
VOL MMXXI Issue 01

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Class II 2020
First Runner Up

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



December 7th 2020

Piper Neil Henderson and Bugler Baldwin Wong render honors as the wreath is laid.

**Next Meeting— Gold Country Base
Saturday January 23 9:00 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting — Go to www.zoom.us

Enter—Meeting ID: 967 7103 8356

Enter—Passcode: 747270



Vice-Commander Les Jamison presents Base Secretary Mark Elftmann with the
2020 Tim Spoon Achievement Award
(see the full story on page 13)

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Eternal Patrol

Ernest C. Woods Jr END3(SS)

You have served us well and accepted your final orders.

We salute you. Calm winds and following seas.

(see page 12)



Now Hear This!

It is renewal time for the
Boat Sponsorship Program (BSP)
(see page 23)



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USSVI—Gold Country Base

COMMANDER'S CORNER

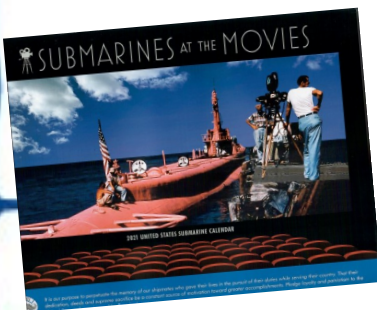


Shipmates— Happy New Year. Our December 7th memorial service was a great success (*see page 15*). Warm weather with a strong wind blowing. Members of our base were joined by several other local veteran group's representatives. Pete did a masterful job with the full edition of Lost Boats a while Les rang out on our ship's bell. The wreath was laid off the back of the Yolo County Sheriff's Patrol boat by Mike Goble as the Sacramento County Sheriffs and the West Sacramento Police patrol boats stood watch. Our Bugler Baldwin Wong played Taps, our Piper Neil Henderson played Amazing Grace and Howard offered a closing prayer. We live-streamed the entire event which you can see on our Facebook site. The event also gave us the opportunity for Vice Commander Jamison to present the 2020 Tim Spoon Achievement award to Mark Elftmann (*see page 13*) and for me to conduct a long overdue Holland Club Induction for Bill Barron. We ended this dreadful year with the loss of our shipmate long time member Ernie Woods. Our prayers go out to his family as well as our gratitude for his service to our nation (*see page 12*). Starting almost immediately after our last meeting Base officers began working on plans for future activities and projects. We all know we are limited by the pandemic but we are moving forward. I hope to have the results of our efforts to present at the February meeting. I attended the monthly district Base Commanders meeting conducted by Pete. This meeting gives me a chance to share ideas and gain advice from the other Base Commanders in our District. One topic of ongoing discussion is the Wester Regional Round-up which has now been officially postponed to October. Les and I took a road trip to West Sacramento to visit and review our proposed Lost Boats Memorial site. One of the things we talked about was, "here we go again," moving forward on a project that we really need more members to be a part of. My plan is to spend some time discussing this at Saturday's Meeting. Hope to see you there.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Shipmates, The submarine annual calendar features "Submarines at the Movies". The cover picture was the pink submarine "Sea Tiger" which was actual boat USS Balao (SS-285). It brought back memories



of our departed shipmate Tim Spoon. This was his boat, and his hat was a hoot, it had embroidered small pink submarine on the side. That hat along with a plaque he had mounted with a pink paint chip framed in his man cave lead numerous sea stories. Many stories about the filming of the movie "Operation Petticoat" along with stories of the crew of the USS Balao's crew drinking with actor Tony Curtis. So, I thought it would be a nice gesture to give the Spoon

family a few (4) calendars to bring back memories of the many stories Tim told about pink submarine. I delivered those calendars this week and they were greatly appreciated. I still find myself sometimes saying "What would Tim do? or where did he file that?"

Les Jamison, Vice Commander



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Chaplain

What is the Millennium? Part 1

Revelation 20 gives the beginning of the Millennium or a thousand years. Verse 2 & 3 says: ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.



Next is the beginnings of the judgements of the dead. Verses 4 & 5 say: ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



Treasurer

Membership

From the Treasurer: Thank you to everyone who paid their annual dues and especially for the Booster contributions.

From the Membership Chair: I'd like to remind everyone to wear their USSVI hats when out in public. One of our biggest challenges is getting out the word about our great organization. Do you need a hat (or bumper sticker, or anything else)? Contact our storekeeper. He is always able to send items directly to your house. Hope to see you all at an in-person event soon!

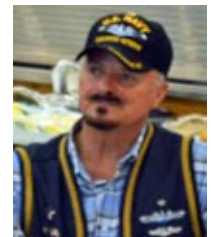


**Nicholas Sadowy
Treasurer, Membership Chair**



Storekeeper

Since I had ordered 25 of the USSVI 2021 "Submarines At The Movies" calendars, I was able to sell all of them by early December. We were fortunate that many of our members who attended the Pearl Harbor Remembrance event on December 7th, were able to pick up their calendars at that event. This saved us the expense of having to mail them in December at the price we had quoted, since the US Postal Service delivery charges had gone up significantly and they were already falling behind on their regular deliveries just before Christmas. As it turned out we needed to order additional calendars to give to Tim Spoon's family, since Tim had served on the USS Balao (SS-285) which was the pink submarine featured on this USSVI 2021 calendar.



"Operation Petticoat" starring Cary Grant and Tony Curtis featured the USS Balao as the "Sea Tiger", the movie's fabled pink submarine, so emblazoned because no colors but white and red lead preservative were available for her paint job. For those of you who have never seen this movie, it was a hilarious and fun take on a submarine going out to war with a group of hitchhiking Army nurses taking up crucial space and working their wily female ways on the crew. I will forever remember that movie as the boat our dear friend and comrade Tim Spoon served on.

I also found out from a Christmas letter from my second cousin in Minnesota that their son Mitch finished his nuclear power schooling recently, and is now in Connecticut for his final officer training and will then be stationed in Kings Bay, Georgia as an officer on a submarine. I'm going to honor Mitch by buying and sending him one of the USSVI 2021 calendars, along with a letter telling him about the USS Balao and about my friend Tim Spoon who served on it. And so it is that we carry on this submarine seafaring tradition as the stories are passed on to other generations. There just happens to be 5 more of the USSVI 2021 calendars remaining unsold from this new batch, if anyone wants to buy one for family or friends.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Roger Paul, Storekeeper



SubVet Check-In

Lenard, Frank, Les, Pete, and Mark made calls to shipmates who we don't see too often, even before the lock downs we are experiencing. However, there have been a few cases of COVID-19 reported. Thankfully, none of these cases were not serious and the people are well now.

Lenard Lee is a new addition to the SubVet Check-In calling team. If anyone else is interested in joining the team, please let me

know so I can get you a list of people to call. The calls do not take a lot of time and are usually very rewarding.

I spoke with Gerry Ellis in Carmel. It turns out he is still in the Navy and has been for 36 years. He is a Rear Admiral and teaches at the Naval War College in Monterey. Some of the people we call can be talkers and at least one of the callers wound up speaking for over an hour with one of the fellows.



Folsom JVO

The purpose of the Joint Veteran's Organization (JVO) to have the different veterans' groups touch base and support each other. Although the Veteran's Hall has been open casually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the VFW national organization has required the local Posts to follow the state lock down requirements. However, groups can meet on a limited basis to allow the to prevent the group from shutting down.. Meetings can be held in a hybrid manner with a limited number of people meeting face to face with remote attendance as well. The Folsom Veterans' Hall has equipment to do the streaming part of the meeting.

The Veterans' Hall will be having a book club in 2021 for those who would like to read and discuss books with a military theme. The group will meet at the Folsom Veterans' Hall four time during the year. Anyone interested in participating can contact me for details.

Mark Elftmann , Base Secretary, SubVet Check-In & Folsom JVO Representative



Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)

I have communicated via email with the Kaiser Children's Ward about Kaps-4-Kids and there are no visitations possible at this time. There is still no telling when in the future they will be allowed. I have been in contact with John Riley the national KapSS 4 KidSS Fund Chairman who has a beautiful article in the 3rd Quarter 2020 edition of the American Submariner Magazine. I got some tips on how to do a visitation via Zoom. As plans unfold I will get the word out to everybody.



**Les Jamison
Kaps4Kids**



Hope everyone had Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

We had our usual Christmas dinner with our daughter Laura and family, we have all lucked out so far RE: the covid19 staying home and only going to Costco & Sams Club shopping for needed replenish items. A tank of gas lasts more than a month HA!

Sure glad we invested in the leaf guards on the gutters, with the leaves from the trees, on our two story home, I gave up on that 20 foot latter stuff, because I figure I won't bounce well any more. We haven't even taken the Motorhome out of storage at all this past year, hope things get back to normal soon. I have a fifty-year class reunion to attend which may or may not happen.

So all, I can say is "Keep Smiling make people wonder what you are up too.

Warren Wiederhoeft, Historian





This month I received 3 story submissions the first from Lenard lee (see page 16) and one from Harold Fisher and one from Howard Grover. Howard also came up with the idea that I should ask the members to send in a story about their first patrol. Please take the time to send in something that you are willing to share. Weather it is about your first patrol, your last patrol or just a good sea story send it in. If you don't like to write give me a call tell me the story and I will write it up for you. **Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor**



Here's a reprinted message from the CNO. I hope you'll find it uplifting and reassuring. Have a great month!

USNavyCNO [@USNavyCNO](https://twitter.com/USNavyCNO)

For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life. <https://go.usa.gov/xAUZc>



Chris Ferguson, Chief of the Boat (COB)



Happy New Year! I think we can all agree that 2020 was very trying. We have lost more than members to the pandemic response. It is to the strength, initiative, and convictions to your Base and your Shipmates that have made WD5 and Organization succeed. The efforts of forging teamwork, training, and diligence at our task to earn our Dolphins qualification, plus the extended deployments submerged made us uniquely qualified to 'endure' the isolation felt by so many due to the physical distancing rules imposed by higher authority. And, we never had the pleasure of making stores loads



underway to Costco or chasing down a fitting, gasket, toilet plunger, or light bulb at Home Depot or Lowe's. I wanted to thank and commend Base Commander Barry Wyatt, and Base Treasurer Nick Sadowy, and all the shipmates who have manned the Treasurer's post (Les Jamison and Tim Spoon [EP]) for their attention to detail and timely submission of annual End of Year reports (EOY) to the USSVI National Treasurer. I received a phone call on Jan 13th from USSVI National Treasurer commending WD5 Bases (and BC / BT) for consistently getting their EOY reports in on time and without errors; and WD5 is the only district in the entire USSVI organization to do so for six consecutive years. It is a demonstration of the commitment and leadership of the Base Officers. BRAVO ZULU!

Pete Juhos , USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander

If at all possible join us for the Zoom meetings. The next one is Jan. 23 at 9:00am see the log-in information on the front page.

Especially if you haven't ever done that. It's a good way to see each other and you really don't even need a computer, you can even join with a phone only. So, hope to see more of you for online fellowship. Hope to see you soon! **Howard Grover**



Gold Country Base Officers



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POC PAO
Newsletter Editor
J. Barry Wyatt

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Life Member Holland Club
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Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison

Qualified 1969
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Holland Club
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Base Secretary
SubVet Check-in Chair
Folsom JVO Rep.

Mark Elftmann

Qualified 1975

USS William H Bates SSN 625



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Web-Master

Nick Sadowy

Qualified 1991
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Base Chaplain
Howard Grover

Qualified 1963
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Life Member
Holland Club

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Base Storekeeper
Roger Paul

Qualified 1972
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Holland Club
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Pat Noone

Qualified 1941
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Warren
Wiederhoeft

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Eagle Scout
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Gil Miller

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Associate Member

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Chow Coordinator
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USSVI National
Commander
Wayne Standerfer

Qualified 1958
USS Trigger SS 564
Life Member Holland Club
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Lost Boats

January

USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 76 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.



USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.



USS S-26 (SS-131)

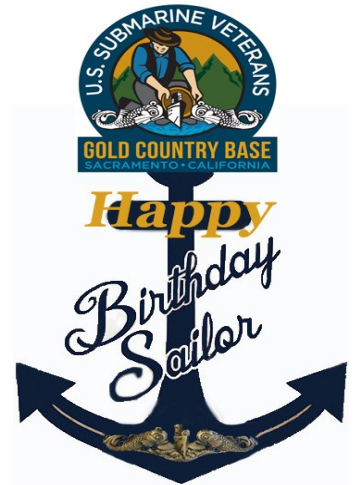
Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.



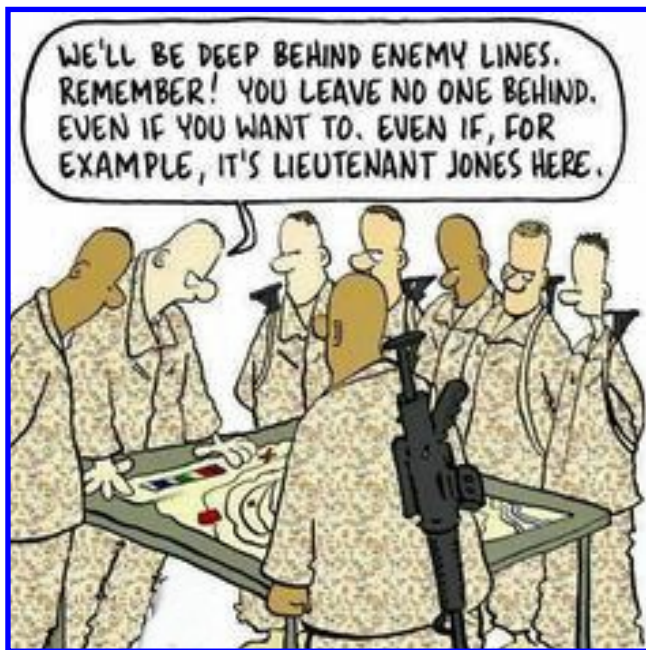
Birthdays January

Tony Jacobs Jerry Mitchell

Tom Rumsey



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
Frank Elliott* Jerry Ellis* Jack Everett*
Christopher Ferguson Harold Fisher*
Janet Fisher* Howard Grover* Bill Hunt*
Leslie Jamison* Pete Juhos* Debbie Juhos
John Kuester* Alvin Lehman*
Matt Lettau James MacLean John Mannix
Chuck McKinley* George Miyao*
Tom Moniz* Paul Osborn* Roger Paul*
Gene Ratto* Max Rhinehart*
Evelyn Ritscher* Ron Rule* Joe Ryan*
Nick Sadowy James Saunders
Robert Smith* Warren Wiederhoeft*
Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams*
Ernie Woods* Barry Wyatt*

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information CALVET

Veteran Updates on COVID-19

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the California Department of Veterans' Affairs (CalVet) continues to fulfill its mission to serve and honor all California veterans by connecting them and their families with their earned benefits through education, advocacy, and direct services.

In an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public and our staff, CalVet has changing the way we provide services.

What You Need to Know

Our services are still available and staff is working hard to continue to serve your needs.

CalVet's Local Interagency Network Coordinators (LINC) bridge the gap between veterans and the federal, state, county, and non-governmental agencies that provide services to our state's nearly 1.6 million veterans. Service members, veterans, and their families seeking benefit information, status updates, claims assistance, and other community-based resources are encouraged to contact their LINC for more information on benefits and services in their area:

Sacramento Valley and North State:

LINC: Cole Wagenaar

NVLINC@calvet.ca.gov

Counties Served: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine, Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Sierra, and Butte counties.

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 26, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 9 AM Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Paul

INVOCATION: Chaplin Howard Grover

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of January were read by the Vice Commander, Les Jamison, and Chris Ferguson tolled the bell for all Lost Boats and in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION:

15 members attended the meeting via Zoom. All the members introduced themselves and said they are doing well Barry made a motion moved to Suspend "The Order of the Day" to make presentation. Les Jamison seconded the motion and there were no objections.

Presentations: A Base Commander's Commendation presented to Harold Fisher in recognition for his exemplary leadership and service to the Gold Country Base as coordinator of the monthly First Call to Morning Chow

A second Base Commander's Commutation went to Nick Sadowy. Almost as soon as Nick joined the Base, he got involved by taking over the Membership chair from Tim Spoon. In April of 2019, Nick took on the responsibility of rebuilding our website and making it more robust and more user friendly and publish that website. In January of this year, he took over the position of Base Treasure from Les.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Barry Wyatt

December 7 was a wonderful success. On our Facebook page, there is, two renditions, one of which is the entire event. Michael Goble rode the Sheriff's boat getting the wreath in the river. Our Piper and our Bugler taps player were there. And we had a decent attendance with several other Veteran's organizations represented.

SubVet check-In Program – Barry checked in with the with several guys and checked in a couple of times with Pat Noone and Regy Bronner. If you are responsible for making some calls, either make the calls or get the list back to Mark so he can get it redistributed

Barry thanked base officers who provided holiday greetings which were distributed to members

VICE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

We had a very good attendance on the December 7: that was very pleasing how well that event went.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Chris Ferguson - No Report

TREASURER Base Treasurer Nick Sadowy

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 the Base Treasurer via email.

MEMBERSHIP: Nick Sadowy

On the USSVI roll there are now 102 members. 72 people so far have paid dues or are life members, 20 members have not. Nick attempted to call and sent numerous emails. Of the 20 Outstanding four are not renewing one of which was adamant that he was upset about the rule change that we made a couple of years ago regarding Holland Club members. One guy said that he's 97. And he is not renewing he just isn't able to participate in anything. Another one, a family member said that, he is in a care home and not doing well. Four of the outstanding have confirmed they are renewing, but have not received their dues yet. 19 members were not able to be contacted so they are in limbo regarding dues. Barry will reached out to Gil and Warren with a suggestion they may be able to contact some of these members to get them to renew their membership.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Newsletter submissions – Barry thanked Lenard for submitting a story for the next newsletter. The more personal stuff we can get, the more war stories we can get, the more bios we can get the better the newsletter will be. Barry can help write an article if anyone has an idea so get the ideas to him so he can help.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Pat Noone

Bill Barron was inducted into the Holland Club at the December 7 event. The base has completed inductions for 2020

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller - Nothing happening currently

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Harold Fisher is hunkering down staying safe. Pete Juhos is doing fine and back to work from home. Pat Noone's age is catching up with him.

(continued on next page)



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 26, 2020 (continued from page 8)

NAVY YOUTH LIASON [Chad Clay](#) - No Report

HISTORIAN [Warren Wiederhoeft](#) - If anyone needs Business cards, contact Warren

WEB-MASTER [Nick Sadowy](#)

Base Facebook page is USSVI-Gold Country Base which is the official base page. There is another page at "Gold Country Submarine Veterans", It is an old page no longer in use.

STOREKEEPER [Roger Paul](#)

25 calendars were ordered and 25 have been sold. There are about four other people who want calendars. Roger will order ten more calendars.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR [Les Jamison](#)

Have not really been in more contact with the hospital as far as a Kaps-4-Kids visitation, that's probably six months at the earliest away.

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM – [Mark Elftmann](#)

Frank, Lenard, Les, Pete, and Mark made calls and provided information about the calls. Ed Alves and James Saunders have not been receiving the newsletter. Mark will print the newsletter and mail it to them.

One of the members that Frank called tested positive for the Corvid-19 virus but did not have a bad case. The member and his family are doing OK

There are some calls attempted resulting in a "disconnected" message. We will try these calls another month in case there were just problems with phone. If the disconnected message remains, these phone numbers will be removed from the lists

EVENTS COORDINATOR [John Mannis](#) - No Report.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR [Chad Clay](#) -No guest speakers are scheduled

FOLSOM JVO REPRESENTATIVE [Mark Elftmann](#)

Attended meeting on December 1 with four other attendees. Folsom VFW holds Zoom talks every other Monday about various topics. All base members are invited to attend. We will investigate sending an email asking members who would like to attend these talks to contact us about being put on a list to receive emails announcing the talks. The Folsom Veteran's Hall has been open on a very limited basis.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER [Pete Juhos](#) - No Report

New Business:

Les made a motion to have four senior officers discuss dues forgiveness issues seconded by Chad. Gil Miller suggested to keep in mind that some members might not agree with changes made to Holland Club members paying base dues. He recommends the committee weigh in on this when discussing the issue. Barry said he does not want to set a precedence of the Base paying dues for disgruntled members. There were no objections to the motion.

Howard made a motion and Chad seconded the motion to donate \$500 to K-9s Helping Heal Veterans Service Dog Training - Sacramento. This is an organization our Bugler for the December 7 Ceremony is part of. He is Deputy Director and Program Administrator for the Sacramento area. They train dogs to be service dogs for veterans with PTSD. The base may consider a further donation in the future.

For the Good of The Order

In January it will be one year since the Eternal Patrol Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Dixon. Tim had a big impact on many members of the organization is greatly missed.

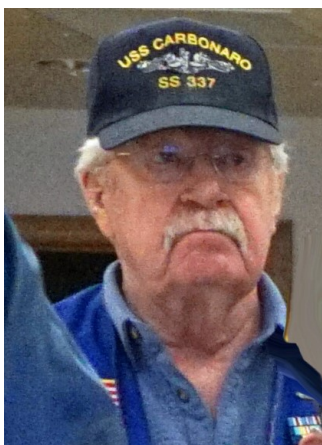
There will be a Base planning meeting for 2021 to discuss Base operations. We have scheduled the meeting for Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 9 AM. Barry will send an email to announce the meeting. The elected officers of the Base will work on an agenda.

Next Base Meeting: Next meeting will be on 1/23/2021

Meeting adjournment:

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ [10:33](#)

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary



Ernest C. Woods Jr END3(SS)
Eternal Patrol December 21, 2020



Ernest Woods joined the Navy in 1949 and was a END3 when he discharged in 1954. He Qualified on the USS Carbonero (SS-337) in 1952. Ernie was a member of Sub Vets WWII and a longtime member of USSVI Gold Country Base.



The Officers and Crew of the Carbonero. Ernie is in the 3rd row back 3 in from the left



Ernie with his Shipmates he is on the right with his hands on his knees



Sub School Graduation Ernie is in the back row 3rd from the right.

Base News

Tim Soon Achievement Award 2020

Base Secretary, Sub Vet Check-in Coordinator, Folsom JVO Representative



Mark Elftmann

Mark joined the Navy in 1972, after EM A school and Nuclear Power School he was assigned to USS William H. Bates SSN 680 where he Qualified in 1975. He completed his enlistment and discharged in 1978. He joined USSVI and the Gold Country Base in June of 2018. Within a month of joining, he volunteered and was appointed to fill the vacancy of Base Secretary, a position he was reelected to at our election last month. Mark takes the responsibilities of that position seriously and produces a thorough accounting of



our monthly meeting minutes. This is a difficult job but one that is extremely valuable as it serves to keep all our members informed on activities and actions of our Base, especially during this time when we are unable to meet in person.

After Les Jameson laid the foundation for our member outreach program, "Sub Vet Check-in" Mark stood up again by taking over supervision of and expanding the program. His solid efforts have proved invaluable and widely appreciated during this time of pandemic.

Mark is a shipmate that continues to support Gold Country Base by his presence and work ethic He is always there when needed, he attends every meeting and every event and has done so since becoming a member. He definitely meets the criteria set for the Tim Spoon Achievement Award and is more than deserving of having his name added to the perennial plaque next to the other honored shipmates that have come before.



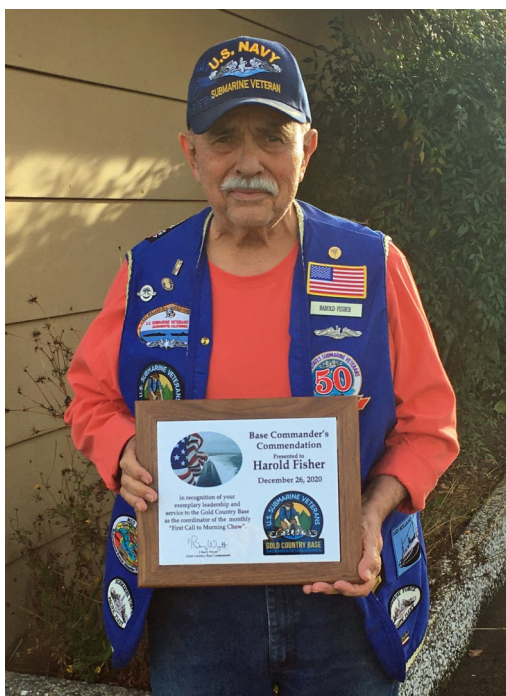
Base News



Nick Sadowy ET1(SS)



Nick joined the Base in May of 2018 and within months he was recruited and mentored by Tim Spoon to take over as Membership Chair a position he assumed fulltime February 2019. In April of 2019, Nick took on the responsibility of rebuilding our website giving it a more modern look. In the process he set up our current email which gives us the ability to keep the membership informed with out the threat of our system being hacked. In addition to his role as Membership and Webmaster Nick was elected as Base Treasure in October 2019. It is with deep appreciation for all his service to the Gold Country Base and it's members that Nick Sadowy was awarded the Base Commanders Commendation for 2020.



Harold Fisher QMC(SS)

When our Base suffered the loss of our most committed member Tim Spoon in August 2019 the event he established First Call to Morning Chow was without a coordinator. One member stood up and took the helm and continued the tradition of this family orientated comradery building monthly breakfast. Since we were locked out, starting in March, Howard has stood by waiting to get back in action as soon as the doors open again. It is with deep appreciation for his service to the Gold Country Base and its members that Harold Fisher was awarded the Base Commanders Commendation for 2020.



Base News

December 7th 2020



Base Commander Barry Wyatt offers Welcoming Remarks.



District Commander Pete Juhos presents Lost Boats while Vice-Commanders Les Jamison Tolls the Bell



Chaplin Howard Grover gives the Closing Prayer



Vice-Commander Les Jamison presents the 2020 Tim Spoon Achievement Award to Mark Elftmann



Base Commander Barry Wyatt inducts Bill Barron into the USSVI Holland Club

USSVI National News

Shipmates:

The 2021 USSVI Awards Manual is now posted online.

To go to the manual, go to our website, www.ussvi.org and click on the green "Documents" button. Next, click on the blue "Manuals" button.

Please familiarize yourself with the manual and the requirements when submitting any nominations for awards.

Thank you,

Wayne Standerfer, National Commander



Submitted by: Ken Earls, Charitable Foundation Exec Dir & Treas. on 01/11/21

Over the past 12 months, your shipmates and supporters have made 165 donations on your Charitable Foundation website totaling \$7,619.05.

We have many recurring, monthly and quarterly, donations that will continue, some for more than two years. Some are for as little as \$7.50 per month or quarter, some for as much as \$100.00. We have numerous recurring donations for \$10.00 or \$25.00 per month or quarter. All are truly appreciated and meaningful.

Even a monthly donation of \$5.00 per month adds up to \$60.00 per year. This is significant and helps your charitable foundation immensely! We want we need a majority of your USSVI to support your Charitable Foundation. An amount as little as \$5.00 per month is acceptable in almost every family budget.

Go to www.USSVCF.org and donate. Make it a recurring donation for at least 12 months. You will feel good and your support will be significant!

Please support your Charitable Foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

Ken Earls

**Charitable Foundation Executive Director & Treasurer
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.**



This is the quarterly AmazonSmile notification to inform you that the charity **US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.**, recently received a donation of **\$329.12**, at no cost to those who used smile.amazon.com, for there online purchases.



Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile turned on in the Amazon shopping app, everyday purchases generated over **\$236 million** in donations to charities worldwide so far.

AmazonSmile's impact:

\$4,194.73 to US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.*

\$216,932,702.17 to all charities in the US

\$236,903,641.58 to all charities worldwide

From The Crew



WO Carl Fredrick Lee

Submarine Tender USS Pelias AS-14 at Pearl Harbor December 7th 1941

My father, then a WO Machinist, was duty officer of the day on Pelias December 7th.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Navy ordered Pelias to Mare Island Naval Ship Yard for repairs and preparations for transfer of duty station to Fremantle, Australia. Pelias arrived Mare Island early May 1942. Pelias departed Mare Island June 22, 1942 for Fremantle, Australia.

My mother and I lived on Mare Island, Quarters 131 Walnut Avenue. We lived most of WW11 there with my grandparents. My grandfather, William Willey was a long term "Yard Bird". He started there in 1901 and retired after the war in 1948. He was civilian in charge of all of the dry docks since 1931. Upon his retirement he received a letter of commendation from then Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal for his 47 years of service to our nation.

From July 1942 until May 1944, Pelias repaired and refitted 59 submarines of Squadrons 12 & 14! During this period of duty in Aus-

tralia, my father, an expert in submarine periscope optics developed a flashing light ability for periscopes. Ultimately this ability of a submerged submarine to signal flashing light messages to the shore was responsible for the saving a large number US Marines lives stranded on a small island in the South Pacific. Then, LT. Lee received a signed letter of appreciation from Presi-

dent Roosevelt. (Unfortunately after my father's passing I was unable to acquire that document.)

Pelias was ordered back to Mare Island June 1944 and my Mother and Father were reunited at last after a long separation during WW11. Their marriage did not survive very long after that. My Father, Carl F. Lee remained in the Navy and ultimately retired as a Mustang Commander.

Liberty must have been pretty good for the crew of Pelias in Mare Island/ Vallejo. Nine months after Pelias arrived at Mare Island May 1942, I was born!



USS Pelias AS-14

**Submitted by Gold Country Base Member
Lenard L. Lee, QM1 (SS)**

From The Crew (Continued)

Word Scramble Game

Hint all words are Parts of a Submarine

Created by Mark Elftmann

1. uekl dabh

6. dworarf

2. elagyl

7. atsfh

3. chhat

8. tarsabdro

4. adledr

9. ckar

5. tmapnmtocer

10. oepidst

Find answers on page 24
No Cheating Allowed

If Your stimulus Payment has not appeared in your Mail Box or Bank Account

For information about the Stimulus Payments (Economic Impact Payment), the first \$1,200 (\$2,400 couple) and \$600 (\$1,200 couple)

Visit the IRS Website at www.irs.gov and click on

Get My Economic Impact Payment Then Click **Get My Payment**

You can also click on or copy and paste this address in your browser address bar: <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/irfof-wmsp/notice>

Information you will need is: Social Security Number, Date of Birth. Street Address, and Zip Code. The next page will show information about both of the payments the first \$1,200/\$2,400 and the second \$600/\$1,200.

The payment could be can be in the form of Direct Deposit, check or check card. Typically those who will receive Direct Deposit, the payments have already been received. The checks or check cards could take 4-3 weeks.

Eligible individuals who did not receive the full amounts of both Economic Impact Payments may claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2020 Form 1040 or 1040-SR. To determine whether you are an eligible individual or the amount of your Recovery Rebate Credit, complete the Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet in the Instructions for Form 1040 and Form 1040-SR.

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Stories of Interest

USS Sculpin SS-191 – a Sargo-class submarine – departed Hawaii on 5 November 1943 for her ninth war patrol to hunt the area north of Truk. The Sculpin was to intercept and attack Japanese forces expected to leave Truk to oppose the forthcoming invasion of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. Sculpin and two other submarines were to form a wolfpack to make coordinated attacks on the enemy. In addition to her officers and men, also onboard Sculpin was Captain John Cromwell, who had been fully briefed on the Tarawa operation and was knowledgeable about ULTRA, assigned to Sculpin to coordinate wolf pack operations.

On the morning of 19 November 1943 Sculpin, pursuing a fast Japanese convoy north of Oroluk Island near Truk, made a fast end run on the surface to attack. She achieved a firing position but was forced to dive when the convoy and its escorts zigged toward her. When the Japanese task force again changed course, Sculpin surfaced to make yet another end run, but was discovered by the IJN Yamagumo positioned only 600 yards away. The IJN destroyer had been left behind for just this eventuality by the Japanese convoy commander. Diving fast, Sculpin escaped the first salvo of what was to be four vicious salvos of depth charges, with flooding and damaging equipment and losing sonar. Sculpin evaded the destroyer in a rain squall and around 1200 attempted to come to periscope depth. The damaged depth gauge stuck at 125 feet, so the submarine inadvertently broached – and was again detected by Yamagumo.

The submarine's commanding officer, Commander Fred Connaway, decided to surface to give the crew of the doomed vessel a chance for survival. With her decks still awash, Sculpin's gunners manned the deck guns but were no match for the destroyer's main battery. A shell hit the conning tower and killed the bridge watch, including Connaway, and flying fragments killed the gun crew, including gunnery officer Lieutenant Joseph Defrees, who was the ship's sponsor's son.

The ship's senior surviving officer, Lieutenant George Brown, ordered Sculpin abandoned and scuttled. Before he opened the vents, he informed Captain Cromwell. Fearing that he might reveal the plans for the Tarawa invasion under the influence of torture or drugs, Cromwell refused to leave the stricken submarine, giving his



life to avoid capture. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his act of heroism and devotion to country. Sculpin's diving officer, Ensign W. M. Fiedler (who had failed to notice the depth gauge had stuck), along with forty others, including the already dead, joined him.

Forty-two of Sculpin's crew were picked up by the Yamagumo. However, one badly-wounded sailor, SN William Henry Walsh, was thrown back into the sea to die by the Japanese because of his condition. The other 41 survivors were questioned for about ten days at the Japanese naval base at Truk, and then were embarked on two aircraft carriers returning to Japan. The carrier Chuyo carried 21 of the 41 survivors in her hold.

On 4 December 1943, the Chuyo was torpedoed and sunk by the USS Sailfish. It took Sailfish more than nine hours and 11 torpedoes to sink the carrier, and 20 of the 21 American prisoners perished. One man, George Rokek, was saved when he was able escape the carrier and grab hold of a ladder on the side of a passing Japanese destroyer, hauling himself aboard.

(Continued on next page)

USS Sculpin SS-191 (continued from page 17)

Anyone would think that when the first torpedo hit the carrier, then the second, there would be a dire sense of dread among the POWs on Chuyo who had just cheated death on their own sub, and were now staring at it again. But according to Rocek, instead, they cheered – they began jumping up and down, and yelling, “Sink the SOB!” – even though they were on it. They were cheering the sealing of their own fate, but it didn’t matter to them – only sinking that 20,000-ton carrier mattered.

On 5 December Rocek and the other 20 Sculpin survivors arrived at Ōfuna Camp, Japan, and, after further questioning, were sent to work in the Ashio copper mines for the duration of the war. All 21 survived the war.

Ironically, the Sailfish – at the time named Squalus – was the same submarine that Sculpin had helped to locate, rescue and raise some four-and-a-half years earlier.

63 lost of 81 aboard: 39 (d/c & gunfire; scuttling) + 3 (gun crew) + 1 (SN Walsh) + 20 (Chuyo sinking)

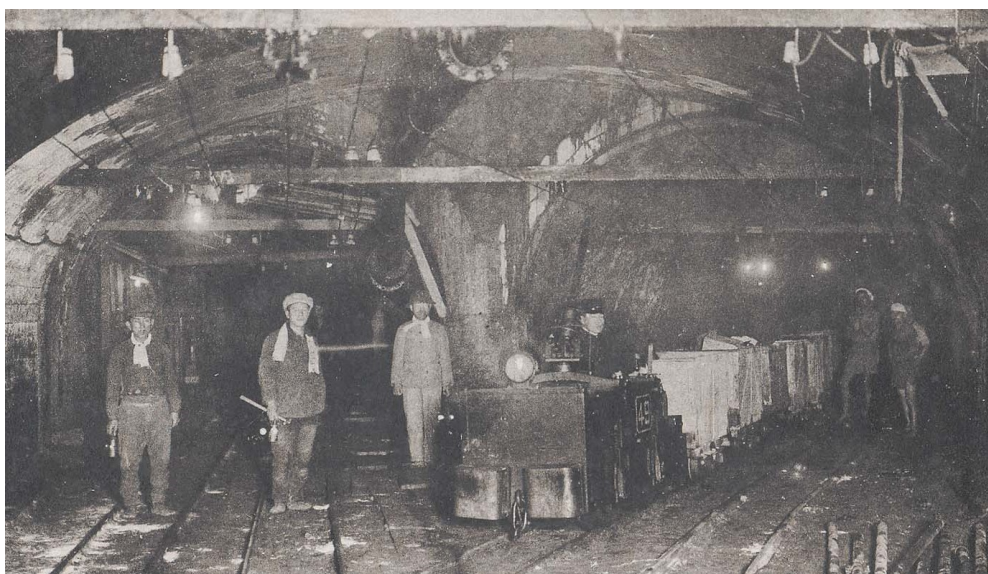
USS Sculpin (SS-191), a Sargo-class submarine, was launched on 27 July 1938, sponsored by Mrs. Bernice F. Defrees, wife of Rear Admiral Joseph R. Defrees, Sr, Chief of Staff to the Commander, Scouting Force, US Fleet, and commissioned on 16 January 1939.

0640 Yamagumo sights enemy submarine (USS Sculpin) surfacing on the port beam, and seeing it quickly submerge begins a series of alternate depth-charge and pinging runs.

1109 The damaged submarine accidentally broaches the surface, and the destroyer reacquires and intensifies the attack.

1256 The Sculpin surfaces, being crippled and unable to stay submerged. The submarine opts for a desperate gunfire duel with its starboard side facing Yamagumo's starboard side as they exchange fire at 2,000 yards.

1307 The submarine is listing and the destroyer ceases fire and ten minutes later dispatches rescue boats as the scuttled submarine submerges for the last time in what looked to her survivors almost like a normal dive.



After the Sculpin sinking 21 survivors were taken as POWs to the mountains north of Tokyo near Ashio. There they were forced to labor in the Ashio Copper Mines, a polluted area since the 1880's. After 22 months of terrible hardship the survivors of the Sculpin and their fellow POWs were liberated by U.S. Forces on 5 September 1945.

Navy to add new attack submarines by 2045 in massive surge

The prospect of a rapid uptick in attack submarine production has been discussed for several years

New Virginia-class attack submarines are being built with a massive increase in firepower, much more sensitive and with powerful sonar detection and a new generation of computing, navigation, and command and control systems ... and the Navy does not have enough of them.

It is a challenge that the Navy's recently released **30-year shipbuilding plan** seeks to correct, by calling for an increase in submarine production and acquisition in coming years to address emerging threats, meet growing requests from Combatant Commanders and greatly expand the mission scope for attack submarines to include more reconnaissance and clandestine undersea patrols.

The prospect of a rapid uptick in **attack submarine** production has been discussed and advocated now for several years by both members of Congress and senior U.S. Navy leaders who have for quite some time voiced concerns about the size and reach of the service's submarine fleet in coming years. As more Los Angeles class submarines, which have functioned well for dec-



ades, retire, there will be a **fast-evolving** and pressing need for larger numbers of submarines to replace them and also advance the technical curve by engineering a new generation of attack submarine capability.

NAVY ELECTRONIC WARFARE STOPS MULTIPLE ENEMY MISSILE ATTACKS AT ONCE

"Analysis is ongoing to reach the goal of more consistently procuring three SSNs [nuclear submarines] per year," the plan says. In total, the Shipbuilding plan states that the Navy hopes to operate as many as 72 attack submarines, up from 54, by 2045.

The plan cites what it calls an "adjustment" in funding for a large 12-ship multiyear buy of the emerging Block VI Virginia-class attack boats. This is extremely significant in a number of key respects as the emerging Block VI boats, underway with conceptual **development and prototyping**, will incorporate new attack submarine technologies designed to improve performance and expand mission scope.

Congress and the Navy seem quite committed to the adjustment to build three per year starting in 2025 and 2026, as evidenced by the Shipbuilding plan's addition of \$1.7B to support "shipyard facilitation." The move likely reflects **ongoing assessments** and industrial base studies which have for several years now found that the U.S. industrial capacity does indeed possess the ability to successfully "flex" to accommodate a larger buy.

The Navy's Shipbuilding plan emphasizes that industrial base assessments regarding how to sustain an increased production rate of Virginia-class submarines continue.

NAVY 'MOVES-OUT' ON OPERATING 11 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS



"We are in the process of assessing the industrial base capability to continue delivering three SSNs per year past FY26 during Columbia serial production. The post-FYDP [Future Years Defense Program] SSN profile will continue to be reviewed and updated in subsequent plans as the industrial **base assessments** are refined with the goal of three SSNs per year, if affordable and supportable by the industrial base," the Navy Shipbuilding plan writes.

Part of the growing need for attack submarines is inspired by technological breakthroughs in recent years wherein new "quieting" systems are now more able to improve stealthy undersea maneuvering potential. Some of these applications, which began several years ago with the Navy's USS South Dakota Block III Virginia-class attack submarine, including new antennas, coating materials and engine propulsion quieting technologies, Navy developers have explained over the years.

These kinds of breakthroughs impact the tactical equation by improving the attack submarines' ability to **command and control** small fleets of undersea drones and conduct clandestine undersea reconnaissance patrols in high-risk, littoral coastal areas less accessible to large, deep draft surface ships. There are significant tactical implications **regarding firepower** as



well, given that as many as nine or more of the upcoming Virginias will be built with what's called Virginia Payload Modules, an extra 80-foot section added to the boats to massively increase firepower capability from 12 Tomahawks up to 40. This, of course, gives the boats an ability to conduct major land attacks potentially in closer proximity than larger surface ships

It is renewal time for the Boat Sponsorship Program (BSP)

The AMERICAN SUBMARINER is the quarterly magazine published by the US Submarine Veterans, Inc. and is a major benefit that all USSVI members receive.

Your contribution to BSP pays to send three copies of each issue of *American Submariner* magazine for the subscription year to the command, boat or other place where news of the Silent Service is welcomed.

The cost is \$30 per year or a total of 12 magazines (three each of the four annual volumes).

The subscriptions may be made in the name of a Base or an individual.

The Program Manager is Jack Messersmith (928) 227-7753 emailmesserj109@gmail.com Questions on the program may be addressed to him.

Each sponsor will receive the special BSP patch the first time they sponsor. In addition, all sponsors will be entered in the quarterly USSVI Boat Giveaway contest, a \$500 value (one entry per sponsorship).

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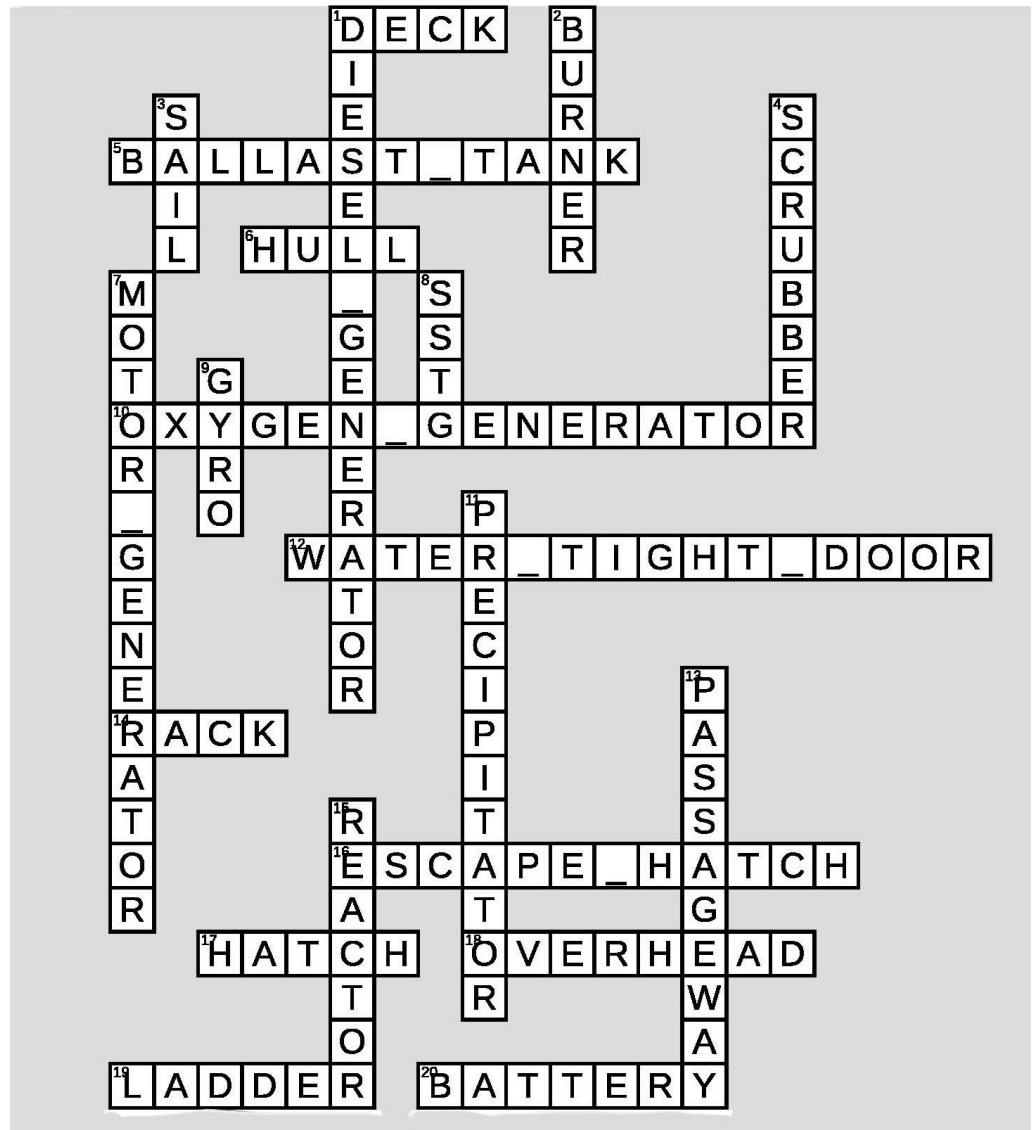
Silverdale, WA 98383-3870



Clip & Mail

Parts of a Submarine

Answers for the
Cross Word Puzzle
feature in the last
addition of the
Newsletter



Games Created by Mark Elftmann

Answers Word Scramble Game

ueklidabh = bulkhead

elagyl = galley

chhat = hatch

adledr = ladder

tmapnmtocer = compartment

6. dworarf = forward

7. atsfh = shaft

8. tarsabdro = starboard

9. ckar = rack

10. oepidst = topside



January Newsletter



Class II 2020 First Runner Up

“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