



April/May 2021  
VOL MMXXI Issue 03

# 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."*



Francis Patrick Noone ENC(SS) March 24, 2021

Stephen R. Loomis MM2(SS) April 12, 2021

(see page 14)

**Next Meeting— Gold Country Base  
Saturday May 22 10:00 AM**

**Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street Folsom**

Join Zoom Meeting — Go to [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us)

Enter—Meeting ID: **832 977 8067**

Enter—Passcode: **SubVet**

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***Now Hear This!***

**May 31 1100 Memorial Day Flag Ceremony**

Folsom Veterans Hall

**June 1st 0900 Pat Noone Interment** Sacramento

Valley National Cemetery, Dixon

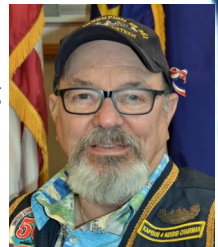
## COMMANDER'S CORNER

**Shipmates**— Channel fever is setting in with me. I am so looking forward to returning to normal activities, face to face meeting, pot-lucks, First Call to Morning Chow and the camaradery we share when we spend time together. Along with our regular format we have decided to continue to use the Zoom platform for those who find it difficult to get to meeting. In many ways it has been great to see those we haven't seen for a while and the online meetings have made that possible. April was a busy month for me, I flew to Phoenix and represented the base at the Dedication Ceremony for the Arizona Silent Service Memorial. It was a great event attend by several hundred bubble heads and their families. I have also stayed on track with our own memorial by communicating regularly with Sam Cooney, West Sacramento Parks Operations Superintendent. Les and I are scheduled to make a presentation to the city's Recreation Committee on June 1st. Once we receive approval from that group we can begin to move forward with an actual design. Over the past 3 months we have voted on, and approved, changing our by-law to allow for Spouses of regular members to become an Associate member at no charge. It is our hope that this will bring more families into active membership. Please take the time to contact Nick to request an application, fill it out and return it. Pat Noone's Interment at the National Cemetery is scheduled for 0900 on June 1st. Parade uniform is requested; please try to attend. Hope to see you all at the meeting on Saturday, please remember it is scheduled for 10am and no pot-luck.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

## Vice-COMMANDER

**Shipmates**, As we start to exit the numerous restrictions that were set during this Covid pandemic, we need to **"Set the maneuvering watch!!"** This past year has been something we never thought we would experience or have to chart a path through. We have had to experience the loss of our family members, our shipmates and neighbors coupled without the ability to mourn these losses in church services. This coupled with the disappointments of missed holiday gatherings, birthday and other family celebrations. We all experienced these missed family events when we were on an extended deployment.



We also remember the excitement of counting down the days when we would return to home port to our loved ones and in some cases see children for the first time. We anticipated getting the chance to again hug our family. Now the whole country and world is starting to experience that anticipation of being returned to their loved ones!! Those last few hours after a long deployment the excitement grew and the anticipation seemed unbearable. But we had to end the deployment safely and **"Set the maneuvering watch!!"** We had to hold back that excitement and do our jobs to bring the boat and our fellow crew home safely home to our loved ones. So, as we start to exit the numerous restrictions of this pandemic, no matter how stupid we might of thought they were, proceed with the same caution you used during the maneuvering watch.

- **Wear your masks a little longer & even maybe when not required!! It might protect you from the flu!**
- **Continue the practice of washing hands for 20 seconds.**
- **Be aware of your gatherings, not all persons are vaccinated.**

Things are getting much better but slowly enjoy it with guided caution

Stay safe and God Bless Les Jamison, Vice Commander



# OFFICER'S COUNTRY

## What is the Millennium? Part 2

### Chaplain



The end of the thousand years is described in Revelation 20:7-10: *<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*



Christ, when He returned to earth, came down with His army of believers and spoke and the those who came to destroy Jerusalem were killed by His personal word. This time He just sent fire!

**Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain**

### Treasurer



**From the Treasurer:** Please don't forget you can all donate to the booster fund year round. Since we aren't meeting monthly, we aren't having our 50/50 raffle, and we haven't passed around the collection for the JROTC. Feel free to send donations to: USSVI Gold Country Base 4521 Hart Dr, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8337



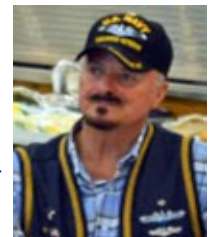
**From the Membership Chair:** I'd like to remind everyone to wear their USSVI hats when out in public. One of our biggest challenges is getting out the word about our great organization. Hope to see you all in-person at the May meeting

**Nicholas Sadowy Treasurer, Membership Chair**

### Storekeeper



**SHIPMATES** - Harold Fisher, our First Cal to Morning Chow Coordinator requested the same submarine pens that Tim Spoon had ordered for him a few years ago. Since I had no records to find them again I asked the Barry Commons, our USSVI National Storekeeper if he knew where they came from, and he said he hadn't seen them before. Since Tim had given me one of these pens, I researched them online and found the exact pen available at Executive Advertising with 150 (minimum order). After talking to Barry Wyatt about it he said we could buy a minimum order and make them available to others in our membership to purchase in smaller quantities. However,



Harold said he still wanted to buy the full minimum order so he could pass them out to anyone he wanted to in order to build interest in our Gold Country Base First Cal to Morning Chow and anyone else who knew others who had served submarine service. So I purchased the minimum order for him and he was very pleased to get

them. So please let me know if you are interested in smaller quantities of these pens. We can make them available for about \$1.00 each if this is of interest to you. I'll have a sample for you at our next Gold Country Base meeting.

We still have 4 USSVI 2021 "Submarines At The Movies" calendars remaining if you can think of someone who would benefit from one, now available for \$10. Plus, I'll have them available at our next Gold Country Base meeting, so no shipping charges. Chad Clay has already decided to buy one for long term keeping. Because it's so unusual and likely one of a kind, he wants it because the one he has is already marked up. So, are there any grand-kids that may benefit from it?

**Roger Paul, Storekeeper**





## SubVet Check-In

I made calls this month and most of our shipmates and wives are doing fine. Folks were glad to hear from us and are looking forward to seeing each other during face-to-face meetings. Ed and Janet were enthusiastic about the May meeting likely to be in person. Although Sam Burks' son, Barry, said his dad does not recognize him or his brother, Sam is hanging in there. Almost everyone has gotten the vaccine shots; some people had bad reactions but are doing better. I had good conversations



with several people like Frank Dalbello and his wife, Myra, going mushroom hunting near Mt. Shasta where Frank has been looking for them since he was a child. Another was Alvin Lehman who does electronic project consulting designing software and circuit boards at the same company his son, who recently graduated with a BSEE, works. Gene Ratto talked about his love of golfing and his possible retirement to the Monterey area in a couple of years. Unfortunately, Charles Miller needs to have another medical procedure done. He spoke about being aboard the USS Scorpion before it was lost and being in touch with some of the children of the lost men. He recommended the article in American Submariner Magazine about the Scorpion.



## Folsom JVO

There will be a Memorial Chapel Service on Sunday, May 30 at 11:00 AM at The Folsom Veteran's Hall. Afterwards the Canteen will be open with pizza. All organization Chaplains are encouraged to be involved. Barry and I met with Jim at the Veteran's Hall to get some instructions about using the setup for our possible combined Zoom/face-to-face meeting on May 22, 2021. I also informed Bob Bailey about our potential Charter Day picnic at the Hall

in June so he could make sure it gets put on the calendar. The various group representative discussed possible plans for future Canteen hours and Sunday morning breakfasts. The Covid restrictions at the Folsom Veteran's Hall are fairly relaxed so be prepared to take your own precautions when visiting there.

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



Shipmates,

The idea of submitting stories is catching on. Thank you to Roger for his "Fish Tail" and even I got one in this month. Please take the time to send in something that you are willing to share. What you send could be about your first patrol, your last patrol or just a good sea story. If you don't like to write give me a call, tell me the story and I will write it up for you. Also if there is some other content you would like to see or if you have a comment about the layout, good, bad or indifferent please let me know.

**Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor**



**Hey Shipmates,** As fire season is upon us, please take time to take all reasonable precautions around your home. Removing Dead Brush, buildup of dry leaves, along with safe storage of Gasoline containers, Oil and Paint around the home. Watch the time of day when weed whacking to minimize sparks that could start fires. Please don't forget that COVID-19 is still upon us and extra hand washing and N95 Masks can help keep you and loved ones safe. Enjoy your May safely and remain healthy, or work toward improved health.



**Chris Ferguson, Chief of the Boat (COB)**



### Shipmates,

As more and more of us have access to and receive vaccinations, it proportionally increases the opportunities for us to return to un-masked, in-person meetings and engagements. I've already visited with the Mare Island Base for their first in-person meeting at the Admiral Callahan Veterans Center in Vallejo. The bar was open, and there was a great spread of cooked goods the attending members and wives had garnered from the best eateries in town...what a feast!



I assist Base Secretary Mark Elftmann with the Phone Call outreach to shipmates. One call turned into a wonderful social meet up with Shipmate RADM Jerry Ellis and his wife, Rosemary, who reside in Carmel Valley, CA while Debbie and I were in the area for a bit of R&R. Of the many things we learned, Jerry will be finally lowering his pennant with the Navy at the conclusion of 60 years of service at the end of this year. Quite a remarkable achievement! And, a Holland Club member too!

As you may be aware, the 2021 USSVI National Convention is planning to be held in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. Debbie and I have made our reservations for the event, and we hope to see you there. Nothing like a bit of Vitamin D; sharing in the camaraderie or embellished sea stories with our shipmates; honor our brethren on Eternal Patrol; and recognize the individuals and Bases who continue to contribute above and beyond. All these are threads in the fabric weave of our organization! Pride Runs Deep! Pete Juhos, WD5

**Pete Juhos , USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander**

### USSVI BASE EAGLE SCOUT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM UPDATE



With the lessening of Covid-19 restrictions, The USSVI and Gold Country Base are seeing a return to involvement in community groups and base activities such as the Eagle Scout Achievement Award Program. This month, a young woman from Oakdale and a young man from Folsom have Courts of Honor (COH) scheduled. They will be receiving the USSVI recognition and achievement awards.



Base Commander Wyatt and I will represent the Gold Country Base and make the USSVI award presentation for Carleton G. Liden at his COH on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the VFW Hall in Folsom.

Another scout in Amador County will be receiving his Eagle Scout COH later this summer. It is anticipated base representation will be present at that time.

We request that all base members keep their eyes and ears open for any information on scouts in your neighborhoods that may be working toward achieving the coveted Eagle Scout award. If so, Please advise them of our USSVI program and refer them to me;

**Gil Miller, Eagle Scout Achievement Award Program Chairman**



# Gold Country Base Officers



**Base Commander**  
POC PAO  
Newsletter Editor  
**J. Barry Wyatt**

Qualified 1965  
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625  
Life Member Holland Club  
(916) 600-1425  
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com



**Vice Commander**  
Awards Chairman  
Kaps4Kids Coordinator  
**Les Jamison**

Qualified 1969  
USS Greenfish SS 351  
Holland Club  
(407) 509-7814  
ljamison3049@gmail.com



**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  
USS Sturgeon SSN 637  
(916) 601-8910 nick@sadowy.com



**Chief of the Boat**  
(COB)

**Chris Ferguson**

Qualified 1980  
USS Calhoun SSBN 630  
Life Member  
(209) 256-2536 peacefound@aol.com



**Base Chaplain**  
**Howard Grover**

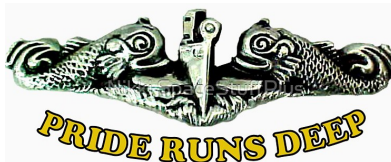
Qualified 1963  
USS Spikefish SS 404  
Life Member  
Holland Club

(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



**Base Storekeeper**  
**Roger Paul**

Qualified 1972  
USS Haddock SSN 621  
(916) 844-7059  
rapaulplus@msn.com



**Holland Club**  
**Commander**  
Base Historian  
**Warren Wiederhoeft**

Qualified 1966  
USS Patrick Henry  
SSBN 599/SSN 599  
Life Member Holland Club  
(916) 224-7168 Warrenw599@comcast.net



**Eagle Scout**  
**Coordinator**  
**Gil Miller**

Qualified 1963  
USS Becuna SS 319  
Life Member Holland Club  
(916) 354-1008  
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org



**Guest Speakers**  
**Coordinator**  
Naval Youth Liaison  
**Chad Clay**

Qualified 1965  
USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629  
Life Member Holland Club  
(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



**Events Coordinator**  
**John Mannix**

Qualified 1978  
USS Guitarro SSN 665  
(707) 486-3305  
jmannix57@yahoo.com



**Base Welder**  
**Jerry Wentland**  
U.S. Army

Associate Member  
(530) 613-6729  
g.usarmy@att.net



**First Call to Morning**  
**Chow Coordinator**  
**Harold Fisher**

Qualified 1965  
USS Medregal AGSS 480  
Life Member Holland Club  
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



**USSVI District 5**  
**Commander**  
**Pete Juhos**

Qualified 1980  
USS Bergall SSN 667  
Life Member  
(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com



**USSVI Western**  
**Region Director**  
**Victor P. Van Horn**

Qualified 1969  
USS Cusk SS 348  
Life Member Holland Club  
(708) 609-9840 vmjvanhorn@aol.com



**USSVI National**  
**Commander**  
**Wayne Standerfer**

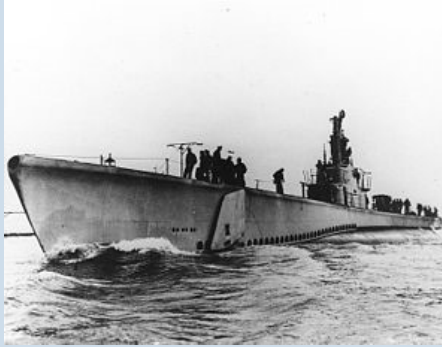
Qualified 1958  
USS Trigger SS 564  
Life Member Holland Club  
(972) 298-8139 lwaynes@charter.net

# 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.





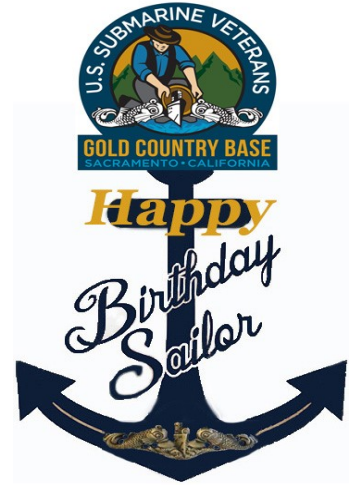
# Birthdays

## April

Charles Almgren Ed Alves Ken Earls  
Harold Fisher John Hintz Alvin Lehman  
Warren Wiederhoeft

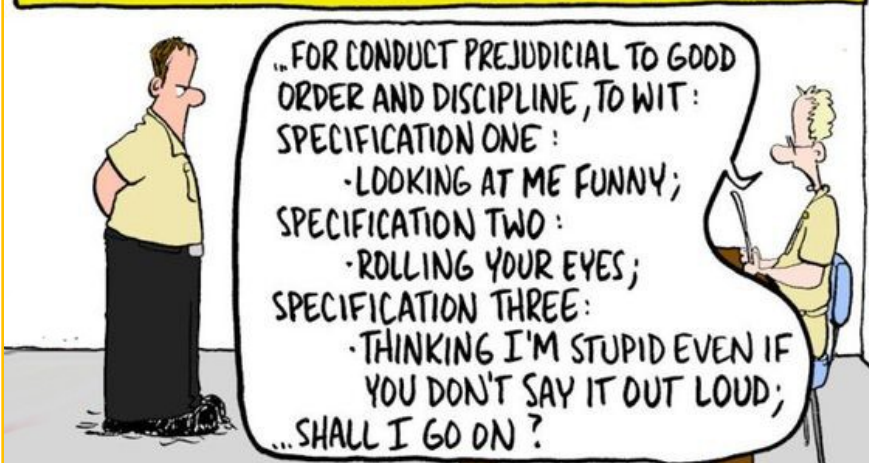
## MAY

Al Amaro Larry Davis John Kelly  
Jim MacLean



# On The Lighter Side

LT CRAMER DISCOVERS GENERAL ARTICLE 134 OF THE UCMJ



My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.



Okay Chief during the next part of your exam you may feel some slight discomfort







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

*Ed Alves\*    Alfonso Amaro\*    Bill Barron\*  
Harry Beach\*    William Bergstrom\*    Glenn Boothe  
Regy Bronner\*    Anita Bronner\*    Dennis Cline\*  
Mike Daly\*    Larry Davis Jr..    Mike Delleney\*  
Ken Earls\*    Mark Elftmann\*    Frank Elliott\*  
Jerry Ellis\*    Jack Everett\*    Christopher Ferguson\*  
Harold Fisher\*    Michael Goble    Howard Grover\*  
James Hutson    Bill Hunt\*    Burna Jamieson  
Leslie Jamison\*    Pete Juhos\*    John Kuester\*  
Lenard Lee    Alvin Lehman\*    Matt Lettau\*  
James MacLean\*    John Mannix\*    Gil Miller  
Charles Mitchell    George Miyao\*    Tom Moniz\*  
Paul Osborn\*    Roger Paul\*    Gene Ratto\*  
Max Rhinehart\*    Evelyn Ritscher\*    Ron Rule\*  
Joe Ryan\*    Nick Sadowy\*    James Saunders\*  
Warren Wiederhoeft\*    Roy Wilhite\*  
Larry Williams\*    Barry Wyatt\**

*\* Multi-Year Donors*

# VA Information

## VA to Review Over 60,000 'Blue Water' Vets' Claims for Retroactive Benefits

Vietnam vets who served offshore or their survivors may receive retroactive benefits for Agent Orange exposure

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) identified 60,942 denied benefit claims that it must review for retroactive benefits for Agent Orange exposure. The claims were filed by so-called Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans, service members who were stationed on ships in deep waters off the coast of Vietnam during the war.

The move comes after a California District Court decided in November 2020 that the VA must reevaluate previous claims that were denied on the basis that the veteran did not set foot on land in Vietnam or serve in its inland waterways.

It was first estimated that the decision could impact 2,000 to 15,000 veterans and their survivors, who could receive an average of \$28,000 in benefits. However, an unknown number of the 60,000 veterans identified will not receive additional benefits because they likely filed a claim after the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and would have already received their retroactive benefits, according to the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), a nonprofit that filed the motion.

If you believe you were wrongly denied a benefit claim related to Agent Orange, contact the NVLSP

at [AgentOrange@nvlsp.org](mailto:AgentOrange@nvlsp.org) or call its Nehmer hotline at 855-333-0677.

## USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES April 24, 2021

**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 Jack Everett.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplin Howard Grover

**TOLLING THE BELL:** The Lost Boats for the month of April were read by the Vice Commander, Les Jamison and Chief of the Boat, Chris Ferguson tolled the bell for all Lost Boats and in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol. One additional bell was tolled for the submariners aboard the Indonesian submarine, KRI Nanggala-402, which was recently lost at sea.

### **MEMBER INTRODUCTION:**

There were 11 people who attended the meeting via Zoom. Bill Barron joined the meeting via his cell just as the meeting was ending. He was a Bocce Ball Tournament at the time, and his team was winning.

### **FORMAL REPORTS:**

**BASE COMMANDER:** Barry Wyatt Shipmate Stephen R. Loomis MMC (ss) left on Eternal Patrol on April 12, 2021. There was a moment of silence to honor him. There will be no local memorial service. His wife Karen is enthusiastic about staying involved via First Call-to-Morning-Chow. There was a moment of silence to honor the lost Indonesian submarine KRI Nanggala-402. Les Jamison spoke about the special communications between submariners despite the different spoken languages and how this creates a brotherhood between all submariners.

There has been no status change in the West Sacramento Lost Boat Memorial project. There will be a meeting in June with the city committee and Barry has put together a summary of the project we are trying to accomplish.

Future meetings: A combination face to face/Zoom meeting is being considered for May, COVID permitting. The meeting would be held at 10:00 AM with no potluck lunch. There were no objections and it may be possible to restart the First Call-To-Morning-Chow breakfast in June again COVID permitting.

National Awards nominations are due by April 30. Mark and Barry are working on a Golden Anchor Award for Gold Country Base and on a couple of Silver Anchor Awards. Everyone is encouraged to make a nomination. The USSVI National Convention is a go for August - September 4, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

Barry requested a volunteer for the new Holland Club Commander. Warren has agreed to serve in the position, but anyone interested in the position is welcome to come forward.

Registrations are being taken for the Western Regional Roundup at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino, in Reno, from October 17 – 22, 2021. A website is available at <https://wrroundup.com/>.

**VICE COMMANDER:** Les Jamison Les spoke about members wearing SubVet apparel to generate interest for new members. When members meet prospective members, it is best to get names and email addresses so they can be contacted information about SubVets. The contact information should be sent to Nick so the prospect can be added to the email list. Les has a call in to Harold Fisher about restarting First Call-To-Morning-Chow.

**CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB):** Chris Ferguson COVID is still looming so make sure to wash your hands, wear masks, get vaccine shots. Stay safe and healthy, drive safely, enjoy the spring and summer.

**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 99 members on the USSVI National Website at [ussvi.org](http://ussvi.org)

**PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Barry Wyatt Barry is working to publish the next *Now Hear This* newsletter in the middle of May. Articles are being requested, such as good sea stories, first patrol experiences, or bio information, send these to Barry as soon as you have the idea, he can flesh out the article based on your information. Barry also requests a paragraph from all EBoard members about each member's area.

**HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR:** Warren Wiederhoeft Warren is the new Holland Club Commander. Barry recommended not having a Holland Club presentation until Fall of 2021. Warren agreed. The Base has one member eligible for Holland Club initiation this year.

**EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR:** Gil Miller Gil reached out to the Scout Master in Stockton asking about any schedule for the Courts of Honor for two women from the Sonora area so Gold Country Base can participate by presenting them with certificates, a patch, and a brief verbal presentation. Gil included an inquiry to the Scout Master to see if he would like to receive the base newsletter. New Eagle Scouts need to register on the USSVI website to be included in our presentation.

**CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST:** Howard Grover

Pat Noone Memorial will be at the National Cemetery in Dixon. No date is available at the time of the meeting.

An Eternal Patrol Certificate will be sent to Stephen Loomis' wife, Karen.

*(continued on next page)*





## USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES April 24, 2021 (continued from page 11)

NAVY YOUTH LIASON Chad Clay - No Report

HISTORIAN Warren Wiederhoeft - No Report

WEB-MASTER Nick Sadowy - No Report

STOREKEEPER Roger Paul

Roger found a source of the Submarine Pens for about Gil reached out to about \$1.00, including shipping and tax, with a minimum order of 100. Barry suggested Roger introduce a motion in New Business to order these.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR Les Jamison

Kaps-4-Kids is still on hold. Les has had some correspondence with the Children's Ward at Kaiser and they are anticipating it will be towards the end of the year before visits will be allowed.

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM – Mark Elftmann

Mark made some calls and spoke with several members who were grateful for the calls.

Barry suggested that an email be sent to the members making the calls to include in the conversations about the dual presentation via Zoom and Face to Face the May meeting.

EVENTS COORDINATOR John Mannis - No Report

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR Chad Clay - No Report

FOLSOM JVO REPRESENTATIVE Mark Elftmann

Not too much happening. Informed the group about the May meeting being a combination of Zoom and Face to Face. They will provide help on setting up for Zoom. Also told the group about our possible Charter Day barbecue in June at the Folsom Veteran's Hall in the courtyard there were no objections.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER Pete Juhos - No Report

### Old Business

Barry requested a motion for approval of the March Meeting Minutes as written and published in the *Now Hear This* communication dated April 23, 2021 via email. Les moved and Howard seconded the motion. There were no objections or corrections.

The new changes proposed to the base bylaws were read again. This is the third of the required three consecutive Base Meetings the proposed change is read:

***Every member of Gold country Base will pay dues in accordance with the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. National Constitution Article VIII, and the Gold Country Base Bylaws. USSVI National and Life and Gold Country Base Life Members will no pay dues. The Spouse of a Regular Member who is an Associate Member will not be required to pay Base or National Dues. For these members National Dues owed shall be paid from the Base Treasury. Base dues are posted on Enclosure (2).***

The language change which is denoted in Red would be added to this section.

Barry requested a motion to amend the Gold Country Base Bylaws as read during the meeting. Les moved to accept the Bylaws as read and Roger seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Gil requested that the change be published in the *Clear The Baffles* newsletter. Barry explained the formal requirements about the changes, and it was pointed out that the changes were published in the March 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes in the *Now Hear This* communication dated April 23, 2021 via email. Barry recommended we promote the spouses of members joining the Base. Nick reminded the group that the revised Bylaws need to be forwarded to him for inclusion on the Base Website.

### New Business

Roger motioned to purchase 150 Gold Country Base Submarine pens for a total expenditure (including pens, tax, and shipping) of \$153.65. These pens will be made available to base members.

### Good of the Order / Communications:

Les mentioned to Barry about paver bricks for the Lost Boats Memorial. Barry explained the pavers at the Silent Service in Phoenix, which are still for sale. Barry and Les have discussed these for the Gold Country Base memorial. Barry suggested this be tabled until we know how much space will be available at the West Sacramento Lost Boat Memorial site.

Barry asked that we keep our shipmate Stephen Loomis and the Indonesian submarine who are on Eternal Patrol in our thoughts. Jack asked again that we remember the Indonesian submarine sailors who were lost.

Les commented that we should keep wearing our hats to recruit new members.

### First Call to Morning Chow

Les has reached out to Harold Fisher to discuss resuming the program.

**Next Base Meeting:** Next meeting will be on May 22, 2021 both face to face and via Zoom.

### Meeting adjournment:

Base Chaplin, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat Chris Ferguson surfaced the Boat @ 10:03 AM

**Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary**

# USSVI National News

## USSVI Shipmates,

2021 Convention Chairman Jay Mack sent out the Bulletin below on March 29<sup>th</sup> asking for any of you that are planning on attending this year's 2021 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, FL, to please send in your registration.

In spite of the fact that 76% (912 Rooms) of our contracted room block has been spoken for we only have 111 persons registered for the convention. This is way behind where we normally should be during this time frame before the convention start date.

Folks, our Orlando Convention Committee needs these registrations in order to properly schedule activities and meals.

**Please Note:** If for any reason the convention has to be cancelled your registration funds will be refunded.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, **Wayne Standerfer, National Commander**

=====

All Hands,

On March 6, 2021, at the USSVI Mid-Term Board of Director's Meeting, it was announced that June 15th would be the dead date to decide if the 2021 National Convention would be a "Go or No-Go". This discussion was in direct relation to what is currently the situation in our country with regard to Covid-19. There were 40 members in attendance at that meeting including District Commanders and Regional Directors. I am confident that that information was taken back to various districts and regions and shared with membership.

At this point we are at 76% of our room block commitment at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. That is very encouraging. However, the number of convention registrations we have received is very, very, low. If convention registrations were in line with hotel reservations, we would have several hundred members registered for the convention. My concern is that members are waiting until after June 15th to see what we are going to do. After that date they will send in their convention registrations. The problem with that is it will give us a false understanding of attendance and could cause the convention to be rescheduled to 2024 due to lack of attendance.

The convention committee is asking everyone who is planning on coming to the 2021 convention to send in their convention registrations now, or at least prior to June 1st. We have 9 boat reunions already scheduled so let's keep the ball rolling and have a great 2021 convention in Orlando. Register today! <https://ussviconvention.org/2021/>

**Jay D Mack, 2021 USSVI Convention Chairman**



## Shipmates, Scholarship Applicants:

**"The Scholarship application window closes on 19 May."**

As of today, we have only 25 applicants who have completed their applications. Normally we would see about 75 applicants at this point. We normally award about 50 scholarships. It would be sad if we cannot even get that many applicants.

Many students have started but have not completed their applications. I have reached out to nearly every applicant reminding them to finish their application."

This link is important: <http://subforcescholarships.smapply.io/>

Time is running out and we are encouraging everyone to complete their applications. Go to the link shown above to complete or begin your application process. Do not delay. Any questions or concerns, please contact me ASAP. Time is rapidly running out.

Thank you.

**Robert Frick, National Scholarship Committee Chairman**

[refrick1@gmail.com](mailto:refrick1@gmail.com) 703-754-4959





# USSVI Regional News

## New Western Region Patch

Designed under the direction of  
Western Region Director Vic Vanhorn



Available in the  
Gold Country's  
Ships Store Soon!

### UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



### WESTERN REGION: COMMENDATION

#### ARIZONA SILENT SERVICE MEMORIAL

#### BARRY WYATT-----GOLD COUNTRY BASE

APRIL 17, 2021

AHOY.....LET IT BE KNOWN ON THIS DATE THAT THE WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR HAS ISSUED THIS LETTER OF COMMENDATION FOR KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION OF REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR OF THOSE THAT SERVED OUR GREAT NATION IN THE U. S. SUBMARINE SERVICE DURING WWI, WWII, AND UP TO THE PRESENT DATE.

THE ARIZONA SILENT SERVICE MEMORIAL IS A MONUMENT DEDICATED TO THE MEN WHO ARE ON ETERNAL PATROL. YOU EXIBITED YOUR LOYALTY AND DEDICATION TO PRESERVE THIS IMAGE AND I AM RECOGNIZING YOU FOR IT. BRAVO ZULU!

SIGNED THIS DAY, APRIL 17, 2021

HIGH REGARDS:

VICTOR VANHORN

USSVI WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR

# Eternal Patrol

*on Eternal Patrol*  
*...Sailor rest your oars we have the watch.*



**June 1st at 0900**

**Pat Noone**

**Interment**

Sacramento Valley  
National Cemetery  
Dixon

## **WWII SubVet Francis Patrick Noone ENC(SS) USN (ret)**

March 18, 1923 - March 24, 2021

Gold Country base Holland Club Commander

Gold Country Base USSVI Plank Owner

USSVI Life and Holland Club Member



**Pat** was born in Lynn, MA on March 18, 1923, one of eight kids. In December 1940 at age 17, he joined the Navy. After boot camp he volunteered for and attended Sub School. He received orders to Pearl Harbor and was assigned to S-27 (SS-132) and Qualified in October 1941. Pat also served USS S28-133 - USS Sea Devil (SS-400) - USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16) - USS Entemedor (SS-340) USS Sea Dragon (SS-194) - USS Sea Owl (SS 405) - USS Bang (SS-385) - USS Sirago (SS-485) - USS Grouper (SS-214) - USS Angler (SS-240)

## **Stephen R. Loomis MM2(SS)**

Gold Country Base USSVI Plank Owner

USSVI Life and Holland Club Member

Steve was born in Oakland in 1942 and grew up in Clear Falls, Oregon. He joined the Navy in 1961 and discharged 1968. He Qualified in Submarines on the USS Abraham Lincoln SSBN 602 in 1964. After the Navy he attended and graduated from UC Davis. He worked as a Estate and Personal Planner. He was married to his wife Karen for 53 years.





# From The Crew

## A True COVID Fish Tale

Our front and back yard has been our refuge during this pandemic. We have an 80-foot redwood in the front that dominates the area next to my wife's rose garden. We have a new trex upper and lower deck attached to the back of the house, adjacent to a reddish-brown concrete stamped deck with 10-foot pergola standing over it. Having large grapefruit, orange, and mandarin orange trees that keep us well supplied with fresh fruit for most of the year is a real blessing. But our greatest joy is having our fishpond with a bridge and mini deck, partially shaded by the trees, for us to relax and listen to the running waterfalls.

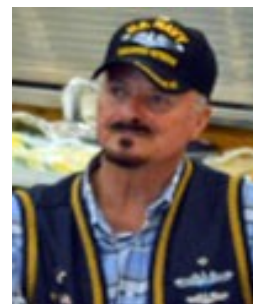
When we moved from Minnesota and bought this place in 2010, there were only 2 koi and 3 goldfish that the previous owners had left us. I gave them special names, "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe and curly. But now after 11 years we have over 75+ goldfish.

When I try to count them, they start moving around, so it's hard to say how many there actually are now. And it's definitely too many to give them all names. When I feed them each day I let them know it's time to eat by hitting a rock on the side of the pond 3 + 3 times, and they all usually come right up ready to gulp it down. For the first several years I used to give about 30 fish a year away to the local Pond Place, who give them to their customers just starting new ponds. But for over two years now I haven't been able to deliver the fish because of COVID restrictions, so they have multiplied. I feed them every day, clean the pond and area every week, and protect them from predators. One of our original Koi was taken by an Egret and the other by a Blue Herron in the first two years, so I keep a close watch on what's going on back there. I and even installed a motion sensor flood light system to scare off anything that moves in our back yard at night.

A recent week-long battle with a large Kingfisher bird has made the goldfish very skittish, not even coming up to eat when I call them. One evening I heard a bird chattering and knew a Kingfisher was in the tree nearby. Apparently the bird was hanging around in a tree, usually silently, and only coming out several minutes after I banged a rock on the side of the pond to call the fish to their food. He had my feeding routine down pat. But one evening I stayed quiet and out of sight after feeding the fish and sure enough, that bird swooped down toward the water to see if he could get my fish. No way! not my fish! Kingfisher tried again over several days, but I was there waiting with a broom and a net, and almost touched him with the net once. He has not been back again. However, When the fish stay at the bottom of the pond (3 ½ feet deep) when I call them up to feed, I know that he's been back to try again recently. Mr. Kingfisher, but not my fish

I never expected to ever have this many fish as pets, but now after 11 years I guess they are my pets. Does anybody want some? Their free to a good home.

**Story Submitted by Roger Paul**



# From The Crew

## Lobster Tail for Lunch

I joined the Navy in December of 1962 and attended Boot Camp in San Diego. I went straight to Sub School in New London after boot and upon graduation reported to the USS Henry Clay SSBN-625 Blue in the spring of 1963. The Clay was in new construction in Newport News where I would spend the next many months doing menial tasks as a non-qual non-designated SN. The Clay was commissioned in February of 1964 and not long after we began shake down cruises. On the first of those I had the honor of serving as a mess cook and was assigned to the Trash Disposal room to be the TDU operator for the lunch crowd of a 120 crew and 30 or more yard birds. To this day I am not sure what comment I had made to the cook that prompted him to single me out for that position of major responsibility. That day, as a treat for everyone, our featured meal was Lobster Tail.

I began my assignment by assembling canisters from pre-punched galvanized, perforated steel sheets. And was ready to start receiving trash so I could compact it. Not long after the door from the galley swung open in came the first batch of lobster shells followed by what seemed like an unending supply of the same. About the same time, we came to periscope depth in what I think was about a stage 5 sea. Needless to say the boat began to roll and it was not long until the deck in the TDU room was 2 inches deep in the juice from the compacting I was doing. For the next hour, as the smell, got worse I got sick-er. The process kind of went like this: put the shells in the compactor, pull the handle, double over and heave and then do all over again.

If memory serves it was at least 10 years before I could even see a Lobster Tail with out getting sick and even today, almost 60 years later, that little ping still goes off when I see one on a plate. I have always been proud of my service on the Clay, the time I spent mess cooking, not so much.



**Story Submitted by Barry Wyatt**





### Indonesian Navy Submarine found split into three on seabed.

(April 25, 2021)

An Indonesian navy submarine that sank off the coast of Bali on Wednesday has been found split into three pieces on the seabed, officials say.

All the vessel's 53 crew have been confirmed dead.

Navy officials said they had received signals from the sub's location more than 800m (2,600ft) deep early on Sunday.

An underwater rescue vehicle loaned by Singapore was sent down to get visual confirmation of the wreckage.

The KRI Nanggala disappeared after requesting permission to dive during a torpedo drill. The reason for its sinking is not yet clear. Sunday's statement came a day after the Indonesian military confirmed that debris from the sub, including prayer mats, had been found in the area where it went missing.



Navy Chief of Staff Yudo Margono said more items from the submarine had been recovered including an anchor and crew safety suits.

"The KRI Nanggala is divided into three parts, the hull of the ship, the stern of the ship, and the main parts are all separated, with the main part found cracked," he told reporters on Sunday.

On 24 April 2021, the Indonesian Navy announced the finding of debris, including a part associated with torpedo tubes, a coolant pipe insulator, a bottle of periscope grease, and prayer rugs. Because the debris was found within (19 km; 12 mi) of the point of last contact and no other vessels were believed to be in the area, the debris was believed to have come from the submarine, and *Nanggala* was declared sunk. Yudo Margono stated that a sonar scan had shown the submarine at a depth of 850 m (2,800 ft),<sup>[65]</sup> while its crush depth was presumed to be 500 m (1,600 ft).

On 25 April 2021, after a more accurate sonar and magnetometer scan by *Rigel*, the Indonesian Navy confirmed that all 53 hands on board were lost. Underwater scans identified parts of the submarine, including the rudder, diving plane, anchor, and external parts of the pressure hull, as well as items such as an MK11 submarine escape suit. The ROV from *Swift Rescue* also made visual contact with the wreck and determined that the submarine had split into three parts.

The wreck was found at a depth of 838 m (2,749 ft) at the coordinates 7°48'56"S 114°51'20"E 📍 7°48'56" S 114°51'20"E, roughly 1,400 m (1,500 yd) from where *Nanggala* had dived.

As of 4 May 2021, the Chinese Navy is assisting with the recovery of the wreck, having dispatched an ocean tug *Nantuo-195*, ocean salvage and rescue ship *Yongxing Dao-863* and a scientific research vessel *Tan Suo 2* to the scene. There have also been discussions between the Indonesian Navy and state-owned oil regulator SKK Migas to raise the submarine.

(Continued on next page)

### 'My husband is safe'

Winny Widayanti, 45, the wife of Colonel Harry Setiawan, told the press her husband, a seaman for two decades, was not supposed to be on the stricken submarine, but he did not want to leave his junior crew to carry out torpedo training exercises without his supervision, and he decided to join at the last minute.



Widayanti last spoke to her husband, who enjoys sports and playing the guitar in his spare time, on Tuesday when he was on board the KRI Nanggala-402, but it had not yet descended to start the drills.

"I believe my husband is safe. I don't know why but that is what my intuition as a wife tells me," she said. "Of course I'm worried. But we must be strong and not panic. I believe my husband will survive. He's very experienced. I don't know about the condition of the submarine, but we trust the search-and-rescue teams. There is also a lot of help from other countries."



**Harry Setyawan, Colonel (Sea)**  
Commander, 2nd Fleet Submarine Unit

*After the navy declared Nanggala lost with all hands, the People's Consultative Assembly recommended a posthumous promotion for all personnel on board to the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. A day later, on 26 April, the President announced that the government would award a posthumous promotion and confer posthumously the Bintang Jalasena 'Navy Meritorious Service Star' to everyone on board Nanggala. The ceremony conferring the awards and promotions was held on 29 April.*

# Navy Submarine News

## U.S. Ships Fired Shots to Warn Off 13 Iranian Fast Boats Harassing U.S. Guided Missile Submarine USS Georgia (SSGN-729)

A U.S. Coast Guard Cutter fired two rounds of warning shots at a swarm of Iranian fast boats harassing a Navy guided-missile submarine and other U.S. warships entering the Persian Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz early Monday, a Pentagon spokesperson told reporters this afternoon.

The 13 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) fast attack boats came within 150 yards of a group of six U.S. surface ships that were escorting the Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS *Georgia* (SSGN-729), spokesperson John Kirby told reporters during a press briefing.

“The fast boats conducted unsafe maneuvers and failed to exercise due regard for the safety of U.S. forces as required under international law while operating in close proximity to U.S. Naval vessels that were transiting the Strait of Hormuz,” Kirby said.

“The boats approached the U.S. formation at high-speed closing in as close as 150 yards. After following all the appropriate and established procedures involving ships horn, blast bridge-to-bridge radio transmissions and other ways of communicating, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Maui* (WPB-1304) fired approximately 30 warning shots from a 50-caliber machine gun. After the second round of warning shots, the 13 fast attack craft from the IRGCN broke contact.”

“The U.S. naval vessels were escorting *Georgia* as the submarine was transiting on the surface. Two Iranian vessels broke away from the larger group, transited to the opposite side of the U.S. formation, and approached the Cutters from behind at a rate of speed in excess of 32 knots with their weapons uncovered and manned,” the official told USNI News.



*Two Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) fast in-shore attack craft (FIAC), a type of speedboat armed with machine guns, conducted unsafe maneuvers while operating in close proximity to USS Georgia (SSGN-729) as it transits the Strait of Hormuz with other U.S. naval vessels on May 10, 2021. US Navy Photo*

“The remaining 11 FIAC maintain their position which placed the formation of U.S. ships in between the two Iranian groups. In order to deescalate the situation and ensure the safety of all ships and personnel, U.S. crews issued multiple warning shots to both groups of Iranian vessels... After the two IRGCN vessels failed to respond to repeated warnings and closed within 300 yards, *Maui* exercised lawful de-escalatory measures by firing warning shots. The two IRGCN vessels again failed to respond to warnings and closed to within 150 yards of *Maui*, at which time *Maui* fired additional warning shots.”

This is the third incident of Iranian harassment from the IRGCN (the sectarian military force that’s responsible for the coastal security of Iran and the Strait of Hormuz) harassing U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf region in a little over a month and the second time in two weeks that American forces have responded with warning shots.



**Shortly after the loss of the THRESHER, Dr. Joyce Brothers wrote this piece on submariners.**

### **RISK IS AN INSPIRATION IN SUBMARINE SERVICE**

The tragic loss of the submarine Thresher and 129 men had a special kind of impact on the nation.....a special kind of sadness, mixed with universal admiration for the men who chose this kind of work.

One could not mention the Thresher without observing, in the same breath how utterly final and alone the end is when a ship dies at the bottom of the sea.....and what a remarkable specimen of man it must be who accepts such a risk.

Most of us might be moved to conclude, too, that a tragedy of this kind would have a damaging effect on the moral of the other men in the submarine service and tend to discourage future enlistments. Actually, there is no evidence that this is so.

What is it, then, that lures men to careers in which they spend so much of their time in cramped quarters, under great psychological stress, with danger lurking all about them?

#### **Bond Among Them**

Togetherness is an overworked term, but in no other branch of our military service is it given such full meaning as in the so-called "silent service."

In an under sea craft, each man is totally dependent upon the skill of every other man in the crew, not only for top performance but for actual survival. Each knows that his very life depends on the others and because this is so, there is a bond among them that both challenges and comforts them.

All of this gives the submariner a special feeling of pride, because he is indeed a member of an elite corps. The risks, then, are an inspiration, rather than a deterrent.

The challenge of masculinity is another factor, which attracts men to serve on submarines. It certainly is a test of man's prowess and power to know he can qualify for this highly selective service. However, it should be emphasized that this desire to prove masculinity is not pathological, as it might be in certain daredevil pursuits, such as driving a motorcycle through a flaming hoop.

#### **Emotionally Healthy**

There is nothing daredevilish about the motivations of the man who decides to dedicate his life to the submarine service. He does, indeed, take pride in demonstrating that he is quite a man, but he does not do so to practice a form of foolhardy brinkmanship, to see how close he can get to failure and still snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. On the contrary, the aim in the submarine service is to battle the danger, to minimize the risk, to take every measure to make certain that safety rather than danger, is maintained at all times.

Are the men in submarines braver than those in other pursuits where the possibility of sudden tragedy is not constant? The glib answer would be that they are. It is much more accurate, from a psychological point of view, to say they are not necessarily braver, but that they have a little more insight into themselves and their capabilities.

They know themselves a little better than the next man. This has to be so with men who have a healthy reason to volunteer for a risk. They are generally a cut healthier emotionally than others of similar age and background because of their willingness to push themselves a little bit farther and not settle for an easier kind of existence. We all have tremendous capabilities but are rarely straining at the upper level of what we can do; these men are.

The country can be proud and grateful that so many of its sound, young, eager men care enough about their own status in life—and the welfare of their country—to pool their skills and match them collectively against the power of the sea.

***Joyce Diane Brothers (October 20, 1927 – May 13, 2013) was an American psychologist, television personality, advice columnist, and writer.***

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Michael D. "Mad Max" Schell, following 20 years in Submarine Nuclear Power Plant operation and supervision, took his attention to detail in a different direction by taking over West Coast Specialties as owner and creative consultant. He is a long time and life member of USSVI and Gold Country Base. Mad Max is a promotional product distributor, that through his Advertising Specialties network, has access to over 3,500 supplier factories to source and produce any custom decorated product or wearables, with a focus on creatively solving his client's needs vs. just selling ink pens and coffee mugs, or whatever else is on sale). Through his membership In the iPROMOTEu distributor network, he has access to top of the line brands at very competitive pricing. Some of his specialties include awards and plaques, coins, patches, drink ware (coffee mugs, pint glasses, shot glasses, metal and plastic water bottles), and wearables (T-shirts, sweatshirts, polos, caps and jackets). His decoration techniques include embroidery, screen-printing, dye sublimation, direct garment printing, heat transfers and laser engraving.

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## April/May 2021 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](mailto:sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com) or contact me by phone at (916) 600-1425