



June/July 2021
VOL MMXXI Issue 04

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."



First Call to Morning Chow

A good meal
and a great time
filled with
comradery was
had by all.

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Next Meeting—July 24, 2021

Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm
Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow

Tuesday August 10 @ 9:30 Denny's 2474 Sunrise Blvd.,
Rancho Cordova (just north of I-50)



Now Hear This!

August 30—September 4 USSVI National Convention

Orlando, FL <https://ussviconvention.org/2021/> (page 12)

October 17 –22 Western Region Roundup, Reno NV

www.wrroundup.com (page 13)



Shipmates— Finally it is starting to feel like things are getting back to normal. But before we leave the world of zoom I think it is important to remember all those members who, even through the thick of it, continued to carry the load and keep us moving forward. I want to thank **Les** whose steady hand and calm demeanor has helped guide us through this difficult time. **Mark** and his team who put together and stayed the course with our member outreach program that was deeply appreciated by all those who received those calls. **Nick**, who guided us through the annual dues collection process, continues to maintain our treasury, membership lists and our web-

site. **Roger**, who even with some health issues that would have sidelined many of us, made sure we got our calendars and has completed a full inventory of our stores getting them ready for a clearance sale. **Pete**, for his continued service to USSVI, our region and our Base. **Warren**, who continues the effort to make sure we all have cards to hand out to prospective members and has stepped up to fill the position of Holland Club Commander. **John**, who has quietly continued to keep our Sub Float in shape knowing the time will come to return it to service. **Howard**, in his service as our Chaplain has kept us centered and overseen our Eternal Patrol ceremonies. **Harold**, who through his due diligence and hard work found and reserved new locations for our First Call breakfasts. **Chad**, who even though not knowing when they will be needed, has continued researching and recruiting future guest speakers. **Gil**, who maintained our tradition of honoring a local Eagle Scout at his Court of Honor. Most of all I want to thank our wives and families all of who continue to support us in more ways than we can describe.

Last month's picnic was a great success thanks to Les who brought the food and sweated over a hot barbeque with Jerry by his side, our wives for the cleanup and Chad for supervising our Corn Hole tournament. Equally, our First Call at IHOP in Roseville felt like old times. This month we return to full action with an eBoard meeting, Potluck and regular scheduled meeting.

Moving forward on the event front:

1. If you are planning on attending the National Convention in Orlando you are running out of time to register (see info on page 13)
2. Nevada City parade in September no information yet
3. Western Region Roundup in Reno in late October (see info on page 14)
4. Folsom Veterans Day Parade (first planning meeting scheduled for early next month)
5. December 7th Pearl Harbor memorial 80th anniversary (planning is underway)
6. Base Holiday party December 16th (planning is under way)

Lost Boat Memorial, West Sac parks Supervisor Sam Cooney has been on vacation but he's back now. We are trying schedule a walkthrough for direction so that we can move forward with the design process. I hope to see you all at the Meeting on Saturday.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Shipmates: There have been a number of changes to our lives over the past year that we now have to decide whether to keep or discard them. Many of us have got accustomed to these changes in lifestyle and have the option to continue or remove them from our daily lives. I have listed a few for you all to consider keeping or discard:



The video medical visit compared to a trip to the doctor's office which always includes at least ½ hour to hour sitting in the waiting room for a 15-minute appointment in the doctor's office. The video examination is still a little rough during a rectal examination!!

The online grocery delivery system compared to the hour or so trip to Walmart. The plus of the online delivery system is the time saved but the minus is the brown head of lettuce and the many substitutions the system makes on its own. But we must consider the trip to the store always includes fighting for a front row parking spot coupled with getting the finger and getting cussed out by some other pleasant shopper!!

The home delivery system of restaurant items such as Door dash delivery to enjoy the convenience of not going out to the restaurant. The plus is restaurant quality food that you can plate at home and take the credit for cooking it. The minus is the delivery of ice cream sundaes delivered from Dairy Queen that arrived as four cups of blended chocolate and caramel with peanuts floating in them.

Zoom meetings compared to actual meetings at the hall. Of course the zoom meetings provided us with a safe method to get together. But the consistent comment every zoom meeting "Les, you are still muted and no one can hear you."

These are just a few of my thoughts in reference to changes in our lifestyle over the past year. I really enjoyed last month's picnic and last week's "First Call To Chow". It was great getting back together again.

Stay safe and God Bless Les Jamison, Vice Commander

What is the Millennium? Part 2



The end of the thousand years is described in Revelation 20:7-10:

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Barry, thanks for the request of my position to Chief of the Boat, which I accept. It surprises me that no one else stepped up to fill the position. I have served in that capacity for eight years. Just being a member **does not cut it**. Being an involved member, in a leadership capacity **does**. **Many thanks to those members holding positions of leadership**. Something to think about during the next election cycle. Maybe it will keep my mind functioning better and sticking around for many more years.



Sorry to have missed the picnic, but my visit to Tennessee was unavoidable, due to family issues.

If you have the need to fly now days, I suggest you require a wheelchair, due to the airline problems, along with patience. Cancelled flites and delays are real.

Harry Beach, Chief of the Boat (COB)



From the Treasurer: Please don't forget you can all donate to the booster fund year round. Now that we are back to meeting monthly, we will have our 50/50 raffle, and pass around the collection for the Navy Sea Cadets. Feel free to send donations to: USSVI Gold Country Base 4521 Hart Dr, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8337



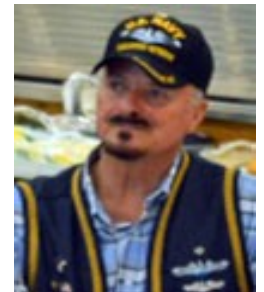
From the Membership Chair: I would like to remind everyone that all they have to send me is their wife's name, phone, address, birthday month and email address, and I can set them up as associate members. No money.

No forms. Just email that information to membership@goldcountrybase.org. I'll be in Vermont for this meeting but I hope to see you all next month.

Nicholas Sadowy Treasurer, Membership Chair



SHIPMATES - I've completed an inventory and organized each of the three boxes with all of the patches, pins, and other assorted items that our dear friend Tim Spoon kept in his boxes as storekeeper inventory, (Estimated total \$1,997). I have also received an updated 2021 United States Submarine Veterans Inc. National Storekeeper Catalog from Barry Commons. This will make my sales and purchases go a lot more smoothly in the future.



So far since our last meeting we have sold: a total of 4 Submarine Ball Caps from the inventory (\$80), plus 1 special order Submarine Ball Cap of USS CHARR SS 328) for one of our newest members (\$30), and 4 patches (\$20). There are also a few more orders from that USSVI National Storekeeper coming in soon which will be paid upon receipt of the items.

Our USSVI National Storekeeper, Barry Commons suggested that now would be a good time to get our estimate in for USSVI 2022 Calendars. He will be ordering them in a large national order within the next two weeks to get the very best discount for the larger quality.

I recently had right knee replacement surgery at UC Davis Medical Center and have been home recovering for the last few weeks. My thanks and appreciation goes out to my shipmates who have assisted me and kept me in their prayers. I expect to be at the next Gold Country Base meeting in July, hope to see you all then.

Roger Paul, Storekeeper



SubVet Check-In

Call are being made and we have received feedback from people expressing enthusiasm for receiving the calls. I have been in contact with some members and snail mailing the newsletters to a couple of people who are unable to receive emails.

Everyone seems to be excited that face to face meetings are allowed, at least for now.



Folsom JVO

Each organization is allowed to have one free fund raising event per year.

Although it is only July, we needed to choose a date for our Holiday Dinner. The date we were able to reserve was Thursday, December 16.

The Veteran's Hall holds a Workday on the 2nd of each month. Members of the various groups get together to do work around the facility. In July we play Army and moved river rock from one area to another and back again so weed barrier could be laid down. Afterwards many people visit for a few minutes while having a refreshment. I make sure SubVets are represented.

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



Shipmates, this edition I started a couple of new features; the first is "**Featured Boat**" the second is historical dates in "**Submarine History**". For the featured boat I chose that amazing boat the Henry Clay. Your boat could be next. Send me a sea story from your time aboard, it could be about your first patrol, your last patrol or just a good sea story and some history of your boat and I will do the rest. Thank you to Harry for his story and the great pictures and captions about the Pomodon that he sent in for this edition.



It will be 2 months until I publish again, please take the time to send in something that you are willing to share. If you don't like to write give me a call, tell me the story and I will write it up for you. I put a fair amount of time in putting the Newsletter together and really would like some feedback.

Let me know what you think of the new features. Also, if there is some other content you would like to see or if you have a comments about the layout, good, bad or indifferent please let me know.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor



Our 1st First Call to Morning Chow in over a year was held at the IHOP restaurant in Roseville and, by all accounts, was a major success with over 25 members and spouses attending. With the restaurant business in disarray it took a fair amount of research to find this location. Trying find a spot off Hwy 50 also took some effort but I found one that I think will work out great for next month's breakfast. Denny's 2474 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova (just north of Hwy 50) **Tuesday August 10 @ 9:30** . I hope you can join us.



Harold Fisher, First Call to Morning Chow Coordinator



Shipmates,

My wife tells me that after the July 4th, the rest of the year finishes up way too fast. Here I am, it's only two weeks since and there are only **six weeks** (minus one day as of this writing) that we'll be landing in Orlando, FL to attend the 2021 USSVI National Convention to participate in both meetings and the camaraderie of shipmates...and hopefully bring home some well deserved National Award booty for Bases in Western District Five that made the effort to submit awards this past year. It's also only **13 weeks** away until this



year's Western Region Roundup in October 17-22, 2021. If financial turmoil prevented your attendance from the USSVI National Convention, this one is a mere two hour drive over the Truckee grade and into Reno, NV at the Silver Legacy Casino and Hotel. I strongly encourage each of you to visit the website, <http://wrroundup.com> and on the bottom right side of the page 'Learn More'. This year, a formal committee has been created Chaired by Gold Country Base Commander Barry Wyatt, Treasurer Mare Island Base Commander Tim Carlisle, and Secretary WD5 Pete Juhos; all working with the Western Region Director and Corvina Base Vice Commander Rick Johns, POC Leif Larson, and Bill Conklin and Terry Bolen. As a team, we're learning the ropes from Gene Kellar who has single-handedly managed and set up these Western Region Roundups longer than I've been a member of SubVets. There is a lot to learn, but Gene has advised that he's ready to turn over his expertise to the next generation. Hence, the formation and direction of the committee. During the Western Region Roundup, we're going to be formalizing the committee, the direction, duration, and content of events for the future. If you want to make your constructive and informed input heard, then you need to attend. Furthermore, it's only 16 weeks (+ three days) until Veterans Day (scuttlebutt has it that we'll be in Folsom, CA); and 20 weeks (+1 day) until it's time for the Gold Country Base to perform their time-honored Pearl Harbor Remembrance event...this year is the 80th anniversary of the attack. Will you come out, be counted, and participate in these events? I will be looking to see you all there, rain or shine, masked or not. Pride Runs Deep! Pete Juhos, WD5 / Immediate Past Base Commander, Gold Country Base

Pete Juhos , USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander



Shipmates, I have printed some Business Cards for the new officers and will have them with me at our meeting on Saturday, I want the members to verify info on cards, if all ok I will print them cards. If any other members need Business Cards complete the form and email it to me. (see the form on page 22)

It sure was good to see the turn out for first call, and be able to see and talk with everyone, it will be great if this can continue.



We have been able to remain home for the most part, just the doctors' visits, our daughter helps with the food shopping.

We go to Lowes for materials for home projects etc. Dairy Queen for a cone on the way home. For the meetings being potluck, is there a suggested list, first letter main menu and dessert etc

Warren Wiederhoeft, Holland Club Commander, Base Historian

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)
Harry Beach

Qualified 1961
USS Pomodon SS 486
Life Member
Holland Club
(530) 417-2467 hbeachcp@aol.com



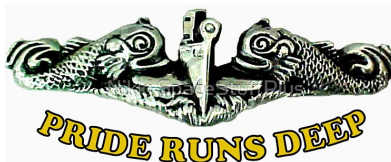
Base Chaplain
Howard Grover

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
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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 ds3.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

July

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.



USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.



USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two subchasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.



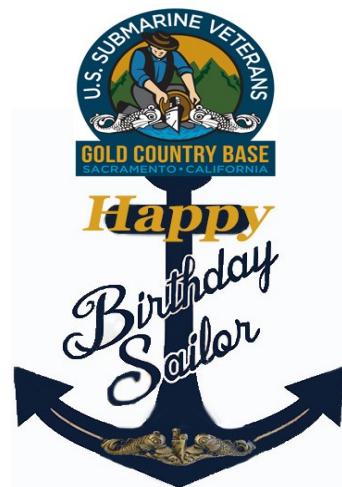
Birthdays

JUNE

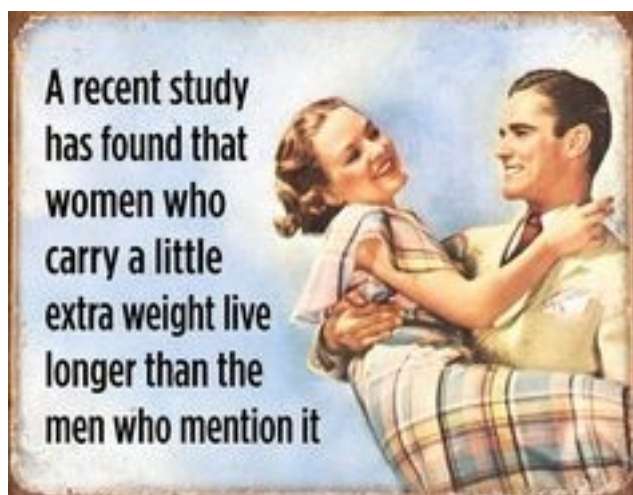
David Black Frank Elliott Gill Miller

JULY

Don Carter Dennis Henderson
Chuck McKinley Roger Paul Kathleen Paul
Mark Elftmann Diana Clay



On The Lighter Side



For reasons he never quite understood, the Ensign's first tour was a little "rocky."





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

National Park Fees — H.R.4300

Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act On 1 JUL, House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR.) joined Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), and 129 other members in introducing the bipartisan Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act.

This legislation would give veterans and Gold Star families free lifetime access to public lands, and active-duty military free annual passes. The America the Beautiful Pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. This includes some of the country's most iconic natural treasures, ranging from Acadia National Park to the Redwood National Forest. The VIP Act would allow all veterans, active-duty service members and Gold Star Families to visit national parks and public lands free of charge. In 2020, the Trump administration made the America the Beautiful annual pass free for veterans and Gold Star Families. However, this benefit for veterans has never been put into law and could be undone by a future administration. The VIP Act would turn these free annual passes into lifetime passes, as well as codify the annual passes for current service members. These can then be converted into lifetime passes once they leave the military. At the time of introduction, 135 Republican and Democrat members cosponsored the VIP Act and 55 organizations supported the legislation.

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES June 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 12 noon Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Paul.

INVOCATION: District Commander Pete Juhos

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of June were read by the Vice Commander, Les Jamison and Base Secretary Mark Elftmann tolled the bell for all Lost Boats and in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION:

There were 27 members and guests who attended.

No Formal Business was conducted.

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 July 24, 2021 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm

Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom



Gold Country Base News

Annual Gold Country Base Charter Day Bar-b-Que & Family Picnic



Clean-up crew Associate Members
Marriah Wyatt & Diana Clay



New Members Gary & Debra Robertson visit
with Pete and Chad



Pete and Chad having an important
& profound discussion



Great turnout on a very hot day

Pictures not show do to a malfunction in the camera, or maybe the operator, is Les slaving over a hot barbeque or Chad supervising the Corn Hole tournament as the temperature soared to 110

USSVI National News

USSVI Shipmates, At this time due to a situation out of our control, we cannot upload the American Submariner 2021 3rd Quarter Edition to our website which enables our members that have chosen the digital copy option to access the magazine.

As a temporary workaround we have made this latest edition available by the use of Google Drive. Please copy and paste the following link into your web browser which will open this edition for your viewing.

<https://bit.ly/2VuSB2f>

Hopefully, this will be the last time we have to use our present website for this purpose.

All the Best and please take care,

Wayne Standerfer, National Commander



USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION Orlando, FL August 30 – September 04, 2021

We have a group rate of **\$105.00** per night per room.

Attendees can also contact the hotel reservations department directly at 866-996-6338 and use code USSVI-2021 National Convention.

The cut-off date for the Room Block is August 01, 2021.

<https://ussviconvention.org/2021/>

Help Wanted

USSVI began our Scholarship Program in 1985 and over the ensuing 36 years, we have had two Scholarship Fund Managers. Two! This is almost unheard of for a volunteer organization.

Bob Frick, our current Scholarship Fund Manager will be stepping down at the end of the 2022 scholarship year, July 2022. You can claim your place in the history of the USSVI by taking the reins of this wonderful program and continuing the tradition of longevity and productivity with our Scholarship Fund. In 36 years, we have awarded over 1,000 scholarships totaling well over \$1 Million in scholarships for children and grandchildren of Submarine Veterans. This program is growing and reaching a wider audience of eligible scholars, the vast majority of whom are amazingly talented. All are well worth the support we can offer. We have a detailed job description that is too detailed to include in this initial appeal for a candidate.



If you would like to discuss this position further, please contact:

- John Markiewicz, the Charitable Foundation's President or
- Ken Earls, the Charitable Foundation's Executive Director.

John and Ken's contact information is available on the USSVI or USSV Charitable Foundation's websites.

Visit www.ussvcf.org for a little more information. If you have even a hint of interest, contact us. It could be life-changing for you - just like when you volunteered for the Submarine Service.

Thank you,

Ken Earls

Executive Director & Treasurer

Charitable Foundation

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

kenearls.ss@gmail.com 928-308-4488 - Mobile

USSVI Regional News

New Western Region Patch

Western Region Director Vic Van Horn is seeking some assistance regarding Base acquisition of the new WRD patch.

The old patch design was updated to show the new internal boundaries which were re-organized to create WD8 in 2020.

He would like to know how many of the new patches each Base will acquire. The patch is 4" in diameter; the cost to the Base is \$6 each. The funds raised by WRD in the sale of the patches goes towards the Western Region Roundup. The new patches are a bit smaller in diameter than the older patches, so crowded vest owners will recoup a bit of real estate for other emblematic items.

Please let our Storekeeper know if you are interested in purchasing one.



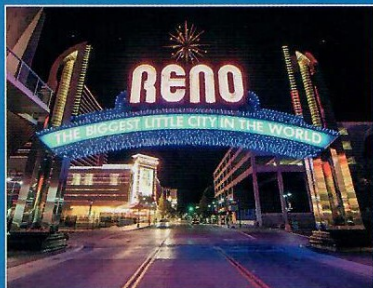
A gathering of Submariners WESTERN REGION ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 17-22 2021

Reno, Nevada



Details at
www.wrroundup.com



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.

From The Crew



My First Going to Sea on Diesel Boat after Sub School was an adventure I never would have guessed. *By Harry Beach*

Leaving sub school in September I was assigned to the USS Pomodon SS486 based in San Diego, as an EMFN. In October we set sail for points north. Being a EMFN (nqp) I drew the 0400-0800 starboard lookout. Somewhere off the Southern California coast I reported to the OD that a torpedo was coming at us 90 degrees. Oops it was a dolphin. Dumb me. We were headed to San Francisco's Fleet week, arriving there on a Friday Am. Saturday, we loaded up with a reserve crew and headed to sea under the golden gate bridge, returning just before sunset.

That is when an event happened that I will never forget. In charge for docking was a Reserve Officer of the Deck. Our approach was good until we were pointed 90 Degrees to the pier, (the one with the arch at the head of the pier at Fisherman's Wharf). I was a line hand on the forward deck. There were several cars on the pier watching us come in. I saw a lady in a Cadillac, the look on her face was full of fear as the boat lifted her cars front end up in the air. Emergency equipment arrived and our captain took control and docked the boat. As the boat was plowing into the pier I was slowly moving back toward the sail.

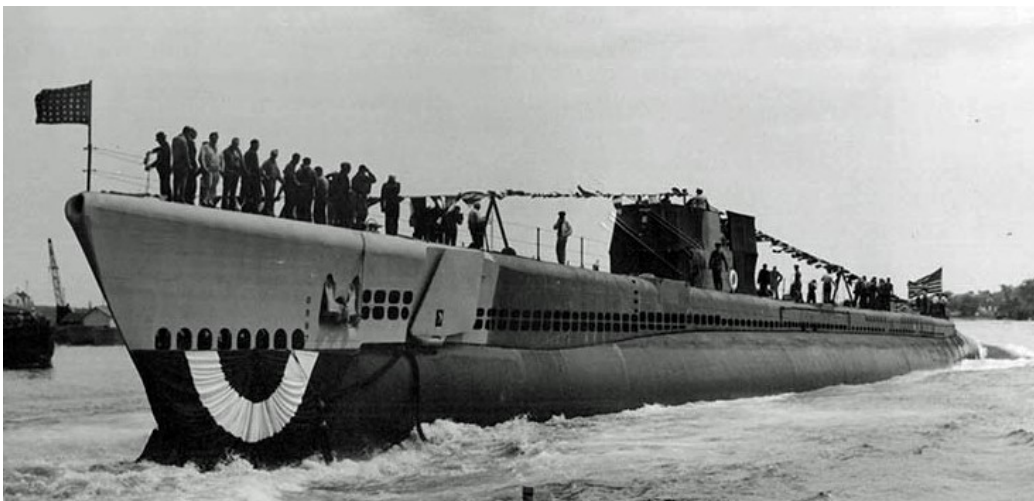
We spent the rest of the weekend there for open house.

Monday morning, we head out and north and were in transit of the Oregon coast.

After reading the story in the 1st quarter American Submariner about the USS Cutlass in the north Atlantic and the loss if the OD Lt. Thompson in high sea's. My memory awoken and the story reminded me of my own high sea's action. I was the starboard lookout on the 0400-0800 watch the sea was huge with water towering over the bridge, coming dead ahead. It was like riding a surfboard up one wave and down thru another. Needless to say, we couldn't open the conning tower hatch to change the watch, so the 0400-0800 watch turned into 0400-1200 watch. As the morning cleared up a bit. A shot landed about 200-yards dead head fired by a destroyer headed south.

After we on the bridge were relieved, I took my wet close to the engine room to dry.

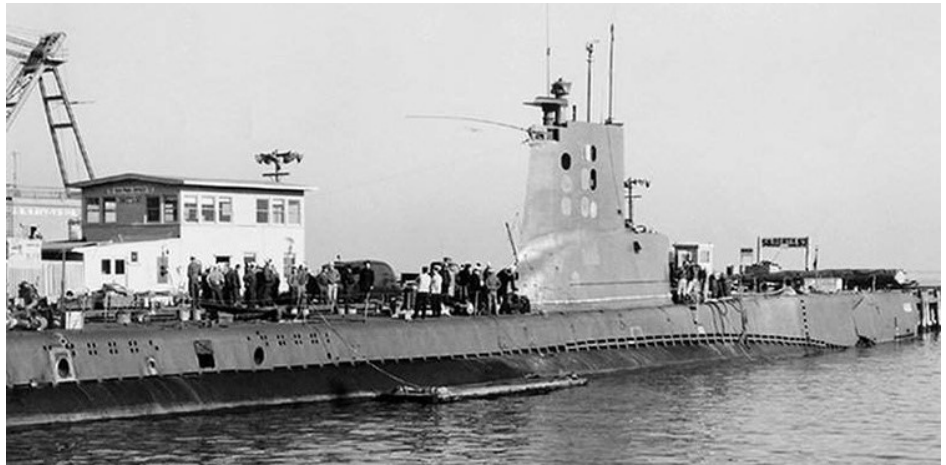
The Boat headed to the Canadian waters for ops with them and liberty in Vancouver and another open house.



**The Pomodon (SS-486) is launched at Portsmouth Navy Yard
Portsmouth, N.H., 12 June 1945.**

From The Crew

USS Pomodon (SS-486)



On 21 February 1955, while recharging batteries in the San Francisco Naval Yard, a build-up of hydrogen gas caused an explosion and fire, damaging the Pomodon (SS-486) and killing five men. TM1(SS) Charles E. Payne earned the Navy Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant by his actions in fighting the fire and rescuing the injured. Pasquale Talladino EN2 received the Navy Marine Corp Medal. After the third explosion he entered the control room through the conning tower in an attempt to rescue anyone who might still be alive. The Pomodon is pictured here after the explosion at San Francisco.



The destructive power of the Torpedo MK-37 is graphically portrayed in this photograph showing Aspro (SS-309) after being hit by a Torpedo MK-37 fired from Pomodon (SS-486) on 16 November 1962. The unmanned Aspro sank in 17 minutes in 630 fathoms of water 16 miles west of San Diego after being fired upon as part of a Service Weapons Test. Through the Torpedo MK-37 improvement program underway at the Navy Underwater Systems Center, the weapon was modified to increase its effectiveness against modern, more evasive targets

View of the decommissioning of the three submarines at Mare Island on 1 August 1970. Left to right: Pomodon (SS-486), and Medregal (SS-480) outboard of Segundo (SS-398).



Story submitted by
Harry Beach, Chief of the Boat

Featured Boat

USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625), a *Lafayette* class ballistic missile submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Henry Clay (1777–1852), the American statesman and orator.



HISTORY

The Honorable Henry Clay once said, if anyone is seeking the primary purpose of life, 'Preservation of the Union' will furnish him the key." It was appropriate that USS Henry Clay should choose as her motto "Preservation of the Nation" to reflect her primary purpose.



Awarded:	3-Feb-61
Keel laid:	23-Oct-61
Launched:	30-Nov-62
Commissioned:	20-Feb-64
Builder:	Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va.
Propulsion system:	one S5W nuclear reactor
Propellers:	one
Length:	425 feet (129.6 meters)
Beam:	33 feet (10 meters)
Draft:	31.5 feet (9.6 meters)
Displacement:	Surfaced: approx. 7,250 tons; Submerged: approx. 8,250 tons
Speed:	Surfaced: 16 - 20 knots; Submerged: 22 - 25 knots
Armament:	16 vertical tubes for Polaris or Poseidon missiles, four 21" torpedo tubes for Mk-48 torpedoes, Mk-14/16 torpedoes, Mk-37 torpedoes and Mk-45 nuclear torpedoes
Decommissioned:	5-Nov-90
Stricken:	5-Nov-90
Motto:	<i>Preservation of the Nation</i>
Fate:	Scrapping via Ship-Submarine Recycling Program completed 30 September 1997

The keel of USS Henry Clay (SSBN 625), the seventeenth of forty-one fleet ballistic missile submarines, was laid 23 October 1961 at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. She was christened USS Henry Clay, and launched 30 November 1962.

USS Henry Clay was commissioned on 20 February 1964 and departed on her shakedown cruise. The firing of her first submerged Polaris missile on 6 April 1964 was witnessed by the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The first surface firing of a missile was conducted from USS Henry Clay on 20 April 1964.

(continued on next page)

Featured Boat

(continued)

The Clay departed Newport News for the final time on 11 July 1964 with the Blue Crew embarked to make her first Polaris Deterrent Patrol. She served as a member of Submarine Squadron Fourteen until October 1968 completing a total of eighteen deterrent patrols for the Atlantic Fleet.

On 10 October 1968 the Clay entered Charleston Naval Shipyard where she was improved for her newer A-3 Polaris missile.

Following missile test firings off the coast of Florida, Henry Clay transited the Panama Canal and reported to the U.S. Pacific Fleet as a member of Submarine Squadron Fifteen. She resumed Polaris nuclear deterrent patrols in August 1970 and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for service during the period 1 July 1968 to 1 October 1970.

During her tour in the Pacific the Clay completed 18 deterrent patrols.

Henry Clay entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 13 April 1975 for overhaul and conversion to the C-3 Poseidon missile capability and reactor refueling.

In July 1977, she rejoined the Atlantic Fleet was assigned to Commander Submarine Squadron Fourteen to make deterrent patrols from Holy Loch, Scotland.

In September 1983, Henry Clay was the first Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine to visit Naples, Italy. On 20 February 1984 the Henry Clay completed her twentieth year of commissioned service.

In 1987, Henry Clay's Gold Crew underwent an unannounced Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). She received an Excellent grade, the only submarine in the United States Atlantic Fleet other than the attack submarine USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN-709) up to that date to receive an Excellent on an unannounced ORSE.

In 1989, in preparation for its final deterrent patrol, the Henry Clay crew spent just three days in Holy Loch for its refit (instead of the normal three-week refit period), and unloaded 250,000 pounds of food. Henry Clay spent a record 121 days (April–August) beneath the North Atlantic waves on deterrent patrol. It made two, short back-to-back port calls in Plymouth and Portsmouth, England respectively. After its successful patrol, she returned to her home port of Charleston, South Carolina.

USS Henry Clay SSBN 625 was decommissioned on 5 November 1990 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register the same day. She entered the Nuclear-Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program in Bremerton, Washington, for scrapping, which was completed on 30 September 1997



The USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625) was my Qual boat. I joined the Blue Crew after Sub School in the summer of 1963 during new construction. I was a member of the Commissioning Crew, did all the shake downs and test missile firings and 5 patrols.

Barry Wyatt STS3 SS

U.S. Navy's Virginia Class Submarines To Get 76% More Firepower

The Virginia Class submarine is already heavily armed. Each boat can carry up to 37 torpedo-sized weapons, such as Tomahawk cruise missiles. Twelve of these slots are in two vertical launch systems (VLS), known as the Virginia Payload Tubes. The new Block V (5) batch of submarines will add 28 more slots in its VLS. This is an increase of 76% of torpedo-sized weapons.

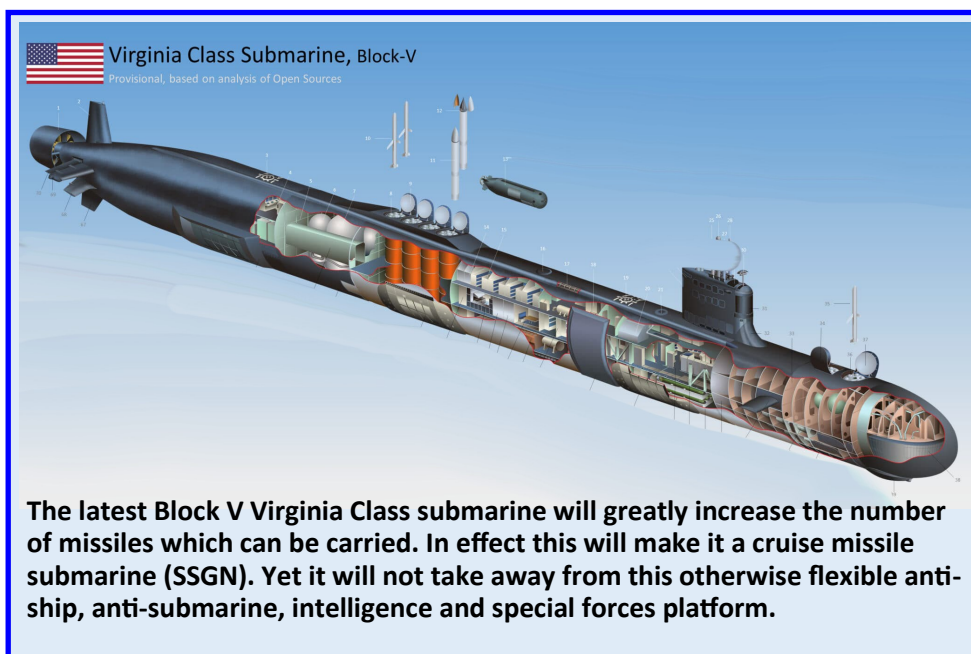
The U.S. Navy is planning to build between 72 to 78 new attack submarines. Ten of these will be the Virginia Block V boats, 8 of which will be up-armed as described here. Based on a recent briefing document from the Congressional Research Service, **reported in US Naval Institute News**, a total of 31 Virginia Class submarines will ultimately have this fit.

When it was originally conceived the Virginia Class was seen as a cheaper alternative to the larger Seawolf Class. The Seawolf had been designed during the Cold War to counter the latest Russian submarines. But the Russian types were mostly cancelled (or massively delayed) in the post-Cold War period. Therefore only three of the expensive Seawolfs were eventually built. Yet while the Virginia Class was smaller than the Seawolf, it took advantage of new technologies and itself became a world-leading nuclear powered attack submarine.

The Block II Virginias continued to focus largely on production efficiency. The Block IIIs took this further with enhanced construction techniques. At the same time they received a new conformal main sonar array in place of the traditional spherical array found on earlier U.S. Navy submarines. Their vertical launch system was changed from 12 single tubes to two 'Multiple All-Up Round Containers'. These are the Virginia Payload Tubes.

The Block IV, which are mostly still under construction, again focused on reducing cost. They also improved availability. But the improvements were iterative and mostly hard to see. Outwardly Block V will be more visibly different, with a new weapons module and additional sensors.

They will be extended with the addition of an 84 foot (25 meters) section to accommodate the four new vertical launch tubes. Each of these will be capable of carrying 7 Tomahawks. The new VLS is termed the Virginia Payload Module and will also be suitable for future weapons and alternative payloads.



(continued on next page)

The Block V Virginia Class Submarine Will Have New Weapons

The latest Tomahawk missiles, coincidentally also known as the Block V, will **add an anti-ship capability** to the existing land-attack mode. They are expected to be operational before the first Virginia Block V joins the submarine force.

More potent still, although unconfirmed, are likely to be new hypersonic boost-glide vehicles. It is unclear how many will be carried in each VLS but a reasonable guess is three rounds. Because the Block Vs have more VLS slots it seems natural that they will be among the first submarines to carry the hypersonic missiles. With a total of 6 VLS tubes they could carry a mixed load of, perhaps, 12 hypersonic missiles (3 in each of the aft 4 tubes) and 12 Tomahawks in the forward tubes.

The submarines will still have the regular torpedo room (weapons stowage compartment). This can carry the latest versions of the ADCAP (Advanced Capability) family of heavyweight torpedoes. They are also likely to carry the new Hammerhead mine which will replace the legacy Mk.47 submarine launched mobile mine (SLMM).

Hammerhead will allow covert deployment of bottom mines. Although less glamorous than missiles this is a particularly powerful capability. The U.S. Navy is also developing a new Clandestine Delivered Mine which will blend technologies from underwater drones with regular bottom mines. This will allow much greater stand-off ranges when sowing mine fields, thus improving both survivability and operational flexibility.

Sonar Enhancements

On the sonar front the Block Vs are expected to receive the Large Vertical Array (LVA) flank sonars. These are in addition to the six ultra-modern **Light Weight Wide Aperture Arrays** (LWWAA) which are placed along the submarine's side. There are indications that a LVA has recently been fitted to an Ohio Class ballistic missile submarine, the USS Tennessee (SSBN-734).



A rendered image of the Virginia-class Block V attack submarine, which is destined to change undersea warfare. (Courtesy of General Dynamics)

Taken together the improvements will make the Block V the most heavily armed attack submarine in US Navy history. Whether they will in future receive the classic 'SSGN' designation, like the four converted Ohio Class cruise missile submarines currently in service, remains to be seen. Even if not their impressive cruise missile load will differentiate them from other attack submarines. Even their big brother, the larger Seawolf Class.

American Submarine's Dates of Interest

JUNE & JULY

Jun 09 1959 – U.S. Navy: The USS George Washington is launched. It is the first submarine to carry ballistic missiles.

Jun 10 1945 – WW2: USS Skate (SS-305) got underway from Pearl Harbor for her seventh war patrol on 11 April 1945, to form a coordinated attack group with other submarines and patrol in the Sea of Japan. On the morning of 10 June, she encountered I-122, a Japanese submarine on the surface returning to port. As the enemy crossed her bow, Skate launched two torpedoes with two hits, sinking the target. Two days later, while off the Nanto Peninsula, she evaded gunfire of enemy ships and an attack by an enemy escort to sink three cargo ships. Skate terminated her seventh war patrol at Pearl Harbor on 4 JUL.

Jun 14 1944 – WW2: USS Golet (SS-361) missing. Most likely sunk by Japanese guard boat Miya Maru, auxiliary submarine chaser Bunzan Maru, and naval aircraft off northern Honshu, Japan. 82 killed.

Jun 19 1945 – WW2: USS Bonefish (SS-223) Lost » Upon completion of refit on 28 May, Bonefish got underway on her eighth patrol in company with Tunny (SS-282) and Skate (SS-305), as part of "Pierce's Pole Cats", commanded by Tunny's skipper, Commander George E. Pierce. Equipped with a new mine-detecting device, the submarines were ordered to penetrate the Sea of Japan to sever the last of the Japanese overseas supply lines. Bonefish successfully threaded her way through the minefields by Tsushima Island as she transited the Korean Strait to enter the Sea of Japan for an offensive patrol off the west central coast of Honshu. During a rendezvous with Tunny on 16 June, Bonefish reported sinking Oshikayama Maru, a 6,892 ton cargo ship. In a second rendezvous two days later, she requested and received permission to conduct a daylight submerged patrol of Toyama Bay, a bay farther up the Honshū coast. The attack group was to depart the Sea of Japan via La Perouse Strait on the night of 24 June. Bonefish did not make the scheduled pre-transit rendezvous. Still, Tunny waited in vain off Hokkaido for three days. Later on 30 July, Bonefish and her crew of 85 was presumed lost. Japanese records reveal that the 5,488 ton cargo ship Konzan Maru was torpedoed and sunk in Toyama Wan on 19 June and that an ensuing severe counterattack by her Japanese escorts, the Okinawa and three Coast Defense Vessels CD-63, CD-75, CD-158 and CD-207, brought debris and a major oil slick to the water's surface. There can be little doubt that Bonefish was sunk in this action. She was the second to last United States Submarine lost in the war, with Bullhead (SS-332) being the last to be lost in August 1945. In total, Bonefish boat sank 31 enemy vessels, for a total of 158,500 tons, and damaged 7, for another 42,000 tons.



June 22 1963 – U.S. Navy: The nuclear-powered submarines USS Tecumseh (SSBN-628), USS Daniel Boone (SSBN-629), USS Flasher (SSN-613), and USS John Calhoun (SSBN-630) are all launched in one day, emphasizing the Navy's accelerated nuclear-submarine construction program

June 24 1944 – WW2: Navy submarines USS Grouper (SS 214), USS Redfin (SS 272) and USS Tang (SS 306) attack Japanese convoys off the coast of Japan, sinking seven enemy vessels

(continued on next page)

American Submarine's Dates of Interest

Jul 02 1957 – U.S. Navy: First submarine designed to fire guided missiles launched, Grayback (SSG574). She was initially designated as an attack submarine, but was converted to a Regulus nuclear cruise missile submarine in 1958. Japanese records reveal that the 5,488 ton cargo ship Konzan Maru was torpedoed and sunk in Toyama Wan on 19 June and that an ensuing severe counterattack by her Japanese escorts, the Okinawa and three Coast Defense Vessels CD-63, CD-75, CD-158 and CD-207, brought debris and a major oil slick to the water's surface. There can be little doubt that Bonefish was sunk in this action. She was the second to last United States Submarine lost in the war, with Bullhead (SS-332) being the last to be lost in August 1945. In total, Bonefish boat sank 31 enemy vessels, for a total of 158,500 tons, and damaged 7, for another 42,000 tons.

Jul 16 1960 – U.S. Navy: USS George Washington a modified Skipjack class submarine successfully test fires the first ballistic missile while submerged



Jul 07 1944 – WW2: USS Scape (SS-305) departed Midway on 23 JUN on her fifth war patrol to be conducted off the Kuril Islands. On 7 JUL she intercepted a convoy of five Japanese ships and escorting destroyers in the Sea of Okhotsk. Skate fired three torpedoes at the trailing destroyer, Usugumo which sank in six minutes, leaving 49 survivors from a crew of 316. The submarine was then forced deep by the other escorts and depth charged for over two hours before escaping. On 15 July, the submarine sank a cargo ship taking two prisoners and, on the following day, another cargo ship was also sent to the bottom. Skate terminated her fifth patrol at Pearl Harbor on 7 August.

Jul 20 1960 – U.S. Navy: USS George Washington (SSBN-98) conducted the first successful submerged SLBM launch with a pair of Polaris A-1 missiles off Cape Canaveral, Fla., at a target more than 1,100 miles away. Forty days later, the Soviet Union made its first successful underwater launch of a submarine ballistic missile in the White Sea.

Jul 21 1915 – WWI: Attack on Orleans, USA » On the morning of 21 JUL, German submarine U156, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Von Oldenburg, was attempting to cut the trans-Atlantic submarine communications cable from Orleans Massachusetts, to Brest, France. While searching unsuccessfully for the buried cable, Von Oldenburg became aware of the passing tugboat Perth Amboy towing three barges and the three-masted schooner Lansford. U-156 fired two torpedoes which missed the tug and barges. U-156 then surfaced 3 miles off Orleans and fired its two deck guns at the tug and its tow. Perth Amboy was heavily damaged, and the schooner and three barges were sunk. Two Curtiss HS-2L flying boats from the recently completed Naval Air Station Chatham dropped bombs near U-156; but the bombs failed to explode because the airmen on watch that Sunday were inexperienced at arming the bombs. U-156 elevated its guns to fire at the aircraft, but missed. Some shells landed harmlessly in a deserted marsh and on Nauset Beach, giving the town of Orleans the distinction of being the only spot in the United States that received enemy fire during World War I, but there is no evidence that these were deliberately aimed at the shore. There were no targets of value in the area other than the vessels. There were no fatalities. Nearby Station No. 40 of the United States Life-Saving Service launched a surfboat under heavy enemy shell-fire and rowed out to rescue the 32 sailors trapped aboard the tug and barges. After firing 147 shells in the hour-long engagement, U-156 submerged about 11:30 a.m. U-156 escaped away and headed north, where it attacked other Allied ships. Newspapers dubbed the engagement the "Battle of Orleans" and offered a reward for the discovery of submarine supply bases in the Bay of Fundy. The attack on Orleans was the first time that the United States was shelled by artillery of an external power since the Siege of Fort Texas in 1846.

Jul 21 1955 – U.S. Navy: USS Seawolf launched » She was the first nuclear submarine powered by liquid metal (sodium) cooled nuclear reactor (S2G) which was more compact than the USS Nautilus' (S2W) reactor and employed superheated steam. The liquid sodium idea may have seemed like a good idea in theory, but it was unsuccessful in practice. In fact, the Navy was quick to deep-six the concept. Literally. In 1958, Seawolf entered the Electric Boat shipyard to have her S2G reactor replaced with the same S2W pressurized water reactor as Nautilus. This presented a new problem. How do you dispose of a radioactive reactor? The Navy's solution: encase the "hot" S2G containment vessel, which was made of stainless steel, take it to sea, and dump it overboard

Base Members Business Card Form

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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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June/July 2021 Newsletter



Class II 2020
First Runner Up

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