



October/November 2021
VOL MMXXI Issue 06

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."



Folsom Veterans Day Parade The Gold Country Base Crew Showed up in Force

We're giving thanks to those serving in
our Military, our Veterans and their Families



Inside

Page 2-	Commander's Corner
Page 3-6	Officers Country
Page 7-	Base & National Officers
Page 8-	Lost Boats - November
Page 9--	Birthdays, Lighter Side,
Page 10-	Booster Club, Vets Information
Page 11-12	October Minutes
Page 13	Eternal Patrol Roy Wilhite
Page 14-15	Base News
Page 16 -	Upcoming Base Events
Page 17-	USSVI Regional National
Page 18-19	Lost Boat memorial
Page 20-21	From The Crew
Page 22-23	Featured Boat
Page 24-25	US Navy Submarine News
Page 26-	Support Base Members Business

Next Meeting—November 27, 2021

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

First Call to Morning Chow & Gift Exchange

Monday December 13 @ 9:00 at Denney's 7900 College
Town Dr. Sacramento (Hwy 50 & Howe)



Now Hear This!

7 December 0730 Pearl Harbor Memorial Discovery
Park, Sacramento

16 December Holiday Dinner and Awards Presentation
Doors Open 5:00 Dinner 6:00
Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom



Shipmates—Over the last couple of months we have been busy and it really feels good to be back in action. However, we did start off with a sad event, the funeral for our shipmate Roy Wilhite. At a very successful October meeting with a full house, we enjoyed the presentation from our guest speaker Brian Annis, CFO of the California High Speed Rail Authority, and the induction of our shipmate Jerry Sidebottom into the Holland Club. Later in the month we held a work party to shine up and get ready for action our Sub Float after a two year stay in dry dock. To finish out the month we took a road trip to the Solano Monument Company facility in Dixon to review and make a decision on the style and color of the granite for our Lost Boats Memorial.

Then we were off to November beginning with the Folsom Veterans Day Parade. Fourteen members showed up and rode the float and as the Klaxon blared and the music played, the huge crowd showed their gratitude for our service by cheering us on. For me I felt a great sense of pride to be with my shipmates and a part of this great group. Next the following weekend was the event at Bass Pro. Again, our members both regular and associates showed up in force. Bravo Zula to Les for his organization of this event, the reception from the public and the employees was fantastic, the hotdogs were great and the donations we raised for the Lost Boat memorial was well beyond expectations.

More fun is on the way. Our December 7th event, which is the eightieth anniversary of the attack, under direction of master of ceremonies Pete Juhos, will feature the number two guy from CalVet Undersecretary, Russell Atterberry and Chad Clay has arranged for the Sacramento Division of the Sea Cadets to act as our Honor Guard. Howard has lined up the Denny's at Howe and Hwy 50 for our annual First Call and gift exchange and Les and Penny Jamison are well in to the planning for our Holiday Dinner.

Lost Boats Memorial (page 14 &15) The total cost of this project is around \$15,000 and to date we have raised a little over \$11,000. But we need your help to raise the balance. Pete arranged for us to have a donation table at an upcoming Folsom Rotary event. I have sent a request to speak to the West Sacramento Rotary and I am soliciting contributions from local businesses. If you belong to a service group or have a connection to a business who may want to help let me know and I will follow up. Please remember contributions are tax deductible if made to the USSVI Charitable Fund.

Marriah and I send the following wish to you and your families "May all the good things of life be yours, not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the coming year".

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

Shipmates- If we listen and watch the news in recent days, we can only conclude that patriotism and respect for our men and women in uniform is at an all-time low. But then we have events like we have had in the last two weeks.

The Veteran Parade in Folsom was amazing for my spirit an American and as a veteran. The number of groups in the parade was tremendous. We were unit # 3 and completed the parade route and returned to the starting point and the parade continued for at least another hour. The crowds were large and very exciting as they waved, yelled, and looked as if they were having a great time. The number of kids in attendance was better than I could have dreamed. That was the best parade I ever participated in.

Then came the Bass Pro Shop event the following Sunday. I was a bit nervous as I personally encouraged the management the last two years to allow me to stage this event. This also was the first fundraising event we had public exposure. We not only had to introduce ourselves as Submarine Veterans and explain what we did but we were also going to ask for money for the Gold Country Base Lost Boats Memorial. I also wondered what the crowds would be like.

All my questions were answered due to the large amount of participation of our SubVet members and their wives. The crowds were great and many questions that our SubVets were ready and willing to share and explain our experiences as Submariners. We met many other veterans and maybe even found 4 or 5 new Sub-Vet members? We also were visited by many supported Bass Pro Shop employees. So, the last question was answered about an hour after we left Bass Pro Shop. When Barry and I left for home, we estimated the contribution to be \$400 to \$500. But to our surprise, we took in just over \$940. I would rate this event a success and more than worth our time, hot dogs, chips, and soda/waters.

I want to thank all our members and their wives. As I walked around Bass Pro Shop the next day at work, I heard many many positive comments about how great and professional our SubVet members were and how impressive our Submarine Float was. Many members of the management team including the store manager of Bass Pro Shop thanked us for putting on the event and they were honored to support.

Stay safe and God Bless Les Jamison, Vice Commander



Shipmates- I was amazed at Sundays gathering at the Bass Pro store. A great event, well attended by our members with a greater fund-raising success. Many thanks to Les for his arranging it with the store and their participation. Well, done by all there. I slept for 12 hours that night.

I've been thinking about the Chief of the Boat issues and who will fill the position starting in January. That person will attend all functions and maintain the boat float for required events. I will provide the training as required. (battery maintenance) The crew did a great job with the set up of the boat at Bass Pro, it looked great. Thanks to John Mannix for providing boat transportation, we need a backup here when Johns not available to tow the boat.

I've been COB since 2011 with Tom Rumsey and others stepping up while I was away. So, some thought to that be considered.

Harry Beach, Chief of the Boat (COB)



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



The Book of Ruth

This is a four short historical chapters that can be read in about 20 minutes. It takes place before 1000 BC. The story starts with Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, and their two sons who were from Bethlehem just a few miles from Jerusalem. But the family left Israel because of a drought and went to Moab, a gentile nation where there was food. In a period of ten years Elimelech dies and the boys marry Moabite women. Then both boys die, leaving Naomi without any support when



she hears the drought is over in Israel, Naomi decides to go back home and one of the daughter in-laws, Ruth, insists on going with her. In Bethlehem, they still have no means of support. So, Naomi sends Ruth to pick up grain behind the barley harvesters. Ruth a beautiful and hardworking is noticed by Boaz, the owner of the field. He instructs his workers to show her favor. Boaz has become smitten with Ruth.

Naomi is surprised with the amount of grain Ruth brings her. Naomi asks the field owner's name and tells Ruth that Boaz is a relative of hers.

Naomi knows by the Jewish law that Boaz could be their redeemer (A family member who could support her). Next time I will fill in some of details of what happens to Ruth.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



From the Treasurer: Greetings Shipmates. Base and National renewal season is on us. Membership dues are due. You should have received an email and a snail mail with your membership dues notice. Please get those back to me ASAP. The deadline is drawing near! I would like to have all of the dues processed by December 1st, so send in those National dues, Base dues, and Booster contributions. You can make your payments via PayPal to treasurer@goldcountrybase.org.



You can also send your check to: USSVI Gold Country Base, 4521 Hart Dr, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-8337. If you have any questions about how much you owe, please feel free to contact me at membership@goldcountrybase.org, or on my cell at (916) 601-8910.

Nicholas Sadowy Treasurer, Membership Chair



Shipmates, Monday December 13th 9:00 --

First Call to Morning Chow & Holiday Steal a Gift is at Denny's, 7900 College Town DR. (HWY 50 & Howe Ave).

Please note the time is earlier due to the gift stealing.

The December First Call is the time for our annual Steal a Gift exchange done in the Spirit of the holidays. Rules, bring a gift worth at least \$15.00, wrapped with no name. We will randomly give out

numbers and in that order be able to pick a gift or steal one. The person who gets number one to start will also be able to be the last chooser.



Harold Fisher, First Call to Morning Chow Coordinator



SubVet Check-In

I think we may be lagging in our calls; I haven't heard anything from the other guys who make the calls. There must be some interesting items we hear to share. The Holidays are a prime time to call our shipmates to offer camaraderie and support. You don't need to have a call list to call shipmates. Let us all know about the calls you make.



Folsom JVO

After the Veterans Day parade there was a flag dedication ceremony at the Folsom Veteran's Park. The Mayor of Folsom was there to participate. He also dedicated the Park on February 9. The Grand Marshall of the parade was 96-year-old Master Chief Parachute Rigger. There was also a 103-year-old WWII and Vietnam Veteran at the parade. I was honored to greet both of these men.

A catered chicken lunch was provided at the Folsom Veteran's Hall after the Folsom Veteran's Day Parade.

A contract for our December 16, Holiday Party was signed. No cost to base. We get one free event per year outside of our regular meetings. There will be a bartender available for the party. These are volunteers so tips are appreciated. We will need help setting up and tearing down the tables used for the party.

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



Shipmates,

Sea Stories Wanted. Send me a sea story from your time aboard your boat or while you were on liberty, it could be about your first patrol, your last patrol or just a good sea story and I will do the rest.

Thank you to Howard for his story about Kinston 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 for you. Putting together the Newsletter takes a lot of time and I really would like some feedback.

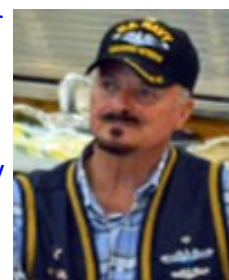


Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor



Shipmates- Our 2022 USSVI Calendars were available at our October meeting, and we still have enough left for those who want them.

This year's theme is "Stunning Accomplishments – Celebrating the unusual successes of America's submarines in WWII". With this year's calendar, USSVI once again celebrates WWII boats particularly this batch of twelve individual trailblazers – champions among champions all. USSVI is proud to bring their accomplishments to light, from destroying enemy shipping to rescuing downed aviators, hauling gold bullion to pioneering new techniques and technologies. They've seen and



done it all, and each has their own story to tell. Please get your orders in soon before they are all spoken for. We have large quantities of special submarine patches, various pins, and a few ball caps remaining from my inventory of Tim's items that he had in his inventory. It is best for us to bring that inventory down to a manageable size. So, from this month through the end of the year, all of these items will be on sale by at least 10 – 20 % from their listed price. I will do my best to get things out and on display prior to and after our Gold Country Base meetings. Plus, everything is negotiable within reason. Anything you buy now will go directly into our G. C. Base Treasury for use on our end of year activities or festivities, in honor of our dear shipmate and friend Timothy Spoon

Roger Paul, Storekeeper



Shipmates! It was great to see such a great turn out by Gold Country Base regular and associate members for the Veterans Day parade in our homeport – Folsom, CA! The crowds lining the streets were filled with kids young and old, moms and dads, grandparents proud of the accomplishments and service to our great nation by our veterans, regardless of the uniform worn or rank attained. And, we bow our heads to remember those many who gave the supreme sacrifice to protect our freedoms and ideals.



On the day following, the USS Gold Country took temporary anchorage at the Rocklin site of Bass Pro Shop in a fund raising effort organized by Vice Commander Les Jamison to benefit the purchase and placement of a Lost Boats Memorial on the West Sacramento Riverwalk. In addition to feeding the public with free hot dogs, chips, and a beverage supplied by Bass Pro, I observed shipmates fulfilling our organization's creed to educate the public about the services our valiant submarine force has conducted since the Navy purchased its first submarine in April 1900 (yes, there were more than a few sea stories...but we were in front of a fishing & sporting goods retailer, so it's more than appropriate). And, those sea stories captured the interest of at least two who sported submarine veteran ball caps but were not yet members of Gold Country Base. Hopefully, we'll add two new members at the next Base Meeting (Nov 27th).

December holds three significant events: Pearl Harbor Remembrance (Dec 7th), Holiday Gift Exchange (Dec 13th), and Holiday Dinner & Awards Night (Dec 16th). Looking forward to seeing everyone in good spirits and looking forward to a new year and unmasked outlook towards the future!

Pride Runs Deep!

Pete Juhos, Immediate Past Base Commander, Gold Country (2011-2016)
USSVI Western Region District 5 Commander



Shipmates, We now are in contact with the largest U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps organization in our area the Sacramento Division and TS California. They are approximately 250 strong. Beyond providing leadership mentoring programs they have aided dozens of our youth with college scholarships and with appointments to the U. S. Naval Academy.



The Commanding Officer Donald Herkal LCDR SS (Ret) will be speaking at our meeting 11/27 and the XO and Division Officer of the Training Ship California Courtney Kelleher will also attend. The Cadets will serve as our Honor Guard for our December 7th Memorial event this year and we look forward to their participation with us at other events in the future.

Chad Clay Guest Speakers Coordinator, Naval Youth Liaison

**2022 Calendars are going fast. Get your
before they are gone. Reserve yours soon.**

Roger Paul, Storekeeper rapaulplus@msn.com (916) 390-3569



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
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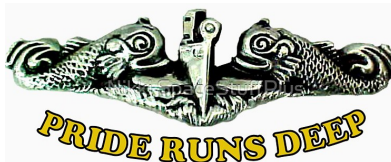
Base Chaplain
Howard Grover

Qualified 1963
USS Spikefish SS 404
Life Member
Holland Club
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Base Storekeeper
Roger Paul

Qualified 1972
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Holland Club
Commander
Base Historian
Warren Wiederhoeft

Qualified 1966
USS Patrick Henry
SSBN 599/SSN 599
Life Member Holland Club
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Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller

Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
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Guest Speakers
Coordinator
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay

Qualified 1965
USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629
Life Member Holland Club
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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
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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

November

USS Albacore (SS-218)

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.



USS Growler (SS-215)

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.



USS Scamp (SS-277)

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.



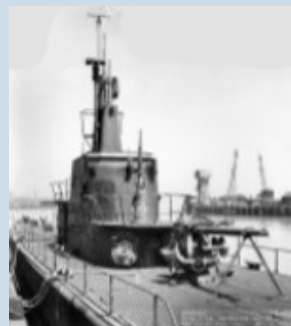
USS Corvina (SS-226)

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.



USS Sculpin (SS-191)

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential Wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



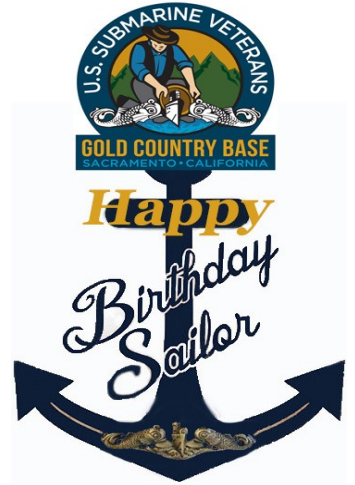
Birthdays

October

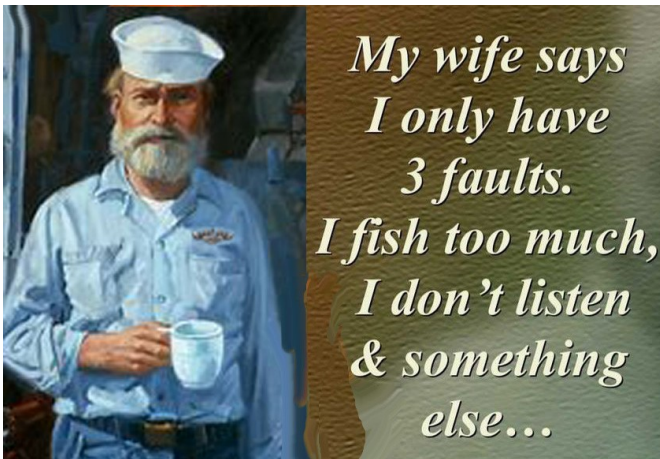
Fred Dalbello Pete Juhos Ron Rule
Barry Wyatt Frank Ziegelman Penny Jamison

November

Mike Delleney George Miyao Tom Moniz
Jerry Wentland



On The Lighter Side





Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Thank you

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

State Parks & Recreation Pass

Honorably discharged war veterans who are residents of California with an overall / combined rating at 50% or greater service-connected disability, or were held as prisoners of war by forces hostile to the United States, or recipients of the Medal of Honor are eligible to receive the Distinguished Veteran Pass (formerly Disabled War Veteran/Prisoner of War Pass).

Entitles the holder to the use of all basic facilities (including day use, camping and boating) in California State Parks at no charge. The pass is not valid for group use or sites, special events, commercial use, additional/extra vehicle fees, or for supplemental fees and cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass and/or discount. Admittance and use subject to available space. For complete Distinguished Veteran Pass Program Terms and Conditions.

Who is Eligible?

Any honorably discharged war veteran who is a resident of California with a 50% or more service-connected disability, or was held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, or recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

How Do I Apply?

Download and complete a Distinguished Veteran Pass Application. Submit proof of service-connected disability rated at 50% or greater or provide documentation showing status as a former Prisoner of War or Medal of Honor recipient status along with a copy of the veteran's California Driver's License and a completed DPR Form DPR 619.

Veterans may apply in person at:
Park Pass Sales Office 1416 9th Street,
Room 114 Sacramento, CA 95814

Apply by mail. California State Parks
Attn: Distinguished Veteran Pass Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES October 23, 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 Gil Miller

INVOCATION Chaplain Howard Grover

TOLLING OF THE BOATS The Lost Boats for the month of July were read by the Vice Commander, Les Jamison and Chief of the Boat, Harry Beach tolled the bell for all Lost Boats and in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION

29 Members and 3 guests and attended the meeting in person at the Folsom Veteran's Hall.

HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION: Administered By: Warren Wiederhoeft

Jerry Sidebottom qualified in submarines in 1971, and was presented the Holland Club Certificate, patch, coin, and membership card.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Brian Annis, Chief Financial Officer, California High Speed Rail Authority. Spoke about how infrastructure for getting between Sacramento to Folsom developed

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER Barry Wyatt

Barry remembered Leroy (Roy) Wilhite, who whose funeral service many members attended on October 13, 2021 at Mount Vernon Memorial Park. There will be a workday scheduled at the float drydock on Tuesday, October 26 from 11:00 to 2:00, to clean the Submarine Float in preparation for two upcoming events.

October 30 there was a road trip to Solano Monument Company in Dixon. This is the company that will produce the Lost Boat Memorial Monument at the River Walk in West Sacramento. The purpose of the road trip is to pick out the color of the granite and the font used on the engraving. As many members who were interested in the trip were encouraged to take the trip. Folsom Veteran's Parade is on November 11.

The USSVI Charitable Fund will set up a separate fund for our monument. Once the contributions reach \$3,000 the Charitable Fund will provide a matching \$3,000. This will also allow any donations to be tax deductible. The Charitable Fund will handle all the donations, expenses, accounting etc.

VICE COMMANDER Les Jamison

Tim Spoon Achievement Award nominations are due by October 31. Sunday, November 14 at Bass Pro Shop we will bring float, hand out about 200 hotdogs, and Barry will bring a poster for the Lost Boat Memorial. Bass Pro provide the hotdogs.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Harry Beach - No Report

TREASURER Base Treasurer Nick Sadowy

The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not publicly release financial information in the Newsletter. Any base member can request a report from the Base Treasurer via email.

MEMBERSHIP Nick Sadowy

On the USSVI roll there are now 110 members on the USSVI National Website at www.ussvi.org. Membership renewal is coming soon. Members will be able to pay dues via PayPal. Look for treasurer@goldcountrybase.org National Life Members do not pay National Dues. Base Life Members do pay base dues. Spouse national dues will be paid by the base, there are no dues charged. Secondary base members do not pay base dues to Gold Country Base. For regular members, national dues and base dues are \$25 each.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR Barry Wyatt On alternate months when there is no newsletter published there will be a bulletin sent which will include the lost boats for the month, prior meeting minutes, and a cover letter with any additional relevant news. Every other month the Clear the Baffles newsletter will be published. Board Members should provide submissions sooner rather than later. There are recommendations for a Boat of the Edition feature.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR Warren Wiederhoeft There is another member qualified

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR Gil Miller Gil went to Lathrop and made two USSVI Eagle Scout presentations

(minutes continued on the next page)



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES October 23, 2021 (continued)

Howard and Gil went to Martel to make a presentation of the Eagle Scout Achievement Award to a scout who put up a flagpole and monument at a home for homeless veterans.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST Howard Grover Howard will get Eternal Patrol Certificates to Roy Wilhite's family.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON Chad Clay - No Report

HISTORIAN Warren Wiederhoeft Updating base business cards to have a prospective members can enter contact information so newsletters can be sent. Hand one card for the prospective member to keep and one for the person to give information and give it back to the base member. There is a form in the June/July 2021 Clear the Baffles with various additional information that can be entered on the cards.

WEB-MASTER Nick Sadowy - No Report

STOREKEEPER Roger Paul There are 2022 calendars available for \$15

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR Les Jamison Nothing is really going on at the hospital regarding visits. Les is looking into a video type presentation using electronic tablets. He made proposal to the hospital about this type of presentation, but the hospital has not responded.

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM Mark Elftmann Calls are being made; not much feedback is received from other folks making the calls. Feedback would be appreciated to be able to share stories we hear when making the calls

EVENTS COORDINATOR John Mannis -No Report

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR Chad Clay - No Report

FOLSOM JVO REPRESENTATIVE Mark Elftmann Scheduled the Holiday Party for Thursday, December 16. The Hall has workday the second Saturday of each month and volunteers are appreciated.

Subvet Support Group Penny Jamison Holiday Party, December 16, will have same caterer as the last couple of parties. Price is \$40 per person, \$75 per couple. Send Les or Penny an email to reserve. At the next meeting, November 27, Penny will let others know what help is needed for party preparations.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER Pete Juhos USSVI website is hard to access and using the Firefox web browser may be necessary. Another tip is to try to access the website using a link provided on the USSVI Facebook page.

National Convention was an awesome event in Orlando, FL. Next year will be in Buffalo, NY, and the year after that will be in Tucson, AZ. Western Regional Roundup has been postponed for this year but will be held in April 2022 at the Silver Legacy Resort. More information to follow. The Folsom Lake Rotary Club (evening club) will sponsor an event to host retired Air Force Major Brian Shul who was an SR-71 pilot who will make a presentation at the Harris Center at 7:30 on November 27. Tickets for veterans may be available to attend the event.

Old Business

Election for Vice Commander was held with Les Jamison being elected.

Election for Base Treasurer was held with Nick Sadowy being elected.

New Business

Les Jamison moved and Gil Miller seconded a motion to donate \$5,000 from Base general fund to the Lost Boat Memorial fund being held by USSVI Charitable Fund. There were no objections, and the motion was passed.

Good of the Order / Communications Kiwanis Club of Lincoln will be providing See's Candy to local veterans who are home bound or in the hospital. If anyone knows of a deserving veteran should let any board member know so that person can be put on the list.

First Call to Morning Chow Date, Time, and Location: 11/10/2020 9:30 AM @ IHOP 100 N Douglas Blvd Roseville

Next Base Meeting: November 27, 2021. Noon for Potluck Lunch and 1:00 meeting

50/50 Won By: \$71 won by Michael Goble

Meeting adjournment

Base Chaplain, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:52

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary



**Leroy N (Roy)
Wilhite YN3(SS)**

September 29, 1938 -
September 24, 2021



Leroy Neil Wilhite YN3(SS) (Roy) as you embark on eternal patrol, we salute you. You have served us well and have accepted your final orders. Fair winds and following seas.

Roy joined the Navy in 1954 and discharged in 1962. He qualified on the USS Chivo (SS-341) and also served on the USS Picuda (SS-382). He was a Plank Owner of the Gold Country Base, a Holland Club Member and a USSVI Life Member.

After the Navy Roy owned and operated several new and used car dealerships. Roy always became involved and volunteered in dealer associations. He was elected president four times for the Sacramento Independent Automobile Dealer Association and served as president of the Sacramento New Car Dealers Association. He was also elected president of the State Independent Automobile Dealer Association. His dedication and support earned him numerous awards most notably was being voted Dealer of the Decade in 1989.

Upon retirement two years ago, Roy immersed himself into working to establish a Northern California Auto Racing Museum (NCAR). This was his new passion. He had enjoyed years of owning sprint cars, going to races and making many friends in the racing community. In 2011, he was inducted into the West Capitol Racing Hall of Fame. Roy is survived by his wife of 40 years Robin Wilhite, a daughter, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Base Members with Robin Wilhite at Roy's Funeral

Gold Country Base News

Gold Country Base at Bass Pro a Huge Success



The Man in charge Vice Commander Les Jamison supervises the action.



Associate Members Naomi Wentland, Penny Jamison, Marriah Wyatt & Glynis Elftmann prepare the Hotdogs



John Mannix & John Kelly talk over important technology



Head Cook Michael Goble with Dist. Commander Pete Juhos & Jerry Wentland



Base Cmdr. Barry Wyatt explains his important role as a Submariner to this interested young man.



Ed McCarthy & Roger Paul answer questions from some of our visitors



Mark Elftmann, Warren Wiederhoeft & Lenard Lee stand watch over the donation bucket

Gold Country Base News



Work Party for USS Gold Country
Fresh out of Dry Dock getting her
ready for parades and events. Mark
Elftmann, Bill Barron, Harry Beach,
Les Jamison & John Kelly

October Base Meeting



Jerry Sidebottom is inducted into the Holland
Club by Commander Warren Wiederhoeft



Guest Speaker Coordinator Chad Clay with the Oc-
tober Speaker Brian Annis, Chief Financial Officer,
California High Speed Rail Authority



Folsom Veterans Day Parade



Gold Country Base Upcoming Events

Tuesday December 7th 2021 0900 *(Rain or Shine)*

Pearl Harbor Memorial and Wreath laying Ceremony

Discovery Park, Sacramento, CA *(Set-up 0730) Parade Uniform please*

Guest Speaker:

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Undersecretary, Russell Atterberry

Honor Guard: U.S. Naval Sea Cadets - Sacramento Division

Bugler - Baldwin Wong Piper – Neil Henderson

Please Note Gate Code information below.

All vehicles entering the park must have a valid Gate code **DP12721**, or they will be **subject to the standard vehicle entry fee of \$5.00 per vehicle.**

Instructions: Each guest will need to use the pay station at the Richards Blvd entrance to enter the code and receive their parking pass. Upon arriving at the pay station follow the prompts on the screen for #5 "More Selections" then #3 "Coupon Code" then enter the coupon code provided above. The parking pass will be printed and needs to be placed on the dash of each vehicle in your party.

Monday December 13th 9:00

First Call to Morning Chow & Holiday Steal a Gift

Denny's, 7900 College Town DR. (HWY 50 & Howe Ave)

Please note the time is earlier due to the gift stealing. The December First Call is the time for our annual Steal a Gift exchange done in the Spirit of the holidays. Rules, bring a gift worth at least \$15.00, wrapped with no name. We will randomly give out numbers and in that order be able to pick a gift or steal one. The person who gets number one to start will also be able to be the last chooser.



Thursday December 16 Doors open at 5:00 Dinner at 6:00

Gold Country Base Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony

Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street, Folsom

\$40 per person \$75 per couple

NOTE! Space is limited - Make your reservation soon.

Contact Les or Penny Jamison today to reserve your spot.

(407) 509-7814 ljamison3049@gmail.com

We must know if you're coming in order to give the caterer the count.

Checks can be brought to the meeting on Nov. 27th or at the door.



USSVI Regional News

WESTERN REGION ROUNDUP

Save the Date

April 25—28, 2022 Silver
Legacy Hotel Reno, Nevada



Mare Island Base 2021 Holiday Luncheon San Francisco

Where: Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco CA. 94127-2333

Saturday 11 December 2021 Time: 11 a.m.: No-host cocktails 12 Noon: Luncheon served.

Breast Chicken \$25 • Prime Rib \$35

Reservations Contact: Bill Dornik 751 Rollingwood Drive Vallejo, CA 94591-5707
(707) 644-4746 wdornik@sbcglobal.net

USSVI National News

Shipmates,

Thursday, November 25th will be a special day dedicated to giving thanks.

We gather on this day to be thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and for the blessings that will come.

On behalf of the USSVI National Board of Directors, wishing each of you and your family members a happy and blessed day.

“HAPPY THANKSGIVING” and please stay safe,

Wayne Standerfer, National Commander



United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation

The USSVCF deliberately focuses its effort and charitable funds to provide National Natural Disaster Relief, Memorials, Visits to Children’s Hospitals and especially to a Higher Education Scholarship Program for the Children and Grand Children of our members. All Donations to USSVCF are Tax Deductible. The EIN for the Charitable Foundation is: 95-4830806

<https://www.ussvcf.org/donate.html>



Lost Boats Memorial

Gold Country Base Lost Boat Memorial

Fundraising is Underway

Two Ways to Make a Tax-Deductible Donation
and Qualify Us for Matching Funds.

Online

www.ussvcf.org



1. Go to the USSVI Charitable Fund Website using the link above or use the QR code.
2. Click on the Donate Button
3. Select or Enter a Dollar Amount — *(click Continue)*
4. Complete the Form — *(click Continue)*
5. Select a Fund from Drop Down Box Gold Country Lost Boat Memorial — *(click Continue)*
6. Enter Credit Card information — *(click Finish)*

By Check

1. Make check Payable to USSVI Charitable Fund
2. Put Gold Country Base Lost Boats Memorial in the Subject Line
3. Mail to:

United States Submarine Veterans (USSVCF)
PO Box 3870
Silverdale WA 98383

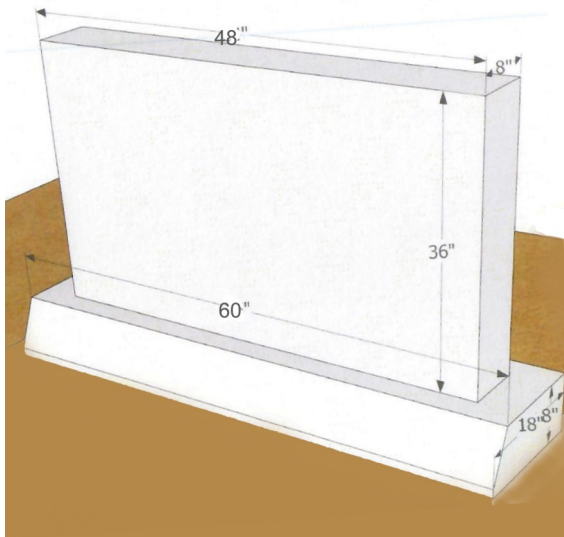


Sample of what our Memorial will look like.

Lost Boats Memorial

Gold Country Base Lost Boats Memorial

Pictures Below show the dimensions of the Granite & the language be Engraved



USS F4	Mar 1915
USS F1	Dec 1917
USS H 1	Mar 1920
USS S 5	Sep 1920
USS O 5	Oct 1923
USS S 51	Sep 1925
USS S 4	Dec 1927
USS Squalus	May 1939
USS O 9	Jun 1941
USS Sealion	Dec 1941
USS S 36	Jan 1942
USS S 26	Jan 1942
USS Shark	Feb 1942
USS Perch	Mar 1942
USS S 27	Jun 1942
USS Grunion	Jul 1942
USS S 39	Aug 1942
USS Argonaut	Jan 1943
USS Amberjack	Feb 1943
USS Grampus	Mar 1943
USS Triton	Mar 1943
USS Pickerel	Apr 1943
USS Grenadier	Apr 1943
USS R 12	Jun 1943
USS Runner	Jun 1943
USS Grayling	Sep 1943
USS Pompano	Sep 1943
USS Cisco	Sep 1943
USS S 44	Oct 1943
USS Wahoo	Oct 1943
USS Dorado	Oct 1943
USS Corvina	Nov 1943
USS Sculpin	Nov 1943

This memorial represents the "depth of gratitude" we have for our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country in the United States Navy Submarine Service and to honor those brave men and women who are serving now and who will serve in the future, beneath the oceans of the world.

Over the history of the Navy, in both war and peace, 65 United States Submarines have been lost and 4,000 young American Sailors paid the ultimate price and remain on Eternal Patrol. Seven of those boats, and 550 of those who perished, were aboard Submarines built at Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

Dedicated by

Gold Country Base United States Submarine Veterans 2022

USS Capelin	Dec 1943
USS Scorpion	Jan 1944
USS Grayback	Feb 1944
USS Trout	Feb 1944
USS Tullibee	Mar 1944
USS Gudgeon	Apr 1944
USS Herring	Jun 1944
USS Golet	Jun 1944
USS S-28	Jul 1944
USS Robalo	Jul 1944
USS Flier	Aug 1944
USS Harder	Aug 1944
USS Seawolf	Oct 1944
USS Escolar	Oct 1944
USS Darter	Oct 1944
USS Shark	Oct 1944
USS Tang	Oct 1944
USS Albacore	Nov 1944
USS Growler	Nov 1944
USS Scamp	Nov 1944
USS Swordfish	Jan 1945
USS Barbel	Feb 1945
USS Kete	Mar 1945
USS Trigger	Mar 1945
USS Snook	Apr 1945
USS Lagarto	May 1945
USS Bonefish	Jun 1945
USS Bullhead	Aug 1945
USS Cochino	Aug 1949
USS Stickleback	May 1958
USS Thresher	Apr 1963
USS Scorpion	May 1968

From The Crew

SUBMARINE LEGACY FOUND IN ASW

On October 9th, I visited our shipmates of the Dolphin Base as a function of my duties as District Commander, WD5. Dolphin Base utilizes a conference room at the Moffett Field Historical Society's Naval Aviation Museum. It is located across the street from the southern end of the large iconic dirigible hanger known as Hanger 1. The weekend of October 9th and 10th was also the culmination of the Navy's Fleet Week during which the high-performance precision aviation demonstration team – The Blue Angels thrilled onlookers above San Francisco Bay sites including Treasure Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Alcatraz. Fleet Week also brought in aviation units from Beale Air Force Base, a C-117A Globemaster which had been used to evacuate Afghanistan when the United States chose to withdraw in a less than orderly fashion; and two familiar anti-submarine warfare aircraft: the stalwart P-3 Orion, and its replacement: the multi-mission P-8A Poseidon. A tour aboard both yielded familiar sights, yet the Poseidon is a modified Boeing 737-800 hosting next generation sensors, a fully digitized state-of-the-art open architecture mission system platform, and capability to carry a variety of ordinance. Gone are sonobuoy loaded in separate deck-mounted tubes; it has two rotary reloadable pneumatically controlled launchers resembling an oversized R2D2 on the starboard aft side of the fuselage. Most importantly, there is a semblance of a head and galley for those long duration missions.

Having grown up in the residential areas adjacent to Moffett Field, I had been aboard the P-3 during various Navy -hosted air shows at NAS Moffett Field. I was curious of the newer Poseidon. The aircraft on the tarmac was not from a local squadron, but from VP-30 which is based at NAS Jacksonville, FL. Aboard, I met two crewmembers with ties to the Submarine Force:

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Cole Statz's grandfather was TM3(SS) Timothy A. Statz who qualified aboard USS SKATE (SSN-578) on March 1, 1968. Airman Statz described in great detail his grandfather's Navy service inspired him to join the Navy. Like his grandfather, his mission choice hunts for enemy submarines; and supports a broader maritime interdiction operation in coordination with US law enforcement against high seas piracy, drug smuggling, and counter terrorism. Airman Statz maintenance skills makes sure the aircraft in his squadron are in tip-top condition and operationally ready for any call, any time.

Aviation Structural Mechanic Chief Petty Officer Brian Wismer's great uncle was SeamanFirst Class Alex Biggs Keegan. He was assigned to USS Squalus (SS-192), and answered the call for Final Orders from his Supreme Commander when Squalus sank off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire on May 23, 1939 during dive trials. A newspaper clipping provided by Chief Wismer showed his great uncle had recently transferred from USS Tennessee (BB-43) and had served aboard USS Arizona (BB-39) prior to taking orders to USS Squalus (SS-192). Chief Wismer stated to his knowledge that his great uncle's station was in the aft section of the submarine and had stayed at his post when the submarine sank, and was amongst those who perished. His name is forever known, among his shipmates who were lost, cast into a memorial bronze plaque.

It was a sincere pleasure to meet the crewmembers of this US Navy P-8A aircraft during the SF Bay Area's annual Fleet Week. Discovering a connection amongst their crew to the history of our past made the creed of our organization come alive. It was my honor to meet and get to know them, that our U.S. Navy traditions were alive and well with the warfighters and peacekeepers of the 21st century.



(L-R): WD5 Pete Juhos, AMC(AW) Brian Wismer, AM2(AW) Adam Curtsinger, and AMAN Cole Statz

Story provide
by
Pete Juhos



From The Crew

Kingston Jamaica

This was the one and only time I was in Kingston. We had come from Gitmo for liberty.

The bummer was we had to leave the next day. We tied up next to the anchored USS Robert H McCord DD822. Each watch section (3) was allowed just 4 hours on the beach. I was in the second section to go.

I went up top side for a reason I have forgotten. While up on the forward deck a kid about my age, on the DD asked if he could get a tour. I said: Yes, I would be glad to do that but he had to give me a tour of his ship. He agreed and came aboard the Spikefish. At that time I wasn't "qualified" but maybe 2/3rd done. I gave a full tour, then we went aboard his ship. He gave a fair tour top side. I asked to go in the engineering spaces.

He told me he had never been there and wasn't even sure how to get there. I probably said something like: "Let's find out." So, we found our way below. Whenever we saw a watch stander, I would ask questions of him.

Later topside he told me he learned a lot about the "engineering spaces". I came away thinking that I was far better trained than him. We both had been in the Navy about the same amount of time. Another impression I had was the difference in the amount of wasted space on Tin Can.



It wasn't long after on Spikefish that my section went ashore for our 4 hours. At the pier there was a reggae band. I was struck by the British accents of the "blacks". The group I went with went in a taxi to a bar. It didn't take long before they rounded up a prostitute for me. At quarters that morning we heard the dangers of STDs speech. I turned her down but knew I was in trouble with these guys. We moved onto a tourist hotel. We were sitting outside at a couple tables and ordered drinks. At the other side of the tables an attractive dark haired lady was sitting by herself. I was challenged by the group to go talk to her. I knew I had to do this or I end up in the deep stuff. I was very shy but I got up and walked over to her. I knew all these guys were watching me. I told her I was the newest guy on board our sub and I was being tested by the guys sitting on the other side of the tables and asked her if I could buy her a drink and sit with her for a while?

She said: "Yes." She was a single teacher from the Boston area and maybe 24 or 25. I sat there for a few minutes and then thanked her for her understanding. I had been sitting with my back to the guys. When I stood up and turned around, I saw them divert their eyes. I knew I had pulled it off with the guys. I answered their questions. I remember this as almost like getting a "prac-fact" signature.

I had been accepted!

Oh, I still have a Jamaican shilling as a memento, it's about the size of our quarter. I am still happy I got to see Kingston if only briefly.

Story provide by
Howard Grover



Featured Boat

USS William H. Bates (SSN-680), a *Sturgeon*-class attack submarine, was planned to be the second U.S. Navy ship to be named USS *Redfish*—when the contract to build her was awarded to Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, on 25 June 1968. However, upon the 22 June 1969 death of William H. Bates (1917–1969), the U.S. Representative from Massachusetts's 6th congressional district (1950–1969) known for his staunch support of nuclear propulsion in the U.S. Navy, she was re-named *William H. Bates* and was laid down on 4 August 1969 as the only ship of the U.S. Navy to have borne the name. The reason for her naming by then-Secretary of the Navy John Chafee, breaking with a long-standing Navy tradition of naming U.S. Navy attack submarines for sea creatures, was best summed up by Admiral Hyman Rickover, the then-director of the Navy's nuclear reactors program, with the pithy comment that, "Fish don't vote!"



After shakedown, *William H. Bates* arrived at her home port, New London, Connecticut. She was deployed to the eastern Atlantic Ocean between July and October 1974 and conducted her first patrol mission before visiting Holy Loch, Scotland, and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on her way home. However, her respite was brief, for she was again underway on patrol by the latter part of December 1974 and into January 1975. After voyage repairs at Holy Loch, she called at Faslane, Scotland, for a port visit.

(continued on next page)

Name	USS <i>William H. Bates</i> (SSN-680)
Namesake	William H. Bates (1917–1969), U.S. Representative from Massachusetts's 6th Congressional District (1950–1969)
Ordered	25-Jun-68
Builder	Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Mississippi General Dynamics Electric Boat
Laid down	4-Aug-69
Launched	11-Dec-71
Sponsored by	Mrs. Andrew R. Grainger
Commissioned	5-May-73
Decommissioned	11-Feb-00
Stricken	11-Feb-00
Motto	<i>A Spirit Unquell'd</i>
Fate	Scrapping via Ship and Submarine Recycling Program begun 1 October 2002, completed 30 October 2002

General characteristics

Class and type	<i>Sturgeon-class attack submarine</i>
Displacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3,978 long tons (4,042 t) light •4,270 long tons (4,339 t) full •292 long tons (297 t) dead
Length	302 ft 3 in (92.13 m)
Beam	31 ft 8 in (9.65 m)
Draft	28 ft 8 in (8.74 m)
Installed power	15,000 shaft horsepower (11.2 megawatts)
Propulsion	One S5W nuclear reactor, two steam turbines, one screw
Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) surfaced •25 knots (46 km/h; 29 mph) submerged
Test depth	1,300 feet (396 meters)
Complement	126 (14 officers, 112 enlisted men)
Armament	4 × 21-inch (533 mm) torpedo tube

USS William H. Bates (SSN-680) was the Qual Boat of Gold Country Base Secretary Mark Elftmann



Featured Boat

William H. Bates conducted her first deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in 1976, departing New London on 5 May 1976. During this tour, she honed her skills in exercises with other ships of the U.S. Navy and NATO naval units of foreign countries. During the deployment, she visited Bizerte, Tunisia; Augusta Bay, Sicily; and La Spezia and Naples, Italy. After departing the Mediterranean Sea on 6 September 1976, she took part in exercise "Ocean Safari '76" in mid-month. On 14 October 1976, she returned to New London.

William H. Bates underwent voyage repairs and later prepared for another overseas deployment. She departed New London during the summer of 1977 and completed her assigned mission on 3 October 1977, mooring alongside the submarine tender USS *Holland* (AS-32) that day. She subsequently transited the North Sea for a port visit to Bremerhaven, West Germany, where she spent five days. She then took part in exercise "Ocean Safari '77" with NATO units while returning from European waters to New London. She operated in the Atlantic into early 1978 until moving to a new home port, San Diego, California, in May 1978 for service in the United States Pacific Fleet.

From 1978 through early 1989, *William H. Bates* operated from San Diego while attached to Submarine Squadron 11, conducting numerous Western Pacific deployments and operations, such as "Exercise Team Spirit" with the Republic of Korea Navy and the navies of various other countries. During her deployments, she conducted port visits at Subic Bay in the Philippines, at Chinhae in South Korea, at Yokosuka and Sasebo in Japan, at Guam, and at Satahip in Thailand, among other places.

In mid-1989, *William H. Bates* transited northward from San Diego, stopped at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, for minor repairs and to allow her crew to rest, and then continued up the United States West Coast and entered Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton, Washington, for an extensive refueling overhaul and retrofit.

In 1991, after completion of the refueling overhaul, *William H. Bates*' homeport was changed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in April, 1991 and assigned to Submarine Squadron 1, from which she completed several Western Pacific deployments and operations during the 1990s, including fit-up of Dry Deck Shelter 06-P in December 1991, a 6-month Western Pacific deployment 18 June-18 December 1992 including port visits in Guam, Yokosuka, and Hong Kong, a 56-day deployment to the Western Pacific 23 June-18 August 1993 which included participation in Exercise Tandem Thrust '93, a port visit in Brisbane, and a Golden Shellback simultaneous crossing of the Equator and International Dateline on 13 August 1993.



William H. Bates was decommissioned and simultaneously stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 February 2000. She returned to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, where her scrapping via the Nuclear-Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program began on 1 October 2002 and was completed on 30 October 2002.

Navy Submarine News

US Navy reorganizes submarine enterprise to address challenges in construction, maintenance

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy has reorganized its entire submarine acquisition and sustainment enterprise to address attack submarine readiness as well as potential future challenges building the Columbia class of ballistic missile subs as the service and its industrial base increase construction rates and crawl out of an attack submarine shortfall.

The new organization aligns all new Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine activities and all legacy Ohio-class activities — both the SSBNs that carry nuclear missiles and the converted SSGNs that haul conventional missiles — under a single flag officer, now called the Program Executive Office for SSBN.

Similarly, all attack submarine work — building and sustaining the Virginia class, seeing the Los Angeles class through its remaining life, early phases of research and design for the next-generation SSN(X) and SSN-specific mission systems — will fall under a new PEO SSN.

And a new PEO Undersea Warfare Systems will oversee submarine combat systems and weapons, undersea communications systems, training and safety programs and more — and will serve as the undersea domain lead for Project Overmatch, which seeks to net together manned and unmanned Navy assets in all domains.

Jay Stefany, the acting assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, told Defense News the reorganization balances out the workload among the three portfolios, whereas previously the PEO Subs organization was overburdened. It also addresses potential problems that could arise later in the decade, giving the Navy tools to ward them off if there are early indicators of challenges arising, and it simplifies the submarine acquisition and sustainment community's interactions with industry, the fleet and the Navy logistics community by putting just one flag officer in charge in several areas where before there were multiple stakeholders and problems could fall through the cracks.

PEO SSBN

The Navy has long said the Columbia SSBN program is its top acquisition priority. The Navy owes U.S. Strategic Command at least 10 SSBNs available to conduct patrols, lurking in the depths of the ocean with nuclear weapons onboard as the most survivable leg of the U.S. military's nuclear triad. As the Ohio-class SSBNs reach the end of their 42-year service life, the Navy needs to ensure the new Columbia boats are ready to come online heel-to-toe and replace the Ohios, keeping that 10-boat requirement.



The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) enters the Trident Refit Facility, Kings Bay, Ga., dry dock Feb. 1, 2021, for an extended refit period. Tennessee will be the last submarine in the dry dock before a \$554 million dry dock refurbishment project begins later this year.

Continued on next page

“What we are most concerned about is how do we overall provide capability to STRATCOM?” Stefany said. “Looked around in the organization and saw Ohio was somewhere else under a different flag officer, so let’s put Ohio with Columbia so that there’s one PEO, one flag officer, that needs to do whatever he needs to do to keep Ohio going and keep reducing the risk on Columbia so we never get below the STRATCOM requirement. So instead of two organizations, one organization, cradle-to-grave strategic missile submarines.”

The Ohio-class has already gone through life-extension work to bring the hulls to 42 years of operations, but last fall, program officials revealed they may look at each hull to see which are likely to be able to serve for a couple extra years, as a buffer to any future delays the Columbia program may face.

Stefany made clear there are no Columbia delays now and said he is confident the first boat will be ready for its fall 2030 patrol, but his confidence in on-time delivery wanes as he looks farther out in the program. The Navy bought its first SSBN in fiscal 2021, will buy the second in FY24 and will buy the remaining 10 at a one-a-year pace from FY26 through FY35.

“There is still the mountain to climb: when we go to one Columbia a year, starting in 2026 for 10 straight years, there’s hiring that’s required” to build so many submarine modules, he said, adding that there’s a

plan to bring about 6,000 more employees to General Dynamics Electric Boat and to grow the base of suppliers. The plan takes into account a certain learning curve for new hires, but he said “until we do it, we won’t know” for sure.

“So if you were to ask me, I’d say Columbia number one, pretty high confidence. Columbia number two, yeah, pretty high as well. But when we start going three, four, five, six, seven, all in a row ... that’s the risk,” he said.

“I’m trying to look out three or four years from now and address something I see potentially coming,” Stefany continued. “If we were only delivering two Columbias, I’d be like, hey, great. I’m just very worried about that climb while we’re trying to build two VPMs at the same time.”

Under the new PEO SSBN organization, the flag officer — Rear Adm. Scott Pappano today — would be able to see early signs of problems on the production line and immediately look at the in-service Ohio fleet for ways to lengthen their service lives as needed. By controlling the new construction and the in-service boats, PEO SSBN will be able to ensure STRATCOM has at least 10 operational submarines to send out on patrol.

Stefany said the ability to extend the Ohios is a matter of “risk reduction. We have a plan, the plan is as good as can be, but I have some concerns that we want to have a plan B, if you will.”



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Mad Max and West Coast Specialties



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An Independent Affiliate of


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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Class I

2021 First Place

“Clear the Baffles” is the official Newsletter for the Gold Country Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Published semi-monthly. Please submit ideas or articles to Publisher Barry Wyatt at ; sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or contact me by phone at (916) 600-1425

October/ November 2021 Newsletter