



Summer 2022
VOL MMXXII Issue 04

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Class I 2021
First Place

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."



Warren Wiederhoeft ET1 (SS)

April 1, 1943 - August 7, 2022

Gold Country Holland Club

Commander and Base Historian

USSVI Life & Holland Club Member

Gold Country Base Plank Owner



Warren was born in Edgar, Wisconsin, on April 1, 1943. After graduating from High School, he joined the Navy in June 1961 and discharged in August 1968 as an ET1(SS). Warren qualified on the USS Patrick Henry SSBN 599 in June 1966. He was a founding member of our USSVI Base in 2000 and has been our Historian since 2002. After being the acting Holland Commander for several years he took over that position in February of 2021. Warren lived in Roseville with his wife of 57 years Virginia.

Warren Wiederhoeft ET1 (SS) You have served us well and accepted your final orders. We salute you. Calm winds and following seas

Inside

Page 2-	Commander's Corner
Page 3-5	Officers Country
Page 6-	Base & National Officers
Page 7-	Lost Boats - August
Page 8-	Birthdays, Lighter Side,
Page 9-	Booster Club, Vets Information
Page 10-11	July Meeting Minutes
Page 12- 15	Gold Country Base News
Page 16 -	National News
Page 17-	Naval Sea Cadets
Page 18	From The Crew
Page 19-20	Featured Boat
Page 21-22	Submarine History
Page 23	US Navy Submarine News
Page 24-	Support Base Members Business



Now Hear This!

September 12 10:45am Warren Wiederhoeft Eternal Patrol Service, Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Dixon

November 11 9:00 Folsom Veterans Day Parade

November 12 9:00 to 3:00 Veterans Day Weekend Bass Pro

Next Meeting—August 27 2022 Potluck @ 12 noon
Meeting Starts 1pm **Folsom Veterans Hall** -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow

Tuesday September 13 0930 @ Susies Country Oaks Café
1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates—To begin with I want to apologize to all the members for not staying on task and publishing this newsletter on a timely manner. As most of you know my life has been upside down for the last several months but things are beginning to smooth out a little allowing me to get back on track. Grateful is not a strong enough word to explain how I feel about huge attendance at Marriahs Celebration of Life and the unwavering support you have given me throughout this difficult time. Our Vice Commander Les, his wife Penny and our Secretary Mark and his wife Glynis have been my rocks and I deeply appreciate them keeping me and us on course. My lack of attention has not stopped us from great participation over the last several months. Our members showed up in force at the Memorial Day weekend at Bas Pro in May, at Ken Ickes burial service and the California State Fair in July and at the Knights of Columbus fund raising golf tournament last week. Bravo Zulu to all.



At this time, we are faced with new sadness. The loss of our shipmate and friend Warren Wiederhoeft. This man who was a founding member of our base never stopped being of service to us all. He maintained our base history since the beginning and more recently step up to take on the position of Holland Club Commander. Warren was always the first to show up when help was needed. He attended every meeting and event, kept all members supplied with business cards and use his creativity to produce organized protective containers for our many flags and banners. His Eternal Patrol ceremony is scheduled for September 12 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, please attend if you are able.

As we move out of Summer and into the fall we have a full plate of activities in front of us. Preplanning is still underway for a base sponsored fishing tournament and the date for the completed instillation and unavailing of our Lost Boats Memorial is still up in the air. Dates and deadlines that are set are as follows; September— nominations for Base Commander and Treasurer/Membership. October— Elections of base officers and Nominations for the Tim Spoon Achievement Award. November Folsom Veterans Day Parade and return to Veterans Day weekend at Bass Pro. December—Peral Harbor Dec. 7th memorial, holiday breakfast gift exchange and holiday dinner and awards ceremony. We had full attendance at our eBoard meeting last Saturday and one of the decisions we made was to purchase a dozen training rifles for our Sea Cadets. Those rifles arrived already and we are going to present them to the cadets at our Saturday meeting also this month our guest speaker will be Associate Member Jon Boone to speak about a group that he is a part of, "Operation Rainbow" medical professionals who perform free orthopedic surgeries for children and adults around the world. I hope to see you there.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER

The last couple of months have weighed heavy on the hearts of our members with the loss of Marriah Wyatt, and Warren Wiederhoeft. These key members were always there when we needed their assistance and support. They filled gaps on numerous base projects and were always there when you turned around and asked for assistance. They will truly be missed by all of our current SubVet members along with our new members, who will not get the opportunity to enjoy their friendship and energy. Rest your oars and calm seas my friends!



The **Tim Spoon Award nominations** are due by the end of October. We have numerous members that have been very active and supportive over the past year. Please submit your nominations as soon as possible.

We are planning a **Fishing Tournament** and Alonzo Brewster will share the details at the Base meeting this Saturday.

We proposed at the E-Board meeting to purchase 12 practice rifles for the Sea Cadet drill team. Details will be discussed at the base meeting.

Stay safe and God Bless our Veterans Les Jamison, Vice Commander



Names of Jesus

Jesus is referred to with many names in the Bible. This will be the start of just some of those names.

Lion of the tribe a Juda: This gives us an idea of His strength and character.

The Lamb: This reveals His character like the lambs who were sacrificed at the temple, they allowed themselves to be slain without objection. I saw evidence of this as a farm boy. Sheep don't make a sound when held down

to be sheared or even operated on.

Revelation 5:2-5 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the **Lamb** who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb.

Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain



OFFICER'S COUNTRY



SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM Shipmates, There have been several of our members in recent months who have had difficult times with health problems in the family. Some members have stepped up to make calls and provide support to these members. Jerry provide moral support to Warren's family during Warren's illness and passing. I heard Les make a call also to Warren when he was in the hospital



while we were at the California State Fair. Howard makes calls and visits Larry Williams frequently and I know Larry is grateful for the support. Harrold keeps tabs on Regy as well. This support is a good example of the spirit of the Subvet Check-In Program. There does not need to be a difficult situation with our friends to make these calls. I encourage all of us to make calls to the shipmates we don't see very often. These calls can be gratifying and enjoyable and provide opportunities to submit articles for the newsletter.

FOLSOM JVO The VFW does a good job of keeping the Folsom Veteran's Hall in good condition.



Sean and his team work hard to make the hall a success and an area that all veterans can be proud to be part of. As part of that effort there is usually a work party on the first Saturday of each month to perform chores around the site. No heavy lifting type work is done, just some landscaping type of work is done. It is usually well attended by members of the other veteran groups. The work is scheduled for 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and everyone is friendly and nice to get to know. After the work is some many of the workers spend a few minutes drinking a soda or beer and talking together. It would be nice to see

some submarine veterans participate in the cleanup days.

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



Greetings Shipmates.

We are approaching the time of year when the leaves start turning, the weather thinks about cooling down a little bit, and the Treasurer / Membership Chair prepares to send out renewal notices. Prompt payment makes things much easier to keep everything running smoothly



for the Gold Country Base. This is also a great time to make a Booster donation to the base. To make things as convenient as possible, I will be accepting: checks, cash, PayPal and Zelle. Details will be included in your renewal. Of course, to receive your renewal notice, please make sure that I have your correct email address and mailing address. If you have any updates, please let me know at treasurer@goldcountrybase.org.

Nicholas Sadowy Treasurer, Membership Chair

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, Debbie and I are on the road to Buffalo to attend the 2022 USSVI National Convention. I am grateful to all the shipmates of Gold Country Base for demonstrating the leadership necessary to overcome obstacles in its path and be a shining example of 'how it's done' in Western District Five. Is there room to grow and take on new challenges? All the time. The 2023 Western Region Roundup is in the planning stages; 2023 is just around the corner. As you are the Host Base I know you'll demonstrate



that 'how it's done' teamwork and execution.

I want to give a big shout out to Past BC Frank Elliott for having a vision and execution, and the shipmates of the former USS HOLLAND (SS-1) / GOLD COUNTRY BASE who gave me a chance as their Base Commander, and ultimately the opportunity to serve my shipmates and represent them at grand table. To BC Barry Wyatt, your counsel has been spot on in navigating the other treacherous waters of increased responsibility in higher office.

By the time this year's convention concludes, I will have been sworn in as Western Region Director, and appointed and sworn in Mare Island Base Commander Tim Carlisle as WD5. See you all at a future Gold Country Base meeting / event! Thank You for your support and confidence in me.

Pride Runs Deep! Pete Juhos, WD5 / Immediate Past BC - Gold Country Base



Happy August nights shipmates sure has been a hot one lately and hope everyone has been keeping cool! It was good to see everyone who came out for the BBQ last month and I enjoyed cooking up the burgers and dogs. Nothing more to report other than I'll see you at the next base meeting. Take care and stay safe.

Gene Ratto , Chief of the Boat (COB)



Shipmates, The Guest Speaker this month is Associate Member Jon Boone ,Navy Corpsman that was embedded with Marines. Topic, "Operation Rainbow" For September, Jesse Ridings of the Neptune Society. October: Samuel Flores, Sac Sheriff Dept. He runs a children's program for Sacramento County Schools.

Chad Clay, Guest Speakers Coordinator



Western Round-up update - We have submitted our recommendation to the committee. Negotiations are underway with the proposed locations. We should have a definitive date and location by our September meeting.



Holiday Party: Save the Date: December 9

Our holiday party will be December 9 at the VFW hall in Folsom. There will be door prizes and a Buffet Dinner. Doors Open at 5:00 pm and Dinner at 6:00pm. Price is \$40 per person and \$75 per couple.

Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Coordinator



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 Eftmann
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)
Gene Ratto

Qualified 1978
USS Abraham Lincoln
SSBN 602
916-223-7264
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Base Chaplain
Howard Grover

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

Qualified 1972
USS Haddock SSN 621
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rapaulplus@msn.com



Holland Club
Commander
Base Historian
Warren Wiederhoeft

Qualified 1966
USS Patrick Henry
SSBN 599/SSN 599
Life Member Holland Club
ON ETERNAL PATROL



Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller

Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 365-6721
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



Storekeeper
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



SubVet Support
Group Coordinator
Penny Jamison

Associate Member
(352) 598-9611
pjamison1050@gmail.com



USSVI District 5
Commander
Pete Juhos

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



USSVI Western
Region Director
Victor P. Van Horn

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



USSVI National
Commander
Wayne Standerfer

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

August

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.



USS Flier (SS-250) Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days



USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 13, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.



USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.



USS Cochino (SS-345)

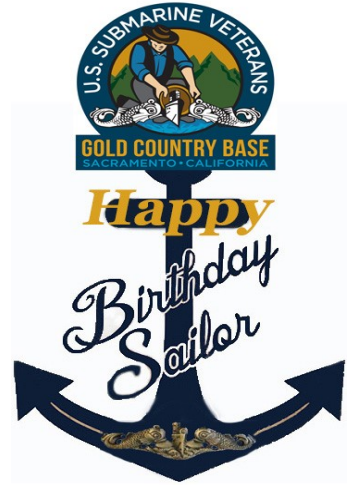
Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.



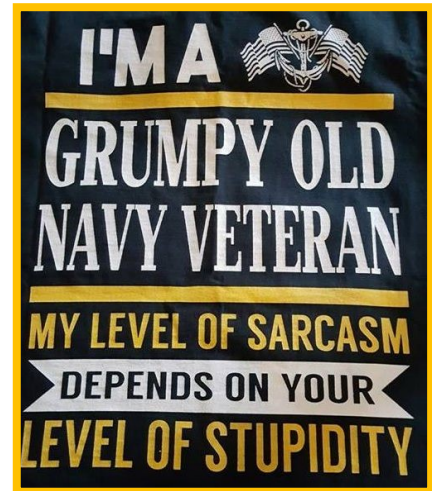
Birthdays

August

Jack Everett Mike McCoy Ric Reineman
Ajax Smith Gary Thomas Gene Ratto
Jerry Ellis Matt Lettau



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

Veteran Designation on California Driver License and ID Card



Eligible veterans have the opportunity to add the word "VETERAN" to the front of their driver license or ID card to indicate that they have served in the U.S. Military. It can also play a critical role in enabling access to certain privileges, and benefits associated with being a veteran without having to carry and produce a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Interested veterans need to present a valid DD Form 214 to a local CVSO to receive a Veteran Status Verification form. Then, the veteran takes the CVSO verification form to a DMV field office for processing. DMV charges an additional \$5, plus the standard cost of a new, renewal, or duplicate license fee for this enhancement.

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES—JULY 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of July were read by the Vice Commander, Les Jamison, and Harry Beach tolled the bell for each Lost Boat; one additional toll in memory of those shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 20 members and 1 guest in attendance including 1 new member.

Myles Kennison is the new member. He served on the USS Rhode Island and qualified in 2012. He is also a plank owner on the USS North Dakota. He was discharged from the Navy in 2016.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Richard Hannaford – Move America Forward. He told a moving account of his experience as a survivor of the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001. He was also in the building during the first attack on February 26, 1993. Move America Forward is group that sends care packages to troops deployed around the world.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Barry Wyatt

Barry expressed his appreciation of the support of the Base during Marriah's Celebration of Life. Members showed up at Kenneth Ickes memorial service. The California State Fair. The public turnout at the fair in general and at our booth was disappointing. There were donations of \$42.

Nominations for Base Commander and Treasurer are due in September. Associate Members are eligible to fill the Treasurer position; however, Associate Members are not eligible to fill Base Commander and Vice Commander positions.

Western Region Roundup Committee has begun work on the 2023 event. Les and Penny are the Co-Chair and Mark is the Vice Chair. Gold Country Base will be the host base for the next event. Search for a local venue has begun.

Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament is on August 15. Thirty percent of all revenues generated by the tournament are pledged to the Lost Boat Memorial. Base volunteers are needed to support the tournament.

The Navy Sea Cadets will be the Honor Guard and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry will offer to use the klaxon to signal the start of the tournament instead of the traditional pistol.

Nevada City Parade is typically in September and the base has traditionally participated in this event. At the August Executive Board Meeting in August we will discuss whether we will participate this year.

The Charter Day Picnic date will also be discussed during the E-Board Meeting. With the hot temperatures at the end of June each year, it may be better to move the picnic to March or April.

Lost Boat Memorial – Barry has approved the final proofs for engraving. Engraving should be underway, with installation still a couple of months away.

Jerry has been making progress on the display case for the USS Drum model the base received.

VICE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Les mentioned a grandmother with three grandchildren explaining in Spanish about the submarine veterans in defense of the United States. She emphasized to them that they were born in the United States, and she insisted they thank us for our service. Les spoke with Warren who was in the hospital.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto - No Report

TREASURER Base Treasurer: Nick Sadowy

The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not release financial information in the Newsletter. Any base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email. There was a \$500 donation to the Navy Sea Cadets. JROTC contribution was \$71.

MEMBERSHIP: Nick Sadowy - We have 103 members

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will get a newsletter published in August.



(minutes continued on the next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES February 26, 2022 (continued)

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Warren Wiederhoeft - No report

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller - No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Howard is visiting Larry Williams at his home; Larry's wife Diana is in a care home. Larry is grateful when he receives support from the members. Harry will call Warren as well.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Paul

Roger has been providing photographs of the various events for inclusion in the newsletter.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay - Donations were \$71

HISTORIAN: Warren Wiederhoeft - No report

WEB-MASTER: Nick Sadowy

Ed McCarthy has taken over the website duties from Nick. Ed will be updating the website.

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland - No Report

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison

Kaps-4-Kids no schedule time for visit to the hospital due to COVID. There may be options to visit other groups.

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: Mark Elftmann

Calls still need to be made. Les made a call to checked in on Warren. All members are encouraged to reach out to other members who we do not see very often. You do not need to be on a list to make calls.

FOLSOM JVO: Mark Elftmann

July 30 will be an open house at the Veteran's Hall. Last year, this was a good event for new recruitment for the various veteran organizations at the hall. August 2 BJ Brewhouse will have a donation event with 20% of the takeout proceeds will be donated to the VFW. The base donated to the new pergola at the Folsom Veteran's Hall. This will be used for various events. There are also plans to put a permanent Bar-B-Que there as well. August 7 will be Purple Heart Day at the River Cats. The date for the 2022 Base Holiday Party has been set for Friday, December 9. We usually have the party on a weeknight, but no weeknight dates were available due to regularly scheduled meetings of other groups.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: John Mannis - No report

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Base member John Boone will speak during the August meeting. The Neptune Society will be here during the September meeting. New Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper may be available for a future meeting.

Submarine Support Group: Penny Jamison

Holiday Party planning and gift exchange at First Call-to-Morning Chow in December will begin soon.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER: Pete Juhos

National officer elections are happening now as well as an amendment to the USSVI National Constitution. Reconstructed website is live at USSubvets.org. Pete will be attending the National Convention in Buffalo, NY from August 24 to August 27. Pete presented a District Commanders Leadership Award to Base Commander Barry Wyatt, in recognition of his leadership, tenacity, dedication, and devoted service in his role as Chair of the Western Region Roundup Standing Committee. Pete is a candidate for Western Regional Director.

GOOD OF THE ORDER / COMMUNICATIONS:

National Elections are open until August 23. An initial look at the voting turnout for Gold Country Base showed that 9 of the eligible members had voted. Percentage wide this puts the base in third place for turnout in Western District 5. Penny mentioned a WWII veteran who came to the Picnic in June. She was grateful that several members visited with this veteran.

OLD BUSINESS: - None

New Business: - A motion was made and seconded to donate \$500 to Move America Forward.

First-Call-to-Morning Chow: - Monday, August 8 at Denny's on Howe Avenue at Highway 50 at 9:30 AM

Next Base Meeting: Next meeting will be on: August 27, 2022

50/50 Won By: \$45 won by Diana Clay who donated it to Move Forward America.

Meeting adjournment:

Base Chaplin, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:22 PM

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary

Returned to Bass Pro Memorial Weekend Saturday May 28



Gold Country Base News



Marriah Dobbins– Wyatt Celebration of Life June 12, 2022



Gold Country Base News



Kenneth Earl Ickes, TMCS(SS)

Burial Service - Saturday July 16, 2022

East Lawn Memorial Park Sacramento



Gold Country Base News



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FAIR OAKS COUNCIL # 6066

51st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY AUGUST 15, 2022
SERRANO COUNTRY CLUB



Sacramento Division/TS California
Sea Cadets present the colors to
kick off the start of the
Tournament



USSVI National News



2022 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

National Officers

National Commander	Number of votes
Bill Andrea	914
Write-in	11
National Senior Vice Commander	
Jon Jaques	904
Write-in	20
National Junior Vice Commander	
Steve Bell	909
Write-in	13
National Secretary	
David Campbell	899
Write-in	13
National Treasurer	
Paul Hiser	908
Write-in	13

Regional Directors

Northeast Region	
Les Altschuler	225
Write-in	3
Southeast Region	
Ken Nichols	259
Write-in	3
Central Region	
Tom Williams	228
Write-in	8
Western Region	
Peter Juhos	190
Write-in	1
PA-2022-1	
Yes	755
No	19

Total Number of Eligible voters	8149	Total Ballots Submitted	948	Percent of vote	11.6%
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US Naval Sea Cadets



"My name is Alex Kasel and I am 14 years old. I have been a cadet in the United States Sea Cadet Corps for almost 3 years [6 SEP 2019]. I first began my time in service as a League Cadet in the junior program, the United States Navy League Cadet Corps [USNLCC].

I promoted through the ranks from Recruit Cadet (LC1) to Petty Officer Second Class (LC5). Our rate/rank system is different for the League Corps than the US Navy. It is modeled after the Merchant Marines, though we do everything the Navy way!

League Cadet (LC1) / Recruit Cadet (RC)

League Cadet (LC2) / Apprentice Cadet (APC)

League Cadet (LC3) / Able Cadet (ABC)

League Cadet (LC4) / Petty Officer 3rd Class (PO3)

League Cadet (LC5) / Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2)

League Cadet (LC6) / Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1)

League Cadet (LC7 / Ships Leading Petty Officer [equal to Chief Petty Officer (CPO)]

In 2021, I was awarded the KEITH T. WEAVER AWARD which honors Captain Keith T. Weaver, USN (Ret), a past NSCC National Chairman and National Vice-President of the Navy League, and former Executive Director of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. It recognizes the Navy League Cadet who has excelled in all phases of NLCC training, and whose achievements mark him or her as the "NLCC Cadet of the Year."

Now that I am a Sea Cadet, I have promoted to the rank of Seaman (E-3). Unlike the League Corps, the ranking system is very much like the US Navy.

I have completed two away-from-home *Advanced Trainings*; Recruit Training and Field Operations. Both were amazing trainings that I will not forget! It is safe to say, I enjoy this program very much! Not only do I like it because of the opportunities it provides, but I really enjoy meeting shipmates from other units from other states. I look forward to the next three years as a US Naval Sea Cadet."



Cadet Alex Kasel receives the Keith T. Weaver Award presented by Captain B. Dunavent USN, Ret.

From The Crew

Nautilus Hat

This is a story of why you see me sometimes wearing a Nautilus hat. About a year ago, a civilian lady gave me this hat. It had belonged to her brother who was a Corpsman with the Marines. He had an interest in many things military, one of which was submarines. After he died recently, his sister gave me the hat which was still in its wrapping.

Now back to 1963. I was just starting Nuke School in Bainbridge, Maryland. All of our instructors were officers except Robert Simonini ENC(SS), one of the original nukes trained for the Nautilus SSN 571, on which he served from 1954-1959. He taught us about basic metallurgy and told us Nautilus stories.

Next, we go to 1964. At one of the Navy prototype training facilities near Hartford, Connecticut, I met another original Nautilus nuke. His name was Raymond Binns, at the time an EN1(SS). He had gotten out of the Navy but had recently gone back in. I had to get signatures from Binns on mechanical systems as part of my "quals". In late 1964, I was assigned to the Kamehameha pre-commissioning crew. In early 1965 Binns also received orders to the Kam.

Now we jump to September 1999 to the USSVI national convention in Reno. I was working full time so

I decided I would only attend the Saturday night dinner. This was my first SubVet convention and I really didn't know how big a deal the dinner was. I walked into the huge dinner hall with round tables big enough for a dozen people. The room was already filling up with ladies in formal dresses and most of the guys were in suits or vests. I was walking around trying find someplace to sit when I heard somebody call my name. I turned and there was Ray Binns who offered me a seat. Almost everyone at that table was original crew of the Nautilus except me and the guy sitting next to me who was last crew. I listened to stories from the first COB, the first Navy qualified reactor operator, and caught up with Binns. He was working for Westinghouse as a traveling Nuke Rep.

So, when I do put on that hat there are some very important connections for me. Yes, after the 2004 convention, Lila and I did go to the Nautilus Museum just outside of Sub School near New London, Connecticut.



Story provided by
Base Chaplin
Howard Grover



Featured Boat

USS Becuna (SS/AGSS-319)

A *Balao*-class submarine, is a former ship of the United States Navy named for the Becuna, a pike-like fish of Europe. She was designated a National Historic Landmark for her service in World War II, for which she earned four battle stars. She presently serves as a museum ship at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Becuna (SS-319) was launched 30 January 1944 by Electric Boat



Company, Groton, Connecticut; sponsored by Mrs. George C. Crawford, and commissioned on 27 May 1944. **World War II**

Becuna departed New London 1 July 1944 and arrived at Pearl Harbor 29 July. Her war operations extended from 23 August 1944 to 27 July 1945. During this period, she completed five war patrols in the Philippines, South China Sea, and the Java Sea. *Becuna* is credited with having sunk two Japanese tankers totaling 3,888 tons.

The submarine arrived at Subic Bay, Luzon, from her last war patrol 27 July 1945. In September 1945 she arrived at San Diego.

Becuna received four battle stars for her World War II service.

(continued on next page)

Namesake	Becuna
Ordered	10 April 1942
Builder	Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut
Laid down	29 April 1943
Launched	30 January 1944
Sponsored by	Mrs. George C. Crawford, wife of Commander Crawford
Commissioned	27 May 1944
Decommissioned	7 November 1969
Stricken	15 August 1973
Motto	Tiger of the Sea
Honors and awards	4 Battle Stars
Status	Museum ship at Philadelphia, 21 June 1976

USS *Becuna* (SS-319) was the Qual Boat of Eagle Scout Coordinator & Past Base Commander
Gil Miller



Featured Boat

(continued)

USS Bacuna (319) (continued)

Post-war service

After World War II *Becuna* continued to operate with Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, until April 1949 when she was ordered to Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet, as a unit of Submarine Squadron 8.

Between May 1949 and May 1950, she conducted refresher training exercises and also assisted in training of student officers and men at New London, Connecticut. In November 1950 she returned to Electric Boat Co., for a complete modernization overhaul, being refitted as a GUPPY-type submarine. The overhaul was completed in August 1951, and *Becuna* sailed to the Caribbean for shakedown. She returned to New London in September 1951.

Becuna operated with the Atlantic Fleet, making two cruises with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean and one to Scotland. Other than these extended cruises, the majority of *Becuna's* service was at New London as a training submarine.

In 1969, she was reclassified an Auxiliary Submarine, AGSS-319.

Museum ship

Becuna in Philadelphia. Note the difference in her appearance after her extensive modernization in 1951.



Becuna was decommissioned on 7 November 1969 and laid up in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. She reverted to **SS-319** in 1971. She was stricken from the Naval Register on 15 August 1973.

Becuna was placed on permanent display adjacent to the cruiser USS *Olympia* (C-6) at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia on 21 June 1976. Since 1996 both vessels have been operated by the Independence Seaport Museum.

She was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986.^[9] In 2001, *Becuna* received the Historical Welded Structure Award of the American Welding Society.

Submarine History

Life aboard WWII Submarines was Brutal

No one has ever claimed that life aboard a U.S. Navy ship was luxurious. Even on the most advanced warships on the planet life can still be cramped. Though today amenities are much improved, the sailors patrolling the oceans in World War II had a much different life than their modern counterparts.

For one thing, the submarines of World War II were much smaller. Though only about 60 feet shorter than a modern submarine, the Gato and Balao-class submarines the U.S. Navy operated in World War II had a displacement of only about one third that of modern Virginia class submarines.

In that small space, the submariners — some 60 to 80 in all — had to store themselves, their gear, and provisions for 75 days.

Each crewmember had only about one cubic foot of personal storage space aboard the sub. Each crewmember also had a bunk, scattered throughout the many compartments of the boat, including in the torpedo rooms. As many as 14 men crammed into the forward torpedo room along with 16 torpedoes.



A submarine of that size simply could not fit all of the necessary provisions for a long war patrol in the appropriate spaces. To accommodate, the crew stashed boxes of food and other things anywhere they would fit — the showers, the engine room, even on the deck until there was space inside to fit it all.

There was one upside though. Because of the dangerous and grueling nature of submarine duty, the Navy did its best to ensure that submariners got the best food the Navy had to offer. They also found room to install an ice cream freezer as a small luxury for the crew.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much time or space to enjoy that food. Most of the time the men were lucky to get ten minutes to eat as the boat's three "shifts" all had to pass through the tiny galley in a short amount of time.

The serving of food was often times also dictated by restrictions on the submarines movements. Submarines were under strict orders not to surface during the day when they were within 500 miles of a Japanese airfield in order to avoid aerial observation and attack. In the early days of the war in the Pacific this meant just about everywhere as the Japanese were in control of vast swaths of territory and ocean.

This meant that the submarines stayed submerged during the day and only surfaced at night. In order to compensate, many crews flipped their schedules doing their normal daily routines at night. The crews called this "going into reversa." This allowed the crew to take advantage of the time the sub was on the surface.

This was important because once the submarine dove after running its diesel engines for hours, the boat would quickly heat up. The engine room temperature could soar to over 100 degrees before spreading throughout the sub. Combine that with the 80 men working and breathing and the air inside could quickly become foul.

Submarine History

Continued from page 20

The men knew the air was getting bad when they had trouble lighting their cigarettes due to the lack of oxygen (oh the irony).

To make matters worse, there was little water available for bathing and on long patrols most men only showered about every ten days or so. Laundry was out of the question. Because of these conditions submarines developed a unique smell – a combination of diesel fuel, sweat, cigarettes, hydraulic fluid, cooking, and sewage.

On older submarines, the World War I-era S-boats — often referred to as pigboats — the conditions were even worse. Without proper ventilation, the odors were even stronger. This also led to mold and mildew throughout the boat as well as rather large cockroaches that the crews could never quite seem to eradicate.

The USS Grayback was one of the WWII submarines lost to enemy action during the war. (Photo: National Archives)

If the conditions themselves weren't bad enough, the crews then had to sail their boats into hostile waters, often alone, to attack the enemy.

Submarines often targeted shipping boats, but sometimes would find themselves tangling with enemy surface vessels. Once a sub was spotted, the enemy ships would move in for the kill with depth charges.



Of the 263 submarines that made war patrols in World War II, 41 of them were lost to enemy action while another eleven were lost to accidents or other reasons. This was nearly one out of every five submarines, making the job of submariner one of the most dangerous of the war.

A further danger the submarines faced was being the target of their own torpedoes. Due to issues with the early Mk. 14 torpedo that was used, it had a tendency to make a circular run and come back to strike the sub that fired it. At least one submarine, the USS Tang, was sunk this way.

Despite the dangers, American submarines performed admirably. In the Pacific, American crews sank almost 1,400 Japanese ships of different types, totaling more than 5.5 million tons.

They also rescued 504 downed airmen from the sea. Submarines also evacuated key individuals from danger areas, including the U.S. High Commissioner and President Quezon from the Philippines.

On special missions, submarines landed reconnaissance parties on enemy shores, and in a few cases used their 5" deck guns to bombard enemy positions.

The bravery of the submarines was well-known in World War II. Presidential Unit Citations were awarded 36 times to submarine crews. Seven submarine skippers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions at sea.

American submariners in World War II set a tradition of duty and bravery that is carried on by American submarine crews today.

Navy Submarine News

The US Navy has commissioned its 21st Virginia-class Block IV nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, USS Montana (SSN 794).

The vessel was commissioned during a traditional ceremony held at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on 25 June.

During the ceremony, the submarine's sponsor and former Secretary of the US Department of Interior Sally Jewell gave the traditional order to the crew to man USS Montana.

Jewell said: "With awe, I have witnessed the USS Montana come to life through hardworking shipbuilders, capable submariners, and supportive families, all operating through a global pandemic, to ready her for service to nation and allies."

The USS Montana (SSN 794) honors the Treasure State and will be the second commissioned warship bearing the name. The first USS Montana (ACR-13), an armored cruiser, was also built at Newport News Shipbuilding and commissioned in July 1908. ACR-13 served in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, landed Marines during unrest in Haiti in 1914, and escorted convoys during World War I. The Navy decommissioned the first USS Montana in 1921, and two other vessels named after the state never saw commissioned service.

US Navy undersecretary Erik Raven said: "When USS Montana joins that fleet, she will add next generation of stealth, surveillance, and special warfare capabilities to our Joint Force, and extend our integrated deterrence capabilities."

"This powerful boat and her crew will protect our sea lanes, strengthen our maritime dominance, and contribute to strengthening our relationships with our allies and partners."

USS Montana is the third Block IV Virginia-class submarine.

Block IV incorporates small-scale design changes to increase the lifecycle of the submarine while reducing ownership costs. The changes will increase the deployments to 15 and reduce scheduled availabilities by one to three.

Block I to III submarines are planned to perform 14 deployments and four depot maintenance availabilities.

Montana is 377 feet long, has a 34-foot beam, and will be able to dive to depths greater than 800 feet and operate at speeds in excess of 25 knots submerged. It has a crew of approximately 136 Navy personnel.



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A portrait of Joel Walton, a man with a mustache wearing a baseball cap and a light-colored shirt, smiling.

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August 2022 Newsletter



Class I

2021 First Place

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