



January & February 2023
VOL MMXXIII Issue 01

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Overall 2022
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.

**Gold
Country
Lost Boat
Memorial
Dedicated**



Unveiling Ceremony January 21st 2023

Inside

- Page 2- Commander's Corner
- Page 3-6 Officers Country
- Page 7- Base & National Officers
- Page 8- Lost Boats - February
- Page 9- Birthdays, Lighter Side,
- Page 10- Booster Club, Vets Information
- Page 11-12 January Meeting Minutes
- Page 13-16 Base News
- Page 17- Gold Country & National Awards
- Page 18- Community Events
- Page 19- Regional News
- Page 20- National News
- Page 21- President Jimmy Carter
- Page 22-25 From The Crew
- Page 26-28 Meet Your Shipmate
- Page 29-30 Featured Boat
- Page 31-32 US Navy Submarine News
- Page 33- Support Base Members Business



**Nick Sadowy Treasurer & Les Jamison
Base Commander sworn in as offices by District
Commander Tim Carlisle**

Next Meeting—February 25, 2023 Potluck @ 12 noon
Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom
First Call to Morning Chow
Tuesday March 14 0930 @ Susies Country Oaks Café
1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Shipmates, I must first say how honored I feel to be elected to serve as your Base Commander of the Gold Country Base. I have really enjoyed the many events, parades, and meetings over the past years and truly believe we have a strong active group of members at Gold Country USSVI Base. Barry Wyatt has been a strong leader over the past few years, and I have learned a lot from him. Thank you, Barry, for your strong leadership and dedication to grow the base.

I also want to congratulate my other elected officers: Mark Elftmann, who stepped up to take on the role of Vice Commander.

Mark has served the base the last few years as the Base Secretary. Diane Clay will step in and fill the role of Base Secretary vacated by Mark. Nick Sadowy has agreed and been elected to a 3rd term as Base Treasurer/Membership Chair. A special thanks to Mark, Diane, and Nick for their continued support.

Harry Beach has had a rough time the last month but seems to be improving. He has recovered from a case of pneumonia and the complications that come with it. He is slowly improving and has been transferred from Kaiser Hospital to a rehab center called Eskaton Manzanita room 603. He will go through physical therapy to regain the strength loss during his prolonged stay in the hospital. So, stop by and visit Harry and share some good Sea Stories.

Tim Carlisle, our District 5 Commander is having a rough go of it. He took a spill at work. He was entering his office at work and tripped over the door sill and did a face plant. He fractured some bones in his neck and required surgery to install some metal pins to stabilize his neck and back. He is faced with a long road of recovery and has been transferred to a rehab clinic in Oakland.

Please keep Harry and Tim in our prayers.

On Saturday January 21 at the West Sacramento riverwalk, we conducted the dedication of the "Lost Boats Memorial". The West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero and United States Submarine Veterans Western Region Director, Pete Juhos were the Guest Speakers. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets – Sacramento Division were the Honor Guard. It was attended by over 100 people, which included many representatives of all branches of the Military services. If you have not visited the West Sacramento riverwalk stop by and see our beautiful "Lost Boat Monument".

So here we go, my goals are to continue to grow the base membership from the strong foundation Barry Wyatt has developed. I want expand our events to be more family oriented and more inclusive. So bring your ideas to the meeting next week and help me develop a new event calendar.

Les Jamison, Base Commander



SubVet Check-in

Out of 108 base members, we see about 25-30 members at our meetings or First-Call-to-Morning Chow breakfasts. Other than Howard, who, in his capacity as Chaplain, has kept in touch with Harry Beach and Larry Williams, there has not been any show of participation in this program. Because of this, I will be working to renew the program, and I encourage anyone with ideas to make the program better to contact me. Members who do not attend meetings are enthusiastic when we contact them, and members who make calls enjoy the contact as well. As the coordinator of this program, I pledge to be more active in making this program valuable to my shipmates. I look forward to working with other base members who feel the same way and will help me with that objective.



Folsom JVO

Sometime last year, the Folsom JVO changed the schedule of the meetings from monthly to quarterly, so our contact with the other veteran groups has been reduced. The people at the Veterans Hall are a great group of people and enjoyable to be around. I invited the Post Commander, Sean Niemi, and Bob Bailey, Adjutant, to be our guests at our Holiday Party in December. Although neither attended, Bob later apologized to me for not attending. His mother passed away that day, so he was unable to attend. Sean was out of the area on the day of the dinner. Anyone who yearns to do yard work is invited to show up at the Veterans Hall on the first Saturday of every month to satisfy that yearning. I know the VFW would appreciate the help keeping the site looking great.

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

Names of Jesus

Jesus is referred to with many names in the Bible. This time it is "Vine".

*John 15:1-2 "I am the true **vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*



Because wine was an important part of biblical life, the people knew about vineyards and wine making. Which is why Jesus spoke in terms they were familiar with and why He calls Himself "the vine". The Father the vine dresser and us the branches. The branches are connected to the Vine. To be productive as His followers we must be connected closely to Him. Because of the low alcohol content, it was safer to drink than today's wines. But drinking it to excess was and is prohibited in scripture



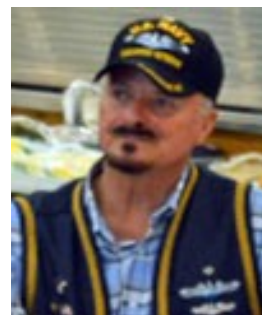
Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain

OFFICER'S COUNTRY

Happy New Year from The Historian / Photographer:



Our Gold Country Base is so fortunate to have a dedicated group of “Elected and Appointed Officers” who work so well as a team to keep all our focus areas up to the highest standards. I am very pleased to be able to add my skills and interests as they are needed to help in those efforts. When I reflect on the years that I’ve been an active member in our Base, I am amazed that we have all accomplished so much and continue to work together effectively to add new members and contribute to our communities.



As we begin activities in 2023, I am very thankful for being a part of Gold Country Base and for having recently participated in the completion and great success of our new “Lost Boats Memorial”. Having joined the Navy in 1969 and completing Basic Enlisted Submarine School in 1970, I was assigned to the *USS Haddock (SSN-621)*, which was the last Thresher/Permit-class submarine to be built. I was very aware of the loss of the Thresher (SSN 593) and often thought of the men who lost their lives and that loss suffered by families and our Nation. As our base photographer and historian, it was very significant for me to be at that Lost Boats Memorial ceremony and to document that event. I feel very blessed to have such good leadership and members who are my colleagues and friends during these challenging times. I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year and to be able to be together with family and friends.

Roger Paul
Gold Country Base Historian / Photographer



Hello ladies: I took my dogs for a walk this morning. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping and there were flowers starting to bloom.

It was a beautiful morning. With that being said it reminded me that spring is near, and the **Western Region Roundup** is just over 2 months away! The **Western Region Roundup** is a

great opportunity for submarine veterans in this part of the country to connect with other submarine veterans in this region. It’s a mini convention since not all the vets can get to the national convention due to the high cost of transportation, etc. It is at the Sacramento Double Tree Hotel on April 26th to 29th. All wives are invited to register and attend the W.R.R. We have a visit planned to one of California’s Beautiful wineries. We are also planning a wine glass painting class. There will be a game area to enjoy while our vets are busy with the work shops or enjoying the cash bar and sharing their many “Sea Stories”. I really hope to see you there.



Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Hello shipmates! Greeting and it was so nice to see many of you at the Lost boats memorial dedication last month in West Sac. It was such a beautiful day for us to have this special day that we all have been waiting for such a long time. Kudos to Barry, Les and everyone who had contributed to this special dedication and Tim who was with us in our hearts. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting so stay safe and good health to all!



**Chief of the Boat (COB)
Gene Ratto**



Shipmates, As winter's chill tries to slow us down, the planning and preparations for the 2023 Western Region Roundup are well underway with Gold Country Base as the Host Base. As the Host Base, there is a lot of visibility upon the Host Base Committee and you, the Base membership to participate and engage in its evolving needs and requirements. If you have never attended a WRR event, I strongly encourage you both raise your hand to



support your shipmates and register for the event at <https://wrroundup.com>.

Show your support with an individual sponsorship to help defray some of the costs incurred by executing this time-honored annual event. At \$50, it equates to a tank of gas and may be a bit left over for some geedunk. I look forward to attending a packed house and your participation and engagement to deliver an EPIC event!

I spoke with District Commander (WD5) Tim Carlisle. He is recovering from his injuries, and has transferred from the San Francisco General Hospital to the Sutter Alta Bates Acute Rehabilitation Center at 350 Hawthorne Ave, Oakland CA. He'll likely be there for the next several weeks or months working with both occupational and physical therapists to regain all degrees of motor function, flexibility, and dexterity. He welcomes your in-person visit but requests you call ahead to ensure there are no interruptions. He is mindful of the upcoming WRR and is using the upcoming event as a carrot and plans to attend. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

The 2023 USSVI National Awards window opened on February 1st. The most recent edition of the USSVI National Awards Manual has been approved and published. You can find it by visiting and logging in to the National website – www.ussvi.org. From the tab marked 'Members' select 'Manuals' on the drop-down menu. It's the fourth item on list. There are individuals who contribute to the success of Gold Country Base and across the organization for the benefit our Shipmates. Take the time to write and submit a nomination for Silver Anchor, Golden Anchor, Meritorious-Individual, Meritorious-Base, Ben Bastura, or Robert Link National Commanders Commendation. The USSVI National Awards nomination window closes on April 30th. Be sure to have your voice – nomination read and voted upon. Submit your nominations in accordance with the USSVI National Awards Manual.

Pride Runs Deep

Pete Juhos, WRD

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, This month's edition of our newsletter is probably the largest one I've ever developed. It's easy to understand why as it is a result of the contributions made by several members of our crew and the outstanding photography work contributed by Roger Paul our Base Photographer. The stories and articles that you contribute are ultimately the



reason our newsletter "Clear The Baffles" has won national recognition and awards every year since 2016. Please take note of the story submitted by a shipmate from Pennsylvania who served with Larry Davis. This is a great example of memories of our time aboard the boats that we can all relate to. I hope you'll take the time to review all the content in this month's publication and make a contribution for the next edition. There is no doubt in my mind that there are hundreds of sea stories out there waiting to be written and shared with your shipmates. For those of you that do not like to write I have an easy solution just give me a call, tell me the story and I will write it for you.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor/ PAO



Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club
(407) 509-7814
basecommander@goldcountrybase.com



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.
Mark Eftmann
Qualified 1975
USS William H Bates SSN 625
(916) 243-9265



Base Secretary
Diane Clay
Associate Member
(916) 832-0936
dianac535@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
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
gene_ratto1@comcast.net



Base Chaplain
Howard Grover
Qualified 1963
USS Spikefish SS 404
Life Member
Holland Club
(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Base Historian
Roger Paul
Qualified 1972
USS Haddock SSN 621
(916) 390-3569



Newsletter Editor/PAO
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 600-1425
SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com



**Holland Club
Commander**
Lenard Lee
Qualified 1961
USS Salmon SS-573
Life Member Holland Club
(510) 928-8500 Len@trawlers.com



**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 Commander**
Penny Jamison
Associate Member
(352) 598-9611
pjamison1050@gmail.com



Web Master
Ed McCarthy
Qualified 1983
USS Bergall SSN-667
Life Member
(916) 995-5196
eddie105@yahoo.com



**USSVI District 5
Commander**
Tim Carlisle
Qualified 1983
USS Sea Devil SSN 664
Life Member
(925) 812-4239
timcarlisle00@hotmail.com



**USSVI Western
Region Director**
Pete Juhos
Qualified 1980
USS Bergall SSN 667
Life Member
(916) 208-0667 dsv3.ss@gmail.com

Lost Boats

February

USS Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.



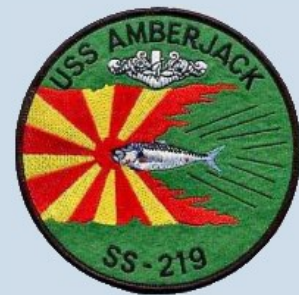
USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.



USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.



USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.



USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers & men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman & damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.



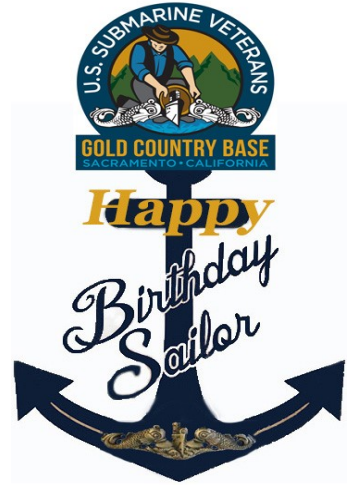
Birthdays

JANUARY

Tony Jacobs Jerry Mitchell Tom Rumsey

February

Dennis Cline Grant Riddle Randall Woolley
William Johnson



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

You or a Loved One Can Become Part of the California Veterans Memorial

The California Veterans Registry is a permanent record of all California Veterans, past and present, who have served our nation since statehood was established in 1850. Whether cook or fighter pilot, mechanic or chief of staff, this memorial will honor them all, and forever immortalize the contributions that California veterans have made to their nation.

Each California veteran is entitled to the basic information of name, rank and branch of service. To create a truly living memorial, California veterans are encouraged to expand on the basic information by contributing to the enhanced registry.

There are other memorials in California, but none that represent all who have served, whether in peacetime or during war, and from all branches of military service.

The California Veterans Memorial was built with money raised solely through private contributions such as your donation to the enhanced registry. The memorial receives no state money for this project. Your financial support will go directly to the memorial fund.

Enroll today! You may either download an [enrollment form \(PDF\)](#) to fill out and send to us. (If you wish, you may also use this form to make an additional donation* to the Memorial Fund.) or complete the "Register On-line" submission above.

For more information please write to the California Veterans Memorial Project at 1227 "O" Street, Sacramento, CA

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES April 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting called to order @ 13:00. Commander Barry Wyatt, the USSVI Creed, and Purpose

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

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

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: 28 members and 5 guests attended, including 3 new members and 1 prospective member.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. William Pickard, Commander, Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, spoke on the procedures to be interred.

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison/Barry Wyatt

The regular order of the meeting was suspended due to the swearing-in of newly elected members by the District Commander, Tim Carlisle. Les Jamison was sworn in as Base Commander, Nick Sadowy was sworn in as Base Treasurer. Barry gave a recap of the unveiling of the Lost Boat Memorial.

VICE COMMANDER: -No Report

CHIEF OF THE BOAT (COB) Gene Ratto -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 Base Treasurer via email.

MEMBERSHIP: Nick Sadowy

We have 108 members. Fourteen base members have not paid the 2022 dues.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will publish the Newsletter in February. Base officers need to submit paragraphs about their areas. Anyone with a sea story is encouraged to contribute it to the newsletter. A new feature. Book Review is available for people who have read any Submarine or Navy books.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Lenard Lee - No report

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller

After no Eagle Scout activity, Paul Acosta, a Scout Master in Lathrop, notified Gil of four Eagle Scout presentations in the Stockton area. Three of the four new Eagle Scouts were females. There is a new National Eagle Scout Program Coordinator in East Texas replacing David Farran, the old coordinator located in Iowa.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Several members spoke via telephone with Harry, who has been ill and in the hospital.

Larry Williams is doing OK. He needs help with the VA getting hearing aids, and Roger has been providing guidance.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER/ HISTORIAN:: Roger Paul - No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

Collected \$83 during the meeting.

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy

The national website has some issues, but the old website has been reinvigorated allowing access to On the GoldCountryBase.org website, on the resources page, there is a link to the old websites



(minutes continued on the next page)

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

There were five calendars on sale for \$10 each. Jerry is compiling a list of members who want decals, pins, or other mementos from his boat. Jerry is also compiling a list of members who want to purchase submarine ties.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison

Nothing to report; still on COVID restrictions at Kaiser Hospital Children's Ward. Hopefully, there can be a visitation in March.

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: Mark Elftmann - No Report

FOLSOM JVO: Mark Elftmann

Folsom Veterans Hall is looking for donations for new tables.

EVENTS COORDINATOR:

A visit to Bass Pro is scheduled for May 27.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Chad thanked William Pickard again for the talk he gave. The guest speaker from the VA scheduled for February is on TDY in Texas, so that another speaker will be arranged. District 5 Commander, Tim Carlisle, will be the guest speaker in March.

Subvet Support Group: Penny Jamison

Penny was happy to see so many women at the meeting and would like to see more women attend. The support group is part of the Bass Pro event and encouraged all Support Group Members there. Penny spoke about the Western Region Roundup; there will be a Wine Tasting Trip to Clarksburg. The cost is \$75, which includes wine tasting, lunch, and transportation. A Wine Glass Painting Party will be available. The price will be \$30 for one glass or \$35 for two.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER: Tim Carlisle

The national convention website is open. The convention is at the end of August in Tucson, Arizona, and several things are planned outside the event for people to participate in. Tim is working on the new website with the company hosting the site. Top priority is to make sure national organization can use the website to operate normally. Second priority is the national convention in Tucson.. Third priority is everything else which encompasses a multitude of issues.

Good of the Order / Communications: - None

Old Business: -None

New Business:

Mark Elftmann was voted Vice Commander to fill the position vacated when Les was sworn in as Base Commander. Barry mentioned the Western Region Roundup registration and the website WRRoundup.com. Registration can be done via the website, or an application can be downloaded and mailed. Diana Clay has volunteered to serve as Base Secretary on an intern basis. The Base voted to donate \$250 to the Folsom Veterans Hall for new tables.

First Call to Morning Chow:

Date & Time – February 14 at Susie's in Roseville.

Next Base Meeting: The next meeting will be on **February 25, 2023**.

50/50 Raffle: Roger Paul won \$73.

Meeting adjournment:

Base Chaplin, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

The Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat at 2:06 PM.

Submitted by Mark Elftmann, Base Secretary

Gold Country Base News

2022 Gold Country Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony



Gold Country Base News

Gold Country Base Lost Boat's Memorial

Gold Country Base members began working on an idea to build a Lost Boat's Memorial somewhere in our area in late 2017, other such monuments had been built at locations around our state and across our nation, but most were focused entirely on the submarines that were lost during World War Two. Our idea was to design and build something that would recognize all 65 submarines lost since the beginning of our nations submarine service. Barry Wyatt, Base Commander working with Tim Spoon and other members formed a committee and came up with a base criteria for the project.



We wanted to find a spot that was close to water, somewhat safe from vandalism and one with easy access and good public visibility. For the next several months we researched a number of different locations and when we found the Veterans Plaza, on the River Walk in West Sacramento we decided this would be the perfect spot. After our initial communication with the city, we met the parks operations superintendent in May of 2018 and got a clear, supportive message that our memorial would be a great fit for the Veterans Plaza.



As it turns out that was the easy part of the project. We had a location, now what do we do? What would it look like, how much would it cost, who would build it, who would install it? As time went by, we explored many different options. When Tim left us for eternal patrol in August 2019 the interest in moving forward just sort began to fade.

In the fall of 2020, with the urging of Vice Commander Les Jamison, Barry Wyatt reformed the committee and once again focused on building the memorial. We re-contacted with the city and apologized for the delays and began meeting with monument companies to get an idea about design and cost. In June of 2021 we made a presentation to the City of West Sacramento Parks & Recreation Services Commission and received their unanimous support. Next, we began the process to do the production. We found a monument company that really wanted to work with us, they would provide the granite, do the engraving and installation at a cost we thought we could raise.



Lost Boat's Memorial

continued

Fundraising began in earnest in the fall of 2021 with a goal of raising the \$20,000 needed. The Gold Country Treasury provided the seed money and our national organization USSV Charitable Foundation provided \$3000 in matching funds, and we were under way. Over the next several months base members worked on the final design and the verbiage that would be engraved on the granite. Fundraising continued with cash donations generated from our appearance at Bass Pro in Rocklin CA, member contributions and a major donation from the Knights of Columbus Fair Oaks Council charity golf tournament last summer. Early in the spring of 2022 the en-



graved granite was ordered. The foundation was poured, and the base was set in November 2022 and the granite monument was placed just a few days before the unveiling ceremony which was held on January 21, 2023.

The ceremony was promoted and covered by a large contingent of local media and was attended by a huge group of Sub Vets, other local veterans, city officials and members of the general public. Base Commander Barry Wyatt was the Master of Ceremonies. The color guard was provided by the



U.S. Naval Sea Cadets - Sacramento Division, Base Historian Roger Paul led The Pledge of Allegiance and Base Chaplain, Howard Grover delivered the Invocation. The tolling of the Lost Boats was read by Vice Commander Les Jamison and the Bell was tolled by Chief of the Boat Gene Ratto. The shroud was removed for the unveiling by Base Secretary Mark Elftmann and former Base Commander Frank Elliott. Guest speakers were City of West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero and Western District Director Pete Juhos.

Gold Country Base News

First Call to Morning Chow and Holiday Gift Exchange



January 2023 Base Meeting

Base
Commander
Les Jamison



Treasurer Nick Sadowy



District Commander
Tim Carlisle



Outgoing Base Commander
Barry Wyatt



Guest Speaker
Wil Pickard
Director
Sacramento
Valley National
Cemetery



Gold Country & National Awards



Roger Paul -2022 Tim Spoon Achievement Award

In a world of constant inconsistency, Roger Paul is someone we can always count on to be there. He always shows up for every event, breakfast, and base meeting with his camera to record the meeting for historical records and photos for the monthly newsletter. His experience as a Navy ships Photographer allows us to get professional grade photos for our records and newsletter. His enjoyment in taking these many photos adds a “Smile” to every snapshot taken. Over the past few years, he stepped into numerous base positions as the need required. He became the Base Storekeeper and unloaded years of inventory and returned hundreds of dollars back into the base bank account. He now takes on the new task to update and collect our base history as Base Historian as well as continuing his role as Base Photographer. Roger’s dedication and service benefits every member of our base. He meets or exceeds every criteria for The this award and he certainly exemplifies the meaning and spirit of the word “Shipmate.”



Penny Jamison -2022 Base Commander Commendation

When the national organization for wives dissolved it became necessary for the individual bases to come up with a plan. It was obvious to all of us that the participation of members wives was declining and as a result member interests was also slipping. So, she stepped up to develop a strategy to encourage more involvement. Her first step was to form the Gold Country SubVet Support group and develop a structure for meaningful involvement. At the same time seeing the unfairness of requiring the spouse of a member to pay base and national dues to become a voting member action was required. Through her encouragement we took action to remove that roadblock and amended our bylaws to correct it. That was the beginning and through her leadership the support of our wives has continued to grow and as in all things has helped to make us a stronger more vital organization. On a personal note, at a time of my deepest grief it was Penny who was there to help keep me going.



Gene Ratto -2022 Base Commander Commendation

Since joining Gold Country, the first recipient as always been actively involved in the base operations attending meeting and events on a regular basis but at the end of last year when our COB for life Harry told me he was going for sure and I needed to come up with a replacement. This shipmate stepped and volunteered to take on this important position. His solid attendance, work ethic and commitment have shown through in every way. There is no doubt that he will be a great asset for our incoming Base Commander and remain a strong and consistent contributor to his shipmates keeping our base as a leader in the broader veteran community.



Newsletter of the Year National Overall First Place Gold Country Base “Clear the Baffles”

The Newsletter of the Year was created to recognize the value of Base communication and encourage that process.



Community Events

The Wall That Heals replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. will be exhibiting in the Sacramento region at Rusch Park in Citrus Heights from March 29 - April 2, 2023



The United States Navy Band is coming to Rocklin!

U.S. Navy Band, Washington, D.C. will be providing a free concert Sunday, March 19th at 3 p.m. at Whitney High School gymnasium, 701 Wildcat Blvd., Rocklin, sponsored by Placer County Navy League. The Band is the premier musical organization of the U.S. Navy, performing frequently at White House and Pentagon ceremonies and touring annually throughout the U.S.



Concert and parking are free, but tickets are required. Up to four general admission tickets may be requested by specifying the number desired and mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Placer County Navy League, PO Box 6135, Auburn CA 95604. Tickets may also be requested for will-

call at the concert or pick-up at Rocklin Unified School District Office, 2615 Sierra Meadows Drive, Rocklin. To reserve will-call or pick-up tickets, or for more information, call 916-253-7565 or email PlacerNavyLeague@gmail.com. Any unclaimed seats will be available to non-ticket holders 15 minutes prior to the concert.



Regional News

Gold Country is the Host Base for
this event your support is important
for the success Register Today

www.wroundup.com

**USSVI
Western Region
Roundup**
A Gathering of Submariners
April 27 - 29, 2023
Double Tree Hotel
Sacramento, CA
www.wroundup.com



Plan of the Day

April 26 – Wednesday:

Check in: Welcome!
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Registration Open

April 27 - Thursday:

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Registration Open
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM: Hospitality Room Open

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM: Workshop - Base Vitality
12:00 AM to 1:30 PM: Welcome Luncheon,
Guest speaker: George Wallace, Cmdr. USN (ret), author
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM: Presentation - National Website
3:30 PM to 5:00 PM: Wine Glass Painting
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM: Cash Bar
7:00 PM: Welcome Roundtable - Get to know your Shipmates!
50/50 Raffle

April 28 - Friday:

8:00 AM to 10:00 PM: Hospitality Room
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Registration open

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM: Presentation – Local Media Relations
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM: Workshop – Base Fund Raising
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM: Julietta Winery Tour and Wine Tasting
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM: Tolling of the Boats
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM: Cash Bar Open
7:30 PM: Submarine Movie Night
50/50 Raffle

April 29 - Saturday:

8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM: Hospitality Room Open
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Registration Open

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM: Workshop - Future of the WRR
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM: Presentation – USSVI Charitable Foundation
1:30 PM to 5:00 PM: Memorabilia Silent Auction
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM: Social Hour
Live auction
5:00 PM to 10:00 PM: Cash Bar Open
6:00 PM to 8:00PM: Banquet Dinner
Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral Jerry Ellis
50-50 Raffle
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM: Entertainment

April 30 - Sunday:

Check Out Safe travels. See you next year !!!

USSVI National News



Shipmates,

IMPORTANT !! Please read

The mistakes on the 2023 National Convention website (Hotel Room Rates, Pricing on the Online Registration Form etc.) have been corrected.

Disregard the notation found on the hotel registration page that says, "Daily Resort Charge will be added to the room rate". By our contract with the hotel the "Resort Charges" have been waived.

Please use this link [2023 CH - United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. \(ussvi.org\)](https://ussvi.org) to access registration (Both convention and hotel) and other pertinent convention information.

We regret any inconveniences or problems from prior attempts to register for our convention.

Additionally, if using the "Online Convention Registration Form" and paying by credit card, it will automatically add approximately a 3% credit card fee.

Alternatively, you may fill out, download, and print the "2023 Convention Paper Registration Form" to mail in with a check to avoid a credit card fee.

V/R

Bill Andrea

NC

Story of Interest

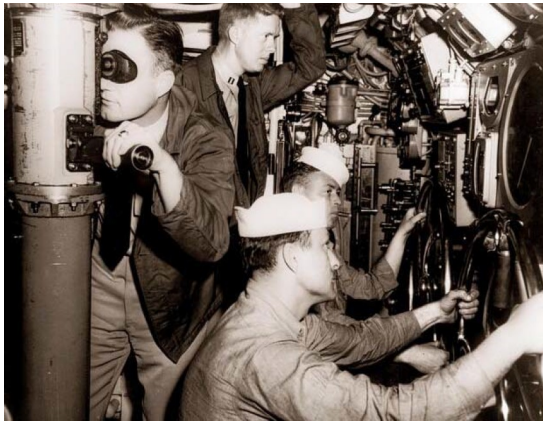
The Only United States President Qualified in Submarines

James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr., was born in Plains, Georgia on 1 October 1924. Carter grew up in a rural atmosphere and attended public schools. Graduating from Plains High School in 1941. In 1943, Carter received an appointment to the Naval Academy and became a member of the Class of 1947. After completing the accelerated wartime program, he graduated on 5 June 1946 with distinction and obtained his commission as ensign.



After he graduated, Carter was stationed at Norfolk and assigned to USS *Wyoming* (E-AG 17), an older battleship that had been converted into a floating laboratory for testing new electronics and gunnery equipment. On *Wyoming*, Carter served as radar officer and CIC officer. Detached when *Wyoming* was decommissioned on 23 July 1947, he was assigned that day to another similarly used battleship, USS *Mississippi* (E-AG 128) as Training and Education Officer. After completing two years of surface ship duty, Carter chose to apply for submarine duty. Accepted, he began the six-month course at the U.S. Navy Submarine School, Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut from 14 June to 17 December 1948.

Upon completion of the course, Carter was assigned to USS *Pomfret* (SS 391) based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he reported on board on 29 December. *Pomfret* left on a simulated war patrol to the western Pacific and the Chinese coast on 4 January 1949. On board, Carter qualified in a submarine on 4 February, and served as Communications Officer, Sonar Officer, Electronics Officer, Gunnery Officer and Supply Officer. On 9 March, he served as the approach officer for a simulated torpedo firing at target ships, and scored a "hit." The submarine returned to Pearl Harbor on 25 March. Soon after Carter's promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade on 5 June 1949, *Pomfret* was sent in July to San Diego where the submarine operated along the California coast.



Detached from *Pomfret* on 1 February 1951, Carter was assigned as Engineering Officer for the pre-commissioning detail for USS *K-1* (SSK 1). *K-1*, (USS *Barracuda* (SSK-1) the first postwar submarine built, was under construction by Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. After *K-1*'s commissioning on 10 November 1951, Carter served as Executive Officer, Engineering Officer, and Electronics Repair Officer. During this tour he also qualified for command of a submarine.

When Admiral Hyman G. Rickover (then a captain) started his program to create nuclear powered submarines, Carter wanted to join the program and was interviewed by Rickover. On 1 June 1952, Carter was promoted to Lieutenant. Selected by Rickover, Carter was detached on 16 October 1952 from *K-1* for duty with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Reactor Development in Schenectady, New York. From 3 November 1952 to 1 March 1953, he served on temporary duty with the Naval Reactors Branch, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, DC to assist "in the design and development of nuclear propulsion plants for naval vessels."

From 1 March to 8 October, Carter was preparing to become the engineering officer for the nuclear power plant to be placed in USS *Seawolf* (SSN 575), one of the first submarines to operate on atomic power. He assisted in setting up training for the enlisted men who would serve on *Seawolf*. During this time his father became very sick and died in July 1953. After his father's death in 1953, Carter resigned from the Navy to return to Georgia to manage the family interests. Carter was honorably discharged on 9 October 1953 at Headquarters, Third Naval District in New York City. On 7 December 1961, he transferred to the retired reserve with the rank of Lieutenant at his own request.

From The Crew

Wreckage of long-lost US Submarine USS Albacore SS-218 from World War II found off Japanese coast.

The long-lost wreckage of a U.S. Navy submarine credited with sinking nearly a dozen enemy ships during World War II before vanishing in late 1944 has been found off the coast of northern Japan, Navy officials announced Thursday.

The USS Albacore's wreckage was confirmed by the Naval History and Heritage Command's Underwater Archaeology Branch after it was located recently off the coast of Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's main islands, the Navy said in a news release. The NHHC used information and imagery provided by Tamaki Ura, a University of Tokyo professor who has specialized in developing autonomous underwater vehicles to confirm the identity of the submarine. The Albacore disappeared while patrolling in the Pacific Ocean and had at least 85 sailors aboard.



USS Albacore SS-218

“As the final resting place for [U.S.] sailors who gave their life in defense of our nation, we sincerely thank and congratulate Dr. Ura

and his team for their efforts in locating the wreck of Albacore,” Samuel Cox, the director of the NHHC, said in a statement. “It is through their hard work and continued collaboration that we could confirm Albacore’s identity after being lost at sea for over 70 years.”

The Albacore was last heard from by the U.S. military on Oct. 28, 1944, when it stopped at Midway for fuel en route for its 11th combat patrol in the waters off northern Japan, according to Naval records. The Gato-class submarine was believed sunk in a Nov. 7, 1944, underwater explosion reported in Japanese military records, likely the result of hitting an underwater mine. The location of the ship’s wreckage appeared to confirm those details, according to the Navy.

A screenshot of the wreck site of the USS Albacore, which was lost at sea Nov. 7, 1944. Indications of documented modifications made to Albacore prior to her final patrol such as the presence of an SJ Radar dish and mast, a row of vent holes along the top of the superstructure, and the absence of steel plates along the upper edge of the fairwater allowed Naval History and Heritage Command to confirm the wreck site finding as the Albacore.

Continued on next page

Albacore SS-218 Found

Continued

The screenshot was captured from video courtesy of Tamaki Ura from the University of Tokyo. (Abigayle Lutz/Naval History and Heritage Command)

Before the sub's sinking, the Albacore had proved a capable warship. The vessel was built by the Electric Boat Company and commissioned into the Navy on June 1, 1942. The Navy credited the submarine with sinking at least 10 enemy ships during its brief tenure — earning the Albacore nine battle stars for meritorious participation in battle and four Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary heroism in combat. The Navy said the Albacore might have been responsible for sinking three additional ships during the war, but those have not been confirmed.

Among the sub's known sinkings were Japanese destroyers, freighters and the 31,000-ton Japanese aircraft carrier Taiho, then the newest and largest carrier in the Japanese fleet. Taiho sunk hours after being struck by a torpedo fired by the Albacore during the Battle of the Philippine Sea, according to the Navy. The Albacore's crew did not know at the time that they had sunk the flagship after diving deep to escape incoming aerial attacks. Months later, the Albacore's top officer at that time, Lt. Cmdr. James Blanchard, was awarded the Navy Cross, the service's second-highest honor for combat heroics, for his role in sinking the Taiho.



The Navy said Ura used unmanned underwater craft to locate the Albacore based on Japanese records documenting the Nov. 7, 1944, explosion off Hokkaido.

"Strong currents, marine growth and poor visibility on site made it challenging to fully document the wreck or obtain comprehensive images," the Navy statement said. "However, several key features of a late 1944 Gato-class submarine were identified in the video."

Those features included the presence of a SJ Radar dish and mast, a row of vent holes along the top of the superstructure and the absence of steel plates along the ship's upper edge consistent with the Albacore's construction at the time that the submarine was last seen, according to the Navy.

The Albacore's wreckage now falls under the NHHC's jurisdiction and is protected from intrusion by U.S. law, the Navy said.

"The wreck represents the final resting place of sailors that gave their life in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave," the Navy statement reads.

Article Provided by
Western Region
Director Pete Juhos



From The Crew

USS Greenfish (SS-351) Recovered a Merchant Seaman after treading water for over 20 Hours.

We were conducting night operations 50 miles off the coast of Mexico near Acapulco with the combined forces of the Mexico and United States ASW aircraft. We had just surfaced and fired up all four engines cruising on the surface at about 12 knots. The night was clear and the moon was bright as we continued onward. The top side OD had just been posted along with the lookouts when over the roar of the four diesel engines they heard a man's shout. They turned and spotted a man in the sub's wash and ordered the engines reversed. He was "bellowing like a raging bull" and was pulled aboard in a matter of minutes. He looked tired but not exhausted when he was pulled aboard the USS Greenfish. Capt. Karl Peterson commented "That man must have had the stamina of a 20-year-old youth.



USS Greenfish (SS-351)

Not being able to communicate, Capt. Peterson decided to stay in the area until daybreak in case others were in the water, and reported the rescue to the U.S. and Mexico Coast Guards. The U.S. Coast Guard sent out a search plane.

The Greenfish began an "expanding square search" at daybreak Tuesday but stopped about noon when a message was relayed from a Greek tanker saying its crewman was missing. We discovered that the seaman was a 58 year old Greek sailor who fell overboard and treaded water for over 20 hours. He was naked and baked from the sun along with the effects of being in salt water for that long. The corpsman treated him for first aid but reported he was in very good condition for his age and being in the water that long. He was given clothing supplied by the Greenfish crew. He rode the Greenfish until we delivered him to the Canal Zone immigration station.

His Greek sailor's name was Caralabos T. Zeraphus, age 58 and speaks only Greek. He was reported missing Monday afternoon by the Greek tanker St. Nicholas.

A few month's later the USS Greenfish received a picture from the family of Caralabos Zeraphus of a shrine in their home with candles around a photo of the USS Greenfish.

We were just in the right place at the right time to save that man.

**Story Provided by
Base Commander
Les Jamison**



From The Crew

The Little Mermaid

During a 1963 Becuna Med Run, which later was extended to include Northern Europe, the long days and nights at sea became routine and mundane for the crew. We had no other ships in company to exchange movies, and we had seen all on board films 3 or 4 times. I approached the COB (Art Sogian) and the Exec (Dan Donovan) about my developing a bi-weekly ship's newsletter. Both agreed.



The Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen, Denmark

The Becuna Newsletter became a crew favorite, and I truly enjoyed (in between standing radio watch and quals) being a shipboard editor. We received orders to transit to Copenhagen, Denmark (Home of the Little Mermaid Statue by the Sea). The crew was on a high note, anticipating a visit to such a fantastic part of call. I only had one half day of liberty and the rest of the time in port it was man the Radio Shack and Qualls. I needed some excitement, and at that point conceived of the idea to engage the crew in some editorial thrills. Sitting at my "Mill" (Radioman speak for typewriter), I conceived the idea of placing the Becuna in the news while she visited Copenhagen. The day after we got underway, and departed Copenhagen, I released shipboard copies of the bi-weekly newsletter. Headline Reads: "**Mermaid Head Removed Becuna Crew Suspect.**" The feature article went on to read how the liberty bound submariners enjoyed the sights and delights of beautiful Copenhagen, but went a little overboard on their drinking binge at the site of the Little Mermaid. Witnesses reported seeing much revelry, involving alcohol consumption, women and frivolity galore. I could go on with the article but you get the point. Anyway, as a result, the crew, including the officers, began to believe the article I had written to be true. Talk was surfacing about a possible investigation as to the who, what, where, and why Becuna crewmen could have been the culprits in such a dirty deed. At that point, I made a decision to fez up and admit the story was pure fiction. Captain Anderson was most relieved to hear the truth, and the underway routine returned to normal aboard the Becuna.

Story Provided by
Eagle Scout Coordinator
Gil Miller



Meet Your Shipmate

Jeff Owens is a member of USSVI USS Scranton Base he was a shipmate of Larry Davis. He sent this to me, it is great reading about our Shipmate. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Barry

MEET YOUR SHIPMATE - "THE QUACK" – A EULOGY

"independent Duty Corpsman", as they were most commonly known as, have been the target of much good natured banter and friendly abuse over time. These men, after undergoing some critical medical training beyond dispensing aspirin and putting band-aids on scratches, are given assignments where they have to act as the sole medical personnel for a unit or vessel. They must have many skills paralleling what doctors must know, and be able to handle emergencies of illness and injury that arise in isolated or remote situations. These are especially evident in submarine operations which most of the time happen far from shore-side or other ship assistance.

Navy hospital corpsman have dozens of nicknames applied over the years. *Crank inspector, pecker checker*, etc., or just Doc. These special sailors have the time honored job of providing various nursing, medical, and clerical duties for the Navy in hospitals or on ships or attached to the Marine corps. Just about every sailor has relied upon them for some kind of medical services from day one in boot camp until the final physical on discharge. In the best sense, they are and were just shipmates and our brethren.



Lawrence "Larry" J. Davis, Jr. was one of three corpsmen who kept the watch during my time on Sabalo. I know 'Doc' well because he chose to be a regular watch stander in addition to his medical duties. Larry was a qualified on SONAR and RADAR. His involvement in being qualified for this duty encompassed more than just O.J.T. while on-board. He also went to some of the various seminar type training offered in short on-shore courses.

Doc was in my watch section for the WestPac of Jul '67 – Jan '68. There were 3 men to a section of 4 hrs on/8 off for the radar & sonar watches. During this time Bob Phelps and John Patrick were the others that shared my section some of the time. With Doc in the rotation, it gave us 9 men to split the duty using ST, ET, & FT ratings.

During periods of little activity while submerged, especially during many routine ASW training activities where we sometimes just maintained a submerged straight course while the surface craft pinged on us and had their basic training in sub tracking. Things were kind of boring for those not actually with the headphones on listening for ship sounds. The main task of the sole sub sonar operator was to keep very accurate track and relative position of the surface craft, especially when coming to periscope depth or Sabalo surfacing. The other two watch standers, generally, but not always, were usually present in the sonar room for assistance in plotting or other duties as required.

Continued on next page

Meet Your Shipmate

continued

Doc had three occasions to administer medical help to me beyond some aspirin. Twice I had minor lacerations which required stitches. One time the hatch leading to the storeroom below the aft part of the control room fell on my left hand. It caught the last three fingers and sliced open the last digit on each. Larry put five stitches in both the middle and ring finger, and bandaged all three. As I look at those scars today, I remember his skill in carefully doing it with a fine sized thread. There is no lasting effect of that injury and I have full feeling there now.

On another occasion, I had a small cut on my left thumb. For those who know me, I only have a half of the thumb on that hand. Before my Navy enlistment, I had the last joint of my thumb pulled off in a water skiing accident. [This would have kept me out of the draft, but that's a story for another day.] The skin on my remaining thumb is from a graft from my abdomen and not as tough as normal hand skin. One day I had a small cut, and two stitches took care of it.

Now Larry, like just about all of his shipmates was known to have a few drinks on liberty. On this occasion I had the duty and Larry who did not was a little less than sober. It was sometime during the night hours when I got him out of rack to look at my injury to my thumb. He got right to the task and when right back to sleep. Next morning at quarters he asked me how my "foot" was doing. I guess he was just as good under the influence as otherwise. I hardly remember it all myself.

The most serious occasion occurred prior to those first aid needs. I first reported aboard in March '67 near the end of a long yard period at Hunter's Point, and shortly after the boat was newly homeported in San Diego and preparing for a WestPac cruise to depart in July. Most of the crew had to get all the inoculations for overseas travel. With most of the crew lining up a few mornings after quarters for a few shots each day, and with the help of other corpsmen in the squadron, one of the vaccines I got was for Yellow Fever. Within a few hours I began to have chills and fever which sent me to the sick bay on the tender. During the night my temperature shot up to 106°, and I went into convulsions, a very life-threatening situation. Luckily, the corpsman on duty knew the seriousness and called out every corpsman on each boat in port and also any of the tender doctors. Among them was Doc Davis. The details of what happened that night are a whole story in itself, but enough to say, I survived and made the sailing of the boat a couple days later. [It was great cruise which I served on Sabalo alongside my brother Roy, QM3(SS) at the time.

I remember Larry attending to a number of other shipmates with injuries and sickness. He was always ready to help with the best of his skills. Once, on transit to Japan, a new man became seriously seasick and then ultimately dehydrated to a life threatening point. Larry had the man moved to a rack next to his in the after battery berthing, and maintained constant vigil on him with IV fluids going to bring him around. It was hit and miss for a couple days as there was no ship or aircraft that could provide any assistance of faster transport. While we steamed full-on-four to lessen the time to make port, decisions on a faster means to get the man to treatment were under consideration. Reaching about 600 miles away (I think it was), the maximum distance a helicopter might come out for a ship-to-air transfer, it was finally decided by the medical doctors in Yokosuka that our shipmate was stable enough to stay aboard until we would tie up.

One last and ribald [WARNING] tale about how the 'quack' was always being the subject of base humor. Larry's rack was the upper one, located inboard and aft in Hogan's Alley. A certain 1st class electrician had his rack nearby. Returning from liberty, and in an inebriated state, the electrician spied Larry asleep in dreamland. Now it was pretty common for drunken sailors to cause disturbance in the berthing areas at various times when the yen was to continue the enjoyment of the celebration when they were returning to the boat. On this occasion, the unruly electrician shook 'Doc' awake. In one hand, he had a flashlight and the other he held his exposed male organ. Shining a light on it, he exclaimed, "Look, Doc Look!". Doc looked over the edge of his rack and saw the penis in the light. "So what's wrong", Doc said. The electrician wanting to continue his humor said, "Nothing Doc, but ain't it beautiful!"

Meet Your Shipmate

continued

Larry Davis enlisted in the Navy in July 1955, and was HM 1 when he came aboard USS Sabalo SS-302 in Pearl Harbor on 14 October 1965. He qualified in Sabalo on 16 May 1966. Larry also spent a lot of time later on Grayback SSG-574.. He was a golfer in retirement, and played with shipmates when it was part of our reunion program. He attended most of our Sabalo reunions, including the last in 2018.

In his own words here's how he summarized his life, including an update received shortly before the Sabalo 2018 reunion: **Jeff Owens** ETN2(SS)

[Recd 2001]- "I managed to get to Master Chief and retired after 26 years total time. Had a few interesting assignments after I left Sabalo and mostly exactly what I had asked for. I really enjoyed the Navy, therefore I had no intentions of getting out unless something drastic happened and left me no choice. The friends and acquaintances that I met will last forever. Now, it's just about everywhere I go, there is someone that I know. After I retired in 1981 from the Naval Hospital in Oakland, I went to work for the state in the correctional facility here in Vacaville. That was really something, and I didn't cope with it very well. After that I went to work for Mobil Oil Co. in their seismic research division. I got my Coast Guard Purser license and sailed with them for about 4 years running a 5 bed hospital and doing all the supply and administrative duties, also as Safety Officer. Was a great job and enjoyed it tremendously, but it was like away from home too much, and I had gotten remarried and had 2 children, so that was not for me in the long run. I then went to work at Mare Island Shipyard in the Radiation Health branch, stayed there until it closed in 1995, then went to work at McClelland AFB in Sacramento. Worked there as an Industrial Hygienist until I retired just this past September (2000). Both the children are gone, the youngest a son is in the Navy, stationed at Lemoore NAS and is enjoying it quite well. He is an AD and wants to fly but had a vision problem. He says that he will get it corrected and then reapply. He went to San Jose State before he went into the Navy. The eldest, a daughter is living in Nashville and is a CPA with a firm there. So now it's just me and the wife and we enjoy just spending time together and traveling whenever we get the notion. Can't say that I have had many bad days until recently. Had open heart surgery for a quadruple bypass, but came out of that with flying colors and now do mostly odds and ends and golf."

[Update recd Jul 2018]**- After Sabalo transferred to Grayback until 1971, then AFEES Buffalo, NY; then to Subic Bay Hospital in Sep '73; back to Grayback in Sep '79; trf to Yokosuka, Japan Apr '77; trf to BUMED West Coast Detachment Oakland, CA Sep '79, Retired Navy 1 Mar '81. Worked at California Medical Facility until '82; then Mobil Oil Co. until Apr '86; went to work on Mare Island, Vallejo, CA in May '95; then McClelland AFB Sacramento until Sep 2000. **some confusion in dates. Larry

Lawrence J Davis Jr HMCM(SS)

Larry joined the Navy in 1955 and discharged 1981. He Qualified in Submarines on the USS Sabalo (SS-302) in 1966 and also served on the USS Grayback (SSG 574). He was a USSVI Life Member, a Holland Club Member, and a Plank Owner of the Gold Country Base. Larry departed on Eternal Patrol on September 27, 2022.

Featured Boat

USS Salmon (SSR/SS/AGSS-573), a Sailfish-Class Submarine

Construction and Commissioning

Salmon was the second of a class of two radar picket submarines, which were the largest conventionally-powered submarines in the United States Navy. She was equipped with BPS-2 and BPS-3 radars in and aft of the sail. Intended to scout in advance of aircraft carrier groups using long-range radar, the Sailfish class were designed for a high surface speed. However, they achieved a speed only a few knots higher than converted World War II radar picket submarines.

Salmon was laid down on 10 March 1954 by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard of Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 25 February 1956, and was commissioned on 26 August 1956.



Salmon conducted her shakedown cruise between February and May 1957, ranging from Newport, Rhode Island, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She departed Portsmouth for the West Coast in late May, transited the Panama Canal San Diego, California, arriving on 25 July.

Salmon conducted local operations in southern California waters, as a unit of Submarine Division 33 (until

she began her first western Pacific deployment in September. She sailed via Pearl Harbor and Midway Island to join the Seventh Fleet off southern Japan. For the remainder of the year she participated in fleet training exercises and special operations, with port calls at Yokosuka, Japan; Hong Kong; Manila and Subic Bay, Philippines; and Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Salmon departed Yokosuka and returned to San Diego, California,

Resuming local operations, Salmon remained in the San Diego area for the rest of the year. From January 1959 until May, she underwent overhaul and limited conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Giving up a large radome from her superstructure, she gained instrumented Regulus missile guidance capability and improved, longer range sonar. Salmon then prepared for her second WestPac deployment.

Salmon departed San Diego, California, in July and sailed to Pearl Harbor where her crew received Regulus missile guidance training, then proceeded to Japan and joined Seventh

Class and type	<i>Sailfish-</i>
Displacement	2,030 long tons (2,063 t) light 2,530 long tons (2,571 t) full
Length	350 ft (110 m)
Beam	25 ft (7.6 m) water-line
Draft	18 ft (5.5 m)
Propulsion	Diesel-electric, 2 screws
Speed	20.5 <u>knots</u> (38.0 km/h; 23.6 mph) surfaced 15 knots (28 km/h; 17 mph) submerged
Complement	12 officers, 73 men
Armament	6 × <u>21 inch</u> (533

Fleet in August. She operated with the fleet in Allied training exercises, provided services for other Seventh Fleet surface and subsurface units for training purposes, and made visits to various ports, before returning to San Diego.

USS Salmon (SS-573) was the Qual Boat of Gold Country Holland Club Commander Lenard Lee



Featured Boat

(continued)

In March 1961, she was reclassified an attack submarine and given hull classification symbol **SS-573**, and, on 1 November, she was reassigned to SubDiv 52. The submarine radar picket mission ended fleetwide at this time as airborne radar superseded it with the full deployment of the Grumman WF-2 Tracer.

Salmon returned to San Diego, California, in December and became flagship of Submarine Flotilla 1; and, in addition to that distinction, was awarded the Golden "E" for excellence in battle efficiency for the past five consecutive years, which rated her as the leading submarine of her division. *Salmon* was the first submarine to earn a Golden "E" and was to better that record by winning hashmarks signifying retention of that status during 1963 and 1964.

Salmon commenced her fourth WestPac deployment in August. She joined Submarine Flotilla (SubFlot) 7 of the Seventh Fleet on 14 September and conducted operations in Japanese and southwest Pacific waters until returning to San Diego in April 1966. *Salmon's* fifth deployment to the western Pacific was from March to October 1967. During this tour, she provided services to Seventh Fleet units operating off Vietnam in support of Vietnam War operations. In September, she rendezvoused with ballistic missile submarines *USS Ulysses S.*

Grant and *USS Kamehameha* somewhere in the Pacific to act as a simulated target submarine for training in antisubmarine tactics.



Through the spring of 1968, *Salmon* underwent overhaul at San Francisco, California, in preparation for support of the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) program, to evaluate submarine rescue and salvage equipment at extreme depths. In June, she was redesignated an auxiliary research submarine and given hull classification symbol **AGSS-573** for her role as mother sub and underway submerged launching and recovery platform for the experimental mini subs. However, delays in the program resulted in her return to San Diego for local operations, following preliminary trials at Puget Sound. She subsequently sailed in October for her sixth WestPac deployment.

Salmon departed San Diego in February 1972 on her eighth deployment to the western Pacific. She entered a harbor of Vietnam during the Vietnam War where she laid mines and gathered intelligence. Her CO was Harry Merwin Yockey. In April, she rescued survivors from the Japanese coastal freighter *Koei Maru Number 2* which sank about 30 nautical miles (56 km) south of the entrance to Tokyo Bay. In July, she joined units of the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force in an antisubmarine warfare exercise. *Salmon* departed Pago Pago and re-entered San Diego in August.

Decommissioning and fate

Salmon was decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 October 1977. In 1992 *Salmon* was converted to a shallow water sonar target and sunk near Hudson Canyon, south of Long Island, as a bottom target on 5 June 1993.

Navy Submarine News

Naval Information Force Sending Officers, Enlisted Sailors to Submarines

SAN DIEGO – A Navy pilot program is testing the role of information warfare sailors and officers aboard submarines, the commander of Naval Information Forces announced Wednesday.

Two submarines – USS *New Mexico* (SSN-779) and USS *Washington* (SSN-787) – each have an information warfare junior officer and three sailors, Vice Adm. Kelly Aeschbach said during a talk at WEST 2023, hosted by the U.S. Naval Institute and AFCEA.

The submarine pilot started last year, Aeschbach told reporters after her discussion. Of the two junior officers, one was a cryptologist and one was an information professional, Aeschbach said.

The three sailor ratings on each submarine are a cryptologic technicians technical, a cryptologic technicians maintenance and intelligence specialist, she said.

So far the feedback from the pilot has been good, Aeschbach said. In addition to sailors bringing their knowledge to the submarine, the information warfare officer is able to oversee the information warfare efforts already on the vessel.



USS *New Mexico* (SSN-779)



“So the results have been very positive ... it’s really, the only limitation is just going to be resourcing new officer billets,” she said. “I think it’s going to be the biggest challenge.”

The thought is to start out with billets on submarines and eventually grow to every submarine, Aeschbach said.

The submarine pilot is just one change Aeschbach is overseeing since she took over Naval Information Forces in May 2021. The vice admiral is also overseeing the creation of a cyber designator.

Aeschbach is waiting on more details on how many sailors and officers would be required. The first step is to draft requirements for the billets and determine a career path for the sailors.

There should be between 200 and 300 billets, the vice admiral said. In the late summer to early fall timeframe, Naval Information Forces will do a call for officers already serving to apply to get into the cyber designator. After that, Aeschbach and her team will look at how to bring in new officers who commission from the Naval Academy or through ROTC.

“I have a lot of junior officers who are really excited about the chance to serve solely in cyber and really focus on that specialty,” she said. “So I think we actually might be overwhelmed with applicants later this year from across the Navy, who are interested in serving in that role.”

When creating the designator, Naval Information Forces needs to be careful not to hurt the other cyber areas, such as the National Security Agency, Aeschbach said.

When creating the designator, Naval Information Forces needs to be careful not to hurt the other cyber areas, such as the National Security Agency, Aeschbach said.

“And so we will have to be careful about how many cryptologists, how many information professionals, are allowed to transfer over to the cyber designator, but I do think for cryptologists in particular, where the dominant number of these billets, cyber billets, will come from, I really think if you’re a pure cryptologist that this is really going to actually enhance our performance in those mission areas,” she said.

There is already a cyber rating, the vice admiral said. It’s just not clear because of its name – cryptologic technician network, which is part of the cryptologic series.

Under Congressional guidance, the cryptologic technician network will be taken out of the cryptologic series and a new cyber rating will be created, Aeschbach said. A name has not yet been decided but it will include cyber.

“And so we’ll have a family now of cyber designators like we do for intelligence, where we have officers and intelligence specialists,” she said.

There will also be more training involved. When the Navy stood up its cyber mission force, it was good at staffing it, but the sea service did not establish a foundational training infrastructure to allow for sailors to have the right training as roles matured, she said.

Under the new cyber designator, there will be more dwell time for sailors so that the cyber units do not lose institutional knowledge as people’s tours come to an end after two or three years in a position, the vice admiral said.

“So we are doing some things a little bit differently in terms of our normal detailing and assignment model where we have come up with – we call it returning our closed loop detailing – but we’re allowing folks now to stay inside the cyber mission force in order to really maximize the investment we make and allow them to be as exceptional as they can be,” she said.

Kelly A. Aeschbach is a Vice Admiral in the United States Navy who currently serves as the Commander of U.S. Naval Information Forces



Support Gold Country Base Business

P3 TAX SERVICES

*PROACTIVE
PROFESSIONAL
PERSONALIZED*

MARK T. ELFTMANN (916) 243-9265
ENROLLED AGENT *taxhelp4all@reagan.com*

Joe's Ammo Garage
Custom Made Ammunition



Veteran Owned & Operated

joecooke5256@gmail.com

"Maximizing Your Promotions"

Mad Max
Max Schell, CAS, BASI
619.208.6622

An Independent Affiliate of
ipromoteu

MAXIMIZING YOUR PROMOTIONS WITH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS!
www.WestCoastSpecialties.com

Michael D. "Max" Schell, CAS
649 Cadena Dr.
Soledad, CA 93960

Cell: 619.208.6622
Fax: 866.384.0192
Max@WestCoastSpecialties.com

mendedLIFE.com
Something good is the making

Joel Walton
Marriage & Family Therapist
Lic No. 98304
(916) 587-1948
7844 Madison Ave, Suite 108,
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Joel.Walton@MendedLife.com

Christian Family Counseling

 Join us on Facebook
[USSVI—Gold Country Base](#)



January/February 2023 Newsletter



**Overall 2022
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