



April—May 2023
VOL MMXXIII Issue 02

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.



Harry A Beach EM2 (SS)

Gold Country Base "Chief of the Boat"

Born March of 1940, Departed on Eternal Patrol on March 3, 2023. Harry was a USSVI Life Member, a Holland Club Member, and a Plank Owner of the Gold Country Base.

Harry, You have served us well and accepted your final orders. We salute you. Calm winds and following seas. (see pages 13 & 14)

We Remember - We Honor



USS Thresher SSN 593
April 10, 1963

Inside

- Page 2- Commander's Corner
- Page 3-5 Officers Country
- Page 6- Base & National Officers
- Page 7- Lost Boats - May
- Page 8- Birthdays, Lighter Side,
- Page 9- Booster Club, Vets Information
- Page 10-11 April Meeting Minutes
- Page 12- Base News
- Page 13-14 Eternal Patrol
- Page 15- Welcome Aboard
- Page 16- Regional News
- Page 17- National News
- Page 18-19 Story of Interest
- Page 20 Book Review
- Page 21-22 From The Crew
- Page 23-24 Featured Boat
- Page 25-26 US Navy Submarine News
- Page 27- Support Base Members Business

UNITED STATES NAVY

We Remember
We Honor



SKIPJACK-CLASS
NUCLEAR SUBMARINE

May 22, 1968



USS SCORPION SSN-589

Next Meeting—May 27 0930 Bass Pro 5472 Crossings Dr, Rocklin, CA 95677

First Call to Morning Chow

Tuesday June 13 0930 @ Susie's Country Oaks Café 1000 Melody Lane, Roseville

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Shipmates, Well, it was a busy April and busy May so far. We, as you all know, were the host committee for the recent Western Region Round-up conducted April 27 through April 29th at the DoubleTree hotel in Sacramento. A fun time was had by all who attended the Round-up. The WRR committee as well as the National Commander complemented the highly active support that Gold Country Base volunteers gave so the event could run as smoothly as it did. Special Thanks to Gene Ratto and Ed McCarthy as their efforts were stellar and aloud many events run without a glitch.

We lost one of our founding members, Harry Beach. He will be greatly missed. Harry was the caretaker for our submarine float. He spent many hours adjusting the lift mechanics so the float would rise slowly and smoothly. He was always adjusting the sail lights and making sure the battery was always charged. I am sure he went through a couple of hundred polishing cloths making sure the float was clear of our greasy fingerprints so it would shine and made him proud!

We had great attendance at the Celebration of Life (April 15) and Dixon National Cemetery Internment (May 18) for Harry Beach. Rosa was very appreciative for the great turnout at both events to honor Harry A. Beach.

We will remain remarkably busy over next few months as we have several scheduled events listed below:

“Bass Pro Shop Day” – Saturday May 27 (10am. To 2pm)

PLEASE ARRIVE at 8:30am as we have a lot of set-ups to do.

We will run some kid’s games supplied by Bass Pro Shops. Ladies, Penny will need help, please let her know! We will also be ready to welcome new members on the spot.

First Call to Chow – June 13 @ 9:30am at Susie’s Country Oaks Café

Annual family cookout – Saturday June 24 at Folsom Veteran’s Hall 10:30 am. To 2pm. This is a family event so bring your kids, grandkids, and parents if you would like. We will utilize the outside as well the hall for our meeting and Picnic / Cookout!

Lincoln – 4th of July Parade – Details to be distributed later as they are received.

Cal expo Veteran’s Day Thursday July 27, 2023

Late Summer / Early Fall fishing tournament – Details provided when available.

So, mark your calendars and enjoy the upcoming events.

Les Jamison, Base Commander

Vice-COMMANDER



SubVet Check-in

I have looked at the list of Base Members and identified members who do not usually meetings or events.

I will try to verify telephone numbers of these shipmates so we can make calls to check in with them. There are many names I don't recognize but these may be familiar to some of you. If you know of members who we do not see regularly, anyone can call to

see how these shipmates are doing.

Although we know the value of keeping touch with members at the Western Region Round during a work group on Base Vitality, there were several comments from other bases that were confirming this.

I will continue to work on resuming this program at Gold Country Base.

Please contact me with any comments or suggestions.



Folsom JVO

There will be an event at the Folsom Veteran's Hall on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day. The flags in the Courtyard will be replaced and two volunteers are needed to raise the Navy flag.

There will also be a lunch served that day.

Various veteran groups have been serving breakfast on Sunday mornings.

The Canteen is open M - F 2PM to 6PM, Saturday 12PM to 4PM, and Sunday 10AM to 2 PM

Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander, SubVet Check-In & Folsom JVO Representative



Religion versus Relationship

Religion a definition: The practice of religious beliefs; ritual observance of faith.

Relationship a definition: An emotional or other connection between people.

These definitions are very brief, but it gets the idea across. Religion is religious beliefs and rituals. Relationship is an emotional connection.

Jesus wants a relationship with each of us. In the New Testament He was not pleased with religious leaders of the time because they had made so many changes to God's laws. It had become their law not God's. The confrontation between

them was so bad they ended up crucifying Christ! This sounds bad but it gave us Christ as our Savior. We cannot do anything for our salvation except accept Him. Jesus has already done the work by dying on Cross.

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

He is interested in all the matters of our lives. That is the relationship He wants with us, which is a two-way relationship.



Blessings, Howard Grover, Chaplain

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, Having attended and participated in the 2023 Annual United States Submarine Veterans Western Regional Round-up here in Sacramento was a highlight of any events I've attended over the years. Since our Gold Country Base was the sponsor it became a local event that many of our members could easily attend. Of the 105 attendees (including submarine veterans' guests) that were present, about 25% of them were members of our base. There are simply too many events and memories to give it credit for in this short space, but as our Base Photographer, I attended as much as I could. Here is a visual representation of that event from the Western Regional Roundup website:



<https://wrroundup.com/2023-roundup-photos/>. Although none of these photos were ones I took, this is an excellent visual representation of what you missed if you didn't attend.

For me personally, I enjoyed meeting many other submarine veterans from the other attending bases and made some new friends. There are two primary events that made my time unique and very memorable. First, meeting author George Wallace CDR (ret) at his very informative lecture about what goes into his books, with two becoming movies, I realized that the book and story he talked about was one of the books I had won at our last GC Base meeting (Final Bearing) a few weeks ago. During a break I rushed home, got the book, and brought it back for him to sign. Second, I attended Submarine Movie Night which included "Hunter Killer" and "Operation Petticoat." The "Hunter Killer" movie is based on George Wallace's novel "Firing Point." Amazingly at that event I won the first raffle prize, cash from all those who bought tickets. Later, I was sitting at a table with Bill Andrea, our USSVI National Commander, and I asked him how much a "USSVI Life Membership would be for my age group. He confirmed the amount, and it was almost exactly that I had just won in the raffle. I am now a "Life Member" of USSVI and own three of George Wallace's books (all signed). Yes, you can call me "lucky", but I'd say that my curiosity and willingness to participate led to most of my good fortune. It's all now a part of my history with USSVI and our Gold Country Base.

Roger Paul, Gold Country Base Historian / Photographer



Hello ladies: I attended the Western Regional Round-up at the end of April. It was a wonderful busy event. I enjoyed meeting some new people and reconnected with friends from past events. One of the things I admire about most submariners is that they have never met a stranger. They are all brothers. There is a strong bond among them.



One of the things you should know about me is I am not very good about delegation or sharing responsibilities. So... with that said, if I forget or fail to ask for help, please remind me, or let me know if you can help.

Our next event is Saturday May 27, Bass Pro Shop Day. Call me if you want to help. Please, I have a list of volunteer positions that are needed.

Our Annual Family Picnic will be at our June meeting on June 24. Any ideas or suggestions?

Penny Jamison, SubVet Support Group Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Shipmates, Once again I want to thank Roger Paul our Base Photographer for the many photos that fill this edition of the Newsletter. I need to apologize for the erratic distribution schedule of our newsletter so far this year. I have cleared the decks of some of my other responsibilities and we'll do the best I can to return to the every other month delivery



schedule that I had established a few years ago. What would be a big help to me is to receive more submissions from you. Several years ago there was a constant flow of BIOS from members of our crew. These do not have to be lengthy or written perfectly. All I really need is where and when you were born and grew up, when and where you joined the Navy, when and on what boat you qualified, when you discharged and what you have done sense. Also some family information would be great. Other ideas which make great content are sea stories, book reviews And projects that you might be involved in. You do not have to wait until the deadline for the June July addition to send something in the sooner I get it the easier it is for me.

Barry Wyatt, Newsletter Editor/ PAO



I could not let this opportunity pass without expressing my gratitude for the support the Gold Country Base gave to the Western Region Round-up we held last month. The purpose of this event is to create an atmosphere where Submarine Veterans can come together for a few days to share sea stories, reunite with shipmates that they served with and meet new friends helping to build the camaraderie we all enjoy.

A few years ago Pete and I came up with idea to change the direction of this event which was started by our World War II brothers. To that end in the we established three major goals. The first of those was to shorten the event from five or six days to three and move the timing close to a weekend to help draw younger members who were still working. The next was to develop the guidance to move the event to different cities around the western region to make it more accessible to our members and finally to create a standing oversight committee with the key element to include a host committee for each event. Gold Country proved beyond a doubt that the concept works. There is no doubt that the participation of our members was the main ingredient of the total success. **Bravo Zula Gold Country**

Barry Wyatt, Chairman Western Region Roundup Committee

Gold Country Base Officers



Base Commander
Kaps4Kids Coordinator
Les Jamison
Qualified 1969
USS Greenfish SS 351
Holland Club
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basecommander@goldcountrybase.com



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.
Mark Eftmann
Qualified 1975
USS William H Bates SSN 625
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Base Secretary
Diana Clay
Associate Member
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Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Nick Sadowy
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USS Sturgeon SSN 637
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Chief of the Boat (COB)
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Base Historian
Roger Paul
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Newsletter Editor/PAO
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gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org



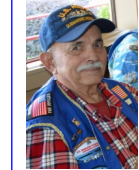
**Guest Speakers
Coordinator**
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay
Qualified 1965
USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629
Life Member Holland Club
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Storekeeper
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Associate Member
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**First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator**
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Life Member Holland Club
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**USSVI Western
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Lost Boats

May

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawk-bill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.



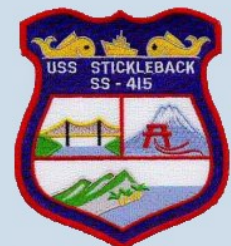
USS Squalus (SS-192)

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one of survived after spending the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.



USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.



Birthdays

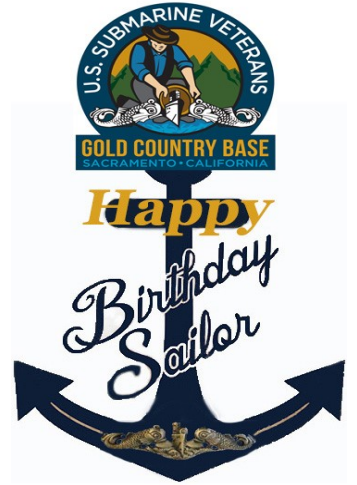
April

Ed Alves Ken Earls Harold Fisher

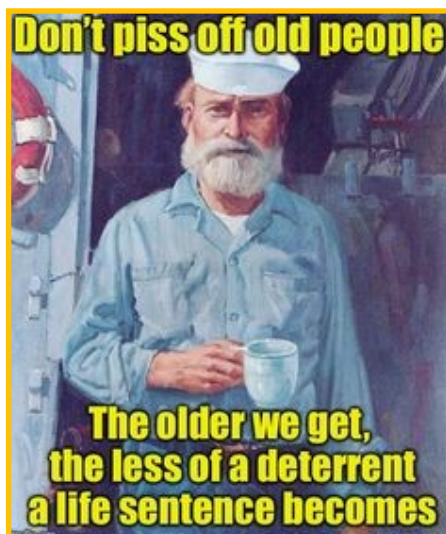
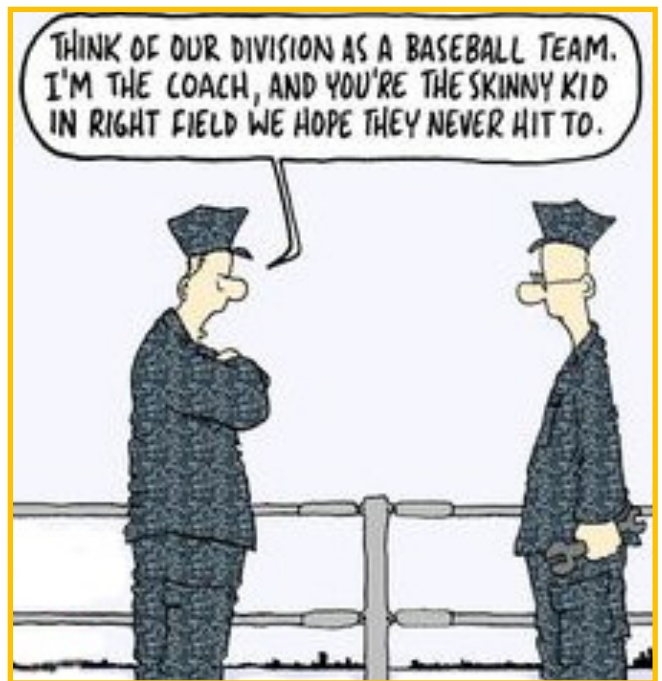
Alvin Lehman

May

John Kelly Jim MacLean



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

Ed Alves Janet Alves* Bill Barron**
Harry Beach Rosa Beach* Glenn Boothe*
Jerry Bowers Regy Bronner* Anita Bronner**
John Clark Dennis Cline Mike Daly**
Larry Davis Jr.. Mike Delleney Ron Eggert*
Mark Elftmann Frank Elliott* Jerry Ellis**
Jack Everett Christopher Ferguson**
Harold Fisher Janet Fisher* Michael Goble**
Howard Grover Dennis Henderson Bill Hunt**
Burna Jamieson Pete Juhos Debbie Juhos**
Alvin Lehman Matt Lettau* James MacLean**
George Miyao Tom Moniz* Hans Nettle*
Harry Pagett Roger Paul Gene Ratto**
Max Rhinehart Tom Rumsey* Joe Ryan**
Louie Slayton Joel Walton David Worth
*Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*

VA Information

College Fee Waiver

The College Fee Waiver for Veteran Dependents benefit waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus. This program does not cover the expense of books, parking or room and board. There are four plans under which dependents of Veterans may be eligible.

Plan A

The unmarried child of a Veteran who is totally service-connected disabled, or whose death was officially rated as service-connected is eligible.

Plan B

The child of a Veteran who has a service-connected disability, or had a service-connected disability at the time of death, or died of service-related causes is eligible

Find all the eligibility criteria for the College Waiver for Veterans Dependents
[https://](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/College-Fee-Waiver.aspx)

[www.calvet.ca.gov/](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/College-Fee-Waiver.aspx)

[VetServices/Pages/College-Fee-Waiver.aspx](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/College-Fee-Waiver.aspx)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES April 22, 2023



CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 Commander Les Jamison the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

INVOCATION: Base Commander Les Jamison gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of April were read by the Vice Commander, Mark Elftmann, 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: There were 21 members and 2 guests in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCTION BY BASE COMMANDER LES JAMISON:

Ken Cooley, former Assembly District 8, former Mayor of Rancho Cordova, Attorney at Law

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison

Western Region Round-up needs volunteers for:

Prepare goody bags-Wednesday at 4:00

Set up conference tables Wednesday evening or Thursday morning

Plan of the day is on the website

Wine tasting schedule will be available upon registration

Need a driver for the van, Jerry volunteered

Assist Penny in registration, Naomi will help

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

SECRETARY: Diana Clay

Suggested that we look at Huckleberry's Restaurant on Micron and Bradshaw for morning chow. Les will make a visitation.

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

TREASURER/Membership: 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.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will publish the Newsletter in May.

Anyone with a sea story is welcome to contribute it to the newsletter.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Lenard Lee

Jerry Bowers is in need of some information and will get with Les.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller - No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover - No report

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER/ HISTORIAN: Roger Paul - No report

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay - No report

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy

Brought in several books on California Veterans Resource Book. Sacramento County Veteran's Resource is on Research drive. Website-nothing new

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Neck ties still not in. They will be \$10.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison - No report

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: Mark Elftmann

He is working on the list to make calls.

(minutes continued on the next page)

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES April 22, 2023 (continued)

FOLSOM JVO: Mark Elftmann

Needs someone to help raise the flag on Memorial Day

Asking for donation to help pay for flowers

They will also have a luncheon on Memorial Day

Moved to donate \$50 for Veteran's Memorial Day luncheon, 2nd by Roger, passed to pay \$50 for luncheon.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Gene Ratto, Ed McCarthy, Les Jamison

Bass Pro Day—Saturday, May 27 10-2pm, meeting will be held there. Celebration of life for Harry was on April 15, 2023 at 10:30. Internment is May 18, 2023 at 1:00 pm. Would like approval to pay \$200 for catering service, taco salad bar. Asking for members to submit something in writing to be read at ceremony

4th of July parade in Lincoln, Jack has details

Base cookout in our VFW Hall on June 4

State Fair Day-July 14-30, One day only but the Military, Veteran, First Responders Appreciation Day not set yet

California Capital Airshow—September 23-24

Annual Lost Boats memorial service—January 21 or 3rd Saturday in January (20th)

Veteran's Day parade – November 11—Auburn after a vote with the members.

Holiday party—December 9 or 16—to be determined for place etc. For people who don't drive at night, we might organize drivers to pick them up.

Western Roundup is this coming week.

National Convention is Aug. 28 to Sept. 3 in Tucson, Arizona

BASS TOURNAMENT: Alonzo Brooster and Lenard Lee

Needs \$100 to pay for fees related to tournament

Voting proposed by Jack Emeret, 2nd by Roger, approved to give \$100 for tournament.

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay - No report

Good of the Order / Communications:

Remember Harry's internment.

Old Business:

Minutes approved

First Call to Morning Chow:

Date & Time – Tuesday May 9, 2023 9:00 am at Susie's

Next Base Meeting: Next meeting will be on May 27, 2023

50/50 Won By: Mark Elftmann \$45

Sea Cadets donation: \$54

Meeting adjournment:

Base Commander Les Jamison, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 2:20 pm

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

Gold Country Base News



Treasurer, Nick Sadowy with Base Commander Les Jamison

Base Meeting
Feb 25

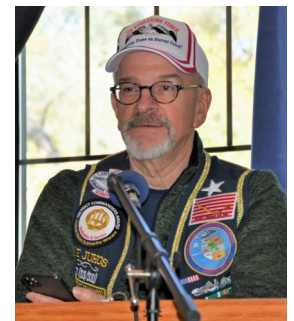


Chad Clay with Guest Speaker Edward Harvey, Lt. col. US Army retired,



Chief of The Boat Gene Ratto

Base Meeting
March 25



Western District Director Pete Juhos



Past Base Commander Barry Wyatt



Historian/Base Photographer Roger Paul



Guest Speaker Ken Cooley with Commanders Les Jaison and Mark Eftmann

Base Meeting
April 22



Eternal Patrol

Harry A Beach EM2 (SS)

Harry was born in March of 1940 in Utica, New York. He moved to the San Diego area in 1945, then on to Reseda, CA in 1955. After graduating from high school in 1958 he moved to St. Helen, Michigan and joined the Navy in October of 1958. He went to Boot Camp in San Diego, then onto "A" school at Great Lakes. Upon completion he was assigned to the USS Fulton (AS-11) in New London. Seeing the submariners having liberty while he



worked on their boats, prompted him to request submarine school. After completed Sub school Harry was assigned to the USS Pomodon SS-486 where he Qualified in 1961. After re-enlisting, in 1962 he went back to Great Lakes for "B" school then on to the USS Pomfret SS-391. In October of 1965 mandatory shore duty had him back at Great Lakes for instructor duty, however, not having enough time on enlistment, he was assigned to base security and discharged in the fall of 1966.

After leaving the Navy Harry went to work for 3M Company in the Bay Area. 13 years later he moved to Boise, Idaho to work for a 3M dealer as a service manager. Over the years he worked for many of the office automation companies in management positions and retired in 2002 as Regional Manager Pacific Northwest for Xerox.

After joining USSVI Gold Country Base Harry immediately stepped up by taking on positions of responsibility. He was originally appointed Chief of the Boat by Pete and continued in that position after I became Base Commander in 2017. In 2014 when the base members came up with the idea of building a parade float Harry recruited his friend and neighbor Jerry to move forward with the project. Over the next couple of years, they were the key elements in supervising the construction. At the holiday party in 2015 Harry was presented with our Bases highest award the Master Mariner now the Tim spoon Achievement Award.

Harry was a USSVI Life Member, a Holland Club Member, and Gold Country Base Plank Owner. Harry's leadership and dedicated commitment to our base was and will continue to be an example for all of us. He was a constant presence at meetings, events and activities and will be missed. well documented in the more than 100 pictures in the slide show you're about to see. We were privileged and honored to have had Harry Beach as a friend, a brother and a shipmate.

Harry Beach EM2 (SS) Interment Ceremony Sacramento Valley National Cemetery May 18, 2023



Welcome Aboard



I enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and a half, having graduated high school early and able to get parents to sign off. I was in for just under 7 years with an extension to my original Nuke 6 year enlistment. I went to Boot Camp and Machinist Mate school in Great Lakes, IL. I attended Nuke School in class 86-07. I went to prototype in Windsor, CT at S1C. I was picked for ELT school and then picked again as a Staff Pickup instructor. I was a shift instructor and also qualified to teach as a classroom instructor.

I went to the fleet in 1990 and was flown to meet my first boat in Florida, the USS San Juan. I was Submarine Qualified in December of 1990. I qualified all mechanical watch stations and ELT and Leading ELT. I completed the Blue Nose initiation in September 1991. In January 1992 I was transferred to the USS Whale where I took over as Leading ELT. I was awarded a Navy Achievement medal in May 1992 as I completed my enlistment.

I went on to work at ABB Combustion Engineering for 3 years and then shifted my career into Information Technology where I worked for another 27 years. I specialized in Information Security and spent the last 6 years working to defend networks and computers from hackers. I retired in 2022 at the age of 54.

I'm married and celebrating 20 years with my wife Allison, this year. I have two kids, both attending Folsom High School - my son, Matthew, is a Senior and will be attending Oregon State University's Honors college as a Business major in the fall. My daughter, Julia, is a Sophomore and is a Varsity Lacrosse player. We've lived in Folsom for 13 years. I volunteer at Twin Lakes Food Bank and with Folsom's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT team operates under the authority of the Folsom Fire Department. Ask me about CERT, I love to talk about our activities.



I proudly joined the Gold Country Base of USSVI in 2023.

Ed Myers MM1 (SS)

USSVI Western Region News



**USSVI
Western Region
Roundup
A Gathering of Submariners
April 27 - 29, 2023
Sacramento, CA**



**National Commander
Bill Andrea**



**Author
George Wallace**



USSVI National News



USSVI 2023 National Convention Update

28 August 2023 – 2 September 2023

Tucson, AZ

Executive Suite Winner—On 5/16 we drew for the free 2-night stay on 9/1 and 9/2 in the Hilton El Conquistador and the winner was Carol Bolen. Carol, please enjoy this stay with Terry while attending the National Convention. We will post the video on the 2023 Convention Facebook website.

New Website Information---There is plenty of useful information with the various tabs under the 2023 Convention tab on ussvi.org. Updated are the Tours and Events and RV Parks with a pdf format.

Hotel Reservations—Our contractual reservations nights now stand at 67% of our goal with a little over 3 months to go. Remember the room rate is \$99/night including the resort fee. Get your room booked ASAP.

Shopping Showcase---We have added this shopping event for members and guests who are not at business meetings or offsites. We have local vendors who will offer their goods for your shopping pleasure. The event takes place on 8/30 and 8/31 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The location is Agave Rooms I, II, III.

Airport Transportation---The Tucson Hilton El Conquistador does **NOT** have shuttle service to and from Tucson International Airport. The best deal is with Lyft and Uber which is \$32+ for 1-4 persons depending on the type of vehicle and time of day. To those who do not want to embed a credit card on a cell phone app, livery services start at \$65 one way.

Shipmates Attending---With this post we are fast approaching 250 shipmates and guests registered. Check out who is coming to see if you have former shipmates from the boats you served.

Sub Reunions---USS Tang SS/SSN-563 just came on board. Now have fourteen boat reunions, fifteen if you count both the SS and SSN Picado boats.

Dennis Ottley
2023 National Convention Chair

Story of Interest

History of the USS Nautilus (SSN-571)

Construction of NAUTILUS was made possible by the successful development of a nuclear propulsion plant by a group of scientists and engineers at the Naval Reactors Branch of the Atomic Energy Commission, under the leadership of Captain Hyman G. Rickover, USN.

In July of 1951, Congress authorized construction of the world's first nuclear powered submarine. On December 12th of that year, the Navy Department announced that she would be the sixth ship of the fleet to bear the name NAUTILUS. Her keel was laid by President Harry S. Truman at the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut on June 14, 1952.

After nearly 18 months of construction, NAUTILUS was launched on January 21, 1954 with First Lady Mamie Eisenhower breaking the traditional bottle of champagne across NAUTILUS' bow as she slid



down the ways into the Thames River. Eight months later, on September 30, 1954, NAUTILUS became the first commissioned nuclear powered ship in the United States Navy.

On the morning of January 17, 1955, at 11 am EST, NAUTILUS' first Commanding Officer, Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson, ordered all lines cast off and signaled the memorable and historic message, "Underway On Nuclear Power." Over the next several years, NAUTILUS shattered all submerged speed and distance records.

CDR Anderson On July 23, 1958, NAUTILUS departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine", the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship. At 11:15 pm on August 3, 1958, NAUTILUS' second Commanding Officer, Commander William R. Anderson, announced to his crew, "For the world, our country, and the Navy – the North Pole." With 116 men aboard, NAUTILUS had accomplished the "impossible", reaching the geographic North Pole – 90 degrees North.

Continued on next page

Story of Interest

continued

In May 1959, NAUTILUS entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine for her first complete overhaul – the first of any nuclear powered ship – and the replacement of her second fuel core. Upon completion of her overhaul in August 1960, NAUTILUS departed for a period of refresher training, then deployed to the Mediterranean Sea to become the first nuclear powered submarine assigned to the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

Over the next six years, NAUTILUS participated in several fleet exercises while steaming over 200,000 miles. In the spring of 1966, she again entered the



record books when she logged her 300,000th mile underway. During the following 12 years, NAUTILUS was involved in a variety of developmental testing programs while continuing to serve alongside many of the more modern nuclear powered submarines she had preceded.

In the spring of 1979, NAUTILUS set out from Groton, Connecticut on her final voyage. She reached Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California on May 26, 1979 – her last day underway. She was decommissioned on March 3, 1980 after a career spanning 25 years and over half a million miles steamed.



In recognition of her pioneering role in the practical use of nuclear power, NAUTILUS was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on May 20, 1982. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, NAUTILUS was towed to Groton, Connecticut arriving on July 6, 1985.

On April 11, 1986, eighty-six years to the day after the birth of the Submarine Force, Historic Ship NAUTILUS, joined by the Submarine Force Museum, opened to the public as the first and finest exhibit of its kind in the world, providing an exciting, visible link between yesterday's Submarine Force and the Submarine Force of tomorrow.

Book Review

Title: The Terrible Hours

The Greatest Submarine Rescue in History

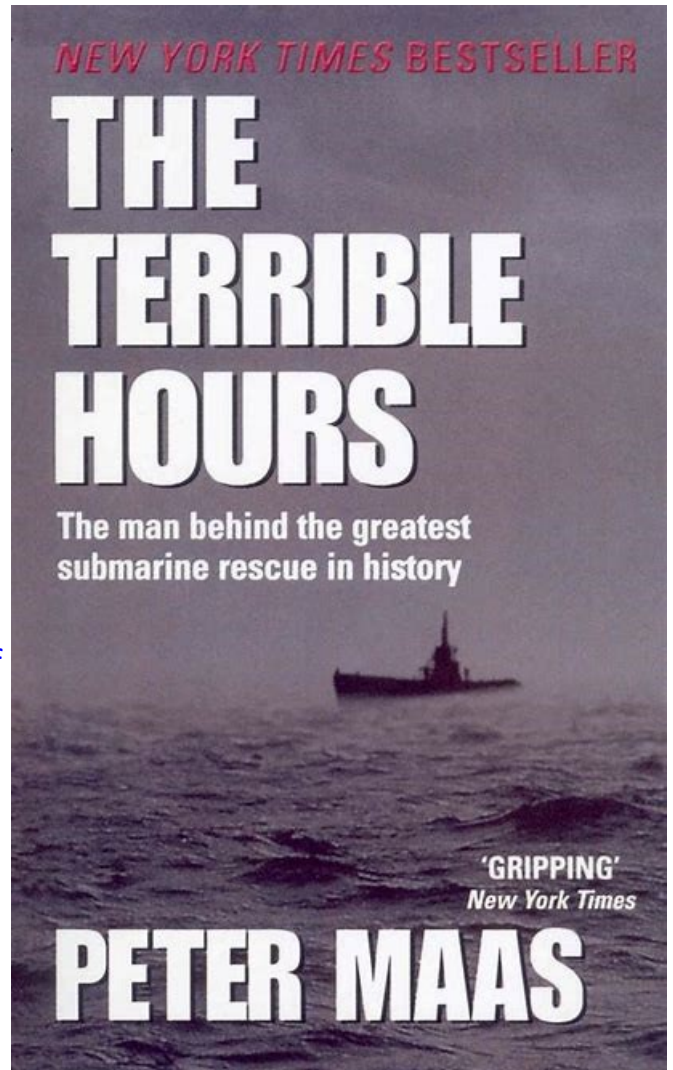
Author: Peter Maas

Published: 1999

The book is about the USS Squalus, at the time, the newest submarine in the Navy. It was doing a test dive on a sea trial near Portsmouth Naval Yard in, New Hampshire/Maine. The ship sank in 240 feet of water with 54 crew members on board.

The book is also about Charles "Swede" Momsen largely, if not fully credited, for the Navy's system to rescue downed submariners. Momsen was also the person who developed the shape of modern submarines, which he chose underwater speed. If these accomplishments were not enough, he solved a problem with the Mark 6 torpedo.

Reading the book was like watching a mystery movie and I did not want to stop reading because I wanted to see what happened next. It was also very interesting to learn about Swede Momsen and all he did for the US Submarine program.



Book Review
Provided by
Vice-Commander
Mark Elftmann



From The Crew

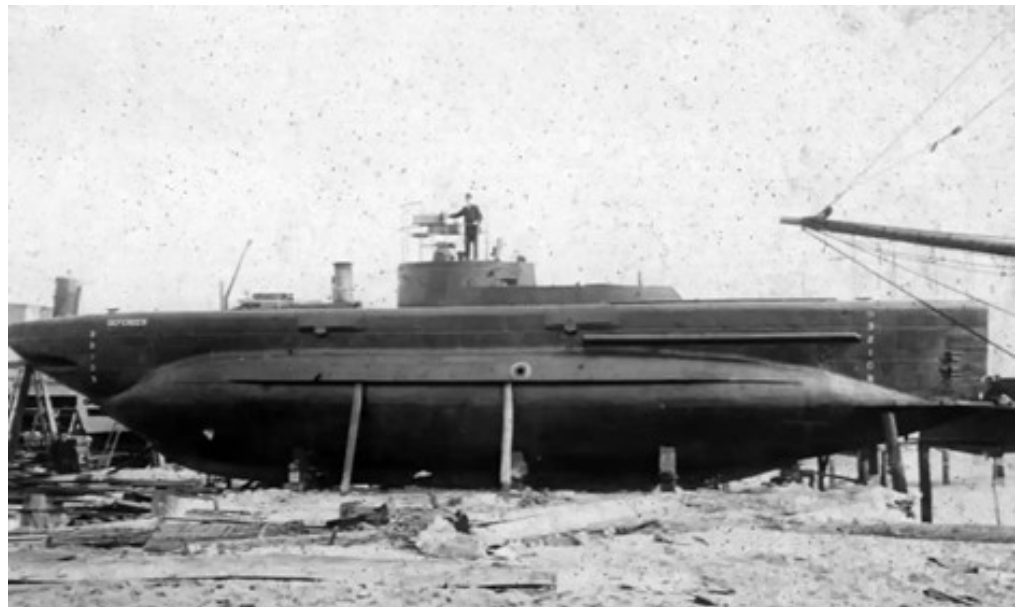
Divers find wreckage of experimental submarine built in 1907 in Connecticut

The Defender was built by millionaire Simon Lake and visited by Amelia Earhart before it was scuttled in the Long Island Sound

Divers in Connecticut have discovered the wreckage of an experimental submarine built in 1907 and later scuttled in the Long Island Sound.

The Defender, a 92ft craft, was found on Sunday by a team led by Richard Simon, a commercial diver from Coventry, Connecticut.

Simon said he had been interested in the story of the Defender for years. He spent months going over known sonar and underwater mapping surveys, as well as government documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, to identify any anomaly that fit the size of the submarine.



“A submarine has a very distinct shape,” he said.

“It needs to be 100ft long and 13ft in diameter.

So I made a list of everything that was that long and there was one target on that list.”

Simon then assembled a group of top wreck divers. Poor tidal conditions forced them to abandon an attempt last Friday. They returned on Sunday and discovered the Defender on the bottom, more than 150ft down, off the coast of Old Saybrook.

“It was legitimately hiding in plain sight,” he said. “It’s on the charts. It’s known about in Long Island Sound, just no one knew what it was.”

Simon described the agony of waiting on the deck of his research vessel, staring at a dive buoy in the fog and waiting for two divers to surface. Once they did and confirmed they had found a sub, the team erupted in “pure joy”, he said.

Continued on next page

Wreckage of experimental Submarine

continued

Simon said he did not want to give the exact depth, because that could give away the location.

The submarine, originally named the Lake, was built by the millionaire Simon Lake and his Bridgeport-based Lake Torpedo Boat Company in hopes of winning a competition for a US navy contract, according to NavSource Online, a website dedicated to preserving naval history.

It was an experimental vessel, with wheels to move along the sea bottom and a door that allowed divers to be released underwater.

The company lost the competition and Lake tried refitting the submarine for minesweeping, salvage and rescue work, renaming it the Defender. But he never found a buyer. It was a well-known submarine nonetheless and was even visited by the aviator Amelia Earhart in 1929, Simon said.

But the submarine spent many years docked in New London before being abandoned on a mud flat near Old Saybrook. It was scuttled by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1946 but the corps never disclosed where.

Simon said it was clear when his team found the wreckage that it was the Defender. The length, the size and the shape of protrusions on the submarine's distinct keel, and the shape and location of diving planes characteristic of Lake-built vessels, all helped identify it.

Simon and his team plan to spend the summer diving on the sub, filming it and taking photographs. He said he and the company he and his wife own, Shoreline Diving, put up the money for the search. He has not figured out how to monetize the find, but said that was not the goal. He has contacted the US navy to see if it is interested in helping preserve the wreckage.

The ship has some protections under the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, a 1988 law that would allow it to be treated as an archaeological or historical site instead of a commercial property to be salvaged.

"So, as a wreck diver, I can go visit history; I can touch it; I can experience it," Simon said. "It's just a different connection to history, to the past that we don't have in any other activity."



**Story Provided
by Base Web
Master
Ed McCarthy**

Featured Boat

USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602), a *George Washington*-class fleet ballistic missile submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), the 16th President of the United States (1861–1865).

Atlantic Operations

Abraham Lincoln got underway on 20 March 1961 for shakedown and weapons testing at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and returned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 1 June for post-shakedown repairs. She left Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 17 July 1961 to return briefly to Cape Canaveral for further testing and then proceeded to Charleston, South Carolina, for a final loadout. *Abraham Lincoln* subsequently got underway on 28 August 1961 as a unit of SUBRON 14. She arrived at Holy Loch, Scotland, in October 1961. She underwent a refit alongside submarine tender USS *Proteus* during November 1961 and, upon its completion, commenced her first deterrent patrol.

Abraham Lincoln operated out of Holy Loch for the next four years. She alternated periods of upkeep at Holy Loch alongside *Proteus* or submarine tender USS *Hunley* with deterrent patrols from that port.

A highlight of this period occurred during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. *Abraham Lincoln* was in the middle of a scheduled four-week upkeep period when she received orders to deploy. She departed in short order and successfully carried out a 65-day patrol.



On 13 October 1965, *Abraham Lincoln* arrived at Groton, Connecticut and entered the Electric Boat shipyard there on 25 October 1965 to begin an overhaul and refueling.

This work was completed on 3 June 1967, and *Abraham Lincoln* returned to her base at Holy Loch and resumed her schedule of deterrent patrols. She continued the pattern of alternating patrols with periods of upkeep

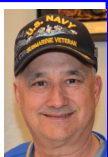
through 1972.

In early March 1972, *Abraham Lincoln* departed for the United States and arrived at Naval Submarine Base New London at Groton, Connecticut, on 25 April 1972. She held two dependents' cruises before getting underway on 19 May for the United States West Coast to join the United States Pacific Fleet. *Abraham Lincoln* made a brief visit to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, transited the Panama Canal on 1 June, sailed

to Bangor, Washington, to offload her missiles, then pushed on to San Francisco. On 25 June 1972, *Abraham Lincoln* entered the Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Vallejo, California, to commence overhaul and refueling.

Class and type	<i>George Washington</i> -class submarine
Displacement	5,400 tons light ^[1] 5,959–6,019 tons surfaced ^[1] 6,709–6,888 approx. tons submerged ^[1]
Length	381.6 ft (116.3 m) ^[1]
Beam	33 ft (10 m) ^[1]
Draft	29 ft (8.8 m) ^[1]
Propulsion	1 <u>S5W PWR</u> ^[1] 2 geared turbines at 15,000 shp (11,000 kW) ^[1] 1 Screw ^[1]
Speed	20 knots (37 km/h) surfaced ^[1] +25 knots (46 km/h) submerged ^[1]
Range	unlimited except by food supplies
Test depth	700 ft (210 m) ^[1]
Complement	Two crews (Blue/Gold) each consisting of 12 officers and 100 enlisted
Armament	16 <u>Polaris A1/A3 missiles</u> ^[1] 6 × 21 in (533 mm) <u>torpedo tubes</u> ^[1]

USS Abraham Lincoln SSBN 602 was the Qual Boat of Gold Country Chief of the Boat, Gene Ratto



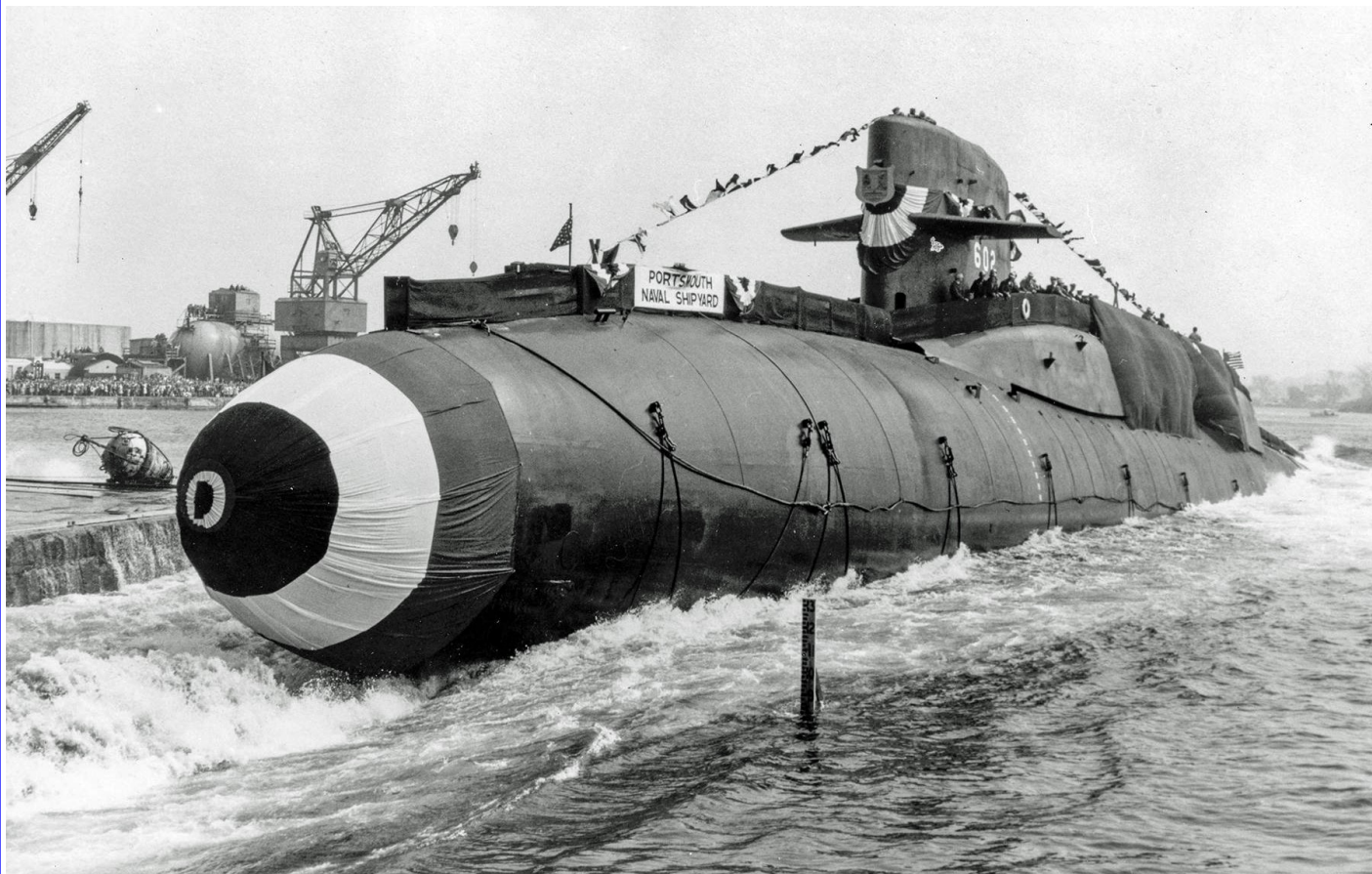
Featured Boat

(continued)

Pacific Operations

The extensive overhaul was completed in December 1973. After shakedown in the areas around Puget Sound and San Diego *Abraham Lincoln* transited the Panama Canal on 1 June 1974. She held tests and local operations at Cape Canaveral and Charleston, South Carolina.

July 1974 and proceeded to her new home port, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where she arrived on 10 September 1974 to become part of CINCPAC Fleet and Squadron 15. She then continued to her advanced base at Guam, arriving on 18 October 1974. She then began deterrent patrols in the Mariana Islands from Guam, which she carried out until 1978. She also participated in numerous tests and exercises. During this period, *Abraham Lincoln* became the first ballistic missile submarine to have conducted 50 strategic deterrent patrols, completing her 50th in 1978.



Deactivation, Decommissioning, and Disposal

Abraham Lincoln completed her last patrol in October 1979 and arrived at Bangor, Washington, on 30 October 1979 to commence offloading her missiles before beginning inactivation overhaul. Preparations for her retirement continued through 1980 and into 1981.

Abraham Lincoln was decommissioned on 28 February 1981 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 December 1982. She was disposed of through the Ship and Submarine Recycling Program on 10 May 1994 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Part of the sail from *Abraham Lincoln* was used to replace the damaged sail on USS *George Washington* after its collision with *Nissho Maru*. This sail is on display at the Submarine Force Library and Museum, near Groton.

Navy Submarine News

The US Navy has its eyes on a new submarine base set to help it keep track of China's growing undersea fleet

- As part of the AUKUS agreement, US and UK subs are set to operate out of Western Australia by 2027.
- The goal is to allow allied subs to spend more time operating in the Pacific and Indian oceans.
- The deal on the base comes as rivals, mainly China, boost their submarine activity in the region.

US and British submarines are set to soon operate out of Australia, giving the allies greater reach and presence in the Indian and Pacific oceans, where undersea activity by [friends and foes alike](#) has been intensifying.

In March, President Joe Biden and his British and Australian counterparts announced a timeline for Australia to acquire new nuclear-powered submarines, with it first buying US-built subs in the early 2030s and then receiving the first Australian-built boats by the early 2040s.

In the next few years, however, US and British subs are set to visit Australia more frequently. As soon as 2027, those navies will begin basing attack submarines — one British and as many as four from the US — at HMAS Stirling, an Australian navy base near the city of Perth on the Indian Ocean coast.

Designated Submarine Rotational Forces - West, the

subs will rotate through HMAS Stirling, rather than being permanently assigned, and officials say their presence will help develop Australia's capacity and capability to operate its own nuclear-powered subs.

"This rotational force will help build Australia's stewardship," a senior official in the Biden administration said ahead of the March 13 announcement. "It will also bolster deterrence with more US and UK submarines forward in the Indo-Pacific.

The AUKUS deal comes as each country's main rivals — China and Russia — expand their submarine fleets and operations in the Pacific.

Russia continues to deliver new submarines to its Pacific fleet, including [two in one day](#) in October. One of those was the latest of the Yasen-class guided-missile subs, which worry US commanders because their ability to operate more quietly than other Russian subs could challenge the US Navy's ability to track them.

Yasen-class subs operating in the Atlantic and the Pacific present "[a dual-flank challenge](#)" for the US, the admiral in charge of the Office of Naval Intelligence said earlier this year. The head of US Northern Command, which is responsible for North America, [said this spring](#) it was "just a matter of probably a year or two" until Yasen-class subs were "a persistent threat" to the US mainland.

China's submarines are generally not as advanced as Russia's, but its navy has put "a high priority" on modernizing them, the US Defense Department said in its most recent report on the Chinese military, though that fleet will "grow modestly" as China focuses on improving the force, adding technologies, and expanding its shipyards.

Nonetheless, China's undersea force has made notable developments. Its newest Yuan-class diesel-electric subs are quiet, have more advanced sonars, and "might be actually pretty good at anti-submarine warfare," said Bryan Clark, a senior fellow and director of the Center for Defense Concepts and Technology at the Hudson Institute.

The Defense Department report also said China's six operational Jin-class nuclear-powered ballistic-missile subs were likely already conducting "near-continuous at-sea deterrence patrols," a sign that China's submarine force continues to improve its operational capabilities.

The head of US Strategic Command, which oversees US nuclear forces, told lawmakers this spring that those Jin-class subs were being armed with new, third-generation JL-3 ballistic missiles that can reach the US from the South China Sea, a first for Chinese subs.

For the US Navy, those developments make the ability to base subs closer to the Western Pacific a greater priority.



US Navy fast-attack submarine USS Asheville off the coast of Perth on March 15, 2023

Twenty-five of the US Navy's 49 attack submarines are based in the Pacific, according to Rear Adm. Jeffrey Jablon, the commander of the US Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, and the Navy has moved some of them farther west. In November 2021, Jablon announced that the number of subs based in Guam would increase from two to five; the fifth arrived in March 2022.

Jablon announced in November that the Navy would increase investment in its submarine-support facilities in Guam to expand its operational capability there.

As is the case with Guam, operating from Australia would put more subs closer to the Western Pacific and allow those subs to spend more time at sea. Subs based at Perth could do longer-term deployments, operating in the region for up to a year, "as opposed to a normal deployment, which is six months where you spend a month transiting either way from the US West Coast and you basically get four months on station," Clark, a former US Navy submarine officer, told Insider.

Travel time from the West Coast or East Coast "is obviated if you're staging from" Perth, Harry Harris Jr. a retired US admiral and former commander of US Pacific Command, said in response to a question from Insider at a think-tank event on March 30.

Harris called SRF - West "a positive," adding: "It certainly increases our day-to-day presence and numbers in the Indian Ocean, certainly in the Western Pacific."

Forward-deployed subs also usually have a higher operational tempo, and with roughly half a dozen subs in Guam and three to four in Perth, Clark said, "you're going to have on any given day easily a half dozen to eight submarines underway, driving around, which is more than we have today."

"The end result could be almost doubling the US submarine presence in the Western Pacific," Clark added.

Chinese submarines now appear to operate mostly in the "near seas" off the country's coast, especially its missile subs in the "bastion" of the South China Sea, where China's naval and air forces offer additional protection. The development of more advanced subs, particularly nuclear-powered subs capable of staying at sea for longer, may allow the Chinese navy to send more subs into more distant waters for longer periods. That includes the Indian Ocean, where China's military is likely to "significantly increase" its presence in the coming years as part of a strategy that calls for "an ability to project power and fight in distant seas," the Office of Naval Intelligence said.

A South Korean submarine comes alongside Diamantina Pier at HMAS Stirling in October 2019. Royal Australian Navy/LSIS Richard Cordell

Chinese subs heading to the Indian Ocean are likely to use straits in the Indonesian archipelago that are closer to Australia, which are deeper and allow those subs to remain submerged, according to Collin Koh, a research fellow focused on naval affairs at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"Having UK and US subs based in Perth can provide a vantage point to range operations into those areas," Koh said.

AUKUS's ambitions for increasing the number of submarines in the Indian and Pacific oceans still face hurdles. Australia will have to develop the institutional knowledge and facilities to maintain nuclear-powered subs, which it has never done, and its future sub orders may further tax US shipyards, which are straining to deliver subs ordered by the US Navy. Delays on sub repairs are also challenging the US Navy's ability to keep subs in the water. But additional British, and eventually Australian, submarines in the region can ease the burden of tracking China's increasingly active sub fleet, a task that now falls largely on US submarines. "This may compel Beijing to seek to minimize the risks of detectability and trackability of its submarines," Koh told Insider. Until the Chinese military improves its ability "to project and sustain a wider array of military capabilities" to help keep those allied subs at bay, its subs may continue to focus on operations within range of friendly naval and land-based forces, Koh said: "This means the AUKUS program may complicate Beijing's efforts to range submarine operations out into the far seas."

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April/May 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