

**Bremerton-Base Submarine Veteran's Quarterly Newsletter
By Submariners—For Submariners and Friends**

USSVI Bremerton Base founded November 05, 1981



USSVI Purpose and Creed

In This Issue

To 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and it's Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.”

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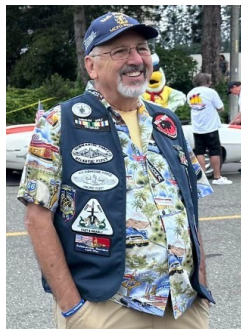
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The Editor’s Desk



2023



Ain’t No Slack in Fast Attack

Puget Soundings Editor: David R. Pittman
Cell: 360.536.0916

The Puget Soundings is published quarterly (Feb-May-Aug-Nov).

Article Submission:
bremertonbaseussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com
is due NLT 01 November 2024



Base Website (The Gertrude Check)
<https://gertrudecheck.org>



Base Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ussvibremerton>

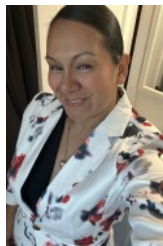


Base YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjoD-rF1e9HQpQMet-hkriA>



USSVI Website
USSVI Old website www.ussubvets.org
USSVI New website www.ussvi.org

Base Officers & Key Personnel



Commander
Heene G. Davis
360.979.0616
base_commander@gertrudecheck.org
Qualified 2017
USS Michigan (SSGN-727)



Past Base Commander
Historian
Webmaster
Dave Bowman
Office 209.565.DAVE
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DolphinDave@slipperyfish.com
Qualified 1984
USS Michigan (SSBN/SSGN-727)



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Dan Inman
360.509.0490
ussvibrebase@hotmail.com
(Treasurer's Base e-mail)
danny121895@yahoo.com (Personal)
Qualified: 1986
USS Flying Fish (SSN-673)



Vice Commander
Social Media Coordinator
Waylan K. Shropshire
360.908.3785
wshrops@wavecable.com
Qualified 1980
USS Sam Houston (SSBN/SSN-609)



Chief of the Boat
Newsletter Editor/FB Admin
David R. Pittman
360.536.0916
bremertonba-seussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com
Qualified 1977
USS Dace (SSN-607)



Chaplain
John Perkins



Junior Vice Commander
Mark Guillory
360.340.5074
markguillory91@yahoo.com
Qualified 1994
USS Pintado (SSN-672)



Secretary
Bob Hickman
360.732.5021
hickmans@tscnet.com
Qualified 1969
USS Von Steuben (SSBN-632)



Storekeeper
Soup Down Chair
John Gardner
360.692.8994
jgardner@donobi.net
Qualified 1958
USS Cusk (SS-348)

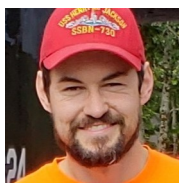
Hover your mouse over each ship's patch above to read about each boat.



Base Officers, Key Personnel, Western Region, WD4 & Others



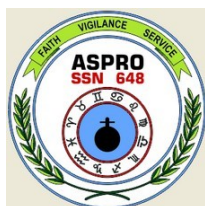
Assistant Storekeeper
Jason Chamness
360.551.0583
chamnessjason75@gmail.com
Qualified 2000
USS Alabama (SSBN-731)



Deterrent Park Brick Chairman
Phil Paugh
360.620.7616
paughusn@gmail.com
Qualified 2006
USS Michigan (SSBN/SSGN-727)



Western Region Director
Peter T. Juhos
916.208.0667
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com
Qualified 1980
USS Bergall (SSN-667)



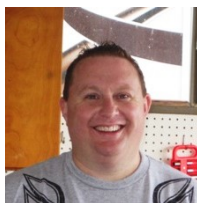
Holland Club Chair
Assistant Storekeeper
Jan “Bear” Stiffey
360.895.3195
jstiffeysn648@yahoo.com
Qualified 1972
USS Aspro (SSN-648)



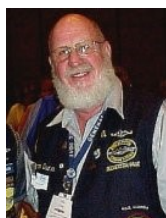
Deterrent Park Brick Installer
Ron Lewis
360-830-9150
Qualified 1964
USS Sargo (SSN-583)



WD4 (WA, OR, AK) Commander
Jim DeMott
360.443.2466
jedemott@hotmail.com
Qualified 1984
USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619)



Parade Chair
Bonefish Manager
Mike Friend
360.710.5880
mfriendz28@hotmail.com
Qualified 1995
USS Michigan (SSBN/SSGN - 727)



Historian
John Clear
webmaster@usssealion.com
360.437.4036
Qualified 1961
USS Diodon (SS-349)



Charitable Fund Ambassador
Michael Talpai
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michaeltalpai@gmail.com
Qualified 1986
USS Michigan (SSBN/SSGN-727)



Hover your mouse over each ship’s patch above to read about each boat.

The First Word...



The Puget Soundings is a digital newsletter! Bookmark/Download it and read it “in chunks” at your leisure, especially for history buffs. Watch for “hidden” links in the PS – not just those with “buttons.” A caveat – links are pliable – sometimes they work – and sometimes they don’t.

Answer these Bio questions and send me your input for “Shipmate in the Spotlight” in a future Puget Soundings.

- Provide a picture of yourself when you were in the Navy.
- Where and when were you born?
- Where did you grow up?
- When and where did you graduate from high school?
- When did you join the Navy?
- When and on what boat did you qualify?
- What date and what was your rate and rank when you were discharged?
- What kind of work did you do after leaving the Navy?
- List any general information about your family.
- List any activities or organizations in which you are involved.

The Puget Soundings is YOUR newsletter! I am the editor – not the reporter – not the photographer; so... what I publish is what I receive; as Don “Red” Bassler used to say, “You get what you get.” If you spot an error – shoot me an email bremertonbaseussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com

D.R. Pittman – PS Editor

The underwater telephone also known as UQC, or “Gertrude” was developed by the U.S. Navy after World War I, the UQC underwater telephone is used on all manned submersibles in operation. Voices communicated through the UQC are heterodyned to a high pitch for acoustic transmission through water. [Underwater telephone | Military Wiki | Fandom \(wikia.org\)](#)



School of the Boat Naval History

NavSource Naval History Online

Photo Index: <http://www.navsource.org/>

A huge site with many pictures and information of most of our Navy Ships. There is a submarine section, broken down by type of submarine. <http://www.navsource.org/archives/subidx.htm>

Pigboats.com: <http://pigboats.com/>

PigBoats.COM is a new web location to consolidate a number of differing but related subjects concerning submarines and submarining including "Through the Looking Glass, A Photo Essay of U.S. Submarines from 1900 to 1940", by Ric Hedman of USSVI Seattle Base. <http://pigboats.com/subs/legends.html>

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) FUND VIDEO / GUIDELINES / H.S. CERTIFICATE [Kap\(ss\) 4 Kid\(ss\) Fund](#)

John Riley US Submarine Veterans
National Chairman KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) Program/
Charitable Foundation Fund Manager
subvetss4kidss@gmail.com 203 668-9131



The Commander's Corner

Shipmates, Families, and Friends,

Greetings and salutations all! As always, I hope this quarter's newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. This year is over halfway over already! Can you believe it? I have been non-stop since getting sworn in as your Commander. I hope that I am filling the shoes that I have stepped into.

Since swearing in to command my eBoard has been working hard as well and I want to take a moment to give them some much needed credit. I am so thankful for these hard-working gentlemen that keep me going and above the "waterline." I want to give a shoutout to the Vice Commander for holding down two general meeting for me so far. One so I can go home to celebrate the momentous family occasion of my Grandfather's Grand Opening. And this past weekend at the Annual August Picnic.

I look forward to seeing the Past Commander and his By-law committee give the By-laws a much-needed face lift. The COB, Treasurer, and the Junior VC are streamlining processes that make our jobs run more efficiently.

With that being said, I want to remind you that we are always looking for backups for all positions. It is important that if one of our members that holds a Chair position falls ill, there is someone that is there to stand in their place in their absence. All positions below need assistants, feel free to reach out here, FB messenger or in person.

Assistant Charitable Fund Ambassador-Assistant Deterrent Park Chair-Assistant Float & Parade Manager-Assistant Holland Club-Assistant Newsletter Editor-Assistant Webmaster-Assistant Secretary-Assistant Treasurer-Assistant Seamstress

I just appointed a new primary Chaplain, thank you John Perkins for stepping up. And I appointed Fred Borgmann as the assistant, which he has been the primary for many years. I want to take this opportunity to thank Fred and express my deep gratitude and appreciation for your many

years of dedicated service as our chaplain. His unwavering commitment to providing spiritual guidance, comfort, and support has had a profound impact on so many lives. Fred's compassion, wisdom, and kindness have touched the lives of so many. Whether offering a listening ear, a comforting prayer, or simply being present during times of need, he has always been there for us. His leadership and commitment have been an inspiration, and his has been a pillar of strength for Bremerton Base. Thank you!

I am excited to attend a TTF Bangor Family Day with John Gardner on August 16. We will be out there selling gear and recruiting. Slowly but surely, we are bridging that gap. I am sure that John and I will have some stories to bring back to share.

We have available slots still for Crafting for Vets, September 7, 2024, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Fleet Reserve Association #29. 10 hours of doing your favorite hobby. Your \$40 fee includes your table space, lunch, dinner, snacks, bottled water & a door prize ticket. Text Nichelle (360-990-1218) or email (nichelle1218@yahoo.com) to get a reservation form today!

September 21st is the 2nd Annual Spaghetti Feed, which will follow the regular September General Meeting. Raffle tickets for the Auction Fundraiser are available at FRA now. The grand prize is a \$500 Visa gift card, other prizes include 50" TV, a flat top griddle, and multiple baskets.

The schedule for September 21 is as follows:

1000 – General Meeting

1200 – Spaghetti feed Begins

1700 – Clean Up and Secure

We will need to get the Volunteer Watch Bill of: Salad/Bread Crew; Table Runners; Kitchen Help – This REQUIRES a food handling Card, which you can get online. It's easy!; and Clean up Crew

See The Commander's Corner, Page 7

The Commander's Corner

Continued from Page 6

If for some reason you cannot attend or help, tickets are \$12/plate (take out), and an appropriate donation will be appreciated.

Thank you for your willing help in making this a successful event.

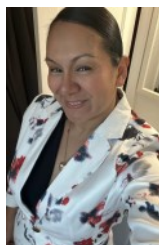
We have our Trunk or Treat on NBK Bangor Base coming up in October, date TBD.

Also, in October we have Kitsap Halloween Bash Sponsored by Patriot Roofing (All Sponsorships & Donations Support the United States Submarine Veterans)

Join us for our FREE, all ages, family-friendly Halloween Event! Trunk or Treat and band outside with a DJ and dance party inside! Family-Friendly | Free Event | Walk Through - Bremerton Elk's Lodge - 4131 Pine Rd. NE, Bremerton, WA 9831.

If you want to become a sponsor for this event, please click here: <https://kitsaphalloweenbash.com/sponsors/>

As always, until next quarter stay safe and feel free to reach out.



**USSVI
Western Region
Roundup**
A Gathering of Submariners
March 6 - 9, 2025
The Queen Mary
Long Beach, California
www.wrroundup.com



SAVE THE DATE



WDVA



"Serving Those Who Served"



"Air in the banks, shit in the tanks, ready to submerge below... sound the diving alarm!" – An abbreviated, unauthorized, yet humorous way to report the submarine is ready to dive.

Notes from the Vice-Commander & Social Media Coordinator

AARP FRAUD WATCH NETWORK™

Our team of fraud fighters has the real-world tips and tools to help protect you and your loved ones.

How AARP Helps You Combat Fraud

Sign Up for Bi-Weekly Watchdog Alerts



VFW Post 4992 (Henry Bryner Post) [VFW Post 4992](#) [Facebook](#) 9981 Central Valley Road, Silverdale, WA holds a Family Steak Night (5 – 7 pm) for \$15 on the THIRD Friday of every month.

August 16th

September 20th

October 18th

Veterans Services

Kitsap County is proud of its citizens who have served our country. The county is dedicated to providing information and assistance to our veterans who are residents, especially those in need. Kitsap County Veterans Assistance program works cooperatively with the Veterans Advisory Board to host events, offer services, and create opportunities to get involved and support local Veterans and their families in need.

[Veterans Services \(kitsapgov.com\)](http://www.kitsapgov.com/veterans-services)

2024 Events

September 28 – Kitsap County Fall Veterans Stand Down

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kitsap Fairgrounds Pavilion

Useful Links

[VA News and Information](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHealth>

<https://www.va.gov/getstarted/>

[VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/vapugetsound>



We have many announcements for upcoming events along with information and photos from past events on our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/ussvibremerton>.

Do you have an item for the Base FB page? Send it to our Social Media Coordinator for possible inclusion on our FB page.



**Vice Commander
Social Media Coordinator
Waylan K. Shropshire**



Upcoming Base Events

CRAFTING FOR VETS

September 7, 2024,
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fleet Reserve Association #29

Text Nichelle
(360-990-1218) or email
(nichelle1218@yahoo.com)
to get a
reservation form
today!

Hand Made

Annual Bremerton Base Submarine Veterans Spaghetti Feed

Drawing date: September 21, 2024

Auction Fundraiser

RAFFLE PRIZES
(Raffle Tickets ONLY @ Fleet Reserve Association Branch #29)

Grand prize - \$500.00 Visa gift card
T.V.
Griddle
Multiple Baskets & Additional prizes will be raffled

TICKETS:
ONE - \$1
SIX - \$5

YOU CAN PAY AT THE DOOR!

Annual Bremerton Base Submarine Veterans Spaghetti Feed

September 21, 2024 1200 - 1800

Auction Fundraiser

\$10 ADMIT ONE

*TO-GO TICKETS \$12

Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Salad, and Garlic Bread
Please bring food ticket on the day of the event.
521 S National Ave, Bremerton, WA 98312

RAFFLE PRIZES

(raffle tickets sold separately ONLY @ Fleet Reserve Association Branch #29)

Grand prize - \$500.00 Visa gift card
Additional prizes will be raffled.

Kitsap Halloween Bash

Sponsored by Patriot Roofing

SATURDAY
October 26th
3pm-8pm

Bremerton Elk's Lodge
4131 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98310

Join us for our FREE Halloween Event with a DJ inside for the dance party and live music during the trunk or treat!

All proceeds & sponsorships from this fundraiser support the Submarine Veteran's - Bremerton Base and Charitable Foundation (501 3c)

DANCE Party
LIVE music

TRUNK OR TREAT 3pm-5pm | DANCE PARTY 5pm-8pm

www.kitsaphalloweenbash.com

Scan the QR code to become a sponsor

Junior Vice Commander



Do you want to make a change to a military service record? If you wish to change your service record or another service member's record on their behalf, this course will provide information about how to apply for a discharge upgrade or other corrections to a service record. Specifically, this course will help you determine the correct military department Review Board and Department of Defense form that best applies to your situation. This course also contains resources to help you fill out a viable application and links to websites you may find helpful when you want to submit your application to the



**Immediate Past Base Commander
Base Historian**

Articles contributed by Base Historian Dave Bowman

The USS Finback (SS-230) —Puget Soundings Pp. 28-30

Operation Sunshine: The Historic Journey of USS Nautilus—Puget Soundings Pp. 31-32

**Junior Vice Commander
Mark Guillory**



**Past Base Commander
Historian
Webmaster
Dave Bowman**



The COB's PUKA

Jul-Aug-Sep Base Birthdays

July

Antoine, Eric
 Cronin, John M
 Delaney III, John V.
 Foote, James R
 Hamm, Steven
 Heiman, Mark A
 Hickman, Robert L.
 Ogg, Paul Richard
 Pastori, Benjamin
 Peterson, Wayne C.
 Raney, David Eugene
 Rossiter, William K
 Sanders, Dale
 Stuart, Gerald A.
 Tharp, Burton P
 Vandecar, Milo H.
 Willette, Lloyd E

August

Anderson, Douglas W.
 Anderson, Dennis E.
 Bessert, Jody
 Bowers, Carl
 Foskett, Edwin
 Gray, Terral S.
 Green, Frederick
 Guillory, Mark
 Hunter, Alan B.
 Jahn, Edward A.
 Kemmerer, Glenn W
 Liland, Robert L
 Lychywek, Richard R.
 O'Hara, Charles W.
 Paugh, Philip M.
 Paul, Bob

Radoszkowicz, David
 Redman, Lon K
 Reed, Thomas G.
 Rieboldt, Albert R.
 Russell, Louis
 Shropshire, Waylan
 Sinnett, Michael
 Taflin, Leo A.
 Viestenz, Kirk A.
 Wilson, Jr., Frank E.
 Wollam, Neil R.

September

Anderson, Warner E
 Arbuckle, Larry J
 Bowman, David R.
 Butler, Elliott D.
 Corcoran, Stephen J.
 Cross, Melvin L
 Derricote, Dale
 Jesionowski, Thomas D
 Kleiner, Nicholas
 Kramer, Larry D
 Lucas, Paul R.
 Maddy, Richard E.
 Morse, Geoffrey Lee
 Pritchett, Dale E.
 Romaine, Grant
 Smith, Douglas Walter
 Talpai, Michael
 Thompson, James A.
 Wardean, John F
 Warthen, Larry G
 Wright, Malcolm S.

I need to reiterate this – BZ to everyone who planned and executed a great annual picnic and thank you to all sub-vets who responded to my attendance email and joined us for a great time.

Please keep the base calendars on hand along with the “Base Officers, Key Personnel, Western Region, WD4 & Others” pages from the Puget Soundings for your reference.

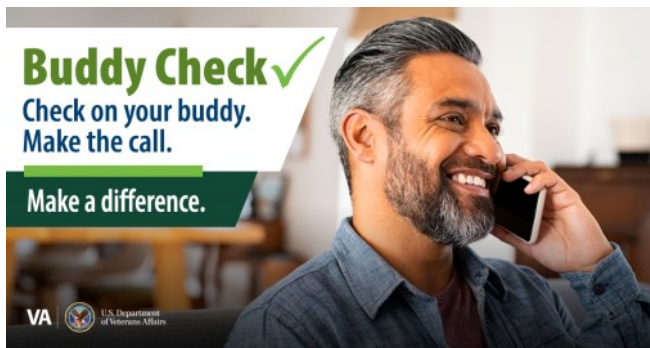
When able, please attend your Base events – see the calendar (s) – and participate as your time allows. You probably won't melt in the rain or sizzle away in the sun.

If you NEED a ride to an event – let SOMEONE know and you will be amazed at how many shipmates you have in the Base.

Please ask yourself, “How can I keep OUR submarining history alive?” “How can I help?” I have been reading more and more Eternal Patrol Reports for shipmates (some my age and younger) – tell your story before it is too late!



**Chief of the Boat
 David R. Pittman**



Bent Sh*tcan - Someone below Naval standards. “He’s as f*cked up as a bent sh*tcan.”

Treasurer's Report—31 July 2024

2024—Current

Reserve Fund: \$32,817.59

General Fund: \$17,503.28*

*Includes SK Checking Account + SK Cash

Net Worth: \$50,320.87

Treasurer
Dan Inman



Membership Report—August 2024

Total Members: 242

Regular Annual Members: 36

USSVI Life Members: 190

Base Life Members: 184

Holland Club Members: 145

Regular Associate Members: 6

Life Associate Members: 5

Wartime Veterans: 219

Membership Chairman
Mark Guillory



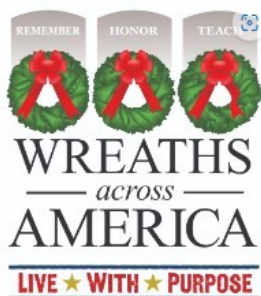
2024 Theme: Live with Purpose

Our Mission: Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Subscribe to Our Newsletter -

For all the latest updates, events,

news and stories. [Home - Wreaths Across America](#)



Biologics - Marine life picked up on sonar...usually noisy whales, dolphins, shrimp, etc.

Membership Dues

Annual Membership

Annual National dues are \$30.00 and annual Base dues are \$20.00 for a combined \$50.00 for annual dues.

Multiple Year Membership

National Dues (\$85.00 for 3 years, \$140.00 for 5 years)

Base Dues (\$55.00 for 3 years, \$90.00 for 5 years)

Last Quarter Annual Dues for Calendar Year 2024)

For New Members:

National \$35.00 + base \$25.00 (\$60.00 total) to cover to end of 2024 and all of 2025 dues.

National Life Membership Dues by Age

≤45 = \$600.00

46-55 = \$500.00

56-65 = \$360.00

66-75 = \$240.00

≥76 = \$120.00

Base Life Membership Dues by Age

≤45 = \$250.00

46-55 = \$150.00

56-65 = \$100.00

≥66 = \$50.00

NOTE: Both National and Base dues are paid to the Base. The Base is responsible to send collected National dues to National.

NOTE: Check with the Base Treasurer for any updates to the pay structure, including the Holland Club.



Base Secretary—Base Reports

20 July 2024

1000 Base Commander called meeting to order.

Elected base officers present Commander, Vice Commander, and Secretary, a quorum was present.

Invocation – John Perkins

Request for introduction of WWII Veterans, new members and prospective new members

Introduction of National, Regional, District and other visiting Base Officers in attendance, Western District 4 Jim DeMott.

Welcome of USS KEY WEST crewmembers who are here for decommissioning

Base Commander – Pledge of Allegiance, USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Boats, moment of silence for departed shipmates.

Secretary – Minutes of 15 June 2024 General Base Meeting, motion to approve, seconded, approved by voice vote.

Junior Vice Commander – Membership report 240 on board, funds on hand \$51,740.00.

Storekeeper reports KEY WEST Patches available, also Challenge Coins

Assistant Chaplain Fred reported Don Bassler is doing well

Historian – Website reminder, Ralph Harris items related to USS TRITON available for review

Kaps4Kids – Supplies received from National Office

Western District 4 – National Elections reminder

COB – Picnic 10 August, cutoff for attendance 5 August, Puget Soundings cutoff 1 August but will not be published until after picnic

Commander – Chaplain appointment John Perkins, assistants Steve and Fred. Kitsap Chamber meeting on 24 July, spaghetti feed in September tickets available, seeing auction items for picnic.

Old Business – Deterrent Park sail work on track, pending workload at TRF. Kitsap Halloween Bash

New Business – Next year's picnic and Christmas reservation

50/50 Drawing - \$75.00

Benediction

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, approved by voice vote.

Bob Hickman – Base Secretary

Minutes not reviewed with membership at 10 August 2024 meeting due to annual picnic

15 June 2024

1000 Base Commander called meeting to order.

Elected base officers present Vice Commander, and Secretary, a quorum was present.

Opening prayer.

Request for introduction of WWII Veterans, new members and prospective new members

Introduction of National, Regional, District and other visiting Base Officers in attendance, Western District Four Jim DeMott.

Base Commander – Pledge of Allegiance, USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Boats, moment of silence for departed shipmates.

Secretary – Minutes of 20 April 2024 General Base Meeting, motion to approve, seconded, approved by voice vote.

Junior Vice Commander – Membership report 238 on board.

Assistant Storekeeper and Associate Member Angela have items for sale.

Float Manager/Parade Coordinator – Absent, reminder sent in regarding Bainbridge 4th of July parade

Holland Club – Will be unable to attend August Picnic and Holland Club Inductions, need a Stand-In

Charitable Foundation – Hamm has volunteered to head Kaps 4 Kids effort, Secretary will inventory storage for related items and report at July Meeting.

Past Commander – Have not been able to locate original

See the Base Secretary, Page 14

Base Secretary—Base Reports

Continued from Page 13

Base Charter, plans trip to Olympic to try to obtain certified copy, discussion regarding Rickover Club (individuals qualified 25 years), requested proposed bi-law changes for discussion at the October meeting.

Vice Commander – Verbal report on his visit to Groton and the Submarine Memorial.

Junior Vice Commander – Sign-in sheet

Commander – Ralph Harris and Tudor Davis memorabilia available for viewing, Welcome Aboard Folder still work in progress, Holland Club Hats available. Presentation regarding her family background, introduction of Lynette George of the Blue Star Banner Program. Lynette attended meeting to thank Base for grant when program started and continued support.

Old Business – Reminder about 4th parade, TTF SK support.

New Business – Jim DeMott taking lead on Ranier Baseball game trip.

Commander – Base is now associated with Greater Kitsap Chamber of Commerce; Commander will attend next meeting.

Good of the Order – Question regarding 624 Sail at Deterrent Park, TRF and other activities working on fix.

50/50 Drawing - \$77.00

Benediction

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, approved by voice vote.

Bob Hickman – Base Secretary

Minutes reviewed with membership, motion to approve; second and approved during General Base Meeting on 20 July 2024



Bob Hickman
Base Secretary

Boat Sponsorship Program

The purpose of the Boat Sponsorship Program (BSP) is to make the active duty submarine force members aware of USSVI and provide them with information about our activities through sponsorship of the *American Submariner* to the various Submarine related organizations.

BOAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Jack Messersmith (928) 227-7753

MesserJ109@gmail.com



USSVI Bases Around the Country

Smokey Mountain Base [Smoky Mountain Base](#)

Snug Harbor USSVI Base [Snug Harbor Base / USSVI](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/USSVISpaceCoastFloridaSnugHarborBase/>

South Florida Base https://www.facebook.com/South-Florida-Base-United-States-Submarine-Veterans-Inc-97403809021/?ref=py_c



Pirate of the Quarter

William Dampier was an English explorer, pirate, [privateer](#), navigator, and [naturalist](#).

Born circa 1651 died 1715.

[William Dampier - Wikipedia](#)



Base Supporters—2024

Rig for Dive (\$1-\$19.99)	Periscope Depth (\$20-\$29.99)	Battle Stations Depth (\$30-\$49.99)	Deep Submergence (\$50-\$99.99)	Unit Citation (\$100+)
C.J. Smith Bob Hickman		Anonymous (1)	Steve Corolin Dave Bowman	

**Thank You
for Your Support
to the Bremerton Base**



*The PS Editor regrets if a donation has not been listed. Please contact the Base Treasurer for corrections.

Poopie Suits & Cowboy Boots



ALL HANDS! MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!
Our latest book "Sub Tales 5" is now on sale at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in both the Kindle (\$9.99) and softbound (\$24.99) formats! The book is 716 pages long with more than 400 photos and illustrations, many rare and previously unpublished. Chapters include many of YOUR contributions, so hundreds of you will see your name in print.

Check it out here, where you can download a free preview. [Sub Tales 5: Hood, Charles, Hood, Frank: 9798335503518: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0998335503518)

"Sub Tales 5" is the fifth and final installment of the Sub Tales series of books all about the people, traditions, engagements, and history of the US Submarine Force.

<https://subtales.com>



Box of Rocks - Derogatory term for a sailor that has performed their work in an unsatisfactory manner.

Welcome Aboard—New Members

Robin Johnson—Naval History in the next issue of the Puget Soundings

All Qualified in Submarines from E2 to 4 Stars. Retired, short timer, or active duty - it makes no difference. If you are Qualified in Submarines we want you in United States Submarine Veterans. Inc.

base_commander@gertrudecheck.org



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@ 1000



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Chaplain's Pulpit—Bremerton Base Members on Eternal Patrol



Base Commander Davis (left each photo) installed Base Chaplain John Perkins (left), Assistant Base Chaplain Steve Corcoran, and Assistant Base Chaplain Fred Borgmann. There are no Eternal Patrol Reports .

Bangor Special Meals

Once a month, the award-winning Trident Inn Galley hosts a Special Meal. Be sure to take advantage of the "All Hands" meals open to active duty, reservists, retirees, department of defense employees, families, and their guests. Join us for good company, a delicious meal, and experience one of the best galleys in the Navy.

\$7 per person; \$5.35 (E1-E-4 Spouses and Dependents)

[Trident Galley Special Meals Calendar 2024](#)
navylifePNW.com

September 17: (1100-1300) Trident Inn Galley (Hispanic Heritage Month)

October 11: (1100-1300) Trident Inn Galley (Navy Birthday)

November 12: (1100-1300) Trident Inn Galley (Marine Corps Birthday/Veterans Day)



[Trident Inn Galley \(navylifePNW.com\)](http://navylifePNW.com)

[Subscribe to the Latest Email News \(navylifePNW.com\)](#)

For more information, call **360-396-6058**.



Soup Down

Check the website gertrudecheck.org | [USSVI – Bremerton Base](#), and the Commander's Emails for **Soup Down updates!** All luncheons are from 11:30 to 13:00 unless otherwise noted.

30 August Spiro's Pizza and Pasta 3201 NW Bucklin Hill Rd Silverdale 360.698.4100

13 September King's Wok Buffet 9960 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, WA 98383 360.337.2512

27 September Azteca 2936 Bucklin Hill Rd. Silverdale 360.698.2200

11 October All Star Lanes 10710 Silverdale Way, Silverdale 360.692.5760

25 October Los Cabos 4120 Wheaton Way, Bremerton 360.373.1320

08 November McCloud's Grill House 4111 Wheaton Way, Bremerton 360.373.3093



Facebook [USSVI - Bremerton Base | Bremerton WA | Facebook](#)



Soup Down Chair
John Gardner



Base Storekeepers

Our base storekeeper has or can order any of the items found in the USSVI national catalog for you. Some of the items available include but not limited to:

USSVI Sub Vests, Dolphin Pins, DBF Dolphins, WWII & Deterrent Patrol Pins, USSVI Windbreakers, USSVI & Sub Ballcaps, USSVI garrison hats, T-shirts, USSVI polos shirts, sub buckles and belts, USSVI Annual Calendars and coffee mugs.

sk@gertrudecheck.org



**Base Storekeeper
John Gardner**



**Assistant
Base Storekeeper
Jan "Bear" Stiffey**



**Assistant
Base Storekeeper
Jason Chamness**



Failed open – Used to describe when a person can't sleep and their eyes won't shut.

Base Historian—Videos



Silent Service S01 E24 - Narwhal's Passenger From Mindanao

[Silent Service S01 E24 - Narwhal's Passenger From Mindanao \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

A docudrama about a submarine mission during World War II of the rescue by the USS Narwhal of escaped POW survivors of Bataan from the island of Mindanao.



Silent Service S01 E25 - The Perch's New Role

[Silent Service S01 E25 - The Perch's New Role \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

A docudrama about the submarine USS Perch on a mission during The Korean War to deliver British Royal Marines on a secret commando raid.

Parade Chair & Bonefish Manager



The USS Bonefish SS-223 was a WWII GATO Class Submarine, she was commissioned 31 May 1943. Bonefish made 8 war patrols; she sank 31 enemy vessels for a total tonnage of 158,500. Bonefish was lost with all hands in June of 1945. This replica float is dedicated to all those who have given their life in service to their country.

Check the gertrudecheck.org | [USSVI – Bremerton Base](#), [Facebook](#) and the Commander’s Emails for calendar updates!

Completed 2024 Events

13 May: Sequim Irrigation Festival [Home | Sequim Irrigation Festival \(enmotive.com\)](#)

20 May: Armed Forces Day Parade Bremerton <https://visitbremerton.org/>

04 July (1pm): Grand Old 4th of July Bainbridge Island [The Bainbridge Island Grand Old 4th of July - Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce \(bainbridgechamber.com\)](#) Note: No passing out of any items or we need to send them a \$50 dollar "waste collection fee"

29 July (10am): Whaling Days [Home • Whaling Days - Helping Our Community](#)

Remaining 2024 Events

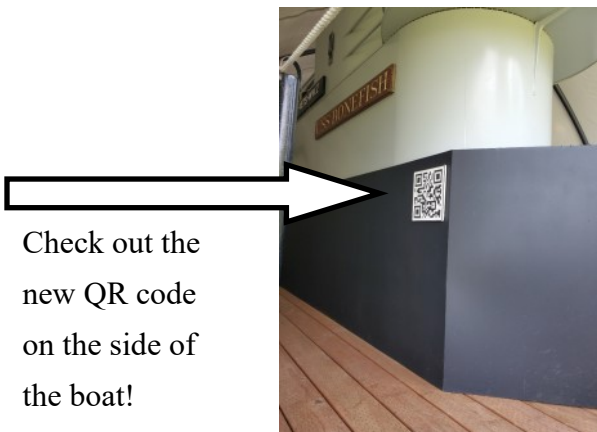
October TBA: Trunk or Treat Bangor

November TBA: Veterans Day Parade Poulsbo

November TBA: Kitsap County Veterans Day at the Fair Grounds

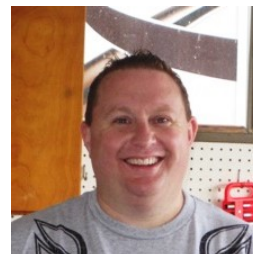
There are many photos on the Gertrude Check and the Base FB page.

Bonefish History <https://gertrudecheck.org/the-uss-bonefish-ss-223/>



Check out the new QR code on the side of the boat!

Bonefish Manager & Parade Chair Mike Friend



BI Grand Old 4th & Silverdale Whaling Days Parades

USSVI - Bremerton Base Bonefish Float and submariners had outstanding days at the Bainbridge Island Grand Old 4th of July Parade and the Silverdale Whaling Days Parade.

Once again, BZ to Mike Friend and ALL his efforts to maintain the Bonefish float and tow it for parades.

PS Editor's Note: Photos (not selfies) and captions for the photos are always welcomed for possible inclusion in the Puget Soundings bremertonbaseussvi.cob.pseditor@gmail.com



Base Annual Picnic



Eighty Base Members and guests signed up for the Base Annual Picnic, which was held on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at VFW Post 4992 (Henry Bryner Post) 9981 Central Valley Rd, Silverdale, WA 98383.

The Base provided Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Beer, Soft Drinks, and Water. Steve Corcoran brought his brats, which are always a hit with the crowd.

The Picnic BBQ Grill Masters included Wayne Peterson and Mike Friend, who brought his Blackstone grill. Families provided potluck side dishes or homemade desserts to share.

The Plan of the Day included a shortened General Membership Meeting and Holland Club Induction (see Page 22)

Joe Gavasso won the 50/50 raffle (\$160) and donated \$60 back to the Base. Bob Paulsen (Page 30) provided one of his hand-crafted 6 pack beer holders and beer for a 2nd prize. The 50/50 raffle brought in \$220 to the base.

Gary Heitmann, acting as auctioneer, brought in \$182 from leftover picnic food and drink items.

A big BZ to all base members who helped in the planning and execution of the picnic.

Holland Club



Holland Club member Dick Litscher (left) reads a Holland Club certificate to John Cronin (middle) and Robin Johnson (right) at the Bremerton Base Annual Picnic.



MMC (SS) John M. Cronin qualified in 1974 on the USS George Washington (SSBN/SSN-598). John also served on the USS Pogy (SSN-647); USS Seadragon (SSN-584); USS Whale (SSN-638); USS Shark (SSN-591); and USS Haddo (SSN-604)



Vice Commander Waylan Shropshire (left) presents a Holland Hat to Robin Johnson. Robin recently joined USSVI and the PS Editor did not have his Navy history for this edition of the PS.



**Holland Club Chair
Jan “Bear” Stiffey**



**Deterrent Park
Brick Chairman**



Deterrent Park Deterrent Park | gertrudecheck.org

Deterrent Park Sponsor Brick Locator [ondecklocator.pdf \(gertrudecheck.org\)](http://ondecklocator.pdf (gertrudecheck.org))

Brick Application (\$40/Brick Donation) [Brick-Application -2021.pdf \(gertrudecheck.org\)](http://Brick-Application -2021.pdf (gertrudecheck.org))



Deterrent Park Brick installation 18 Feb 2024
Six Bricks were installed:

Gary R Heitmann MTCM/SS 1970-98 SSBN 611B / 630BG

CAPT Dean Kiess Great Leader 1940 – 2023



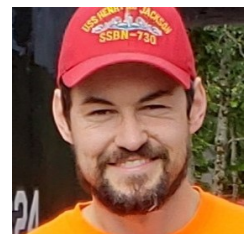
Davis Mackovjak CDR, USN 1983-2004

In Memory of ENS Maria Mackovjak Beloved Wife



In Memory of Jamie Sheridan MMCS(SS)

FTB – MTC(SS) Marc E Myers 1984 – 2007,



**Deterrent Park
Brick Chairman
Phil Paugh**

The Silent War

“Fascinating . . . a distinctively well-crafted intelligence-community memoir” by a leader of the US Navy’s clandestine under-sea projects (*Publishers Weekly*).

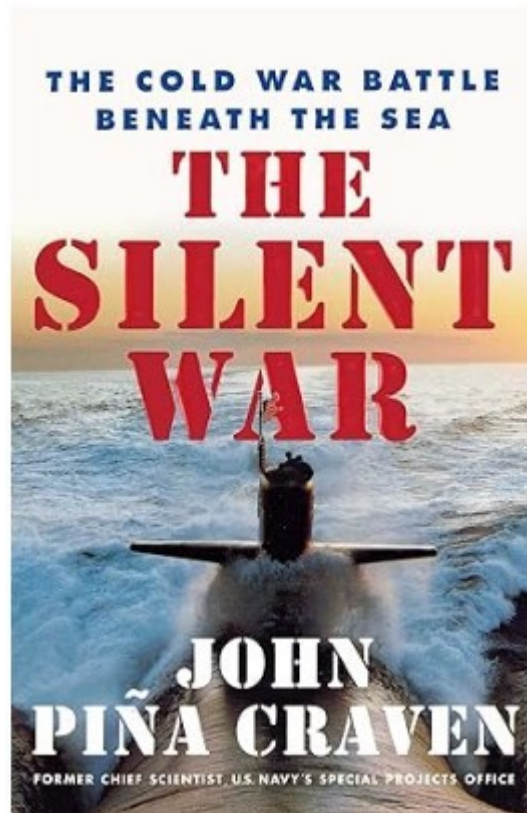
John P. Craven was a key figure in the Cold War beneath the sea. As chief scientist of the Navy’s Special Projects Office, which supervised the Polaris missile system, then later as head of the Deep Submergence Systems Project (DSSP) and the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle program (DSRV), he was intimately involved with planning and executing America’s submarine-based nuclear deterrence and espionage activities—considered so important by the Soviets that they assigned a full-time KGB agent to spy on him.

[The Silent War: The Cold War Battle Beneath the Sea: Craven, John Pina: 9780743223263: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Read a sample [The Silent War: The Cold War Battle Beneath the Sea: Craven, John Pina: 9780743223263: Amazon.com: Books](#)

John Piña Craven (October 30, 1924 – February 12, 2015) was an American scientist who was known for his involvement with [Bayesian search theory](#) and the recovery of lost objects at sea. He was Chief Scientist of the [Special Projects Office](#) of the United States Navy.

[John P. Craven - Wikipedia](#)



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<https://www.nmcrs.org/about-us>

“Train like you fight, fight like you train” – Most common submarine phrase found on a poster in just about any training building.

NATIONAL MUSEUM®
OF THE PACIFIC WAR



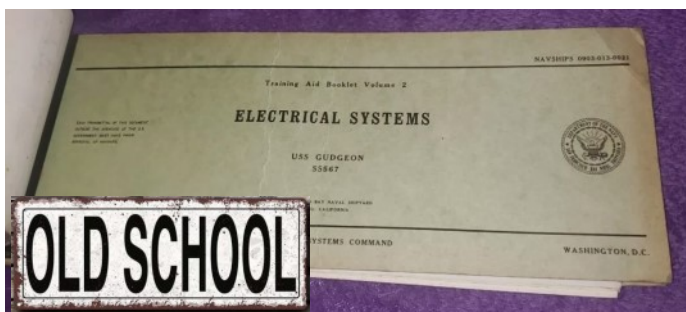
USSVI Charitable Foundation



This United States Submarine Veterans Inc, representing veterans of the United States Submarine Force from World War II, The Cold War, The Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and the War Against Terror has for more than 75 years focused on the support, health and welfare of our Submarine Veterans and their families as well as maintaining the legacy of the “Greatest Generation”. In 2000, a Charitable Foundation was created to further support our veterans and their legacy with the creation of a 501(C)3 Charitable Foundation (USSVCF). The USSVCF is a standalone fully certified charitable organization.

USSVCF Shipmates Caring About Shipmates Monthly Newsletters

[Shipmates Caring About Shipmates Monthly Newsletters - United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. \(ussvcf.org\)](http://ussvcf.org)



US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation

USSVCF NewsLetter

SHIPMATES CARING ABOUT SHIPMATES

MICHAEL TALPAI



USSVCF Web Site

LEGACY FUND

Our Legacy Fund is essentially an endowment fund. We can consider it a quasi-endowment fund. An endowment fund operates as a permanent financial asset that generates earnings through investments. The core principle is to preserve the principal amount (the initial endowment) while utilizing the generated earnings to fund various good causes.

HERE'S A DESCRIPTION:

An endowment fund is a financial asset designed to provide ongoing support for specific purposes. The principal amount of the endowment is invested in a diversified portfolio, including stocks, bonds, and other assets. The primary objective is to preserve the principal, ensuring it remains intact and continues to generate earnings over time. These earnings, typically interest and dividends, are used to fund various purposes. By endowment fund while safeguarding the principal amount, the generated good policies, the current use



June 20, 2024

VP-ED

July 19, 2024 Issue 6

Editor - R. Bachman VP-ED

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US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation

This foundation is the charitable arm of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

[USSVCF Home Page](#)



Click the USS Chicago Base Patch below to learn more about the Manitowoc submarine memorials.

Video from the Memorial Fund Manager Don Young

The US Submarine Veterans Memorial Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 1975. The fund acts as a trust for the repair of and maintenance of memorial sites from WWII, but also to preserve their precious spaces and is building new memorials. The US Submarine Veterans Memorial Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 1975. The fund acts as a trust for the repair of and maintenance of memorial sites from WWII, but also to preserve their precious spaces and is building new memorials.











USN Museum Submarines.



USSVI National Convention 2024

USSVI National Convention and USSVI Cod Base Thank our Sponsors!

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<p>Seaman Level \$100 Sponsors</p> <p>Jess Walpole</p>	<p>Level \$150 Sponsors</p> <p>Jess Walpole</p>	 



USS Cod WWII Submarine Full Walk Through Tour [USS Cod WWII Submarine Full Walk Through Tour - YouTube](#)

Additional videos of the USS Cod (SS-224) [uss cod ss-224 - Bing video](#)

USSVI National News

Reminder

There is still apparently been some confusion as to where to send National Office mail, payments, etc. Do NOT send any mail or correspondence of any kind to our OLD National Office in Silverdale, Washington. That office is closed down. All USSVI correspondence (applications, Boat Sponsorships, money payments, etc.) should be sent to our NEW National Office in Groton, Connecticut. That address is:

USSVI National Office
PO Box 1063
Groton, Ct, 06340-1063

Packages (FedEx-UPS-DHK, etc) should be sent to:

USSVI National Office
100 Plaza Ct.
Unit 1063
Groton, Ct, 06340-8339

Do NOT send any USSVI mail to the Groton Base Clubhouse at 40 School Street, Groton, Ct. That address is reserved for Groton Base business.

The telephone numbers have remained the same. (360)-337-2978 has been transferred from Washington to Groton, and although the area code (360) is a Washington area code, it now goes to Groton. The toll free #(877)-542-DIVE (3483) is also the same.

The email address, ussvi@telebyte.net is the same also.

All this information is also located in the American Submariner Magazine, 2nd Quarter.

V/R

Bill Andrea NC

Suggestions for the ex-submariner who misses "the good old days on the boat"

- Put lube oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to "High".
- Watch only unknown movies with no major stars on TV and then, only at night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch, and then watch a different one.
- Don't do your wash at home. Pick the most crowded laundromat you can find.
- (Optional for Nukes and A-Div) Leave lawnmower running in your living room six hours a day for proper noise level.

More in the next issue of the PS!

Military History Links

Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 31 August

[Military History Anniversaries 0816 thru 083121.pdf \(nhc-ul.org\)](#)

Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 September

[Military History Anniversaries 0901 thru 091521.pdf \(nhc-ul.org\)](#)

Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 30 September

[Military History Anniversaries - 0916 thru 093017.pdf \(nhc-ul.org\)](#)

Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 October

[Military History Anniversaries 1001 thru 101519.pdf \(nhc-ul.org\)](#)

This Day in History [This Day in History - What Happened Today - HISTORY](#)

WW II Survivors—USS Finback (SS-230)



The USS Finback (SS-230) was a significant submarine in the U.S. Navy during World War II. As a member of the Gato class, the Finback played a crucial role in various war patrols, engaging enemy ships and rescuing downed aviators, including a future U.S. president. This article delves into the detailed history of the USS Finback, highlighting its construction, wartime exploits, and postwar service.

The Gato class, also known as the Gato class, was a class of submarines used by the U.S. Navy during World War II. These submarines were renowned for their range, endurance, and firepower, making them formidable opponents in the Pacific Theater. With a length of 311 feet, a surface speed of 20 knots, and a submerged speed of 9 knots, the Gato class could operate far from home bases for extended periods, engaging enemy vessels and conducting reconnaissance missions.

The USS Finback was laid down on January 5, 1941, by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. It was launched on August 25, 1941, and commissioned on January 31, 1942, with Lieutenant Commander Jesse L. Hull in command. The Finback was equipped with ten torpedo tubes, a deck gun, and anti-aircraft guns, ready for the challenges of submarine warfare.

War patrols were missions undertaken by submarines to disrupt enemy shipping, gather intelligence, and support allied operations. These patrols were essential to the U.S. Navy's strategy in the Pacific, where submarines like the Finback played a vital role in weakening Japanese maritime capabilities.



Crew of the Finback (SS-230) posing for a shot on 13 August 1942 in Dutch Harbor

Photo # 80-G-215170 from NARA, College Park, Maryland, courtesy of Sean Hert. - NAVSOURCE

USS Finback SS-230 WAR PATROL REPORTS

Part 1 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xKnM14qJH5xm_gMetOnS6P-uKYaqLvaj/edit

Part 2 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xKnM14qJH5xm_gMetOnS6P-uKYaqLvaj/edit

The Finback arrived at Pearl Harbor from New London on May 29, 1942, and was immediately ordered out to patrol during the Battle of Midway. She returned on June 9 to prepare for her first full war patrol, which began on June 25. Patrolling the Aleutian Islands, Finback attacked two Japanese destroyers on July 5 and endured a 24-hour depth charge assault. Electrician's Mate Robert D. White recalled the dire situation, where the crew almost surrendered due to lack of oxygen before the depth charges ceased. Highlights of this patrol included reconnaissance missions at Vega Bay, Kiska, and Tanaga Bay, Tanaga. The patrol ended at Dutch Harbor on August 12, and Finback returned to Pearl Harbor on August 23 for refitting.

See USS Finback. Page 29

WW II Survivors—USS Finback (SS-230)

Continued from Page 28

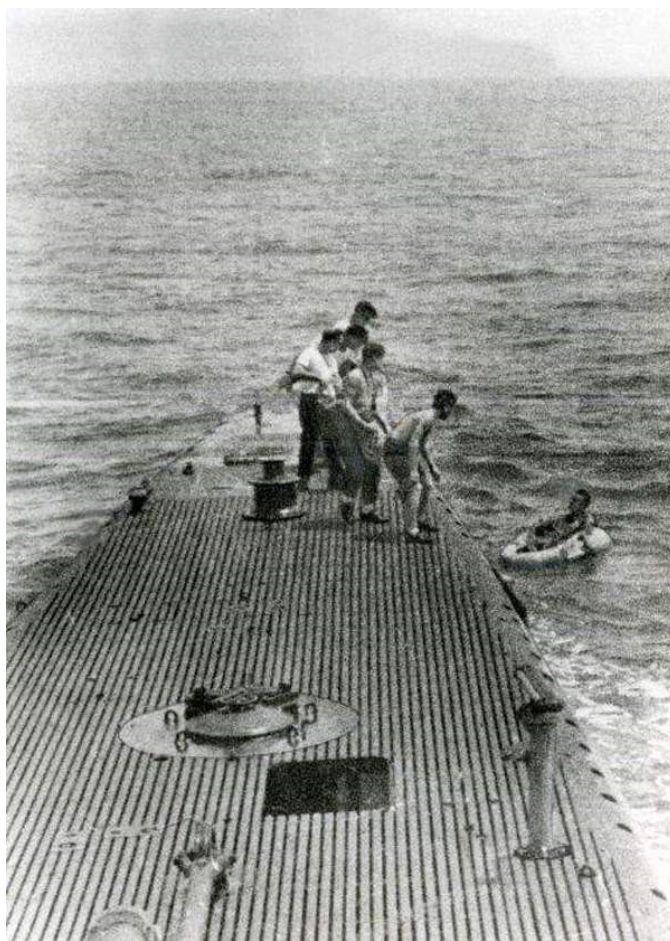
On her second war patrol, which began on September 23, 1942, Finback operated off Taiwan. She sighted a convoy on October 14 and sank the ex-French merchantman Teison Maru. Finback continued her mission, inflicting heavy damage on a large freighter on October 18 and sinking the passenger-cargo ships Africa Maru and Yamafuji Maru on October 20. The patrol concluded with the sinking of an ocean-going sampan on November 3. Finback returned to Pearl Harbor on November 20.

Finback's third war patrol, from December 16, 1942, to February 6, 1943, included escort duties for a carrier task force, restricting her from making attacks. Later, she engaged and sank the Japanese coaster Yachiyo Maru on January 17. After refitting at Midway, Finback began her fourth patrol on February 27, 1943, scouting shipping lanes between Rabaul and Japan. On March 21, she damaged the troop transport Sanuki Maru and engaged in a convoy chase from March 24 to 26, resulting in a severe depth charge attack and forced withdrawal due to low fuel. On April 5, Finback sank the beached troop transport Suwa Maru at Wake Island, previously damaged by other U.S. submarines. The patrol ended at Midway on April 13.

During her fifth war patrol, from May 12 to June 26, 1943, Finback patrolled off Taiwan and along shipping lanes from Japan to the Marshall Islands. She sank the cargo ship Kochi Maru on May 27, the auxiliary minelayer Kahoku Maru on June 8, and another merchant vessel on June 12. After refitting in Fremantle, Australia, Finback's sixth patrol commenced on July 18 along the Java coast. She sank the cargo ships Ryuzan Maru and another on August 3, and damaged the auxiliary minelayer Tatsumiya Maru on August 11. On August 19, Finback engaged and damaged several enemy vessels, including the auxiliary submarine chaser Kawi, renamed Cha 109. The patrol ended with limited ammunition, forcing a return to base.

Following an overhaul at Pearl Harbor, Finback's seventh patrol began on December 15, 1943, in the South China

Sea. Heavy weather and few contacts marked this patrol. However, she sank the tanker Isshin Maru on January 1, 1944, and a fishing trawler on January 30. After another refit, Finback's eighth patrol commenced on March 6, 1944, focusing on lifeguard duty for carrier air strikes in the Caroline Islands. She engaged a convoy on April 12 and conducted reconnaissance of Oroluk Atoll on April 16, sinking a partially submerged steamer and attacking a lookout tower. The patrol concluded with refitting at Pearl Harbor on May 30.



*Finback (SS-230) rescues Lt.(JG) George H.W. Bush before he became a source of **protein** for the Japanese garrison at Chichi Jima. Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library via Tommy Trampp. - NAVSOURCE*

See USS Finback. Page 30

WW II Survivors—USS Finback (SS-230)

Continued from Page 29

During her ninth patrol, Finback served as a lifeguard during air strikes for the Mariana operation. On September 2, 1944, Finback famously rescued future President George H. W. Bush, among other aviators. Under the command of Lieutenant Commander Robert Russell Williams, Jr., the tenth patrol included lifeguard duty in the Bonins, where Finback rescued five naval aviators and sank the ships Hassho Maru and Hakuun Maru No. 2. Finback's eleventh patrol focused again on lifeguard duty, sinking the troop transport Jusan Maru on December 16, before returning to Midway on December 24.

Finback's twelfth and final war patrol, from January 20 to March 25, 1945, in the East China Sea, was marked by a lack of targets. After a thorough overhaul at Pearl Harbor, Finback sailed for New London on August 29, 1945, marking the end of her wartime service.

After World War II, the USS Finback was decommissioned in 1946 but was later recommissioned for training purposes during the Cold War. The submarine served as a training vessel, helping to prepare the next generation of submariners. Despite technological advancements rendering the Gato class obsolete, the Finback's legacy continued through its contributions to training and development.

The USS Finback was decommissioned for the final time in 1950. It was struck from the Naval Vessel Register and sold for scrap in 1959. Despite its end, the Finback's storied history and significant contributions to the U.S. Navy left an enduring legacy.

The USS Finback (SS-230) served with distinction during World War II, engaging in numerous successful war patrols and rescuing aviators, including a future president. Its

contributions to naval warfare, both during and after the war, underscore the importance of submarines in achieving strategic military objectives. The Finback's legacy is a testament to the bravery and skill of its crew and the pivotal role of submarines in naval history.



Dickin' the dog - putting a "half-assed" effort into a task (refers to improperly securing the "dogs" on a watertight hatch when passing through. Such a lax procedure could spell doom for a sinking ship if hatches were not absolutely watertight). Also said as "poking the poodle". Not to be confused with "screwing the pooch" which refers to royally messing up a task.

Cold War Boats—USS Nautilus (SSN-571) Operation Sunshine: The Historic Journey of USS Nautilus

On August 2, 1958, the USS Nautilus made history by becoming the first submarine to cross the North Pole. This monumental event, known as Operation Sunshine, marked a significant achievement in naval exploration and showcased the capabilities of nuclear-powered submarines. The USS Nautilus, a groundbreaking vessel, demonstrated the potential for future undersea missions and established a new era in naval warfare and exploration.

The Cold War era was marked by intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, leading to significant advancements in military technology. Among these advancements was the development of nuclear submarines, which offered unparalleled endurance and operational capabilities. The USS Nautilus, the world's first operational nuclear-powered submarine, was a product of this technological race. Commissioned in 1954, the Nautilus had already achieved numerous milestones, including breaking submerged speed and endurance records.

The primary objective of Operation Sunshine was to demonstrate the strategic and technological advantages of nuclear-powered submarines by navigating beneath the polar ice cap and crossing the North Pole. Key figures in the mission included Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, known as the "Father of the Nuclear Navy," and Commander William R. Anderson, who captained the Nautilus during the historic voyage.

Planning the mission involved overcoming significant technical and logistical challenges. Navigating through the Arctic ice required precise calculations and the use of advanced navigation systems. Ensuring the safety of the crew and the integrity of the submarine under extreme conditions was paramount. The crew underwent rigorous training to prepare for the mission, and the submarine was equipped with enhanced sonar and navigation equipment to handle the unique challenges of under-ice travel.

The USS Nautilus departed from Pearl Harbor on July 23, 1958, embarking on its secret mission under the codename "Operation Sunshine." The route took the submarine across the Pacific Ocean, through the Bering Strait, and



Nautilus (SSN-571) in San Francisco Bay on 26 May 1958.
The Oakland Bay Bridge is in the background.
U.S. Navy # 39320-5-58, courtesy of Darryl L. Baker. -
NAVSOURCE

into the Arctic Ocean. As the Nautilus journeyed beneath the polar ice cap, the crew faced numerous challenges, including dense ice formations and the need to maintain precise navigation.

Despite these obstacles, the Nautilus continued its voyage, showcasing the advantages of nuclear propulsion, which allowed the submarine to remain submerged for extended periods without surfacing. The journey through the Arctic Ocean was a testament to the skill and determination of the crew and the technological advancements of the submarine.

See USS Nautilus, Page 32

Cold War Boats—USS Nautilus (SSN-571) Operation Sunshine: The Historic Journey of USS Nautilus

Continued from Page 31



Cmdr W.R. Anderson, USN, commanding officer of the Nautilus (SSN-571) and Dr. Waldo Lyon, Senior Scientist, observe the thickness of the ice overhead by watching ice recorded in attack center. U.S. Navy courtesy of Bill Gonyo. - NAVSOURCE

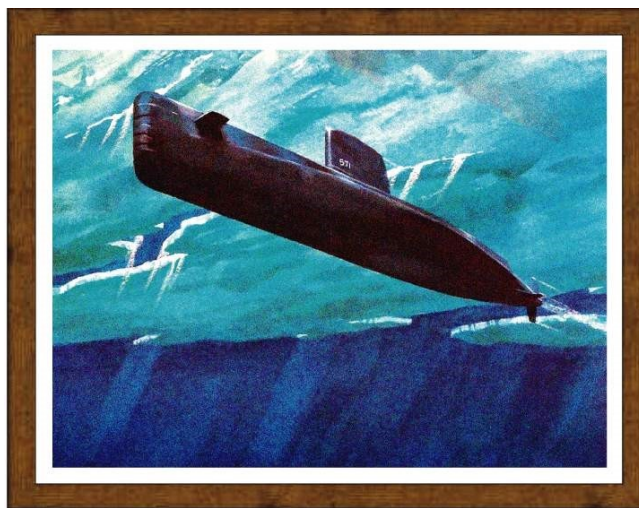
On August 2, 1958, the USS Nautilus reached the geographic North Pole, marking a historic first in naval exploration. The moment of crossing was met with excitement and pride among the crew, who celebrated their achievement in the confined quarters of the submarine. The event was meticulously documented, with records and photographs taken to verify the historic crossing.

The successful completion of Operation Sunshine garnered immediate attention and acclaim from around the world. The United States Navy and the broader public celebrated the achievement as a testament to American ingenuity and technological prowess. The mission had a profound impact on naval strategy, demonstrating the strategic value of nuclear-powered submarines and their ability to operate in previously inaccessible areas.

In the long term, Operation Sunshine influenced the development of future polar expeditions and advancements in submarine technology. The success of the Nautilus mis-

sion paved the way for further exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic regions and underscored the importance of nuclear propulsion in modern naval warfare.

Operation Sunshine stands as a landmark achievement in the history of naval exploration. The courage and ingenuity of the USS Nautilus crew, combined with the visionary leadership of figures like Admiral Rickover and Commander Anderson, made the mission a success. The legacy of this historic voyage continues to inspire advancements in submarine technology and polar exploration, cementing Operation Sunshine's place in history as a testament to human ingenuity and determination.



USS NAUTILUS SSN 571

Painting commemorating the Nautilus (SSN-571) during her 1958 submerged cruise to the Arctic. Courtesy of Jack Treutle (of blessed memory). - NAVSOURCE

References

1. "USS Nautilus and the Nuclear Navy" by Richard G. Hewlett and Francis Duncan
2. "First Under the North Pole: The Voyage of the Nautilus" by William R. Anderson with Clay Blair Jr.
3. Official reports from the U.S. Navy on Operation Sunshine
4. Interviews with surviving members of the USS Nautilus crew

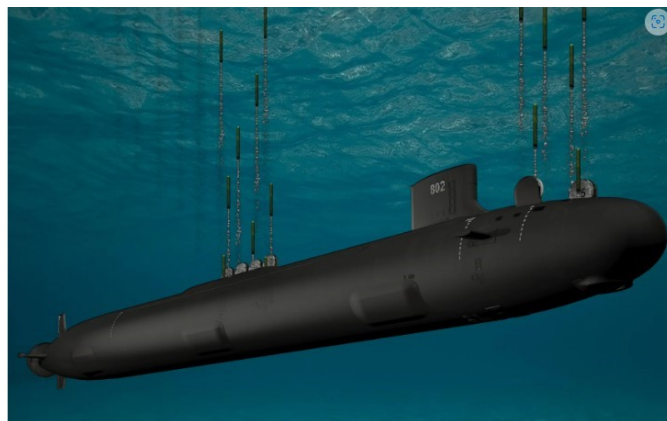
Operational/PCU Submarines & Others

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Completes USS Minnesota Submarine Maintenance

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) workforce successfully completed an extended docking selected restricted availability (EDSRA) of USS Minnesota (SSN 783) July 3 delivering the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine back to the fleet.

“The project team excelled at engaging the correct personnel to resolve issues and collaboratively work with pertinent players to accomplish the goals,” said Kohnsavanh, Phommavong, project superintendent, PHNSY & IMF. “They rallied around each other and cohesively communicated, coordinated, and motivated each other day in and day out, taking challenges head-on. I am so proud of the way the team developed into what we are today.”

Continue reading here [DVIDS - News - Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Completes USS Minnesota Submarine Maintenance \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net/news/pearl-harbor-naval-shipyard-completes-uss-minnesota-submarine-maintenance)



Navy Awards \$1.3B Long-Lead Contract for Virginia Block VI Boats Ahead of Anticipated Multi-Year Contract

The Navy awarded General Dynamics Electric Boat \$1.3 billion for long lead materials for the first Block VI Virginia-class nuclear attack submarines ahead of an expected multi-year contract between the submarine yard and the service for the class.

The award to Electric Boat comes ahead of a planned multi-year contract between the Navy and the Connecticut submarine builder, USNI News understands.

Continue reading here [Navy Awards \\$1.3B Long-Lead Contract for Virginia Block VI Boats Ahead of Anticipated Multi-Year Contract - USNI News](https://www.usni.org/news/2024/07/03/navy-awards-1.3b-long-lead-contract-for-virginia-block-vi-boats-ahead-of-anticipated-multi-year-contract)

Report to Congress on the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels for Fiscal Year 2025

2025

USS HELENA (SSN 725) RECYCLE

USS PASADENA (SSN 752) RECYCLE

USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) RECYCLE

[RTC- PB25 Shipbuilding Plan \(documentcloud.org\)](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25000000-rtc-pb25-shipbuilding-plan)

2026

USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750) RECYCLE

USS SCRANTON (SSN 756) RECYCLE

USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757) RECYCLE

USS OHIO (SSGN 726) RECYCLE

USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728) RECYCLE

Operational/PCU Submarines & Others

USS New Jersey (SSN-796)

SUBMARINE NEWS:

The next VIRGINIA-Class commissioning ceremony, for NEW JERSEY SSN 796, has been set for Sep 14 2024, at Naval Weapons Station Earle NJ.



The ceremony is scheduled for the almost 3-mile-long trident-shaped pier at Naval Weapons Station Earle NJ. Maps indicate that the site may have a line of sight view almost due north toward the Statue of Liberty.

The two USS NEW JERSEYs will not be together for the event; BB 62 is at Camden, the other side of NJ, across the river from Philadelphia.

(Some people have lobbied to have the future commissioning for MASSACHUSETTS SSN 798 near MASSACHUSETTS BB 59; an intriguing thought, but I'd bet the logistics will be too tough.)

Some info on NEW JERSEY SSN 796:

- Newport News boat ("Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News", HIINN, I think)
- 23rd VIRGINIA-Class boat; Block IV
- record-setting construction time, & not in a good way. 5.5 yrs from keel-laying to commissioning, the longest of any VIRGINIA (so far). EB's latest VIRGINIA barely beat that time: 5.4 yrs from keel to comm for HYMAN G RICKOVER 795.

Some other VIRGINIA construction times for comparison: 5.1 yrs for 774 VIRGINIA, lead ship of the class, built by EB, comm 2004

4.2 yrs for 775 TEXAS, first VIRGINIA built by HIINN, comm 2006

1.5 yrs for 778 NEW HAMPSHIRE, fastest VIRGINIA build by EB, comm 2008

2.3 yrs for 783 MINNESOTA, fastest VIRGINIA build by HIINN, comm 2013

[USS NEW JERSEY COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE – "Firepower For Freedom" \(njcommissioning.org\)](https://www.njcommissioning.org)



First US Navy Submarine Will Deploy with New UUV Capability this Year

The US Navy (USN) has announced that it is set to deploy a torpedo-tube launch-and-recovery (TTL&R) uncrewed underwater vehicle (UUV) capability onboard an operational submarine for the first time, with the operational deployment set to commence by the end of 2024. The deployment will take place in the European theatre of operations.

Continue Reading here [First US Navy Submarine Will Deploy with New UUV Capability this Year - Naval News](#)

Ten punches in the Hacker Card – A hacker card is for submariners who sit through extremely bad movies. The number of punches indicates how bad the movie was rated as.

Sliders - Mess deck/chow hall hamburgers/cheeseburgers, so named for their high grease content and purported ability to 'slide' through the alimentary canal.

Underwater Warfare Orca XLUUV

First Look at the US Navy’s Orca XLUUV with Massive Payload Module

Images have surfaced showing, for the first time, the U.S. Navy's Orca Extra Large Uncrewed Undersea Vehicle (XLUUV) fitted with a payload section.

The picture (shared on [LinkedIn](#) by the former Commodore of UUVRON-1) is significant because, to *Naval News*' knowledge, all Orca photos so far were showing the XLUUV without its payload insert. We can now see how huge Orca really is.

Boeing has delivered the first Orca XLUUV to the U.S. Navy in [December 2023](#). The uncrewed submarine is now going through an extensive testing program. Five more are set to be delivered [this year](#).

[First Look at the US Navy's Orca XLUUV with Massive Payload Module - Naval News](#)



U Fleku Brewery is one of the oldest breweries in Prague.
PHOTOGRAPH BY HEIMS, ALACEMY

Everything you need to know about Czech beer

[Everything you need to know about Czech beer \(nationalgeographic.com\)](#)

Underwater Warfare KATFISH™



Figure 2: KATFISH™ Towed SAS Survey Systems

KATFISH™ is a high speed, actively stabilized Synthetic Aperture Sonar towfish that operates at speeds up to 10 knots. The high speed capability of KATFISH™ when compared to the slower moving ROVs or unstabilized towed sidescan sonar and AUVs, greatly increases Area Coverage Rates (ACR) therefore reducing operating time and cost.

KATFISH™ provides unprecedented high-resolution ACR of 4 km²/hr with 3.3 cm x 3.0 cm* constant resolution across ranges up to 200 m per side with simultaneous 3D bathymetry. *1.9 cm x 2.1 cm constant resolution possible with post-processing.

KATFISH™ incorporates Kraken’s latest generation Real-Time SAS processor. RTSAS enables real-time processing of SAS imagery and bathymetry. On-board Automatic Target Detection survey data and contacts can be viewed directly on the ship as it is collected, or remotely from a mothership or shore-based command station.

Read more here [Towed SAS Vehicle - Kraken Robotics](#)

Blowing a Sh*tter - Inadvertently "flushing" a toilet while sanitary tanks are being blown overboard. This caused excrement and toilet paper to be blown all over the head to the delight of the rest of the crew.

Foreign Navies—Soviet Akula

How The Soviet Akula Changed Submarine Warfare

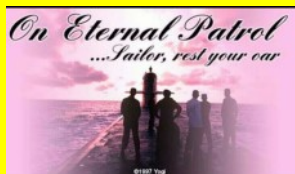
<https://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/how-the-soviet-akula-changed-submarine-warfare-1819380681>

In late 1984, when the first Akula submarine of the Soviet Navy put to sea, it immediately changed the way anti-submarine warfare would be conducted. With the Akula's arrival the American submarine fleet would no longer enjoy the dramatic undersea advantages they had possessed since the end of the World War II. The Akula, which is Russian for *shark*, stunned NATO with its high-level of stealth, especially compared to any Soviet submarine before it. That's because in the battle for undersea supremacy, silence is the key to survival and victory. Prior to the Akula, the Soviets had already been making huge strides, making their submarines faster, deeper diving, and more heavily armed than American submarines. One submarine, the lone Papa SSGN, a nuclear-powered guided-missile sub, is still the world's fastest after reaching 44.7 knots (around 51 mph) in 1970. But the ability to make their submarines as quiet, or nearly as quiet, as American subs had long eluded them. The Akula dramatically changed that. Or, as William Perry—who would later become Secretary of Defense—told a House Armed Services Committee in 1989, "The free lunch was over." That free lunch had been the ability of American submarines, combined with other sensors, to locate and track Soviet subs, especially their ballistic missile submarines, seemingly at will. In one acknowledged account from a 1978 mission, the USS *Batfish* tracked Soviet Yankee-class sub for 50 consecutive days. The *Batfish* began tracking the submarine above the Arctic Circle in the Norwegian Sea and trailed the Yankee for nearly 9,000 miles, maintaining contact for the duration of the Yankee's deployment to the Western Atlantic, where it could launch missiles at the U.S. But as the *Batfish* was making full use of the



acoustic advantage American submarines enjoyed, the Soviets had begun to design and build a third generation of nuclear subs. These submarines would become the quietest subs the Soviets had ever constructed, having benefited from information passed along by John Walker, a U.S. Navy communications specialist who began spying for the Soviets in 1968. Among other things, Walker gave them information about a system of underwater hydrophone arrays on American subs that were strategically located to detect Soviet submarines. To continue reading go to <https://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/how-the-soviet-akula-changed-submarine-warfare-1819380681>





On Eternal Patrol—July through September Submarine Losses

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

PS Editor’s Note: In order to allow for additional space in the Puget Soundings to highlight sailors lost at sea, links have been provided to the Gertrude Check for an in depth examination of each of the following boats, including a brief history of each boat and the sailing list of those lost.

On Eternal Patrol—July Submarine Losses

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

USS S-28 (SS-133)
Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 50 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-28-133.htm>

USS Robalo (SS-273)
Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 84 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Three men survived and swam ashore, then imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-robalo-273.htm>

USS Grunion (SS-216)
Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She noticed that she sank two submarines and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Her loss remains a mystery.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-grunion-216.htm>

July Submarine Losses
[July-Submarine-Losses.pdf](#)
[\(gertrudecheck.org\)](#)

Tolling of the Boats
[Tolling of The Boats Month of July - YouTube](#)

On Eternal Patrol—August Submarine Losses

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

USS Bullhead (SS-332)
Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane.
Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-bullhead-332.htm>

USS Flier (SS-250)
Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 80 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was struck by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Reolite.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-flier-250.htm>

USS S-39 (SS-144)
Lost on August 14, 1942 after grounding on a reef south while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-39-144.htm>

August Submarine Losses
[August-Submarine-Losses.pdf](#)
[\(gertrudecheck.org\)](#)

Tolling of the Boats
[USSVI - Bremerton Base August Tolling of the Boats - YouTube](#)

On Eternal Patrol—September Submarine Losses

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

USS S-5 (SS-110)
Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful. S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-5-110.htm>

USS Grayling (SS-209)
Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-grayling-209.htm>

USS S-51 (SS-162)
Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 32 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.
<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-51-162.htm>

September Submarine Losses
[September-Submarine-Losses.pdf](#)
[\(gertrudecheck.org\)](#)

Tolling of the Boats
[USSVI - Bremerton Base Tolling of the Boats for September - YouTube](#)

- .USS S-28 (SS-133)
Lost on July 4, 1944.
- USS Robalo (SS-273)
Lost on July 26, 1944.
- USS Grunion (SS-216)
Lost on July 30, 1942
- USS Bullhead (SS-332)
Lost on August 6, 1945.
- USS Flier (SS-250)
Lost on August 13, 1944.

- USS S-39 (SS-144)
Lost on August 14, 1942.
- USS Harder (SS-257)
Lost on August 24, 1944.
- USS Cochino (SS-345)
Lost on August 26, 1949.
- USS Pompano (SS-181)
Lost on August 29, 1943.
- USS S-5 (SS-110)
Lost on September 1, 1920.
- USS Grayling (SS-209)
Lost on Sept 9, 1943.

- USS S-51 (SS-162)
Lost on Sept 25, 1925.
- USS Cisco (SS-290)
Lost on Sept 28, 1943.



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On Eternal Patrol—July through September Submarine Losses

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Sailing List

- [James William Ackley](#)
- [John Billy Bailey](#)
- [Robert William Bell](#)
- [Jerome Peter Boehles](#)
- [Charles Edward Breeden](#)
- [Walter Allen Brereton](#)
- [Gilbert Brokman](#)
- [Columbus L. Cagle, Jr.](#)
- [Hubert Earl Carter](#)
- [Stephen John "Chico" Changary](#)
- [Edward Omer Clark](#)
- [Marvin D. R. Clifford](#)
- [Herman Marx Cooperman](#)
- [Stanley Norwood Cotterman](#)
- [Donald Clifford Cress](#)
- [Darrell Ellroy Dickerson](#)
- [Calvin Lee Dittman](#)
- [Wallace Lamont Downey](#)
- [James Louis Dvoracek, Jr.](#)
- [Lyle Franklin Ervin](#)
- [Charles Woodford Fell](#)
- [Dean Elwood Fink](#)
- [Arthur James Flanagan](#)
- [George Melvin Fondon](#)
- [John Joseph Fricker](#)
- [Herman John Gerdes, Jr.](#)
- [Elliott Gleaton, Jr.](#)
- [Kimball Elwood Graham](#)
- [Howard Leon Hamilton, Jr.](#)
- [James Francis Hart, Jr.](#)
- [Harley Truman Hood](#)
- [Jack Akers Hurst](#)
- [Holly Berry Ivey](#)
- [Nyle Milton Jackson](#)
- [William Edward Jambor](#)
- [Emil Herman Johnson](#)
- [Nathan Young Johnson](#)
- [William George Kesterson](#)
- [Manning Marius Kimmel](#)
- [Arthur Carl Konen](#)
- [Floyd George Laughlin*](#)
- [Richard Jeremiah Leahey](#)
- [John Warren LeFebvre](#)

- [Donald Judell Levy](#)
- [Denzel Walter Lovell](#)
- [Joseph Arnold Lutman](#)
- [Ray Eugene Martin](#)
- [Wallace Keet Martin*](#)
- [Marvin Jerome Marx](#)
- [William George Matthews](#)
- [Hugh Ferguson McKnight, Jr.](#)
- [Harvey Edward Nichols](#)
- [John Richard Niclas](#)
- [John Joseph O'Brien](#)
- [Edward Peter O'Rourke](#)
- [Edward Joseph Paw](#)
- [Billy Brite Phelps](#)
- [Mason Collie Poston*](#)
- [John Frederick Priddis](#)
- [Reginald John Proseus](#)
- [Harold Leon Ramsier](#)
- [Charles Alfred Root](#)
- [Stanley Joel Russell](#)
- [Stephen William Smith](#)
- [Walter Frank Sonemann](#)
- [Russell William Speener](#)
- [Samuel Elliot Spencer](#)
- [Herschel Paul Taylor](#)
- [Samuel Lombard Tucker*](#)
- [Harold Elmer Usealman](#)
- [Joseph Reinard VanDeurzen](#)
- [Elmer Grayson Varney](#)
- [Ciro Robert Virga](#)
- [Frederick Paul Vogel](#)
- [Dale Francis Wilkerson](#)
- [Davie Lee Williams](#)
- [Frederick Joseph Wilson](#)
- [Roland Oliver Winnan](#)
- [Sigmund Julius Wlodarczyk](#)
- [Claude Eugene Wood, Jr.](#)
- [Calvin Kenneth Zea](#)

*Survived sinking, but died in captivity.

Edward Omer Clark

Rank/Rate: Seaman, First Class
 Service Number: 356 69 42
 Birth Date: March 15, 1921
 From: Lubbock, Texas
 Decorations: Purple Heart
 Submarine: [USS Robalo \(SS-273\)](#)
 Loss Date: July 26, 1944



Location/Circumstances: Read the article on the following pages

Photo and information courtesy of Paul W. Wittmer



Joseph Arnold Lutman

Rank/Rate: Ensign
 Service Number: O-229429
 Birth Date: November 7, 1916
 From: Baltimore, Maryland
 Decorations: Purple Heart
 Submarine: [USS Robalo \(SS-273\)](#)
 Loss Date: July 26, 1944



Location/Circumstances: Read the article on the following pages

Photo and information courtesy of Paul W. Wittmer



On Eternal Patrol—USS Robalo (SS-273)

Class and type: [Gato-class diesel-electric submarine](#)^[2]

Displacement 1,525 long tons (1,549 t) surfaced^[2]

2,424 long tons (2,463 t) submerged^[2]

Length 311 ft 9 in (95.02 m)^[2]

Beam 27 ft 3 in (8.31 m)^[2]

Draft 17 ft (5.2 m) maximum^[2]

Propulsion 4 × [General Motors](#) Model 16-248 [V16 Diesel engines](#) driving [electric generators](#)^{[4][5]}

2 × 126-cell [Sargo batteries](#)^[6]

4 × high-speed [General Electric electric motors](#) with [reduction gears](#)^[4]

two propellers ^[4]

5,400 [shp](#) (4.0 [MW](#)) surfaced^[4]

2,740 shp (2.0 MW) submerged^[4]

Speed 21 knots (39 km/h) surfaced^[3]

9 kn (17 km/h) submerged^[3]

Range 11,000 nmi (20,000 km) surfaced at 10 kn (19 km/h)^[3]

Endurance 48 hours at 2 kn (3.7 km/h) submerged^[3]

75 days on patrol

Test depth 300 ft (90 m)^[3]

Complement 6 officers, 54 men^[3]

Armament 10 × 21-inch (533 mm) [torpedo](#) tubes

6 forward, 4 aft

24 torpedoes^[6]

1 × 3-inch (76 mm) / 50 [caliber](#) deck gun^[6]

[Bofors 40 mm](#) and [Oerlikon 20 mm](#) cannon

USS *Robalo* (SS-273),

a [Gato-class submarine](#),

was the only ship of the [United States Navy](#) to

be named for the *robalo*

or [common snook](#).



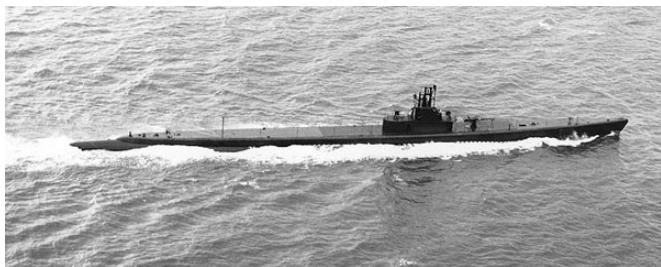
First patrol^[edit]

After passage by inland waterways and being floated down the [Mississippi River](#), *Robalo* deployed to the [Pacific](#). On her first war patrol (under the leadership of [Commander](#) Stephen Ambruster, [Annapolis](#) class of 1928),^[8] she sortied from [Pearl Harbor](#),^[9] hunting Japanese ships west of the [Philippines](#). On 12 February 1944, Ambruster reported seeing a large, two-masted sailboat.^[10] There, *en route* to her new station in [Fremantle submarine base](#), [Western Australia](#), she had an encounter with enemy vessels; on 13 February 1944 east of the [Verde Island Passage](#), the *Robalo* had come across a convoy of two large ships escorted by a minesweeper, which dropped 13 depth charges and fired twice at the submarine with a deck gun;^[10] although USS *Robalo* is "credited" with damaging a large freighter, firing four [torpedoes](#) at 3,100 yards (2,800 m),^[11] in fact the attack was unsuccessful and no enemy vessels were damaged or sunk.^[12] She spent 36 of her 57-day mission submerged.^[13] When she arrived, her commanding officer was summarily relieved by Admiral [Christie](#)^[14] and replaced with [Manning Kimmel](#) (class of 1935).^[15] In March 1944, Christie (based on [Ultra](#) intelligence) feared surprise from a strong Japanese force.^[16] When [Chester W. Nimitz, Jr.](#)^[17] in [USS Haddo \(SS-255\)](#), made contact on his [SJ radar](#) and reported "many large ships",^[18] Christie scrambled to respond. *Robalo*, along with [USS Flasher \(SS-249\)](#), [USS Hoe \(SS-258\)](#), [USS Hake \(SS-256\)](#), and [USS Redfin \(SS-272\)](#), all ran to intercept.^[19] No attack ever materialized.^[20]

See USS Robalo, Page 40

On Eternal Patrol—USS Robalo (SS-273)

Continued from Page 39



Second patrol[[edit](#)]

For her second patrol, *Robalo* went to the [South China Sea](#), assigned to interdict Japanese [tanker](#) traffic from [French Indochina](#) to the fleet anchorage at [Tawi Tawi](#).^[21] On 24 April 1944 off Indochina,^[22] she was bombed by a Japanese [antisubmarine](#) aircraft, suffering shattered and flooded periscopes and loss of radar, while taking a harrowing plunge to 350 feet (110 m) after her main induction valve was improperly closed^[21] (a casualty frighteningly reminiscent of [Squalus](#)) in diving to escape. *Robalo* had been seen by [Japanese aircraft carrier Kaiyō](#) while escorting convoy [Hi-58](#), which resulted in *Robalo* being damaged 24 April 1944.^[23] One of the ships that escaped damage from *Robalo* was the [Mayasan Maru](#). On a "wildly aggressive patrol"^[21] lasting 51 days,^[24] *Robalo* fired 20 torpedoes in four attacks.^[21] In regard to the four claims by *Robalo*, on May 3, 1944, six torpedoes against a 4000-ton freighter (no damage); May 8, 1944, four torpedoes against a 1900-ton submarine (no damage); May 17, 1944, six torpedoes against a 7500-ton tanker (one hit) and four torpedoes against a 1500-ton destroyer (no damage).^[25] She was credited with sinking a 7500-ton tanker,^[26] which was not confirmed postwar by [JANAC](#).^[24] When she returned to Fremantle, [Captain "Tex" McLean](#) (commanding [Subron 16](#))^[27] and Admiral Christie both considered relieving *Robalo*'s skipper for his own safety.^[21]

Third patrol[[edit](#)]

Robalo departed Fremantle on 22 June 1944 on her third war patrol. She set a course for the South China Sea to conduct her patrol in the vicinity of the [Natuna Islands](#). After transiting [Makassar Strait](#) and [Balabac Strait](#) (which was well-known to be [mined](#)),^[28] she was scheduled to arrive on station about 6 July and remain until dark on 2 August 1944. On 2 July, a contact report stated *Robalo* had sighted a [Fusō-class battleship](#), with air cover and two [destroyers](#) for escort, just east of [Borneo](#). No other messages were ever received from the submarine, and when she did not return from patrol, she was presumed lost.

Robalo was stricken from the [Naval Vessel Register](#) on 16 September 1944.

Fate of survivors[[edit](#)]

On 2 August, a note was handed from the cell window of the [Kempei Tai](#) military prison on [Palawan Island](#) in the Philippines, to Ed Petry, an American [prisoner-of-war](#) from the [Puerto Princesa Prison Camp](#) who was passing by. The note was, in turn, given to [Yeoman](#) Second Class Hubert D. Hough, who was also a prisoner at the camp. He contacted Trinidad Mendoza (Red Hankie), wife of guerrilla leader Dr. Mendoza, who had the [Coastwatchers](#) radio [General MacArthur](#) and Admiral [Ralph Christie](#) in Australia.^[30]

See USS Robalo, Page 41

On Eternal Patrol—USS Robalo (SS-273)

Continued from Page 40

From these sources, it was concluded *Robalo* was sunk on 26 July 1944, 2 nautical miles (3.7 km; 2.3 mi) off the western coast of [Palawan Island](#) from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy [mine](#). Four men swam ashore^[31] and made their way through the jungles to a small barrier northwest of the [Puerto Princesa Prison Camp](#), where [Japanese Military Police](#) captured them and jailed them for guerrilla activities. On 15 August, they were evacuated by a Japanese destroyer and never heard from again. The exact fate of the survivors is unknown.^[32]

Though Admiral Christie knew better, for morale reasons, all hands were reported as having gone down with the boat, but other prisoners on Palawan reported that the boat's skipper, Lieutenant Commander [Manning Kimmel](#), son of Admiral Husband Kimmel, was one of the survivors. After an air strike on Palawan, the Japanese were so angered that they pushed Kimmel and the other prisoners into a ditch, poured in gasoline, and burned them alive. This incident was reported by [Clay Blair Jr.](#), a submarine veteran of the war and author of the definitive work *Silent Victory: The US Submarine War Against Japan* (see Volume 2, pp660–662 for details).

[USS Robalo - Wikipedia](#)

<https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-robalo-273-loss.htm>

Discovery of the USS Robalo (SS-273)

The final resting place of USS Robalo was discovered by divers of the Sea Scan Survey Team in Philippine waters in May of 2019, and the identity of the wreck has been verified by the the Naval History and Heritage Command. See the [Submarine Discoveries](#) page for more information in the discovery of this vessel.

See the YouTube video of the discovery at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whNrzuPp5x8>, and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's tribute to the boat and her men at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAe6lh7gCaA>.

The following men were lost while serving on USS Robalo (SS-273). At least four men survived her sinking, but died in captivity. In some accounts, two others (Commanding Officer Manning Marius Kimmel and one unnamed man) are also said to have survived the sinking, but were killed in captivity.

Note that the location of the sinking, previously listed as "Two miles off west coast of Palawan Island, PI," has been changed to "Off the east coast of Balabac Island, PI," to reflect current research.

[Robalo \(SS 273\) \(navy.mil\)](#)



Museums & Memorials USS Robalo (SS-273) & Manila American Cemetery



Liberty Station NTC Park 2455 Cushing Rd, San Diego, CA 92106

[USS Robalo - San Diego, CA - Disaster Memorials on Waymarking.com](#)

[Google Earth 32°44'11.6" N 117°12'38.6" W 32°44'11.6"N 117°12'38.6"W - Google Maps](#)



[U.S.S. Robalo \(SS-273\) Memorial – Fargo, North Dakota](#)

[lost-at-sea-memorials.com » U.S.S. Robalo \(SS-273\) Memorial – Fargo, North Dakota](#)

Manila American Cemetery

Lat 14 32.483 N Long 121 03.008 E Manila American Cemetery is located six miles southeast of the center of [Manila](#). This location was part of [Fort William McKinley \(Fort Bonifacio\)](#) in [Taguig](#) southeast of [Manila](#). To the south is [Libingan ng mga Bayani \(LNMB, Cemetery of the Heroes\)](#). The cemetery is accessible by taxi or private automobile via Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Highway 54) and the McKinley Road. The Nichols Field Road connects the cemetery to [Manila International Airport \(Nichols Field\)](#).

During the late 1940s known as the United States Military Cemetery Fort McKinley, Manila. Also known as U.S. Armed Forces Cemetery, Manila. Remains that were stored at this location prior to burial or for transshipment to the United States were stored in the American Graves Registration Service Mausoleum (AGRS Mausoleum).

On December 8, 1960 Manila American Cemetery was officially dedicated encompassing a total of 152 acres. The cemetery is the largest cemetery and memorial administered by the [American Battle Monuments Commission \(ABMC\)](#) with 17,058 burials. Manila American Cemetery also includes mosaic maps of the Pacific War 1941-1945, monument, chapel, tablets of the missing memorializing 36,286.

Tablets of the Missing

The tablets of the missing at Manila American Cemetery list the names of 36,285 [American Missing In Action \(MIA\)](#) from the Pacific War from the China Burma India (CBI), South-West Pacific Area (SWPA) and the South Pacific. The list of names for the tablets of the missing was finalized around 1958, with corrections made to the list until 1960.

See Manila American Cemetery, Page 43

Museums & Memorials Manila American Cemetery

Continued from Page 42

The tablets were engraved in Terni marble in Italy. The names of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients have a gold inlay. Rosettes are added to the names of those who were recovered and are no longer missing. Those missing in the Central Pacific are memorialized at the court of the missing at [National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific \(Punchbowl\)](#).

References

[American Battle Monuments Commission \(ABMC\) - Manila American Cemetery and Memorial](#)
[FindAGrave - Manila American Cemetery and Memorial \(Fort William McKinley Cemetery\)](#)

Thanks to Hubert Caloud, former assistant superintendent of Manila American Cemetery for additional information

[Contribute Information](#)

Do you have photos or additional information to add?

Last Updated

January 1, 2024

[Pacific Wrecks - Manila American Cemetery, Philippines](#)

Museums & Memorials USS Drum (SS-228)

USS DRUM (SS-228) Submarine was launched May 12, 1941, by Portsmouth Navy Yard, New Hampshire, and sponsored by Mrs. Thomas Holcomb. She was commissioned November 1, 1941, with CDR R. H. Rice in command. USS DRUM arrived at Pearl Harbor from the East Coast on April 1, 1942. After a voyage to Midway, she cleared Pearl Harbor on April 14, 1942, action bound on her first war patrol. Cruising off the coast of Japan, she sank the seaplane Tender MIZUHO and three cargo ships in the month of May, returning to Pearl Harbor on June 12 to refit. The DRUM's second war patrol, which she made in the waters between Truk and Kavieng from July 10 to September 2, found her efforts frustrated by poor torpedo performance, but she damaged one freighter before returning to Midway to refit.

Continue reading here [Microsoft Word - Website 2016 - Explore - USS DRUM long history.docx \(ussalabama.com\)](#)

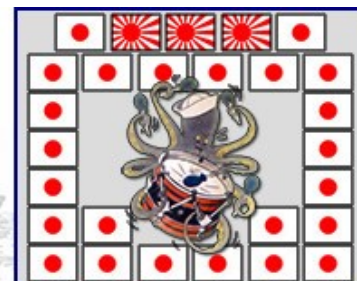
[Virtual Tour] [USS Drum - USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park](#)



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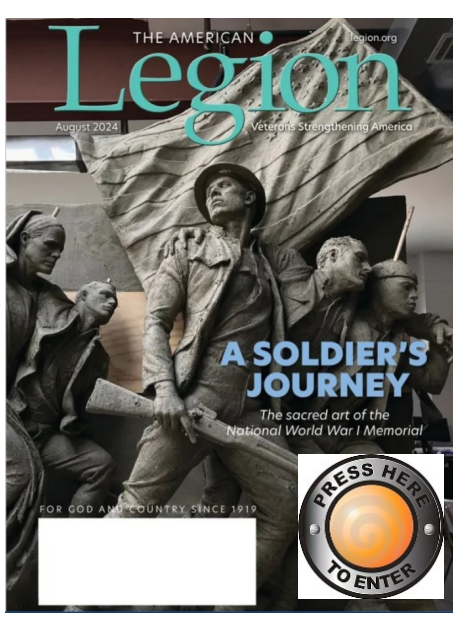
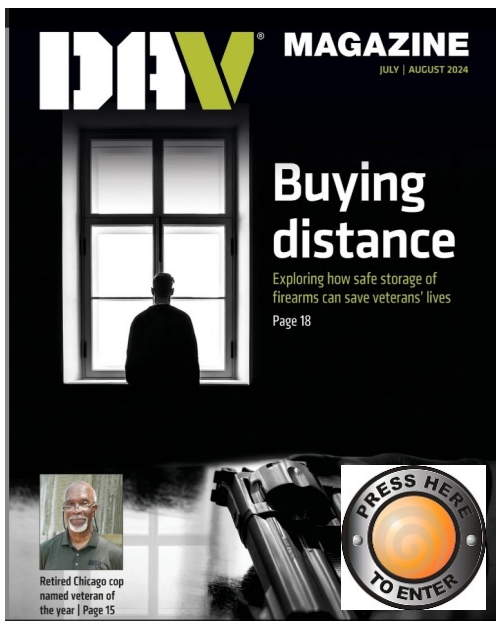
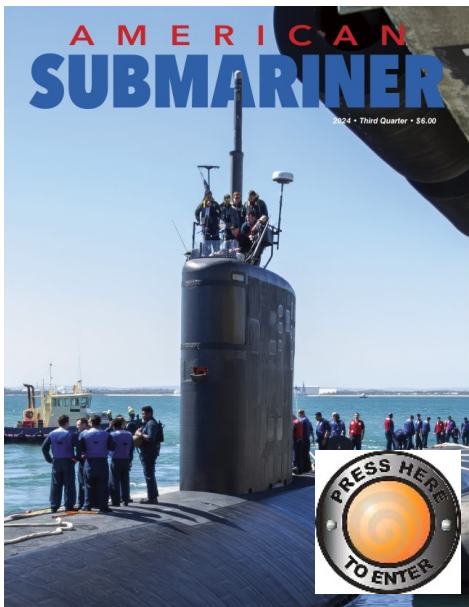
OClose accounts—including share drafts/checks, debit, credit or ATM cards—that have been tampered with or used fraudulently. Contact all financial institutions and lenders, credit card issuers, utility companies, and the Social Security Administration to notify them of the fraud. Follow up each conversation with a letter.

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File a complaint with the FTC. Visit <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft> for more information.

Slept out – When you have slept so much that you can't sleep anymore. Not applicable to Sonar Technicians, Radioman, and Navigation Electronics Technicians.

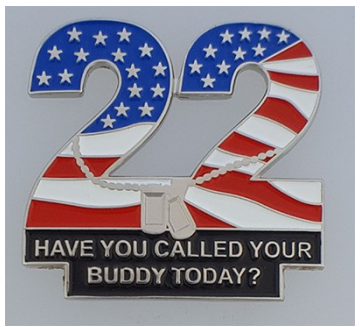
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- 04: (1100 – 1300) TTF Bangor SK Visit
- 17: E-Board Zoom
- 21: (1000) General Membership Meeting

October 2024

- 02: (1100 – 1300) TTF Bangor SK Visit
- 15: E-Board Zoom
- 19: (1000) General Membership Meeting

November 2024

- 06: (1100 – 1300) TTF Bangor SK Visit
- 12: E-Board Zoom
- 16: (1000) General Membership Meeting

[Fast Attacks & Boomers: Submarines in the Cold War](#)

Other Base Events in this Issue of the Puget Soundings

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- Soup Downs —Page 17
- Parades—Page 19

