



October/November 2024
VOL MMXXIV Issue 06

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Class 1 2024
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.



Folsom Veterans Day Parade Full Crew of Qualified Submariners—Bravo Zula Gold Country

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Annual Dues Payment Deadline Approaching

Holliday Party Reservations

Deadline Dec. 1st

More Information See Page 17



Now Hear This!

Next Meeting—November 23, 2024 Potluck @ 12 noon Meeting Starts 1pm Folsom Veterans Hall -1300 Forrest St., Folsom

First Call to Morning Chow Tuesday December 10, 2024 0930 @ Denny's Restaurant, 100 North Sunrise, Roseville



Shipmates, We have been busy the last couple of weeks. We had a great turnout for the Folsom Veteran Day Parade on November 11, we had 25 members to ride the float. We were positioned number 6 of 58 entries. We began the parade at 9 am and made it 2/3 of the parade route before the rain came. The crowds were lighter than in the past, due to the rain. They were very energetic and did lots of flag waving and of course loved the submarine float and the load Klaxon.

John Kelly and I took the float down to Bass Pro Shop in Rocklin and set it out in front of the store. Bass Pro Shops had set up a couple tables and chairs. They supplied us with coffee and pastries to share with veterans as they came into the store. The named the event "A Veteran's Day round up." We sat around the tables, shared our sea stories, drank coffee, and ate pastries. We visited with about 25 to 30 veterans from all branches of the military and all age groups. Bass Pro Shops provided us with challenge coins to hand out to the veterans as they entered the store. Chuck Jamison joined us, and we gathered around the missing man table that Bass Pro Shop had set up. He played the service song for all branches of the service on his bagpipes as it echoed throughout the store. He ended the ceremony with "America the Beautiful" on his bagpipes. We were hoping for more attendance, but the rain keeps many veterans away.

Earlier in the month Barry, Mark, and I took a trip to present plaques to the Sheriff of Yolo Country and Lt. Ha. Lt. Ha was the officer that arranged the flotilla of 11 boats that supported our December 7th event last year. The presentation ceremony was attended by 20 plus sheriffs and the Yolo Sheriff guaranteed that they will always be a boat on the water to support our December 7 event.

My granddaughter (Cassidy Demakas) is a student teacher at Rocklin elementary school. She wanted to do something with her 2nd and 3rd class to explain to them what Veteran's Day means. So, she interviewed me on what veteran's day means to me and played back to her students. So, we decided to make her students "Submariners for the Day." She handed out certificates to each student, pictures of old submarines from old calendars, and each student got a Kaps-4-K hat. They loved it!

Reminder – Spread the word on the December 7th event and pass out the flyer. Pay your dues before the price goes up on the first of the year.

Get your money in for the Holiday Party as soon as you can so we can give the restaurant the headcount.

Les Jamison, Base Commander

VICE-COMMANDER



Hello Shipmates,

The base participated in the Folsom Veteran's Day Parade. Due to the weather, it seemed that the crowd wasn't as big as we've seen in the past. As we proceeded along the parade route. I noticed many veterans in the crowd. As we passed by, I felt grateful that I was part of a group that was celebrating together. It felt nice to be part of a group that was sitting on the float in the parade. I tried to think of another group of veterans supporting each other like the SubVets. I felt a warm and fuzzy feeling riding on that float. I am very grateful to be part of Gold Country Base.

Another event I was part of recently that was also provided the same feeling was at the Yolo County Sheriff's office. Les, Barry, and I traveled to Woodland to present plaques to Sheriff Tom Lopez and Lieutenant Mike Ha the base's appreciation for the Sheriff's water patrol boats during our December 7 Pearl Harbor Ceremony for several years. It was a very nice visit with the Sheriff saying "as long as I am the Sheriff, there will be boats at the ceremony". We were

invited to join lunch with the Sheriff's Team of Active Retired Citizens (S.T.A.R.S.) who volunteer in Yolo County through a variety of nonhazardous enforcement activities. It was a very nice trip.

I encourage all my shipmates to participate in these types of events. I get much satisfaction and pride for USSVI and Gold Country Base.

Congratulations to Gold Country Base for the 2024 Golden Anchor Award.

Congratulations to Barry for receiving the Newsletter of the Year Award for Clear the Baffles

SubVet Check-in Program

I will contact Larry Williams to invite him to the November monthly meeting since he has not been able to join us in a long time.

Les Jamison has been providing transportation to Jack and Pat Everett for our monthly meetings and other events. As we said in the Navy, "Bravo Zulu Les".

Again, I would like to remind everyone to make a call to a shipmate we haven't seen for a while. All it takes is a short phone call to check-in with a person to provide some support. These calls provide a good deal of satisfaction. MAKE A CALL

Mark Elftmann , Vice Commander

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Guard Your Mouth

We all have at one time or another said things we regretted to people. The Bible says: "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3 Keeping watch over our mouth has many benefits. Just that it allows others to trust us is already a



huge benefit. Another is: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers." Ephesians 4:29 Speaking good rather than bad is encouraging to ourselves as well as to others whether they are children, friends or even strangers. As we look back at those who helped us be successful, we have motive enough to guard our mouth. Think about it why and who encouraged you to become a submariner.

Howard Grover, Base Chaplain



Shipmates, This is the busy season for the Treasurer / Membership Chair position. Dues are coming in (thank you to all who have already paid) and our new Treasurer / Membership Chair Bill Sugnet will be taking the reins soon. Base dues and booster donations are our base's major source of revenues to support

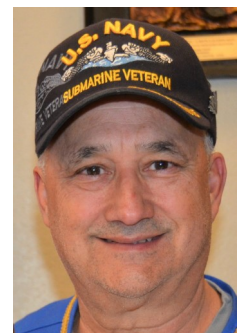


our activities. Please remember that the eBoard decided NOT to raise the base dues this year to allow members to be extra generous with your booster donations.

Nick Sadowy, Base Treasurer/Membership Chair



Greeting Shipmates, Well, the fall is finally here, and we sure did get a little wet at the Folsom Veterans day parade, but it really wasn't that bad since it was at the end of the parade. Always a good time at the Folsom parade and being with all of you. Also looking forward to our Christmas party and hope most of you can join us, should be a good time like always. Jerry and I will be



checking out the shed the next meeting to see how our roof repairs went after the rain we've had lately. Fingers crossed! Everyone don't forget to get your flu shots asap we sure want to see everyone at the meetings this fall. Take care and be safe and healthy, see you all soon!

Gene Ratto, (COB) Chief of the Boat

OFFICER'S COUNTRY

Historian



Shipmates, As the Base Historian, I still working on the article about the history behind how the “USS Gold Country Base” submarine float came into being. I interviewed Jerry Wentland in October and did get many more interesting details for my article. I have many photos of the float after that date, and from Barry Wyatt, but Jerry Wentland has some more photographs of



when the float was being constructed that will make the history of it more complete. We’ll meet sometime in December to add them to the float photo collection.

As the Gold Country Base Photographer, I continue to attend as many Gold Country Base events as I am able to. I was able to attend our October base meeting to take Photographs of members and guest speakers and I attended the November First Call to First Call to Morning Chow at Denny’s restaurant and had the Denny’s waitress take photos with my camera so I could actually be in one for a change. She’s getting very good at it.

Photographer



My wife Kathy and I needed to travel frequently to Santa Barbara to help family with health and other transitional issues. We are scheduled to be there again in late November to assist them. I’m very thankful to be available for most of our Gold Country Base events and I appreciate those who can fill in for me in my absence.

Roger Paul, Historian / Photographer

Events Coordinator



Shipmates, Our Dec 7th memorial is our premier event of the year. This year it is on a Saturday, we are hoping for the largest turnout ever for this year's event. My part for this event is coordination but for it to be successful it takes a team effort. Thank you to John Kelly, Chad Clay, and the many other members who pitch in. I look forward to seeing all of you at 0700 to help set up. Please visit the website and our Facebook page from time to



time. If you see anything out of sorts let me know as soon as possible.

Base website - <https://www.goldcountrybase.org/>

Base Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ussvigoldcountrybase>

Follow progress for the 2025 USSVI Western Region Roundup - <https://wrroundup.com/>

Ed McCarthy Web Master/Events Coordinator

OFFICER'S COUNTRY



Hello Ladies,

Holiday season is upon us, I just have a few reminders. First, I want to say have a great, safe, and blessed holiday.

Our annual gift exchange will be at our "First Call to Chow" on January 15th at Dennys at 9:30am this year due to our busy December schedule. We have set a \$25 price limit on our exchange gifts.



Money for our annual dinner is requested by December 1st as we need to give the restaurant a count for our December 12th holiday event. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Payments can be made on the Gold Country Base website by selecting Donations and making a notation "This is for payment for holiday dinner." You can also bring a check or cash to the meeting on Saturday November 23. Please make your check payable to Gold Country Base. Any questions should be directed to Les Jamison at 407-509-7814 or ljamison3049@gmail.com

Be Safe, **SubVet Support Group Commander, Penny Jamison**



Shipmates,

On Veterans day we had our submarine at the Folsom parade, other than a little rain we all had a good time and a minor issue with the float which has been tended to. The rain helped wash the boat and the riders! We had no leaks on the submarine!

We have the new 7 December stands done! Only 2 years late. Our design team made them Army proof! All bolts have Loc tite on them so no more lost nuts. We have only 8 stands down from the 13 we had in prior years, each stand will hold more plaques.

With the boat being in the SRF facility for upgrade, we have also completed the new system for moving the stands for 7 Dec. All parts of the system are color coded for simple installation and the stands have a color code on them to aid in correct loading them onto the system for transportation.

With an issue on Veterans day on the float, we had the upholstery crew install new snaps on the boat banner. The velcro was just not holding in the cool weather, or it was worn out.

We hope everyone and their families a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with a happy new year. Does anyone have any idea where the years have gone!

John Kelly, Dry Dock Manager



Gold Country Base Officers



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



Vice Commander
Awards Chairman
Folsom JVO Rep.
Mark Eftmann
Qualified 1975
USS William H Bates SSN 680
(916) 243-9265



Base Secretary
Diana Clay
Associate Member
(916) 832-0936
dianac5353@gmail.com



Base Treasurer
Membership Chair
Nick Sadowy
Qualified 1991
USS Sturgeon SSN 637
(916) 601-8910 nick@sadowy.com



Chief of the Boat (COB)
Gene Ratto
Qualified 1978
USS Abraham Lincoln
SSBN 602
(279) 600-9400
gene_ratto1@comcast.net



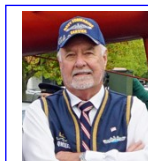
Base Chaplain
Howard Grover
Qualified 1963
USS Spikefish SS 404
Life Member
Holland Club
(209) 245-4067 hgrover@jps.net



Base Photographer
Base Historian
Roger Paul
Qualified 1972
USS Haddock SSN 621
(916) 390-3569 rapaulplus@msn.com



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



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



**Eagle Scout
Coordinator**
Gil Miller
Qualified 1963
USS Becuna SS 319
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 365-6721
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org



**Guest Speakers
Coordinator**
Naval Youth Liaison
Chad Clay
Qualified 1965
USS Daniel Boone SSBN 629
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 502-1623 chdclay@gmail.com



Dry Dock Manager
John Kelly
Qualified 1976
USS Pogy (SSN-647)
Life Member
(916) 989-8500
thejbark@gmail.com



Storekeeper
Jerry Wentland
U.S. Army
Associate Member
(530) 613-6729
nwentland@att.net



**First Call to Morning
Chow Coordinator**
Harold Fisher
Qualified 1965
USS Medregal AGSS 480
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 782-5748 navigator@surewest.net



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



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



**USSVI Western
District 5 Commander**
J. Barry Wyatt
Qualified 1965
USS Henry Clay SSBN 625
Life Member Holland Club
(916) 600-1425



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

Lost Boats

November

USS Albacore (SS-218)

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



USS Growler (SS-215)

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



USS Scamp (SS-277)

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



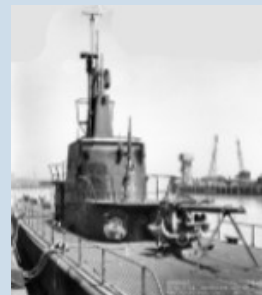
USS Corvina (SS-226)

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



USS Sculpin (SS-191)

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



Birthdays

October

Fred Dalbello Pete Juhos Ron Rule

Barry Wyatt Penny Jamison

Nick Sadowy Chad Clay

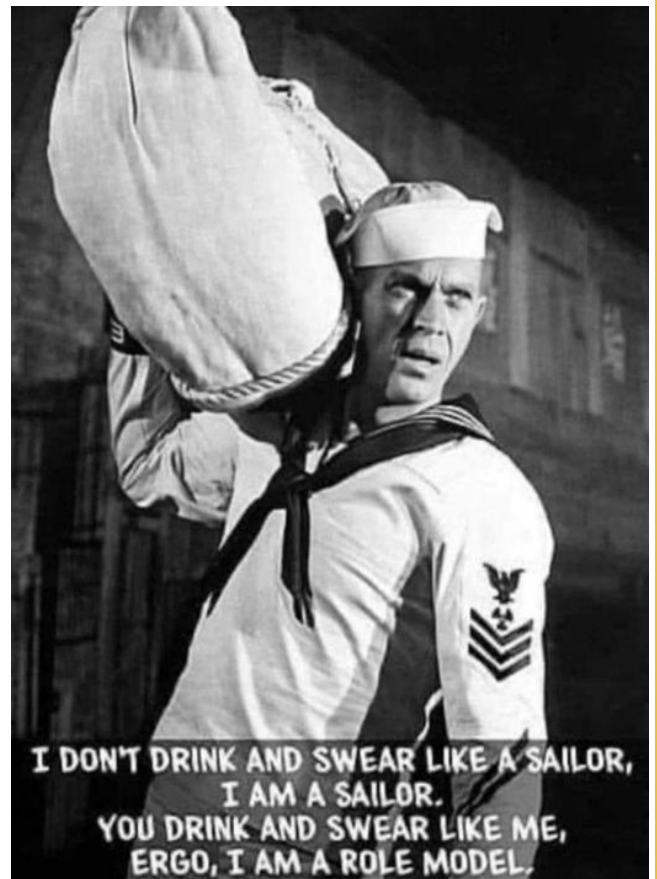
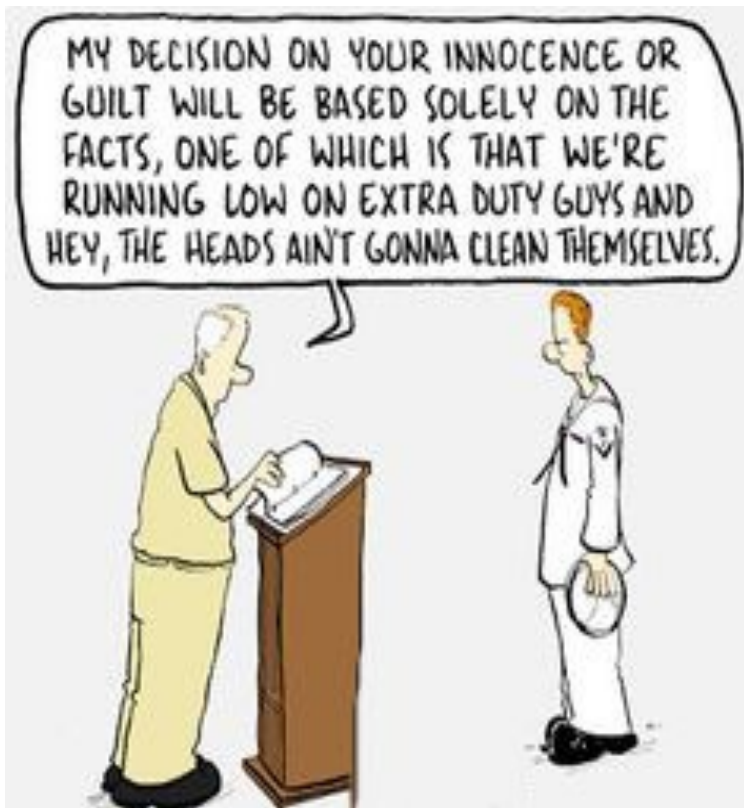
November

Mike Delleney George Miyao Tom Moniz

Jerry Wentland



On The Lighter Side





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

Gold Country Base Booster's

Ed Alves Janet Alves* Bill Barron**

Jerry Bowers Richard Brasher Regy Bronner**

Anita Bronner John Clark* Dennis Cline**

Mike Delleney Mark Elftmann**

Glynis Elftmann Frank Elliott Ken Earls**

Kevin Fillhouer Harold Fisher Janet Fisher**

Howard Grover Dennis Henderson**

Bill Hunt Les Jamison Penny Jamison*

Pete Juhos Debbie Juhos* Alvin Lehman**

Matt Lettau James MacLean* John Mannix*

George Miyao Tom Moniz* Alan More*

Ed Myers Harry Pagett Roger Paul**

Gene Ratto Elvin Ritscher Gary Robinson*

Nick Sadowy Louie Slayton William Sugnet*

*Jerry Wentland Barry Wyatt**

** Multi-Year Donors*

VA Information

California expands mental health services and programs for veterans

SACRAMENTO — CalVet recently announced awards of \$33.2 million in grants to community organizations providing services to 45 of California's 58 counties through the California Veterans Health Initiative, Mental Health Support Grant Program (CVHI-MHSGP). The CVHI-MHSGP enables community-based organizations to expand access to outpatient mental health treatment options for California's veterans and their families.

The grants are designed to increase veterans' access to mental health services, reduce patient wait times for appointments, and develop veteran-specific mental health care options.

In addition, the community-based providers that are awarded CVHI grants will apply the funding to expanding statewide telehealth and other accessible mental health services to veterans and their families. The grants will also work to increase California's mental health workforce specializing in the veteran population by providing training and clinical supervision to the next generation of mental health professionals.

A projected total of 100,000 outpatient therapy and counseling sessions will be available via the seven community-based grant recipients, along with wraparound case management and peer support services.

For more information on the CVHI-MHSGP, along with a list of grantees, please visit www.calvet.ca.gov/CVHI.



USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES October 26, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:05. Commander Les Jamison read the USSVI Creed and Purpose.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

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

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 27 members and 5 guests in attendance including 0 new member and 1 new associate member.

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR CHAD CLAY INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

4X Olympian champion, Mark Fuller, Olympic wrestler.

Motion to suspend the order of the day for Base Election. Passed by Acclamation

Base Election conducted by District Commander Barry Wyatt

Les Jamison – Base Commander

Bill Sugnet – Base Treasurer/Membership

FORMAL REPORTS:

BASE COMMANDER: Les Jamison - No report

VICE COMMANDER: Mark Elftmann

Committee is formed to include Les, Mark and Chad to search for another hall after 12 months.

SECRETARY: Diana Clay - No report

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

TREASURER Base Treasurer: Nick Sadowy

The books are in balance. Any base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email. Beginning January 1, 2025 National dues will increased from \$30 to \$40. Spouses of regular members who become associate members are not required to pay either national or base dues. Base dues will remain at \$25. Notices will be sent to all members by the Base Treasurer. Bill Sugnet will take over as Treasurer beginning January 2025.

MEMBERSHIP: Nick Sadowy

We have 95 members

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt

Barry will publish the Newsletter in mid-November. Anyone with a sea story is welcome to contribute it to the newsletter.

Barry is in contact with Yolo County Sheriff's department to present a certificate to honor them on November 4 @ 11:30 at the Yolo Sheriff's office.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Lenard Lee - No report

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller—No report

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Howard Grover

Visited Larry Williams, age 92, is not doing well.

BASE PHOTOGRAPHER: Roger Paul

He is working on taking more photos and would like personal photos of each member.

NAVY YOUTH LIASON: Chad Clay

Sea Cadets will do the color guard for December 7th.

HISTORIAN: Roger Paul

WEB-MASTER: Ed McCarthy

Is adding future events to the website.

Minutes continued on next page

USSVI-GOLD COUNTRY BASE MEETING MINUTES October , 2024 (continued)

STOREKEEPER: Jerry Wentland

Ties are in for \$35, calendars are in for \$12

He and Gene are almost done fixing the supply room. There shouldn't be any leaks.

KAPS4KIDS COORDINATOR: Les Jamison - No report

SUBVET CHECK-IN PROGRAM: Mark Elftmann

Feedback would be appreciated for anyone making calls.

EVENTS COORDINATOR: Ed McCarthy

Veteran's Day parade – November 11—Folsom @ Lowe's parking lot, arrive at 7:30 am, parade begins at 9:00am.

December 7, Discovery Park waterfront, arrive @ 7:00 am. Gate code is SubVets2024.

Holiday party—December 12—at McClellan Officer's Club. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 a couple. For non-members it will be \$70. For people who don't drive at night, we might organize drivers to pick them up.

First Call to Morning Chow Gife Exchange on December 10 will be postponed to January 13, 2025. as we have so many activities planned for December.

Western Region update: 1st week of March 2025, Queen Mary in Long Beach. Registration is \$60, lunch \$50, dinner \$70. Group Room Rate is \$209 per night

GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR: Chad Clay

Speaking for the December 7 event will be Retired Capt. Alan Hearl.

New member Kevin Swindler will be our speaker in November.

WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR: Pete Juhos

Recruited Victor Lopez Botero as an Associate member. He is from Columbia and is very excited to be part of our group.

Good of the Order / Communications:

From last meeting: Bill Sugnet is helping with the fundraising of the bricks. Bricks cost \$90. Once they are made they will put them in place. We have 64 to have prepared. We have enough money for 13 bricks at this time. We are looking for donations to apply to this.

Chad is working with the people in charge of the Capital Air Show for us to have a booth. There is a Navy recruiting booth that might allow us to join them.

Old Business:

Minutes from September approved

First Call to Morning Chow:

Date & Time – 11/12/2024 9:30 am @ Denny's Restaurant, 122 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

Next Base Meeting: November 23, 2024, noon for potluck lunch and 1:00 meeting

We would like to have a Thanksgiving dinner for our potluck lunch. Unless already planned, please bring a dessert or salad. (Ed will do the turkey, Jamison's will do potatoes, Clays will do the stuffing, Swindles will make apple pie.)

E-board Zoom meeting: November 16, 2024 9:00 am

50/50 Won By: \$53 Mark Elftmann

Meeting adjournment:

Base Chaplin, Howard Grover, gave a closing prayer.

Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 14:40

Submitted by Diana Clay, Base Secretary

Gold Country Base SubVet Check-In

Several of our Shipmates are unable to attend monthly meeting or participate in the events. Both of the men below gave there all to our base. Please take the time to give them a call or a visit. .

Reginald "Regybear" Bronner

Regy joined USSVI in 1998 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Vice Commander from 2016 through 2020.



**Regy Bronner SOG3 (SS)
and his wife Anita**

**Regy is residing at Atria Rocklin 3201 Santa Fe Way, Rocklin CA
95765 (916) 435-8281.**

Best time to visit or call Regy is early afternoon.

Larry Williams IC2 (SS)

Larry joined USSVI in 2012 and is a Life and Holland Club member. He is a Plank Owner of Gold Country Base. He served as Base Treasurer from 2013 through 2016.



**Larry and his
wife Diana**

**Larry lives at home 1630 Pheasant Run Dr. Placerville, CA 95667 (530)
435-8281. Best time to call or visit Larry is early afternoon.**

Some of our members have no way to get to a Base Meeting or First Call. If you would be willing to give them a ride contact Base Vice -Commander Mark Eftmann (916) 243-9265 and he will set it up



Gold Country Base News

October Base Meeting



**District Commander
Barry Wyatt conducts Base
Election**



**Newly elected
Base Treasurer/Membership Chair
Bill Sugnet**



**Re-elected Base Commander
Les Jamison**



**Guest Speaker Coordinator
Chad Clay**



**Guest Speaker 4 Time Olympian
Mark Fuller**



**Vice Commander
Mark Elftmann**

Gold Country Base News



As far back as anyone can remember the Yolo County Sheriffs Marine Patrol Division has provided the personnel and patrol boat for us to place a memorial wreath in the river for our December 7th remembrance event. Gold Country put together a plaque presentation to show our gratitude for their continued support.

District Commander Barry Wyatt speaks about the 37 years history of our event.



Base Commander Les Jamison & Vice Commander Mark Elftmann present plaques to Yolo Sheriff Tom Lopez and Lieutenant Mike Ha, Marine Patrol Supervisor



Gold Country Base News

Annual Holiday Dinner

Thursday December 12

Doors Open at 5:00pm

Dinner at 6:00pm



McClellan Officers Club

3410 Westover Street

Sacramento (McClellan), CA 95652

\$40 single \$75 couple (member plus 1) \$70 for additional guests

Reservation Deadline December 1st Pay online at www.goldcountrybase.org
or bring a check or cash to the meeting on Saturday. Additional information contact

Les Jamison at 407-509-7814 basecommander@goldcountrybase.org

Pay on Line - Log on www.goldcountrybase.org

Click on **Donation**—then **Donate**—Enter the Amount & on the note enter Dinner
Enter credit card information and click on **Donate**

National and Base Dues Deadline Approaching

National dues increase on January 1st. (See chart Below)



USSVI Annual & Lifetime Dues Table			
USSVI National Dues	Years Renewed / Age at Lifetime	Current Dues until 12/31/2024	Revised Dues as of 01/01/2025
Annual Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$ 35.00	\$ 47.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00	\$ 113.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00	\$ 185.00
Lifetime Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00	\$ 150.00
	66-75 Years	\$ 240.00	\$ 300.00
	56-65 Years	\$ 360.00	\$ 450.00
	46-55 Years	\$ 500.00	\$ 625.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00	\$ 750.00

**Not sure how to pay or what you owe contact: Base Treasurer
Nick Sadowy (916) 601-8910**

membership@goldcountrybase.org

Gold Country Base News



"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." President Franklin D. Roosevelt



Saturday December 7th, 2024 is the 83rd Anniversary of the attack on Pearl

Harbor. For the past 37 years the greater Sacramento area United States Submarine Veterans have honored that date with a **Memorial and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Discovery Park.**

The full military ceremony is open to all veterans, active-duty personnel, their families and the general public as well. If members of your group are planning on attending, please RSVP so that we can add the name of your group to our program.

Guest Speaker: Captain Alan Hearl, United States Navy Chaplain Corps (Ret.)

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

21 Gun Salute: Marine Corps League Post 940

River Support: Yolo County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Division

Bugler: Baldwin Wong

Piper: Neil Henderson

When: Saturday, December 7, 2024 0900 (Rain or Shine)

Where: Discovery Park, Sacramento, CA

More Information: Contact Ed McCarthy, Events Coordinator (916) 995-5196 or Barry Wyatt, Ceremony Coordinator (916) 600-1425 sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com

The vehicle entry fee will be waived for this event.

PLEASE USE THE COUPON CODE – SUBVETS24 at the Pay Station for your Parking Pass/Receipt.

Any vehicle not displaying the parking pass will be subject to the park vehicle entrance fee.



Gold Country Base Memorial Brick Project

Gold Country Memorial Brick Fund

Your Contribution is Tax Deductible

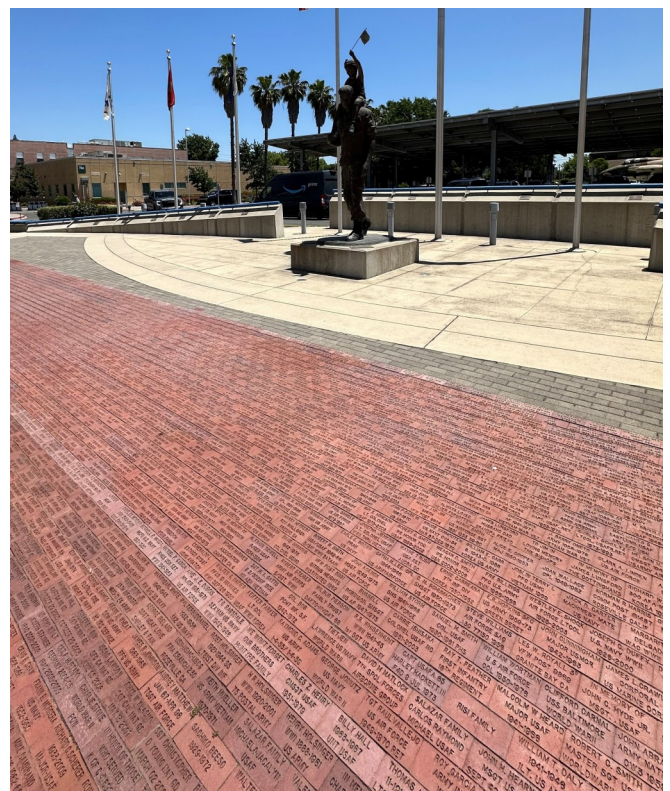
Gold Country Base was originally chartered by USSVI as “USS Holland (SS1) Gold Country Base” in September or October of 2000 and was re-chartered “Gold Country Base” in 2014. During our almost 24 years we have lost a total of 63 Members to Eternal Patrol.

We have created a project to raise funds to purchase a Brick at the Mather Veterans Memorial for each of those 63 members. The total Current cost for the project is \$5850 so a goal to raise \$6000 has been set.

Our National Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) has set up a link on their site which will allow for all **contributions to be tax deductible.**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/gold-country-base-memorial-brick-fund.html>

Or Use This QR Code



USSVI Western Region & National News

USSVI Western Region Roundup

A Gathering of Submariners

March 6 - 9, 2025

**The Queen Mary
Long Beach, California**

Hosted By

USSVI LA/Pasadena Base

www.wrroundup.com



United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
PO Box 1063, Groton, CT 06340-1063
(360) 337-2978 ussvi@telebyte.net

Jon Jaques
National Commander

November 8, 2024

Dear Barry,

Thank you for all you do for USSVI! I appreciate your work as district commander!

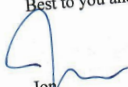
One of my goals as national commander is to recognize our shipmates who fly under the radar yet deserve recognition. I want to send out 2 or 3 national commander's coins per week to deserving shipmates. Please let me know if you feel an individual in your district needs our recognition.

I would also be interested to know your thoughts on how we can make USSVI more meaningful to our shipmates. We have made much needed improvements to the website, improved the articles in the American Submariner, and developed a more consistent email communication process for all members. What can we do to further our value?

As our membership continues to age, we have to adopt a motto of "Shipmates Helping Shipmates." The bases are a valuable part of this mission as is the charitable foundation brotherhood fund. The recent hurricanes which hit Florida, North Carolina and East Tennessee show how great the submarine veteran family truly is. We received multiple calls of inquiry if any help was needed for our affected shipmates.

Finally, I am always available if you need to reach me. My cell number is 615-423-3740 and my email is jjaques@bellsouth.net

Best to you and yours,


Jon
NC

**Newly Elected
National Commander
Jon Jaques**

**Reaching out to the
membership is a great start
for the man we chose to lead
our organization forward.**

**Bravo Zula
Commander Jaques**

USS Naval Sea Cadets



US Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SACRAMENTO DIVISION TS CALIFORNIA

Building Leaders of Character

The mission of the United States

Naval Sea Cadet Corps is to build leaders of character.

Leadership opportunities and learning valuable skills open a wide variety of career paths for our cadets. A recent poll showed that 65% of cadets were interested in joining the military. According to the U.S. Navy, more than 500 former Sea Cadets join the United States Navy in a typical year 10% to 12% of graduating Sea Cadets will enter each incoming U.S. Naval Academy Class.

Cadet of the Month

PO2 Sydnie Hoeltje, SACDIV125, ALPO

“I have been a dedicated member of the Sacramento Division, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps for over 2 years. After I graduate, I'm excited to take the next step in my journey. This coming fall 2025, I'll be heading to Jessup University to pursue a major in Nursing. I'm passionate about helping others and can't wait to begin my studies and work toward a career in Nursing. My experiences so far have shaped my drive to serve, lead, and make a positive impact on the world around me.”



Sea Story From The Crew

Once Upon a Time in the Ice

It was the early spring of 1963, and I was a “non-qual” RM3 (fresh out of Sub School) who had reported aboard the USS Becuna SS-319 (Balao Class GUPPY IA) six weeks earlier. Other than a few short underway outs and backs in Long Island Sound with Sub School students, Becuna was now headed for the Cabot Straits to participate in a NATO exercise known as “ICEX.” It was less than 6 months after the Cuban Crises had ended, and tensions were still very high between the United States and the USSR. As a “diesel boat,” our mission was to see if we could hold our own in a combat oriented rehearsal by practice firing dummy torpedoes, and recovering same while operating in the floe ice. We did all sorts of neat shit on



that two week underway; like freezing our butts off, eating a lot of cold and packaged box chow, and staying submerged under the ice until we could locate a “polynya to surface. Wow! This was high adventure for a 20 year old, and what I had signed up for when I enlisted in the USN. Well, it was at the completion of our “Ice Charades” that The Comm. Officer, LTJG Wm. Herman assigned me to gear up for a job on the deck. As a radioman, I didn’t spend too much time topside except standing a few lookout watches in my “Qualifications” requirements. We were at “All Stop” in the middle of a polynya when Lt. Herman said we are dragging the center-line antenna from its anchor at the stern. The center-line antenna is a cable/wire anchored to the aft portion of the sail and anchors aft close to the deck on the stern (forward of the “turtle-back”). The C.O. LTCDR Robert J. Anderson, was very concerned that the center-line antenna would entangle in the screws, and it would have to be hauled in before we submerged. Well for those of you who never served on a “smoke boat,” the decking is teak and a steel track dissects the deck and travels fore and aft of the sail to which a “crawler” can be attached to allow a crewman to move harnessed and tethered to perform work as required. It’s amazing I still remember all this submarine terminology after 60+ years. Gives meaning to the phrase “SQUID” (Submarine Qualified Until I Die)

Continued on next page

Sea Story From The Crew

Well, I went topside, Tethered up, attached the “crawler” and went aft. The sea was smooth with an occasional little roller wave moving the stern up and down a bit. Having reached the stern (which is extremely narrow decking), I hauled in the center-line. I had to lay prone on the deck, facing aft. in order to complete the task. Just as I stood up, a “rogue wave” hit stern first, and I lost my balance, dropped the coiled antenna on the deck, and tumbled over the side. (Nobody warned me about “rogue” .unseen waves). Sliding down the tank tops, I don’t remember hitting the freezing water. I immediately started pulling



on the tether, and my feet found the hull. I shinnied up onto the deck, grabbed the antenna, and scurried forward to the bridge. I remember going down into the Conn, and halfway down the ladder to Control, the Pharmacist Mate 1st Class handed me a shot glass with bourbon in it. I can’t recall his name, but he said; “the Captain is issuing you “three fingers of bourbon to warm you up.” Not bad for a “non-qual” was my first thought. My second thought was getting out of my soaking wet dungarees as fast as possible. This experience is just one of the amazing events that occurred during my 2.5 years as a “smoke boat” sailor. Would I do it again? Physically I don’t think I could do it. My vision, hearing and arthritis would be a hindrance for sure. Mentally, I would do it in a heartbeat.

Story Submitted by
Former Base Commander
and Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Gil Miller



Featured Boat

USS *Augusta* (SSN-710)

Is a *Los Angeles*-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for Augusta, Maine. The contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut on 31 October 1973 and her keel was laid down on 1 April 1983. She was launched on 21 January 1984 sponsored by Mrs. Diana D. Cohen, wife of U.S. Senator William Cohen and commissioned on 19 January 1985.

1986 Collision

On 20 October 1986, shortly after *K-219* sank and *Augusta* had returned to patrol, she collided with something and was forced to return to Groton for about US\$3 million in repairs to her bow and sonar sphere. The repairs were completed on 13 December 1986.



What she collided with is officially unknown. If not the *K-219*, it is suggested that she had been trailing a Delta-I ballistic missile submarine, and, unknown to *Augusta*, being trailed in turn by a Victor class submarine. If abrupt maneuvers were made, *Augusta* could have collided with the Delta. Photographs exist of a Delta submarine with a large dent in its starboard bow, which the Soviet Navy identified as *K-279*. In Russian version of book the soviet submarine is identified as *K-457*.

The Soviet Navy claims that on 3 October 1986, *Augusta* collided with the 667AU *Nalim* (Yankee-I) class ballistic missile submarine *K-219*, commanded by Igor Britanov, off the coast of Bermuda. The U.S. Navy states that *K-219* was disabled by an internal explosion.

General characteristics	
Class and type	<u><i>Los Angeles</i>-class submarine</u>
Displacement	5,786 tons light, 6,927 tons full, 378 tons dead
Length	110.3 m (361 ft 11 in)
Beam	10 m (32 ft 10 in)
Draft	9.7 m (31 ft 10 in)
Propulsion	<u>S6G nuclear reactor</u>
Speed	Surfaced: 20 knots (23 mph; 37 km/h) Submerged: +20 knots (23 mph; 37 km/h) (official)
Complement	15 officers, 115 enlisted
Sensors and processing systems	BQQ-5 passive <u>sonar</u> , BQS-15 detecting and ranging sonar, WLR-8 fire control <u>radar</u> receiver, WLR-9 acoustic receiver for detection of active search sonar and acoustic homing torpedoes, BRD-7 radio direction finder ^[1]
Armament	4 × 21 in (533 mm) bow tubes, 10 <u>Mk48 ADCAP torpedoes</u> reloads, <u>Tomahawk land attack missile</u> block 3 SLCM range 1,700 nautical miles (3,100 km), <u>Harpoon anti-surface ship missile</u> range 70 nautical miles (130 km), mine laying Mk67 mobile Mk60 captor mines
Service record	
Operations:	<u>Iraq War</u> (2003)

Continued on next page

Featured Boat

USS Augusta (SSN 710) continued)

Later service

In July 1987, *Augusta* began service as a trials boat for the BQG-5D Wide Aperture Array (WAA) passive sonar system and carrying the prototype BQQ-10 ARCI sonars, which incorporate off-the-shelf computer components, allowing easy introduction of modular upgrades.



In 2003, *Augusta* was part of a small group of submarines participating in Tomahawk Strikes against Iraq in the opening of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The boat successfully launched missiles against all assigned missions leaving the theater with 100% completion.

Augusta underwent extensive maintenance during 2006 to prepare for six-month deployment in 2007, which began in March and completed in September. *Augusta* changed her homeport to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, where she began decommissioning in January 2008, and completed the disassembly of her reactor on 24 November 2008.

Namesake:	Augusta, Maine
Awarded:	10 December 1973
Builder:	General Dynamics Corporation
Laid down:	1 April 1983
Launched:	21 January 1984
Commissioned:	19 January 1985
Decommissioned:	2008
Homeport:	Norfolk, Virginia
Motto:	<i>Protecting The Frontier Since 1754 "Any Mission, Any Time"</i>
Nickname:	"Gussie"
Honors and awards:	Arctic Service, Navy Expeditionary, Battle "E", Navy Unit Commendation, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary, Global War On Terrorism Service, Sea Service
Fate:	To be disposed of by submarine recycling



USS Augusta SSN-710
was the Qual Boat of
Gold Country Base
Treasurer Elect
Bill Sugnet

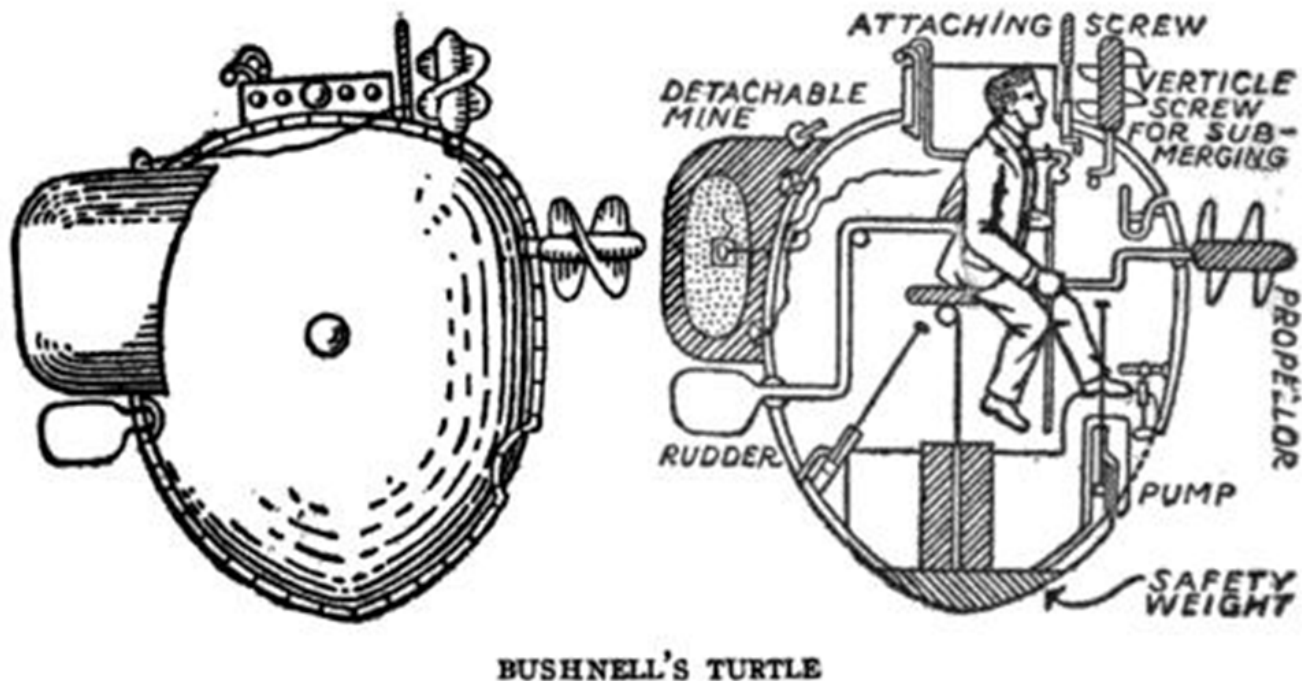
Story of Interest

Turtle” of 1776 – The First 'Submarine' Ever Used In War

The first large-scale example of submarine warfare took place in the First World War, with German U-boats sinking a number of Allied ships, and by the time the Second World War started in 1939, submarine warfare had become commonplace.

While submarines were invented long before the First World War, and were used for warfare as early as the American Civil War, you may be surprised to know that the first known use of a submersible craft in war dates all the way back to 1776, during the American Revolutionary War.

The watercraft in question was a tiny, one-man submersible craft called *Turtle*, and it was used to attack the British ship HMS *Eagle*, which was one of a number of Royal Navy ships that were blockading the Hudson River.



BUSHNELL'S TURTLE

Turtle, as this strange submersible watercraft was christened, was the brainchild of an American inventor named David Bushnell. Bushnell, born in Saybrook, Connecticut, was originally a farmer, but after selling his shares in the family farm in his early 30s, he entered Yale College and studied mathematics.

He graduated from Yale in 1775 – after having proved, during his studies, that gunpowder could be detonated underwater – and when the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, Bushnell decided to use what he had learned over the course of his studies to develop a method of attacking British ships from below the waves.

Thus, the idea for *Turtle* – the first ever submersible watercraft to be used in warfare – was born. This particular submersible, though, looked and worked nothing like the submarines of the 20th century.

Continued on next page

Story of Interest

(continued)

Made of oak with iron wrappings and brass fittings, and similar in shape to an acorn, *Turtle* was so named because it looked like two turtle shells stuck together. It was only big enough for a single person to fit inside, and was propelled through the water by means of a treadle-driven propeller and hand-operated crank, which required considerable effort to use, meaning that whoever was piloting the craft had to be very physically fit.

While the idea for *Turtle* was Bushnell's, he did have some assistance in its design, especially for the complex moving parts of the machinery used to propel the craft through the water, to dive and surface (done by brass pumps that pulled in or expelled seawater as ballast), and to steer the vessel.



These items were made, and possibly designed, by local clockmaker, brass manufacturer, silversmith and inventor Isaac Doolittle. Bushnell's brother Ezra also assisted with some aspects of *Turtle*'s design and volunteered to be its pilot.

In terms of weaponry, *Turtle* was pretty limited in that department. The idea behind *Turtle* was not that it would directly attack an enemy vessel, but rather that it could be used to get close enough to an enemy ship, undetected, in order to attach to the hull an explosive mine, containing around 150 pounds of black powder, which would then be detonated with a timer fuse. Hopefully, the mine would blow a large enough hole in the hull to sink the enemy ship.

Bushnell tested *Turtle* in the Connecticut River with his brother Ezra as the pilot. Things seemed to go well, so the craft was transported to Long Island Sound in preparation for active use. Ezra, however, fell ill, and thus a new pilot would have to be found and trained, which set the project back. Three suitable men were found, and, after having moved *Turtle* to the Hudson River for training, the craft was then towed to New York Harbor to attack the British fleet.

Turtle's first mission got underway at 11:00 PM on September 6, 1776. Piloted by Sergeant Ezra Lee, *Turtle* was targeting HMS *Eagle*, the Royal Navy's flagship in New York Harbor, which was moored off Governor's Island. Unfortunately for Lee, the currents were a lot stronger than he had anticipated and the darkness made it difficult to navigate.

By the time he reached HMS *Eagle*, he had been in the water for a number of hours and was likely suffering from both extreme fatigue and carbon dioxide inhalation. He made a few attempts to affix the mine to *Eagle*'s hull, but failed to do so. Seeing as dawn was approaching and he was exhausted, he chose to abort the mission. Disappointed, Bushnell and his team had *Turtle* taken to the Hudson River, where another attack was attempted and also failed.

Turtle ended up being destroyed when British artillery sank the tender that was transporting it, and thus the first ever submersible watercraft used in war was lost forever – somewhat fittingly – beneath the waves.

Bushnell, disappointed in *Turtle*'s lack of battlefield success, abandoned work on another submersible craft. He did, however, continue to work on floating mines, which he had some success with. He ended up attaining the rank of captain in the Continental Army's Corps of Engineers, and after the war he moved to Georgia and worked as a doctor and a professor.

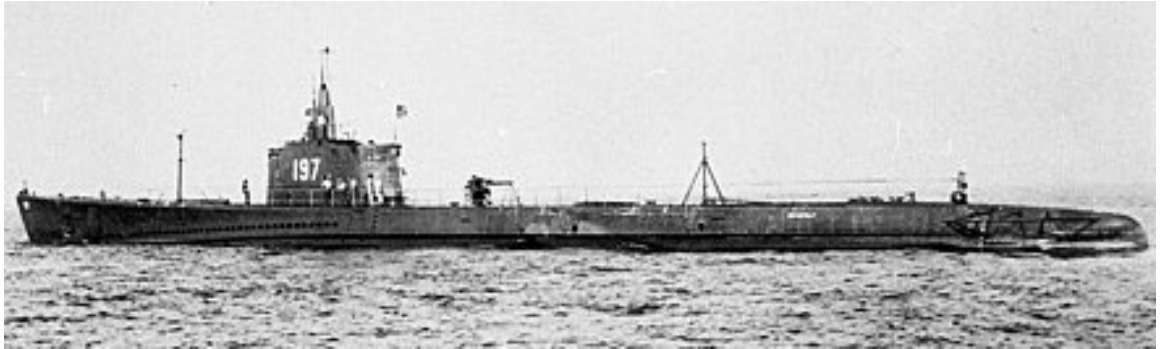
WW II Submarines

Submarine Special Missions in the Pacific

U.S. Navy submarines assisted in the conduct of numerous covert raids during the Pacific War.

Sunsets over Manila Bay are nothing less than spectacular.

Once the sun dips below the horizon there is a lingering illumination known as “blue hour” as



the sky gradually shifts from pale azure to deep indigo before fading completely into the black tropical night. But for the men of USS *Seawolf* there was no blue hour that warm January evening in 1942. Their submarine rested on the inky bottom of the bay awaiting nightfall, when it would be safe to surface.

At 7:30 pm, Lt. Cmdr. Frederick “Fearless Freddie” Warder, gave the command. The submarine broke the calm waters off the besieged island of Corregidor, sailing cautiously toward South Dock. When *Seawolf* was securely moored, the crew began transferring her cargo: 36 tons of antiaircraft shells destined for the island’s desperate garrison.

Though Pearl Harbor was barely a month past, this was already *Seawolf*’s third war patrol. And it was to become a landmark, for it was the first of nearly 300 “special missions” undertaken by American submarines during World War II.

After unloading her cargo, *Seawolf* embarked 25 passengers for transport to Surabaya on Java’s eastern coast. It must have galled Freddie Warder that his warship had been used as a truck and was about to become a bus. But most of his refugees were VIPs—Very Important Pilots—men who had lost their planes in the first days of the war. It was *Seawolf*’s mission to deliver those flyers to new aircraft to rejoin the fight.

In those first, dispiriting months of the war, Asiatic Fleet submarines were kept busy on similar missions—so many that the chief, Admiral Thomas Hart, complained bitterly in a report to Washington: “This Command has been continuously attempting to satisfy numerous demands for use of submarines for various evacuation and ferrying trips.” Those trips included transporting high-ranking officials, more pilots, members of a top-secret radio intelligence unit, and 20 tons of gold and silver from the Philippine treasury. They also carried in as much ammunition and foodstuffs as the boats could fit. Hart noted that these special missions detracted from offensive operations, but Washington seemed to pay no heed.

The last trip to Corregidor was made on May 3 by USS *Spearfish*, redirected from a war patrol off the Lingayen Gulf to pick up 27 passengers. Twelve were Army nurses; two were unauthorized stowaways. The island fortress fell to the Japanese just three days later.

US Navy Submarine News

“Catch Of A Lifetime”: U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarine Gets Caught In Norwegian Fishermen’s Web!-

November 15, 2024

A group of Norwegian fishermen recently got more than they bargained for after their fishing net, intended for catching halibut, ended up trapping a United States Navy nuclear-powered attack submarine the USS Virginia SSN 774 instead.

The incident occurred on November 11 off the coast of Norway, near the Malangen fjord, and left the fishermen with an unbelievable tale to tell.

The crew, led by 22-year-old Harald Engen, was operating the Øygutt, a 10-meter fishing boat, when the strange event unfolded. They were delivering halibut to a village on Norway’s west coast when he got a message that a U.S. submarine had gotten entangled in his 32-foot boat’s trawl nets while sailing near the surface and were dragging them out to sea.

The fishermen were informed that their net had accidentally entangled the USS Virginia, a 115-meter-long nuclear-powered attack submarine.

“We had just emptied the nets and put them out again and were on our way back to shore at Sommarøya when we were called by the Coast Guard on channel 16 on the VHF radio,” Engen said.



The 377-foot, 7,800-ton, nuclear-powered USS Virginia was headed to port with a Norwegian Coast Guard vessel escorting. The Coast Guard crew needed to cut the submarine free.

“I know about other vessels that have sailed over fishing nets, but no one out here have ever heard about a submarine doing so,” Engen said.

Lt. Pierson Hawkins, a spokesperson for the US 6th Fleet, told Insider no one was hurt and the Navy was looking into what exactly happened.

The exact reason for the sub’s location was not given, but the vessels do surface to bring aboard supplies and new crew members from a cooperating vessel, like one from an ally coast guard or navy.

Both the Norwegian Coast Guard and U.S. Navy indicated the fisherman would be reimbursed for the destroyed nets.

Support Gold Country Base Business



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

A vertical business card for Joel Walton. At the top, it says 'MendedLIFE.com' and 'Something good in the making'. Below that is 'Joel Walton', 'Marriage & Family Therapist', 'Lic No. 98304', and the phone number '(916) 587-1948'. The address is '7844 Madison Ave, Suite 108, Fair Oaks, CA 95628'. There is a photo of Joel Walton wearing a cap. Below the photo is 'Joel.Walton@MendedLife.com' and 'Christian Family Counseling'. At the bottom are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The logo for Mad Max features the tagline 'Maximizing Your Promotions' in a curved font above a graphic of palm trees. Below the palm trees is 'West Coast Specialties'. The name 'Mad Max' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath is 'Max Schell, CAS, BASI' and the phone number '619.208.6622'. At the bottom, it says 'An Independent Affiliate of' and the 'ipromoteui' logo.

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

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

Cell: 619.208.6622
Fax: 866.384.0192
Max@WestCoastSpecialties.com



Mike Reynolds

Manager/Agent

DRE #01452692

Realty One Group Complete

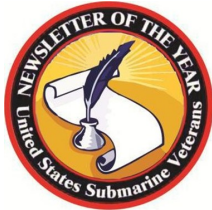
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email

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**Overall
2016**



**Class 2—2017
First Place**



**Class 2—2018
First Place**



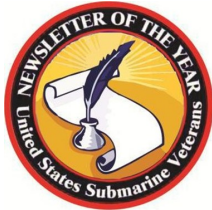
**Class 2—2019
First Place**



**Class 1—2020
First Place**



**Class 1 - 2021
First Place**



**Overall
2022**



**Overall
2023**



**Class 1—2024
First Place**

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October/November 2024 Newsletter