



# The Snorkel Exhaust

## USSVI SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN

**"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present, and Future".**

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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the **United States of America and its Constitution.**



### OUR ORGANIZATION

### OUR FOUNDERS

### OUR BROTHERHOOD

#### Our Mission

The organization will engage in various projects 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 lifestyles we enjoy today.

## SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022

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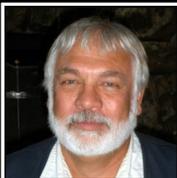
#### Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at **Famous Dave's BBQ**  
208 Advantage Place,  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Dinner and Social Hour @1800  
Meeting @ 1900



Follow us on Facebook at:  
Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



**BASE COMMANDER**  
**Marlin E. Helms, Jr.**  
 HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR



Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)**  
 Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**



**BASE VICE-COMMANDER**  
**Robert (Bob) Childs**



Qualified MMC (SS)  
**USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571)**  
 November 1967  
**USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT**  
 (SBN 600 - Blue Crew) July 1970



**BASE SECRETARY**  
**Martin Wesley**



Qualified QM2(SS)  
**USS CUBERA (SS-347)**  
 in 1968



**BASE TREASURER**  
**JIM ROCK**



Qualified MM1 (SS)  
**USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)**



## Smoky Mountain Base Committees



**CHIEF OF THE BOAT**  
**Terry McBride, EMC(SS) (Ret.)**



Qualified EM3(SS)  
**USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)**  
 Qualified EM1(SS)  
**USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)**



**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**  
**Andy Armbrust**



Qualified MM1(SS)  
**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**  
 in 1975



**SMB STOREKEEPER**  
**Dick Mitchell**



Qualified ET1(SS)  
**USS CONGER (SS/AGSS-477)**



**WEBSITE MASTER**  
**Stuart McGlassen**



Qualified ET2(SS) 1988  
**USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)**



**BASE CHAPLIN**  
**David Pope, EAWS**  
**USS T. ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)**  
 COMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2

David is an Associate  
 Member of Smoky Mountain  
 Submarine Base



**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &  
 BASE PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)**  
 Staff Instructor - S1W, IDAHO  
**USS SCULPIN (SSN-590)**

Bruce is an Associate  
 Member of Smoky Mountain  
 Submarine Base





**SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI**  
Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Other Stuff

**January & February Issue - 2022**

**Scheduled Meetings**  
MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE **3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY** OF EACH MONTH.



*Meetings and Happenings*

Smoky Mountain Submarine Base currently holds our monthly meetings at:  
**Famous Dave's BBQ** at 208 Advantage Place, off of Cedar Bluff in Knoxville, TN.  
New or prospective Members and their families are welcome to join us!

**New Members:  
None this period**

- February 1 - Newsletter Deadline
- February 2 - Ground Hog Day
- February 14 - Valentines Day
- February 17 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- February 21 - Presidents Day



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- March 1, 1945 - AEC Chooses Idaho for NRTS
- March 13 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day
- April 1 - Next Newsletter Deadline

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



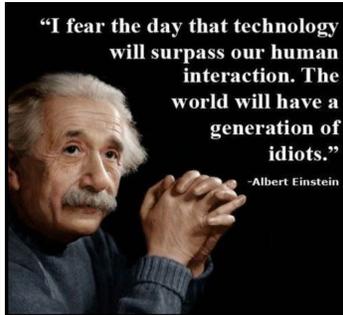
**SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines**  
**Ed Sandifer –ENS(SS)**  
**Base Librarian**

Ed has agreed to send several books to our monthly meetings. There are over 100 books in our library - check some out!

**Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plates**  
Make sure to take a copy of your DD-214 with you, when you go to get your new plate.



A LITTLE RUSTY HUMOR



VETERANS INFORMATION FOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEMBERS



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078, meets at The Fellowship Church located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, in Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6PM (1800 Hrs.)

**ANNUAL NATIONAL / BASE DUES TIME**

It is that time of the year. Annual National and Base dues are now being collected. Pay dues at the base meeting. This is a good time to consider a life membership. Less annual money out of your pocket and you will save money in the long run.

Dues are as follows: **National**

\$25/yr (Oct-Dec \$30 to include the next year)

\$70/3yrs

\$115/5yrs

**Life membership**

\$100/76+ years of age

\$200/66 to 75 years of age

\$300/56 to 65 years of age

\$400/45 to 55 years of age

\$500/under 45 years of age

**Smoky Mountain Base**

\$15/year (\$10 after Aug 1st)



One (or more) of these can be yours - see the bottom of page 12 For details.



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Shelly Saxton  
CEO/Owner  
SubmarineCoins@gmail.com



## BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR. MM1(SS)



We still need a nominating committee for this year's election in May. Due to COVID I had to cancel the board meeting on the 5th. This may give us a little more time to explore our 2022 schedule prior to the next board meeting. It was recommended that we look at doing the Knoxville 4th of July parade instead of Gatlinburg. There does not seem to be a 4th of July parade I can locate. Knoxville has a festival in the World Fair Park instead. I have no idea if we could participate with a stagnate display. Loudon and Farragut both have parades. As we look forward planning for 2022, we will need contacts and dates for any proposed activities. Currently Famous Dave's is adequate for our needs but if we return to previous membership levels it will not be. We should be looking for a new location giving us plenty of time find an acceptable location. The Cedar Bluff area is the geographic center for our membership with members an hour or two to the west and east. A place where we can take our wives and girlfriends out for a monthly dinner would be preferred. If possible, an isolated room for some privacy.

Fraternally,

Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base Commander



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT—BRUCE ELTZROTH - ET1(SU)



This issue of the SMB Snorkle contains articles about the removal of used wreaths from the Knoxville Veterans Memorial Cemetery and info on new SMB T-Shirts for sale to help raise money for the base on page 12. Page 13 has photos from and a discussion of, our January, 2022 SMB monthly meeting. Page 13 also has a follow-up of the success of our T-shirt sales and future plans for possible sales to other bases. Once again, this month's newsletter is truncated due to lack of base member inputs (with a few exceptions).



## PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - ANDY ARMBRUST - MM1(SS)



We will try to plan a picnic for late Spring or early Summer. I will work with Dick Love to see if we can secure the Yacht Club as the picnic location. More to come in the Spring.

**Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman - (865) 300-3934**



## STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL - ET1(SS)



2022 Calendars have arrived, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$9.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$10.00 to cover postage. Makes a nice Christmas present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00.

**Remember all purchases support YOUR BASE!**



## SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK



### Current Treasurers Report:

On Dec. 10th, 2021 our bank balance was **\$1,170.14.**

As of Feb. 1st, 2022 we have a balance of **\$1,483.14.**





# Secretary's Report/Meeting Minutes Martin Wesley



## The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

Date: January 19, 2022

Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours

David Pope Base Chaplain presented the Invocation

Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the USSVI Creed

Bob Childs, Base Vice Commander led the tolling of the bell for lost boats with Terry McBride.

Meeting Minutes – None presented



Treasurer's Report – \$ 1483.14 in the treasury.

### Committees :

- Newsletter – Bruce Eltzroth – January/February news letter coming. Please send any articles or input to Bruce.
- Library – Ed Standifer – No report.
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell – No report.
- Membership – Marlin Helms – No report.
- Webmaster – Stuart McGlasson - No report.
- Social Committees – Andy Armbrust - Spring picnic in the planning stages for June.



Old Business: Reminder 2022 dues are due

### New Business/Good of the Order:

- Nominating Committee for elections in May is needed.
- Terry McBride gave an update on T-Shirts and donated \$700 from T-Shirt sales to maintenance of the float.
- Terry proposed making T-Shirts for other bases and to use the base treasury to collect and account for the monies. Motion to accept was made and seconded. No dissenting votes and the motion was carried.
- Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thursday, February 17, 2022 at Famous Dave's BBQ 208 Advantage Place, Knoxville, TN. (just off of I-75/40 south on Cedar Bluff).
- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Accepted unanimously.

### "Tolling of the Bell" November/December

USS Albacore (SS-218) - November 7, 1944 - 86 Men Lost  
 USS Growler (SS-215) - November 8, 1944 - 85 Men Lost  
 USS Scamp (SS-277) - November 16, 1944 - 83 Men Lost  
 USS Corvina (SS-226) - November 16, 1943 - 82 Men Lost

USS Sculpin (SS-191) – November 19, 1943 - 63 Men Lost  
 USS Capelin (SS-288) - December 9, 1943– 76 Men Lost  
 USS Sea Lion (SS-195) - December 10, 1941 - 4 Men Lost  
 USS F-1 (SS-20) - December 17, 1917 - 19 Men Lost  
 USS S-4 (SS-109) - December 17, 1927 - 34 Men Lost



## Pre WW-II Lost Boats



USS F-1 (SS-20) December 17, 1917 19 Men Lost

USS F-1 Photo and write-up courtesy of Wikipedia.



On 17 December 1917, while maneuvering in exercises off Point Loma, San Diego, California, USS F-1 and USS F-3 collided, the former sinking in ten seconds, her port side torn open forward of the engine room. Nineteen of her men were lost; the remaining five were rescued by the submarines with which she was operating.

USS S-4 (SS-109) December 17, 1927 40 Men Lost

USS S-4 Photos and write-up courtesy of Undersea Museum (WA).



On December 17, 1927, the submarine USS S-4 sank after being struck by a Coast Guard destroyer. The boat survived the accident, bottoming in 102 feet of water, but weather thwarted efforts to raise the submarine, which was then the only means of saving survivors. The death of all 40 crew members drove Charles "Swede" Momsen (Right photo) to invent the Momsen lung, a wearable escape device. Find out more about submarine accidents and rescue methods by visiting the museum. S-4 was salvaged at Boston Navy Yard (Left photo) in 1928 and remained in service until stricken in 1936.



# Lost Boats of January



## USS Scorpion (SS-278) - January 5, 1944

77 Men Lost

### SS-278 Battle Stars



USS SCORPION (SS-278)

USS Scorpion was lost on January 5, 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol.



The USS *Scorpion* (SS-278) was a Gato-class World War II era submarine. The namesake of the USS *Scorpion* is an order of arachnids having an elongated body and a narrow segmented tail bearing a venomous sting at the tip. On December 29, 1943, the *Scorpion*, captained by Commander Maximilian G. Schmidt, departed Pearl Harbor for her fourth and final war patrol. On January 3, 1944, she fueled at Midway Island and then headed for her assigned patrol area in the Yellow Sea and the northern East China Sea. On the afternoon of January 4, 1944, she reported that one crewman had sustained a simple fracture of the upper arm and requested a rendezvous with the USS *Herring* (SS-233), which was then in her vicinity and en route back to Pearl Harbor from her sixth war patrol. On January 5, 1944, the *Scorpion* attempted to transfer the injured crewman to the *Herring* for return to Midway, however heavy seas made it impossible to do so. The *Scorpion* reported the situation "Under control" before midnight and the *Herring* sailed for Midway. The *Scorpion* was not seen or heard from again. When no report was received from her by February 24, 1944, she was ordered to make a radio transmission acknowledging receipt of the dispatch. No acknowledgement was received. The *Scorpion* was presumed lost on March 6, 1944. The Navy Department issued the following press release regarding the *Scorpion's* loss: Navy Department Communiqué 513, March 22, 1944 - The submarine USS *Scorpion* is overdue from patrol and must be presumed to be lost. The next of kin of casualties of the *Scorpion* have been so notified.

**Loss Possibilities:** 1. The *Scorpion* probably struck a mine and sank sometime between January 5 to February 24, 1944, in the northern East China Sea or in the Yellow Sea. In August 1943, the Japanese had planted two hundred mines across the shallow mouth of the Yellow Sea. The location of the minefield was not known in the time period the *Scorpion* might have passed through it. 2. On February 26, 1944, the USS *Steelhead* (SS-280) and the *Scorpion* were each warned they were in close proximity to one another and that an enemy submarine might also be in the vicinity. However, it was later learned that the suspect submarine, *I-174*, was not in their area at the time of the warning. Therefore, the possibility of loss due to an unreported attack by a Japanese submarine is considered very unlikely.

Postwar examination of Japanese records did not provide any clues as to the *Scorpion's* fate and no conclusive explanation for the cause of her loss has ever been established. The reason for her loss remains a mystery. A list of the men lost with the *Scorpion* is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-scorpion-278.htm>. The *Scorpion* earned three battle stars for her World War II service. She was scored by JANAC with sinking 18,316 tons of Japanese shipping in four vessels. Her Alden-McDonald score is six vessels sunk for 18,567 tons and eight vessels damaged for 18,656 tons. The SORG score for the *Scorpion* is twelve vessels sunk for 26,400 tons and five vessels damaged for 30,000 tons.

## USS Argonaut (SS-166) - January 10, 1943

102 Men Lost

### SS-166 Battle Stars



1/10/1943

USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost 10 January 1943 with the loss of 84 officers and men when it was sunk off Rabaul near 05 155N 153 50E; (Another location given as 5 40S 152 02E)

The USS *Argonaut* (SS-166) was a V-4 (Argonaut)-class World War II era submarine. The namesake of the USS *Argonaut* is a relative of the octopus - sometimes called the paper nautilus - which propels itself, underwater by expelling a jet of water. The name Argonaut may also have been inspired by the submarine of that name built in 1897 by Simon Lake which was the first submarine to navigate extensively in the open sea. Ultimately, the name is derived from the band of fifty heroes in Greek legend who sailed with Jason in the ship Argo to retrieve the Golden Fleece. The radio call sign of the USS *Argonaut* was NAN-ITEM-CHARLIE-TARE. At the end of 1942, the *Argonaut's* base of operations was changed from Pearl Harbor to Brisbane, where she would help carry out the many special Spyron missions General MacArthur tasked submarines with in the south Pacific area. The *Argonaut* was the fleet's largest submarine. She had originally been built primarily for mine laying. In September 1942 she had been converted into a troop transport capable of accommodating 120 men, and her hull classification symbol was changed from SM-1 (Submarine Mine-layer) to APS-1 (Transport Submarine). Her new role as a Spyron transport suited her well. The USS *Tang's* captain, Commander Richard H. O'Kane, who served four years aboard the *Argonaut*, said of her fighting capacity, "If a fleet boat were stripped of one battery, two engines, six torpedo tubes, and could use no more than 15 degrees of rudder, she would still have greater torpedo attack and evasion ability than *Argonaut*."

On November 24, 1942, the *Argonaut*, captained by Lieutenant Commander John R. Pierce, sailed from Pearl Harbor for her transfer to Task Force 42 at Brisbane. On December 9, 1942, she topped off at the Allied military supply and support base, naval harbor, and airfield on Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides archipelago. From there the Task Force 42 commander, Captain James Fife, ordered the *Argonaut* to patrol the southern approaches to Rabaul and be on the lookout for a Japanese convoy consisting of five freighters escorted by destroyers moving north from Lae to Rabaul. On January 10, 1943, the *Argonaut* spotted the convoy southeast of New Britain. A Japanese seaplane detected the submerged submarine and dropped two anti-submarine bombs. The IJN destroyer *Minekaze* then moved in and dropped depth charges. Soon the bow of the submarine broke the surface in what seemed to be a vain attempt to surface. The *Minekaze* and the IJN destroyer *Isokaze* pounded the injured submarine with battery fire relentlessly. The *Argonaut* slipped below the waves, never to be seen again, at 5° 40'S, 152° 02'E. By pure coincidence, a U. S. Army aircraft, returning to its base with empty bomb racks, was flying overhead and witnessed these events.



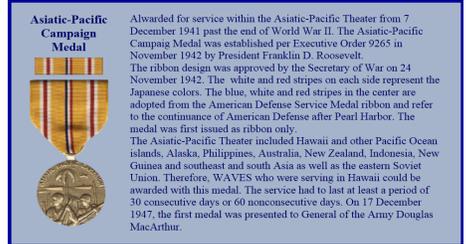
# Lost Boats of January



## USS Swordfish (SS-193) - January 12, 1945

SS-193 Battle Stars

89 Men Lost



The **USS *Swordfish* (SS-193)** was a Sargo-class World War II era submarine. The namesake of the *USS Swordfish* is a large fish with a long, sword-like beak and a high dorsal fin. The radio call sign of the *USS Swordfish* was NAN-UNCLE-DOG-GEORGE. On December 22, 1944, the *Swordfish*, captained by Commander Keats E. Montross, departed Pearl Harbor for her thirteenth and final war patrol. She had received orders to patrol in an area off the Ryukyu Islands. She had also been outfitted with special equipment for a photo reconnaissance mission at Okinawa. After stopping at Midway Island to top off her fuel, she headed west for the big Japanese stronghold in the Nansei Shoto chain. On January 3, 1945, she acknowledged receipt of new orders to proceed to and to patrol near the approximate geographic position 30°-00'N, 132°-00'E until further notice. The reason for this move was to keep her out of harms way during a planned January carrier strike on the Ryukyus. Her acknowledgement of this order was the last communication ever received from the *Swordfish*. On January 9, 1945, she was ordered to proceed to the Nansei Shoto Archipelago to perform her special mission. Upon completion of the photographic and observation mission, she was told to proceed to the submarine base at Saipan, unless she was unable to communicate by radio, in which case she was supposed to return to Midway. When the *Swordfish* failed to appear at Saipan or Midway, and silence was the only response to radio messages sent to her, it became obvious she was lost. On February 15, 1945, she was reported as presumed lost due to unknown causes. The public announcement was made on May 4, 1945. Navy Department Communiqué No. 595, May 4, 1945: The submarine *USS Swordfish* is overdue from patrol and presumed lost. Next of kin of officers and crew have been informed.

- Loss Possibilities:**
1. The *Swordfish* was probably sunk by depth charges, on January 5, 1945, at the approximate geographic position 29°-25'N, 141°-07'E, which is southeast of Tori-shima island, an uninhabited volcanic island at the south end of the Izu Islands. On that date, near that location, at about 1705 hours, the 572-ton Japanese Army cargo vessel *Shoto Maru* was hit in the bow by a torpedo and sank at about 1906 hours. John D. Alden attributes this attack and the sinking to the *Swordfish*. The Japanese coastal defense vessel *CD-4* conducted a counterattack with depth charges and reported that oil continued to rise to the surface for the next thirty hours.
  2. The *Swordfish* possibly sank sometime after January 9, 1945, as a result of hitting a mine. During the first half of 1944, the Japanese had laid four minefields in the Okinawa area. On January 9, 1945, the *Swordfish* had been ordered to proceed to this area to complete a photographic reconnaissance assignment. This mission may have taken her into one of the minefields laid in 1944 or into freshly laid inshore minefields, planted to defend Okinawa beach approaches.
  3. On January 12, 1945, the *USS Kete* (SS-369), while on station in the Okinawa area, reported a possible contact with a nearby submersible. The *Kete* was unable to positively identify the contact, but the *Swordfish* was expected to be in the vicinity at that time. About four hours later, the *Kete* heard the sound of a heavy barrage of depth charges. Japanese records reviewed after the war did not record the event heard by the *Kete*. But such a heavy barrage could have been aimed at the *Swordfish*. The bottom line is no one knows for certain what happened to the *Swordfish* or when it was lost. This long serving submarine and her valiant crew went down together leaving a significant record of accomplishments in their wake. A list of the men lost with the *Swordfish* is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-swordfish-193.htm>.

The *Swordfish* was scored by JANAC with sinking 47,928 tons of enemy shipping in twelve vessels. Her Alden-McDonald score is sixteen vessels sunk for 55,641 tons and four vessels damaged for 26,150 tons. Her SORG score is seventeen vessels sunk for 101,400 tons and nine vessels damaged for 61,900 tons. The *Swordfish* earned eight battle stars for her World War II service in her distinguished thirteen-patrol career. She sank the *Atsutasan Maru*, the first Japanese ship sunk by a U. S. submarine in the Pacific war.



# Lost Boats of January



## USS S-36 (SS-141) - January 20, 1942

SS-141 - 1 Battle Star



1/20/1942  
USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost Jan. 20, 1942. S-20 (SS-141) was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City, the crew were all rescued.

No Men Lost



USS S-36 (SS-141)

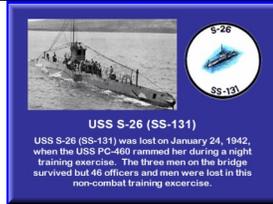
Lost 20 January 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City, the crew were all rescued

USS S-36 (SS-141) was a S-1 class World War II era submarine. On December 30, 1941, the S-36, captained by Lieutenant John R. McKnight, Jr., departed Mariveles harbor for her second and final war patrol. Her orders were to patrol in Philippine waters before heading south to join the Allied forces gathering in the East Indies. On January 1, 1942, she sighted a small transport moored to the seawall at Calapan Harbor, Mindoro Island, fired one torpedo, and sank it. (The sinking of this vessel could not be verified in Japanese records, thus S-36 was never given credit for the kill.) In the days following this attack, S-36 moved southward and began to experience equipment failures that had a negative impact on the submarine's performance. On January 15, 1942, she spotted a Japanese destroyer in the Sulu Sea. Lieutenant McKnight ordered a crash dive, but due to equipment problems, her dive was delayed and the destroyer spotted her. The enemy destroyer dropped seven depth charges which exploded off both quarters of the S-boat. The explosions caused the loss of power control over the bow planes, gyro compass failure, blown fuses on the starboard lighting circuit, and broken lights in the motor room. When she reached 150 feet, her gyro compass was again working and she began turning slowly to starboard. The destroyer was kept astern. After several hours, she heard the last efforts of the destroyer to locate her. She surfaced, cleared the area and began making repairs. On January 17, 1942, she received orders to proceed to Surabaya, Java. She headed for Makassar Strait. The currents in the Makassar Strait are very strong and difficult to predict, making navigation hazardous. In addition, McKnight's charts were imprecise and incomplete. Just before dawn on January 20, 1942, S-36 ran hard aground on Taka Bakang Reef in the Makassar Strait. The hard hit on the reef holed S-36's hull, flooding the forward battery. McKnight broke radio silence and sent out a plain language call for help to all friendly men-of-war. The message was received by USS Sargo (SS-188) as she was nearing Surabaya. Her captain, Lieutenant Commander Tyrell D. Jacobs, tried unsuccessfully to relay the message to ComSubsAsiatic for five hours. The Sargo then headed for the Makassar Strait to help S-36. Sargo remained surfaced, relaying distress messages to friendly aircraft and surface ships. After Captain John Wilkes acknowledged receipt of the message, Sargo was recalled and a PBY Catalina was dispatched to survey S-36's condition. By radio McKnight told the PBY crew that with assistance he felt he could salvage S-36. The PBY therefore raced to Makassar City and requested assistance from the Dutch authorities, who promptly dispatched the Dutch launch Attla. The launch reached S-36 on January 21 and embarked two officers and twenty-eight men. The remaining crew stayed with S-36 in the hope she could be hauled clear of the reef. But conditions continued to worsen. All efforts to save the submarine were fruitless. McKnight decided to abandon her. The remaining crew rigged S-36 to flood and transferred to the Dutch ship SS Siberote, which took them to Makassar City. All hands reached Surabaya, Java on February 25, 1942, and were reassigned to other duties.

S-36 earned one battle star for her World War II service. She was not credited by JANAC or John D. Alden with sinking any enemy vessels. Her SORNG score is one vessel sunk for 5,000 tons.

## USS S-26 (SS-131) - January 24, 1942

46 Men Lost



USS S-26 (SS-131)

USS S-26 (SS-131) was lost on January 24, 1942, when the USS PC-460 rammed her during a night training exercise. The three men on the bridge survived but 46 officers and men were lost in this non-combat training exercise.



1/24/1942  
USS S-26 (SS-131)

USS S-26 was lost Jan. 24, 1942, with the loss of 46 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USS PC-460 in the Gulf of Panama, 14 Miles West of San Jose Light.



USS S-26 (SS-131) was a S-1 class World War II era submarine. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Captain Thomas J. Doyle, the commanding officer of the Cocco Solo submarine base, on the Atlantic Ocean (northwest) side of the Panama Canal Zone, near Colón, Panama, was presented with a dual problem. In addition to the threat of German U-boat activity in the waters off Panama, on the Canal's eastern side, American submarines would also have to guard against a potential Japanese attack on the Canal's Pacific end. Accordingly, Captain Doyle ordered his submarines to patrol off the Pacific entrance of the Canal. A patrol line was established extending 800 miles from the Balboa district on the Canal's western end. American submarines made patrols from Balboa throughout the first year of the war without encountering any enemy vessels. However, it was in this area that the U. S. Submarine Force experienced its first operational loss of World War II. On January 24, 1942, the S-26, captained by Lieutenant Commander Earl C. Hawk, was sailing surfaced from Balboa to her patrol station in company with S-21, S-29, S-44, and escort vessel PC-460. At around 2210 hours, PC-460 flashed a visual message to the submarines advising them she was leaving the formation and that they should proceed to their assignments as ordered. Only S-21 received this message. A short while thereafter, PC-460 collided in the dark with S-26, ramming her starboard side near the after torpedo room. The S-boat sank within seconds in 300 feet of water. Three men who were on the bridge survived. Forty-six men went down with her. All rescue attempts were unsuccessful. Her hulk was not salvaged. A list of the personnel lost with S-26 is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-26-131.htm>. S-26 is not credited with sinking any enemy vessels.



# Lost Boats of February



## USS Barbel (SS-316) - February 4, 1945



SS-316 Battle Stars

81 Men Lost



Lost on February 4, 1945, on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported that she had survived 3 depth charge attacks. 10 officers and 71 enlisted personnel (a total of 81 men) were lost after Barbel sent a message reporting that she had been attacked three times by enemy aircraft dropping depth charges and would transmit further information on the following night. Barbel was never heard from again.

## USS Shark I (SS-174) - February 11, 1942

SS-174 Battle Star

59 Men Lost



On February 2, 1942, the **SHARK** reported to her base at Surabaya that she had been depth-charged ten miles off Tifore Island and had failed to sink a Japanese ship during a torpedo attack. Five days later, she reported chasing an empty cargo ship headed northwest. On February 8, the **SHARK** was ordered to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes. Thereafter, the **SHARK** was never heard from again. On March 7, 1942, she was reported as presumed lost due to unknown causes. The official announcement of the **SHARK'S** loss was made on March 18, 1942.

Japanese records reviewed after the war documented numerous attacks on unidentified submarines in the **SHARK'S** area at plausible times. On February 11, 1942, the Japanese depth-charged a submarine east of Manado, northern Celebes. On February 17, they attacked an unidentified submarine off Kendari. On February 21, an enemy sub chaser rammed a U. S. submarine in Manipa Strait (this report could not be confirmed). Based on the fact that on February 8 the **SHARK** had been sent to the area near Manado, she could have been the submarine the Japanese depth charged. Another report described an attack 120 miles east of Manado on February 11, 1942, at 0137 hours, by the IJN destroyer *Yamakaze*, which sank a surfaced submarine with deck gun fire.

## USS Amberjack (SS-219) - February 16, 1943

SS-219 Battle Stars

72 Men Lost



Lost on February 16, 1943, on her 3rd war patrol off Rabaul. She was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. She reported having being forced down on the 13th by two destroyers, and that she had recovered an enemy aviator from the water and taken him prisoner. All further messages to the Amberjack remained unanswered. This engagement resulted in the loss of 6 officers and 54 enlisted men. One (or more) men were killed on the previous patrol. Japanese aircraft were very much aware of the **BARBEL'S** presence. In her February 3rd message she stated she had been attacked by aircraft with depth charges three times. She was never heard from again after sending that message. Japanese records made available after the war indicated a submarine was bombed and sunk on February 4, 1945, in the South China Sea at 7° 49' 5.000" N, 116° 47' 5.000" E. This position is off Balabac Island, about midway between Borneo and southwest Palawan, where the **BARBEL** was patrolling. The Japanese claimed one hit near the bridge with one of the two 250-kilo bombs dropped.



ETERNAL



PATROL



# Lost Boats of February



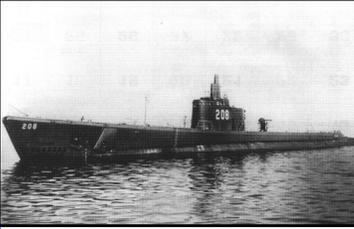
## USS Grayback (SS-208) - February 26, 1944

SS-208 Battle Stars

80 Men Lost



Lost on February 26, 1944, on her 10th war patrol. The Grayback appears to to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit resulting in the loss of 80 men. During this patrol, she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons which resulted in a tie for 11th on the number of ships sunk. Japanese records reviewed after the war indicated that on February 27, 1944, the **GRAYBACK** torpedoed and sank the 4,905-ton cargo vessel *Ceylon Maru* at 31-35N, 127-47E. Sometime after this attack, the **GRAYBACK** was spotted surfaced by Nakajima B5N2 "Kates" of the Okinawa Naval Air Group. A direct hit was made on the submarine with a 250-kilo type bomb. The **GRAYBACK** exploded and sank immediately at 25-47N, 128-45E. Several Japanese antisubmarine vessels were summoned to the location and dropped depth charges over the spot where air bubbles were rising to the surface. Soon a lake of oil covered the surface measuring 100 meters wide and 250 meters long. If the **GRAYBACK** received ComSubPac's last message and headed home immediately, she would have been at the approximate position reported in the Japanese attack.



## USS Trout (SS-202) - February 29, 1944

SS-202 Battle Stars

81 Men Lost



The **USS Trout (SS-202)**, under the command of **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.**, was patrolling off Midway Island when the war broke out on December 7, 1941. She returned to Pearl Harbor on December 20, 1941. This was considered her first "war patrol". She would make 10 more war patrols under 3 different skippers. Patrols 1-4 under **LCDR Fenno**, patrols 5-8 under the command of **LCDR Lawson "Red" Ramage** and patrols 9-11 under the command of **LCDR Albert H. Clark**. She was lost on or about February 29, 1944, southeast of Okinawa in the Philippine Sea with 81 men aboard. She carried out several notable special missions, including transporting over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942. The USS Trout (SS-202) was awarded three Presidential Unit Citations, for her second, third, and fifth war patrols.

Patrol Data and Captains for the USS Trout (SS-202):

- 1- Patrolling Off Midway Island 07-Dec-41 to 20-Dec-41 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 2-Transported ammo to Corregidor & embarked valuables to take to Pearl Harbor 12-Jan-42 to 03-Mar-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 3-Off Honshu 24-Mar-42 to 17-May-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 4- Off Midway 21-May-42 to 14-Jun-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 5-Off Truk in Caroline Islands; ended at Brisbane 27-Aug-42 to 13-Oct-42 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage**. Returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 6- Solomon Islands 26-Oct-42 to 23-Nov-42 Departed Pearl Harbor returned to Brisbane.
- 7- South China Sea; ended at Fremantle 29-Dec-42 to 23-Feb-43 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage**. Departed Brisbane returned to Fremantle.
- 8- Laid mines off Borneo 22-Mar-43 to 03-May-43 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage**. Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 9- Spyron missions in Philippines 27-May-43 to 20-Jul-43 **LCDR Albert H. Clark** Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 10- Surigao & San Bernardino Straits; ended at Pearl Harbor for overhaul 12-Aug-43 to 04-Oct-43 Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 11- Pearl Harbor/ East China Sea.



**U.S. Navy /  
Marine  
Presidential  
Unit  
Citation**



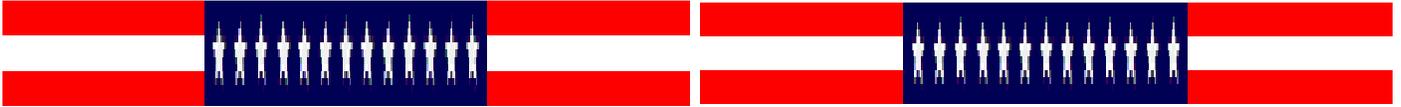


# Smoky Mt. Submarine Base (SMB) Participates in Wreath Removal at the Knoxville National Cemetery.

(Story and Photos by Bruce Eltzroth)



3 members of the SMB participated in the wreath removal process on January 22, 2022. Marlin Helms, Bruce and Eric Eltzroth along with Eric's son Nathan and his friend Malachi were on hand to help the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council remove used wreaths from the local veterans cemetery.



Knoxville National Cemetery Headstones



Knoxville National Cemetery Dedication Plaque



Wreaths after Removal from Most Headstones



Malachi (left front) and Nathan (center white shirt)



Workers uploading wreaths from Eric's Pickup Truck to dumpster



Side view of full dumpster for used wreaths



## Smoky Mt. Base, Custom Made T-Shirts, Available for Purchase!

(See Information below to order) (Shirts already ordered are available - See Terry)



Terry McBride, our Base Chief of the Boat, has just completed an order of custom t-shirts for our Base membership. The t-shirts, represented in the accompanying front and back view graphic above, take several design elements from the traditional USSVI vest. They are, however, better suited for warm-weather and day-to-day wear, and as such may help act as a recruiting tool. A total of 35 shirts were produced, including one for author George Wallace from the Northern Virginia Base of the USSVI. All of the shirts were delivered in January. The shirts started at \$35. All of the payments have been collected and \$700.00 of the proceeds were donated to the SMB treasury, directed toward upkeep and improvements to our parade float. Based on the success of this project, Terry is exploring working with other Bases of the USSVI in the future, to generate additional revenue for the SMB treasury. (Continued on next page.)



# January 20, 2022 SMB Monthly Meeting

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)



Due to cold weather and the threat of snow with icy roads, the turnout for this month's SMB meeting was less than normal. Several topics of discussion were addressed, including the SMB Board Meeting held the week before this one, the need to set the nominating committee for the upcoming election of Base Officers, and Terry McBride's success in selling SMB logo T-shirts which brought in a total of \$700.00 to the SMB Treasury. One important topic of discussion was the need to exclude political and religious discussions from our official meetings.

With the exception of David Pope and myself, the photos below show the light turnout for this month's meeting.



## One of the First Group of Women to Qualify in Submarines: Suraya Mattocks



"Faces of the Deep" takes you inside our undersea communities to meet Navy Sailors, past and present. This is submariner Suraya Mattocks, one of the first enlisted women to qualify in submarines! Mattocks comes from a military family — her mother, father, uncle, and grandfathers all served. She joined the Navy out of high school as a yeoman in the early 2000s. More than a decade later, when the Navy opened submarine service to female enlisted Sailors in 2016, Mattocks thought "why not me?" She applied and was selected in the first group of 36 enlisted women to serve on submarines. Mattocks earned her submarine qualification aboard USS *Michigan* (SSGN 727) in July 2017. In 2021, Mattocks was awarded the Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award for her work in mentoring and supporting female submarines and other military women.

(Story & Photo courtesy of The Undersea Museum)

### Custom Made T-Shirts, Available for Purchase

(Continued from previous page)

A big and hearty THANK YOU to everybody who purchased a custom SubVets t-shirt. Between revenue from the sale of t-shirts, and additional donations made, we were able to generate \$700 for the SMB Treasury, to be directed toward upkeep and improvements to our parade float. Due to the overwhelming success of the project, Terry McBride, SMB Chief of the Boat, has volunteered to engage in joint fundraisers with other Bases of the USSVI. A motion was unanimously approved during the January 2022 meeting to allow funds to be taken into and expended from the SMB Treasury to facilitate the upcoming fundraising efforts. Terry has already reached out to the Storekeeper for the Northern Virginia Base, and is currently awaiting a reply. For those who weren't able to get a t-shirt during the initial order, or would like to get additional shirts, there will be an opportunity to do so in conjunction with one of the orders for the other bases.

(Info provided by Terry McBride SMB Chief of the Boat)



# USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular  Life  Associate

**OUR CREED:** "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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)  
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Your E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Base/Chapter Desired: \_\_\_\_\_

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Please indicate your term preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;  
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;

**Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.**

How did you find USSVI?  Friend,  Boat Assn,  Local Event/News,  Internet,  Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Applicant is:  Veteran,  Spouse of Veteran,  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ If other military service, What Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: \_\_\_\_\_ Mil Retired (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_ On Active Duty? (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

YR entered Mil Service: \_\_\_\_\_ YR left Mil Service \_\_\_\_\_ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

(Leave this address line blank if it is the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org.