



# The Snorkel Exhaust

## USSVI - SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN

**"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present, and Future".  
"The USSVI Submariner's 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. 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 July & Aug 2021

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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 & 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**

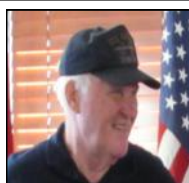


Qualified MM1(SS)

**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**  
(SSBN 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)



**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

## July & August - 2021

# SMB Meetings and Happenings

## Scheduled Meetings:

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **3rd Thursday** of each month via Zoom and/or at the Famous Dave's BBQ located in (west) Knoxville, TN



**Dinner @ 1800,  
Meeting @ 1900**



Smoky Mountain Submarine Base has a new location to hold our monthly meetings:  
**Famous Dave's BBQ** at 208 Advantage Place, off of Cedar Bluff in Knoxville.  
New Members are Welcome!

### Current New Members:

Joseph Dansereau (EM1-SS) USS Baltimore SSN-704  
Sean McKinney (RM2-SS) USS Baltimore SSN-704  
David Schlosser (EM3-SS) USS Von Steuben SSBN-632  
Robert Hughes (MTCM-SS) USS John C Calhoun SSBN-630  
Mike Schlitz (EMCS-SS) USS James K Polk SSBN-645

**July 31 - Was the Newsletter Deadline for this Issue**  
**August 14 - VJ-Day (1945)**  
**August 19 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)**

## The Snorkel Exhaust

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**September 6 - Labor Day**  
**September 11 - Patriot's Day**  
**September 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)**  
**September 17 - Constitution Day**  
**September 22 - Autumnal Equinox**  
**September 25 - Tolling of the Boats @ Oak Ridge Peace Bell**  
**September 30 - Newsletter Deadline for the next issue**

### August 2021

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				

### September 2021

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		

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### SMB Library Books and Magazines



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

Our library has several items to read available. There are over 100 books in our library - check some out!  
(See Marlin for selections)

### FUN STUFF (Courtesy of Thom Peschke)



## USSVI HAPPENINGS

### USSVI - 2021 National Convention



#### Final Notice:

This years United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. 2021 National Convention - is going to be held in Orlando, FL, on August 30 thru September 4.  
For more information, contact: Richard (Ozzie) Osentowski at: (734) 671-3439.

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**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, Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1800 hrs.

## THE VETERAN'S CREED

- 1 — I am an American Veteran
- 2 — I proudly served my country
- 3 — I live the values I learned in the military
- 4 — I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
- 5 — I maintain my physical and mental discipline
- 6 — I continue to lead and improve
- 7 — I make a difference
- 8 — I honor and remember my fallen comrades

#### The Veterans Creed is supported by:

AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, HillVets, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Reserve Officers Association, Veterans of America, Team Rubicon Global, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Wounded Warrior Project.

### Submarine related Definitions:

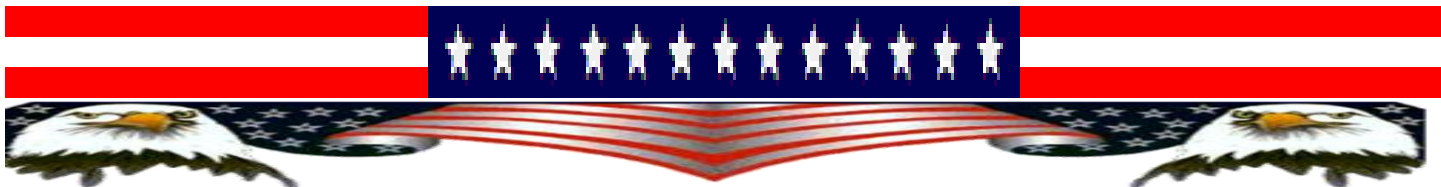


**TACTAS** – Tactical Towed Array Sonar.  
**Tail** – Towed sonar array.  
**Tallyho** - Call signifying visual contact.  
**Target** - Submarine usage: a surface vessel.  
**TDU** - Trash Disposal Unit. Essentially, a vertically-oriented torpedo tube used to dispose of trash aboard a submarine.  
**TDY** – Temporary Duty. See also TAD.  
**Teakettle** - The nuclear engineering plant.  
**Teardrop** – A streamlined depth charge. See also ASHCAN.  
**Test Depth** – The maximum depth to which a submarine can go routinely without damage.  
**Three Sheets to the Wind** – Drunk. Literally, when the lines to the sails (sheets) have come adrift and fly in the wind.

#### Specialty Tools (cont.)

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted submarine part you were drying.  
**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.  
**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps off in bolt holes you couldn't use anyway.  
**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to cut hoses too short.





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



- We have full load of activities this fall and a couple of them are close together (within a week). I hope we get a good turnout in each. Mark these on your calendar.
- We had to cancel our participation in the Gatlinburg 4th of July parade, but the Gatlinburg events division suggested the Gatlinburg Fantasy of Lights Christmas Parade on December 3rd. We have enough people responding to participate, as soon as they send out the application I will submit it. So far we have seven people, two vehicles and the float. If you are planning to participate please let me know as the application will request number of people and vehicles. We will need to decorate the float with lights keeping with the parade theme. Ideas and donations to buy the lights would be appreciated. Now is the time to reserve a room if you need to.
- Our annual picnic will be September 18th at Melton Hill Dam. Andy Armbrust will provide more details.
- Our annual Holland Club Induction will be done during the picnic. It is a formal ceremony but casual dress considering the location will be acceptable.
- Secret City Festival Will be September 24-26. We will do our annual Tolling of the Boats on Saturday the 25th. I expect we will have the same setup for the Tolling, float placement, and booth location as last time (2019).
- There will be a Knoxville Veterans Day parade this year November 11th. The application is not on their site yet but I will submit it as soon as it is. Again, I need to know how many people and vehicles will be in the parade.
- The Army/Navy game will be December 11th, tentatively we will watch at Just 1 More as usual.

**Faternally, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans, Base Commander**



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

For the first time since I have been the newsletter editor, this issue has 5 new members listed on page 3. That is a very good sign that there is still hope for our future. This issue has info on the reopening of the Under Sea Museum, the first test launch of a Regulus missile from a submarine, and repairs to the USS Cod on Page 11. Page 12 tells the story of the first submarine to surface at the North Pole - USS Skate (SSN-578). Page 14 tells of two Ohio class subs commissioned exactly 5 years apart. Page 15 covers both of the June and July SMB meetings at Famous Dave's BBQ. And as always, Page 16 has a copy of the USSVI Membership Application.



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



The SMB annual picnic will be held on September 18th at Melton Hill Dam (large covered pavilion #3) (along with Holland Club Inductions). This is located one exit west of the I-75/I-40 split (exit going north). The picnic will begin at 1200 and we will plan to eat at 1300. I will prepare smoked pulled pork and provide buns, BBQ sauce, coffee, iced tea, lemonade, plates, napkins, plastic utensils, and cups. You should also bring a dish to share. The cost of the picnic is \$8.00/person.



## STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1(SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2021 USSVI Calendars are still available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. The cost is \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 to cover postage. We also have 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. Smoky Mountain Base Clock \$18.00.

Remember all purchases help to support YOUR Smoky Mountain Base.



## SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1(SS)

On June 1st, we had a balance of \$1,798.49.

As of August 1st, we have a balance of \$1,162.89.





## Secretary's Report - Martin Wesley



Presiding: Martin Wesley, Base Secretary

Date: July 15, 2021

Meeting called to Order at 1905 hours.

David Pope presented the Invocation.

The Base Secretary read The USSVI Creed.

The Base Secretary led the tolling of the bell for the lost boats.

Members and guests were asked to sign in and introduce themselves.

Meeting Minutes – Minutes from June were presented by the Base Secretary.

Treasurer's Report – \$1162.89 in the treasury. Also the Base donated \$100 to, and collected \$400 for a total of \$500 to be donated to the Oak Ridge RORC for their trip to the December 7th Pearl Harbor Memorial Service in Hawaii.

Correspondence/Discussion – None

Committees –

- **Newsletter** - Bruce Eltzroth currently working on the next issue of the newsletter.
- **Library** – no report.
- **Storekeeper** – Dick Mitchell - not present.
- **Membership** – Marlin Helms - not present.
- **Scouting** - Thom Peschke - no report.
- **Webmaster** – Stuart McGlasson - no report.
- **Social Committees** - Andy Armbrust indicated that there will be a picnic on September 18th at the Melton Hill Dam area, along with the Holland Club inductions. More to come from Andy and Marlin.

Old business –

- None

New Business/Good of the Order -

- Bruce E. led a discussion on ways to increase our Base membership. Bruce received several ideas on how we can grow our membership including, adding a "VR Code" to an ad - More later from Bruce E.
- Dick Love reminded the group that the Elk's Club #1600 (5600 Lonas Dr. Knoxville, TN 37909) holds a "Free Veterans Breakfast Saturday" on the first of each month. - 8:00 am: coffee and fellowship, 8:30 am: Invocation, Pledge to the flag, chow line opens, 9:00 am: Recognition of Veterans by Era (or sometimes branch), 9:08 am: introduce sponsor-programs, 9:25 am: door Prizes, 9:30 am: dismiss. For more "Free Veterans Breakfast Saturdays" info see Marlin's e-mail dated June 4th. Marlin can re-send the e-mail. Marlin is also working on sending a letter to USSVI National concerning membership - send him any comments.
- **National Voting:** Has ended for District 5 Commander. Marlin Helms has been re-elected as District 5 Commander!
- **Next Meeting;** 1900 hrs, Thur. August 19, 2021 at Famous Dave's BBQ house in Knoxville, TN.
- **Motion to adjourn made and seconded.** Accepted unanimously.
- **Meeting Adjourned at 1940 hours.**

USS G-2 (SS-27) (TUNA) - 30 July 1919  
USS S-28 (SS-133) - 4 July 1944  
USS ROBALO (SS-273) - 26 July 1944  
USS GRUNION (SS-216) - 30 July 1942  
USS FLIER (SS-250) - 13 August 1944  
USS S-39 (SS-144) - 14 August 1942



Tolling Of  
The Bells



For July and August

USS HARDER (SS-257) - 24 August 1944  
USS BULLHEAD (SS-332) - 6 August 1945  
USS POMPANO (SS-181) - 28 August 1943  
USS COCHINO (SS-345) - 26 August 1949  
USS TUSK (SS-436) - 26 August 1949  
USS BASS (SF-5) (SS-164) - 17 August 1942





# Lost Boats of July



## Pre WW-II Lost Boats

### G-2 (SS-27) (TUNA) - 30 July 1919

#### 3 MEN LOST



G-2 was named **Tuna** when her keel was laid down on 20 October, 1909 by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, making her the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tuna. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew on 30 July, 1919, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 feet of water, drowning three of the inspection crew. Too deep and too old to salvage, the submarine was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 September 1919.

(Info & photo from Wikipedia)

## WW-II Lost Boats

### USS S-28 (SS-133) - 4 July 1944

#### 50 MEN LOST



On August 13, 1943, the **S-28** ended her sixth patrol at the submarine base at Massacre Bay on Attu Island. On September 8, 1943, she sailed from there for her seventh and last war patrol. On October 18, 1943, the **S-28** ended her last war patrol at Dutch Harbor before arriving at Pearl Harbor on November 16, 1943, for overhaul and use as a training vessel. On July 3, 1944, the **S-28**, captained by reservist Lieutenant Commander Jack G. Campbell, left the submarine base at Pearl Harbor to conduct training exercises with the Coast Guard cutter Reliance. On July 3 and 4, she acted as a target for Reliance's crew to help train them in American antisubmarine warfare techniques. During the late afternoon of **July 4, 1944**, all contact with the S-28 was suddenly lost. The **S-28** was awarded **one battle star** for her service in World War II.

### USS ROBALO (SS-273) - 26 July 1944

#### 84 MEN LOST



On June 22, 1944, the **Robalo**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Manning M. Kimmel, departed Fremantle to conduct her third and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol in the South China Sea in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. The Operation Order for the **Robalo's** final patrol directed her to top off her fuel at Operation Potshot in Exmouth Gulf, and then proceed via Lombok Strait, Makassar Strait, Sibutu Passage, Balabac Strait, and south of Dangerous Ground to her assigned patrol station in the South China Sea. On **July 2, 1944**, Kimmel made a contact report stating **Robalo** had sighted a Fuso-class battleship with air cover and two destroyer escorts, just east of Borneo at 3°-29' N, 119°-26' E. However, he did not state whether or not he had attacked it. The contact report on **July 2, 1944**, was the last message ever received from the **USS Robalo** and when she did not return from patrol, she was reported as presumed lost. The **Robalo** earned **two battle stars** for her World War II service.

### USS GRUNION (SS-216) - 30 July 1942

#### 70 MEN LOST



On June 30, 1942, the **Grunion**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Mannert L. Abele, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. The **Grunion** reached Midway Island and then headed for the Aleutian Islands. On July 15, 1942, she reported she had been attacked by a Japanese destroyer and had fired three torpedoes at it, which all missed. She later reported that she had sunk three destroyer-type vessels. Japanese reports examined after the war indicated she sank two patrol craft and damaged a third. On July 19, 1942, the **Grunion**, the **USS S-32 (SS-137)**, the **USS Triton (SS-201)**, and the **USS Tuna (SS-203)** were ordered to take positions in the approaches to Kiska harbor. The **Grunion's** last transmission was received **July 30, 1942** reporting heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska harbor, and that she had ten torpedoes remaining. On the same day, the **Grunion** was directed to return to Dutch Harbor. She was never heard from again. Air searches off Kiska were fruitless. On October 5, 1942, it was announced that she was assumed lost with all hands. The **Grunion** received **one battle star** for her World War II service.





# Lost Boats of August



## USS FLIER (SS-250) - 13 August 1944



**80 MEN LOST**

USS FLIER (SS-250) Sailed 2 August 1944, on her second war patrol, bound for the coast of Indochina via the Lombok Strait, Macassar Strait and Balabac Strait. At about 2200 on 12 August, while transiting Balabac Strait on the surface, she struck a naval mine. She sank in about a minute, but 13 officers and men were able to clamber out. Eight of them reached the beach of Mantangula Island after 15 hours in the water. Friendly natives guided them to a coast-watcher, who arranged for them to be picked up by submarine, and on the night of 30-31 August, they were taken on board by *Redfin*.

## USS S-39 (SS-144) - 14 August 1942



**NO MEN LOST**

USS S-39 (SS-144) was lost on 14 August 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island Louisiande Archipelago. All of the crew were rescued.

## USS HARDER (SS-257) - 24 August 1944

**84 MEN LOST**



On August 5, 1944, **USS HARDER**, captained by Commander Samuel D. Dealey, left Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol. Commander Dealey had been chosen to lead a wolf pack made up of **HARDER**, **USS HAKE** (SS-256), and **USS HADDO** (SS-255). **HARDER** and **HAKE** left together. Lieutenant Commander Chester Nimitz's **HADDO** would leave three days later. The three boats would rendezvous off Subic Bay and hunt for enemy shipping south of Luzon Strait.

On the morning of 24 August 1944, two ships emerged from Dasol Bay - a mine-sweeper and the old Thai destroyer *Phra Ruang*. **HAKE** maneuvered to attack the destroyer, but broke off when it turned back into the bay. Meanwhile, the Japanese minesweeper continued out, pinging continually, and **HAKE** moved off to evade, as her Commanding Officer Frank Haylor, caught a last glimpse of **HARDER'S** periscope at 0647. At 0728, Haylor heard a string of 15 depth charge explosions in the distance; then nothing. **USS Harder** (SS-257) - Sank in Philippine Waters, 24 August 1944 after being depth charged by IJN Escort CD-22.

In the final analysis, Sam Dealey and **HARDER** had sunk 16 enemy ships, with total tonnage in excess of 55,000 - enough to put him among the top five US submarine skippers.







# Lost Boats of August



## USS BULLHEAD (SS-332) – 6 August 1945



### 84 MEN LOST

**USS Bullhead (SS-332)** On July 31, 1945, the *Bullhead*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Holt, Jr., left Fremantle on her third and final war patrol. She had received orders to transit the Lombok Strait and patrol in the Java Sea with several other American and British submarines. On August 2, 1945, she kept a rendezvous with the Dutch submarine *Q 21* about 350 miles south of Lombok Strait and transferred mail to her. On August 6, 1945, the *Bullhead* reported that she had transited the Lombok Strait safely was on station in the Java Sea. She was never heard from again and was presumed lost with all hands.

Postwar analysis of enemy records indicated that the *Bullhead* was ambushed by a Japanese Army plane off Bali on August 6, 1945, at 0835 hours. The pilot of a Mitsubishi Ki-51 "Sonia" dropped two sixty-kilogram bombs on the submarine. The pilot claimed two direct hits and said he saw oil and bubbles coming from the area where the submarine had submerged. The *Bullhead* was the last U. S. submarine lost during World War II. The attack happened at coordinates 8° 20' S, 115° 42' E, which is very close to the Bali coast. The *Bullhead* received two battle stars for her World War II service.

## USS Pompano (SS-181) – 28 August 1943



### 74 MEN LOST

On August 20, 1943, the *USS Pompano*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Willis M. Thomas, left Midway Island on her seventh and last war patrol. Thomas was ordered to patrol the north-east coast of Honshu from August 29 until sunset on September 27, 1944.

The last report from the *Pompano* was on September 9, 1944, when she reported that she had attacked and damaged the *Nanking Maru*.

One possibility is that she fell victim to a newly laid mine field. Another possibility is that Japanese records obtained after the war indicate that Japanese air and naval units attacked a submarine on September 17, 1943, in the Tsugaru Strait, at bearing 320 from and only two miles off Cape Shiriyazaki. Japanese ASW forces made three attacks with depth charges. Following the last one the target stopped and the oil slick was seen to be spreading. After each attack the oil slick grew larger. It was concluded that an enemy submarine was probably resting on the seabed in an area at bearing 318 from and about three miles off the Shiriyazaki Lighthouse. The attackers believed the submarine had lost motive power. Attempts to locate the target using the fathometer and sonar were unsuccessful. More depth charges were dropped and more gushing oil was seen. Oil kept gushing out from that location during the entire day.

The *Pompano* did not return to Midway Island on the scheduled date, nor did she respond to numerous radio transmissions. *Pompano* was awarded seven battle stars for her service in World War II.

## POST WW-II Lost Boats

## USS COCHINO (SS-345) and USS TUSK (SS-436) – 26 August 1949



### 1 MAN LOST from Cochino and 6 MEN LOST from Tusk

**USS Cochino (SS-345)** was lost on 26-Aug-1949 when it sank in the Norwegian Sea after a fire, one crewman from Cochino and 6 crewmen of the **USS TUSK (SS-426)** were lost overboard due to the heavy seas while rescuing the **USS COCHINO's** crew.

(Left photo is Cochino, Right is Tusk)



# Lost Boats of August



## USS Bass (SF-5) (SS-164) - 17 August 1942

26 MEN LOST

**USS Bass (SF-5/SS-164)**, a *Barracuda*-class submarine and one of the "V-boats", was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the bass. Her keel was laid at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. She was launched as **V-2 (SF-5)** on 27 December, 1924. *Bass* was designed to meet the fleet submarine requirement of 21 knots (39 km/h) surface speed for operating with contemporary battleships.

### Inter-War Period

*V-2* was assigned to Submarine Division 20 (SubDiv 20) and cruised along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean Sea until November 1927, when the Division sailed for San Diego, California, arriving on 3 December 1927. *V-2* operated with the fleet on the West Coast, in the Hawaiian Islands, and in the Caribbean Sea until December 1932. During this period her 5 inch (127 mm)/51 caliber deck gun was replaced by a 3 inch (76 mm)/50 caliber weapon.

Renamed *Bass* on 9 March 1931, she was assigned to SubDiv 12 in April. On 1 July, her hull classification symbol was changed from **SF-5** to **SS-164**. On 2 January 1933, she was assigned to Rotating Reserve SubDiv 15, San Diego. *Bass* rejoined the fleet again in July and cruised along the West Coast, in the Canal Zone, and in the Hawaiian Islands until January 1937. She then departed the West Coast and arrived at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 18 February, 1937, where she went out of commission in reserve on 9 June.

### World War II

*Bass* was recommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire on 5 September, 1940, and assigned to SubDiv 9, Atlantic Fleet. From February–November 1941, she operated along the New England coast and made two trips to St. George, Bermuda. She arrived at Coco Solo, Canal Zone on 24 November and was on duty there when the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor.

**In 1942, *Bass* was attached to Submarine Squadron 3 (SubRon 3), SubDiv 31, Atlantic Fleet. From March–August. While based at Coco Solo, she made four war patrols in the Pacific, off Balboa, Panama. While at sea on 17 August, 1942, a fire broke out in the after battery room and quickly spread to the aft torpedo room and starboard main electric motor, resulting in the death of 26 enlisted men by asphyxiation.** The following day, USS *ANTAEUS* (AS-21) arrived to assist the submarine and escorted her into the Gulf of Dulce, Costa Rica. Both then proceeded to Balboa.

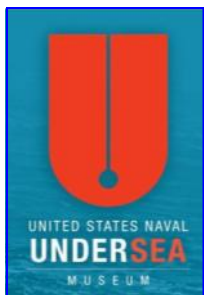
*Bass* remained in the Canal Zone until **October 1942**, when she departed for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, arriving on 19 October. *Bass* was then overhauled at Philadelphia Navy Yard. At this time she was converted to a *cargo submarine* with the removal of her main engines, severely restricting her speed on the remaining auxiliary engines. *Bass* proceeded to New London, Connecticut where she conducted secret experiments off Block Island in December 1943. She was again in Philadelphia for repairs from January–March 1944. During the remainder of the year, she was attached to SubRon 1, Atlantic Fleet, and operated out of New London in the area between Long Island and Block Island. *Bass* was decommissioned at the Naval Submarine Base New London on 3 March, 1945 and expended as a target for the Mark 24 Fido "mine" (actually an acoustic homing torpedo) on 18 March, 1945.





## DID YOU KNOW? AT THE UNDERSEA MUSEUM

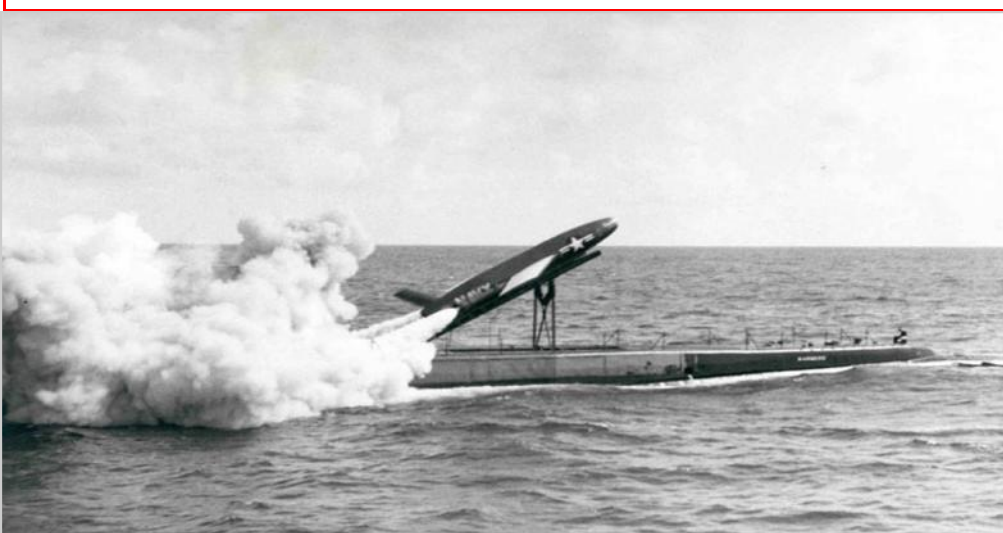
U.S. Naval Undersea Museum, 1 Garnett Way, Keyport, WA 98345



# NOW OPEN!



Normal Museum operating hours are from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM daily May through September. The museum is closed on Tuesdays October through April. The museum's no bag policy has been lifted, but will be enforced as security threat levels dictate.



Regulus I missile fired from USS *Barbero*.

*Image courtesy of the National Postal Museum*

Although the impetus was a speedier means to transport mail, the launch was intended to showcase U.S. military capabilities amid the Cold War arms race with the Soviet Union. If a Regulus missile could quickly and accurately deliver mail, it could also quickly and accurately deliver its nuclear payload. Then-Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield predicted we would soon be sending mail in just hours using missiles, but this proved to be the only Missile Mail delivery.

*Article courtesy of the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum*



## WW-II SUBMARINE USS Cod (SS-224) to be repaired at Erie Shipyard.



Left Photo – courtesy of Wikipedia.  
Right Photo – Courtesy of John Augustine



CLEVELAND OHIO \* More than 70 years after its last wartime mission, the USS Cod is under threat again. The world war II submarine, docked at Cleveland's North coast Harbor, is at risk of taking on water, the result of pitting, a type of corrosion caused by years of saltwater and freshwater exposure. While a breach is still a far cry, according to the vessel's caretakers, the pitting, if left unchecked, could deteriorate the submarine's hull and impact its stability. It could also leave an eyesore for a submarine now considered a floating museum and a National Historic Landmark since 1986, "We're not panicking but this is something we have to take care of" said Paul Farace, president of the U.S.S. Cod Submarine Memorial. Indeed, while the cod fought off Japanese ships, earned battle flags and fitfully belied the reputation of its harmless namesake, the creeping degradation of its steel now requires a different kind of survival. That's where Erie Shipyard comes in. The USS Cod, a world war II submarine docked in Cleveland, Ohio, was towed to an Erie shipyard in mid June for repairs.

*Story Courtesy of A.J. RAO, ERIE TIMES-NEWS, submitted by John Augustine*



# First Submarine to Surface at the North Pole

USS Skate (SSN-578)



Patch images and  
photo courtesy of  
Wikipedia.

The First Submarine to Surface at the North Pole - USS Skate (SSN-578) hung below the Arctic ice like a matchstick suspended an inch from the ceiling of a large room. A knot of sailors in the control room stared intently at an instrument inscribing patterns of parallel lines on a rolling paper tape. The pattern looked like an upside down mountain range. "Heavy ice, ten feet," said one of the sailors. Suddenly the lines converged into a single narrow bar. "Clear water!" the sailor called out.

Commander James Calvert, the skipper, studied the marks on the paper closely. He stopped the submarine, ordered "up periscope," and peered into the eyepiece. The clarity of the water and the amount of light startled him. At this same depth in the Atlantic—180 feet—the water was black or dark green at best, but here in the Arctic, it was pale blue like the tropical waters off the Bahamas. The crew laughed nervously as Calvert reported seeing nothing but a jellyfish. Calvert turned toward the man in charge of the ice-detecting instrument. "How does it look?" The sailor flashed him the okay sign. "Bring her up slowly," Calvert said. The three-thousand ton sub began drifting upward like a giant balloon. The diving officer called the depth as the Skate rose.

Otherwise the room was deathly quiet. A wrong move or a miscalculation would endanger the mission or even the ship. Calvert continued to peer through the eyepiece. When the top of the periscope came within sixty feet of the surface, he spotted heavy ice to the side. He flipped the prism to look straight up, but saw nothing except the same blurred aquamarine. Sweat appeared on his forehead as he felt all eyes in the control room bear down upon him. If the sub rose too slowly, it could drift away from the opening. If it rose too quickly and struck ice, the collision could tear open the pressure hull and send the sub and all ninety men on board to the bottom.

Calvert, one of the most decorated naval officers of World War II, had survived eight war patrols in the submarine Jack and later became the third naval officer selected by Admiral Hyman Rickover to command a nuclear powered submarine. It was one of the Navy's most demanding jobs, for it required the intellect and the courage to operate the Navy's most sophisticated and dangerous propulsion system. This success of this mission would help Navy planners determine whether submarines could navigate safely under Arctic ice, a question with grave implications for national security, given the emerging Soviet submarine threat.

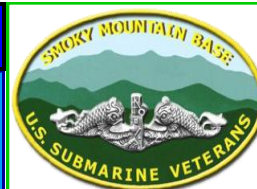
Calvert ordered the ballast tanks blown. The roar of high pressure air seemed earsplitting after the tense silence of the last few minutes. Upon surfacing, Calvert ordered the hatch opened, then climbed up to the bridge. The sky was slightly overcast and the damp air felt like an unseasonably warm February day in New England, with the temperature hovering near freezing. The submarine's black hull stood out in stark relief against the deep blue of the calm lake in which the ship now floated. Beyond the lake, stretching to the horizon in every direction was the stark white of the permanent polar ice pack. The officer who had climbed to the bridge with Calvert called the skipper's attention to the port side of the ship. There a full grown polar bear was climbing slowly out of the water and up onto the ice. The date was 11 August 1958 and the Skate had just become the first submarine to surface at the North Pole.

[Story source: U.S. Naval Institute | Naval History Blog | August 11, 2011++]





## Tolling of the Bell Ceremony



TOLLING OF THE BELL FOR THE LOST BOATS TO BE HELD AT  
THE OAK RIDGE, TN PEACE BELL ON SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

### Guest Speaker - Captain Witzenburg

Capt. Witzenburg will be our guest speaker for the 2021 tolling of the boats, scheduled for 9/25/2021.

He was commissioned through Naval ROTC program in May 1965. He served on seven submarines during his naval career, (one diesel and six nuclear):

USS Volador (SS-490) - Jan '67 - Jul '68 as Supply Officer/Comms/Sonar EMO.

USS Gurnard (SSN-662) Jul. '68 - Aug '70, as DCA.

USS Francis Scott Key (SSBN-657) Sept. '72 - Jan '76 as Engineer.

USS Seadragon (SSN-584) May '78 - May '81 as XO.

Commander: USS Skipjack - (Mar. '82 - Apr. '82) and USS Seawolf - (May '82 - Oct '85).

New construction: - USS Tennessee (Dec '85 - Apr '89).

(1) Taught Reactor Plant Technology @ Naval Nuclear Power School - Mare Island, California.

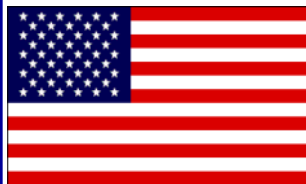
(2) Asst. Type Comm. Rep. at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

(3) Program Manager for the Submarine Torpedo Program.

Capt. Witzenburg retired from the US Navy in October 1992.

The story and photos below were from the most recent tolling of the boats ceremony at the Oak Ridge Peace Bell, held in 2019. Last year's tolling was cancelled due to Covid-19.

### Guest Singer - Larry Blair



Larry Blair was born and raised in Knoxville, TN. He served in the US Army as an E-4 and has had a professional singing career for over three decades. Larry has performed as lead singer for "The Blair Brothers", in the solo band "LB1", and currently the founder of, and performing in the band "The BlairXperience". Larry has opened for "Ray Charles", "The Four Tops", "Mary Wilson", "The Plat-ters", and "Blood Sweat and Tears".

Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans will conduct its 15th annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony at the Peace Bell in Bissell Park, Oak Ridge, TN. The Tolling of the Boats is a memorial service to honor our submarine brothers on Eternal Patrol. In WWII many of our submarine losses were announced as failed to return from patrol and presumed lost, we refer to our lost brothers as being on Eternal Patrol. This ceremony is a fundamental part of our creed as members of U.S. Submarine Veterans, "*To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country.*"

The submarine service has connections to Oak Ridge from the beginnings of the Secret City (Oak Ridge). Admiral Rickover the father of the Nuclear Navy earned his Doctorate of Pile Engineering at the Graphite reactor at ORNL and went on to build the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, and the world's first commercial nuclear power plant at Shippingport, PA. Nuclear fuels are manufactured at Y-12 for the propulsion plants of modern submarines. ORNL developed sonar arrays to monitor our submarines sound signatures in the Caribbean. Y-12 manufactured the propulsor for the USS Sea Wolf SSN-21. Y-12 refurbished the W-76 warheads used in the Trident ballistic submarines. Not to mention that many ex-Navy submariners work at the Oak Ridge facilities utilizing technical training gained in the Navy and experience in the submarine service. (Story & above photos by Marlin Helms)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



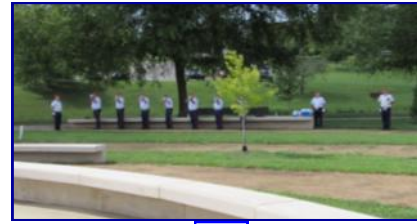
(5)



(6)



(7)



(8)

All photos by Bruce Eltzroth except #7

Photo #7 by John Augustine

(Photos 1 & 2) show the Peace Bell in Oak Ridge, TN. (Photos 3 thru 7) show Marlin Hems (right) and Terry McBride (left) tolling the bell and/or presiding with Terry reading the lost Boats from pre WW-II in (Photo 3). (Photo 4) shows Fred Baker reading the Boats lost from the first part of WW-II. (Photo 5) shows John Augustine reading the lost Boats from the middle of WW-II. (Photo 6) has Thom Peschke reading the Lost Boats from the end of WW-II. (Photo 7) shows Bruce Eltzroth reading the lost boats since the end of WW-II. Also in attendance were the US Marine Color Guard presenting the flags and playing Taps for the boats and men lost. (Photo 8)





## LOOKING BACK TO A PAIR OF OHIO-CLASS SUBMARINES COMMISSIONED EXACTLY FIVE YEARS APART!



Left: USS Kentucky underway, January 1992. Right: USS Wyoming returns home from a deterrent patrol, January 2009.



Kentucky firing an SLBM in 2015 as part of a test.



USS Kentucky (SSBN 737) was commissioned on July 13, 1991, and USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) followed her five years later on July 13, 1996. Both subs are celebrating big milestones this month: Kentucky turns 30 years old and Wyoming turns 25! The two ballistic missile submarines are home ported across the country from each other, but have the same critical mission of deterring nuclear attacks.

(Logos & SLBM picture courtesy of Wikipedia) (Story & other Photos courtesy of the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum)

## Tolling The Boats In Memory of: *Our Last Shipmates*

**The Tolling of the Bells is a solemn ceremony. Shipmates as you pause and remember those of our shipmates who sailed in harms way and did not return, keep in mind their ultimate sacrifice.**

### Recent SMB Members on Eternal Patrol:

Bobby Anderson - (SS-299) (SS-522) (SSN-607) (SSN-612)  
Charles A. Weller - (SS-236) (SS-408)  
William Smith - (SS-425) (SSBN-630) (SSK-1)  
James Tidd - (SS-522) (SS-564) (SS-408)  
Monty Ray Threatt - (SS-415) (SS-398) (SS-484)







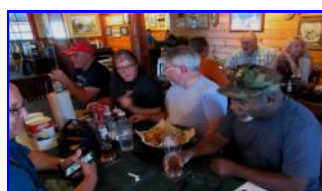
## SMB's June and July Monthly Meetings at Famous Dave's BBQ in Knoxville, TN



### Smoky Mountain Base's June 2021 Meeting

The June meeting was chaired by Marlin Helms and included two new members: Joseph Dansereau (EM1-SS) - Qual. Boat: USS Baltimore SSN-704 and also Sean McKinney (RM2-SS) - Qual. Boat: USS Baltimore SSN-704.

(photos by Bruce Eltzroth)



### Smoky Mountain Base's July 2021 Meeting



The July meeting was chaired by the SMB Secretary, Wes Wesley (See page 6 for meeting minutes). This meeting included two new members: Robert Hughes MTCM (SS) - Qual. Boat: John C. Calhoun SSBN-630, and Mike Schlitz (ET1-SS) - Qual Boat: USS James K. Polk. SSBN-645.

(photos by Bruce Eltzroth)



**Ad to be placed in local newspapers for new membership in the Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Chapter of the USSVI.**



### US SUBMARINE VETERANS WANTED

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base (SMB) Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) is looking for new members to be part of a growing service organization that holds various local events designed to enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow submariners and their families.

We meet on the third Thursday of every month in the Knoxville area at 1800 hours for "social hour" and 1900 hours for our monthly meetings.

For further information, please contact Marlin Helms (Base Commander) at (865) 387-5625, or scan the **attached QR code** (above right) with your smart phone.





## 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.**