



The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN






UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE VETERANS, INC.

The USSVI Submariners Purpose and Creed:
 "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.




Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **3rd Thursday** of each month at:

**CAROLINA ALE HOUSE,
KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900
(Guests are Invited)

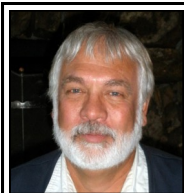
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SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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)
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)
USS SCULPIN (SSN-590)



Bruce is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Other Stuff

MARCH & APRIL - 2021

Scheduled Meetings:

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the
3rd Thursday of each month via **Zoom**:
 and/or at the **Carolina Ale House** located in
 Knoxville, TN
 Dinner @ 1800
 Meeting @ 1900



Meetings and Happenings

Due to the closure of the Golden Corral, your Smoky Mountain Submarine Base has found a new location to hold our monthly meetings, in the Knoxville area. The Carolina Ale House on Kingston Pike in Knoxville has been chosen to hold our meetings until further notice.

New Members:

Frank Indoe IC3(SS) - USS Requin SS-481
Michael Barham TM3(SS) - USS Darter SS-576

March 7 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
 March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
 March 18 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 March 20 - Vernal Equinox
 March 31 - March/April Newsletter Input Deadline



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April 1 - April Fools' Day
 April 2 - Good Friday
 April 4 - Easter Sunday
 April 11 - Submarine Force Birthday [(SS-1) purchase].
 April 15 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 April 22 - Earth Day
 April 30 - Arbor Day

March 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			

April 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



VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS



Base Librarian

Ed Sandifer
ENSIGN (SS)



SMB Library Books,
DVD's and Magazines

Ed has agreed to send several
items to our monthly meetings.
Check some out!



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.)



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.



Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plate

Take a copy of your DD-214 when you go.

NAVY TERMINOLOGY

Sea Lawyer – Someone who professes to have significant knowledge of the fine points of the rules and regulations. This knowledge is often used for personal gain, or to claim why something can or cannot be done.

Sea Story – A tale of nautical or airborne derring-do. Differs from a fairy tale only in that while a fairy tale begins "Once upon a time," a sea story begins either "There I was," (aviation version) or "This is a no shitter," (seaborne version).

Sea Suction – Underwater opening in a ship's hull. May be several feet in diameter. Usually fitted with a grating to prevent the entry of large, unwanted objects such as divers and other sea life.

Semi – (UK) A member of the USN, or more generally, things American, e.g. "that semi destroyer." Originated in the proliferation of semi-automatic gear in the post-WWII US Navy, especially things that did not work so well. Pronounced "sem-eye."

Semi-Active Homing – A type of radar missile homing where the launch platform provides radar transmissions and the missile homes in on the radar energy reflected off of the target. Abbreviated as 'SAH.'

Set and Drift – Refers to the behavior of a ship under the influence of wind and current; both deflect the ship from its intended course. 'Set' is the direction of that deflection, and 'drift' is the speed in knots of the displacement. A vector.

Sewer pipe – Submarine.

Shaft Alley – Engineering space aft of engine rooms, where propeller shafts pierce the hull. Location of shaft seals, etc.

Shellback – One who has crossed the Equator. Frequently modified with the adjective "trusty".

Shift Colors – When a ship moors, the national colors are broken on the stern, the Jack is broken on the bow, and the national colors ("steaming colors") are hauled down at the masthead, all at the instant the first line goes over. When the ship gets underway, as soon as the last line is cast off the dock, the Jack and colors are struck at bow and stern while the steaming colors are broken at the masthead.

Ship Over – Re-enlist for an extended military obligation.

Ship's Company – Refers to the officers and men assigned to the ship, as opposed to the AIRWING.

Shipshape – Also seen as "Shipshape and Bristol fashion." The desired condition of any ship or unit; the maintenance of seamanlike appearance. Every piece of gear stowed neatly, "a place for everything, and everything in its place."

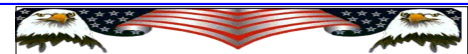
Shitbird – A screwed-up person.

Shitcan – Trash can, or when used as a verb, to throw something away. Can be used to refer to people: "He was a dirtbag, so we shitcanned him to the Surface Line."

(Terminology and Jokes courtesy of RAO Bulletin Feb. 2021)



Corny Jokes



How can you tell if a vampire is sick? See if he is coffin. What do you call fake spaghetti? An im-pasta. Why did the farmer win an award? He was outstanding in his field. When do computers overheat? When they need to vent. Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use honeycombs. Why can't your ear be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot. **That's all folks!!**



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



It's time to start looking at your calendars. We have a number of events scheduled and some proposed.

The Carolina Ale House looks like our meeting location for the foreseeable future. We have met there twice so far with no complaints from the restaurant or our members. The last meeting was a hybrid in-person Zoom meeting with some success. I am looking at some improvements.

The slate for nominees to this year's election will be presented at the April meeting. This does not close the nominating process it will be open for additional nominations at the May meeting closing just prior to the election.

Not much new on the Secret City Festival at this time. Dennis Witzenburg the first commanding officer of the USS Tennessee will be our keynote speaker, the Marine Corp League has confirmed that they will participate, and Larry Blair has also confirmed as our singer for the national anthem.



Fraternally Yours, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Base Commander.



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



COVID-19 shots are being administered around the area and it may be only a short time until we can start participating in "normal" activities again. On Monday 3/8/2021 the CDC issued new guidelines for people who have had their required doses of vaccine. They still caution medium and large gatherings without masks. This issue of the Snorkle includes a first look at our new meeting location - The Carolina Ale House on pages 12 and 13. There is a story about the need for funding for a new Veterans Memorial Park on page 13. We also have new information on the loss of the USS Tullibee (SS-284) on page 14. There are also two new SMB members listed on page 3.



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



Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman - (865) 300-3934 - A picnic has been proposed for later this year (depending on COVID restrictions) in the Melton Hill Dam picnic area near Oak Ridge off of highway 321, (North of I-40 & Lenoir City on TN Hwy. 321). The picnic will start at 12:00 Noon and we will plan on eating at 1:00 PM. The cost will be \$8.00/person. Pulled pork, buns, table service, condiments, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided. Each family should bring a covered dish to share.



STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1(SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2021 USSVI Calendars are now available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 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.

As a side note, Dick is recovering nicely from his bout with cancer !

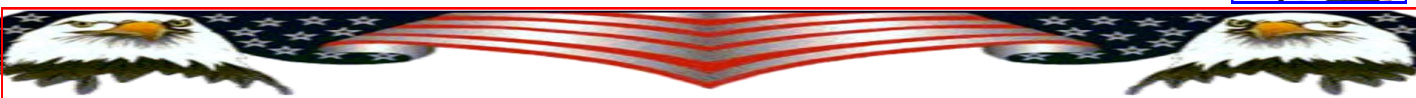


SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1(SS)

Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Jan. 7th, 2020 our bank balance was **\$1,634.55**.

As of March 1st, 2020 we have a balance of **\$1,212.33**.





SMB Meeting Minutes **By - Marlin Helms (SMB Base Commander)**



Date: March 18, 2021

Location : Carolina Ale House - 9045 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN

Presiding: Marlin Helms - Base Commander - Meeting called to Order at 1910 hours.

Dave Pope presented the Invocation.

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

COB Terry McBride and Marlin led the Tolling of the Bell for lost boats of February:

USS Perch - SS-176, March 3, 1942. 59 Men Lost
USS Grampus - SS-207, March 5, 1943. 71 Men Lost
USS Bell - SS-28, March 12, 1920. 4 Men Lost
USS Triton - SS-201, March 15, 1943. 74 Men Lost

USS Kete - SS-369, March 20, 1945. 87 Men Lost
USS F4 - SS-23, March 25, 1915. 21 Men Lost
USS Trigger - SS-237, March 26, 1945. 89 Men Lost
USS Tullibee - SS-284, March 29, 1944. 78 Men Lost

Members and guests were asked to sign in and introduce themselves and their significant others.

Meeting Minutes – Minutes from February's meeting were not read due to absence of secretary Martin Wesley.

Treasurer's Report – \$ 1212.33 in the checking account.

Committees Reports:

- Newsletter– Bruce Eltzroth - Discussed deadline for next newsletter, and presented voting ballots for input.
- Library- Ed Sandifer - If you want a book from the library, just notify Ed or Marlin and it will be delivered to the next meeting.
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell - Not present
- Membership – Keep recruiting more members.
- Webmaster – Stuart McGlassen - Marlin discussed update of the website.
- Social Committees - Spring picnic - Andy Armbrust was not present. Marlin indicated that the next picnic will be held in the fall at Melton Hill Lake near Oak Ridge, TN.

Old Business - Still Working on nominees for base officers to be voted on at the May SMB/USSVI meeting.

Bruce Eltzroth will be the lead Nominating Committee member for the May, 2021 Base Officers elections. (Sample Ballot Below)

New business/Good of the Order . The Secret City Festival has been postponed until September.

Holland Club Inductions will be held later in the year.

June picnic at Melton hill Dam has been proposed by Andy Armbrust.

Next Meeting: 1900 Hrs, Thursday, April 15, 2021 at Carolina Ale House, 9045 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN.

Motion to Adjourn: Passed unanimously.



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Election of Officers 2021

(SAMPLE BALLOT)

Please write in the name of a nominee for each position in the blanks below:

Base Commander: _____

Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Please return these nominations to Bruce Eltzroth at or before the meeting on **(May 20, 2021)**.





Lost Boats of March



Pre WW-II Lost Boats

USS H1 (SS-28) (Bell) - 12 March 1920 - 4 Men Lost - Ran aground while in transit near Santa Margarita Island, Baja, Mexico.

USS F4 (SS-23) (Skate I) - 21 March 1915 - 19 Men Lost - Failure of lead lined battery compartment. Her hulk was raised and reburied off Sierra 13 north of Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

WW-II Lost Boats

USS PERCH I (SS-176) - 3 MAR. 1942

SS-176 Battle Stars



8 MEN LOST (as POW's)

On March 1, 1942, while on patrol in the Java Sea, the *Perch* was depth charged and heavily damaged by the Japanese destroyers *Amatsukaze* and *Hatsukaze*, at 6-30S, 113-50E. The *Perch* was attacked again on the following day with thirty depth charges by the Japanese destroyer *Ushio*, thus incurring additional heavy damage. On **March 3, 1942**, the *Perch* was caught while surfaced by the Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami* and was pounded with battery gunfire from both vessels. Facing a hopeless situation, the *Perch's* captain, Lieutenant Commander David A. Hurt, ordered the boat scuttled to prevent any usage by the enemy. The entire crew was picked up by the Japanese and sent to Prisoner of War camps for the duration of the war. *Perch* received one battle star for her World War II service.

USS GRAMPUS I (SS-207) - 5 Mar. 1943

SS-207 Battle Stars



71 MEN LOST

On **February 18, 1943**, the *Grampus* damaged the Japanese transport and aircraft ferry *Keiyo Maru* off New Britain. The submarine closed the damaged ship and torpedoed her again the following day at 04°-55'S, 152°-26'E. The attacks by the *Grampus* provoked an aggressive enemy response and the next day Japanese naval aircraft of the 958th Air Group reported bombing and sinking a submarine southeast of New Britain at 05°-40'S, 152°-18'E. They reported one direct hit on the conning tower and a large amount of oil on the surface after the attack. It is possible that this submarine was the *Grampus*.

Grampus received three battle stars for her World War II service.

USS TRITON I (SS-201) - 15 Mar. 1943

SS-201 Battle Stars



74 MEN LOST

On February 16, 1943, the *Triton*, captained by Lieutenant Commander George K. MacKenzie, Jr., left Brisbane for her sixth and final war patrol. Her orders were to search for and destroy enemy shipping in the area between the Shortland Islands and Rabaul. On March 6, 1943, the *Triton* reported a battle with a Japanese convoy of five ships escorted by a destroyer during which she sank the 3,057-ton freighter *Kiriha Maru*. During this encounter one of her torpedoes made a circular run that had forced her to go deep to evade it. Two days later she reported she had fired eight torpedoes at another convoy and that an escorting destroyer had forced her to go deep, so she had not been able to observe the results. She also reported damaging another freighter. The *Triton's* last message reached Brisbane on **March 11, 1943**, and it said, "Two groups of smokes, 5 or more ships each, plus escorts...Am chasing." She was never heard from again. The *Triton* received five battle stars for her World War II service.



Lost Boats of March



USS KETE (SS-369) - 20 Mar. 1945

SS-369 Battle Stars



87 MEN LOST

The *Kete*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward Ackerman, left the submarine base at Guam on March 1, 1945, for her second and final war patrol. Her orders were to patrol in the waters surrounding the Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands). While patrolling west of the Tokara Retto islands on the night of March 9-10, 1945, the *Kete* reported she had torpedoed and sank three enemy cargo ships. During the night of March 14th, she reported making an unsuccessful attack on a cable-laying vessel. On March 19th, the *Kete* acknowledged orders to depart the area on March 20th, refuel at Midway Island, and proceed to Pearl Harbor for refit. On March 20th, she sent a weather report from a position south of Tokara Kaiko (Colnett Strait). This was the last transmission ever received from the *Kete*. Scheduled to arrive at Midway Island by March 31, 1945, she was never heard from again. The *Kete* earned the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one campaign star for participation in the operation involving the assault and occupation of Okinawa from March 6-16, 1945.

USS TRIGGER (SS-237) - 26 Mar. 1945

SS-237 Battle Stars



89 MEN LOST

On March 11, 1945, the USS *Trigger*, captained by Commander David R. Connole, left the submarine base at Apra Harbor on Guam on her twelfth and final war patrol. Commander Connole's operation order for the *Trigger's* twelfth patrol instructed him to hunt for enemy shipping in the Nansei Shoto Archipelago (Ryukyu Islands) area and to serve as a lifeguard during a scheduled carrier air strike on Okinawa. On March 18, 1945, the *Trigger* reported she had made a seven-hour end-around attack on a convoy and had sunk a cargo ship. On March 20th, the *Trigger* replied she had been held under by antisubmarine vessels for three hours after attacking the convoy and when she re-surfaced had been unable to regain contact on the escapees. Four days later, ComSubPac directed her to patrol west of the Nansei Shoto chain, to avoid restricted areas, and to stay outside of the 100-fathom curve. On March 26th she sent a weather report that day, but never confirmed receiving the March 26th message. On May 1, 1945, the *Trigger* was reported as presumed lost. The *Trigger* received eleven battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.

USS TULLIBEE I (SS-284) - 26 Mar. 1944

SS-284 Battle Stars



79 MEN LOST

(More info on page 14)

On March 5, 1944, the *Tullibee* left Pearl Harbor for her fourth and final war patrol with Commander Charles F. Brindupke at the helm. After fueling at Midway Island on March 9, 1944, she headed for the Palau Islands to join other Pearl Harbor and Brisbane submarines assigned to Operation Desecrate One. She was never seen or heard from again. The *Tullibee* was expected to return to Majuro for a refit around May 4, 1944. When she failed to arrive by May 15, 1944, she was presumed lost. The *Tullibee* received three battle stars for her World War II service.





Lost Boats of April



USS PICKEREL (SS-177) - 3 Apr. 1943

SS-177 Battle Stars



78 MEN LOST

On March 18, 1943, the *Pickerel*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Augustus H. Alston, Jr., sailed from Pearl Harbor on her seventh and final war patrol. On March 22, 1943, she stopped at Midway Island to refuel, and then headed to her assigned patrol area along the eastern coast of northern Honshu. She was never heard from again. The *Pickerel* was possibly lost on April 3, 1943, off Aomori Prefecture, south of the Hachinohe Sea and near the Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the eastern coast of northern Honshu. At 0020 hours that day, *Pickerel* had sunk the 460-ton Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 13* at 41° 2' 60.000" N, 141° 58' 0.000" E. Later that day a Japanese patrol plane from Ominato spotted an oil patch on the sea near the Shiranuka Lighthouse. The patrol plane summoned the IJN Minelayer *Shirakami*, the submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru*, and additional aircraft to the spot. A total of 53 depth charges and 23 aerial bombs were dropped at the location causing a larger quantity of oil to rise to the surface. No other American submarine was operating in or near the area of the attacks. The *Pickerel* received three battle stars for World War II service.



USS SNOOK (SS-279) 8 Apr. 1945

SS-279 Battle Stars



88 Men Lost

On March 25, 1945, the *Snook* left the submarine base at Guam for her ninth and final war patrol with Commander John F. Walling at the helm. She departed Guam in company with USS *Burfish* (SS-312) and USS *Bang* (SS-385), all part of the wolf pack *WHALERS* under Commander Walling's leadership. On March 27th *Snook* returned to Guam for emergency repairs. She left to rejoin the group the following day. The group was under orders to conduct a coordinated patrol in the Luzon Strait area and to perform lifeguard duty if so directed by dispatch. On April 1, 1945, *Snook* was ordered to disband the *Whalers* pack and join a new group, *HIRAM'S HECKLERS*, under Commander Hiram Cassidy in USS *Tigrone* (SS-419). On April 8th *Tigrone* had been fired at by an unseen opponent and had dodged two torpedoes. He suspected that the *Snook* might have fired the torpedoes at him. Cassidy raised the *Snook* by radio that night and Walling said he had not yet fired any torpedoes. Cassidy cautioned Walling to be on guard for the enemy submarine that had fired the torpedoes at *Tigrone*. The next day Cassidy could not raise the *Snook* by radio. She was never heard from again. There are two possible causes for the *Snook's* loss, neither with sufficient evidence to be deemed conclusive. The first possibility is that on April 14, 1945, she was detected by enemy patrol planes off the Chusan Archipelago and attacked with depth charges. Surface vessels were called in and attacked the submarine with depth charges over the next two hours until a widening oil slick was sighted. The second possibility is that on April 14, 1945, while the *Snook* was on lifeguard duty near the Sakishima Islands, she was torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-56*. The *Snook* earned seven battle stars for World War II service.



Lost Boats of April



USS GRENADIER (SS-210) - 22 Apr. 1943

SS-210 Battle Stars



4 Men Lost

On March 20, 1943, *Grenadier* departed Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol with Lieutenant Commander John A. Fitzgerald at the helm. On April 21, 1943, while on station in the Strait of Malacca, between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra *Grenadier's* lookouts spotted a twin-engine enemy bomber on her port quarter. Fitzgerald gave the order to crash dive. As *Grenadier* passed 120 feet, a bomb exploded directly above the boat near the bulkhead between the maneuvering room and the after torpedo room. *Grenadier* sank until she hit the bottom at around 270 feet. After thirteen hours on the bottom, the crew managed to coax the heavily damaged submarine to the surface. With the deck gun inoperable, and only the bridge machine guns available, Fitzgerald knew fighting was not an option. He gave the order to scuttle the boat. The radio, radar, sound and TDC gear, and decoding machines were destroyed, and the codebooks were weighted and sunk. A Japanese merchant vessel with a small escort came into sight headed for *Grenadier*. As the IJN ships came closer, Fitzgerald lined his men up on the deck in their life jackets, the vents were opened and *Grenadier* sank by the stern, at the approximate geographic position 5° 30' 60.000" N, 98° 45' 0.000" E. They were taken aboard the Japanese merchant ship and transported to Penang, Malaysia. There the Japanese captors tortured them for many weeks in an unsuccessful effort to extract intelligence information. Next they would be sent to Singapore. Eventually, all of the men were transferred to the prison camps in Japan, where they underwent additional relentless interrogation. Four of *Grenadier's* men died while prisoners. The rest were freed following Japan's surrender more than two years later. The *Grenadier* received four battle stars for her World War II service.



USS BONEFISH (SS-582) Fire At Sea - April 24, 1988

1 Officer & 2 Men Lost



On April 24th, 1988, the Charleston based **USS BONEFISH SS-532** experienced a fire so intense that the ship had to be abandoned and subsequently towed back to port. BONEFISH was providing ASW services to the **USS CARR, FFG-52** and to the **USS JOHN F. KENNEDY, CVA-67** off the east coast of Florida. As part of the exercise CARR requested that BONEFISH go to 250 feet. After securing the battery charge, BONEFISH began diving to 250 feet. Investigators later determined that a sea water leak in the TDU allowed sea water into the battery compartment, followed by a loud bang. Instantly the boat filled with smoke. The order to abandon ship was given and Eighty-nine crew members were rescued by whaleboat and helicopter crews from CARR and the aircraft carrier JOHN F. KENNEDY. One Search and Rescue Swimmer from HS-7, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator Third Class (AW3) Larry Grossman spent over three hours in the ocean and was credited with saving 19 lives. He later received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. Three crewmen: **Lieutenant Ray E. Everts, Jr., Robert W. Bordelon RM2(SS), and Marshal Todd Lindgren YN3(SS)** were overcome by smoke and were killed. The investigation that followed the incident determined that the BONEFISH was damaged beyond repair and she was decommissioned on September 28, 1988 and scrapped on August 17, 1989.



ETERNAL PATROL

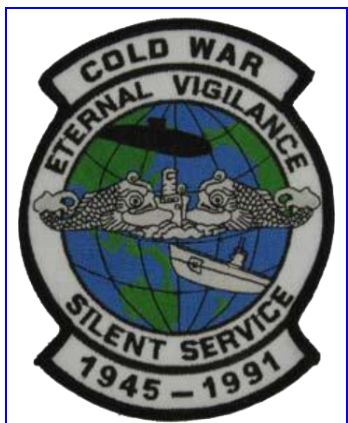


Lost Boats of April



USS THRESHER (SSN-593) - 10 April, 1963

112 Crew and 17 Civilians LOST



The keel of the second **THRESHER** (SSN-593) was laid down on 28 May 1958 by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Naval Shipyard; launched on 9 July 1960; sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder; and commissioned on 3 August 1961, **Comdr. Dean W. Axene** in command. Following trials the nuclear attack submarine took part in Nuclear submarine Exercise (NUSUBEX) 3-61 off the northeastern coast of the United States from 18 to 24 September.

On 18 October, the submarine headed south along the east coast. After calling at San Juan, Puerto Rico, she conducted further trials and test-fired her torpedo system before returning to Portsmouth on 29 November. The ship remained in port through the end of the year and spent the first two months of 1962 evaluating her sonar system and her Submarine Rocket (SUBROC) system.

Off Charleston, the ship undertook operations observed by the Naval Antisubmarine Warfare Council, before she returned briefly to New England waters from whence she proceeded to Florida for SUBROC tests. However, while mooring at Port Canaveral, the submarine was accidentally struck by a tug which damaged one of her ballast tanks. After repairs at Groton, Connecticut, by the Electric Boat Company, the ship returned south for more tests and trials off Key West. **THRESHER** then returned northward and remained in dockyard hands through the early spring of 1963.

In company with **SKYLARK** (ASR-20), **THRESHER** put to sea on 10 April 1963 for deep-diving exercises. In addition to her 16 officers and 96 enlisted men, the submarine carried 17 civilian technicians to observe her performance during the deep-diving tests. Fifteen minutes after reaching her assigned test depth, the submarine communicated with **SKYLARK** by underwater telephone, apprising the submarine rescue ship of difficulties. Garbled transmissions indicated that far below the surface things were going wrong. Suddenly, listeners in **SKYLARK** heard a noise "like air rushing into an air tank", then, silence.

Efforts to reestablish contact with **THRESHER** failed, and a search group was formed in an attempt to locate the submarine. Rescue ship **RECOVERY** (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Eventually, photographs taken by bathyscaph **TRIESTE** proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 5,500 feet of water, some 220 miles east of Boston. **THRESHER** was officially declared lost in April 1963.

Subsequently, a Court of Inquiry was convened and, after studying pictures and other data, opined that the loss of **THRESHER** was in all probability due to a casting, piping, or welding failure that flooded the engine room with water. This water probably caused electrical failures that automatically shutdown the nuclear reactor, causing an initial power loss and the eventual loss of the boat. **THRESHER** is in six major sections on the ocean floor, with the majority in a single debris field about 400 yards square. The major sections are the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces, operations spaces, and the tail section.

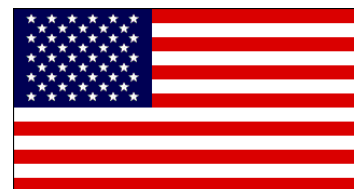
The death toll was staggering; 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilian technicians died that day. We submariners who followed them into the Silent Service owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to their memory because their death was the reason for the "Sub-Safe" program.



4/10/1963

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost 10 April 1963 with the loss of 129 officers and men when it was sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals.



SMB February 2021 Monthly Meeting at Carolina Ale House

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their first live 2021 meeting, since the start of the COVID-19 shutdown. It was held at the Carolina Ale House in Knoxville, TN. Previous SMB meetings had been held via ZOOM in both 2020 and early 2021. The Golden Corral Buffet in East Knoxville, that was the long time location for the SMB pre-COVID monthly meetings, was shut down; partially as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown. A new venue was needed in order to hold subsequent SMB in-person meetings. Although many of the Base's members were still sequestering and/or social distancing, 15 people managed to participate in this event.

(Photos below by Marlin Helms)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

(Photo 1) shows the full length front window of the Carolina Ale House. (Photo 2) shows (standing L to R) Gunny, Stuart McGlassen, David Pope and Jim Rock. (Photo 3) shows the inner wall of the room. (Photo 4) is the ships bell and other memorabilia. (Photo 5) shows Dick Love and his wife Bonnie with Frank Indoe. (Photo 6) is new member Mike Barham and his wife Dee. In (Photo 7) are Thom & Stephanie Peschke. And in (Photo 8) are Lorie Helms and her mom Charlotte.



SMB March 2021 Monthly Meeting at Carolina Ale House

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their second live 2021 meeting of the year again at the Carolina Ale House in Knoxville, TN. Although many of the Base's members were still sequestering and/or social distancing from COVID-19, 18 people participated this month. There were two new members present who signed up at this meeting for USSVI membership. Paper Voting Ballots were distributed to those members present to facilitate selection of candidates for Base Officers. (See bottom of page 6 for Sample Ballot) (All Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)



(1)



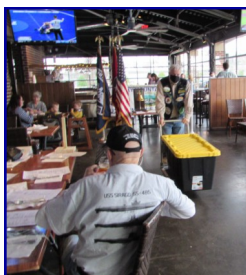
(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)

(Photo 1) Shows the SMB banner and Tolling Bell. (Photo 2) Shows Thom Peschke and his wife Stephanie. (Photo 3) shows Lorie Helms, her mother Charlotte and Lorie's great grand nephews. (Photo 4) shows Stuart McGlassen and his wife Lori. (Photo 5) shows Marlin wheeling the cart and the back of Frank Indoe. (Photo 6) shows David Pope's wife Julia & Gunny. (Photo 7) shows L to R, Julia, Gunny, David Pope, Terry McBride, and new member Michael Barham and his wife Dee.



Funding needed for the Veterans Memorial Park To be located on the French Broad River in Knoxville Tennessee



FRENCH BROAD VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



THE NEED
CREATING A PLACE OF REFLECTION, COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION FOR EAST TENNESSEE VETERANS.

THE PARK
THERE WILL BE A REVERENCE ABOUT THIS PARK.

Needed in the forest with a panoramic view of the mountains in the distance, this park will be built on property donated to Legacy Parks Foundation and will feature:

- A covered pavilion for events by families and organizations
- Private areas for reflection and small gatherings
- A signature overlook viewing the beautiful French Broad River
- Veterans markers and monuments along an accessible walkway
- A natural surface path that winds along the edge of the river bluff
- Once complete, the park will become a part of the Knox County Parks system

THE COMMITMENT YOU CAN CREATE A LEGACY.

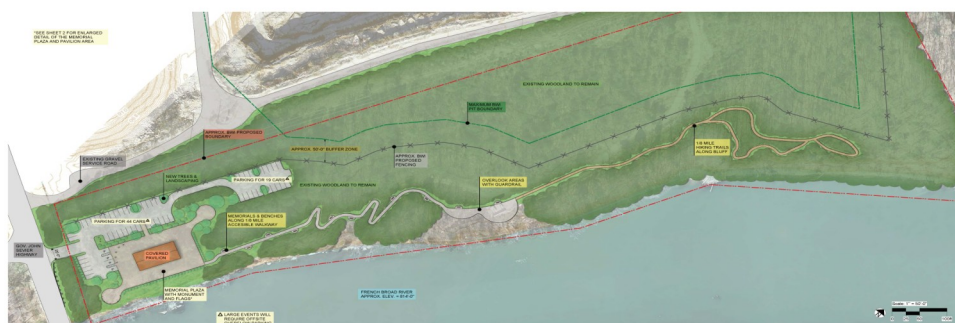
This project allows you to support our Veterans through a legacy project that will have a lasting impact on veterans and their families for generations to come.

Construction of the park will cost \$12 million. You may give a one time gift or spread your gift out over several years.

Suggested giving levels:
\$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$1,000 | \$500 | \$250 | \$100

Name: _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
☐ Please bill me for my pledge
☐ Please charge the amount of _____ Exp. Date: _____
CVC # _____
Signature: _____

LEGACY PARKS FOUNDATION
800 VOLUNTEER LANDING LANE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37915 | 865.525.2585



EAST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER

1000 N. Broadway
Knoxville, TN 37915
Phone: 865.525.2585
Email: easttennessee@tdc.org

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
Funding for this project is provided by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Community Design Center, the Knoxville Art Center, and the Knoxville Art Center.

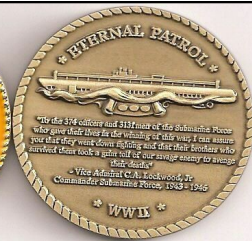
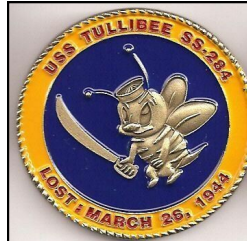
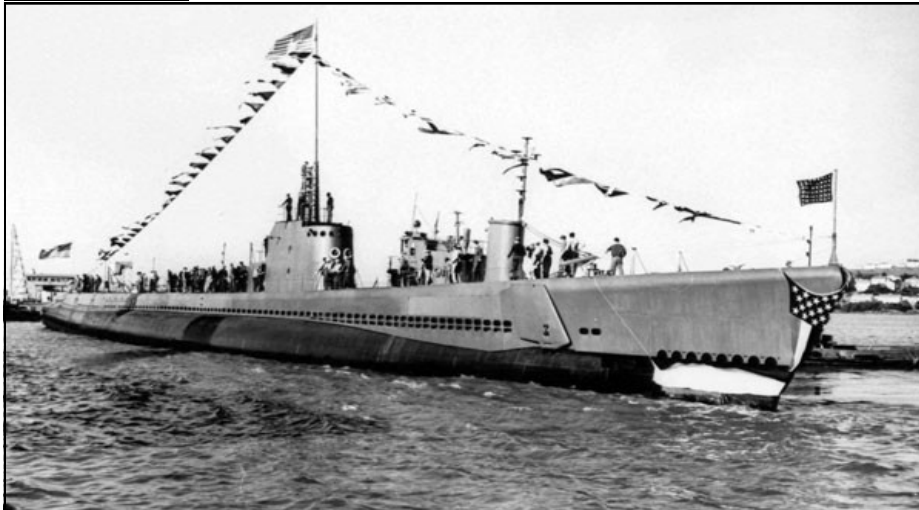
Veterans Memorial Park
Knox County, Tennessee
Date: September 16, 2019 | 615.525.2585 Project #1212
This project is in association with Legacy Parks Foundation and the Veterans Heritage Site Committee.

Professional Engineer: Stephen H. Hester, P.E. (Tennessee)
Date: September 16, 2019 | 615.525.2585 Project #1212
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
MASTER PLAN
DRAFT



USS Tullibee (SS-284)

26-Mar-1944. 79 men lost, one taken POW and survived the war.
(Compiled by Paul W. Wittmer and Charles R. Hinman, originally from: U.S. Submarine Losses World War II, NAVPERS 15,784, 1949 ISSUE)



(SS-284) Tullibee
Photo & Eternal
Patrol Challenge
Coins and Patch.
(Thanks to Wikipedia)



On 5 March 1944, TULLIBEE, commanded by Cdr. C. F. Brindupke, departed Pearl Harbor to start her fourth war Patrol. She stopped at Midway to top off with fuel, and having left that place on 14 March, she was not heard from again. The area assigned to TULLIBEE was an open sea area north of Palau, and she was to cooperate with surface forces in the first carrier strike on Palau. TULLIBEE was to leave her area not later than 24 April 1944, and on that date a dispatch was sent directing her to proceed to Majuro for refit. She was expected at Majuro about 4 May, but instructions stated that a submarine unable to transmit would not go to Majuro, but to Midway. On 6 May 1944, Midway was alerted for a submarine returning without transmission facilities but the lookout was not rewarded and TULLIBEE was presumed lost on 15 May 1944. The following story of TULLIBEE's loss is taken from a statement made by the lone survivor, C. W. Kuykendall, GM2c. He reports that the boat arrived on station, 25 March, and on the night of 26 March a radar contact was made. The contact was found to be on a convoy consisting of a large troop and cargo ship, two medium sized freighters, two escort vessels and a large destroyer. Having solved the convoy's speed and course, TULLIBEE made several surface runs on the large transport, but held fire, being unable to see her due to squally weather. The escorts had detected the submarine's presence, and dropped 15 to 20 depth charges. The submarine came in to 3,000 yards, still unable to see the target, and fired two bow tubes. A minute or two later a terrific concussion shook the boat, and Kuykendall, who had been on the bridge, soon found himself struggling in the water. Since range and bearing of escorts was known, the survivor states that he is sure the explosion was the result of a circular run of one of TULLIBEE's torpedoes. There were shouting men in the water when Kuykendall first regained consciousness after the blast, but after about ten minutes everything was silent, and he never again saw or heard any of the other TULLIBEE men. At 1000 on 27 March, an escort vessel located the swimming man, and after firing on him with machine guns, came in and picked him up. He learned here that the transport they had fired at had sunk. [Editor's note: Most sources do not credit Tullibee with this sinking.] The story of his captivity is much the same as the stories of survivors of GRENADIER, SCULPIN, TANG, PERCH, and other submarines. He was questioned assiduously by English speaking officers, and beaten when he refused to give any more information than international law required. In April 1944, he was taken to Ofuna Naval Interrogation Camp, where he stayed until 30 September. From that date until rescue on 4 September 1945, he was forced to work in the copper mines of Ashio. This submarine began her career in the Submarine Force in July 1943, with a patrol in the western Caroline Islands. In this patrol she sank one freighter and damaged another. Her second patrol was in the area south of Formosa off the China coast; here she sank a transport ship and damaged a large tanker and another transport. On her third patrol, in the Marianas area, TULLIBEE sank a small freighter. This gave TULLIBEE a total of three ships sunk, totaling 15,500 tons, and three damaged, for 22,000 tons. "We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds," Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN.



ETERNAL

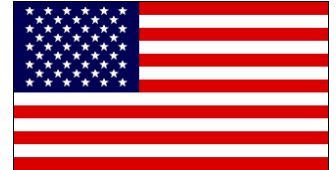


PATROL



First Introduction of Poseidon Missiles (MIRV's) in 1966

(Photos and story courtesy of the Undersea Museum)



Left: **USS George Washington Carver** (SSBN-656), one of the submarines converted to carry Poseidon missiles, at sea in 1966. Right: **USS James Madison** (SSBN-627) launches a Poseidon missile, October 1970.

Poseidon missiles introduced a powerful capability: warheads that could strike different targets using systems called MIRVs (multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles). Compared to Polaris missiles, Poseidon was 20 inches wider and 30,000 pounds heavier, yet still fit into Polaris missile tubes. The Navy back fit 31 Polaris ballistic missile submarines to carry Poseidon missiles. The first converted submarine, **USS James Madison** (SSBN 627), began the first Poseidon patrol on March 31, 1971.

(Above photos and story courtesy of the [Undersea Museum](#))



US Navy's Newest Submarine USS Montana (SSN-796)



USS Montana (SSN-796). The U.S. Navy's newest submarine was formally launched after more than 5 years on March 3, 2021. The 7,800-ton Virginia-class submarine is regarded as 92% complete -- final outfitting, testing and crew certification will follow the launching -- it is expected to be delivered to the Navy sometime later this year. When completed, she will be the 21st in the Virginia class of nuclear-powered fast attack submarines equipped with Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles.

(Story courtesy of [RAO BULLETIN](#) - 15 March 2021)

Construction of **Montana** began in May 2015 at Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. Contract completion date was expected to be in May 2020, but this was delayed because of the COVID pandemic.

(Information & Photo (of USS Virginia) courtesy of [Wikipedia](#))



(OTHER FUNNY STUFF) The owner of a golf course in Tennessee was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his secretary for mathematical help. He called her into his office and said, "You graduated from UT and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?" The secretary thought a moment, then replied, "Everything but my earrings." You gotta love those Tennessee women.

(Author Unknown)



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 1st thru Dec 31st. 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.