




The Snorkel Exhaust

USSVI SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN



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.**

“To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present, and Future”.



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

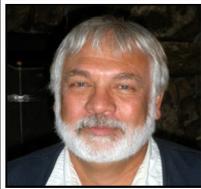
Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at **Famous Dave's BBQ**
 208 Advantage Place,
 Knoxville, Tennessee
 Dinner and Social Hour @1800
 Meeting @ 1900
 (Guests are invited)

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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 Eitzroth ET1(SU)
USS SCULPIN (SSN-590)

Bruce is an Associate
 Member of Smoky Mountain
 Submarine Base.





SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

MARCH & APRIL - 2022

Scheduled Meetings:

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **3rd THURSDAY** OF EACH MONTH AT:



FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ
208 ADVANTAGE PLACE,
KNOXVILLE, TN
DINNER @ 1800
MEETING @ 1900



Calendar and Happenings



While bird watching the other day, I saw a falcon in a tree



Published by: Smoky Mountain Submarine Base, a Subsidiary of USSVI, a non-profit - 501(C)(19) Corporation.
 Editor: Bruce Eltzroth - ET1-(SU)
 Published 6 times annually at the Base's website:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

New Members:

Terry Hanagan, (MM1-SS) - USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN 636)

- April 1 - April Fools' Day
- April 10 - Palm Sunday
- April 11 - Submarine Force Birthday [(SS-1) purchase]
- April 15 - Good Friday
- April 17 - Easter Sunday
- April 21 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 29 - Arbor Day



- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 8 - VE Day & Mothers Day
- May 19 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- May 21 - Armed Forces Day
- May 22 - USSVI Chartered
- May 30 - Memorial Day



April 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

May 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



VETERANS
I NFORMATION 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!

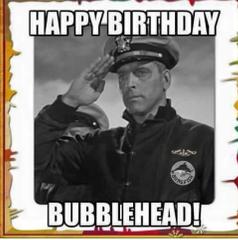


The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078, meets at The Fellowship Church located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, in Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6PM (1800 Hrs.)

Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plate
Take a copy of your DD-214 when you go to pick it up.



Also, don't forget that in 2022, the State of Tennessee requires that you start using a new State license plate, if yours is not a specialty plate like the one on the left.



UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL
OF EAST TENNESSEE

Every month Veterans and their guest are invited to a breakfast on Saturday morning at the locations listed on the back of this card. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. chow line 8:30 a.m. For more information contact 865-604-4443

First Saturday
Elks Lodge #160
5600 Lonas Drive, Knoxville 37909



Second Saturday
Hillcrest UMC
1615 Price Ave, Knoxville 37920

Third Saturday
Community Center
1708 West Emory Road, Powell 37849



Last Saturday
Oliver Springs DAV Tri-County Chapter 26
530 Kingston Ave, Oliver Springs 37840

DAV Chapter 24
2600 Holbrook Dr, Knoxville 37918

Louisville VFW Post 5154
2561 Hobbs Rd, Louisville 37777



102nd Anniversary of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service
The United States Navy Submarine Service officially began with the purchase of the USS Holland (SS-1) on April 11, 1920.
(Photo courtesy of Wikipedia)



NAVY TERMINOLOGY

- Baby Shit** - Yellowish, evil-smelling grease.
- Back Aft** - (RN) anything to do with the nuclear power plant or the people who operate it. See NUKE.
- Back in Battery** - Originally an artillery term for a gun which has completed its recoil/post firing cycle and is ready to fire again. Common usage now is 'ready to go,' or recovered. Also seen as Back to Battery. "I set my hair on fire last night, but five hours' rack time and I'm back in battery."
- Backing** – (1) Operating astern propulsion machinery. (2) A change of wind direction in the counter-clockwise direction (as one looks into the wind).
- Bag** - (1) Get, or collect. "Let's go bag some traps." (2) Stop or leave. "Let's bag this project."
- Ball (the)** - The glowing image projected by the FRESNEL LENS. Gives glide slope reference. Short for 'meatball', the term for the red ball of light seen in the old mirror landing system which predated the Fresnel lens system.
- Ball buster** – (1) Something difficult. (2) A sexually teasing woman.
- Balls (or Four Balls)** – Midnight, which in the military's 24-hour timekeeping system may be written as "0000," although writing midnight as "2400" is perhaps more common.
- Balls Out** – Refers to an early design of engine governor, in which a pair of masses (balls) spun at an increasing rate as engine speed increased. Centrifugal acceleration threw the masses outward, so "balls out" refers to maximum possible engine speed.
- Balls to Four** – Four to midnight watch.
- Balls to the wall** – Maximum speed or maximum effort.





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



Presentation of the 2022 slate of nominees for base officers will be presented in April. Please submit nominations by email or on the ballots provided by Bruce. Base elections will be at the regular meeting in May by a majority of members in good standing present. Nominations will be open until voting starts. We have been sent an application for the Music in the Mountains Spring Parade. We have participated in many of these parades when it was the Dolly Parton Homecoming Parade. This parade fills the requirements discussed at our meeting, it allows for member participation for those East of Knoxville and gives us a lot of public exposure. We are still looking for another monthly meeting venue. Restaurants at the Cedar Bluff exit are a geographical center for our existing members, but we may have to expand outward to find a suitable facility. It should be free, with moderately priced food, and large enough to seat current and potential future members.

Fraternally Yours, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Base Commander.



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



This issue of the Smoky Mountain Base Snorkle contains articles about the March 2022 SMB Board meeting and the March 2022 monthly Member meeting on pages 12 and 13. Page 13 also has some "non-submarine humor". Page 14 has discussions of several WW-II, US submarine activities. Page 15 has a follow up and update on the status of the USS San Francisco (SSN-711). It also has some more humor. Page 16 has the story of the scrapping of the vintage WW-II museum submarine, USS Clamagore (SS-343). (Thanks to Thom Peschke for sending it.) And as usual, the USSVI Application for Membership is on Page 17.



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



Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman. A picnic has been proposed for later this year at a location yet to be determined by Andy. The picnic will most likely 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. All SMB members and their friends and family's are invited.

Each family is asked to bring a covered dish to share.



STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1(SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2022 USSVI Calendars are now available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. They 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, a Co-Storekeeper for Dick is needed (see Marlin if interested).



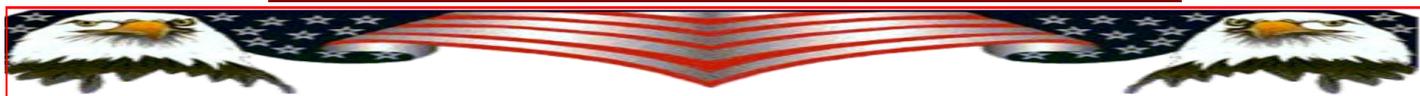
SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1(SS)



Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Feb. 1st, 2022 our bank balance was **\$1,483.14**.

As of March 17th, 2022 we have a balance of **\$1,980.14**.





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



Date: March 17, 2022

Location : Famous Dave's BBQ 208 Advantage Place - , Knoxville, TN

Presiding: Marlin Helms - Base Commander - Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours.

Dave Pope presented the Invocation.

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

Chaplain David Pope and Marlin led the Tolling of the Bell for lost boats of February:

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

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

Secretary's Report – Martin Wesley, Absent

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

Treasurer's Report – \$ 1980.14 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; Marlin indicated that a Co-Storekeeper is needed.
- Membership – Marlin Helms - Keep recruiting more members.
- Webmaster – Stuart McGlassen - Marlin discussed the previous SMB Board Meeting (see page 12 for info).
- Social Committees - Spring picnic - Andy Armbrust was not present. Marlin indicated that the next picnic will probably be held in the summer at a location to be determined.

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 scheduled for June, and SMB will attend.

Holland Club Inductions will be held later in the year.

A June picnic at an undetermined site has been proposed by Andy Armbrust.

Next Meeting: 1900 Hrs, Thursday, April 21, 2022 at , Famous Dave's BBQ, 208 Advantage Place, Knoxville, TN.

Motion to Adjourn: Passed unanimously.



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Election of Officers 2022

(SAMPLE BALLOT)

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

Base Commander: _____

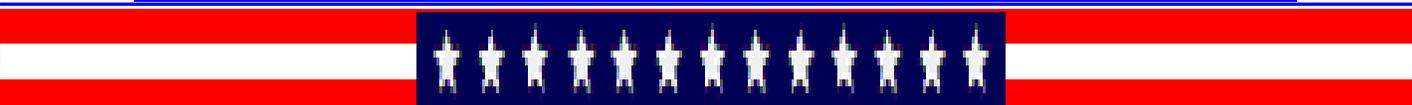
Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Please return nominations to Bruce Eltzroth at or before the meeting on (May 20, 2022).

Please sign your name here: _____





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 smoke, 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

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 *Burrfish* (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-210) Fire At Sea - April 24, 1988

1 OFFICER AND 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.



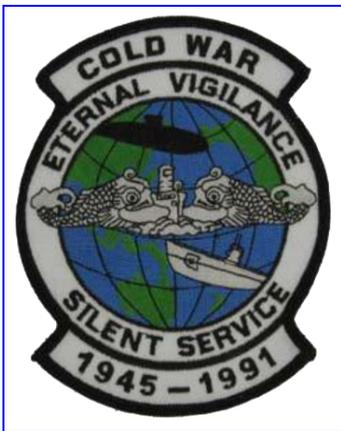


Lost Boats of April



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.

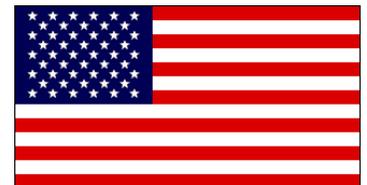
The death toll was staggering; 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilian technicians died that day. We submariners who followed them into the Silent Service owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to their memory because their death was the reason for the "Sub-Safe" program.



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 March 2022 Board Meeting at The Golden Oak Restaurant in Oak Ridge Tennessee

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their second 2022 Board meeting on 5 March 2022 at the Golden Oak Restaurant in Oak Ridge, TN. Eight SMB members managed to participate in this event.

In attendance were:

- Marlin Helms - Base Commander
- Bob Childs - Vice Commander
- Dave Pope - Base Chaplain
- Dick Love - Base Member
- Stuart McGlasson - Web master
- Bruce Eltzroth - Newsletter Editor/Base Photographer
- Jim Rock - Base Treasurer (Zoom)
- Thom Peschke - Base Member (Zoom)



1st Subject - Meeting location

I love the food at the Golden Oak and eat there often however it was another bad choice for a meeting location. I was told they had Wi-Fi they did not, Dave Popes Xfinity account allowed us to use Zoom. The room had a bad echo. A couple of the waitress stepped into the room and loudly argued. In addition, their "clean-up cart" was located in that room and dishes and trash was continuously being disposed of in a loud manner. C'est la vie I will look for a new location for a board meeting again for next month.

2nd subject - Establishing a call tree

A call tree was recommended by Thom Peschke. The Tri-State base had one while he was base commander there. We are very bad at keeping up with members; a call tree would help solve that problem. It should be voluntary top down from the base commander and possibly bottom up as well. We are also bad about keeping a current binnacle list; a call tree would help fix that as well.

3rd subject - Parades and base activities

For the second time parades and events were discussed. They fill two requirements, publicity, and member participation. Again, it was generally felt that we should focus more on local parades in surrounding Knoxville area to fulfill both requirements. Although the following ideas were discussed, none were voted on and were left for the SMB members to decide on.

Proposed were:

- 1 - **The Music in the Mountains Spring parade** (formerly the Dolly Homecoming parade) in Pigeon Forge. We have several members in the area, and it has been a well populated parade in the past.
- 2 - **Veterans Day parade in Knoxville** at a minimum (we have done two on Veterans Day in the past)
- 3 - We want to participate in a **4th of July parade but not Gatlinburg** we have not had much luck there. There is no parade in Knoxville only a stagnate festival in Worlds Fair Park. Farragut and Lenoir City have parades, more research and discussion needed here.
- 4 - **Christmas parade** was discussed but no location decided on yet. In the past we have done the **Oliver Springs and Karns parades**. The Oliver Springs parade is one of the few that allowed throwing candy to the crowd. We won first place in the Oliver Springs parade.
- 5 - **Army/Navy Game viewing**. We have done this every year since 2009 and for the last ten years we have watched the Army/Navy game at Just1More in Knoxville.
- 6 - **Secret City Festival in Oak Ridge**. We have been considered part of the festival to the point we do not have to pay for our booth each year. We have done this since 2013. We do our annual Tolling of the Boats at the Peace Bell very year at the festival.
- 7 - **Random stagnant displays** to publicize our group and possibly recruit new members. Oak Ridge would be a primary location for this.

4th subject - New bank

Our Treasurer has tried to move our account in the base's name to a standard account as we currently pay \$180 a year in bank fees. Jim Rock (base Treasurer) proposed moving to a standard bank account under the Treasurers and Base Commander Names. To support the move an annual audit by base members would be initiated. A suggestion was also made to contact Jon Jaques the National Senior Vice commander who the National Treasurer answers to. Jon is also a CPA. Pending on the response we get from Jon we may be voting on this at the next meeting.

5th subject - Tolling list

Modifying our Tolling of the Boats list has been a frequently discussed subject in the past, but we have had little movement on it. That is somewhat true again as we ran out of time. We did discuss adding a number of subs and adding a Boson's whistle for those that are milestones in submarine history and development. So far, The Turtle, HL Hunley, USS Alligator, USS Holland, and the Nautilus have been discussed. The ceremony would be modified to include only tolling for loss of life/sub and using Bosons Whistle for "historic" boats.

(Minutes written by Marlin Helms MM1 (SS))





SMB March 2022 Monthly Meeting at Famous Dave's BBQ

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their third 2022 monthly meeting of the year, once again at Famous Dave's BBQ in Knoxville, TN. Only 11 people participated this month. There was one new member present who signed up at this meeting for USSVI/SMB membership. Paper Voting Ballots were distributed to those members present to facilitate selection of candidates for Base Officers. Other ballots were sent out via E-Mail by Marlin Helms. Marlin also went through the previous Board Meeting minutes for the group and answered several questions. (See bottom of page 6 for Sample Ballot)

(All Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

(Photo 1) Shows the SMB banner and Tolling Bell. (Photo 2) Shows most of the members present at this meeting. (Photo 3) Shows Rhet Jenkins (left), David Pope and his wife Julia (center) along with Lee and Ruby Chappell (back) and new member Terry Hanagan MM1 (SS) and his wife Debra on the right. (Photo 4) shows Marlin Helms and David Pope leading the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance during the opening ceremony. (Photo 5) Shows dolphins surfing on the bow wave of this unknown U.S. submarine!

(5)



A LITTLE "Non-Submarine" HUMOR



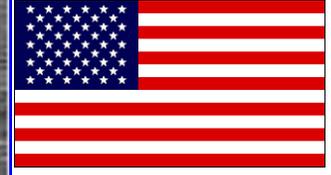
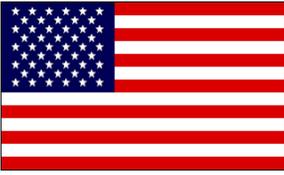
*I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now. *England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool. *Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes. *This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore. *I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time. *I got some batteries that were given out free of charge. *A dentist and a manicurist married - they fought tooth and nail. *A will is a dead giveaway. *Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest. *Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now. *A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired. *A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months. *The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered. *He had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed. *When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye. *Acupuncture is a jab well done - that's the point of it. *I didn't like my beard at first - then it grew on me. *Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils? *When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble. *I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me. *I'm reading a book about anti-gravity, I just can't put it down.

(Author Unknown)



WW2 U.S. Submarine Activity

(Courtesy of RAO Bulletin)



Jan 10, 1944 - WW2: USS Seawolf (SS-197) (above) and USS Steelhead (SS-280) attack a Japanese convoy about 70 miles north of Naha, Okinawa, sinking three ships, including one while in the middle of a typhoon.

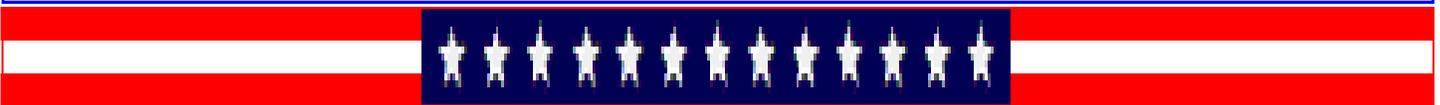
Nov 07, 1944 - WW2: USS Albacore (SS - 218) (below) reported missing. Possibly sunk by a Japanese mine off of the northern tip of Honshu, Japan. 85 men killed.



(photo courtesy of Wikipedia) **Jan 07, 1945 - WW2: USS Spot (SS-413) (left & below)**

Spot completed fitting out at Mare Island on 18 SEP1944 and moved to San Diego for a shakedown. After a yard period, the submarine sailed for Hawaii and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 14 NOV. She was accompanied by Balao (SS-285), and got underway for the Marianas on 4 DEC. for her first patrol. They were joined by Icefish (SS-367) en route, and the trio arrived at Saipan on 15 DEC. Two days later, the hunter-killer group headed for the Yellow Sea. On 7 JAN. she sank two small trawlers with her deck gun. Four days

later, she destroyed a small freighter by gunfire. On 13 JAN. off Shanghai, the submarine sank two trawlers by shell fire, and she repeated the feat the next day. In a night sweep through the Elliott Islands on 18 and 19 JAN., Spot torpedoed a cargo ship and a tanker. As Spot came down the west coast of Korea, she sighted a small ship and fired her last three torpedoes. All ran shallow and missed. With only 1,300 rounds of 20 mm ammunition remaining, the submarine closed to 800 yards (730m) and opened fire. The enemy made an unsuccessful attempt to ram. No one manned the Japanese ship's machine gun atop her pilot house; her top deck was in shambles; and the ship was dead in the water but not sinking. Spot waited for an hour and then sent over a boarding party of seven men to plant demolition charges and search for intelligence material. After about ten minutes on board, the party had to abandon as the ship listed to port and sank by the stern. The boarding party was recovered and one Japanese prisoner taken. The submarine returned to Midway on 30 JAN. for a refit and training.

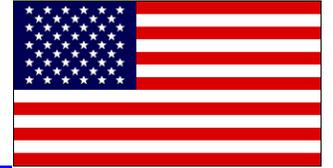




Nuclear Sub Runs into Mountain

(Old News—see follow-up below)

(Ships Patch & Second Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.)



(1st. photo & Story courtesy of RAO BULLETIN - 15 January 2022)



Jan. 5, 2005 - U.S. Navy - On this day in 2005 the USS San Francisco (SSN-711) suddenly stopped dead in its tracks. The ship's crew was thrown about, some over distances of 20 feet, and the majority of the 137-member crew suffered one injury or another including one that would later prove fatal. Further inspection would explain what happened, and reveal that the submarine's bow looked like a crushed soda can (see first photo). USS San Francisco had run into an under-sea mountain approximately 360 miles southeast of Guam, traveling at flank speed (more than 30 knots). The navigational charts used by the ship's crew failed to show a seamount, or under-sea mountain protruding from the ocean floor. The sub smashed into it head-on at a depth of 525 feet. The San Francisco didn't sink, nor did it experience a reactor malfunction. Even more incredibly the ballast systems still worked, allowing it to surface, and the nuclear reactor still worked after the crash. The ship moved under its own power allowing it to return back to port on the island of Guam. It returned to sea just three years later with a new nose.

Follow-up story below courtesy of Wikipedia

The U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS San Francisco (SSN-711) marked the end of 35 years of active service with a change of command and farewell ceremony at Naval Base Point Loma, on November 4, 2021. The submarine returned from her final six-month deployment in October. Later this month, San Francisco will shift homeport to Norfolk to begin a two-year conversion process to become a moored training ship. Following the conversion, she will be moved to Nuclear Power Training Unit in Charleston, South Carolina. She will help challenge and train a new generation of submariners through 2040. Capt. Daniel Caldwell relieved Cmdr. Jeff Juergens as commanding officer of San Francisco during the November 4 ceremony.



A LITTLE MORE HUMOR

(Courtesy of RAO Bulletin)



- The devil whispered to me, "I'm coming for you." I whispered back, "Bring Pizza."
- **Me** (sobbing my heart out, eyes were swollen, nose red)...I can't see you anymore and I am not going to let you hurt me like this again! **Trainer:** It was a sit up. You did one sit up.
- Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.
- It's weird being the same age as old people. When I was a kid I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.
- Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.
- Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.
- It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.





USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343) TO BE SCRAPPED

(Story and photo below courtesy of the U.S. Navy)
(Submitted by Thomas Peschke)



© U.S. Navy - The USS Clamagore (SS-343) is seen in this undated US Navy image. (US Navy)

The submarine Clamagore, which opened as an exhibit more than four decades ago, closed to the general public in December 2021 due to "safety concerns caused by a leak in a main ballast tank," the museum at Patriots Point, Virginia said in a news release. Ballast tanks are used to control the buoyancy of a vessel.

The submarine has undergone repairs for more than a decade due to "extensive corrosion", the museum added. One 2019 assessment found it would cost "upwards of \$9 million" to fully restore and repair the vessel. There are also environmental concerns -- including the presence of PCB's and lead batteries -- with keeping the submarine at Patriots Point, said executive director Dr. Rorie Cartier.

"Leaving this submarine in the Charleston Harbor could cause serious environmental problems with the landfall of a major hurricane," Cartier said. The museum is located in Mt. Pleasant, less than 10 miles from Charleston.

The USS Clamagore is the only submarine of its design that is preserved in the US, according to the museums web site. Commissioned in June 1945, the boat operated in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean until 1962. The submarine is best known for its service off of Florida's Key West coast, where it became known as the "Gray Ghost of the Florida Coast," according to the museum. It was decommissioned in 1975 and opened as a museum about six years later. It's the smallest of the three military vessels kept on display at the museum.

But the museum "cannot financially sustain the maintenance" of all three, Cartier said. "The USS Yorktown and USS Laffey also need repair, and we are fighting a never-ending battle against the corrosion that comes from being submerged in saltwater," Cartier said. Some key parts of the submarine will be removed and preserved for a smaller exhibit, the museum said. Other parts will be sold and reused or recycled. The full dismantling project will take months and cost around \$2 million, according to the museum. "The vast majority of the steel will be used to make new products, lowering the demand for mined iron ore and reducing energy costs in the steelmaking process," the museum said.



USS-343 at Patriots Point, VA

(photo courtesy of Wikipedia)





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:** Smoky Mountain Base

Nat'l 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

Smoky Mountain Base dues are \$ 15.00 (\$ 10.00 after Aug. 1st)

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

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs.) _____

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 if your Military Service falls within any of 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 August 2, 1990 to date.
- Check 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 the same as your home address)

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

Upon completion, please deliver to: Marlin Helms at the monthly meeting (on the third Thursday of each month) or, mail to Marlin Helms Smoky Mountain Base Commander, 732 Old Hen Valley Road Oliver Springs TN 37840 (865)387-5625

USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870 Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org