



## Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled  
for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
of each month at:  
**GOLDEN CORRAL**  
**6612 CLINTON HIGHWAY,**  
**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE Dinner &**  
**Social Hour @ 1800**  
**Meeting @ 1900**

## 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.

# The Snorkel Exhaust

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN-USSVI

The Smoky Mountain Base is a Local Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI). The USSVI is a non-profit 501 (C) (19) corporation in the State of Connecticut.

### USSVI CREED

**To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.**

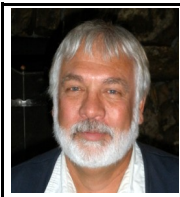
**We Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.**

## SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX November & December 2017

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**Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302**

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



**BASE COMMANDER/  
HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR**

**Martin E. Helms, Jr.**

Qualified MM1(SS)

**USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)**

Qualified MM1(SS)

**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**



**BASE VICE-COMMANDER**

**Ryan Smith, LCDR. USN (Ret.)**



Qualified EM2(SS)  
on

**USS PROVIDENCE (SSN-719)**

Qualified LT(SS)

**USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)**

Qualified LCDR(SS)

**USS PITTSBURG (SSN-720)**



**BASE SECRETARY**

**Martin Wesley**



Qualified QM2(SS)

**USS CUBERA(SS-347)**

in 1968



**WEBSITE MASTER**

**Stuart McGlassen**



Qualified 1988

**USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)**



**CHIEF OF THE BOAT**

**Terry McBride, EMC(SS) (Ret.)**

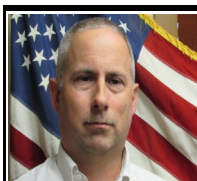


Qualified EM3(SS)

**USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)**

Qualified EM1(SS)

**USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)**



**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



**BASE TREASURER &  
STOREKEEPER**

**Jim Burkholder**



Qualified EM2(SS)

**USS CARP (SS-338)**



**LIBRARIAN**

**Bill Smith**



Qualified ETR3(SS) in 1963

**USS TRUMPETFISH (SS-425)**

Qualified ETR2(SS) in 1965

**USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN-630)**



**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**

**Andy Armbrust**



Qualified MM1(SS)

**USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)**

in 1975



**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

### November & December - 2017

## Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at:  
**Golden Corral**  
 6612 Clinton Hwy.  
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37912



## Meetings and Happenings



November 11 - **Veterans Day Parade** ( 1100 Hrs)  
 November 16 - **SMB Meeting** (1800 Hrs)  
 November 23 - **Thanksgiving Day**  
 December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day & **Newsletter Deadline**  
 December 16 - **Oliver Springs Parade** (1645 Hrs)  
 December 21 - **SMB Meeting** (1800 Hrs)  
 December 24 - **Christmas Eve**  
 December 25 - **Christmas Day**



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 Editor: Bruce Eltzroth (beracin3@msn.com)  
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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

### New Members:

Raymond (Ray) McPhillips - MTC (SS)

### November 2017

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		

### December 2017

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

### DUES TIME

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

Dues are as follows:

#### National

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

\$70/3yrs

\$115/5yrs

#### Life membership

\$100/76+ years of age

\$200/66 thru 75 years of age

\$300/56 thru 65 years of age

\$400/46 thru 55 years of age

\$500/45 years of age and under

#### Smoky Mountain Base

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



### SMB Library Books and Magazines

We have recently had copies of "Our Navy" magazines dated from 1945 to 1947 donated to the base library. They are combined by date (month) into two 3-ring binders. These and/or the following books can be checked out by contacting our Base Librarian Bill Smith at: "bsmith684@gmail.com".

"All Hands Down" by Kenneth Sewell and Jerome Preisler.

"An American Life: The Autobiography" by Ronald Reagan

"Back from the Deep" by Carl LaVo

"Bull Halsey" by E B Potter

"Crush Depth" by Joe Buff

"Dark Waters" by Lee Vyborny and Don Davis

"The DaVinci" Code by Dan Brown

"Escort Commander" by Terence Robertson

"The Fleet Submarine in the US Navy" by John D Alden

"The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw

**There are over 100 books in our library - check some out!**

**SUBVEST**  
Serving those  
Who Already Have.  
**The only place to get  
CUSTOM SEWN**  
Submarine Vests, Hats,  
Jackets, Shirts & MORE!  
**A Base Storekeepers Dream...  
Discounts & No Stock to order  
Call to set up an account!**  
**www.SUBVEST.com**  
Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench  
**757-318-0138 B4 8pm**



## VETERAN INFORMATION FOR USSVI BASE MEMBERS

### Vietnam Veterans Memorial



(Story Taken from Nov/Dec 2017 VFW Magazine)

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated 35 years ago on Nov. 13, 1982. Since then, more than 100 million people have visited the iconic structure, according to Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The National Parks Service noted that nearly 5.6 million people visited in 2016, making it the nation's second most popular memorial or monument. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was the top attraction with nearly 8 million visitors last year. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is more popularly known as "The Wall" because its central feature is a long black granite wall that lists the names of all 58,318 U.S. troops (as of May 2017) who died in the Vietnam War. Donations from more than 275,00 individuals and other entities paid for the wall's construction. The VFW contributed more than \$300,000 and was one of its earliest champions.



Vietnam Wall - July 2017 - Photo By Bruce Eltzroth

### Loss of the Argentine Submarine ARA San Juan

"On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI), I offer our sincere condolences on the loss of ARA San Juan. The crew and family are in our thoughts and prayers. We are grateful for their service to the Argentine Submarine Service. To our Brothers we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. May you rest in peace and may God bless your loved ones who remain. Thank you for your service.

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way." 2 Thess 3:16.

ARA San Juan, Now on Eternal Patrol. Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmates."

Bill Dixon, National Chaplain United States Submarine Veterans, USSVI.

Submitted by: John E. Markiewicz (USSVI National Commander) on 11/28/2017: This message was sent to the Argentine Chapter of the ISA on this date with my approval.





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



### Shipmates

Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans was chartered on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2006, eleven and a half years later we are still a strong and growing chapter with 63 members. We recently completed building a new float; this will allow us to participate in more events to promote our base. Each year for the last few we have had to expend time, effort, and money to make it look poor instead of awful to use the old float. No prep and expenditure will be required; now investments in the future will go to upgrades that Jim Rock and the Dave (Jedi Welder) Lande have some ideas about.

It's that time of the year for annual dues. There are a number of options for national dues and those are described on page 4. Base dues are \$15 a year.

Annual elections will be held in May. A nominating committee is required to be appointed in January to present a slate in April. Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer for the committee or are interested in serving as a base officer.

Fraternally Yours

Marlin Helms

Smoky Mountain Base

### SMB NEWSLETTER EDITORS BLURB

Bruce Eltzroth (ET1-SU)

Email: beracin3@msn.com

**We would like for the Base Commander, Base Treasurer/Storekeeper, Secretary, and Program Chairman to provide updates on a regular basis. These include meeting minutes, financial status, events, new members, and any other pertinent submarine related stories or news. Even though that's all we ask, the USSVI recommends that: "Officers and Committee Reports and Columns be submitted", such as:**

- **Commanders Report/Column**
- **Vice Commanders Report/Column**
- **Secretaries Report—Minutes of Last Meeting**
- **Treasurers Report/Column**
- **Chaplains Report/Column**
- **COB's Report/Column**
- **Committee Reports**
- **and Storekeepers Report.**



**We may eventually get to this level, but for now we will start small.**

**Starting in January, the deadline for the required inputs will be the first day of each even month.**

**The additional reports will eventually be necessary for us to have any chance to compete for the USSVI's Newsletter Excellence Award. (I'm just say'n)**





**Smoky Mountain Base**  
of USSVI, Inc.  
Meeting Agenda



**Date: November 16, 2017** - Time/Location: 1900 hrs, Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville

Members and guests please sign in

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

**USSVI 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 and it's constitution."**

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U. S. Submarine force. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds 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 lifestyle we enjoy today."

**"Tolling of the Bell". USS Albacore - SS-218 November 7, 1944 - 86 Men Lost, USS Growler - SS-215 November 8, 1944 - 85 Men Lost, USS Scamp - SS-277 November 11, 1944 - 83 Men Lost. USS Corvina - SS-226 November 16, 1943 - 63 Men Lost. USS Sculpin - SS-191 November 19, 1943 - 63 Men Lost. USS Sealion - SS-195 December 10, 1941 - 4 Men Lost. USS Capelin - SS-288 December 9, 1943 - 78 Men Lost.**

Member Introductions: Member introductions (new and previous) for new members and guests.

Secretary's Report and Meeting Minutes – Wes Wesley

Treasurer's Report – Jim Burkholder

Correspondence –

Committee Reports –

Newsletter– Bruce Eltzroth

Storekeeper – Jim Burkholder

Membership – Marlin Helms

Social Committees – Andy Armbrust

Web Site – Marlin Helms /Stewart McGlasson

Library – Bill Smith

New Business /Good of the Order-

Float- Jim Rock

Other – Dave Lande - Discussed building of the float

Old Business-

Next Meeting; **1900 hrs, Thursday, December 21, 2017** at , Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville, TN.

Motion to adjourn - Approved



**Secretaries Report / Meeting Minutes**  
**Martin Wesley**

No Report Available



**Treasurer / Storekeepers Report**  
**Jim Burkholder**

No Report Available





# Lost Boats of November

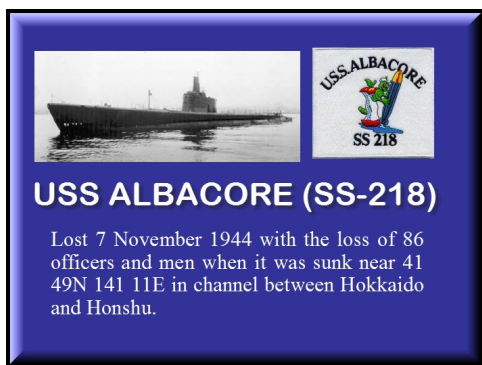


## USS Albacore SS-218 November 7, 1944

### 86 Men Lost

On October 24, 1944, the **ALBACORE**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Hugh R. Rimmer, left Pearl Harbor for her eleventh and final war patrol. On October 28, 1944, she stopped at Midway Island to top off her fuel tanks. She then headed for her assigned patrol area northeast of Honshu and southeast of Hokkaido. After leaving Midway, she was never heard from again. Based on a review of Japanese records recovered after the war, it was learned that on November 7, 1944, near the geographic coordinates 41° 49' 0.000" N, 141° 11' 0.000" E, the **ALBACORE** struck a mine very close to the shore off southeastern Hokkaido. The underwater explosion was witnessed by the Japanese auxiliary minesweeper Fukuei Maru No. 7, which was conducting an antisubmarine sweep in the area. On December 21, 1944, the **ALBACORE** was listed as lost in action; the official announcement was made on March 27, 1945:

#### SS-218-Battle Stars



Lieutenant  
Commander  
H.R. Rimmer

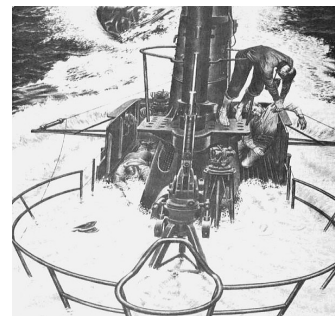
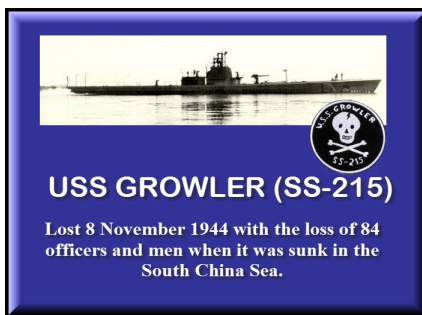


## USS Growler SS-215 November 8, 1944

### 85 Men Lost

On October 20, 1944, a wolf pack headed by the **GROWLER'S** captain, Commander Thomas "Ben" Oakley, with **USS HAKE (SS-256)** and **USS HARDHEAD (SS-365)**, departed Fremantle. Their destination was west of the Philippine islands where they would operate as a coordinated search and attack group. This departure would mark the beginning of the **GROWLER'S** eleventh and final war patrol. On November 8, 1944, the wolf pack prepared to close a convoy to attack it. The **HAKE** and the **HARDHEAD** were on the opposite side of the convoy from the **GROWLER**. The order to begin attacking the convoy was the last communication ever received from the **GROWLER**. The two other submarines heard what sounded like a torpedo explosion and then a series of depth charges on the **GROWLER'S** side of the convoy. The **HARDHEAD** lined up and sank a 5,300-ton tanker. She was depth-charged heavily by the convoy's escorts. The **HAKE** saw the tanker sink, but was forced to evade and go deep because of the escorts, who kept her on the bottom for sixteen hours, dropping 150 depth charges. After the barrage was over later that night, they attempted to contact the **GROWLER** without success. All additional efforts to contact the **GROWLER** over the next three days also proved futile. She was listed as lost in action.

#### SS-215-Battle Stars





# Lost Boats of November



## USS Scamp SS-277 November 11, 1944

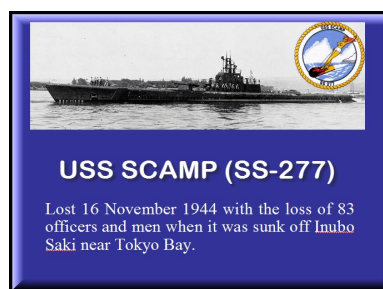
### 83 Men Lost

On October 16, 1944, the **SCAMP**, captained by Commander John Hollingsworth, departed Pearl Harbor for her eighth and final war patrol. On October 20, 1944, she refueled at Midway Island then proceeded to her assigned patrol area near the Bonin Islands. On November 9, 1944, she acknowledged receipt of a radio message ordering her to move to an area off Tokyo Bay. At that time she reported her position to be about 150 miles north of the Bonin Islands, with all twenty-four torpedoes aboard and 77,000 gallons of fuel remaining. The **SCAMP** was never heard from again. On December 21, 1944, she was reported as presumed lost on war patrol in enemy waters. The **SCAMP** was struck from the Navy list on April 28, 1945.



SS-277

Battle Stars



## USS Corvina SS-226 November 16, 1943

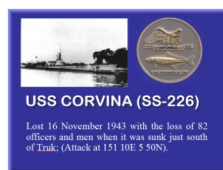
### 63 Men Lost

On November 4, 1943, the **CORVINA**, captained by Commander Roderick S. Rooney, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol near the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll. In particular, she was ordered to be on the lookout for a sortie of Japanese warships, which could possibly endanger the forthcoming American invasion of the Gilbert Islands. On November 6, 1943, the **CORVINA** topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island and then headed for her assigned patrol area.

The **CORVINA** assumed her station south of Truk together with sister submarines **USS Blackfish (SS-221)** and **USS Drum (SS-228)**. Lieutenant Commander William Kinsella, **BLACKFISH'S** executive officer, recalled the key events as follows:

*"We were south of Truk with **DRUM** and **CORVINA** when we got a Ultra stating that a Japanese submarine was coming through the area. We were supposed to rendezvous with **DRUM** and **CORVINA**. Just after sunset we got into position where this Japanese submarine was supposed to pop up and sure enough, just at sunset, while we were submerged, it surfaced just to the south of us, not more than 5,000 yards away. It was starting to get dark, and we really could not see through the periscope well enough to ascertain that it was a Japanese submarine. Remembering that **DRUM** and **CORVINA** were in the vicinity we elected not to shoot....As it turned out, we later established contact with **DRUM** and determined it was not him. It was Japanese. We never did see **CORVINA** again....The Jap sub got her."*

Japanese records examined after the war indicated that the IJN submarine I-176 fired three torpedoes at a surfaced American submarine south of Truk Atoll on November 16, 1943. The torpedoes hit the submarine "causing a great explosion sound." The **CORVINA** thus became the only American submarine to be sunk by a Japanese submarine during the war. Ironically, she was the victim of the submarine she was sent to sink.







# Lost Boats of November



## USS Sculpin SS-191 November 19, 1943

### 63 Men Lost

On November 5, 1943, the **SCULPIN** departed Pearl Harbor for her ninth and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol north of the Japanese stronghold at Truk Atoll and to attack Japanese forces sortieing from Truk's northern passage during the Gilbert Islands campaign (Operation Galvanic). On November 7, 1943, she topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island, and then headed for her assigned patrol area with the **SCULPIN'S** new captain, Commander Fred Connaway, at the helm.

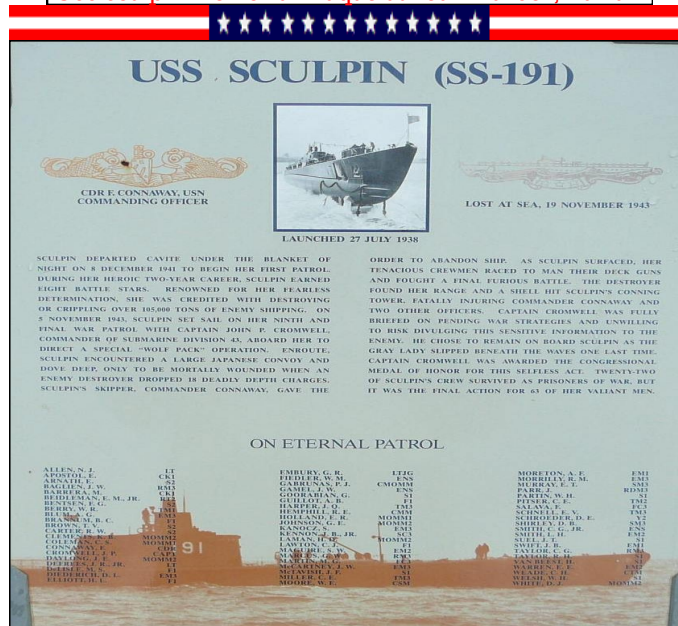
At the direction of Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, Captain John P. Cromwell was aboard the **SCULPIN** to coordinate wolf pack operations, as necessary. If activated by Cromwell, the pack would consist of either the **SCULPIN** and the **USS SEARAVEN (SS-196)** or the **SCULPIN** and the **USS APOGON (SS-308)**. Cromwell possessed extensive knowledge of the Operation Galvanic plans and of the Ultra intelligence system. Lockwood had cautioned him not to disclose any information about Operation Galvanic to the **SCULPIN'S** crew to eliminate the possibility of it being extracted from them by the Japanese.

On November 19, 1943, while making a surface end-around run to attack a Japanese convoy, the **SCULPIN** was detected by the IJN destroyer Yamagumo and fatally damaged by depth charges. Due to the heavy damages she was forced to surface and fight the Yamagumo with her deck guns. It was a one-sided engagement. The ensuing gun battle killed Commander Connaway, his executive officer, and the gunnery officer, and inflicted additional damage to the **SCULPIN**. Command of the **SCULPIN** passed to the remaining senior officer, who ordered the boat scuttled and abandoned. After most of the surviving crewmen had escaped, the **SCULPIN** was deliberately flooded with *Captain Cromwell* and eleven other men still aboard, some dead and others there by choice. Cromwell chose to go down with the boat to prevent the enemy from obtaining the secret information he possessed. For this action, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

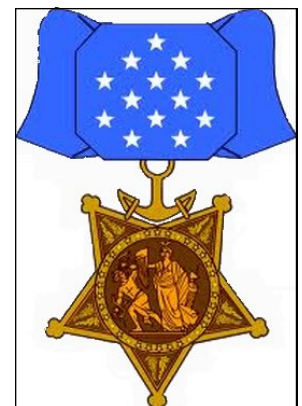
Forty-two of the **SCULPIN'S** crew members were picked up by the Yamagumo. One badly wounded sailor was thrown back in the sea by the Japanese. Two groups of crewmen were embarked on separate aircraft carriers returning to Japan. One group had twenty-one crewmen, and the other twenty. One of them, the escort carrier Chuyo, which was carrying the group with twenty-one crewmen, was sunk by the **USS SAILFISH (SS-192)** and twenty of the American prisoners perished. The one survivor was able to grab hold of a ladder on the side of a passing Japanese destroyer and haul himself aboard it. He was eventually sent to the Ashio copper mines. On December 5, 1943, the other twenty survivors arrived at Ofuna, Japan and were also eventually detailed to the Ashio copper mines for the duration of the war.

### USS Sculpin Memorial Plaque at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

#### SS-191- Battle Stars



#### Captain John P. Cromwell MEDAL OF HONOR





# Lost Boats of December



## USS Sealion - SS-195 December 10, 1941

### 4 Men Lost

Upon the outbreak of the Pacific war on December 7, 1941, the **SEALION**, captained by Lieutenant Commander Richard G. Voge, had been deployed to the Far East and was at the Cavite Navy Yard near Manila undergoing an overhaul. On December 10, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked that facility. The **SEALION** was struck by two bombs dropped by Japanese naval Mitsubishi bombers of the First Air Corps, 21st Air Flotilla, 11th Air Fleet, flying from Tainan, Formosa. The bombs caused extensive internal and external damage and left the **SEALION** with about forty percent of her main deck underwater and with a fifteen degree list to starboard. She was destroyed on December 25, 1941 by exploding three depth charges within the submarine to prevent possible use by the enemy. Four of her crewmembers were killed during the attack. The **SEALION** thus became the first American submarine lost in World War II.



## USS Capelin - SS-288 December 9, 1943

### 78 Men Lost

On October 30, 1943, the **CAPELIN**, captained by Commander Elliott E. Marshall, left Port Darwin on her first war patrol. She was on a special mission to pick up downed aviators from an Army B-24 that went down on Celebes. En route the special mission was canceled and Marshall was ordered to patrol in the Molucca, Flores, and Banda Seas instead. On November 11, 1943, the **CAPELIN** spotted a convoy northwest of Ambon Island. Marshall reported sinking two merchant vessels in this convoy. Two escorting destroyers attacked the **CAPELIN** with depth charges, but the submarine did not take any damage. The **CAPELIN** ended her first patrol at Darwin on November 16, 1943. After undergoing a refit and repairs to a defective conning tower hatch, bow plane, and a malfunctioning radar tube, she got underway for her second war patrol on November 17, 1943, in the same areas as her first patrol.

On December 1, 1943, Lieutenant Commander Walter Griffith, captain of the **USS Bowfin (SS-287)** was returning to Fremantle after a patrol off Indochina. He sighted the **USS Bonefish (SS-223)** and the **USS Capelin** in the Makassar Strait, and then continued on to Fremantle. Commander Thomas Hogan in the **BONEFISH** was busy tracking a convoy. Later Hogan wrote: "On December 2, we sighted **CAPELIN** ... heading west about 10 miles off the coast [of Celebes]. He was about 5 miles away and dove right away. By sonar I told him who I was, about the convoy, and named him by his nickname: 'Steam.' I told him that since he was in the area I was going to leave what was left of the convoy to him and would continue on to my patrol area. He receipted for the message by sonar. I left and did not see him again."

The findings of fact for the investigation into the loss of the **CAPELIN** lists the Bonefish's geographic position as 1° 10' 0.000" N, 123° 49' 60.000" E, when Commander Hogan sighted the **CAPELIN** to seaward at a range of about five miles.

SS-289  
Battle Star







## 2017 VETERANS DAY PARADE – KNOXVILLE, TN - 11/10/2017



WWII Submarine Veteran Charlie Weller of the Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (waving on right) on the Knoxville Veterans Day Parade Reviewing Stand with Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and other military dignitaries.



Marlin Helms (Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans - Base Commander) is seen shaking the hand of WWII Submarine Veteran, SMB's own Charlie Weller, in the Reviewing Stand at the 2017 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade.



Smoky Mountain Base Members  
Attending the Veterans Day Parade with the  
"First of a Kind" 1/10 Scale **FBM** Float



Build Crew for the FBM Float

Left to right—Gary Davis, Dave Lande, Jim Rock, Eric (Boo) Moore, Marty Luther, Dick Mitchell and Marlin Helms.  
Mike Wagoner (not pictured).

The Knoxville, TN 2017 Veterans Day Parade hosted by the American Legion, Post 2 was a rousing success! It was billed as one of the top 10 Veterans Day Parades in the country! There were a total of 110 entries and it lasted for almost 2 hours. At 1100 hours there was a pause in the procession to Render Honors and a ceremony with a 21 gun salute and the singing of the National Anthem were presented to honor veterans who fought in of all our country's wars. This was followed by a flyover of a vintage WWII P-51 Mustang flown by a veteran Tennessee pilot. The U.S. Fleet Forces Band under the direction of Lieutenant Robert J. Coats (the Navy's musical ambassador for the U.S. Fleet Forces Command) were also in attendance.



Marlin Helms, Gary Davis and Terry McBride lead the Smoky Mountain Base U.S. Submarine Veterans down Gay Street at the 2017 Knoxville Veterans Day Parade.



Photos by Bruce Eltzroth and Lorie Helms





## 2017 SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE FBM FLOAT BUILD



**Index of photos below:** 1&2 - Raw aluminum sheets rolled into cylinders and cones for the hull. 3 - Cones for the bow and aft areas. 4&5 - Cylinders and cones welded together. 6 - Hull starting to take shape and Missile Compartment Hatch housings added. 7 - Nose Cone (from bottom of a propane tank) added. 8 - Aft section with planes and rudders. 9 - Sail installed and undercarriage in place. 10 - Primer coating added. 11 - Charlie Weller christening "his" float.

(BUILD CREW WITH FINISHED FLOAT IS SHOWN ON PAGE 11)

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



The float design was chosen by Jim Rock to honor President Andrew Jackson from Tennessee and Oak Ridge, TN where materials for the missiles were produced. It was also his qualification boat and was christened as the SSBN-619, U.S.S. Andrew Jackson, and also as the "Honorary U.S.S. Charlie Weller", for the Knoxville, TN Veterans Day Parade. (See photo on Page 11)





**Sunday, 7 December 1941 - LEST WE FORGET**

At 0748 Hawaii Time (1248 Eastern Standard Time) on Sunday, 7 December 1941, 353 attack aircraft (high-level bombers, torpedo bombers, dive bombers and escort fighters) of the Imperial Japanese Navy Fleet Air Arm staged a preemptive surprise attack on the US Navy Pacific Fleet moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

With all this carnage, there was a hopeful sign. Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC), Admiral Chester Nimitz observed that the Japanese, while scoring an incredible tactical victory, made 4 strategic blunders, among which was that they failed to attack and destroy the US Naval Submarine Base adjacent to the Navy Shipyard. Consequently, the only effective US Navy fighting forces available to take the fight to the Japanese on 8 December 1941 were the 3 US Carriers that were at sea, their supporting Battle Groups and 62 submarines of the US Submarine Force. From 8 December 1941 until the end of hostilities on 16 August 1945, the US Submarine Force, comprising less than 2% of the total manpower and materiel assets of the US Navy, waged the most successful undersea warfare campaign in history. US subs sank more than 30% of the Imperial Japanese Navy, and, just as importantly, virtually destroyed the Japanese merchant marine fleet, sinking 2,400 ships and sending 4.9 million tons of critical supplies, oil and other war materiel to the bottom of the sea.

The cost of this outstanding victory was high: 52 boats and one out of four submarine sailors (3,507) did not return and are still honored by the submarine community as being on Eternal Patrol - the highest loss ratio of any US military unit in WWII.

JOHN MARKIEWICZ, NATIONAL COMMANDER USSVI



### A SEA STORY BY MARLIN

I was asked by an old shipmate from the USS Spadefish in the USS Cincinnati Base to do a write up on an event he remembered from our time on the USS Spadefish. I put together some rather "Poe" prose to the best of my memory and sent the following to them up in Cincy.

Once upon a weekend duty as I pondered bored and weary suddenly there came a dawning as of something offhanded, pixy-ish, and very rascally. So starts my sea story as it is a "no-poopier" aboard the USS Spadefish. We were alongside the pier in an upkeep with maintenance in progress mid winter. After my roving watch and completion of my sampling duties I was passing the XO's stateroom with no one around. The cold damp air cascaded down through the weapons loading hatch. This is when the devil overwhelmed the angel on the other shoulder. The hinges were easy and the stateroom door came loose with little effort. Smiling with self satisfaction I enlisted (pun intended) help to carry the door to the engine room upper level where we carefully put it outboard of the Lithium Bromide air conditioning plant. We carefully placed some of the upkeep tools, paint cans and equipment laying around in front of it to help hide it. I slept well that night awakening Sunday morning to no indication that anyone but a few were aware of the prank. We turned over the duty to the next section and still no indication that anyone knew that anything was amiss. Smug and amused with myself I drove home. It was later that day that I got a call from someone in the duty section; apparently the XO came in to get some work done on a Sunday and was not amused with the draft entering his stateroom. The duty section had been "Field Daying" the sub and would continue to do so until the door reappeared and was reinstalled. Not wanting to indict myself I simply asked if they had looked outboard the Lithium Bromide unit. Strangely I never heard another word about it when I came to work on Monday. That was not the end of this tale, two of the members of my Sub-Vets chapter the Smoky Mountain base were Nautilus alumni and the annual convention was going to be here in Tennessee a couple of years ago. I volunteered to help support the reunion. To my surprise one of the guest speakers was Admiral Richard Riddell, the last Commanding officer of the USS Nautilus and the XO whose door had disappeared many years before. During the reunion I won the raffle for the banner placed at the door for the reunion and asked him to sign it. I did not have the heart to tell him it was me who stole his door. I still have the banner but plan to donate it back to the next Nautilus reunion.

My Apologies Admiral,

Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine veterans Base Commander

USSVI Central Region District Five Commander.





## BOONDOGGLE OF THE MONTH

SMB Newsletter Editor: Bruce Eltzroth (ET1-SU)



### SMB Fall Picnic



In late October the Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans held their fall picnic at Marlin and Lorie Helms' home in Oliver Springs, TN. Andy Armbrust provided the pulled pork, utensils, condiments and buns, while everyone else brought a covered dish or side dish except yours truly. I made enough coleslaw to feed 24 people, but forgot to bring it and left it in my refrigerator at home! As a result John Augustine had to lug me to the local Food City and I had to purchase a large quantity of coleslaw. Needless to say I had to eat the forgotten coleslaw for the next two weeks mostly by myself since my wife had gone to visit her sister in New Jersey for almost that long. I don't think I will be asking for any more coleslaw in the next several years. Marlin and Lorie's home is out in the country and has a considerable amount of acreage with a covered outdoor pavilion equipped with a fireplace and large screen TV. The food and drinks were great, the camaraderie was outstanding and the sea stories were plentiful. I'm sure that no one left hungry!

Andy also wants to know if anyone has a suggestion for another picnic location in the spring of 2018?

Thanks Andy, Marlin and Lorie for the fine dining and festivities!



**Marlin and Lorie's outdoor covered pavilion**







## USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

**OUR CREED:** "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

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

☐ I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)

(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;**

**Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;**

**Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.**

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

### 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, or June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and 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#** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **From Yr.** \_\_\_\_ **to Yr.** \_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Hull#** \_\_\_\_\_ **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)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or mail to:

Crash Dive Membership Chairman Tom Polzin, 12463 Foxtail Ln, Huntley, IL 60142; Cell 847/867-8668 Fax 847/669-2444