



The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN USSVI

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

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



OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR FOUNDERS

OUR BROTHERHOOD

Our Mission

The organization will engage in various projects that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

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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



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

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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



Qualified MM1(SS)

USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)

Qualified MM1(SS)

USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)



BASE VICE-COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



Qualified MMC (SS)

USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571)

November 1967

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
(SSBN 600 - Blue Crew) July 1970



BASE SECRETARY
Martin Wesley



Qualified QM2(SS)

USS CUBERA(SS-347)



BASE TREASURER
JIM ROCK



Qualified MM1 (SS)

USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)



Smoky Mountain Base Committees



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



Qualified EM3(SS)

USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)

Qualified EM1(SS)

USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)



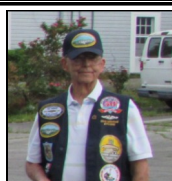
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
Andy Armbrust



Qualified MM1(SS)

USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)

in 1975



SMB STOREKEEPER
Dick Mitchell



Qualified ET1(SS)

USS CONGER (SS/AGSS-477)



WEBSITE MASTER
Stuart McGlassen



Qualified ET2(SS) 1988

USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)



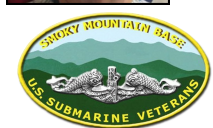
BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
USS T. ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)
COMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2

David is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base



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

Bruce is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base





SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Other Stuff

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER - 2021

Scheduled Meetings

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY
SCHEDULED FOR THE **3RD THURSDAY**
OF EACH MONTH

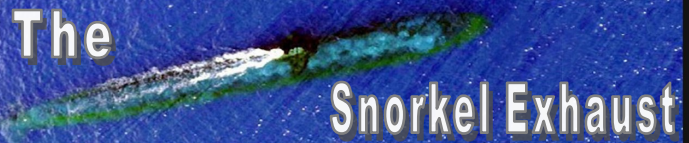


Meetings and Happenings

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

New Members:
None this period

December 1 - Newsletter Deadline
December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
December 11 - Army/Navy Football Game
December 13 - National Guard Established - 1636
December 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
December 25 - Christmas Day
December 26 - First Day Of Kwanzaa



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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

January 1 - New Years Day
January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
February 1 - Next Newsletter Deadline

December 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	

January 2022

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



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



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

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

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



TERMINOLOGY

Wind Tunnel - Typically, an area of a ship where the ship's movement and natural winds combine with ship's architecture to cause significant air movement. Commonly used on old '27-Charlie' aircraft carriers, but also applied to more modern vessels

Winger - (RCN) Mate, buddy, or pal.

Wire Rope - Wire strands wound around a core of rope. Not as strong as cable, but more flexible.

Wog - (1) short form of POLLYWOG (q.v.). (2) (UK) Term of derision for non-white native personnel.

Woop - USNA slang for West Point cadets. Rhymes with "poop."

WOXOF - Pronounced "walks-off". FAA/Aviation weather report terminology for 'visibility zero, ceiling zero, sky obscured by fog'. See CLOBBBERED.

Wrap - (RM) Give up. "He's just wrapped his tits."

WTD - Water Tight Door.

WTF - "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot." "Sometimes spoken as What the f**k, or spoken phonetically, WTFO, What/who/where the f**k?" over?



VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS



In Service to America

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

ANNUAL NATIONAL / BASE DUES TIME

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

Dues are as follows: **National**

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

\$70/3yrs

\$115/5yrs

Life membership

\$100/76+ years of age

\$200/66 to 75 years of age

\$300/56 to 65 years of age

\$400/45 to 55 years of age

\$500/under 45 years of age

Smoky Mountain Base

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



One (or more) of these can be yours - see the bottom of page 13 For details.



(SS) CHALLENGE COINS LLC
www.SSChallengeCoins.com

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Jacksonville, Missouri
65260-2011
816.261.7784



Shelly Saxton
CEO/Owner
SubmarineCoins@gmail.com



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



We are coming to a new year and with the decline in concern for COVID there is a sense of a return to some semblance of normality. We had to cancel the Fantasy of Lights parade participation due to illness and lack of a backup plan. Linda and Bob Childs had a reservation they could not cancel so they joined Lorie and I to watch the parade. It was packed 6 deep on the parade route, people had set up chairs to hold their place in the route 3 hours before the parade. The parade organizers estimated over 80,000 people showed up. The parade route was the same as the Gatlinburg first in the nation fourth of July parade. We need to plan for these parades well in advance next year including reserving a room well in advance. Looking forward to 2022 and improved participation for all of our events. Dues is due (Dues for Next Year are Due.)



Fraternally,

Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base Commander



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



This issue of the SMB Snorkle contains articles about the USS Connecticut (SSN-22) running into an underwater mountain and info on new SMB T-Shirts for sale to help raise money for the base on page 13. It also has a second Holland Club Induction Ceremony presentation on page 14, and the Knoxville, TN Veterans Day Parade photos. In addition, page 12 contains the obituary of Bobby Lawson.



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



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

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

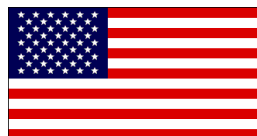


STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL - ET1(SS)



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

Remember all purchases support YOUR BASE!



SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK



Current Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Nov. 18th our bank balance was **\$1,101.35.**

As of Dec. 10th, we have a balance of **\$1,170.14.**





Secretary's Report/Meeting Minutes Martin Wesley



The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

Date: November 18, 2021

Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander

David Pope presented the Invocation

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours

Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Meeting Minutes – From October Read by Martin Wesley



Treasurer's Report – \$ 1170.00 in the treasury.

Committees :

- Newsletter – Bruce Eltzroth – November/December news letter coming. Please send any articles or input to Bruce.
- Library – Ed Standifer – Had videos for any to use.
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell – (Not present)
- Membership – Marlin Helms – 50 members
- Webmaster – Marlin/ Stuart McGlasson.
- Social Committees – Andy Armbrust - Spring/Fall picnic in the planning stages.



Old Business:

Reminder 2022 dues are due

New Business/Good of the Order:

- Holland Club Inductions were conducted by Marlin Helms, Bob Childs and Terry McBride for Thomas Peschke and Gene Masters.
- Planning for the December Fantasy of Lights parade in Gatlinburg on December 3rd, with more to come from Marlin.
- Next Meeting: 1900 hrs, Thur. December 17, 2021 at Famous Dave's BBQ.
- Army/Navy football game gathering coming in December with more from Marlin.
- Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thur. December 16, 2021 at Famous Dave's BBQ 208 Advantage Place, Knoxville, TN.
- Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 2015 hours.

By : Martin Wesley - SMB Base Secretary

"Tolling of the Bell" November/December

USS Albacore (SS-218) - November 7, 1944 - 86 Men Lost

USS Growler (SS-215) - November 8, 1944 - 85 Men Lost

USS Scamp (SS-277) - November 16, 1944 - 83 Men Lost

USS Corvina (SS-226) - November 16, 1943 - 82 Men Lost

USS Sculpin (SS-191) – November 19, 1943 - 63 Men Lost

USS Capelin (SS-288) - December 9, 1943– 76 Men Lost

USS Sea Lion (SS-195) - December 10, 1941 - 4 Men Lost

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

USS S-4 (SS-109) - December 17, 1927 - 34 Men Lost



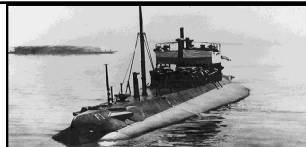
Pre WW-II Lost Boats



USS F-1 (SS-20)

December 17, 1917 19 Men Lost

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



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

USS S-4 (SS-109)

December 17, 1927 40 Men Lost

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



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



Lost Boats of 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-BattleStars



USS ALBACORE (SS-218)

Lost 7 November 1944 with the loss of 86 officers and men when it was sunk near 41 49N 141 11E in channel between Hokkaido and Honshu.

Lieutenant
Commander
H.R. Rimmer



USS Growler SS-215 - November 8, 1944

85 Men Lost

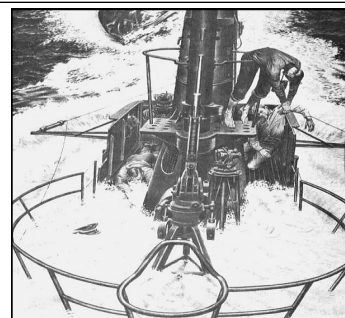
On October 20, 1944, a wolf pack headed by the **GROWLER'S** captain, Commander Thomas "Ben" Oakley, with **USS HAKE (SS-256)** and **USS HARDHEAD (SS-365)**, departed Fremantle. Their destination was west of the Philippine islands where they would operate as a coordinated search and attack group. This 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



USS GROWLER (SS-215)

Lost 8 November 1944 with the loss of 84 officers and men when it was sunk in the South China Sea.





Lost Boats of November



USS Scamp SS-277 November 16, 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 SCAMP (SS-277)

Lost 16 November 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men when it was sunk off Inubo Saki near Tokyo Bay.



USS Corvina SS-226 November 16, 1943

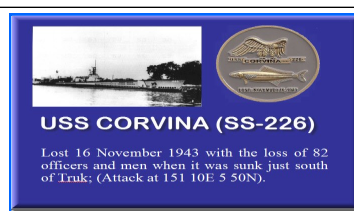
82 Men Lost

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.



USS CORVINA (SS-226)

Lost 16 November 1943 with the loss of 82 officers and men when it was sunk just south of Truk; (Attack at 151 10E ± 50N).





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.

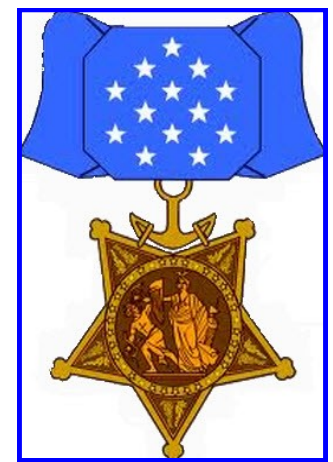
SS-191- Battle Stars



USS Sculpin Memorial Plaque at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



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

76 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-288
1 Battle Star





US Sub damaged by Underwater Mountain in the South China Sea

Story Courtesy of CBS



A U.S. Navy nuclear submarine was severely damaged in an accident while submerged in the disputed South China Sea last month. It struck an uncharted underwater mountain, the Navy said Monday (Nov. 1, 2021). The U.S. Navy regularly conducts operations in the South China Sea to challenge China's disputed territorial claims on small islands, reefs and outcroppings, to the irritation of Beijing. The 7th Fleet, which operates in the western Pacific, said an investigation had concluded that the USS Connecticut smashed into a geological formation and not another vessel on October 2nd. "The investigation determined USS Connecticut grounded on an uncharted seamount while operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region," a 7th Fleet spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

On November 4, 2021 ABC News announced that the Navy had fired three top officers of the USS Connecticut.

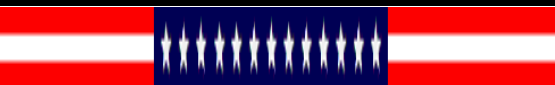


The U.S. Navy Seawolf-class fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22) is seen in an undated file photo provided by the U.S. Navy. / Credit: U.S. Navy/ Thiep Van Nguyen II.

U.S. defense officials told CBS News that two crew members suffered "moderate" injuries and several more sustained minor bumps and bruises. All were treated by Navy corpsman aboard the vessel, and nobody was taken off the sub. Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by four Southeast Asian countries as well as the self-ruled island of Taiwan. The Navy confirmed the incident a week after it took place, only saying that the Connecticut, a nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, "struck an object while submerged." But Beijing on Tuesday accused Washington of failing to provide timely and detailed information on the incident, complaining of a "lack of transparency and lack of responsibility from the U.S." Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China urges the US to provide an explanation of the vessel's "navigational intentions, the specific location of the accident, whether it was in the exclusive economic zone or territorial waters of any country, and whether it caused any nuclear leak or damage to the ocean environment." Washington should "stop sending warships and military aircraft to provoke trouble and make shows of force," Wang said, warning that "this type of accident will only become more frequent" without any change in US actions. The 7th Fleet said there would be further deliberation on "whether follow-on actions, including accountability, are appropriate." USNI News, published by the US Naval Institute, a think-tank close to the Navy, reported that the crash damaged the sub's forward ballast tanks and forced it to sail on the surface for a week back to Guam for repairs. The ship's nuclear plant was not damaged, the publication said. As CBS News Asia correspondent Ramy Inocencio reported, this incident happened amid high tensions between Beijing and Washington, just weeks after the U.S. and Britain signed a deal to supply nuclear-powered submarine's to Australia's military, and just days after China sent a record number of military planes into U.S. ally Taiwan's air space, **prompting concerns in Taipei that Beijing "is going to launch a war."**



Bobby Lawson QMC (SS) on Eternal Patrol



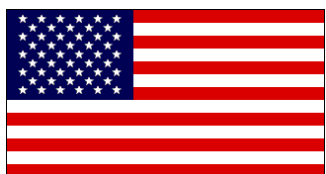
Bobby Lawson (QMC-SS) was a former COB (Chief of the Boat) for the Smoky Mountain Submarine (SMB) Veterans of the USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated.) He was also a Vietnam Veteran and was well liked by his SMB comrades.

Bobby Wilbert Lawson, born June 15, 1931 in Ramsey, TN, joined his beloved wife Leone who had passed just weeks prior, on October 19, 2021. They were parishioners at the Immaculate Conception and St. Albert the Great Catholic Church. He is survived by sister, Wanda Adams; son, Leon; daughter, Roberta and granddaughter, Kara. He loved his family fiercely and was affectionately known as Daddio, GranDad, Uncle Bob and not to be forgotten, B.W.

Bobby served his country in the U.S. Navy for 30 years, rising to the rank of Chief Quarter Master S.S. He was a Seaman on the U.S.S. Segundo, U.S.S. Irwin, and also commanding the flotilla River Division 571, June - August 1971 in Vietnam. Among many other honors he was awarded the Bronze Star medal (with combat "V") for meritorious service from June 1970 - June 1971.

Bobby and Leone met at the Pentagon and then embarked on a long life together travelling the country with their family. They were married 64 years. He was an active man with a creative mind, learning a new instrument (harmonica to banjo), language or hobby (juggling). As time went on his interest in gardening grew, keeping him close to the nature he thrived in. Bobby enjoyed cajoling with friends and family yarning tales and cracking jokes while flashing that knowing smile.

A visitation for Bobby was held on October 30, 2021 from 4-5:30pm at Berry Highland West, 9913 Sherrill Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37932, and was followed by a funeral service at 5:30pm with Fr. Alex Hernandez officiating.



Tolling Of The Bell



December 06, 1863 - The monitor Weehawken goes down at anchor in the Charleston Harbor in a gale and took with her, four of her engineers and twenty-six of her crew.





2021 Knoxville TN, Veterans Day Parade

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)



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The 2021 Veterans Day Parade held in Knoxville, TN was a great success. 12 Smoky Mountain Submarine Base members (photo 3) participated along with several wives and significant others. As usual the 1/10th scale, USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) replica float was the center attraction of the Bases entry (photos 1, 2 & 4). Dick Love drove his decorated VIP car in the parade (photo 5). Terry McBride and Gary Davis carried the SMB Banner (photo 6). The weather was great and there were more participants than in the last 2 events which were both either shortened (or cancelled) by COVID-19. After the parade most of the members got together for a dinner celebration at Calhoun's restaurant at Turkey Creek in West Knoxville (photo 7). The Ribs were great!



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

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

Terry McBride, our Base Chief of the Boat, has just completed an order of custom t-shirts for our Base membership. The t-shirts, represented in the accompanying front and back view graphic, take several design elements from the traditional USSVI vest. They are, however, better suited for warm-weather and day-to-day wear, and as such may help act as a recruiting tool. A total of 35 shirts were produced, including one for author George Wallace from the Northern Virginia Base of the USSVI. About half of the shirts were delivered in November, with the remainder to be delivered at the December meeting, or as members are available. The shirts started at \$35. Once all of the payments have been collected, the proceeds will be donated to the SMB treasury, directed toward upkeep and improvements to our parade float. The expected donation will be over \$600. Based on the success of this project, Terry will explore working with other Bases of the USSVI in the future, to generate additional revenue for the SMB.



2021 SMB Holland Club Inductions & Bios

Held at Famous Dave's BBQ Place
on November 18, 2021.



Thom Peschke Bio: Thom enlisted and attended Boot camp at Great Lakes on the 6th of Feb 1968 followed by MM A School Great Lakes graduating on the 20th of May 1968. Thom was assigned to DD859 USS Norris Newport RI 14 Oct 1968 where he chipped a hole in the hull at San Juan. On the 19th of February 1969 Thom attended Nuclear Propulsion School Bainbridge class (69-01) followed by nuclear prototype training at SIC on the 12th of Sept 1969. Thom attended Submarine school in New London March of 1970 followed by nuclear welding school. Assigned to the USS MG Vallejo SSBN 658, Nov 1970 to Nov 1975 earning his dolphins in 1971. During his five years on the 658 they launched both Polaris and Poseidon Missiles. In November of 1975 Thom was assigned to SIC Windsor Locks as an instructor making Chief in 1977. August 1979 Thom was assigned to the USS FS Key SSBN 657 during which time they launched their first Trident missile. Thom discharged from Active duty 1980 to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering graduating in 1985 when he joined the Navy Reserve. Thom held various Unit billets from Division officer to Commanding Officer which I held for 2 years. Thom was transferred to Miami-Station Command Master Chief N&MCRC Miami Aug 1998 to 2000 then Naval Sealift Command Unit (MSC108) Command Master Chief. Retired Jan 1, 2000, as MMCM(SS).

Gene Masters Bio: Gene Masters was born in New York City on May 9, 1939. He attended Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, and went on to the University of Notre Dame, where he was enrolled in the NROTC program. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and was commissioned in the Navy, in 1960. His first duty station was aboard the USS Paul Revere (APA 248) out of San Diego, and he made a WESTPAC cruise aboard her. In 1961, he applied for, and was accepted to, Officers Basic Submarine School in New London. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the USS Angler (SS 240) out of New London, and he made a Med cruise aboard her. He qualified aboard Angler in June, 1963. He left active duty shortly afterward, but stayed in the Submarine Reserve with units in New London, aboard USS Manta (SS 299), and in Brooklyn, NY, aboard USS Ling (SS 297). While in the reserve, he earned an MBA from Columbia University in New York. He left active reserve in 1966. Gene went on to a career as a professional engineer, and furthered his education, earning both an M.S. and PhD in Engineering at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, FL. Gene and his wife Ruth were married in 1968. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. He retired in 2009, and took up writing for personal enjoyment. He has published two novels, Silent Warriors: Submarine Warfare in the Pacific, and Operation Exodus. A third novel, The Laconia Incident, is due for publication in Spring, 2020. When not writing, Gene enjoys fly fishing, but freely admits he's not very good at it.

Photo (1) below shows Terry McBride and Bob Childs presenting the Holland Club award to Thomas Peschke (MMCM-SS). Photo (2) has Thom being congratulated by his wife Stephany. Photo (3) depicts Terry McBride presenting the Holland Club award to Gene Masters. Photo (4) shows Gene Masters and Thom Peschke with their awards. And Photo (5) shows Thom and Gene with all other Holland Club Members present at the meeting.

(Write-up courtesy of Bruce Eltzroth, SMB Newsletter Editor/Base Photographer)



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2

Existing Holland Club Members present below are; standing in Photo 5 below, from left to right are Rett Jenkins, Bob Childs, Martin Wesley, Mike Wagner, and Dick Love. Sitting are new Holland Club members: Gene Masters (left) and Thom Peschke (right).

(Story and photos by Bruce Eltzroth)



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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.