



The Snorkel Exhaust

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN USSVI



**"To honor those who serve, past, present and future."
"The USSVI Submariners Creed"**

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



OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR FOUNDERS

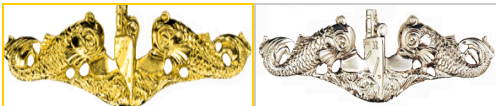
OUR BROTHERHOOD



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

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX January & February 2020

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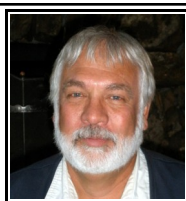


Scheduled Meetings
Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **3rd Thursday** of each month at:
GOLDEN CORRAL
6612 CLINTON HIGHWAY,
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900



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

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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



Qualified MM1(SS)
USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668)
 Qualified MM1(SS)
USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)



BASE VICE-COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



Qualified MMC (SS)
USS Nautilus (SSN 571)
 November 1967
USS Theodore Roosevelt
 (SSBN 600 - Blue Crew) July 1970



BASE SECRETARY
Martin Wesley



Qualified QM2(SS)
USS CUBERA (SS-347)
 in 1968



WEBSITE MASTER
Stuart McGlassen



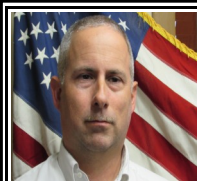
Qualified ET2 (SS) 1988
USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)



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

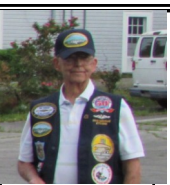


Qualified EM3(SS)
USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)
 Qualified EM1(SS)
USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)



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



SMB STOREKEEPER
Dick Mitchell



Qualified ET1(SS)
USS Conger (SS/AGSS-477)



BASE TREASURER
JIM ROCK



Qualified MM1 (SS)
USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)



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

JANUARY & FEBRUARY - 2020

Scheduled Meetings

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



Meetings and Happenings



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

New Members:

Mike Mumley and Eugene Masters (details in next issue)

January 1 - Jan/Feb Newsletter Deadline & New Years Day
 January 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 January 20 - Martin Luther King Day

February 2 - Ground Hog Day
 February 12 - Abe Lincoln's Birthday
 February 14 - Valentines Day
 February 18 - Presidents Day
 February 20 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
 February 22 - George Washington's Birthday
 February 29 - Leap Year Day

January 2020

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	


February 2020

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
24	25	26	27	28	29	



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Base Librarian
Ed Sandifer
ENSIGN (SS) 
**SMB Library Books,
DVD's and Magazines**
Ed has agreed to bring several items to our monthly meetings. Check some out!



VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS



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

Feeling Blue (03)

If you are sad and describe yourself as "feeling blue," you are using a phrase coined from a custom among many old deepwater sailing ships. If the ship lost the captain or any of the officers during its voyage, she would fly blue flags and have a blue band painted along her entire hull when returning to home port.

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www.SUBVEST.com
Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench
757-318-0138 B4 8pm



Left Photo: Marlin Helms offering condolences to Betty Weller with Charlie Weller's family in the background.



Middle Photo (Left): Reception Room Photo with several of the attendees at the reception.

Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plate
Take a copy of your DD-214 when you go to get yours.



Lower Photo: Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans in attendance at Charlie Weller's Memorial Service.

Photos by Bruce Ellzroth

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CEO/Owner
SubmarineCoins@gmail.com





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



Happy New Year I am looking forward to a good year but am still feeling a little empty over the loss of Charlie Weller. Some of us drank our dolphins in honor of him during the Army/Navy game at Just1More.

Andy Armbrust is working on our next picnic, maybe in April but nothing nailed down yet.

I will be starting organization of our booth and Tolling of the Boats Ceremony at the Secret City Festival this June 12 - 13, 2020. I am hoping to have the same set up as last year with booth, float locations and the Tolling of the boats at the Oak Ridge Peace Bell. Just not the same weather. We are now considered part of the festival and are not charged for our booth. I am working on a guest speaker and singer.

I will be working on updating the national database for members and I am told we are on the cusp of launching the new USSVI web site, but we have been there before. USSVI is a 501 (c) (19) veterans' organization which has requirements for percentage of membership who are veterans and a few other criteria.

Fraternally,
Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base Commander



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



Delivery of this newsletter was a month late due to the editor and his wife being on an extended vacation during the previous two months. This three month period saw several Smoky Mountain Base members participate in the memorial service of WW-II SMB member Charlie Weller in Morristown, TN and also the Army/Navy game at "Just1More" Tavern following the service (See Page 12). Also in this issue are the Knoxville, and Clinton, TN Veterans Day Parades (See Page 13).

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

Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman - (865) 300-3934 - Nothing to report this issue except that there will be a spring picnic later and he could use some suggestions on the location.



STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1 (SS)

We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

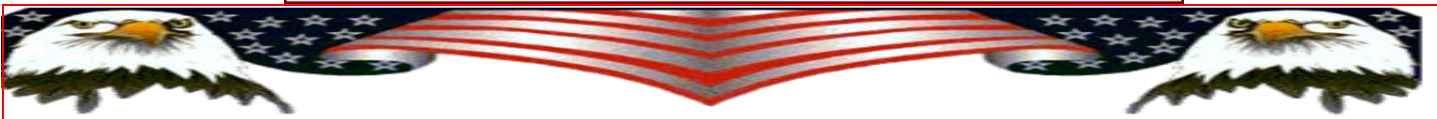
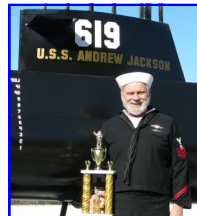
2020 USSVI Calendars are now available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 to cover postage. Makes a nice Christmas present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00. Remember all purchases support YOUR BASE.



SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1 (SS)



Treasurers Report: Jim Rock
On Nov. 18th 2019 our bank balance was \$1,600.75.
As of Jan. 7th, 2020 we had a balance of \$1,634.55.





SMB Meeting Agenda - Marlin Helms



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

Date: December 19 2019

Time/Location: 1900 hrs, Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy. Knoxville Tn

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. To 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 sacrifices. 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" - December:

- **USS Sea Lion SS-195 December 10, 1941- 4 Men Lost**
- **USS Sea Dragon SS-194 December 10, 1941- 1 Man Lost**
- **USS Grampus A-3 December 10, 1910- 1 Man Lost**
- **USS F-1 SS-20 December 16, 1917- 19 Men Lost**
- **USS S-4 SS-109 December 17, 1927- 39 Men Lost**
- **USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul SSN-708 December 29, 2006- 2 Men Lost**
- **Eternal Patrol James Tidd December 20, 2018**

"Tolling of the Bell" - January:

- USS Scorpion (SS-278) - January 5, 1944 - 77 Men Lost**
- USS Argonaut (SS-166) - January 10, 1943 - 102 Men Lost**
- USS Swordfish (SS-193) - January 12, 1945 - 89 Men Lost**
- USS S-36, (SS-141) - January 20, 1942 - No Men Lost**
- USS S-26, (SS-131) - January 24, 1942 - 46 Men Lost**

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

Secretary's Report and Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report – Jim Rock

Correspondence –

Committee Reports –

• **Newsletter – Bruce Eltzroth**

• **Library - Ed Standifer**

• **Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell**

• **Membership – Marlin Helms**

• **Social Committees – Andy Armbrust**

• **Web Site – Stuart McGlasson**

• **Old Business – None at this time**

• **Other – New Business/Good of the Order –Hold an open discussion on upkeep and use of the float.**

Hold an open discussion of alternating meetings from formal one month to a shortened meeting with the pledge and tolling of the boats.

Next Meeting: 1900 hrs, Thursday, January 16, 2020 at Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy. Knoxville, TN

Motion to adjourn - Approved.





Lost Boats of January



USS Scorpion (SS-278) - January 5, 1944

SS-278 Battle Stars



77 Men Lost

The USS *Scorpion* (SS-278) was a Gato-class World War II era submarine. The namesake of the USS *Scorpion* is an order of arachnids having an elongated body and a narrow segmented tail bearing a venomous sting at the tip. On December 29, 1943, the *Scorpion*, captained by Commander Maximilian G. Schmidt, departed Pearl Harbor for her fourth and final war patrol. On January 3, 1944, she fueled at Midway Island and then headed for her assigned patrol area in the Yellow Sea and the northern East China Sea. On the afternoon of January 4, 1944, she reported that one crewman had sustained a simple fracture of the upper arm and requested a rendezvous with the USS *Herring* (SS-233), which was then in her vicinity and en route back to Pearl Harbor from her sixth war patrol. On January 5, 1944, the *Scorpion* attempted to transfer the injured crewman to the *Herring* for return to Midway, however heavy seas made it impossible to do so. The *Scorpion* reported the situation "Under control" before midnight and the *Herring* sailed for Midway. The *Scorpion* was not seen or heard from again. When no report was received from her by February 24, 1944, she was ordered to make a radio transmission acknowledging receipt of the dispatch. No acknowledgement was received. The *Scorpion* was presumed lost on March 6, 1944. The Navy Department issued the following press release regarding the *Scorpion's* loss: Navy Department Communiqué 513, March 22, 1944 - The submarine USS *Scorpion* is overdue from patrol and must be presumed to be lost. The next of kin of casualties of the *Scorpion* have been so notified.

Loss Possibilities: 1. The *Scorpion* probably struck a mine and sank sometime between January 5 to February 24, 1944, in the northern East China Sea or in the Yellow Sea. In August 1943, the Japanese had planted two hundred mines across the shallow mouth of the Yellow Sea. The location of the minefield was not known in the time period the *Scorpion* might have passed through it.

2. On February 26, 1944, the USS *Steelhead* (SS-280) and the *Scorpion* were each warned they were in close proximity to one another and that an enemy submarine might also be in the vicinity. However, it was later learned that the suspect submarine, *I-174*, was not in their area at the time of the warning. Therefore, the possibility of loss due to an unreported attack by a Japanese submarine is considered very unlikely.

Postwar examination of Japanese records did not provide any clues as to the *Scorpion's* fate and no conclusive explanation for the cause of her loss has ever been established. The reason for her loss remains a mystery. A list of the men lost with the *Scorpion* is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-scorpion-278.htm>. The *Scorpion* earned three battle stars for her World War II service. She was scored by JANAC with sinking 18,316 tons of Japanese shipping in four vessels. Her Alden-McDonald score is six vessels sunk for 18,567 tons and eight vessels damaged for 18,656 tons. The SORG score for the *Scorpion* is twelve vessels sunk for 26,400 tons and five vessels damaged for 30,000 tons.



USS SCORPIN (SS-278)

USS Scorpion was lost on January 5, 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol.



USS Argonaut (SS-166) - January 10, 1943

SS-166 Battle Stars



102 Men Lost

The USS *Argonaut* (SS-166) was a V-4 (Argonaut)-class World War II era submarine. The namesake of the USS *Argonaut* is a relative of the octopus - sometimes called the paper nautilus - which propels itself, underwater by expelling a jet of water. The name *Argonaut* may also have been inspired by the submarine of that name built in 1897 by Simon Lake which was the first submarine to navigate extensively in the open sea. Ultimately, the name is derived from the band of fifty heroes in Greek legend who sailed with Jason in the ship *Argo* to retrieve the Golden Fleece. The radio call sign of the USS *Argonaut* was NAN-ITEM-CHARLIE-TARE.

At the end of 1942, the *Argonaut's* base of operations was changed from Pearl Harbor to Brisbane, where she would help carry out the many special Spyron missions General MacArthur tasked submarines with in the south Pacific area. The *Argonaut* was the fleet's largest submarine. She had originally been built primarily for mine laying. In September 1942 she had been converted into a troop transport capable of accommodating 120 men, and her hull classification symbol was changed from SM-1 (Submarine Minelayer) to APS-1 (Transport Submarine). Her new role as a Spyron transport suited her well. The USS *Tang's* captain, Commander Richard H. O'Kane, who served four years aboard the *Argonaut*, said of her fighting capacity, "If a fleet boat were stripped of one battery, two engines, six torpedo tubes, and could use no more than 15 degrees of rudder, she would still have greater torpedo attack and evasion ability than *Argonaut*."

On November 24, 1942, the *Argonaut*, captained by Lieutenant Commander John R. Pierce, sailed from Pearl Harbor for her transfer to Task Force 42 at Brisbane. On December 9, 1942, she topped off at the Allied military supply and support base, naval harbor, and airfield on Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides archipelago. From there the Task Force 42 commander, Captain James Fife, ordered the *Argonaut* to patrol the southern approaches to Rabaul and be on the lookout for a Japanese convoy consisting of five freighters escorted by destroyers moving north from Lae to Rabaul. On January 10, 1943, the *Argonaut* spotted the convoy southeast of New Britain. A Japanese sea-plane detected the submerged submarine and dropped two anti-submarine bombs. The IJN destroyer *Minekaze* then moved in and dropped depth charges. Soon the bow of the submarine broke the surface in what seemed to be a vain attempt to surface. The *Minekaze* and the IJN destroyer *Isokaze* pounded the injured submarine with battery fire relentlessly. The *Argonaut* slipped below the waves, never to be seen again, at 5° 40'S, 152° 02'E. By pure coincidence, a U. S. Army aircraft, returning to its base with empty bomb racks, was flying overhead and witnessed these events.



1/10/1943

USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost 10 January 1943 with the loss of 84 officers and men when it was sunk off Rabaul near 05 155N 153 50E; (Another location given as 5 40S 152 02E)



Lost Boats of January



USS Swordfish (SS-193) - January 12, 1945

89 Men Lost

The **USS Swordfish (SS-193)** was a Sargo-class World War II era submarine.

The namesake of the *USS Swordfish* is a large fish with a long, sword-like beak and a high dorsal fin.

The radio call sign of the *USS Swordfish* was NAN-UNCLE-DOG-GEORGE.

On December 22, 1944, the *Swordfish*, captained by Commander Keats E. Montross, departed Pearl Harbor for her thirteenth and final war patrol. She had received orders to patrol in an area off the Ryukyu Islands. She had also been outfitted with special equipment for a photo reconnaissance mission at Okinawa. After stopping at Midway Island to top off her fuel, she headed west for the big Japanese stronghold in the Nansei Shoto chain. On January 3, 1945, she acknowledged receipt of new orders to proceed to and to patrol near the approximate geographic position 30°-00'N, 132°-00'E until further notice. The reason for this move was to keep her out of harms way during a planned January carrier strike on the Ryukyus. Her acknowledgement of this order was the last communication ever received from the *Swordfish*. On January 9, 1945, she was ordered to proceed to the Nansei Shoto Archipelago to perform her special mission. Upon completion of the photographic and observation mission, she was told to proceed to the submarine base at Saipan, unless she was unable to communicate by radio, in which case she was supposed to return to Midway. When the *Swordfish* failed to appear at Saipan or Midway, and silence was the only response to radio messages sent to her, it became obvious she was lost. On February 15, 1945, she was reported as presumed lost due to unknown causes. The public announcement was made on May 4, 1945. Navy Department Communiqué No. 595, May 4, 1945: The submarine *USS Swordfish* is overdue from patrol and presumed lost. Next of kin of officers and crew have been informed.

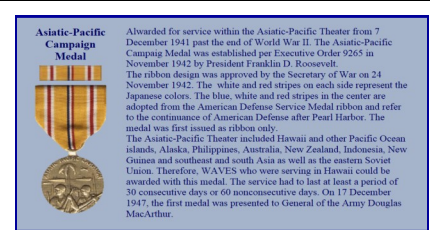
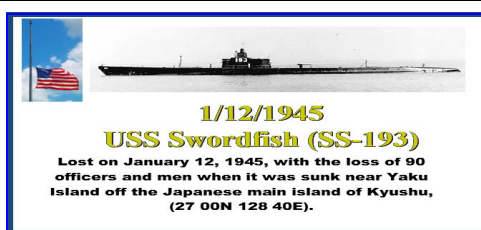
Loss Possibilities: 1. The *Swordfish* was probably sunk by depth charges, on January 5, 1945, at the approximate geographic position 29°-25'N, 141°-07'E, which is southeast of Tori-shima island, an uninhabited volcanic island at the south end of the Izu Islands. On that date, near that location, at about 1705 hours, the 572-ton Japanese Army cargo vessel *Shoto Maru* was hit in the bow by a torpedo and sank at about 1906 hours. John D. Alden attributes this attack and the sinking to the *Swordfish*. The Japanese coastal defense vessel *CD-4* conducted a counterattack with depth charges and reported that oil continued to rise to the surface for the next thirty hours.

2. The *Swordfish* possibly sank sometime after January 9, 1945, as a result of hitting a mine. During the first half of 1944, the Japanese had laid four minefields in the Okinawa area. On January 9, 1945, the *Swordfish* had been ordered to proceed to this area to complete a photographic reconnaissance assignment. This mission may have taken her into one of the minefields laid in 1944 or into freshly laid inshore minefields, planted to defend Okinawa beach approaches.

3. On January 12, 1945, the *USS Kete (SS-369)*, while on station in the Okinawa area, reported a possible contact with a nearby submersible. The *Kete* was unable to positively identify the contact, but the *Swordfish* was expected to be in the vicinity at that time. About four hours later, the *Kete* heard the sound of a heavy barrage of depth charges. Japanese records reviewed after the war did not record the event heard by *the Kete*. But such a heavy barrage could have been aimed at the *Swordfish*. The bottom line is no one knows for certain what happened to the *Swordfish* or when it was lost. This long serving submarine and her valiant crew went down together leaving a significant record of accomplishments in their wake. A list of the men lost with the *Swordfish* is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-swordfish-193.htm>.

The *Swordfish* was scored by JANAC with sinking 47,928 tons of enemy shipping in twelve vessels. Her Alden-McDonald score is sixteen vessels sunk for 55,641 tons and four vessels damaged for 26,150 tons. Her SORG score is seventeen vessels sunk for 101,400 tons and nine vessels damaged for 61,900 tons. The *Swordfish* earned eight battle stars for her World War II service in her distinguished thirteen-patrol career. She sank the *Atsutasan Maru*, the first Japanese ship sunk by a U. S. submarine in the Pacific war.

SS-193 Battle Stars





Lost Boats of January

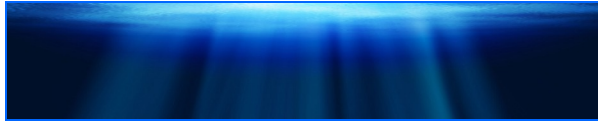


USS S-36 (SS-141) - January 20, 1942



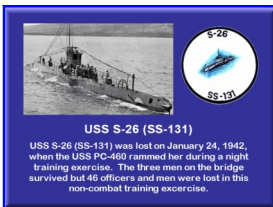
SS-141 - 1 Battle Star

No Men Lost



USS S-36 (SS-141) was a S-1 class World War II era submarine. On December 30, 1941, the S-36, captained by Lieutenant John R. McKnight, Jr., departed Mariveles harbor for her second and final war patrol. Her orders were to patrol in Philippine waters before heading south to join the Allied forces gathering in the East Indies. On January 1, 1942, she sighted a small transport moored to the seawall at Calapan Harbor, Mindoro Island, fired one torpedo, and sank it. (The sinking of this vessel could not be verified in Japanese records, thus S-36 was never given credit for the kill.) In the days following this attack, S-36 moved southward and began to experience equipment failures that had a negative impact on the submarine's performance. On January 15, 1942, she spotted a Japanese destroyer in the Sulu Sea. Lieutenant McKnight ordered a crash dive, but due to equipment problems, her dive was delayed and the destroyer spotted her. The enemy destroyer dropped seven depth charges which exploded off both quarters of the S-boat. The explosions caused the loss of power control over the bow planes, gyro compass failure, blown fuses on the starboard lighting circuit, and broken lights in the motor room. When she reached 150 feet, her gyro compass was again working and she began turning slowly to starboard. The destroyer was kept astern. After several hours, she heard the last efforts of the destroyer to locate her. She surfaced, cleared the area and began making repairs. On January 17, 1942, she received orders to proceed to Surabaya, Java. She headed for Makassar Strait. The currents in the Makassar Strait are very strong and difficult to predict, making navigation hazardous. In addition, McKnight's charts were imprecise and incomplete. Just before dawn on January 20, 1942, S-36 ran hard aground on Taka Bakang Reef in the Makassar Strait. The hard hit on the reef holed S-36's hull, flooding the forward battery. McKnight broke radio silence and sent out a plain language call for help to all friendly men-of-war. The message was received by USS Sargo (SS-188) as she was nearing Surabaya. Her captain, Lieutenant Commander Tyrell D. Jacobs, tried unsuccessfully to relay the message to ComSubsAsiatic for five hours. The Sargo then headed for the Makassar Strait to help S-36. Sargo remained surfaced, relaying distress messages to friendly aircraft and surface ships. After Captain John Wilkes acknowledged receipt of the message, Sargo was recalled and a PBY Catalina was dispatched to survey S-36's condition. By radio McKnight told the PBY crew that with assistance he felt he could salvage S-36. The PBY therefore raced to Makassar City and requested assistance from the Dutch authorities, who promptly dispatched the Dutch launch *Attila*. The launch reached S-36 on January 21 and embarked two officers and twenty-eight men. The remaining crew stayed with S-36 in the hope she could be hauled clear of the reef. But conditions continued to worsen. All efforts to save the submarine were fruitless. McKnight decided to abandon her. The remaining crew rigged S-36 to flood and transferred to the Dutch ship SS *Siberote*, which took them to Makassar City. All hands reached Surabaya, Java on February 25, 1942, and were reassigned to other duties.

USS S-26 (SS-131) - January 24, 1942



46 Men Lost



USS S-26 (SS-131) was a S-1 class World War II era submarine. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Captain Thomas J. Doyle, the commanding officer of the Coco Solo submarine base, on the Atlantic Ocean (northwest) side of the Panama Canal Zone, near Colón, Panama, was presented with a dual problem. In addition to the threat of German U-boat activity in the waters off Panama, on the Canal's eastern side, American submarines would also have to guard against a potential Japanese attack on the Canal's Pacific end. Accordingly, Captain Doyle ordered his submarines to patrol off the Pacific entrance of the Canal. A patrol line was established extending 800 miles from the Balboa district on the Canal's western end. American submarines made patrols from Balboa throughout the first year of the war without encountering any enemy vessels. However, it was in this area that the U. S. Submarine Force experienced its first operational loss of World War II. On January 24, 1942, the S-26, captained by Lieutenant Commander Earl C. Hawk, was sailing surfaced from Balboa to her patrol station in company with S-21, S-29, S-44, and escort vessel PC-460. At around 2210 hours, PC-460 flashed a visual message to the submarines advising them she was leaving the formation and that they should proceed to their assignments as ordered. Only S-21 received this message. A short while thereafter, PC-460 collided in the dark with S-26, ramming her starboard side near the after torpedo room. The S-boat sank within seconds in 300 feet of water. Three men who were on the bridge survived. Forty-six men went down with her. All rescue attempts were unsuccessful. Her hulk was not salvaged. A list of the personnel lost with S-26 is maintained at <http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/uss-s-26-131.htm>. S-26 is not credited with sinking any enemy vessels.



Lost Boats of February



USS Barbel (SS-316) - February 4, 1945



SS-316 Battle Stars

81 Men Lost

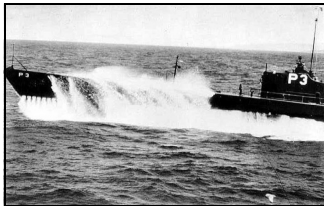


Lost on February 4, 1945, on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported that she had survived 3 depth charge attacks. 10 officers and 71 enlisted personnel (a total of 81 men) were lost after Barbel sent a message reporting that she had been attacked three times by enemy aircraft dropping depth charges and would transmit further information on the following night. Barbel was never heard from again.

USS Shark I (SS-174) - February 11, 1942

SS-174 Battle Star

59 Men Lost



On February 2, 1942, the **SHARK** reported to her base at Surabaya that she had been depth-charged ten miles off Tifore Island and had failed to sink a Japanese ship during a torpedo attack. Five days later, she reported chasing an empty cargo ship headed northwest. On February 8, the **SHARK** was ordered to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes. Thereafter, the **SHARK** was never heard from again. On March 7, 1942, she was reported as presumed lost due to unknown causes. The official announcement of the **SHARK'S** loss was made on March 18, 1942.

Japanese records reviewed after the war documented numerous attacks on unidentified submarines in the **SHARK'S** area at plausible times. On February 11, 1942, the Japanese depth-charged a submarine east of Menado, northern Celebes. On February 17, they attacked an unidentified submarine off Kendari. On February 21, an enemy sub chaser rammed a U. S. submarine in Manipa Strait (this report could not be confirmed). Based on the fact that on February 8 the **SHARK** had been sent to the area near Menado, she could have been the submarine the Japanese depth charged. Another report described an attack 120 miles east of Menado on February 11, 1942, at 0137 hours, by the IJN destroyer *Yamakaze*, which sank a surfaced submarine with deck gun fire.

USS Amberjack (SS-219) - February 16, 1943

SS-219 Battle Stars

72 Men Lost



Lost on February 16, 1943, on her 3rd war patrol off Rabaul. She was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. She reported having being forced down on the 13th by two destroyers, and that she had recovered an enemy aviator from the water and taken him prisoner. All further messages to the Amberjack remained unanswered. This engagement resulted in the loss of 6 officers and 54 enlisted men. One (or more) men were killed on the previous patrol. Japanese aircraft were very much aware of the **BARBEL'S** presence. In her February 3rd message she stated she had been attacked by aircraft with depth charges three times. She was never heard from again after sending that message.

Japanese records made available after the war indicated a submarine was bombed and sunk on February 4, 1945, in the South China Sea at 7° 49' 5.000" N, 116° 47' 5.000" E. This position is off Balabac Island, about midway between Borneo and southwest Palawan, where the **BARBEL** was patrolling. The Japanese claimed one hit near the bridge with one of the two 250-kilo bombs dropped.



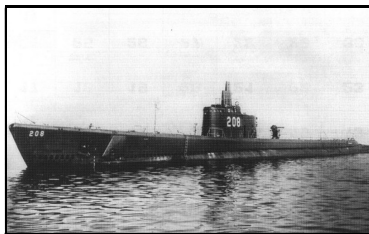
Lost Boats of February



USS Grayback (SS-208) - February 26, 1944

SS-208 Battle Stars

80 Men Lost



Lost on February 26, 1944, on her 10th war patrol. The Grayback appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit resulting in the loss of 80 men. During this patrol, she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons which resulted in a tie for 11th on the number of ships sunk. Japanese records reviewed after the war indicated that on February 27, 1944, the **GRAYBACK** torpedoed and sank the 4,905-ton cargo vessel *Ceylon Maru* at 31-35N, 127-47E. Sometime after this attack, the **GRAYBACK** was spotted surfaced by Nakajima B5N2 "Kates" of the Okinawa Naval Air Group. A direct hit was made on the submarine with a 250-kilo type bomb. The **GRAYBACK** exploded and sank immediately at 25-47N, 128-45E. Several Japanese antisubmarine vessels were summoned to the location and dropped depth charges over the spot where air bubbles were rising to the surface. Soon a lake of oil covered the surface measuring 100 meters wide and 250 meters long. If the **GRAYBACK** received ComSubPac's last message and headed home immediately, she would have been at the approximate position reported in the Japanese attack.

USS Trout (SS-202) - February 29, 1944

SS-202 Battle Stars

81 Men Lost



The **USS Trout (SS-202)**, under the command of **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.**, was patrolling off Midway Island when the war broke out on December 7, 1941. She returned to Pearl Harbor on December 20, 1941. This was considered her first "war patrol". She would make 10 more war patrols under 3 different skippers. Patrols 1-4 under **LCDR Fenno**, patrols 5-8 under the command of **LCDR Lawson "Red" Ramage** and patrols 9-11 under the command of **LCDR Albert H. Clark**. She was lost on or about February 29, 1944, southeast of Okinawa in the Philippine Sea with 81 men aboard. She carried out several notable special missions, including transporting over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942. The **USS Trout (SS-202)** was awarded three Presidential Unit Citations, for her second, third, and fifth war patrols.

Patrol Data and Captains for the **USS Trout (SS-202)**:

- 1- Patrolling Off Midway Island 07-Dec-41 to 20-Dec-41 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 2-Transported ammo to Corregidor & embarked valuables to take to Pearl 12-Jan-42 to 03-Mar-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 3-Off Honshu 24-Mar-42 to 17-May-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 4- Off Midway 21-May-42 to 14-Jun-42 **LCDR Frank W. Fenno, Jr.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 5-Off Truk in Caroline Islands; ended at Brisbane 27-Aug-42 to 13-Oct-42 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage.** returned to Pearl Harbor.
- 6- Solomon Islands 26-Oct-42 to 23-Nov-42 Departed Pearl Harbor returned to Brisbane.
- 7- South China Sea; ended at Fremantle 29-Dec-42 to 23-Feb-43 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage.** Departed Brisbane returned to Fremantle.
- 8- Laid mines off Borneo 22-Mar-43 to 03-May-43 **LCDR Lawson P. Ramage.** Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 9- Spyron missions in Philippines 27-May-43 to 20-Jul-43 **LCDR Albert H. Clark** Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 10- Surigao & San Bernardino Straits; ended at Pearl for overhaul 12-Aug-43 to 04-Oct-43 Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.
- 11- Pearl / East China Sea.



**U.S. Navy /
Marine
Presidential
Unit Citation
Ribbon**



Charles A. "Charlie" Weller

June 28, 1925 - November 30, 2019



Charlie Weller
WWII Veteran
U.S. NAVY
SUBMARINE FORCE
USS Sennet (SS-408)
June 28, 1925 - November 30, 2019



A Memorial Service was held for Charles A. "Charlie" Weller at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Morristown, TN at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 14, 2019 with military honors. An additional service with interment is being planned in January which will take place at St. James Lutheran Church in Limerick, Pennsylvania.

Charlie was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 28, 1925. He was a World War II submarine veteran having served aboard the USS Sennet (SS-408) as a Radioman, RMSN-(SS). He was also a 5 inch deck gunner, and used Twin 40's and a 50 Caliber aboard the Sennet during WW-II. Charlie was involved in several heated battles in the Pacific (including Saipan, Iwo Jima, Guam and Okinawa) before the war ended.

He became an active member of the Smoky Mountain Submarine Base Veterans group and was still a life-time member in good standing at the time of his death.

Charlie received several honors after his retirement - one of the most recent was that he was invited to be the WW-II US Navy representative on the reviewing stand at the Knoxville, TN Veterans Day Parade in 2017. Charlie was well liked and respected by the Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans and will be greatly missed.

Charlie's personal items at his memorial service. (Below)



The memorial service for Charlie Weller was followed by a trip to the "Just 1 More" tavern in Knoxville, TN to watch the Army/Navy football game in which Navy TROUNCED Army. There was a rumor that the SMB contingent present at the tavern that day "drank their dolphins" in Charlie's honor.



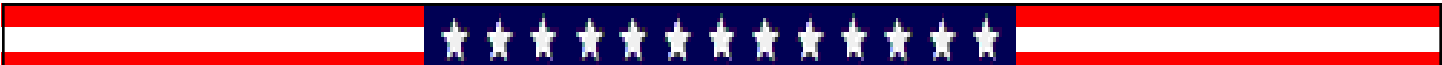
SMB Ladies - Lorie, Linda and Kathy + 2 more at Just 1 More.



SMB Subvets and one Army guy at Just 1 More Tavern.



USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619) float at Just 1 More Tavern.





2019 KNOXVILLE AND CLINTON, TN VETERANS DAY PARADES

Once again the Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans brought out their 1/10th scale Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) float for the 2019 Veterans Day Parades at both Knoxville and Clinton, TN. In Photo #1 Greg McKinney is in deep conversation with Dick Love. Photo #2 shows Fred Baker, Bruce Eltzroth and Greg McKinney in front of the float. Photo #3 has Marlin Helms, Charlie Weller and Kay Dawkins in discussion of the day's events.

The Knoxville parade lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours in perfect weather and most of the attendees decided to participate in dinner at Famous Dave's BBQ House in Knoxville between the Knoxville and the Clinton parades (see below). (Photos by John Augustine)

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

Above, dinner was enjoyed by several SMB members at Famous Dave's BBQ House in Knoxville following the parade. Those in attendance starting in Photo 4, from left to right are: John Augustine, Greg "Gunny" McKinney, Marlin Helms & Jim Rock. In Photo 5, (L to R) are Bruce Eltzroth, Terry McBride, Dave Pope, (Wes) Wesley, & Fred Baker. (Photos taken by our waitress)

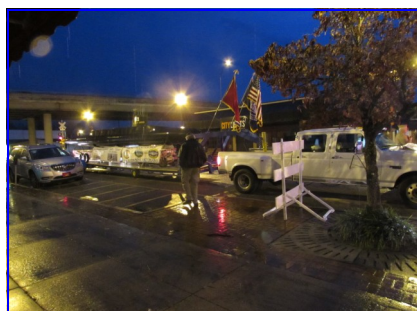


(6)

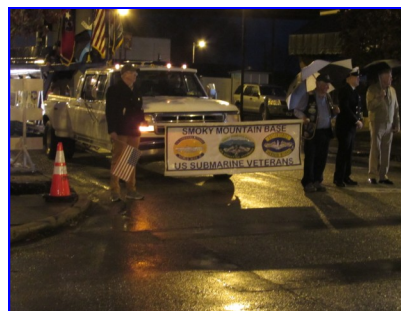
Starting at photo #6, with the float at the Clinton Parade, standing from L to R are: Stuart McGlassen, Fred Baker, Miss Teen Tennessee, David Cates, Terry McBride, and Larry Durham. Kneeling are: Marlin Helms, Bruce Eltzroth and John Augustine.

In Photo #7 the rain is starting just prior to the beginning of the Clinton parade. Photo #8 has all of the umbrella's out with Stuart McGlassen, John Augustine, Terry McBride and Bob Childs. And photo # 9 shows the float in the rain going under the giant American flag in downtown Clinton. Note the float's new blue fenders.

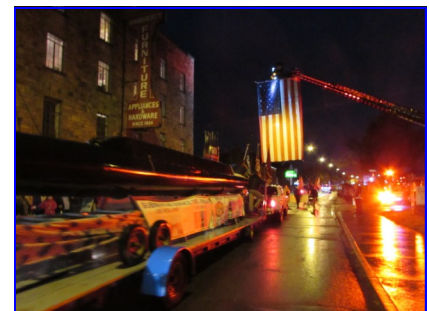
Photos below (except #6) and story by Bruce Eltzroth



(7)



(8)



(9)



SUBMARINE MUSEUMS & FUTURE BOONDOGGLES OF THE MONTH



There are currently 24 Submarine Museums located in the United States. Two of the submarines are Russian, one is German and the rest are U.S. If you haven't seen any (or all) of them, now would be a good time to visit one (or more). Below (and on page 15) is a list of those that are open for visitation, except for the **USS Batfish (SS-310)** that broke free from its moorings during the flood of the Arkansas River last summer. Also closed is the **USS Ling (SS-297)**, that was maliciously sunk by vandals several months ago, pier side in Hackensack, New Jersey. It is closed indefinitely.

The objective here is, for anyone who is willing to visit some of these museums, to take photos of these submarines and/or any other notable details and themselves. Then to write (or provide information from the museum) to us for the purpose of writing future "Boondoggles of the Month" for the newsletter. Those who provide any input will be given recognition for their work and a special reward (TBD) for their input.

(Museum List provided by John Augustine)

USS Drum (SS-228)	<i>Gato</i>	May 12, 1941	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.ussalabama.com/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Mobile, AL
U-505 (German)	<i>IX-C</i>	May 24, 1941	Deutsche Werft AG	http://www.msichicago.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Chicago, IL
USS Bowfin (SS-287)	<i>Balao</i>	Dec. 7, 1942	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.bowfin.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Honolulu, HI
USS Croaker (SS-246)	<i>Gato</i>	Dec. 19, 1942	Electric Boat company	http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Buffalo, NY
USS Cod (SS-224)	<i>Gato</i>	March 21, 1943	Electric Boat Company	http://www.usscod.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Cleveland, OH
USS Batfish (SS-310)	<i>Balao</i>	May 6, 1943	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.warmemorialpark.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Muskogee, OK
USS Pampanito (SS-383)	<i>Balao</i>	July 12, 1943	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.maritime.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	San Francisco, CA
USS Ling (SS-297)	<i>Balao</i>	August 15, 1943	Cramp Ship-building Company	http://www.njnm.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Hackensack, NJ
USS Lionfish (SS-298)	<i>Balao</i>	Nov. 7, 1943	Cramp Ship-building Company	http://www.battleshipcove.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Fall River, MA
USS Cavalla (SS-244)	<i>Gato</i>	Nov. 14, 1943	Electric Boat Company	http://www.americanunderseawarfarecenter.com/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Galveston, TX
USS Cobia (SS-245)	<i>Gato</i>	Nov. 28, 1943	Electric Boat Company	http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Manitowoc, WI
USS Razorback (SS-394)	<i>Balao</i>	January 27, 1944	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.aimmuseum.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	North Little Rock, AR

(Continued next page)



SUBMARINE MUSEUMS & FUTURE BOONDOGGLES OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)



USS <i>Becuna</i> (SS-319)	<i>Balao</i>	January 30, 1944	Electric Boat Company	http://www.phillyseaport.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Philadelphia, PA
USS <i>Torsk</i> (SS-423)	<i>Tench</i>	Sept. 6, 1944	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.historicships.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Baltimore, MD
USS <i>Requin</i> (SS-481)	<i>Tench</i>	January 1, 1945	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Pittsburgh, PA
USS <i>Clamagore</i> (SS-343)	<i>Balao</i>	February 25, 1945	Electric Boat Company	http://www.patriotspoint.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Mount Pleasant, SC
USS <i>Albacore</i> (AGSS-569)	<i>Albacore</i>	August 1, 1953	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.ussalbacore.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Portsmouth, NH
USS <i>Marlin</i> (SST-2)	<i>T-1</i>	October 14, 1953	Electric Boat Company	http://parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Omaha, NE
USS <i>Growler</i> (SSG-577)	<i>Grayback</i>	April 5, 1958	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	New York, NY
USS <i>Nautilus</i> (SSN-571)	<i>Nautilus</i>	January 21, 1954	Electric Boat Company	http://www.ussnautilus.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Groton, CT
USS <i>Blueback</i> (SS-581)	<i>Barbel</i>	May 16, 1959	Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation	http://www.oms.edu/submarine	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	Portland, OR
<i>B-39</i> (Russian)	<i>Foxtrot</i>	April 15, 1967	Admiralty Shipyard	http://www.sdmaritime.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	San Diego, CA
USS <i>Dolphin</i> (AGSS-555)	<i>Dolphin</i>	June 8, 1968	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	http://www.sdmaritime.org/	HNSA webpage	Wikipedia webpage	San Diego, CA
<i>B-427</i> (Russian)	<i>Foxtrot</i>	June 22, 1971	Sudomekh Shipyard	http://www.queenmary.com/.../scorpion-submarine/	Associate Member	Wikipedia webpage	Long Beach, CA





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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: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

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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;
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Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) _____

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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: _____

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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.