



OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR FOUNDERS

OUR BROTHERHOOD

Our Mission

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



Scheduled Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at
Mimi's Café
10945 Parkside Drive,
Knoxville, Tennessee
Dinner and Social Hour @1800
Meeting @ 1900

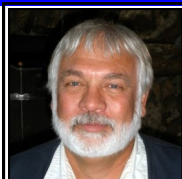
SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

INDEX OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE	1
SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS / COMMITTEE MEMBERS	2
SMB MEETINGS, NEW MEMBERS, CALANDARS AND LOCAL INFO	3
LIBRARY, VETERANS, DUES, MEMBERSHIP & ELECTION INFO	4
BASE OFFICERS REPORTS	5
LATEST MEETING MINUTES & TOLLING OF THE BOATS	6
LOST BOATS OF JANUARY	7-9
LOST BOATS OF FEBRUARY	10,11
DEC.2023 & JAN.2024 SMB MEETINGS + USSVI CONVENTION INFO	12
USS OHIO (SSBN-726) & T-SHIRT INFO. TN ICE BEARS HONORS	13
NEW SMB QUAL BOAT - USS ANDREW JACLSON (SSBN-619)	14
APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN USSVI	15



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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
Thomas Peschke
(MMCM (SS))



Qualified MM2 (SS)
USS M. G. VALLEJO (SSBN-658)



BASE SECRETARY
Robert (Bob) Childs



Qualified MMC (SS)
USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571)
November 1967
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
(SSBN 600 - Blue Crew) July 1970



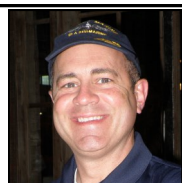
BASE TREASURER
JIM ROCK



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



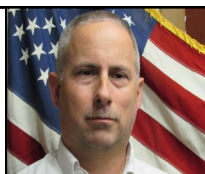
Qualified ET1(SS)
USS CONGER (SS/AGSS-477)



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**



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

January & February Issue - 2024

Meetings and Happenings

Scheduled Meetings

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



Smoky Mountain Submarine Base currently
holds our monthly meetings at:
Mimi's Café in Knoxville, TN.
New or prospective Members and their
families are welcome to join us!

New Members:
None This Period

February 1 - Previous Newsletter Deadline
February 2 - Ground Hog Day
February 14 - Valentines Day/Ash Wed.
February 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
February 19 - Presidents Day
February 22 - George Washington Birthday

The Snorkel Exhaust

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

March 1, 1945 - AEC Chooses Idaho for NRTS
March 10 - Daylight Savings Time Starts
March 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day
March 24 - Palm Sunday
April 1 - Next Newsletter Deadline

February 2024

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				

March 2024

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	1

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines

Lee Chappell - EM1-SS

(Base Librarian & Parliamentarian)

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

USSVI Membership

BY: THOMAS PESCHKE MMCM (SS)

Our National membership is declining. As our organization continues to age, we are losing members due to natural attrition. We still have submarines out there and crew members that are getting out and retiring. If you see a set of Dolphins on a hat or car, introduce yourself, if possible, and give them a card and invite them to a meeting. Hopefully, nationally, we will be able to start growing again. Semper Fortis!



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.)

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**

\$30@ 1yr. (Oct-Dec \$35 to include the next year)

\$70@ 3yrs

\$115@ 5yrs

Life membership

\$120 @ 76+ years of age

\$240 @ 66 to 75 years of age

\$360 @ 56 to 65 years of age

\$500 @ 45 to 55 years of age

\$600 @ under 45 years of age

Smoky Mountain Base

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



Nominating Committee Needed for 2024 SMB Officers



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Election of Officers 2024

(SAMPLE BALLOT)

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

Base Commander: _____

Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Please return nominations to Bruce Eltzroth at or before the meeting on (May 16, 2024).





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



We are starting 2024 on the wrong foot. We had to cancel a meeting due to weather, and we have a drop in dues paying members. There is a need to rejuvenate the base. The cancellation reminds me that we need to resume work on the base manual. One of the chapters in need of further development is phone call tree. It would have been useful to do wellness checks and to pass down the word about the meeting cancellation during the weather event. Since there was no January meeting the establishment of the nominating committee will be done at the February meeting. Consider volunteering. Fraternally, Marlin Helms Smoky Mountain Submarine Veteran Base Commander.



BASE VICE COMMANDERS REPORT - THOMAS PESCHKE MMCM (SS)



Greetings. The USSVI National Convention is coming up. Usually, I am the only one from our base attending. Year after year, I meet friends, make new friends attend meetings and meet with National Leaders and find out how their year has gone. There are also places to see and things to do like ball games and museums some of which will take your breath away. Two years ago I even met up with all of my previous bases officers and we went out to dinner at a primo German restaurant. So, why not try something new and attend a USSVI convention. This year, Ohio, is well within the reach of ANYONE at our base. I can understand some difficulty with Tucson or San Francisco (both of which were GREAT times) but Ohio? Join me in attending this year. I understand even Marlin is finally going to attend! I guess I can finally skip attending all those meetings! I hope to see you there!



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



This issue of the SMB Snorkel Exhaust contains the history of the lost boats for the month's of January and February. It also has photos and stories from the December 2023 and the snowed out January 2024 monthly SMB meetings and the USSVI Annual Meeting in Ohio on page 12. Page 13 discusses the 41 year service of the USS Ohio (SSBN- 726), a story about the Tennessee Ice Bears hockey team, and also information about SMB T-shirts for sale. Page 14 has the "Boat of the Month" in an honor to Jim Rock, the builder and owner of the SMB float.



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, - (865) 300-3934**

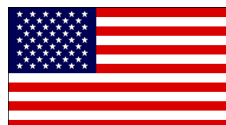


STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL - ET1(SS)



2024 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!



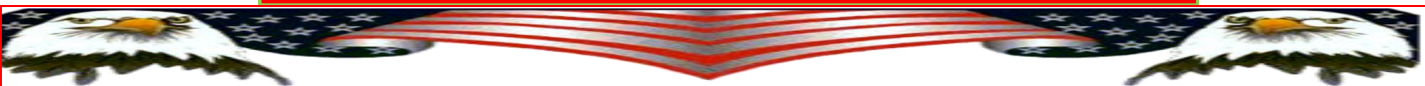
SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK—MM1(SS)



Current Treasurers Report:

On Jan. 1st, 2024 our bank balance was **\$2,681.30**

As of Feb. 1st, 2024 we have a balance of **\$2,255.17.**





Secretary's Report/Meeting Minutes December 21, 2023 Robert Childs - SMB Base Secretary Qualified MMC (SS)



The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base

Date: December 21, 2024

Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander.

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours.

David Pope Base Chaplain presented the Invocation .

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

Bob Childs, Base Secretary led the tolling of the bell for lost boats with Vice Commander Thom Peschke.

Secretary Bob Childs read Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2023, approved.

Treasurer's Report – \$ 2638.30 in the treasury.



Committees :

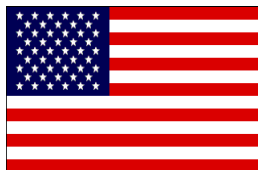
- Newsletter – Bruce Eltzroth – January/February news letter to be issued February 1, 2024.
- Librarian & Parliamentarian – Lee Chappell - He will bring books to the meetings to check out.
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell – Buy some stuff.
- Membership – Tom Peschke produced a flyer that is available for posting at locations that membership can choose such as barber shops, sports bars, Veterans organization, etc. to get the word out about Subvets and how to join.
- Scouting - no report
- Webmaster – Stuart McGlasson/Marlin Helms – nothing new with website at this time .
- Social Committees – Andy Armbrust - Spring picnic will coordinate with Dick Love about in the planning stages.
- Sunshine Lady – Shirley Corderos – no report .

Old Business: Reminder 2024 dues are due by the end of January

New Business:

Plans for 2024 events:

- . Memorial Day Parade
- . Army/Navy Game
- . Secret City Festival
- . No Christmas parade in Pigeon Forge this year. Dolly Parton is no longer Master of Ceremonies.
- . Nominating Committee for 2024 Base Officers elections in May is needed. Contact Marlin Helms to sign up.



Good of the Order

The 50/50 drawing netted \$42.00. The 50/50 prize of 21 won by David and Julia Pope was donated back to the Base.

- Next Meeting; 1900 hrs. Thursday, February 16, 2024 at Mimis Cafe, 10945 Parkside Dr , Knoxville, TN. 37834. (just off of I-75/40 south on Cedar Bluff).



Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 1940 hrs. Accepted unanimously.

The boat was surfaced by Base Commander, Marlin Helms.

Report By: Robert Childs - SMB Base Secretary - Qualified - MMC-SS, USS Nautilus (SSN-571)



★★★

Tolling Of The Bell Ceremony

★★★

This Tolling of the Bell Ceremony represents those U.S. Submarines lost in the months of January and February throughout U.S. Naval History.

"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

"Tolling of the Bell" - February:

USS Barbel (SS-316) - February 4, 1945 - 81 Men Lost
USS Shark I (SS-174) - February 11, 1942 - 59 Men Lost
USS Amberjack (SS-219) - February 16, 1943 - 72 Men Lost
USS Grayback (USS-208) - February 26, 1944 - 50 Men Lost
USS Trout (SS-202) - February 29, 1944 - 80 Men Lost





Lost Boats of January



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

77 Men Lost

SS-278 Battle Stars



USS SCORPION (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.



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 Argonaut (SS-166) - January 10, 1943

102 Men Lost

SS-166 Battle Stars



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)

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 seaplane 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.



Lost Boats of January

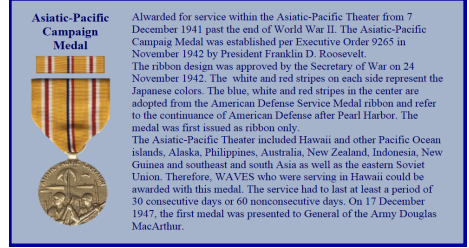


USS Swordfish (SS-193) - January 12, 1945

SS-193 Battle Stars



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.



Lost Boats of January



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

SS-141 - 1 Battle Star



1/20/1942
USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost Jan. 20, 1942. S-36 (SS-141) was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City, the crew were all rescued.

No Men Lost



USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost 20 January 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City, the crew were all rescued.

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. S-36 earned one battle star for her World War II service. She was not credited by JANAC or John D. Alden with sinking any enemy vessels. Her SORG score is one vessel sunk for 5,000 tons.

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

46 Men Lost



USS S-26 (SS-131)

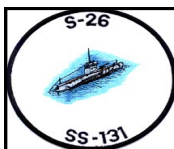
USS S-26 (SS-131) was lost on January 24, 1942, when the USS PC-460 rammed her during a night training exercise. The three men on the bridge survived but 46 officers and men were lost in this non-combat training exercise.



1/24/1942

USS S-26 (SS-131)

USS S-26 was lost Jan. 24, 1942, with the loss of 46 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USS PC-460 in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light.



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



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 Manado, 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 Manado, she could have been the submarine the Japanese depth charged. Another report described an attack 120 miles east of Manado 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.



ETERNAL



PATROL



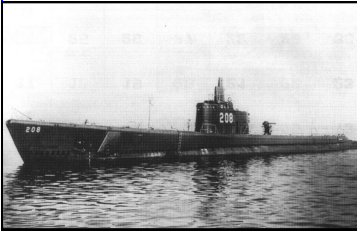
Lost Boats of February



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 Harbor 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 Harbor for overhaul 12-Aug-43 to 04-Oct-43 Departed Fremantle returned to Fremantle.



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

ETERNAL PATROL



December 21, 2023 SMB Monthly Meeting

(Story by Bruce Eltzroth)



Date: December 21, 2023. Presiding, Marlin Helms Base Commander. Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours, David Pope Base Chaplain presented the Invocation. Base Commander Marlin Helms led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the USSVI Creed. Secretary Bob Childs led Tolling of the Bell for lost boats with the COB Terry McBride. Meeting Minutes – Presented and approved. Treasures report \$2681.46. Correspondence/Discussion - None. Committees: •Newsletter - Bruce Eltzroth will publish on 2/1/2024. •Library- no report •Storekeeper - Buy stuff! •Membership – Thom Peschke not present. •Scouting - no report. •Webmaster – Removed spammers from member list. •Social Committee - Andy Armbrust, we will find a picnic location sometime in the spring of 2024.

USS Cod (SS-224) Base to host the 2024 USSVI National Convention.

The USSVI CODBASE will hold the 2024 National Convention in Cleveland Ohio on August 19th to the 24th at The Rockside Embassy Suites located at 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, Ohio 44131. (Go to the website, www.ussvi.org for more information.)



These two photos were taken in 2005 by Bruce Eltzroth and a Cod docent while Bruce was visiting his cousin Ed in Cleveland Ohio. The first photo on the left shows the Cod at the pier on Lake Erie. The second photo shows Cousin Ed (on the left) and Bruce (on the right) operating the deck gun on the Cod.

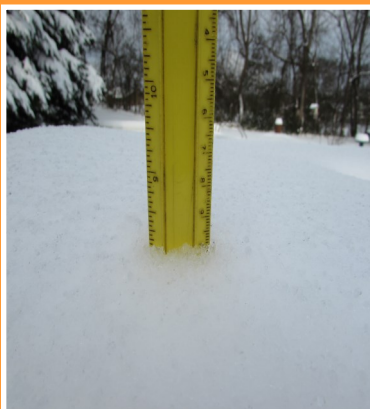


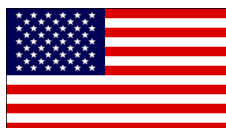
January 19, 2024 SMB Monthly Meeting

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)



This meeting was cancelled due to a winter snow storm that covered the entire East Tennessee area as well as the rest of the Eastern United States. As you can see in the middle photo below that our two day snow fall was over 8 inches and then lasted for almost 2 weeks!





USS OHIO - 41 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Photo and story by Undersea Museum)



Always first! The Navy's first Trident submarine, USS Ohio (SSBN 726), arrived home from making the first **Trident** strategic deterrent patrol 40 years ago this month, on December 10, 1982. Trident submarines are ballistic missile submarines capable of carrying Trident missiles. The Navy had commissioned USS Ohio, lead ship in her class, a year earlier in November 1981.



Smoky Mt. Base, or other Custom Made T-Shirts, Available for Purchase!

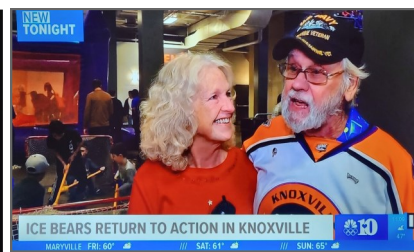
Shirts already ordered are currently available -
(See Terry McBride)



Knoxville Ice Bears Hockey Team Coverage

(Photos and story provided by Terry McBride - SMB COB)

The Knoxville Ice Bears are our local minor league hockey team. Playing three tiers below the National Hockey League (NHL), they were established in 2002, and since 2004 have played in the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL). They call their season ticket holders MemBEARs, and Jim Rock - our base treasurer, has been a MemBEAR longer than the team has kept records, (about 20 years). At each home game, the Ice Bears select and highlight the MemBear of the Game. On November 22nd, they selected our very own Base COB, Jim Rock. Exactly one month later, he and our Sunshine Lady, Shirley Corders, were interviewed by WBIR's Jillian Taylor for an Ice Bears feature on channel 10 News. WBIR info & photos below.





USS ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN-619)

Qual boat of the month for Jim Rock

(Story submitted by Thom Peschke)



The contract to build the USS Andrew Jackson was awarded to Mare Island Naval Shipyard at Vallejo, California, on 23 July 1960 and her keel was laid down on 26 April 1961. She was launched on 15 September 1962 sponsored by Nancy Patterson Pigott, wife of Tennessee Senator Estes Kefauver, and commissioned on 3 July 1963, with Commander Alfred J. Whittle, Jr. in command of the Blue Crew and Commander James B. Wilson in command of the Gold Crew. She was 425 feet (130 m) long, 33 feet (10 m) wide, and had a draft of 32 feet (9.8 m). She displaces 7,250 tonnes (7,140 long tons; 7,990 short tons) when surfaced, and 8,250 tonnes (8,120 long tons; 9,090 short tons) when submerged. Her top speed was above 20 knots (37 km/h; 23 mph), and she had a maximum depth of 1,300 feet (400 m). She had a complement of 120 men, and was armed with 16 Polaris missiles, and four 21-inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes. She was propelled by a S5W Pressurized Water Nuclear Reactor powering two turbines which generated 15,000 shaft horsepower (11,000 kW), driving one propeller. Following commissioning, Andrew Jackson sailed via the Panama Canal to the United States East Coast. On 1 October and 11 October 1963, during shakedown training out of Cape Canaveral, Florida, she successfully launched Polaris A-2 ballistic missiles; and, on 26 October 1963, she sent Polaris A-3X missiles into space in the first submerged launching of its type; and she repeated the feat on 11 November 1963. On 16 November 1963, six days before his assassination, President John F. Kennedy embarked in the missile range instrumentation ship USS Observation Island observed Andrew Jackson launch another Polaris A-2 ballistic missile from a point off Cape Canaveral and congratulated Commander Wilson and his crew for "impressive teamwork." Andrew Jackson was decommissioned on 31 August 1989 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on the same day. Ex-Andrew Jackson entered the Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program in Bremerton, Washington. Recycling of Ex-Andrew Jackson was completed 30 August 1999.

(Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia)



USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

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

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

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

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

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

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr. term: \$140.00; 3 Yr. term: \$85.00; 1 yr. term (Jan thru Dec) \$30.00; (Oct thru Dec add the next yr.): \$35.00;

Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Up to 45 yrs = \$ 600.00;

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 Marlin Helms @ (865) 387-5625 .