

# The Snorkel Exhaust

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN USSVI

**"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present, and Future".**  
**"The USSVI Submariner's 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 Jul & Aug 2018

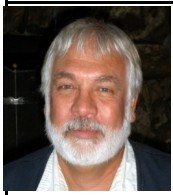
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**Scheduled Meetings**  
 Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month at:  
 GOLDEN CORRAL  
 6612 CLINTON HIGHWAY,  
 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE  
 Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800  
 Meeting @ 1900



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 Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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



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**



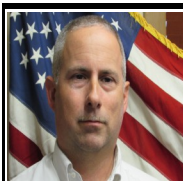
Qualified ET2 (SS) 1988  
**USS TENNESSEE (SSBN-734)**



**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



**STOREKEEPER**  
**Jim Burkholder**



Qualified EM2(SS)  
**USS CARP (SS-338)**



**BASE TREASURER**  
**JIM ROCK**



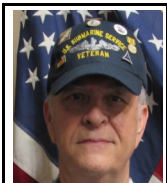
Qualified MM1 (SS)  
**USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN 619)**



**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

**JULY & AUGUST - 2018**

**Scheduled Meetings**

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



*Meetings and Happenings*



**New Members: None This Period**



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

- July 31 - Newsletter Deadline
- August 4 - US Coast Guard Established - 1790
- August 11 - Haddo Base Picnic
- August 14 - V-J Day -1945
- August 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)

- September 3 - Labor Day
- September 11 - Patriot Day
- September 18 - US Air Force Established - 1947
- September 20 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- September 21 - POW/MIA Recognition Day
- September 22 - First Day of Autumn

**August 2018**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	July	31	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	

**September 2018**

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
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS



### USS Haddo Base Picnic and Horseshoe Match **11 August, 2018** At City Park, Charleston, Tennessee

The **USS HADDO** Base, August picnic will be held again this year at the Charleston City Park in Charleston, TN. This is Haddo Base's *Old Fashion Base Picnic* and once again members of the **SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE** are invited to attend the festivities.

The Horse Shoe Tournament will be the highlight of the picnic again! **SMOKEY MOUNTAIN BASE** team won last time, and leads the competition by 3 to 1, maintaining the "**TENNESSEE WHITE HAT**" (along with the nice plaque) for another year. The last rematch worked out great for us! **SMOKEY MOUNTAIN BASE** is currently the "Hat Champion". We thank our brother submariners for their great camaraderie and hospitality!

**DIRECTIONS:** Going South on I-75, Take Exit 33. At end of the exit ramp, turn left onto TN-308. After about 3-1/2 miles, you should reach US-11, turn left on US-11. Turn right on Worth Street, park will be on the right.

The base will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda. You should bring your appetite, a pot luck dish that will feed you, your guests, and two additional adults. You might also want to bring enough lawn chairs for you and your guests.



Marlin Helms and David Self at our SMB meeting on 7/19/2018

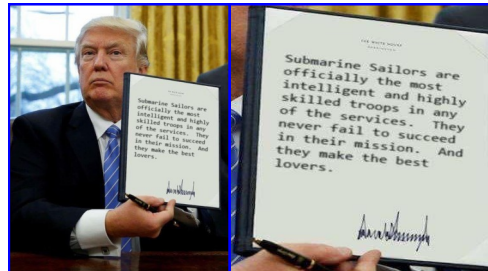
David Self, IC1-(SS), Commander of the Cincinnati Base Submarine Veterans paid us a visit at our SMB meeting, while he was in East Tennessee. Dave qualified on the USS Los Angeles (SSN-668) in 1978. Marlin Helms is District Commander for District 5 which includes the Cincinnati Base.

## VETERANS INFORMATION FOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEMBERS



In Service to America

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



←Did anyone see him sign this? Even though it is the truth, I believe it was **photo-shopped!**

SMB Editor

SMB Library Books,  
DVD's and Magazines  
**Ed Sandifer -HT1(SS)**  
has volunteered to become  
our new Base Librarian  
**WELCOME ABOARD ED!**  
There are over 100 books in  
our library - check some out!



The Ad below is for the "Vest Lady"

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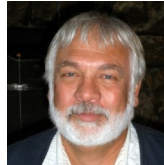
Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench

**757-318-0138 B4 8pm**





## BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR.



**Shipmates: The second Saturday (11 August, 2018) at noon is our annual picnic with Haddo Base.**

From the Haddo base web site: "Members, spouses, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are welcome. Come on out, we will have a great time. We might even be able to determine the base's best horseshoe player." ([http://haddobase.org/base\\_picnic.htm](http://haddobase.org/base_picnic.htm))

The picnic will be at the Charleston City Park, 113 Worth Street NE, Charleston, TN 37310 (See page 4 of this SMB newsletter for directions and more info). We will hold the annual horseshoe tournament there between our bases with the winner taking home the two trophies. We (SMB) have won three out of the last four tournaments, let's make it four out of five.

At this month's (August 16<sup>th</sup>) meeting we will be inducting two new Holland Club members. Martin 'Wes' Wesley and Michael Wagoner will be inducted at our August meeting please come out and support your shipmates if at all possible, especially all of you current Holland Club members.



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

This two-month period has been full of activities. Those that are noteworthy in chronological order are; Secret City Festival and Tolling of the Boats in Oak Ridge, TN; Smoky Mountain Base Summer Picnic at Melton Hill Dam Recreation Area; Just-1-More birthday Parties for Charlie and Lori; and the Gatlinburg 4th of July Parade starting at 0001 Hours. This issue will be the culmination of my first year as newsletter editor, and I have enjoyed the challenge and appreciate the inputs from those that took the time to send me related information that was newsworthy. I look forward to another year and hope that all who have taken the time to read the ramblings of an old man, (or as Charlie would say - "young whipper-snapper") and liked them, or at least understood, what they have read.

## PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—ANDY ARMBRUST



**There will be a fall picnic - probably at Melton Hill Dam again, but the details have not been worked out at this time.**



## TREASURER / STOREKEEPER REPORTS

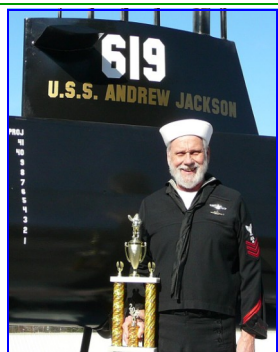


### Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

As of May 31st our bank balance was  
\$1873.79.

As of July 19th, we had a balance of  
\$1647.31.

**Jim Rock - Treasurer**



### Storekeepers Report - Jim Burkholder

We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

- Baseball caps w/SMB patch White or Blue - \$14.00
- Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00
- SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00

See me at the end of our next meeting to browse the inventory. If there is any item you would like to have that is not in the inventory just let me know and I will order it for you.

**Jim Burkholder - Storekeeper**





**Secretary's Report/Meeting Minutes  
Martin Wesley**



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

**Date: July 19, 2018 Time/Location: 1900 hrs, Golden Corral 6612 Clinton Hwy. Knoxville TN**

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

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

**In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine force.**

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

**"Tolling of the Bell"**

G-2- (SS-27), July 30, 1919, - 3 Men Lost

S-28 – (SS-133), July 4, 1944, - 50 Men Lost

USS GRUNION- (SS-216), July 13,1942, - 70 Men Lost

USS ROBALO – (SS-273), July 26, 1944, - 74 Men Lost

USS BULLHEAD (SS-332), August 6, 1945 - 84 Men

USS FLIER (SS-250), August 13, 1944 - 80 Men Lost

USS S-39 (SS-144), August 14, 1942 - No Men Lost

USS BASS (SF-5/SS-164), August 17, 1942 - 26 Men Lost

USS HARDER (SS-257), August 24, 1944 - 84 Men Lost

USS COCHINO (SS-345), August 26, 1949 - 1 Man Lost

USS TUSK (SS-123), August 26, 1949 - 6 Men Lost

USS POMPANO (SS-181), August 29, 1943 - 74 Men Lost

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

**Secretary's Report and Meeting Minutes** – Not Available

**Treasurer's Report** – Jim Rock

**Correspondence** – None Reported

**Committee Reports:**

- Newsletter / Library - Bruce Eltzroth / Ed Sandifer
- Storekeeper – Jim Burkholder
- Membership – Marlin Helms
- Social Committees – Andy Armbrust
- Web Site –Marlin Helms / Stuart McGlasson

**Old Business** – Other – Haddo Base picnic in August, see Marlin's Commanders Report on page 5

**New Business/Good of the Order** – Holland Club Inductions in August

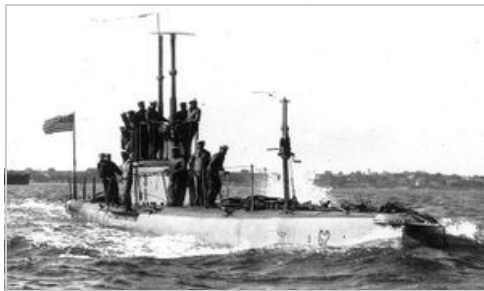
**Next Meeting:** - 1900 hrs, Thursday, August 16, 2018 at Golden Corral, 6612 Clinton Hwy. Knoxville, TN

**Motion to adjourn** - Approved

**Pre WW-II Lost Boats**

**G-2 (SS-27) (TUNA) - 30 July 1919**

**3 MEN LOST**



G-2 was named **Tuna** when her keel was laid down on 20 October, 1909 by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, making her the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the tuna. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew on 30 July, 1919, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 feet of water, drowning three of the inspection crew. Too deep and too old to salvage, the submarine was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 September 1919.

(Info & photo from Wikipedia)



# Lost Boats of July



## USS S-28 (SS-133) - 4 July 1944



### 50 MEN LOST

On August 13, 1943, the *S-28* ended her sixth patrol at the submarine base at Massacre Bay on Attu Island. On September 8, 1943, she sailed from there for her seventh and last war patrol. On October 18, 1943, the *S-28* ended her last war patrol at Dutch Harbor before arriving at Pearl Harbor on November 16, 1943, for overhaul and use as a training vessel. On July 3, 1944, the *S-28*, captained by reservist Lieutenant Commander Jack G. Campbell, left the submarine base at Pearl Harbor to conduct training exercises with the Coast Guard cutter *Reliance*. On July 3 and 4, she acted as a target for *Reliance's* crew to help train them in American antisubmarine warfare techniques. During the late afternoon of **July 4, 1944**, all contact with the *S-28* was suddenly lost. The *S-28* was awarded **one battle star** for her service in World War II.

## USS ROBALO (SS-273) - 26 July 1944



### 84 MEN LOST

On June 22, 1944, the *Robalo*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Manning M. Kimmel, departed Fremantle to conduct her third and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol in the South China Sea in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. The Operation Order for the *Robalo's* final patrol directed her to top off her fuel at Operation Potshot in Exmouth Gulf, and then proceed via Lombok Strait, Makassar Strait, Sibutu Passage, Balabac Strait, and south of Dangerous Ground to her assigned patrol station in the South China Sea. On **July 2, 1944**, Kimmel made a contact report stating *Robalo* had sighted a Fuso-class battleship with air cover and two destroyer escorts, just east of Borneo at 3°-29' N, 119°-26' E. However, he did not state whether or not he had attacked it. The contact report on **July 2, 1944**, was the last message ever received from the *USS Robalo* and when she did not return from patrol, she was reported as presumed lost. The *Robalo* earned **two battle stars** for her World War II service.

## USS GRUNION (SS-216) - 30 July 1942



### 70 MEN LOST

On June 30, 1942, the *Grunion*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Mannert L. Abele, left Pearl Harbor for her first and final war patrol. The *Grunion* reached Midway Island and then headed for the Aleutian Islands. On July 15, 1942, she reported she had been attacked by a Japanese destroyer and had fired three torpedoes at it, which all missed. She later reported that she had sunk three destroyer-type vessels. (Japanese reports examined after the war indicated she sank two patrol craft and damaged a third.) On July 19, 1942, the *Grunion*, the *USS S-32 (SS-137)*, the *USS Triton (SS-201)*, and the *USS Tuna (SS-203)* were ordered to take positions in the approaches to Kiska harbor. The *Grunion's* last transmission was received **July 30, 1942**. She reported heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska harbor, and that she had ten torpedoes remaining. On the same day, the *Grunion* was directed to return to Dutch Harbor. She was never heard from again. Air searches off Kiska were fruitless. On October 5, 1942, it was announced publicly that she was assumed lost with all hands. The *Grunion* received **one battle star** for her World War II service.





# Lost Boats of August



## USS FLIER (SS-250) - 13 August 1944



### 80 MEN LOST

USS FLIER (SS-250) Sailed 2 August 1944, on her second war patrol, bound for the coast of Indochina via the Lombok Strait, Macassar Strait and Balabac Strait. At about 2200 on 12 August, while transiting Balabac Strait on the surface, she struck a naval mine. She sank in about a minute, but 13 officers and men were able to clamber out. Eight of them reached the beach of Mantangula Island after 15 hours in the water. Friendly natives guided them to a coast-watcher, who arranged for them to be picked up by submarine, and on the night of 30-31 August, they were taken on board

## USS S-39 (SS-144) - 14 August 1942



### NO MEN LOST

USS S-39 (SS-144) was lost on 1-Aug-1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on reef south of Rossel Island Louisande Archipelago. All the crew were rescued.

## USS HARDER (SS-257) - 24 August 1944



### 84 MEN LOST

On August 5, 1944, **USS HARDER**, captained by Commander Samuel D. Dealey, left Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol. Commander Dealey had been chosen to lead a wolf pack made up of **HARDER**, **USS HAKE** (SS-256), and **USS HADDO** (SS-255). **HARDER** and **HAKE** left together. Lieutenant Commander Chester Nimitz's **HADDO** would leave three days later. The three boats would rendezvous off Subic Bay and hunt for enemy shipping south of Luzon Strait.

On the morning of 24 August 1944, two ships emerged from Dasol Bay - a minesweeper and the old Thai destroyer *Phra Ruang*. **HAKE** maneuvered to attack the destroyer, but broke off when it turned back into the bay. Meanwhile, the Japanese minesweeper continued out, pinging continually, and **HAKE** moved off to evade, as her Commanding Officer Frank Haylor, caught a last glimpse of **HARDER'S** periscope at 0647. At 0728, Haylor heard a string of 15 depth charge explosions in the distance; then nothing. **USS Harder** (SS-257) - Sank in Philippine Waters, 24 August 1944 after being depth charged by IJN Escort CD-22.

In the final analysis, Sam Dealey and **HARDER** had sunk 16 enemy ships, with total tonnage in excess of 55,000 - enough to put him among the top five US submarine skippers.







# Lost Boats of August



## USS BULLHEAD (SS-332) – 6 August 1945



### 84 MEN LOST

**USS Bullhead (SS-332)** On July 31, 1945, the *Bullhead*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Holt, Jr., left Fremantle on her third and final war patrol. She had received orders to transit the Lombok Strait and patrol in the Java Sea with several other American and British submarines. On August 2, 1945, she kept a rendezvous with the Dutch submarine *Q 21* about 350 miles south of Lombok Strait and transferred mail to her. On August 6, 1945, the *Bullhead* reported that she had transited the Lombok Strait safely was on station in the Java Sea. She was never heard from again and was presumed lost with all hands.

Postwar analysis of enemy records indicated that the *Bullhead* was ambushed by a Japanese Army plane off Bali on August 6, 1945, at 0835 hours. The pilot of a Mitsubishi Ki-51 "Sonia" dropped two sixty-kilogram bombs on the submarine. The pilot claimed two direct hits and said he saw oil and bubbles coming from the area where the submarine had submerged. The *Bullhead* was the last U. S. submarine lost during World War II. The attack happened at coordinates 8° 20' S, 115° 42' E, which is very close to the Bali coast. The *Bullhead* received two battle stars for her World War II service.

## USS Pompano (SS-181) – 28 August 1943



### 74 MEN LOST

On August 20, 1943, the *Pompano*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Willis M. Thomas, left Midway Island on her seventh and last war patrol. Thomas was ordered to patrol the north-east coast of Honshu from August 29 until sunset on September 27, 1944.

The last report from the *Pompano* was on September 9, 1944, when she reported that she had attacked and damaged the *Nanking Maru*.

One possibility is that she fell victim to a newly laid mine field. Another possibility is that Japanese records obtained after the war indicate that Japanese air and naval units attacked a submarine on September 17, 1943, in the Tsugaru Strait, at bearing 320 from and only two miles off Cape Shiriyazaki. Japanese ASW forces made three attacks with depth charges. Following the last one the target stopped and the oil slick was seen to be spreading. After each attack the oil slick grew larger. It was concluded that an enemy submarine was probably resting on the seabed in an area at bearing 318 from and about three miles off the Shiriyazaki Lighthouse. The attackers believed the submarine had lost motive power. Attempts to locate the target using the fathometer and sonar were unsuccessful. More depth charges were dropped and more gushing oil was seen. Oil kept gushing out from that location during the entire day.

The *Pompano* did not return to Midway Island on the scheduled date, nor did she respond to numerous radio transmissions. *Pompano* was awarded seven battle stars for her service in World War II.



## POST WW-II Lost Boat

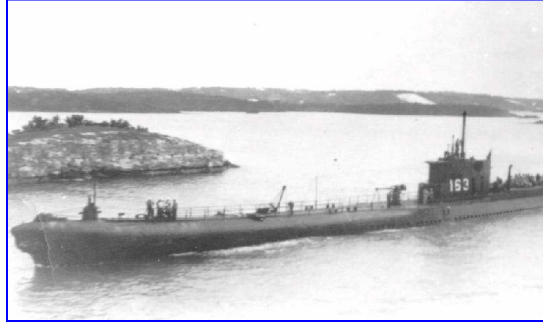
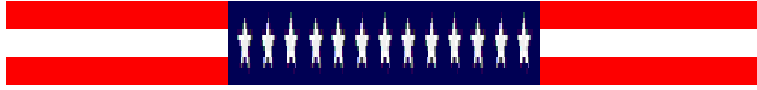
## USS COCHINO (SS-345) and USS TUSK (SS-436) – 26 August 1949



### 1 MAN LOST from Cochino and 6 MEN LOST from Tusk

**USS Cochino (SS-345)** was lost on 26-Aug-1949 when it sank in the Norwegian Sea after a fire, one crewman from Cochino and 6 crewmen of the **USS TUSK (SS-426)** were lost overboard due to the heavy seas while rescuing the **USS COCHINO's** crew.

(Left photo is Cochino, Right is Tusk )



## USS *Bass* (SF-5) (SS-164)

**USS *Bass* (SF-5/SS-164)**, a *Barracuda*-class submarine and one of the "V-boats", was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the bass. Her keel was laid at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. She was launched as **V-2 (SF-5)** on 27 December, 1924 sponsored by Mrs. Douglas E. Dismukes, wife of Captain Dismukes, and commissioned on 26 September, 1925, Lieutenant Commander G.A. Rood in command. Like her sisters, *Bass* was designed to meet the fleet submarine requirement of 21 knots (39 km/h) surface speed for operating with contemporary battleships.

### Inter-War Period

*V-2* was assigned to Submarine Division 20 (SubDiv 20) and cruised along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean Sea until November 1927, when the Division sailed for San Diego, California, arriving on 3 December 1927. *V-2* operated with the fleet on the West Coast, in the Hawaiian Islands, and in the Caribbean Sea until December 1932. During this period her 5 inch (127 mm)/51 caliber deck gun was replaced by a 3 inch (76 mm)/50 caliber weapon.

Renamed *Bass* on 9 March 1931, she was assigned to SubDiv 12 in April. On 1 July, her hull classification symbol was changed from **SF-5** to **SS-164**. On 2 January 1933, she was assigned to Rotating Reserve SubDiv 15, San Diego. *Bass* rejoined the fleet again in July and cruised along the West Coast, in the Canal Zone, and in the Hawaiian Islands until January 1937. She then departed the West Coast and arrived at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 18 February, 1937, where she went out of commission in reserve on 9 June.

### World War II

*Bass* was recommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire on 5 September, 1940, and assigned to SubDiv 9, Atlantic Fleet. From February–November 1941, she operated along the New England coast and made two trips to St. George, Bermuda. She arrived at Coco Solo, Canal Zone on 24 November and was on duty there when the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1942, *Bass* was attached to Submarine Squadron 3 (SubRon 3), SubDiv 31, Atlantic Fleet. From March–August, while based at Coco Solo, she made four war patrols in the Pacific, off Balboa, Panama. While at sea on **17 August, 1942**, a fire broke out in the after battery room and quickly spread to the aft torpedo room and starboard main electric motor, resulting in the death of 26 enlisted men by asphyxiation. The following day, USS *ANTAEUS* (AS-21) arrived to assist the submarine and escorted her into the Gulf of Dulce, Costa Rica. Both then proceeded to Balboa.

*Bass* remained in the Canal Zone until **October 1942**, when she departed for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, arriving on 19 October. *Bass* was then overhauled at Philadelphia Navy Yard. At this time she was converted to a *cargo submarine* with the removal of her main engines, severely restricting her speed on the remaining auxiliary engines. *Bass* proceeded to New London, Connecticut where she conducted secret experiments off Block Island in December 1943. She was again in Philadelphia for repairs from January–March 1944. During the remainder of the year, she was attached to SubRon 1, Atlantic Fleet, and operated out of New London in the area between Long Island and Block Island.

*Bass* was decommissioned at the Naval Submarine Base New London on 3 March, 1945 and expended as a target for the Mark 24 Fido "mine" (actually an acoustic homing torpedo) on 18 March, 1945.





## Gatlinburg, TN 4th of July Parade



The Gatlinburg 4th of July Parade was held in Pigeon Forge Tennessee at one minute after midnight on July 4th, 2018. It is billed as the "First 4th of July parade in the country". The Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans and the U.S.S. Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) submarine float were part of it.

The float was decorated with multi-colored lights for the night at great effort by Jim Rock, who put his life at risk with a balancing act befitting a tightrope walker over Niagara Falls.

Not only did Charlie Weller, the SMB's WWII veteran, along with his wife Betty take part in the parade, but he was featured on WATE (Channel 6) Knoxville the next evening with a video of him waving two small U.S. flags, sitting high in the back of Martin Wesley's convertible. (See photo at right).

The parade lasted over one and a half hours and covered almost two miles. Fortunately, the weather was good.

The next morning, almost everyone in the group met at **Crockett's 1875 Breakfast (& Tennessee Saw Co.) Camp** for breakfast. We all highly recommend this rustic place for anyone spending the night in Gatlinburg or who just wants a good breakfast. (see photo below). A video of the parade is available from the new SMB Librarian Ed Sandifer.



Charlie Weller in the Gatlinburg 4th of July Parade (above)



Charlie Weller's new WWII Veteran's Magnetic Sign - Stuck on Martin Wesley's car. (left)

(Photos By Bruce Eltzroth)

Jim Rock adding lights to the float while Marlin Helms supervises. It looks great, all lit up- doesn't it?(below)



Breakfast at Crockett's (left to right, front and back): Lori and Marlin Helms, Kay and Gary Davis, Ruby and Lee Chap-pell, Betty and Charlie Weller (front), Jim Rock (back), & Bruce Eltzroth (back right).

(Photo by a passer-by)

## Birthdays Celebrated at Just-1-More Tavern

Photos by Bruce Eltzroth

On Friday the 29th of June many members of the Smoky Mountain Base met at Just-1-More Tavern in Knoxville to help Charlie Weller and Lori Helms celebrate their birthdays. Charlie claimed he just turned 31 (times 3), but Lori only claimed that she was (6\_) something. We believe that only one of them was telling the truth. There were 2 cakes presented (below) and a round of drinks (or two)! In any case, there was a great turnout, even better than some of our meetings? Maybe we should hold them there in the future. After the celebration, several folks stuck around to hear the band (we understand they were very good).







**SECRET CITY FESTIVAL &  
TOLLING OF THE BOATS  
OAK RIDGE, TN - JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2018**  
SMB Newsletter Editor: Bruce A. Eltzroth (ET1-SU)

The 2018 Oak Ridge Secret City Festival took place at Bissell Park in Oak Ridge and Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans were part of the festivities. Several of the members helped set up the booth and the USS Andrew Jackson (SSN-619) submarine float. Those setting up included Marlin Helms, Lori Helms, Lori's Mother, Charlotte Oleson, and her brother Tom Oleson, John Augustine, Jim Rock, Bruce Eltzroth, Gary Davis, and Stuart McGlassen.

The general turnout for this years festival was not on par with previous years participation. However, the location that we were given for our booth was nearly perfect. It was next to the location of the "Tolling of the Boats" Ceremony, and the float was parked next to the booth location. Several of the SMB members marched in the parade with the banner, but the location where the float was parked prevented us from using it in the parade. Marchers included: Stuart McGlassen, Gary Davis, John Augustine and Bruce Eltzroth. We were joined in the march by Representative Mead from Oak Ridge (a retired submariner) who was campaigning for an additional term.

While at the Secret City Festival, several SMB members participated in the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony conducted at the Commemorative Walk in Oak Ridge. After the Ceremony Preamble by Marlin Helms MM1(SS), those reading the "Lost Boats" list were: Jim Burkholder, EM2(SS), John Augustine, MM2(SS), Stuart McGlassen, Charlie Weller EN2(SS), Bruce Eltzroth, ET1(SU), and Terry Bride, EMC(SS), Retired. SMB Chaplain David Pope EAWS, then presented the benediction.

Our guest speaker was Bob Childs, MMC(SS) Retired, who qualified on the USS Nautilus (SSN-571) and the USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN-600). Bob was on active duty from 1964 to 1971 and in the reserves for a grand total of 26 years of military service.

The event also included the U.S. Marine Corp League Honor Guard who performed the opening and closing ceremonies and a 21 gun salute for our fallen comrades.



Booth at Secret City Festival



USS Andrew Jackson (SSN-619) Float



SMB Vets Marching in the Parade



Guest Speaker - Bob Childs



Tolling - Pre WWII - Jim Burkholder



Tolling - WWII (1) - John Augustine



Tolling - WWII (2) - Stuart McGlassen



Tolling - WWII (3) - Charlie Weller



Tolling - WWII (4) - Bruce Eltzroth



Tolling - Post WWII - Terry McBride



Benediction - Terry McBride & David Pope



Marine Guard - 21 Gun Salute & Marlin at the Podium







## SMOKY MOUNTAIN SUBMARINE BASE SUMMER PICNIC At Melton Hill Dam



On June 16th, 2018 the Smoky Mountain Base held its summer picnic at the Melton Hill Dam recreation area. Once again Andy Armbrust provided the pulled pork, drinks and picnic supplies, and the rest of the crew provided side dishes, desserts and plenty of camaraderie and conversation to go along with the great food! Discussions about the August Horseshoe tournament with Haddo Base and a meeting at Just 1 More tavern were held. Everyone loved the food and we all eventually waddled away for a long afternoon nap.

(Photos by Bruce A. Eltzroth)



There was a good turnout for SMB's Summer picnic, good food, good people and good times.



### A few things I learned about submarine life.

By: Robin Joseph McAteer

**A few things I learned from being in the Navy and, more importantly, from being on Submarines (in no particular order).**

1. You clean up after yourself - you make the mess you fix it - your shipmates are NOT your personal janitorial crew. You're all in this together and you all have times of cleaning the shitters, mess cranking, stores loads - no one is special (because everyone is - smile). Even in my civilian job I wipe up the bathroom sink after I wash my hands, I pick up after myself, and I help people when I can.
2. It is totally possible to fold short sleeved shirts (esp. tee shirts) into a convenient size for storing in lockers or drawers. I have tried to show people how to do it, but they don't understand the importance of being able to pack 3 months of clothing in a 2 foot by 6 foot by 4 inch area - they just don't get it...
3. Underwear is more important than outer wear. If laundry is secured and you can't shower - putting on clean underwear can change your whole perspective. I always took 20 sets...
4. Submariners have a wicked sense of humor that will either make you, break you, or leave you wondering whether to laugh or cry. This comes about because you can't abandon ship and they need to know they can trust you in a stressful situation.
5. NOTHING is off limits when it comes to messing with someone. If you say you'll fight anyone that makes fun of your mom then you are going to be fighting most of the crew. I have heard, told, and laughed at things that would make normal people puke. And you CANNOT make them understand why it's funny. On the flip side, you learn what is truly important in life - people.
6. NO ONE but other submariners get a free pass to screw with you - your crew mates have your back 24/7 like no other people in the world.
7. Civilians and other services will NEVER understand the true meaning of 'duty'. It is not being 'on call', during a 6 hour watch in a building, or any other time when you aren't bound to be at your location for the entire day and night - usually doing work. Navy ships are manned 24/7 and duty is a full day plus pre and post duty 'turn over' meetings.
8. Very few people understand why we WANT to be on a submarine instead of any other vessel (targets). You can't explain it to them and they will never get it.
9. Trying to explain submarine life to a civilian is like trying to teach a dog to play concert piano - they don't understand and they have no concept of why you would want to do that in the first place.
10. One ship, one crew, one shaft, one screw. It took me a long time to get the full meaning of that saying - I used to think it was a negative about us all getting hassled, but came to understand the real implication that we are all dependent on each other to come back safely - no matter whether you think someone is a total douche or not...



**THIS MONTH IN UNDERSEA HISTORY**  
**USS NAUTILUS TRAVERSES UNDER THE NORTH POLE**



Sixty years ago this month, the world's first nuclear-powered vessel, USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571) became the first ship to travel under the North Pole submerged. In a secret mission called Operation Sunshine, *Nautilus* transited almost 1,000 miles under Arctic ice to reach the North Pole on August 3, 1958. "For the world, our country, and the Navy - the North Pole," her commanding officer, Cmdr. William R. Anderson, declared to the crew to mark the historic moment. *Nautilus's* trans-polar journey, which ended in England, proved that submarines could travel safely in and through the Arctic.

For the achievement, *Nautilus* earned the first Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) ever awarded in peacetime.



(Story and Photos courtesy of Naval Undersea Museum Keyport Washington)



Above Left: *Nautilus* crew members on the bridge en route to the North Pole.  
 Above Right: *Nautilus* entering New York Harbor after her transpolar voyage.



The United States Navy's - and the world's - first nuclear powered submarine, her hull form was based on that of a fleet boat.  
 Displacement: 2,980 tons light, 3,520 tons full.  
 Length: 320 ft'; Beam: 28' ft; Draft: 26'.  
 Propulsion: Submarine Thermal Reactor (STR) nuclear reactor, later re-designated Subma-rine #2 Westinghouse (S2W); 3,400 horse-power (10.0 MW) Speed: 23knots.  
 Complement: 13 officers, 92 enlisted men.  
 Armament: 6 torpedo tubes.

(Left: *Nautilus* (SSN-571) underway somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.)





# BOONDOGGLE OF THE MONTH

Story and photos by Ann and John Augustine MM2(SS)



## 4th of July Parade with the Blueback Subvets near Portland, OR

### The Blueback Experience

It is fortunate that in my work to achieve a retirement with the government, I took advantage of a job in The Dalles, OR at the dam there under the Corps of Engineers in 2000. During that time my youngest son Chris finished his degree for Geologist, temporarily moved in with us and successfully found employment in Portland OR. While living there I did explore the Blueback (SS-581) at OMSI museum on the Willamette River, just like all of the other submarines that I have seen across the U.S. I then moved on to another opportunity to finish my time in Oklahoma.

Once we retired in 2013 my son produced a grandson and we visited yearly. We had looked at different types of Boathouses. We decided instead of getting an RV or truck and travel trailer, we would buy the boathouse and a boat and have a permanent place to stay when we visit the Northwest.

Recently we found Smoky Mountain Base and joined with Bruce Eltzroth. Then we learned that Bruce's mother lives in Corvallis, OR and we timed our vacations with him and his wife Pat. So naturally we did the Blueback tour. I decided to explore the Blueback Base and contacted Dave Vrooman to get details for a meeting. I took advantage of the timing and on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 I took my vest. It was great, and they invited me to march with them in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Canby, OR. (Photos 1 & 2 below) The route was about 2 miles long and they had their Albacore float trailing their wagon, towed by a truck for those who rode in the parade. I had the honor of carrying their banner in the parade, and also enjoyed giving high fives to the kids along the way.

I took the opportunity to show them the gift of a Russian Submarine clock given to me by a member of the Yacht club we belong to. (Photo 3 below) It was found in a locker on his 60 foot yacht. I left the clock in Oregon until the parade to show it to the group and then packed it up for home in TN. I had toured a Russian Foxtrot sub, the B-39 in 2002 when it was on tour at Seattle, WA; which is now in the San Diego, CA Maritime Museum.

When we finished the parade, Commander, Bill Long awarded me the Blueback challenge coin. (Photo 4 below)



Photo 1: John walking in the 4th of July Parade with the Blueback crew (above).



Photo 2: Blueback Base's Albacore float in Canby, OR (above).

Photo 3: John's Russian Clock (below)

Photo 4: Blueback Challenge Coin (below)





# USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular  Life  Associate

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

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

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (Yr)  
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$115.00; 3 Yr term: \$70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$25.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$30.00;  
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00;

**Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.**

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

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Applicant is:  Veteran,  Spouse of Veteran,  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ If other military service, What Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: \_\_\_\_\_ Mil Retired (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_ On Active Duty? (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

YR entered Mil Service: \_\_\_\_\_ YR left Mil Service \_\_\_\_\_ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Hull# \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ From Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ to Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

(Leave this address line blank if it is the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to the appropriate base officer, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870. Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org.