



# The Snorkel Exhaust

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN





**UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE VETERANS, INC.**


**The USSVI Submariners Purpose and Creed:**

**"To honor those who serve, past, present and future."**

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

**We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the**




**United States of America and its Constitution.**



**OUR  
ORGANIZATION**

**OUR  
FOUNDERS**

**OUR  
BROTHERHOOD**

**Our Mission**

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




**Scheduled Meetings**

Base meetings are scheduled on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month at:

**MIMI'S CAFÉ,**  
**10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE**  
**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**  
**Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800**  
**Meeting @ 1900**  
 (Guests are Invited)

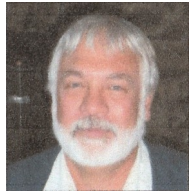
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# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



**BASE COMMANDER**  
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.  
Holland Club Chairman



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



**BASE VICE COMMANDER**  
Robert (Bob) Childs



MMC(SS) USS Nautilus SSN-571 '67



**BASE SECRETARY**  
Ernie Ball



MMC(SS) USS LaFayette (SSBN-616) '75



**BASE TREASURER**  
Jim Rock



MM1(SS) USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 '76

## Smoky Mountain Base Committee Chairmen



**BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT**  
Terry McBride



MMC(SS) USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) '??



**BASE PROGRAMS**  
Andy Armbrust



MM1(SS) USS Hammerhead (SSN-663) '75



**BASE STOREKEEPER**  
Dick Mitchell



ET1(SS) USS Conger (SS/AGSS-477) '59



**MEMBERSHIP / RECRUITER**  
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74

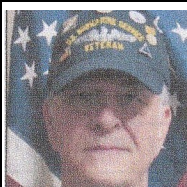
**MEDIA MANAGER**  
Robert Schumacher



**BASE NEWSLETTER**  
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



**BASE PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Bruce Eltzroth  
Associate Member

ET1(SU) USS Sculpin (SSN-599)



**BASE CHAPLIN**  
David Pope, EAWS  
Associate Member

OMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2





# SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

## JULY & AUGUST - 2025

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## Scheduled Meetings:

Base meetings are  
on the 3rd Thursday of each month  
at

**MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE**  
**located in Turkey Creek,**  
**Knoxville, TN**



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**August 7— Purple Heart Day**

**August 21— SMB Meeting & Holland Club**

**August 31—USSVI National Convention**

**September 1– 6 USSVI National Convention**

**September 1—Labor Day**

**September 11— 911 Remembrance Day**

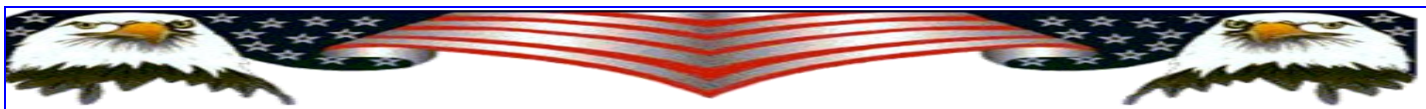
**September 18— SMB Meeting**

### August 2025

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						

### September 2025

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				



## VETERANS ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES



### Operation Vet Rescue

Rescuing & Rebuilding Lives of Homeless Veterans



(865) 284-3188

info@ovrtn.org

P.O. Box 23, Greenback, N 37742

VA Regional Office Benefits Assistance on every 4th Friday at 1557 Downtown West Blvd. Units 20-21 Knoxville, TN 0900-1400 Hours

East TN Military Assistance Council Calendar of Events web site: [www.etmac.org/calendar](http://www.etmac.org/calendar)



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078 meets at **The Redemption Church** located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of



The Honor and Remember Flag has been designated as the official TN state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members for their service.

For information on obtaining one refer to:  
<http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation>.

### U.S. Military Veterans Discounts

#### Tennessee State Discounted Fees and Taxes

- ☐ \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans.
- ☐ Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for currently enlisted personnel.
- ☐ Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW.
- ☐ Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf.
- ☐ Veterans Designation on drivers license.



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Shelly Saxton  
CEO/Owner  
[SubmarineCoins@gmail.com](mailto:SubmarineCoins@gmail.com)

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## **Base Commander's Report**

**Marlin E. Helms, Jr. - MM1(SS)**



Currently working with the base website host to update and improve it and make it more usable and less of a file cabinet. The Celebrate Oak Ridge Festival (Secret City Festival) is officially gone. The replacement this fall does not look like we will be able to participate as we have in the past. I will monitor it as they progress. The float needs major repairs and some upgrades. Aluminum TIG welders will be needed. Jim estimates a couple of weeks worth of work. More to come.

## **BASE VICE-COMMANDER'S REPORT**

**Robert (Bob) Childs, EMC(SS)**

No report submitted.



## **SMB Treasurer's Report - Jim Rock MM1(SS)**



On **JUNE 19th**, we had a balance of **\$3,076.40**  
On **July 17th**, we had a balance of **\$3,061.50**



## **Program Chairman's Report - Andy Armbrust MM1(SS)**



Long range planning for another picnic in the late spring most likely at the Concord Yacht Club again.



## **Newsletter Editor's Report**

**Max Gildner ET1(SS) & Bruce Eltzroth ET1(SU)**



The newsletter is being converted into a Microsoft Word format. The conversion is about 50% completed. We would like to hear any suggestions for improvements to the newsletter form or contents.



## **Storekeepers Report - Dick Mitchell ET1(SS)**



### **We currently have the following items on hand for sale:**

The 2025 USSVI Calendars are available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. Cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 to cover postage. 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. The "Nuke, I am your father" coins are finally here.—\$20.00.

**Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mountain Base)**



## SMB Meeting Minutes



**Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander**

**Date: June 19, 2025**



Meeting called to Order by Marlin Helms at 1900 hours. David Pope presented the Invocation.

The Marlin Helms led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bob Childs read the USSVI Creed. The Max Gildner and Bob Childs led the tolling of the bell for the lost boats of June. Bob Childs hosted members and guests introductions and signing of the attendance sheet.

**Meeting Minutes** – The May meeting minutes were presented and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – \$3,076.40 in the account.

**Correspondence/Discussion** – None

### **Smoky Mountain Base Committees:**

**Newsletter**– Max Gildner reported the May/June edition was published and the next issue is in preparation. Format changes are underway.

**Library** – Marlin Helms had no updates..

**Storekeeper** – Dick Mitchell has new stuff. Come look.

**Membership** – Marlin Helms reported nothing new.

**Scouting** - Marlin Helms reported no new contacts currently.

**Media Manager** – Robert Schumacher was not in attendance.

**Social Committee** - Andy Armbrust - Nothing planned for near term.

**Base COB**– Terry McBride was not in attendance. Marline Helms announced that the “Nuke, I am Your Father” challenge coins have been received and will be available at the July meeting.

**Old business** – Nothing for discussion.

**New Business** - Approval of appointed officers & committee chairmen. All were approved.

**Presentation** - Stephen Roche and Mike Collins spoke on “Operation Vet Rescue”. This is a 501c3 organization based out of Greenback, TN and presently serves the Knox, Blount, Loudon, Monroe, and McMinn counties. Their mission is to actively seek out homeless veterans and provide temporary housing and support. Their website for further information is: ovrtn.org.

**Good of the order** - 50/50 Raffle - Money collected.

**Next Meeting**; 1900 hrs, Thursday, July 17, 2025 at Mimi's Café, 10945 Parkside Drive in Knoxville, TN.

**Motion to adjourn**: was made and seconded at 2030 hrs. Motion was accepted unanimously.

**Bob Childs for  
Ernie Ball—SMB Secretary**



## SMB Meeting Minutes



**Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander**



**Date: July 17, 2025**

Meeting called to Order by Marlin Helms at 1902 hours. David Pope presented the Invocation.

The Marlin Helms led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Jim Rock read the USSVI Creed. The Terry McBride and Bob Childs led the tolling of the bell for the lost boats of July. Terry McBride hosted members and guests introductions and signing of the attendance sheet. Attendees were 12 members & 6 guests/wives.

**Meeting Minutes** – The June meeting minutes were not available and will be presented at the August meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – \$3,061.50 in the account.

**Correspondence/Discussion** – None

### **Smoky Mountain Base Committees:**

**Newsletter**– Max Gildner requested timely officer's reports for the newsletter.

**Library** – Marlin Helms had no updates.

**Storekeeper** – Dick Mitchell was not in attendance.

**Membership** – Marlin Helms reported nothing new.

**Scouting** - Marlin Helms reported no new contacts currently..

**Media Manager** – new letter coming out. Robert not in attendance and will need help while away.

**Social Committee** - Andy Armbrust - Nothing near term. Probable picnic next spring.

**Base COB**– Terry McBride presented the received “Nuke, I am your father” challenge coins. They are nicely done and available for \$20.00 each. Several were purchased at the meeting and will be available for members only before being made available for wider sale.

**Old business** – This year's Holland Club inductions will be conducted at the August meeting. Bob Childs will perform the ceremony. Bios will be needed for each inductee.

### **New Business:**

Jim Rock reported that the float will need extensive repairs and repainting. Repairs will require Aluminum TIG welding skills. Estimated about two months of work to make her display ready.

Shirley Rock distributed some tips on communicating with folks with some hearing issues.

There will be an Oak Ridge Museum get together August 8th at 10:30am for a tour of the museum.

A second tour will be available for the K-25 Museum.

Bob Childs talked about the Holland Submarine documentary on YouTube.

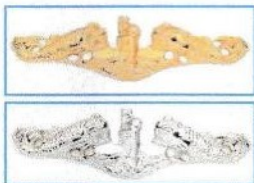
**Good of the order** - 50/50 Raffle - \$60.00 collected.

**Next Meeting**; 1900 hrs, Thursday, August 21, 2025 at Mimi's Café, 10945 Parkside Drive in Knoxville, TN.

**Motion to adjourn:** was made and seconded at 2000 hrs. Motion was accepted unanimously.

**Ernie Ball—SMB Secretary**





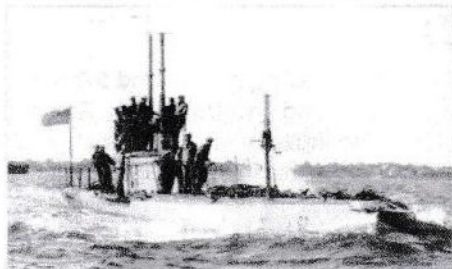
# Lost Boats of July

## 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)

## WW-II Lost Boats

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

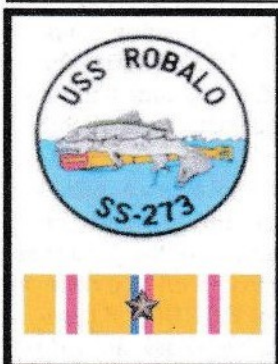
#### 50 MEN LOST



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** reporting 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 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 by *Redfin*.

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



**NO MEN LOST**

USS S-39 (SS-144) was lost on 14 August 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island Louisiade Archipelago. All of the crew were rescued.

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

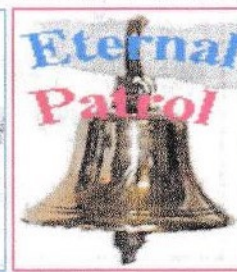
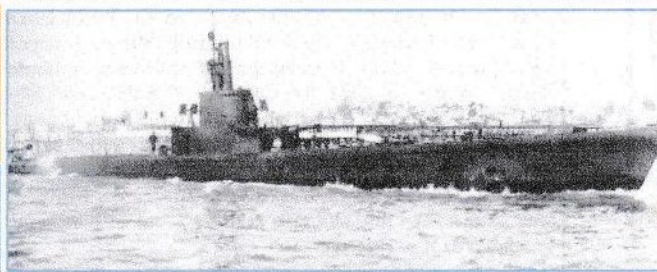
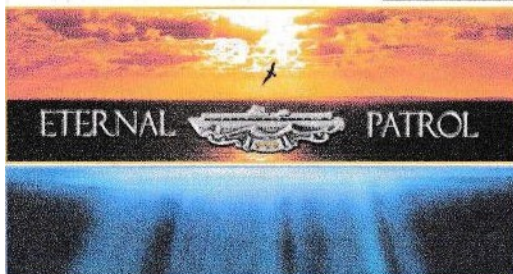
**84 MEN LOST**



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 mine-sweeper 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.



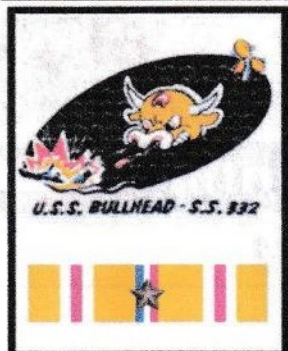




# Lost Boats of August



## 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 *USS 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.

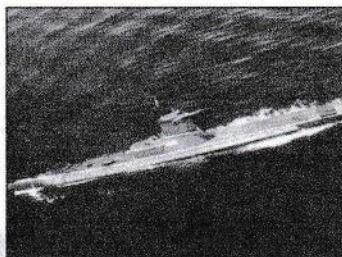
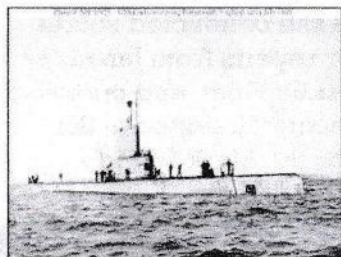
The last report from the *Pompano* was on September 9, 1944, when she reported that she had attacked and damaged the *Nanking Maru*.

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 a 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 Boats

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

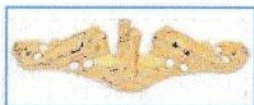


### 1 MAN LOST from Cochino and 6 MEN LOST from Tusk

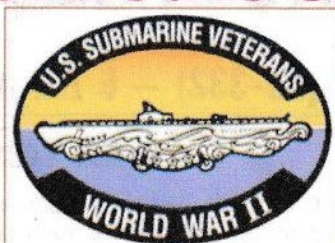
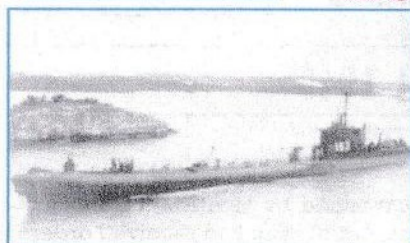
**USS Cochino (SS-345)** was lost on 26-Aug-1949 when it sank in the Norwegian Sea after a fire, one crewman from Cochino and 6 crewmen of the **USS TUSK (SS-426)** were lost overboard due to the heavy seas while rescuing the **USS COCHINO's** crew.

(Left photo is Cochino, Right is Tusk )





# Lost Boats of August



## USS Bass (SF-5) (SS-164) - 17 August 1942

26 MEN LOST

**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. *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.





## **Submarines of the Confederate States of America**

During the civil war, the Union Navy blockaded all the major ports of the Confederacy to prevent them from getting any assistance from other countries. To counter the blockades, the Confederacy developed the iron-clads like the *CSS Virginia* to destroy the blockade ships.

The consortium of James McClintock (Designer), Horace Hunley, and Baxter Watson privately developed and paid for an alternate approach using a submersible vessel. Most submariners are aware of the story of the *CSS Hunley* as the first submarine to sink another vessel in combat. However, the Hunley was not the first submarine of the Confederacy.

The consortium's first submarine was the *Pioneer*. It was 30 feet long and 4 feet in diameter. It was crewed by a pilot and one man to turn the hand cranked propeller. It was armed with a timed explosive that it would attach to the hull of an enemy ship. It was built in New Orleans in 1861 and tested in February 1862 in the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain where a small schooner sunk. It was skuttled in April 1862 when the Union captured New Orleans. The Union raised it, examined it, and later sold it for scrap. A full-size replica of the *Pioneer* can be found at the Maritime Museum of Louisiana in Madisonville, LA.

Following the fall of New Orleans, the consortium moved to Mobile, AL. McClintock's next design, named *Pioneer 2 (American Diver)*, was built in late 1862. It was a one-man submarine powered initially by some type of electric motor then replaced by some form of steam engine. Both proved unsuccessful and the designed reverted to a hand cranked propeller driven by four men. It was 36 feet in length and 3 feet in diameter. The team thought it to be too slow but nevertheless it was launched from Ft. Morgan to attack the Union blockade of Mobile Bay. It floundered in heavy seas and strong tidal currents and sank. The crew escaped but *Pioneer 2* has never been recovered.

McClintock's third design was 40 feet in length and 4 feet in diameter. It had two hatches and was armed with a spar torpedo. It was crewed by two officers and six enlisted men turning a hand cranked ducted propeller. It was built in Mobile, AL in early 1863 and launched in July. In mid-August 1863, it was shipped by rail car to Charleston, SC and placed in control of the Confederate Army. It was then named the *CSS Hunley*. During its first test run on August 29<sup>th</sup>, it sank killing five members of its crew. It was raised and returned to service. On its second test run on October 15<sup>th</sup>, it was piloted by Horace Hunley himself but sank once again killing all eight members of the crew. It was again raised and returned to service. On February 17, 1864, *CSS Hunley* attacked the Union blockade ship *USS Housatonic* and sank her. The *CSS Hunley* itself sank killing all eight members of its crew. The *CSS Hunley* was found in 1995 and raised in 2000. It may be seen at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston, SC.

Another submarine of unknown origin was found in Lake Pontchartrain near the Bayou St. John during dredging operations in 1878. It is 20 feet long, 3 feet in width, and 6 feet tall. It was powered by a hand cranked propeller. It was originally thought to be the *Pioneer* but does not match design drawings of the *Pioneer*. It is known as the Bayou St. John submarine and on display at the Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge, LA.







# USSVI National Convention

The 2025 USSVI National Convention will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek at 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819 on Aug. 31 through Sept. 6. See the POWs-



## PLAN OF THE WEEK

## PLAN OF THE WEEK

(Continued)

### SUNDAY AUGUST 31, 2025

1200 – 1800	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
1200 – 1800	Vendor Room Set-up	Panzacola F3 & F4
1600 – 2200	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 (Labor Day)

0800 - 1700	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0900 - 2100	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2
0900 - 1700	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4

### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

0800 – 1700	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0800 – 1600	Trip to Kennedy Space Center	Cape Canaveral (Bus Loop)
0900 - 2100	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2
0900 - 1700	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4
1900 - 2100	Welcome Aboard Party (Light Pūpūs)	Panzacola G1

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

0700 – 0900	Holland Club Breakfast	Panzacola G1
0800 – 1700	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0900 – 2100	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2
0900 – 1700	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4
0900 – 1700	Trip to Seminole Hard Rock Casino	Tampa (Bus Loop)
0900 – 1200	USSVI Pre-BOD & Charitable Foundation	Wekiwa 6
1030 – 1630	Trip to Mall at Millenia	Orlando (Bus Loop)
1300 – 1400	Charitable Foundation Presentation	Wekiwa 6
1300 – 1400	ISA/USA Meeting	Wekiwa 7
1500 - 1700	Base Officers Meeting	Wekiwa 7



### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

0800 - 1700	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0900 - 2100	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2
0900 - 1700	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4
0900 – 1030	Training (Developing National & Base Awards)	Wekiwa 7
0900 - 1000	HAM Operators Meeting (SVARA)	Wekiwa 6
1200 – 1400	Men's and Ladies Luncheon	Panzacola G1
1500 - 1700	Tolling of the Boats	Panzacola G2
1800 - 2300	Trip to Disney Springs	Lake Buena Vista (Bus Loop)

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

0800 - 1700	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0800 – 1700	Trip to St Augustine	Bus Loop
0830 - 1530	Trip to Wild Florida	Bus Loop
0830 – 1000	Training (Communications, Local & Social Media, & Base Websites)	Wekiwa 6
0900 - 2100	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2
0900 - 1700	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4
1000 – 1200	Combined District Commanders & Base Commanders Meeting	Wekiwa 7
1300 – 1500	Kaps 4 Kids Meeting	Wekiwa 6
1500 - 1700	Museums & Memorials Meeting	Wekiwa 6

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

0800 - 1500	Registration Desk Open	Panzacola Registration
0900 - 1400	Vendor Room Open	Panzacola F3 & F4
0900 - 1200	USSVI Annual Business Meeting	Panzacola G1
1200 - 1530	Hospitality Room Open	Panzacola F1 & F2*
1400 - 1530	USSVI Post BOD & Charitable Foundation Meeting	Wekiwa 6
1730 - 1830	Social Hour / Cash Bar	Panzacola East Foyer
1830 - 2300	Annual Awards Banquet	Panzacola G1/F1 & F2

\*Hospitality Room closed during Annual Business Meeting





## Northeastern Submarine Museums and Boats



If the summer heat has you looking for cooler weather or if the fall colors are beckoning you to take a trip up north, consider visiting one of these submarine museums or museum boats on your way.

**Submarine Force Library and Museum,** 1 Crystal Lake Rd., Groton, CT 06340

USS Nautilus (SSN – 571) Nautilus Class

**Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park:** 1 Naval Park Cove, Buffalo, NY 14202

USS Croker (SS – 246) Gato Class

**Intrepid Museum:** 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 46<sup>th</sup> St., New York City, NY 10036-4105

USS Growler (SSG – 577)) Grayback Class

**National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey:** 100 Camp Dr., Sea Girt, NJ 08705

Intelligent Whale Historic Research Submersible

**Peterson Museum:** 2 Market St., Peterson, NJ 07501

Holland 1 Historic Research Submersible

**Independence Seaport Museum:** 211 S. Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19106

USS Bacuna (SS – 319) Balao Class

**The Carnegie Science Center:** One Allegheny Ave., Pittsburg, PA 15212

USS Reguin (SS - 481) Tench Class

**USS Silversides Museum:** 1346 Bluff St., Muskegon, MI 49441

USS Silversides (SS – 236) Gato Class

**Museum of Science and Industry:** 3700 ~S. Dusable, Chicago, IL 60637

U-505 German Type IXc

**Battleship Cove:** 5 Water St., Fall River, MA 02721

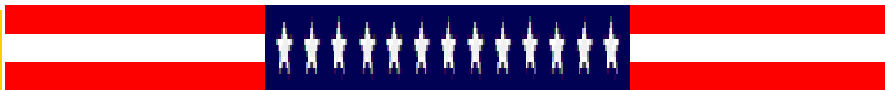
USS Lionfish (SS – 298)) Balao Class

**Albacore Park and Museum:** 569 Sub Way, Portsmouth, NH 03601

USS Albacore (AGSS – 569) Research Submarine

**USS Cod Submarine Memorial:** 1400 North Marginal Road, Cleveland, OH 44114

USS Cod (SS – 224) Gato Class







## 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 member and my sponsor is indicated below.

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

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

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

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

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

Nat'l 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 Year term: \$ 140.00; 3 Year term: \$ 85.00; 1 year term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 30.00;

(Oct thru Dec adds the next year): \$ 35.00

National Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 600.00

Smoky Mountain Base dues are \$ 15.00 (\$ 10.00 after Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>)

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

**Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?:** (Mandatory for Assoc 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 if your Military Service falls within any of 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 August 2, 1990 to date.
- ☐ Check 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 the same as your home address)

home address.

**Upon completion, please deliver to: Marlin Helms at the monthly meeting (on the third Thursday of each month) or, Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent mail to:**

**Marlin Helms Smoky Mountain Base Commander, 732 Old Hen Valley Road Oliver Springs TN 37840 (865) 387-5625**