





The Snorkel Exhaust

USSVI SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, TN



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.

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





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
19045 Parkside Drive,
Knoxville, Tennessee
Dinner and Social Hour @1800
Meeting @ 1900
(Guests are invited)

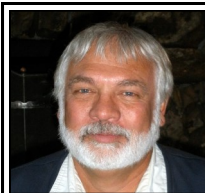
Snorkel Exhaust Index - March & April 2023

INDEX OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE	1
SMB BASE OFFICER / COMMITTEE MEMBER LISTINGS	2
SMB MEETINGS, NEW MEMBERS, CALANDARS AND LOCAL INFO	3
LOCAL HAPPENINGS, SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT AND LIBRARY	4
BASE OFFICER REPORTS (NEWSLETTER EDITOR ON PG,4)	5
LATEST MEETING ADJENDA / SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT	6
PRE WW-II AND WW-II LOST BOATS OF MARCH	7-8
LOST BOATS OF APRIL	9-11
SMB FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2023 MONTHLY MEETINGS	12
SMB MEMBERS ATTEND AN EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION	13
USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343) TO BE SCRAPPED	14
NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN USSVI	15

Follow us on Facebook at:

Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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



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



BASE VICE-COMMANDER
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.)



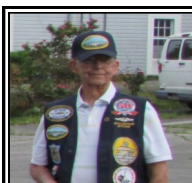
Qualified EM3(SS)
USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)
Qualified EM1(SS)
USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)



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



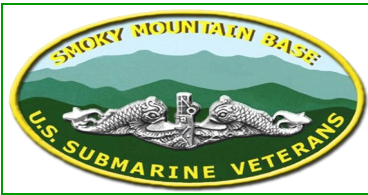
David is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base



**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 & Calendar

MARCH & APRIL - 2023

Scheduled Meetings:

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the
3rd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT:



MIMI'S CAFE

AT TURKEY CREEK,

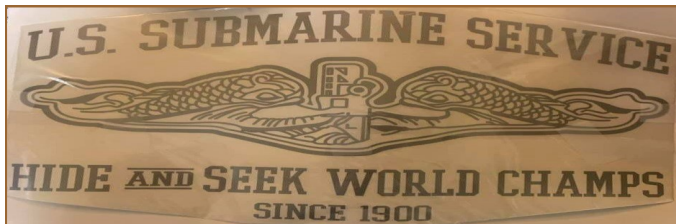
KNOXVILLE, TN

DINNER @ 1800

MEETING @ 1900



Calendar and Happenings



New Members:

None This Period

Published by: Smoky Mountain Submarine Base, a
Subsidiary of USSVI, a non-profit - 501(C)(19) Corporation.
Editor: Bruce Eltzroth - ET1-(SU)
Published 6 times annually at the Base's website:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

April 1 - April Fools' Day
April 9 - Palm Sunday
April 11 - Submarine Force Birthday [(SS-1) purchase]
April 14 - Good Friday
April 16 - Easter Sunday
April 20 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
April 22 - Earth Day
April 29 - Arbor Day



May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
May 8 - VE Day
May 14 - Mothers Day
May 18 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
May 20 - Armed Forces Day
May 29 - Memorial Day

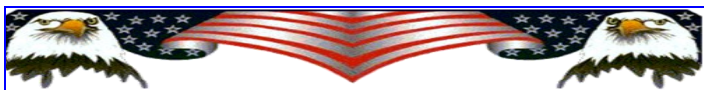


April 2023

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

May 2023

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




LOCAL HAPPENINGS



VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS

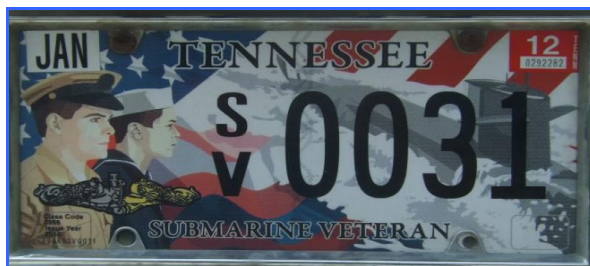


Base Librarian
Ed Sandifer
ENSIGN (SS) 
**SMB Library Books,
DVD's and Magazines**
Ed has agreed to send several
items to our monthly meetings.
Check some out!



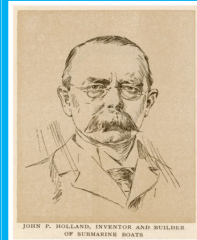
Tennessee Submarine Veterans License Plate

Take a copy of your DD-214 when you go to pick one up.

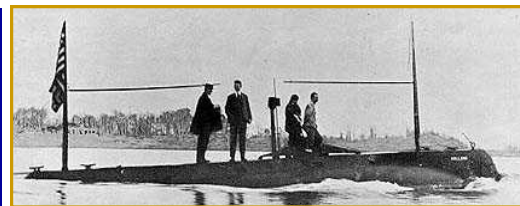


Also, don't forget that in
2023, the State of Tennessee
requires that you are using
the new State license plate,
(if yours is not a specialty
plate) like the one on the left.

John P Holland
Inventor and
Builder of
Submarine
Boats



103rd Anniversary of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service
The United States Navy Submarine Service officially
began with the purchase of the USS Holland (SS-1) on
April 11, 1920. (Photo on the right courtesy of Wikipedia)



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Election of Officers 2023

(SAMPLE BALLOT)

Please write in the name of a **nominee** for each **position** in the blanks below, with your initials:

Base Commander: _____

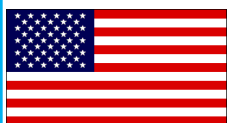
Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

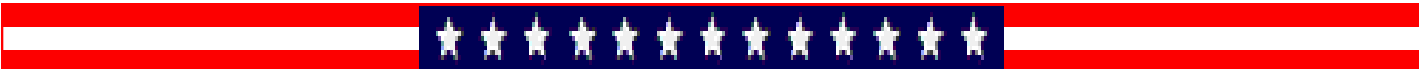
Treasurer: _____

Please return **nominations** to Bruce Eltzroth **at or before** the meeting on (**April 20, 2023**).

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



This issue of the Smoky Mountain Base Snorkel contains articles about the February and March 2023 monthly Member meetings on Page 12. Page 13 has an article on SMB's members participation in an Eagle Scout Ceremony. Page 14 has an article on the scrapping of the USS Clamagore (SS-343). And as usual, the latest USSVI Application for Membership with updated member fees is shown on Page 15.



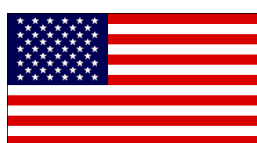


BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR. MM1 (SS)



We seem to be picking up speed, we have submitted our application for the Music in the Mountains Parade in Pigeon Forge (formerly the Dolly Homecoming parade). It will be April 28th stepping off at 5:00. The start time use to be earlier, but they are making it later to allow more school age children to march. Cal Ripkin Jr will be the Grand Marshall again. He is no Dolly Parton who was the Grand Marshall for 32 years, but he will do. I will forward more info as I get it. It looks like the parade route is the same as in the past. We have not done an Eagle Scout Ceremony for the last four years. We have now done two Eagle Scout Honor Courts for Troop 93 in Oneida in the last month and have been invited to speak at another in Hampton Tennessee on the 22nd of April. Troop 93 says they expect another Eagle Scout in the fall. I hope we do many more. April's meeting is when the slate of candidates for the officer's election in May will be presented. . Additional nominations can be added prior to the start of voting in May.

Fraternally, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Base Commander.



BASE VICE COMMANDERS REPORT THOMAS PESCHKE MMCM (SS)



Greetings Shipmates. I know this will sound silly, but I would like you to consider life membership in USSVI. Take a long hard look at your annual dues then take a look at how old you are and how long you think you will live, It will be less expensive to be a life member than to get a membership each year, Secondly, you would never have the expense of a membership again. Money gets tighter as the years go on, so make a bit of expense NOW and avoid future expenses year after year. Enough said. Membership... Please don't miss opportunities to reach out to anyone who is a submarine veteran and let them know that USSVI exists. The biggest reason people give as to why they aren't USSVI members is, "I didn't know that you existed". So, please reach out and touch someone. The other reasons people don't join us are... Go ahead, please fill in the blank. We aren't really sure why veterans aren't getting involved in veterans organizations.



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



Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman. A picnic has been proposed for later this year at a location yet to be determined by Andy. The picnic will most likely start at 12:00 Noon and we will plan on eating at 1:00 PM. The cost will be \$8.00/person. Pulled pork, buns, table service, condiments, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided. All SMB members and their friends and family's are invited.

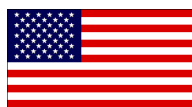


STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1 (SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2023 USSVI Calendars are now available, you can pick them up at the next meeting. They cost \$8.00 at the meeting, but if mailed \$9.00 to cover postage. Makes a nice Christmas present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00.

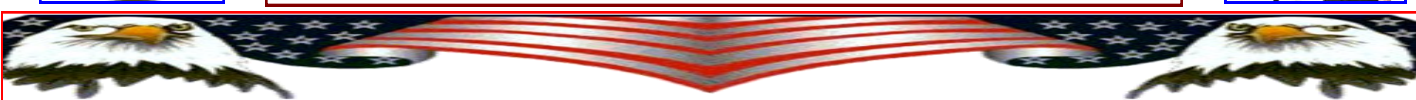


SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1 (SS)

Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Feb. 1st, 2022 our bank balance was **\$2,638.30**.

As of March 17th, 2022 we have a balance of **\$1,980.14**.





SMB Monthly Meeting Minutes **By - Bob Childs (SMB Base Secretary)**



Date: March 16, 2022



Location : Mimi's Café - 19045 Parkside Drive, Knoxville, TN

Presiding: Marlin Helms - Base Commander - Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours.

Dave Pope presented the Invocation.

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

Chaplain David Pope and Marlin led the Tolling of the Bell for lost boats of February:

Members and guests were asked to sign in and introduce themselves and their significant others.

Secretary's Report – Bob Childs, led the Tolling of the Bell for lost boats with Tom Peschke tolling the bell.

USS Perch - SS-176, March 3, 1942. 59 Men Lost
USS Grampus - SS-207, March 5, 1943. 71 Men Lost
USS Bell - SS-28, March 12, 1920. 4 Men Lost
USS Triton - SS-201, March 15, 1943. 74 Men Lost

USS Kete - SS-369, March 20, 1945. 87 Men Lost
USS F4 - SS-23, March 25, 1915. 21 Men Lost
USS Trigger - SS-237, March 26, 1945. 89 Men Lost
USS Tullibee - SS-284, March 29, 1944. 78 Men Lost

Meeting Minutes – Secretary Bob Childs read the minutes for February 2023. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – By Marlin Helms - \$2892.30 in the checking account.

Committees Reports:

- **Newsletter**– Bruce Eltzroth - Discussed deadline for next newsletter, and presented voting ballots for input.
- **Library**- Marlin Helms will get the books back from Ed Standifer.
- **Storekeeper** – Dick Mitchell - Dick Mitchell reported he has good stuff – buy some.
- **Membership** – Tom Peschke reiterated we need to pay dues. Give out business cards. Go to Veterans breakfast.
Tom will print posters and told members how to print business cards.
- **Scouting** – Marlin Helms reported that on Saturday, an Honor Court for Eagle Scout will be held in Oneida
- **Webmaster** – Stuart McGlassen/Marlin Helms – nothing new.
- **Social Committee** - Spring picnic - Andy Armbrust plan on spring picnic in the works.
- **Sunshine Lady** - Shirley Corderos—No report.
- **Old Business** - Still Working on nominees for base officers to be voted on at the May SMB/USSVI meeting.
Bruce Eltzroth will be the lead Nominating Committee member for the May, 2023 Base Officers elections.
- **New business/Good of the Order**. Tom Humphries, Veterans Service Officer for Knox County, presented an overview of what the Veterans Service Officer can do to assist Veterans in getting benefits. Some of the benefits include disabilities. He encouraged Veterans to use the VA services/, i.e., eyes, hearing, doctors, etc. See your representative about how to sign up for VA service.
- Marlin Helms reported there will be no Secret City festival this year. The Music in the mountains parade will be on 4/28 this year.
- **Next Meeting**: 1900 Hrs, Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Mimis Café, 10945 Parkside Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934.
- **Motion to Adjourn** @ 2000 hrs: Passed unanimously. Boat Surfaced.

Bob Childs, SMB Secretary.



Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans Election of Officers 2023 (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 votes to Bruce Eltzroth at or before the meeting on (May 18, 2023).

Please sign your name here: _____





Lost Boats of March



Pre WW-II Lost Boats

USS H1 (SS-28) (Bell) - 12 March 1920 - 4 Men Lost - Ran aground while in transit near Santa Margarita Island, Baja, Mexico.

USS F4 (SS-23) (Skate I) - 21 March 1915 - 19 Men Lost - Failure of lead lined battery compartment. Her hulk was raised and reburied off Sierra 13 north of Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

WW-II Lost Boats

USS PERCH I (SS-176) - 3 MAR. 1942

SS-176 Battle Stars



8 MEN LOST (as POW's)

On March 1, 1942, while on patrol in the Java Sea, the *Perch* was depth charged and heavily damaged by the Japanese destroyers *Amatsukaze* and *Hatsukaze*, at 6-30S, 113-50E. The *Perch* was attacked again on the following day with thirty depth charges by the Japanese destroyer *Ushio*, thus incurring additional heavy damage. On **March 3, 1942**, the *Perch* was caught while surfaced by the Japanese destroyers *Ushio* and *Sazanami* and was pounded with battery gunfire from both vessels. Facing a hopeless situation, the *Perch's* captain, Lieutenant Commander David A. Hurt, ordered the boat scuttled to prevent any usage by the enemy. The entire crew was picked up by the Japanese and sent to Prisoner of War camps for the duration of the war. *Perch* received one battle star for her World War II service.

USS GRAMPUS I (SS-207) - 5 Mar. 1943

SS-207 Battle Stars



71 MEN LOST

On **February 18, 1943**, the *Grampus* damaged the Japanese transport and aircraft ferry *Keiyo Maru* off New Britain. The submarine closed the damaged ship and torpedoed her again the following day at 04°-55'S, 152°-26'E. The attacks by the *Grampus* provoked an aggressive enemy response and the next day Japanese naval aircraft of the 958th Air Group reported bombing and sinking a submarine southeast of New Britain at 05°-40'S, 152°-18'E. They reported one direct hit on the conning tower and a large amount of oil on the surface after the attack. It is possible that this submarine was the *Grampus*. *Grampus* received three battle stars for her World War II service.

USS TRITON I (SS-201) - 15 Mar. 1943

SS-201 Battle Stars



74 MEN LOST

On February 16, 1943, the *Triton*, captained by Lieutenant Commander George K. MacKenzie, Jr., left Brisbane for her sixth and final war patrol. Her orders were to search for and destroy enemy shipping in the area between the Shortland Islands and Rabaul. On March 6, 1943, the *Triton* reported a battle with a Japanese convoy of five ships escorted by a destroyer during which she sank the 3,057-ton freighter *Kiriha Maru*. During this encounter one of her torpedoes made a circular run that had forced her to go deep to evade it. Two days later she reported she had fired eight torpedoes at another convoy and that an escorting destroyer had forced her to go deep, so she had not been able to observe the results. She also reported damaging another freighter. The *Triton's* last message reached Brisbane on **March 11, 1943**, and it said, "Two groups of smoke, 5 or more ships each, plus escorts.....Am chasing." She was never heard from again. The *Triton* received five battle stars for her World War II service.



Lost Boats of March



USS KETE (SS-369) - 20 Mar. 1945

SS-369 Battle Stars



87 MEN LOST

The *Kete*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward Ackerman, left the submarine base at Guam on March 1, 1945, for her second and final war patrol. Her orders were to patrol in the waters surrounding the Nansei Shoto (Ryukyu Islands). While patrolling west of the Tokara Retto islands on the night of March 9-10, 1945, the *Kete* reported she had torpedoed and sank three enemy cargo ships. During the night of March 14th, she reported making an unsuccessful attack on a cable-laying vessel. On March 19th, the *Kete* acknowledged orders to depart the area on March 20th, refuel at Midway Island, and proceed to Pearl Harbor for refit. On March 20th, she sent a weather report from a position south of Tokara Kaiko (Colnett Strait). This was the last transmission ever received from the *Kete*. Scheduled to arrive at Midway Island by March 31, 1945, she was never heard from again. The *Kete* earned the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one campaign star for participation in the operation involving the assault and occupation of Okinawa from March 6-16, 1945.

USS TRIGGER (SS-237) - 26 Mar. 1945

SS-237 Battle Stars



89 MEN LOST

On March 11, 1945, the USS *Trigger*, captained by Commander David R. Connole, left the submarine base at Apra Harbor on Guam on her twelfth and final war patrol. Commander Connole's operation order for the *Trigger's* twelfth patrol instructed him to hunt for enemy shipping in the Nansei Shoto Archipelago (Ryukyu Islands) area and to serve as a lifeguard during a scheduled carrier air strike on Okinawa. On March 18, 1945, the *Trigger* reported she had made a seven-hour end-around attack on a convoy and had sunk a cargo ship. On March 20th, the *Trigger* replied she had been held under by antisubmarine vessels for three hours after attacking the convoy and when she re-surfaced had been unable to regain contact on the escapees. Four days later, ComSubPac directed her to patrol west of the Nansei Shoto chain, to avoid restricted areas, and to stay outside of the 100-fathom curve. On March 26th she sent a weather report that day, but never confirmed receiving the March 26th message. On May 1, 1945, the *Trigger* was reported as presumed lost. The *Trigger* received eleven battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her fifth, sixth, and seventh war patrols.

USS TULLIBEE I (SS-284) - 26 Mar. 1944

SS-284 Battle Stars



79 MEN LOST

On March 5, 1944, the *Tullibee* left Pearl Harbor for her fourth and final war patrol with Commander Charles F. Brindupke at the helm. After fueling at Midway Island on March 9, 1944, she headed for the Palau Islands to join other Pearl Harbor and Brisbane submarines assigned to Operation Desecrate One. She was never seen or heard from again. The *Tullibee* was expected to return to Majuro for a refit around May 4, 1944. When she failed to arrive by May 15, 1944, she was presumed lost. The *Tullibee* received three battle stars for her World War II service.





Lost Boats of April



USS PICKEREL (SS-177) - 3 Apr. 1943

SS-177 Battle Stars



78 MEN LOST

On March 18, 1943, the *Pickerel*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Augustus H. Alston, Jr., sailed from Pearl Harbor on her seventh and final war patrol. On March 22, 1943, she stopped at Midway Island to refuel, and then headed to her assigned patrol area along the eastern coast of northern Honshu. She was never heard from again. The *Pickerel* was possibly lost on April 3, 1943, off Aomori Prefecture, south of the Hachinohe Sea and near the Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the eastern coast of northern Honshu. At 0020 hours that day, *Pickerel* had sunk the 460-ton Japanese submarine chaser *Ch 13* at 41° 2' 60.000" N, 141° 58' 0.000" E. Later that day a Japanese patrol plane from Ominato spotted an oil patch on the sea near the Shiranuka Lighthouse. The patrol plane summoned the IJN Minelayer *Shirakami*, the submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru*, and additional aircraft to the spot. A total of 53 depth charges and 23 aerial bombs were dropped at the location causing a larger quantity of oil to rise to the surface. No other American submarine was operating in or near the area of the attacks. The *Pickerel* received three battle stars for World War II service.



USS SNOOK (SS-279) 8 Apr. 1945

SS-279 Battle Stars



88 MEN LOST

On March 25, 1945, the *Snook* left the submarine base at Guam for her ninth and final war patrol with Commander John F. Walling at the helm. She departed Guam in company with USS *Burrfish* (SS-312) and USS *Bang* (SS-385), all part of the wolf pack *WHALEERS* under Commander Walling's leadership. On March 27th *Snook* returned to Guam for emergency repairs. She left to rejoin the group the following day. The group was under orders to conduct a coordinated patrol in the Luzon Strait area and to perform lifeguard duty if so directed by dispatch. On April 1, 1945, *Snook* was ordered to disband the Whalers pack and join a new group, *HIRAM'S HECKLERS*, under Commander Hiram Cassidy in USS *Tigrone* (SS-419). On April 8th *Tigrone* had been fired at by an unseen opponent and had dodged two torpedoes. He suspected that the *Snook* might have fired the torpedoes at him. Cassidy raised the *Snook* by radio that night and Walling said he had not yet fired any torpedoes. Cassidy cautioned Walling to be on guard for the enemy submarine that had fired the torpedoes at *Tigrone*. The next day Cassidy could not raise the *Snook* by radio. She was never heard from again. There are two possible causes for the *Snook's* loss, neither with sufficient evidence to be deemed conclusive. The first possibility is that on April 14, 1945, she was detected by enemy patrol planes off the Chusan Archipelago and attacked with depth charges. Surface vessels were called in and attacked the submarine with depth charges over the next two hours until a widening oil slick was sighted. The second possibility is that on April 14, 1945, while the *Snook* was on lifeguard duty near the Sakishima Islands, she was torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-56*. The *Snook* earned seven battle stars for World War II service.



Lost Boats of April



USS GRENADIER (SS-210) - 22 Apr. 1943

SS-210 Battle Stars



4 MEN LOST

On March 20, 1943, *Grenadier* departed Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol with Lieutenant Commander John A. Fitzgerald at the helm. On April 21, 1943, while on station in the Strait of Malacca, between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra *Grenadier's* lookouts spotted a twin-engine enemy bomber on her port quarter. Fitzgerald gave the order to crash dive. As *Grenadier* passed 120 feet, a bomb exploded directly above the boat near the bulkhead between the maneuvering room and the after torpedo room. *Grenadier* sank until she hit the bottom at around 270 feet. After thirteen hours on the bottom, the crew managed to coax the heavily damaged submarine to the surface. With the deck gun inoperable, and only the bridge machine guns available, Fitzgerald knew fighting was not an option. He gave the order to scuttle the boat. The radio, radar, sound and TDC gear, and decoding machines were destroyed, and the codebooks were weighted and sunk. A Japanese merchant vessel with a small escort came into sight headed for *Grenadier*. As the IJN ships came closer, Fitzgerald lined his men up on the deck in their life jackets, the vents were opened and *Grenadier* sank by the stern, at the approximate geographic position 5° 30' 60.000" N, 98° 45' 0.000" E. They were taken aboard the Japanese merchant ship and transported to Penang, Malaysia. There the Japanese captors tortured them for many weeks in an unsuccessful effort to extract intelligence information. Next they would be sent to Singapore. Eventually, all of the men were transferred to the prison camps in Japan, where they underwent additional relentless interrogation. Four of *Grenadier's* men died while prisoners. The rest were freed following Japan's surrender more than two years later. The *Grenadier* received four battle stars for her World War II service.



USS BONEFISH (SS-210) Fire At Sea - April 24, 1988

1 OFFICER AND 2 MEN LOST



On April 24th, 1988, the Charleston based **USS BONEFISH SS-532** experienced a fire so intense that the ship had to be abandoned and subsequently towed back to port. BONEFISH was providing ASW services to the **USS CARR, FFG-52** and to the **USS JOHN F. KENNEDY, CVA-67** off the east coast of Florida. As part of the exercise CARR requested that BONEFISH go to 250 feet. After securing the battery charge, BONEFISH began diving to 250 feet. Investigators later determined that a sea water leak in the TDU allowed sea water into the battery compartment, followed by a loud bang. Instantly the boat filled with smoke. The order to abandon ship was given and Eighty-nine crew members were rescued by whaleboat and helicopter crews from CARR and the aircraft carrier JOHN F. KENNEDY. One Search and Rescue Swimmer from HS-7, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator Third Class (AW3) Larry Grossman spent over three hours in the ocean and was credited with saving 19 lives. He later received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. Three crewmen: **Lieutenant Ray E. Everts, Jr., Robert W. Bordelon RM2(SS), and Marshal Todd Lindgren YN3(SS)** were overcome by smoke and were killed. The investigation that followed the incident determined that the BONEFISH was damaged beyond repair and she was decommissioned on September 28, 1988 and scrapped on August 17, 1989.



ETERNAL PATROL

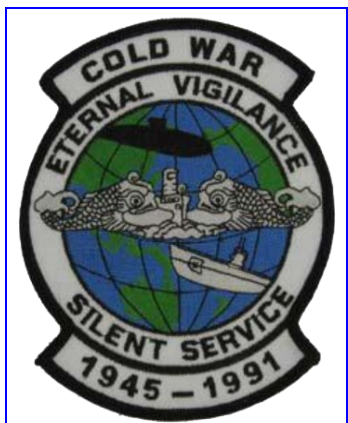


Lost Boats of April



USS THRESHER (SSN-593) -10 April, 1963

112 Crew and 17 Civilians LOST



The keel of the second **THRESHER** (SSN-593) was laid down on 28 May 1958 by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Naval Shipyard; launched on 9 July 1960; sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder; and commissioned on 3 August 1961, **Comdr. Dean W. Axene** in command. Following trials the nuclear attack submarine took part in Nuclear submarine Exercise (NUSUBEX) 3-61 off the northeastern coast of the United States from 18 to 24 September.

On 18 October, the submarine headed south along the east coast. After calling at San Juan, Puerto Rico, she conducted further trials and test-fired her torpedo system before returning to Portsmouth on 29 November. The ship remained in port through the end of the year and spent the first two months of 1962 evaluating her sonar system and her Submarine Rocket (SUBROC) system.

Off Charleston, the ship undertook operations observed by the Naval Antisubmarine Warfare Council, before she returned briefly to New England waters from whence she proceeded to Florida for SUBROC tests. However, while mooring at Port Canaveral, the submarine was accidentally struck by a tug which damaged one of her ballast tanks. After repairs at Groton, Connecticut, by the Electric Boat Company, the ship returned south for more tests and trials off Key West. **THRESHER** then returned northward and remained in dockyard hands through the early spring of 1963.

In company with **SKYLARK** (ASR-20), **THRESHER** put to sea on 10 April 1963 for deep-diving exercises. In addition to her 16 officers and 96 enlisted men, the submarine carried 17 civilian technicians to observe her performance during the deep-diving tests. Fifteen minutes after reaching her assigned test depth, the submarine communicated with **SKYLARK** by underwater telephone, apprising the submarine rescue ship of difficulties. Garbled transmissions indicated that far below the surface things were going wrong. Suddenly, listeners in **SKYLARK** heard a noise "like air rushing into an air tank", then, silence.

Efforts to reestablish contact with **THRESHER** failed, and a search group was formed in an attempt to locate the submarine. Rescue ship **RECOVERY** (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Eventually, photographs taken by bathyscaph **TRIESTE** proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 5,500 feet of water, some 220 miles east of Boston. **THRESHER** was officially declared lost in April 1963.

Subsequently, a Court of Inquiry was convened and, after studying pictures and other data, opined that the loss of **THRESHER** was in all probability due to a casting, piping, or welding failure that flooded the engine room with water. This water probably caused electrical failures that automatically shutdown the nuclear reactor, causing an initial power loss and the eventual loss of the boat. **THRESHER** is in six major sections on the ocean floor, with the majority in a single debris field about 400 yards square. The major sections are the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces, operations spaces, and the tail section.

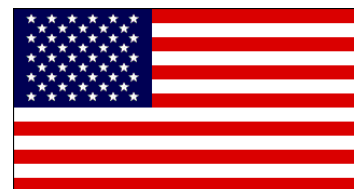
The death toll was staggering; 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilian technicians died that day. We submariners who followed them into the Silent Service owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to their memory because their death was the reason for the "Sub-Safe" program.



4/10/1963

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

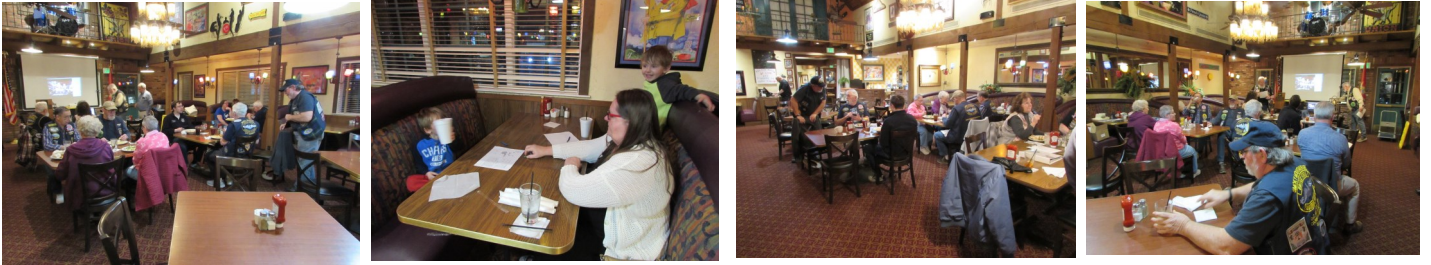
Lost 10 April 1963 with the loss of 129 officers and men when it was sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals.



SMB February 2023 Monthly Meeting at Mimi's Café

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their second 2023 monthly meeting of the year, at Mimi's Café in Knoxville, TN. Only 11 people participated this month. There was one new member present who signed up at this meeting for USSVI/SMB membership. Marlin Helms covered the previous Board Meeting minutes for the group and answered questions.



SMB March 2023 Monthly Meeting at Mimi's Café

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their third 2023 monthly meeting of the year, at Mimi's Café in Knoxville, TN. The first four photos below show the extent of the membership that participated in this month's monthly meeting. A total of 13 members, with some with their families participated this month (See photos 1 through 4 below). There was one new member present with his spouse (See photo 5) who indicated that he would sign up for USSVI/SMB membership. Paper Voting Ballots were distributed to those members present to facilitate selection of candidates for Base Officers. Other ballots were sent out via E-Mail by Marlin Helms. (See bottom of page 6 for Sample Ballot). Ballots will be counted at the May 18th meeting. Thomas Humphries - US Veterans Service Officer for Knox County, TN gave a presentation for the group and answered several VA related questions. (See photo #6)



1



2



3



4



5



6

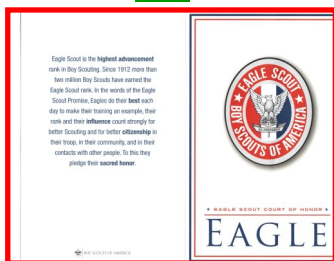


Smoky Mt. Base Subvets Participate in Eagle Scout Presentation

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)

Ethan Douglas, who is a member of Boy Scout Troop-93 in Oneida, TN, earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony held at the Oneida TN High School on March 18, 2023. Marlin Helms (SMB Base Commander) and Bruce Eltzroth (SMB Base Photographer) attended the ceremony. Marlin had a role in the ceremony with a presentation of a USSVI Eagle Scout Certificate story about Admiral Fluckey. Photo 1 below is a copy of the Eagle Scout brochure. Photo 2 is of Ethan Douglas's Scouting awards. Photo 3 is his mother pinning on his Eagle Scout Pin. Photo 4 shows Marlin Helms making a presentation of the USSVI Eagle Scout Award. (More below.)

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



Scout Master Chris Wilson
Making the eagle scout
presentation to Ethan



Kevin Bishop Troop-93
Committee Member



Jammie Cotton - retired
General Sessions Judge
and former Eagle Scout



Kelly Keisling, TN State
Representative for the
38th House District



Fred Huppert—VFW
Post 5669 Quartermaster



In addition to the Eagle Scout Award Ceremony, Several officials of the Tennessee State and local community made presentations to Ethan Douglas for his Achievement of Eagle Scout. He became the 74th Eagle Scout of Oneida Troop-93 of Scott County, Tennessee.





USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343) TO BE SCRAPPED

(Story and photo below courtesy of the U.S. Navy)
(Submitted by Thomas Peschke)



© U.S. Navy - The USS Clamagore (SS-343) is seen in this undated US Navy image. (US Navy)

The submarine Clamagore, which opened as an exhibit more than four decades ago, closed to the general public in December 2021 due to "safety concerns caused by a leak in a main ballast tank," the museum at Patriots Point, Virginia said in a news release. Ballast tanks are used to control the buoyancy of a vessel.

The submarine has undergone repairs for more than a decade due to "extensive corrosion", the museum added. One 2019 assessment found it would cost "upwards of \$9 million" to fully restore and repair the vessel. There are also environmental concerns -- including the presence of PCB's and lead batteries -- with keeping the submarine at Patriots Point, said executive director Dr. Rorie Cartier.

"Leaving this submarine in the Charleston Harbor could cause serious environmental problems with the landfall of a major hurricane," Cartier said. The museum is located in Mt. Pleasant, less than 10 miles from Charleston.

The USS Clamagore is the only submarine of its design that is preserved in the US, according to the museums web site. Commissioned in June 1945, the boat operated in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean until 1962. The submarine is best known for its service off of Florida's Key West coast, where it became known as the "Gray Ghost of the Florida Coast," according to the museum. It was decommissioned in 1975 and opened as a museum about six years later. It's the smallest of the three military vessels kept on display at the museum.

But the museum "cannot financially sustain the maintenance" of all three, Cartier said. "The USS Yorktown and USS Laffey also need repair, and we are fighting a never-ending battle against the corrosion that comes from being submerged in saltwater," Cartier said. Some key parts of the submarine will be removed and preserved for a smaller exhibit, the museum said. Other parts will be sold and reused or recycled. The full dismantling project will take months and cost around \$2 million, according to the museum. "The vast majority of the steel will be used to make new products, lowering the demand for mined iron ore and reducing energy costs in the steelmaking process," the museum said.



(photo courtesy of Wikipedia)

USS-343 at Patriots Point, VA





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: Smoky Mountain Base

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

National 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 yr.): \$ 35.00

National Life members: 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. 1st)

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

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs.) _____

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)

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

Upon completion, please deliver to: Marlin Helms at the monthly meeting (on the third Thursday of each month) or, mail to Marlin Helms Smoky Mountain Base Commander, 732 Old Hen Valley Road Oliver Springs TN 37840 @ (865)387-5625

USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870 Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org