



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.

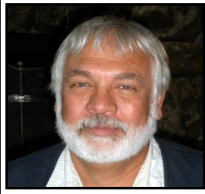
Scheduled Meetings
 Monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month at
 Mimi's Café
 19045 Parkside Drive,
 Knoxville, Tennessee
 Dinner and Social Hour @1800
 Meeting @ 1900
 (Guests are invited)

Snorkel Exhaust Index - March & April 2024

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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 - 2024

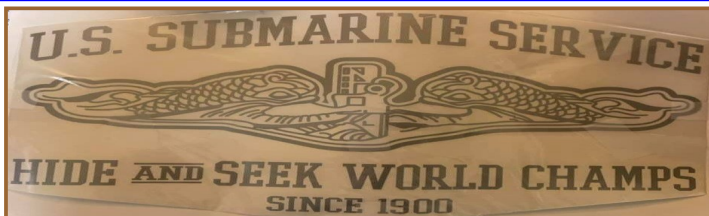
Scheduled Meetings:
 Monthly meetings are scheduled for the
3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT:



MIMI'S CAFE
AT TURKEY CREEK,
KNOXVILLE, TN
DINNER @ 1800
MEETING @ 1900



Calendar and Happenings



NEW MEMBERS

Rickey Low MM1(SS) - Qual Boat USS Lafayette SSBN 616

Steve Hady HMCM(SS) Ret. - Qual USS Francis Scott Key

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

- April 1 - April Fools' Day
- April 11 - Submarine Force Birthday [(SS-1) purchase]
- April 18 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- April 22 - Earth Day / Passover Begins
- April 26 - Arbor Day
- April 30 - Passover Ends

- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 8 - VE Day
- May 12 - Mothers Day
- May 16 - SMB Meeting (1800 Hrs)
- May 18 - Armed Forces Day
- May 27 - Memorial Day



April 2024

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

May 2024

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



SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines

Base Librarian Lee Chappell - EM1-SS

has agreed to send several items to our monthly meetings. Check some out!



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



U.S. Naval Undersea Museum | 1 Garnett Way, Keyport, WA 98345

The U.S. Naval Undersea Museum will hold our 25th annual Discover Engineering Day on April 6, 2024, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

The event features fun applications of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for K -12 students and lifelong learners alike. The intent is to engage children with their caregivers in active learning and exploration; and to inspire creative thinking and problem solving. More than a dozen unique activities, demonstrations, and experiments will be available throughout the museum, with professional educators and engineers to engage in conversation. Additionally, we will have activities outside to take advantage of the spring weather.

Listed below are the activities that will be available on Discovery Day:

Simple Machines, Periscopes, Paper Rockets, Circuits, Simple Machines, Remotely Operated Arms, Scavenger Hunts, Robotics, ROV Pool, Can Crushers, Statapults, Hydraulic Arms, Echolocation, Chromesthesia (Colorful Sound), Unmanned Underwater Vehicles.

Participants may arrive any time during event hours. This fun learning event is FREE and open to the public.

John P Holland
Inventor and Builder



104th 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.

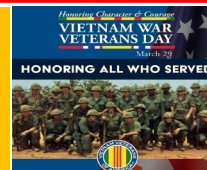
(Above Photo on the right courtesy of Wikipedia)



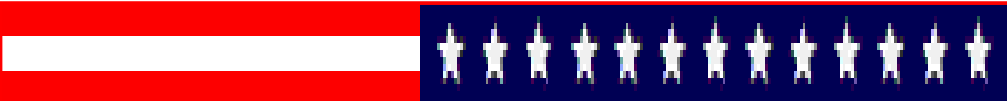
VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS



Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29, 1973)



Today is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. VVA honors all veterans who served during the Vietnam War era, and their families. They are the embodiment of character and courage.

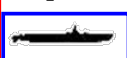




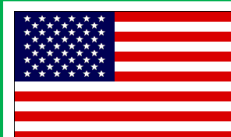
BASE COMMANDERS REPORT MARLIN E. HELMS, JR. MM1 (SS)



First there will be no Secret City Festival again this year, I am hoping Oak Ridge returns the festival to the Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation department. The festival has declined each year since it was given to a volunteer committee. We will need to find a new venue for our annual Tolling of the Boats. The Oak ridge high school NJROTC will be going to Normandy for the D-Day celebrations. We donated \$500 last year for their visit to Pearl Harbor for the Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies. Half from our treasury and half from donations. The ORHS NJROTC showed up to help Frontline Gardens build raised bed gardens for base member Stuart McGlasson.



Fraternally, Marlin Helms, Smoky Mountain Submarine Base Commander.



BASE VICE COMMANDERS REPORT THOMAS PESCHKE MMCM (SS)



Greetings. This will be my last newsletter input and I wish the next vice all the best luck in the world. I trust that you will fight to grow the USSVI membership and find ways to reach those leaving active duty. Attend conventions, meet good shipmates, USSVI leadership and find out who and what makes our organization tick. Good luck and hasta la vista!



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

This issue of the Smoky Mountain Base Snorkel contains articles about the February and March 2024 monthly SMB Member meetings on Page 12. Page 13 has an article about the origins of Submarine pay and [UT's College Hockey Division 2 Championship Run](#). Page 14 has an article on the first Medal of Honor (MOH) awarded to a Submariner. And as usual, [the latest USSVI Application for Membership with updated member fees](#) is shown on Page 15.



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



Andy Armbrust, Picnic Committee Chairman has confirmed a picnic at the Concord Yacht Club on April 27th. The picnic will start at 11:00 Noon and we will plan on eating at 12:00 noon. 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 should bring a covered dish.

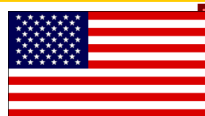


STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1 (SS)



We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

2024 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.

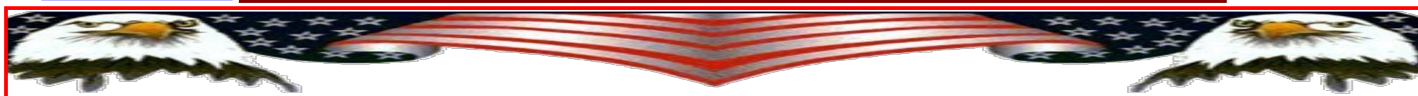


SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1 (SS)

Treasurers Report: Jim Rock

On Feb. 15th, 2024 our bank balance was **\$2,190.92**.

As of March 21st, 2024 we have a balance of **\$2,872.93**





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



Date: March 21, 2024



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

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

Base Chaplain Dave Pope presented the Invocation and opening corny joke. The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Secretary read the USSVI Creed. COB and Base Secretary led the Tolling of the Bell for lost boats. 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 COB 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 15 2024. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – By Marlin Helms - \$2872.93 in the checking account.



Committees Reports:

- Newsletter– Bruce Eltzroth - Discussed deadline for next newsletter, and presented voting ballots for input.
- Library – Lee Chappell - NA
- Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell - Dick Mitchell reported he has good stuff – buy some. There will be a challenge coin issued for the 60TH anniversary of USSVI. We will put in a group order for those interested.
- Membership – Tom Peschke - NA
- Scouting – Marlin Helms - NA
- Webmaster – Stuart McGlassen/Marlin Helms – Continue cleaning up the website..
- Social Committee -Andy Armbrust , Spring picnic is scheduled for April 27, 2024 at Concord Park Yacht Club.
- The picnic starts at 11 AM ; meal at 12 noon and ends at 3 PM. \$8 per person & bring a dish.
- Sunshine Lady - Shirley Corderos—No report.
- Old Business - For those who have not paid dues, please do so.
- New Business - Bruce Eltzroth will lead the Nominating Committee for the May, 2024 Base Officers elections.
- New business/Good of the Order - Marlin Helms reported there will be no Secret City festival this year. Guest speaker, Ray Smith, presented a lecture titled “The Opening of the Gates”. The lecture included the history of Oak Ridge and the Y-12 Complex. In addition, Ray Smith pointed out there is an interesting movie titled “Turning Point” on Netflix. It was about Project Sapphire which was the starting point for collecting spent uranium from nuclear facilities through out the world.
- Next Meeting: 1900 Hrs, Thursday, April 17, 2024 at Mimis Café, 10945 Parkside Drive , Knoxville, TN 37934.
- Motion to Adjourn : Motion passed unanimously @ 2037 hrs. - Boat Surfaced.

Bob Childs, SMB Secretary.

Smoky Mountain Base Submarine Veterans - Election of Officers 2024

(SAMPLE BALLOT)

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

Base Commander: _____

Base Vice-Commander: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Please return **nominations** to Bruce Eltzroth at (or before) the meeting on (**April 17, 2024**).





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 *Burfish* (SS-312) and USS *Bang* (SS-385), all part of the wolf pack *WHALERS* 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.

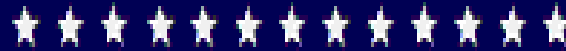


USS BONEFISH (SS-210) Fire At Sea - April 24, 1988

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.



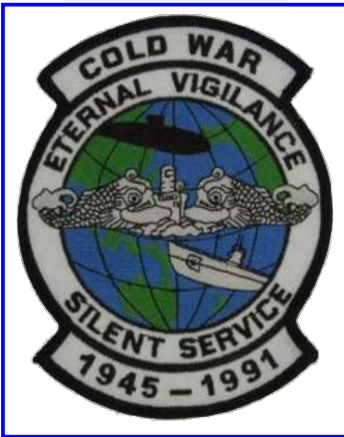


Lost Boats of April



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

112 Crew and 17 Civilians LOST



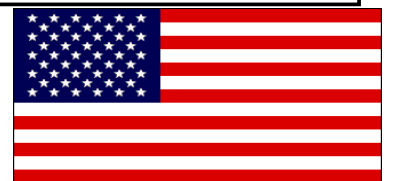
The keel of the second THRESHER (SSN-593) was laid down on 28 May 1958 by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Naval Shipyard; launched on 9 July 1960; sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder; and commissioned on 3 August 1961, **Comdr. Dean W. Axene** in command. Following trials the nuclear attack submarine took part 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 current "Sub-Safe" program.**

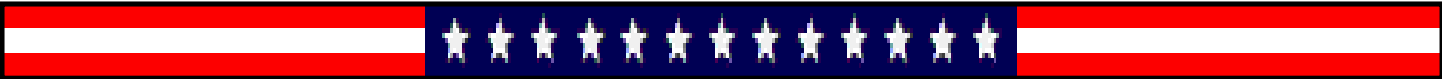


4/10/1963

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 2024 Monthly Meeting at Mimi's Café

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their second 2024 monthly meeting of the year, at Mimi's Café in Knoxville, TN. 18 people participated this month. There was one prospective new member present at this meeting for USSVI/SMB membership. Also Rick Mitchell, MMCS (SS) USN (Ret.), Base Commander of the Central District Four (Texas Base) (Photo 1 right), spoke of his intention to place his name in nomination for the Central Region Director. Marlin Helms covered the previous Monthly Meeting minutes for the group and answered questions. He also mentioned the need to have another Board Meeting in the near future.



1



2



3



4

SMB March 2024 Monthly Meeting at Mimi's Café

(Photos and story by Bruce Eltzroth)

The Smoky Mountain Submarine Base (SMB) veterans held their third 2024 monthly meeting of the year, at Mimi's Café in Knoxville, TN. The first three photos below show the extent of the membership that participated in this month's meeting. A total of 13 members, some with their significant others participated this month (See photos 1 through 3 below). There were two new members present who signed up for USSVI/SMB membership (see page 3 for more info). 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 16th meeting. Guest speaker, Ray Smith, presented a lecture entitled "The Opening of the Gates". The lecture included the history of the Oak Ridge National Lab and the Y-12 Complex. In addition, Ray Smith pointed out there is an interesting movie titled "Turning Point" on Netflix. It was about "Project Sapphire" which was the start of Oak Ridge collecting spent uranium from around the world. (see photos 4, 5 & 6).



1



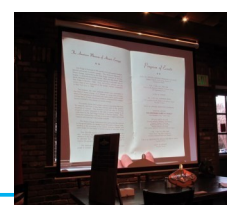
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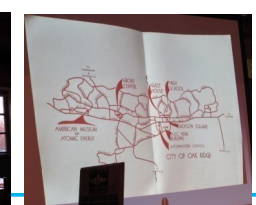
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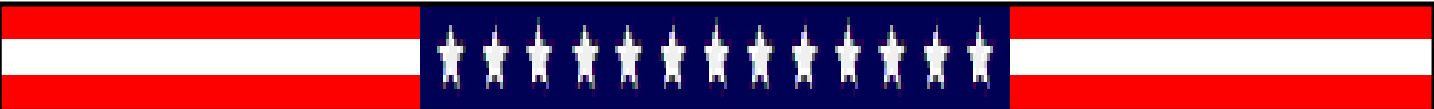
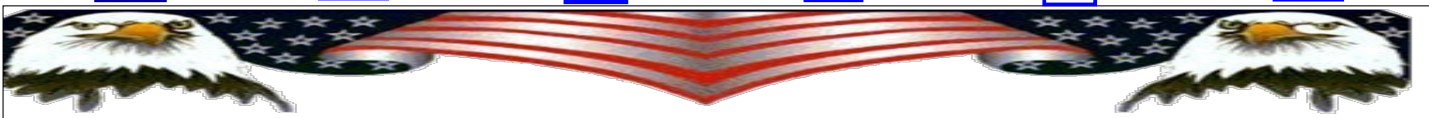
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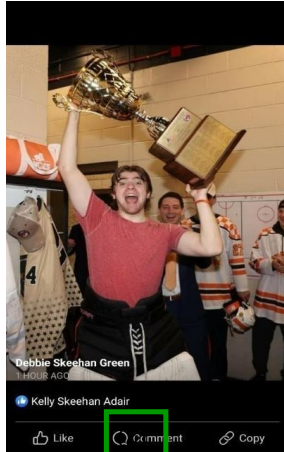
University of Tennessee Volunteers Win College Hockey Division 2 Championship.



As a follow-up to the local hockey story of the Tennessee Ice Bears Professional Hockey Team from the previous issue of this newsletter, I find it necessary to present the University of Tennessee Hockey team's (The Ice Vols) capture of the College Hockey South-Division 2 Championship trophy (photo 1). In addition to the championship win, my grand nephew - Patrick Green (goalie), was voted the Most Valuable Player award for the team (photos 2 & 3). Also three members of the team were featured on WVLT TV, Knoxville for an interview (photo 4), including Patrick, the coach Drew King (right) and team captain Pete Bunch (second from left) . (Photos courtesy of WVLT TV and relatives of Patrick Green. Story by Bruce Eltzroth)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

"Thanks, Teddy! The Origin of Submarine Pay" *(From the Sacramento Chapter Periscope)*

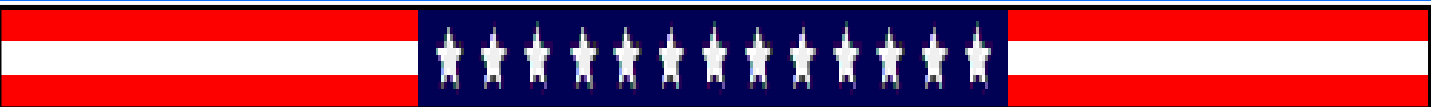
Should Teddy Roosevelt be the patron saint of submariners? Roosevelt was the first American President to go aboard a submarine and to make a dive. Roosevelt ventured beneath the waters of Long Island Sound aboard USS Plunger (SS 2) on March 25, 1905. Plunger was the United States' second submarine, commissioned in September 1903.

Beyond this historical first, however, is the fact that Roosevelt was the man directly responsible for submarine pay. The Naval hierarchy in 1905 considered submarine duty, neither unusual nor dangerous, and classified it as shore duty. Therefore, submariners received twenty-five percent less pay than sailors going to sea in Destroyers, Cruisers and similar surface ships.

Roosevelt's two-hour trip on Plunger convinced him that this discrimination was unfair. He described submarine duty as hazardous and difficult, and he found that submariners "have to be trained to the highest possible point as well as to show iron nerve in order to be of any use in their positions..."

Roosevelt directed that officer service on submarines be equated with duty on surface ships. Enlisted men qualified in submarines were to receive ten dollars per month in addition to the pay of their rating. They were also to be paid a dollar for every day in which they were submerged while underway. Enlisted men assigned to submarines but not yet qualified received an additional five dollars per month.

Roosevelt did not dilly-dally once he made a decision. He issued an Executive Order directing the extra pay for enlisted personnel. This was the beginning of submarine pay!





The First Medal of Honor (MOH) awarded to a submariner

(Story By Sarah Sicard, a Senior Editor with Military Times.)

Submitted by Eric Eltzroth



Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class Henry Breault (center) was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1924 for heroism and devotion to duty during the sinking of the submarine O-5. (Naval History and Heritage Command)



Their service is often silent, but valorous nonetheless, and almost exactly a century ago, a Navy Submariner became the first of his kind to receive the Medal of Honor. President Calvin Coolidge presented Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class Henry Breault the military's highest military decoration on March 8, 1924. Actions in the Panama Canal the year before led Breault to become the silent service's first Medal of Honor recipient. On the Atlantic side of the canal, Breault was serving aboard the USS O-5 on Oct. 28, 1923, when a commercial vessel struck the sub, sinking it in less than a minute, according to his Medal of Honor citation. Breault was in the torpedo room at the time of the collision but managed to make it to the hatch and escape. But according to Navy General Orders 125 from Feb. 20, 1924, he soon realized a fellow submariner was left behind. Upon reaching the hatch, he saw that the boat was rapidly sinking," the orders read. "Instead of jumping overboard to save his own life, he returned to the torpedo room to the rescue of a shipmate whom he knew was trapped in the boat." That shipmate was Chief Electrician's Mate Lawrence Brown. The ship's compartments were flooding fast, but Breault secured the watertight door to the torpedo room, giving the pair precious air and time. Breault locked himself and Brown inside. Brown's account made it into an article called "The O-5 is Down!" by Capt. Julius Grigore, Jr., published in a 1972 edition of the U.S. Naval Institute magazine "Proceedings." Safe there, they planned to wait for salvage divers. "Breault and I separated to pound on each of the boat's sides. In this way, the rescuers would know there were two of us," Brown recalled. "Breault played a kind of tune with his hammer, indicating to the diver that we were in good shape and cheerful. Neither of us knew Morse Code. We had no food or water, and only a flashlight. We were confident we could stay alive for forty-eight hours." It took 31 hours, but the pair was rescued. "Breault's shipmate almost certainly would have died had Breault not intervened at the risk to this own life," notes: National Medal of Honor Museum records. This action prompted the vessel's commanding officer, Lt. Harrison Avery, to submit Breault for a Navy Cross.

Researcher Ryan Walker speculates in a 2022 article that the reason Avery did not initially recommend the Medal of Honor is because Avery's lower rank didn't permit him to do so. Control Force Commander Rear Adm. Montgomery Taylor ultimately made the adjustment and upgraded the recommendation to a Medal of Honor. "The unusual heroic conduct of Breault and his devotion to duty, particularly in that he almost surely saved Brown's life at the risk of his own and in that his devotion to duty saved a [considerable] loss of Government property, deserves recognition," Taylor wrote. Breault reenlisted several times and was promoted to the rank of Torpedoman's Mate 1st Class, according to his service record. His last duty station was at the submarine base in New London, Conn. He ultimately served in the Navy for 20 years before developing a heart condition, which claimed his life on Dec. 5, 1941. He was 41 years old. The Vermont state legislature is honoring his service 100 years later with a resolution to be presented on March 15. Though born in Connecticut, he is accredited to Vermont, according to his citation. Breault specified that he was from Vermont when he received the award, Bill Mattoon of the Green Mountain Base Submarine Veterans group wrote in an email to Military Times.

"For all Submariners in Vermont, this is a special moment in our history," Mattoon said.





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