



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 3rd Thursday of each month at:

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

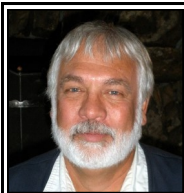
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SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



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



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



BASE VICE COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



Qualified MMC(SS)
USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571)



BASE SECRETARY

Ernie Ball



BASE TREASURER
JIM ROCK



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



Smoky Mountain Base Committees



BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride, EMC(SS) (Ret.)



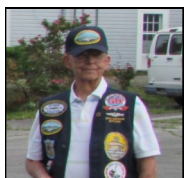
Qualified EM3(SS)
USS WOODROW WILSON (SSBN-624)
Qualified EM1(SS)
USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738)



PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
Andy Armbrust



Qualified MM1(SS)
USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN-663)
in 1975



BASE STOREKEEPER
Dick Mitchell



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



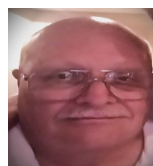
BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
USS T. ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)
COMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2



David is an Associate
Member of Smoky Mountain
Submarine Base



NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS
BASE PHOTOGRAPHERS



Bruce Eltzroth
Qualified ET1(SU))
Max Gildner
Qualified ET1(SS)



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

MAY & JUNE - 2025

SMB Meetings and Happenings

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



New Members:

June 6 - D-Day (1944)
June 14 - Flag Day
June 15 - Fathers Day
June 19 - SMB Meeting (1900 Hrs)
June 20 - Summer Solstice



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501(C)(19) Corporation.
Published 6 times annually on the Base's website.

July 4 - Independence Day
July 16 - First Nuclear bomb Test - Trinity, NM
July 17 - SMB Meeting (1900 Hrs)

June 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					

July 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		



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

2025—2026 Election Results

Base Commander — Marline Helms
Base Vice-Commander — Bob Childs
Base Secretary — Ernie Ball
Base Treasurer—Jim Rock

SMB Library Books, DVD's and Magazines

See Marlin Helms

There are over 100 books and videos in our library -
check with Marlin!

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.



(SS) CHALLENGE COINS LLC

www.SSChallengeCoins.com

31889 Marshall Rd
Jacksonville, Missouri
65260-2011
816.261.7784



Shelly Saxton

CEO/Owner

SubmarineCoins@gmail.com



**VETERANS
INFORMATION FOR
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
BASE MEMBERS**



In Service to America

**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
every month at 1800 hrs.**



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.](http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation)

The Ad on the right is for
the USSVI "Vest Lady"



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Who Already Have.

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Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench
757-318-0138 B4 8pm



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



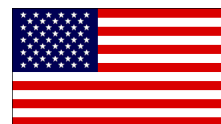
Elections are over and there are some transitions with a few minor growing pains as we move forward and still trying to get back to pre-COVID. Max Gildner has volunteered to be our newsletter editor. Max will do most of the heavy lifting but intends to co-edit with Bruce Eltzroth. Max is also going to assist Bruce as base photographer when Bruce cannot be at a base function. Our by-laws require that I present the slate of appointed officers for a vote to confirm the appointments. I am hoping all the current volunteers are willing to continue I am grateful for all those willing to serve their fellow shipmates.

BASE VICE-COMMANDER REPORT:

Robert (Bob) Childs, EMC(SS)



NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT BRUCE ELTZROTH & MAX GILDNER



Per the Base Commander's Report, Max Gildner and Bruce Eltzroth will be co-editing the newsletter for the near future. The newsletter will be undergoing some changes in the future as Microsoft has decided to retire it's Publisher program that has been this newsletter tool for many years. We have until October of 2026 to make the changes, so the changes will be gradual. We would like to hear any suggestions for improvements to the newsletter form or contents. Max's e-mail is: gildnerml@tds.net and Bruce's e-mail is: BERACIN3@MSN.COM



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



The annual SMS base spring picnic was held on Saturday, May 17th at the Concord Park Yacht Club. Around twenty people were in attendance. The weather was sunny and warm (for a change). Pulled pork and a variety of salads and deserts were in ample supply. A special thank you goes out to Dick and Bonnie Love for arranging for the use of the Yacht Club facilities.



STOREKEEPERS REPORT - DICK MITCHELL ET1(SS)



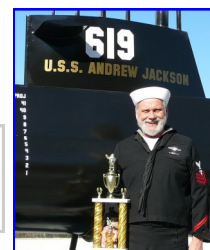
We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

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. They could make a nice Christmas or birthday present. Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hat w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. Smoky Mountain Base battery quartz wall Clocks - \$15.00.

(Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mt. Base)



SMB TREASURERS REPORT - JIM ROCK MM1(SS)



Treasurers Report:

On **April 17th**, we had a balance of \$ 3,200.93
As of **May 15th**, we have a balance of \$3,277.93





SMB Meeting Minutes



Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander



Date: April 17, 2025

Meeting called to Order by Marlin Helms at 1900 hours. David Pope presented the Invocation. The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the USSVI Creed. The COB and Base Treasurer led the tolling of the bell for the lost boats of April. The COB hosted members and guests introductions and to sign the attendance sheet. Attendees were 14 members & 4 guests/wives.

Meeting Minutes – The March meeting minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report – \$3,200.93 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion – None

Smoky Mountain Base Committees:

Newsletter– editor was not in attendance.

Library – Marlin Helms will put out an updated spreadsheet of all books.

Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell reported that he has new stuff please come and look.

Membership – Marline Helms reported nothing new..

Scouting - Marlin Helms reported no new contacts currently..

Webmaster – Marlin Helms - We may have a new webmaster/media coordinator candidate..

Social Committees - Andy Armbrust - Picnic is scheduled for May 17,2025 ,at Concord Yacht Club. The picnic starts at 11am; meal at 12 noon, & end at 4:30pm. Eight dollars a person and bring a dish.

Base COB– Terry McBride talked about the progress with the Challenge Coin “Nuc, I am Your Father”. Some uncertainty of the price due to pending tariffs.

Old business – Ernie Ball stated the current nominations for annual election of officers.

Commander Nomination Marline Helms

Vice Commander Nomination Bob Childs

Base Secretary Nomination Ernie Ball

Base Treasurer Nomination Jim Rock

No other nominations were presented by members attending. Elections will be held in May.

New Business - Ray Smith, Oak Ridge Historian, made a presentation about the story “Critical Mass”. about the surrendered German U-Boat U-234 carrying German Uranium Oxide and German war technology to the Japanese.

Good of the order - 50/50 Raffle - Money collected \$47.00

Next Meeting; 1900 hrs, Thursday, May 15, 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.

Ernie Ball—SMB Secretary



SMB Meeting Minutes



Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander

Date: May 15, 2025



Meeting called to Order by Marlin Helms at 1907 hours. David Pope presented the Invocation. The Marline Helms led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Jim Rock read the USSVI Creed. The Ernie Ball and Bob Childs led the tolling of the bell for the lost boats of May. The COB hosted members and guests introductions and signing of the attendance sheet. Attendees were 8 members & 8 guests/wives.

Meeting Minutes – The April meeting minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report – \$3,277.93 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion – None

Smoky Mountain Base Committees:

Newsletter– editor was not in attendance.

Library – Marlin Helms had no updates..

Storekeeper – Dick Mitchell was not in attendance.

Membership – Marline Helms reported nothing new..

Scouting - Marlin Helms reported no new contacts currently..

Webmaster – Marlin Helms - We may have a new webmaster/media coordinator candidate..

Social Committees - Andy Armbrust - Picnic is scheduled for May 17,2025 ,at Concord Yacht Club. The picnic starts at 11am; meal at 12 noon, & end at 4:30pm. Eight dollars a person and bring a dish.

Base COB– Terry McBride was not in attendance. Marline Helms announced that the “Nuc, I am Your Father” challenge coins have been ordered.

Old business – Ernie Ball conducted the annual election of officers.

Commander Nomination Marline Helms

Vice Commander Nomination Bob Childs

Base Secretary Nomination Ernie Ball

Base Treasurer Nomination Jim Rock

After the elections, the base officers were officially sworn in.

New Business - Guest Speaker Matt Mullins from the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) in Oak Ridge, TN talked about the various programs held at the museum and the current status of a submarine sail being brought to Oak Ridge's A. K. Bissell Park.

Good of the order - 50/50 Raffle - No raffle held due to low attendance.

Next Meeting; 1900 hrs, Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Mimi's Café, 10945 Parkside Drive in Knoxville, TN.

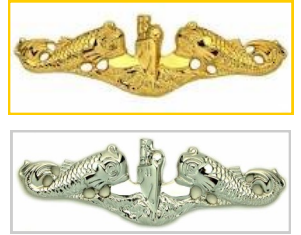
Motion to adjourn: was made and seconded at 201830rs. Motion was accepted unanimously.

Ernie Ball—SMB Secretary



Lost Boats of May

Pre WW-II Lost Boats



USS SQUALUS (SS-192) - 23 May 1939



26 MEN LOST

The USS SQUALUS sank during a test dive off Portsmouth New Hampshire on 23 May 1939. 26 men drowned, 33 were rescued using a McCann rescue chamber. Squalus was raised on 13 September 1939, and recommissioned as the SAILFISH. It was subsequently sold for scrap in June of 1948.

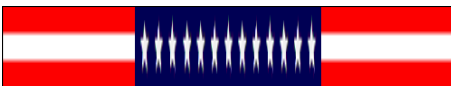
(Also see pg.12 for additional salvage operation information.)

USS O-9 (SS-70) - 20 June 1941

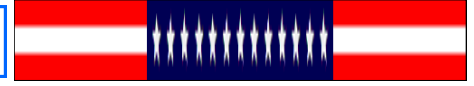


34 MEN LOST

USS O-9 was Lost on 20 June 1941 when it floundered and sank during deep submergence testing off the Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth New Hampshire. It was later located by side scan sonar in September of 1997.



WW-II Lost Boats



USS LAGARTO (SS-371) - 4 May 1945



88 MEN LOST

On April 12, 1945, with Commander Frank D. Latta on the bridge, Lagarto departed the submarine base at Subic Bay for her second and final war patrol. She had been ordered to patrol in the South China Sea. In late April she was directed to move to the outer part of the Gulf of Siam, where she would team up with USS Baya (SS-318) to conduct a coordinated patrol. On May 2, 1945, once on station in their new area, Baya sent Lagarto a contact report on a convoy consisting of one tanker, one auxiliary, and two destroyers. Lagarto later reported being in contact with the convoy, and began positioning for an attack with Baya. Later that night Baya reported she had attempted an attack on the convoy, but was driven off by gunfire from the enemy escorts. Early on the morning of May 3, 1945, Lagarto and Baya met to discuss attack plans. A strategy was agreed upon, and the submarines continued the convoy chase. The two submarines exchanged contact reports during the day. Baya attempted a midnight attack, but was again driven off by the alert IJN escorts. On May 4, 1945, Baya tried to contact Lagarto, but received no reply. Lagarto was never heard from again. The Lagarto received one battle star for her World War II service.





Lost Boats of June



USS HERRING (SS-233) - 1 June 1944



84 MEN LOST

The *Herring's* career is unique because she served in two theaters during World War II. Her first four war patrols were in the Atlantic. On July 26, 1943, the *Herring* arrived at New London from the United Kingdom, pursuant to her transfer from ComSubLant to ComSubPac. She left New London for the Panama Canal on August 9, 1943, arriving at Hunter's Point naval dry-docks for an overhaul on September 1, 1943. She departed San Francisco on October 29, 1943, and arrived at Pearl Harbor on November 2, 1943. The *Herring* completed her sixth and seventh war patrols out of Pearl Harbor between November 1943 and May 1944. On May 16, 1944, the *Herring*, captained by Lieutenant Commander David Zabriskie, Jr., departed Pearl Harbor on her eighth and final war patrol. On May 21, 1944, she topped off her fuel at Midway Island, and then headed for her assigned patrol area in the Kurile Islands. On May 31, 1944, she kept a rendezvous with the USS *Barb* (SS-220) to coordinate patrol strategy. This would prove to be the last contact anyone would have with the *Herring*. A few hours after parting ways, the *Barb* detected and began approaching an enemy convoy. Then she heard a distant depth-charge barrage and assumed the *Herring* had attacked the same convoy and was being counterattacked. Later, the *Barb* fished an enemy sailor out of the water who said the *Herring* had sunk an escort vessel (the frigate *Ishigaki*) from the convoy the *Barb* was tracking. The *Barb* eventually tracked, torpedoed, and sank two of the fleeing vessels - the *Koto Maru*, a small freighter, and the *Madras Maru*, a passenger-cargo man. The *Herring* had destroyed the third merchant, the freighter *Hokuyo Maru*.

The *Herring* failed to acknowledge receipt of orders dispatched to the *Barb* and her by ComSubPac on June 4, 1944, directing them to stay clear of a restricted area during the Marianas Campaign. The details of her loss did not become known until after Japan's surrender. Japanese reports obtained after the war revealed that the *Herring* was sunk on June 1, 1944, two kilometers south of Point Tagan on Matsuwa To Island in the Kuriles, after sinking two merchant ships at anchor close to shore at Matsuwa To with torpedoes at 0742 hours. The report stated the surfaced submarine appeared to have been damaged from running aground off Cape Tagan. In a counterattack made at 0756 hours, shore batteries scored two direct hits on the *Herring's* conning tower, and the gallant submarine went down with all hands. The Japanese report stated the sinking brought bubbles and foam to the surface; later a fifteen-mile long heavy oil slick covered the surface. The *Herring* was the only U.S. submarine to be sunk by a shore battery during the war.

The *Herring* received five battle stars for her service in World War II.





Lost Boats of June



USS GOLET (SS-361) - June 14, 1944

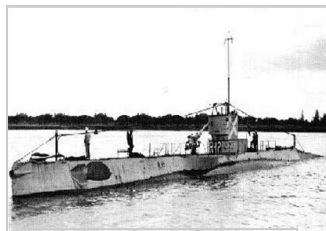


82 MEN LOST

The Manitowoc-built *Golet*, captained by Lieutenant Commander James S. Clark, left Midway Island on May 28, 1944, on her second and final war patrol.

The *Golet* was probably depth charged and sunk on June 14, 1944, off the north-eastern coast of Honshu, at the geographic position 41° 4' 0.000" N, 141° 30' 0.000" E, by Japanese naval aircraft, a patrol boat, and an auxiliary submarine chaser. The *Golet* had unsuccessfully attacked a cargo vessel on that date. The enemy air and surface units then pursued the *Golet* to an area northeast of Hakuoto Lighthouse. In late 1942 the Japanese armed merchant cruiser *Bangkok Maru* had laid a field of 200 Type 93 mines in that area. On June 18, 1944, the patrol boat discovered an oil slick two kilometers long and 100 meters wide there. For the next nine hours the surface vessels and the aircraft dropped depth charges on that spot. More oil continued to rise to the surface. The enemy concluded they had attacked and sunk a submarine previously damaged by a mine.

USS R-12 (SS-89) - 18 June 1943



42 MEN LOST

Only two United States submarines were lost in the Atlantic during World War II, both in 1943: *R-12* and *USS Dorado* (SS-248).

On June 12, 1943, *R-12*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward E. Shelby, got underway from Key West, Florida to conduct a torpedo practice approach. As she completed preparations to dive, her forward battery compartment began to flood. The sea began rushing in and *R-12* sank within fifteen seconds in 600 feet of water. Two officers and three enlisted men, who were on the bridge, were the only survivors. The men lost included four U. S. Navy officers, thirty-six U. S. Navy enlisted men, and two Brazilian observers. It was the opinion of a Court of Inquiry that the exact cause for the loss of *R-12* was unknown, but was probably due to rapid flooding of the forward part of the ship through a torpedo tube.

USS BONEFISH (SS-223) - 18 June 1945



85 MEN LOST

Japanese records reviewed after the war revealed that the 5,488-ton cargo ship *Koczan Maru* was torpedoed and sunk in Toyama Wan on June 19, 1945, and that an ensuing severe counterattack by Japanese escorts brought debris and a major oil slick to the water's surface. The *BONEFISH* was sunk in this action. She went down fighting with all hands.

At 0615, *BONEFISH* torpedoes KONZAN MARU at 37-13N, 137-18E. The Japanese 31st Escort Division is alerted immediately and CD-63, OKINAWA (F) and CD-207 arrive at the scene of sinking. OKINAWA makes sonar contact with a submerged submarine and drops a series of depth charges set to a depth of 295 to 390 feet. Next, CD-63 and CD-207 attack. CD-158 is also dispatched to the same location. After another attack, the sonar contact is lost. Pieces of cork and oil are sighted at 37-18N, 137-55E. *USS BONEFISH* is lost with all 85 hands. The *BONEFISH* earned Navy Unit Commendations for her first, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth war patrols, and seven battle stars for her World War II service.



Lost Boats of June



USS 2-27 (SS-132) - 19 June 1942



NO MEN LOST

On June 12, 1942, the **S-27** departed Dutch Harbor for her first and final war patrol with Lieutenant Herbert L. Jukes in command. She had been ordered to reconnoiter Constantine Harbor at Amchitka Island and to patrol the Kuluk Bay area at Adak Island. On June 16, 1942, she was told to deploy to Kiska Island. On June 18, 1942, she reconnoitered Constantine Harbor finding no signs of enemy activity. She then headed for Kiska Island as ordered. When **S-27** surfaced that night to re-charge her batteries, heavy fog caused her to drift five miles from her estimated position. On June 19, 1942, she grounded on rocks off St. Makarius Point on Amchitka Island. All attempts to right the boat were unsuccessful. The entire crew was safely transferred to Constantine Harbor on the 20th, and a camp was established using the buildings and heating equipment that had survived a Japanese bombing. The entire crew was eventually rescued by PBY aircraft. All equipment, classified material, and guns aboard **S-27** were destroyed. Only the submarine's flooded hulk remained.

POST WW-II Lost Boats

USS SCORPION (SSN-589) - 22 May 1968

99 MEN LOST



The USS *SCORPION* (SSN-589) sank May 22, 1968 in more than 10,000 feet of water about 400 miles southwest of the Azores. Its loss was not ascertainable; the most probable cause was inadvertent activation of torpedo battery resulting in a possible "hot run" of a torpedo and detonation off the Azores.

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment.

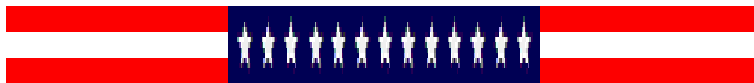
Shortly after midnight of 22 May 1968, she indicated her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Her last transmission ended at 0302 on that date.

Later information has determined the time of the hull Collapse as: 1842 UDT on 22 May, 1968 at a depth of 1525 fathoms.

At right – USS Scorpion information presented at the Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport, Washington.

(Photo by Bruce Eltzroth)





POST WW-II Lost Boats (cont.)



USS BARBEL (SS-580) - 1 May 1989



2 MEN LOST

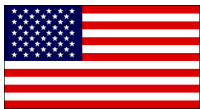


**Tolling Of
The Bell**



On 1 May 1989, while operating off Kyūshū, Japan, three submariners were washed overboard by heavy waves. One sailor was rescued; the two others drowned. Due to extensive damage to the boat from flooding during the incident, the decision was made to decommission the *Barbel*.

Photo By USN photo - <http://www.navsource.org/archives/08/08580b.htm>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=587220>



Salvaging of the Squalus

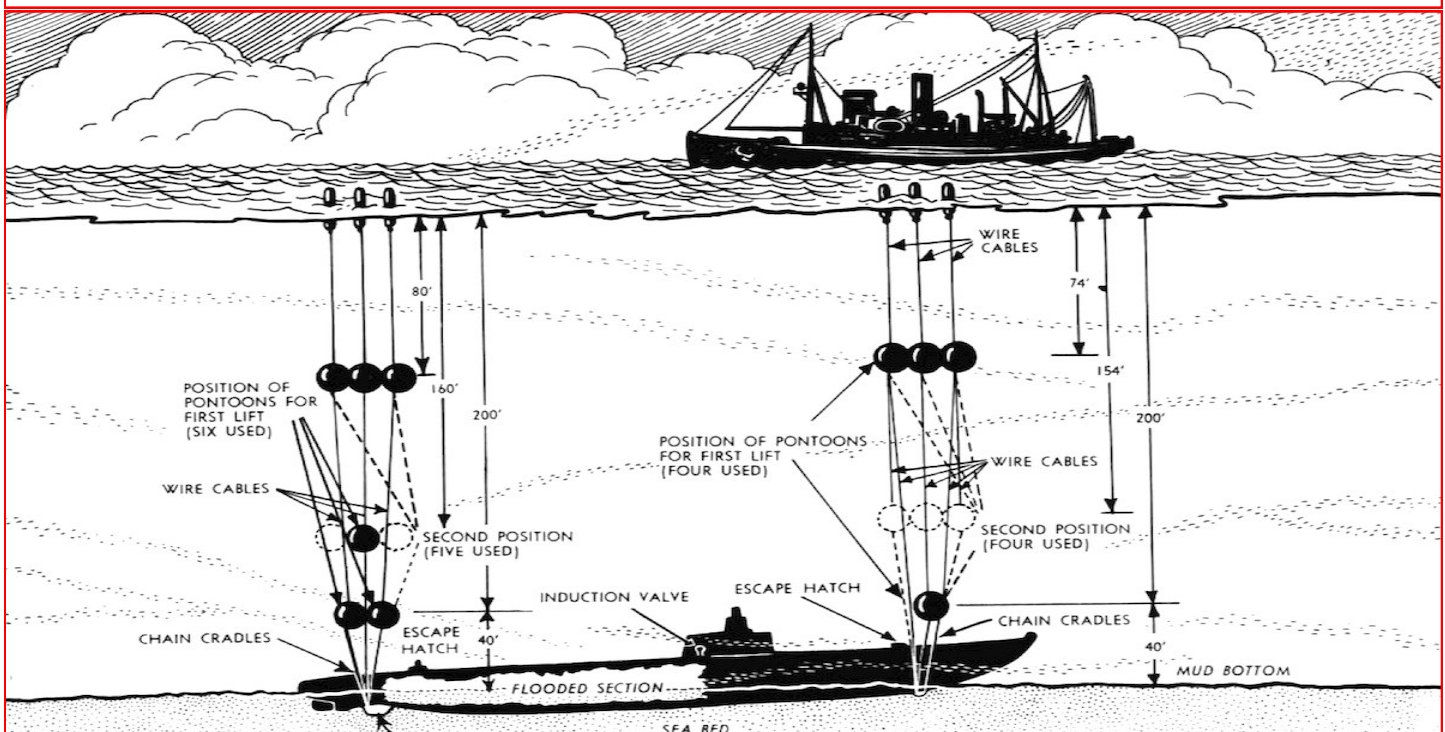
(Continued from page 8)



Below is an artist's rendition of the salvaging of the Squalus in 1939.

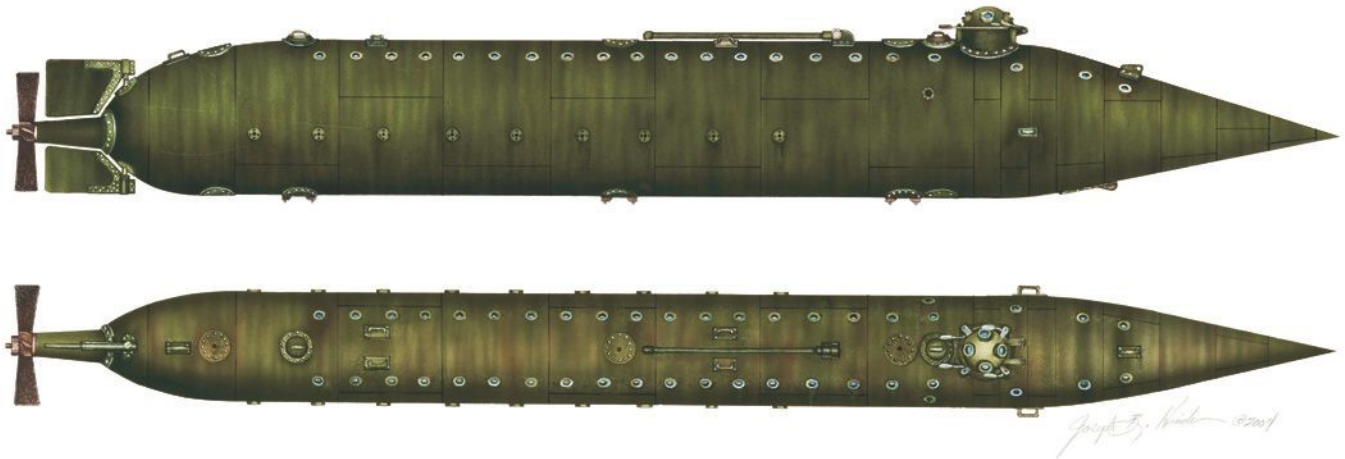
On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using a McCann rescue chamber. 26 men in the after compartments drowned. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish subsequently sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939.

Only one of the Sculpin crew survived after they had spent the rest of the war as slave laborers in Japan.





USS Alligator – The US Navy's First Submarine



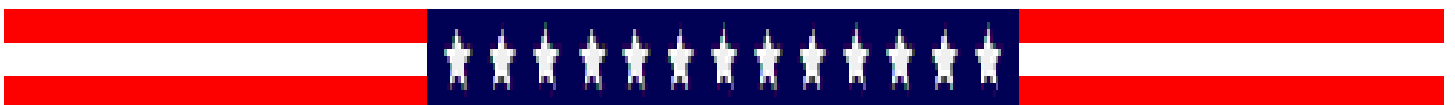
In the spring of 1861, we were embroiled in a civil war. The Confederacy attempted to succeed from the Union. The essential Union naval strategy was to blockade the southern ports preventing them from obtaining supplies from outside sources. The Confederacy attempted to destroy those blockades with iron-clad warships like the CSS Virginia. The union wooden warships were at a disadvantage against the iron-clads.

To counter the threat from the Confederate iron-clads, the Union Navy in the fall of 1861, commissioned the building of a submersible vessel to strike the iron-clads below the waterline which were only wooden. The firm of Neafie & Levy of Philadelphia, PA to do the design and build. The submersible was completed at a cost of \$14,000. The exact dimensions of the craft are unknown as all official records have been lost in history. The craft was initially roughly 30 feet long and 6 feet in beam. It was powered by 16 hand cranked paddles along its sides. It featured small glass windows on the upper surface, a personnel lock on the bottom, and two breathing tubes attached to floats with two manual air pumps. It was launched on May 1, 1862.

Soon thereafter, a local newspaper termed the new vessel "Alligator" due to its color and general appearance in the water. The moniker stuck and was adopted by the Union Navy. All official correspondence thereafter referred to the vessel as USS Alligator.

The craft was first employed on the James River, but the river was not deep enough to conceal the vessel. It was sent to the Washington Navy Yard for modifications and further testing. Proving to be impractical, the paddles were replaced with a hand crank propeller and the hull lengthened to roughly 47 feet to accommodate personnel in the new cranking positions. The modifications yielded speeds up to between 4 and 7 knots.

Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont took interest in the unique vessel and decided to use her in his plan to capture Charleston, South Carolina. On March 31, 1863, the USS Sumter with the unmanned Alligator in tow began the voyage to Port Royal, S.C. The two ships ran into rough weather near Cape Hatteras, N.C. and the Sumter was forced to disengage with the heavy Alligator. The Alligator was left adrift and eventually sank. The remains of the USS Alligator have never been located to this day.





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





Southeastern Submarine Museums and Museum Boat Tours



It is summer vacation time and as you make plans for that perfect vacation trip, please consider visiting one or more of the following submarine museums or tour boats.

St. Mary's Submarine Museum: 102 St. Mary's Street, St. Mary's, Georgia 31558

Galveston Naval Museum: 100 Seawolf Park Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77550

USS Cavalla (SS-244) Gato class

USS Tautog (SSN-639) Sturgeon class

National Museum of the Pacific War: 311 E. Austin Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

HA-19 (Japanese) Type "A" Koryoteki class

USS Pintado (SS-387) Balboa class

Warren Lasch Conservation Center: 1250 Supply Street, North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

CSS H.L. Hunley

Battleship Memorial Park: 2703 Battleship Parkway, Mobile, Alabama 36602

USS Drum (SS-228) Gato class

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum: 120 Riverfront Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

USS Razorback (SS-394) Balboa class

Historic Ships in Baltimore: 301 E. Pratt Street, Pier 1, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

USS Torsk (SS-423) Tench class

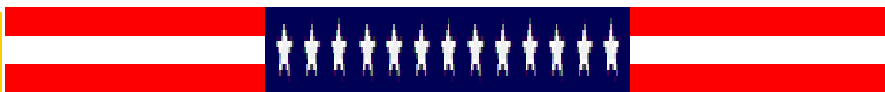
Louisiana State Museum: 660 N. Fourth Street, Baton, Rouge, Louisiana 70802

CSS Bayou St. John

Maritime Museum of Louisiana: 133 Mabel Drive, Madisonville, Louisiana 70447

CSS Pioneer

If you visit one or more of these museums and take some photos, please forward them to the base commander and we will include them for the enjoyment of others.





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 1st thru Dec 31st. 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. 1st)

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