



# Sculpin Base POD

## USSVI Class 4

### Newsletter of the Year-2023

1st Quarter 2024

*The Sculpin Base POD is a quarterly publication of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) Sculpin Base.*

#### USSVI CREED AND PURPOSE

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

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

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

#### Sculpin Base Officers

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[USSVI Website](#)

[Sculpin Base Website](#)

## Lost Submarines—First Quarter

### January

#### USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost sometime after January 5, 1944 with the loss of 76 men while on her 4th war patrol in the Yellow Sea off China due to unknown causes. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.



#### USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on January 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 men while on her 3rd war patrol southwest of New Britain. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Japanese destroyer who along with two other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sunk her by gun fire.



#### USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on January 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 men while on her 13th war patrol by a possible Japanese surface attack or mine somewhere near Okinawa.



#### USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on January 20, 1942 while on her 2nd war patrol when she ran aground on the Taka Bakang Reef in the Makassar Strait, east of Borneo and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch launch boat after she was scuttled.



#### USS S-26 (SS-131)

Lost on January 24, 1942



with the loss of 46 men while on her 2nd war patrol in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light. She was rammed by the USS Sturdy (PC-460) and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge were the only survivors.

### February

#### USS Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on February 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 men while on her 4th war patrol during a Japanese air attack near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage.



#### USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on February 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 men on her 1st war patrol after receiving orders to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific.



#### USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on February 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 men while on her 3rd war patrol when she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane and surface craft off Rabaul in the Solomon Sea.



#### USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on February 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 men while on her 10th war patrol when she was attacked by Japanese air and surface craft off Okinawa.



## USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on February 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 men on her 11th war patrol during a Japanese surface attack southeast of Okinawa in the Philippine Sea.



## March

## USS Perch (SS-176)

Lost on March 3, 1942 with no immediate loss of life while on her 1st war patrol. After two severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by three Japanese destroyers, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 men taken prisoner, 6 men died as POWs, and 53 survived the war. Her wreckage has been located off the coast of Java.



## USS Grampus (SS-207)

Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 men while on her 6th war patrol. She was lost after engaging two Japanese Destroyers in Vella Gulf near the Solomon Islands.



## USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4) pulled her off the rocks on the morning of March 24th, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water.



## USS Triton (SS-201)

Lost on March 15, 1943 with



the loss of 74 men while on her 6th war patrol when she was sunk during a fight with three Japanese destroyers north of the Admiralty Islands, which are north of New Guinea.

## USS Kete (SS-369)

Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 men at the end of her 2nd war patrol between Okinawa and Midway, cause unknown. May have been sunk by a Japanese submarine that was subsequently lost.



## USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men after she foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu. Acid corrosion in the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. F-4 was the first commissioned U.S. submarine to be lost at sea. She was raised in August 1915.



## USS Tullibee (SS-284)

Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 men while on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes north of Palau. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.



## USS Trigger (SS-237)

Lost on March 28, 1945 with the loss of 89 men while on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft in the East China Sea.



## Tails from the Engineroom Upper Level

There was nothing more boring in engineering spaces than making 3 knots holes while on the mid-watch. As ERS, I could work on my quals for EWS (hey, I was bored sh\*tless), but occasionally that got old too. So, being the “sh\*t-stirrer” that I still am, I had to start something.

Sometimes it would be working with my ERUL to find creative ways to “douche” the ERLI watch. An easy task if he’s a NUB. Other times, douching the AMR2LL watch via the voice tube; for rigging the shower in the AMR2UL head. Water sports were okay, unless we had the E-div Chief for an EWS.

My M-Div Officer (a.k.a. Jersey Joe) was a good guy, but would always fall asleep. One time during Division training in the crews mess, he nodded off and his head fell to tray of sticky buns. He awoke as soon as his head hit, but still had a stray raisin stuck to his forehead.

Jersey Joe loved to read tech manuals. So after he was relieved by the mid-watch, he sat behind Maneuvering outside the starboard TG on the steps and was reading a tech manual. Yeah, he nodded off. We had someone who was studying go an get the COB’s polaroid and we started to take pictures. The best one was a shipmate shooting-the-moon over Jersey Joe’s shoulder.

Not sure how, but the moon shoot picture made it to the wardroom. I guess the Captain had some fun with Jersey Joe. Our Skipper was a good one to start some fun and keep the crew lively.

Strange thing happen on the mid watch. I checked on my machinery two watch once and he was hanging upside down in front of the Feedstation taking logs. - Moe(SS)

## The “POD” Piping Tab:

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Other BS scattered like first “Angles and Dangles” on the first sea-trials out of the yard.



The “Sculpin Base POD” is the

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Sculpin Base - United States Submarine Veterans.

### Newsletter Editor:

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Your Sea Stories and  
Input are always  
WELCOME!!

**Next Deadline is 4 May 2024**





## Base Commander— “Moe” Moses

Shipmates, as your District Commander I get to visit Bases in our district during their meetings. This is a great job as I can suggest and collect ideas to share with the other Bases. Very rewarding.

I recently travelled to Muskogee, OK to attend a meeting of the Batfish Base. I arrived in Muskogee the day before the meeting to visit the Batfish at the Muskogee War Memorial Park. I was able to talk to the Museum’s curator.

The Batfish was closed by order of FEMA. The flood of the Arkansas River in 2019 actually flooded the boat enough so when the water receded the boat was listing to the starboard at about 10 degrees back on her “saddle”.

Even worse, the owner of the property, the Port of Muskogee, needs the area to expand. Thus, the entire museum complex including the Batfish needs to move.

The good news is the some land downstream (and across the river) has been donated for the new complex. This effort will take some funding. The Base can’t do much to speed-up the process. There are too many bureaucrats involved. That means it will get done, but it will be awhile.

They have determined that the best way is to flood the area and float the boat with support barges on each side down the river about 3 miles. They still have torpedos, deck guns, and all the items in the museum. Also a new building and support complex.

Once everything is fully thought out, a major fundraising task is needed. Hopefully, the

USSVI and all our members can help preserve this monument.

USS Batfish earned nine battle stars for her World War II service in the Pacific. She sank 14 ships and damaged three others during her seven war patrols. Over a period of four days in February 1945, she sank three Japanese submarines. For this feat, the "sub killer" was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Her other WW II exploits included blasting a grounded destroyer, bombarding a Japanese village, and rescuing downed aviators.



### Can you host a meeting in your area?

Our area is large and to be fair to all members we agreed to have a “travelling base”. This means that we move our meeting to different cities and towns in our membership area.

Unlike other Veterans groups that might own a building, the USSVI does not own property (w/e of Groton). We meet at restaurants, VFW’s, American Legions, etc.. Membership is encouraged in these organizations. Can you host a meeting in your area? If so, let one of the Officers know.



## Base Vice Commander Ross Thomas

I spoke about "THE FIN PROJECT: FROM SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES" at a previous meeting. I saw it in Seattle, WA. The project was started by John T. Young, Professor of Sculpture at the University of Washington. The Original Title of his work was FROM SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES. There is a second site on the East coast in Miami's Pelican Harbor Park, North Bay Village.

Seattle got their Park in 1998: Seattle Fins: SSN 669 Seahorse, SSBN 641 Simon Bolivar, SSN 652 Puffer, SSN 615 Gato, SSBN 620 John Adams, SSN 595 Plunger, SSN 638 Whale, SSN 667 Bergall, SSN 673 Flying Fish, SSN 597 Tullibee, SSN 650 Pargo, and SSN 662 Gurnard.

Miami got theirs in 2002: Miami Fins: Sea Devil SSN 664, Pogy SSN 647, Sand Lance SSN 660, Pintado SSN 672, Trepang SSN 674, Billfish SSN 676, Archerfish SSN 678, Tunny SSN 682, Von Steuben SSBN 632, Sculpin SSN 590, and Cavalla SSN 684.

I am trying to get the layout of the Seattle Fins from my daughter, but she has been busy with work. As soon as I get it, I will Include it in a future column. - Ross



Warren G. Magnuson Park - Seattle, WA

Black whale fins appear to glide over a grassy area overlooking Lake Washington. However, upon closer inspection this large pod of Orca whales is actually a grouping of twenty-two decommissioned diving plane fins from 1960s U.S. Navy attack submarines installed as an artwork by artist John



Young. The fins, each weighing 10,000 pounds, are placed at various angles and heights effectively creating a dynamic sense of movement, turning the earth at Magnuson Park into a substitute body of water. The work is a testament not only to the power of eco-

logically sound practices but also a statement regarding the transformation of the implements of war into the beauty of art. Additionally, as the artist points out, the artwork "represents a significant amount of the national deficit being returned to the people for their enjoyment and appreciation." Gift to the city by the artist and the Swords into Plowshares Corporation, Max Gurvich, benefactor

### Some Definitions

ARBITRAITOR - A cook who leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

BERNADETTE - The act of torching a mortgage.

BURGLARIZE - What a crook sees through.

AVOIDABLE - What a bullfighter tries to do.

COUNTERFEITER - Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

LEFT BANK - What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.

HEROES - What a man in a boat does.

PARASITES - What you see from the Eiffel Tower.

PARADOX - Two physicians.

PHARMACIST - A helper on a farm.

RELIEF - What trees do in the spring.

RUBBERNECK - What you do to relax your wife.

SELFISH - What the owner of a seafood store does.

SUDAFED - Brought litigation against a government official.



## Base Secretary/Treasurer Bret Cortright

**Secretary:** The minutes of our last meeting will be coming via email in advance of our next meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> in Topeka.



For informational purposes, the USSVI National Office is moving its base of operations from Silverdale, Washington to Groton, Connecticut. The office will be pretty much closed through February if not longer. I will advise everyone should I hear anymore news regarding the move.

**Treasurer:** There has not been much activity regarding our bank account. The activity of membership renewals **has been it.** A **Treasurer's Report** will be forthcoming along with the previous meeting minutes.

**Membership:** While we have not obtained any new members since our last meeting. We have had a pretty decent response to membership renewals. As of this writing, only three members have not renewed and one of them advises it's on the way.



### February 10th Meeting

Will be held at

**Combat Air Museum**

**7016 SE Forbes Ave, Topeka**

**Lunch at Noon**

**Sandwich and chips (donation)**

**A head count is SUGGESTED, so we can purchase food. Please RSVP to Moe(SS) at donutdad53@gmail.com by the 8th.**

**Meeting starts at 1 PM**

**Bring a new member**

**Tour will be provided (\$5 fee)**

Do you have a place in mind for our May meeting? If so let one of the Base Officers (listed on the front page) know. We are always looking for a place to meet.

The 2024 Parade Schedule will be decide at the February meeting. Do you have input? Let someone know.



## Sculpin Base Chief of the Boat Dennis Mosebey



### Spray Ponder Story, S1W Prototype

It was time for the reactor startup. The Estimated Critical Position was complete and signed off. The pre critical checkoff, short form, was complete and signed off. Permission from Control was given to commence the reactor startup.

Per procedure the Reactor Operator latched Group 1 rods (4 of them) and withdrew them to 40 inches (top of the core). Group 2 rods were withdrawn to 40 inches (2 of them). Criticality was expected on Group 3, and it was but way outside the acceptable limits of the Estimated Critical Position. This is a problem. Control is informed and reactor is promptly shutdown. Control notifies Westinghouse Duty Call Management and the Duty Idaho Branch Office Naval Reactors representative.

Investigation shows group 2 rods were on the Hold Bus to which they had been transferred earlier, and hence all that had occurred was the Group 2 drive being pulled to 40 inches with no rods attached. Somehow the Reactor Operator had missed the fact the Group 2 rod bottom lights stayed illuminated during the rod withdrawal. This is a basic thing to verify. The EOOW had also not noticed this.

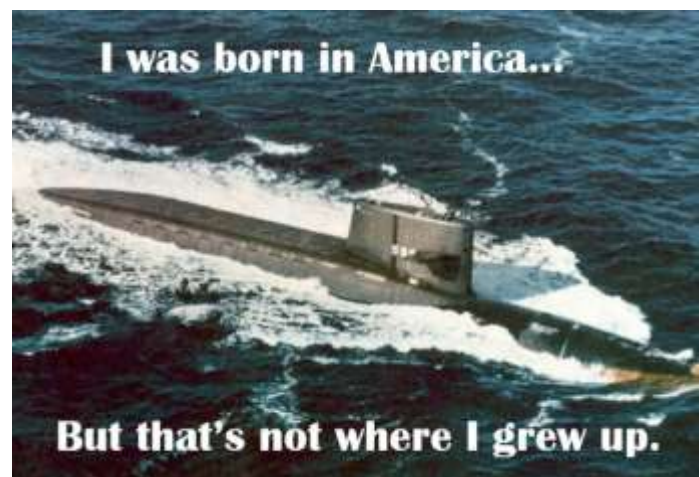
The outcome was the EOOW and all Reactor Operators were disqualified pending completion of investigation and remedials as required. This in turn resulted in other crew personnel having to come in and supplement the crew Reactor Operator duties, especially things like the Nuclear Instrument Trip Point and Calibration checks and other Reactor Control Division Maintenance.

My job was to come in and monitor these checks to ensure they were properly done. This of course was on my off days as I still had my own shift to cover.

Ultimately everyone is requalified, and things go back to normal, but it demonstrates the importance of never treating any reactor startup no matter how many you have done as routine. Small things like checking a light going out or coming on can make a significant difference.

**Editor's Note:** Like Dennis, many of us taught at the Navy Nuclear Prototypes. Some were "staff pickups", being smart enough to spend two years training before going to sea; others going to sea and returning later to teach. I think back now and think we learned everything from those before us. The Navy is not like a civilian training institution where teacher/instructors are hired and stay in the position for many years. The Navy is a perpetual training environment. Not just in nuke power, but in all areas. The same can be said in all of our Armed Services.

We all got our Dolphins in this manner. Everyone who got their "fish" got them from others who got theirs in the same manner. This is part of why we honor those who have gone on before us. Sometimes we cursed them for being too rough on us, but they made us what we are today.



## Base Chaplain Lamont "Monte" Schmidt



### Streets of gold; Revelation 21:21

There was a rich man and he wanted to have more riches than anyone in the world. So he stored up all his wealth because he thought when he retires he'll have all this money. So as the time went by he died. He had his bags all packed and is ready to go, including his GOLD. So he goes to heaven, with all this.

He gets to the Pearly Gates and St Peter tells him he can't bring anything with him. After some discussion the man finally wears St. Peter down. He lets him bring his gold in.

While all this is going on a couple of disciples are watching and they wonder why he is so intent on bringing his gold.

God has all the PAVEMENT he needs, the streets are fully paved with GOLD.

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." Revelation 21:21 (NASB 1977)

Jesus turned the world upside down. The first shall be last, He cares about an individual's heart more than social status.

When he is talking to the Samaritan woman at the well tells her that the day is now for men and women to worship God in truth and spirit. He is saying that a contrite spirit is what God wants not animal sacrifices. He is also telling her that rather than worshipping at a specific location we can worship God whenever and wherever we want.

Jesus was breaking many social customs at the well. First He was talking to a Samaritan, next she was a woman, not a relative, and she was an outcast because of her past. But that didn't matter to Him. His concern was for her soul. At the end of their discussion she had accepted Him as the Messiah that both the Samaritan and the Jews were anticipating.

*To thank you for  
your kindness and sympathy  
at a time when it was  
deeply appreciated*

*Thank you  
for the beautiful  
flowers for  
Faye's Service.  
The  
Schmidt  
Family*

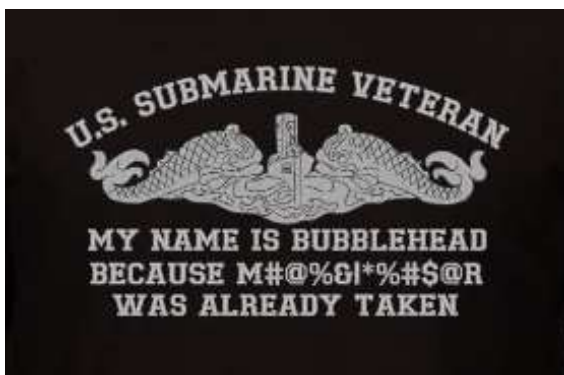


Sculpin Base Cartoons and Memes - supplied by Steve Alfrey



"Hey, it's been great talking to you, Mom, but I really have to go."

When you forgot your morning coffee and you wind up driving to the wrong place



## USSVI School

### Learn more about our organization

**Question:** How often do we elect National Officers? **Answer:** National Officers and Region Directors are elected by the Membership on even-numbered years, District Commanders are elected by their District Membership on odd-numbered years. The election is managed by the Election Master and election results are announced at the National Convention.

So this being an even-numbered year, there will be an election of National Officers. **Question:** What does that mean here in our Central District One? **Answer:** Since we are in the Central Region, we will be able to vote for a Central Regional Director, The National Commander, National Senior Vice Commander, National Junior Vice Commander, National Secretary, and National Treasurer.

**Question:** Why should I vote when the candidate is running un-opposed? **Answer:** Bottom line, to show your support. In the 2020 election only 11.6% of the eligible USSVI membership voted. I'd like to see 100% of our Sculpin Base voting this year.

I was elected in 2023 to be your Central District One Commander. I ran un-opposed. I got 11 votes out of about 350 CD1 members. Please vote. It takes two minutes and it's done on-line. VOTE and that includes local, state, and national elections also. It's not only your right, but you served to protect that right for others.

Other items often on the ballot are changes to the National Bylaws. Please read these changes over.

On these wintery days, have you ever gone to [www.ussubvets.org](http://www.ussubvets.org) and looked around? You may find a lost shipmate living or on the Eternal Patrol

list. It's your organization, run by the people you put in place. Ranks are not important; although we do have fun with each other on Rates.

**What do you know about the USSVI programs?** If you attend Base meetings, your Base might be here about some of them, but you need to look at that website and click on a tab or two. And if you have never attended a Base meeting, what is stopping you? I challenge (double-dog dare) each of you to attend at least one Base meeting or event (parades or whatever) this 2024 year.

**Read the Creed and the Base will succeed.** Our Creed says it all; from perpetuating the memory of shipmates we knew and the ones we did not, to gathering for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. As CD1 Commander, I attend base meetings throughout our District. **BTW, who is in our Central District One?** I'll answer that by having you go to the website listed; clicking on "Find a Base"; then on Districts.

Lastly, the new Awards manual will be out soon on the website. Any member may submit another member for various awards, excepting the Newsletter Award. Many of my CD1 have members deserving, but are never submitted. There are awards for Bases also. Take a look.





Welcome

New

Members

Bret reported there are no new members since the last issue. Understandable, because everyone I asked was in the "Holiday Mode". So I'll keep asking. Will you do the same?

## Fun Flag Facts

The American flag was made official in 1777. On June 14th, 1777, Congress officially recognized the Stars and Stripes as America's flag. The stars represent the number of states (today there are 50) and the stripes represent the 13 original colonies.

The American flag has a few nicknames: The Stars and Stripes, The Star-Spangled Banner, The Red, White, and Blue, and Old Glory.

A 17-year-old designed the American Flag as we know it today. In 1958, Student Robert Heft created the design for a school project, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower chose his design over 1,500 other submissions.

The colors of the flag have important meanings: red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

There have been 27 different versions of the U.S. flag. Each version has a different

number of stars. The final star, for Hawaii, was added in 1960.

There are six American flags on the moon. Five are standing, but Neil Armstrong's fell over. (They are all probably bleached white due to radiation from the sun.)

## Sculpin Base Memorial Bench Project

This project was started over a year ago, but the location in Gage Park in Topeka was tabled due to the restriction they impose on the bench design. To keep all the benches the same with engraving only on the rim of the bench they use only one area vendor.

Not getting all the information on the bench that we wanted, and the high cost of the bench, this project seemed to table itself (although, not "benched") We asked the general membership for other locations in our area, but no formal input was received. This will be topic at our next meeting. This meeting will be held at the Topeka Combat Air museum. Perhaps this might be a good place for a Memorial Submarine Bench. After all, numerous pilots were rescued by the submarine force. Just a thought. Please send your feedback to:

[donutdad53@gmail.com](mailto:donutdad53@gmail.com)



## Crew Member in the Spotlight - Al Anguish

This profile was requested by the BC of the Sculpin Base for publication in our newsletter. I was a Russian linguist who served on fast attack submarines during the Cold War. How and why I did this will be explained as you read on.

I was born in 1939 in Topeka, Kansas; the oldest of six children. We lived in a one-bedroom house with only a cold-water faucet and an outdoor toilet. Because we were a poor family with no television or newspaper, I had no idea what the outside world was like. I assumed everyone lived like I did. You get the picture so I'll get to the reason why I joined the Navy.

I graduated from high school in 1958 and enrolled at Washburn University intending to go to law school. That dream lasted one semester and I was broke. "Join the Navy": serve four years, get out and go back to school on the GI Bill seemed like the thing to do. I enlisted and had a contract that after boot camp I would be trained to be an electronic technician. However, events didn't happen as I expected. All recruits were tested to see if they had language capabilities and I scored high. As a result, I was told that I would be a communication technician providing I passed a security background check. I would be trained to send and receive Morse code and then sent to the Presidio of Monterey to learn a foreign language. Little did I know at that time this event would change my life forever. I had entered the realm of lies, secrecy, and the world of spydom.

After all my training and getting a top-secret cryptologic clearance, I was ordered to a foreign field station to perform voice intercepts of target nation's naval forces. In common language that meant I was a glorified spy

but didn't really exist. I was a spook (named by regular Navy men because they didn't know if I was CIA, FBI, or alien) and I was never to talk to anyone about my classified work. This included wives, family, NO ONE!!!!

Eventually I volunteered to serve on fast attack submarines during the Cold War. I was on diesel and nuclear boats. In addition, I flew on three different airborne platforms, served on carriers and other surface vessels. I am not entitled to wear dolphins. When I was on subs communication technicians were not allowed to wear them. I am qualified as an air-crewman and wear wings. I have numerous military ribbons but when, why, how, and where I earned them will never be disclosed.

Since retiring I have been giving unclassified presentations to universities, high schools, fraternal and civic organizations. It is amazing how little most Americans know about the Cold War. One question that I get asked a lot is how could it be a war? If you are interested to know the answer look up the USS Liberty, USS Pueblo, and North Korea shooting down one of our Navy recon planes. All three had my fellow linguists on board who were killed, captured, or injured in the line of duty. They are the real unsung heroes of the Cold War.

I now live in Hays, Kansas with my wife Tina of 37 years. I have four daughters from a previous marriage. It has been difficult go 66 years and never be able to talk about my experiences. But I would do all over again for the country I love and the flag honor.



to  
it  
I



## Cold War (1945–1991)

Supplied by Al and Tina Anguish

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Submarines_in_the_United_States_Navy)

[Submarines in the United States Navy](#)

After WWII, things continued along much the same path until the early 1950s. Then, a revolution that was to forever change the nature of the submarine arm occurred. That revolution was USS Nautilus (SSN-571).



USS Nautilus during her initial sea trials, 20 January 1955.

The Nautilus was the first nuclear-powered submarine. Nautilus put to sea for the first time on 17 January 1955, transmitting the historic message, "Under way on nuclear power." [14] Up until that point, submarines had been torpedo boats tied to the surface by the need to charge their batteries using diesel engines relatively often. The nuclear power plant of the Nautilus meant that the boat could stay underwater for literally months at a time, the only operational limit being the amount of food that the boat could carry.

With resupply by mini subs, even this could be overcome. [15] The final limits would be for replacing equipment that wears out, the fatigue limit of the hull, and crew morale. Strategic deterrence

Another revolution in submarine warfare came with USS George Washington (SSBN-598). [14] Nuclear-powered like Nautilus, the George Washington added strategic ballistic missiles making the nuclear triad. Earli-

er Regulus missile submarines were diesel powered. Their cruise missiles required the boat to surface in order to fire and were vulnerable to air defenses in an era when there were no anti-ballistic missiles.



Montage of the launch of a Trident C4 SLBM and the paths of its reentry vehicles.

George Washington's missiles could be fired while the boat was submerged, meaning that it was far less likely to be detected before firing. The nuclear power of the boat also meant that, like Nautilus, George Washington's patrol length was limited only by the amount of food the boat could carry. Ballistic missile submarines, carrying Polaris missiles, eventually superseded all other strategic nuclear systems in the Navy. Deterrent patrols continue to this day, although now with Ohio-class submarines and Trident II missiles. The United States lost two nuclear submarines during the Cold War: USS Thresher due to equipment failure during a test dive while at its operational limit, and USS Scorpion due to unknown causes.



## The Mighty Mud Ants of Nuclear Power School

By Dr. Harold (Tad) Laurence

Did you ever play on Navy sports teams when you were on active duty? I played on a lot of teams and I remember one particular team I played for in the 1980s. I was assigned to the Navy Nuclear Power School (NNPS) as the Director of the Reactor Plant Technology (RPT) Division. I led a division of around 25 Chiefs and Officers. We taught newly enlisted Sailors the ins and outs of mechanical systems, electrical systems and nuclear power. Although I would not credit myself as a gifted athlete, I did enjoy participating on various sports teams organized for competitions among the commands on the Orlando Naval Base. There were annual base-wide tournaments in a variety of team sports including softball, soccer, and basketball. The Chiefs in my division were always excited to sign up players to represent the NNPS in these competitions. As the token officer I was often included on the teams and did my best to keep up with some very talented athletes.

One year the division formed a softball team for the upcoming season. Shirts were ordered with the NNPS crest on the front. The crest included our team name. On the shirt back was a creative nickname for each player that was in the typical style of submariners (and by that, I mean the name on your shirt was usually belittling or sarcastic and you just had to live with it). The team name chosen for the season was the "NNPS MUTANTS." The name was selected as a sardonic gesture to have some fun with the public representation of nuclear power and its potential side effects. The crest made for the shirts was a black and white variant of the NNPS crest and looked something like this with "MUTANTS" along

the bottom of the crest:

The Chiefs thought the name MUTANTS was hilarious; however, the Commandant of NNPS was not amused.

The word



came

down the chain of command that RPT Division had gone too far this time. We would not be allowed to enter the base softball tournament under the name MUTANTS. It was thought that the non-nuclear trained civilians and military on the base, who may already have fears about nuclear power, would be terrified to see a Nuclear Power School team named MUTANTS. It might confirm their worst fears about the supposedly dangerous and scary nature of nuclear radiation. This presented a significant problem since all the shirts had already arrived and had been distributed to the team. Naturally, I was the one who had to present the bad news to the division which made me instantly unpopular. The Chiefs gathered up the shirts from the team and began to work the problem. It was too late to order new shirts, and anyway, who would want to? These were beautiful white shirts with red collar piping and red half-sleeves. Very nasty. So how could we keep the shirts and simultaneously make the Commandant happy?

The Chiefs proposed to me a creative solution. Change the team name, but don't change the shirts. They proposed the following alteration for each shirt. Change the first "T" into a "D" by using a black paint marker on every shirt. When carefully done we changed the team name from



"MUTANTS" to "MUD - ANTS." And that is the story of how I played a softball tournament at the Orlando Naval Base as the proud senior officer in charge of the RPT Division "MUD-ANTS!"



## Lifeguard League

Supplied by Al and Tina Anguish

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Submarines_in_the_United_States_Navy)

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**Editor's Note:** This is fitting article since this month's meeting is at the Combat Air Museum. I know they have a display with this info. Hope to see you there.



Harder rescuing a pilot from USS Bunker Hill at Woleai, 1944.

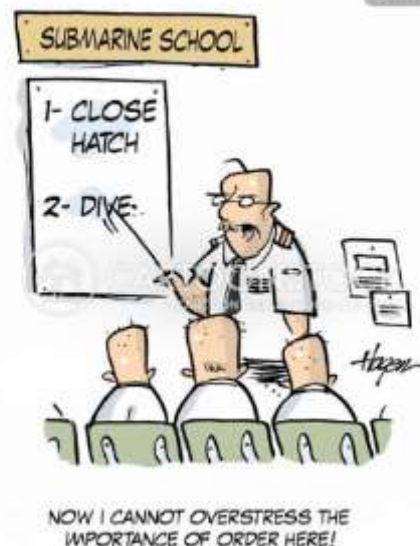
In addition to their commerce raiding role, submarines also proved valuable in air-sea rescue. While in command of United States Navy aircraft carrier task force 501, Rear Admiral Charles Alan Pownall proposed to Admiral Charles A. Lockwood (ComSubPac) that submarines be stationed near targeted islands during aerial attacks. In what became known as the "Lifeboat League", pilots were informed that they could ditch their damaged planes near these submarines (or bail out nearby) and be rescued by them. Eventually the rescue of downed American pilots became the second most important submarine mission after the destruction of Japanese shipping. Initially, the rescue submarines met several obstacles, most important of which was the lack of communication between the submarines and aircraft in the area; this led to several Lifeguard League submarines being bombed or strafed, possibly including the sinking of USS Seawolf (SS-197) and the USS Dora-do (SS-248) by American planes.

U.S. Airmen rescued by Submarines		
Year	Days on Life-guard Station	# of Rescues
1943	64	7
1944	469	117
1945	2739	380
Total	3272	504

in

As fighting the Pacific theater intensified and broadened in geographic

scope, the eventual creation of Standing Operating Procedure (SOP TWO) led to several improvements such as the assignment of nearby submarines before air attacks, and the institution of reference points to allow pilots to report their location in the clear. After the capture of the Marianas, targets such as Tokyo, about 1,500 miles north of the Marianas, were brought within range of B-29 attacks and Lifeguard League submarines began rescue operations along their flight paths. Submarine lifeguards spent a combined 3,272 days on rescue duty and rescued 502 men. Famous examples include the rescue of 22 airmen by the USS Tang (SS-306), and the rescue of future U.S. President George H. W. Bush by the USS Finback(SS-230).



## GEDUNK from the Net

The Mystery and Loss of Submarine USS Dorado (lengthy, but good)

[Article](#)

Purple Heart Petition for Submarine USS Dorado

[Article](#)

Submarines Are WAY Scariier Than You Think...Here's Why

[Article](#)

The Deadly Submarine Battles Of The Cold War

[Article](#)

North Korea's New Missile Submarine: Hero Kim Gun-ok

[Article](#)

Russia Shocks US with Dangerous New Nuclear Submarine

[Article](#)

'This Secret US Submarine Shocked the Yemeni Houthis

[Article](#)

The 5 Types of Chiefs in the Navy (LOL)

[Article](#)

CO of Guided-Missile Sub USS Georgia Removed From Command

[Article](#)

U.S. Hits Houthi Targets in Yemen with Strike Fighters, Warships and Submarines

[Article](#)

Navy Receives First of Six Prototype Extra Large Orca Underwater Drones

[Article](#)

Navy to Award Long-Delayed Overhaul Contract for USS Boise in 2024

[Article](#)

Challenge Coins

[Article](#)

Hey! Visit the Sculpin Base Website

[Article](#)

Got Links? Please share with our Sculpin Base Shipmates!

“I am opposed to the theory of doing wrong that good may come of it. I hold the belief that you must act right whatever the consequences.” - Robert E. Lee (letter to Curtis Lee, 22 June 1851)





Lastly, this newsletter will honor those members and non-members from our Base and our Sister Bases, Dorado and Topeka-Jefferson City; who wore Dolphins by listing those who went on Eternal Patrol. We learned much of what we know of submarines from those who were ahead of us and guided us. We did the same. The Silent Service is a proud service. We know the sacrifices that we made and those made by our past shipmates, those we taught, and those they taught.



**David Douglas Hutchison , MOMM2(SS)**



Dave was a beloved member of the Topeka-Jefferson City Base. Dave qualified on the USS Guardfish (SS-217) in 1944. Dave was a M)MM2(SS) when he left the Navy.



**Dan Redington , ET3(SS)**



Qualified in submarines on the USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) in 1992, Dan was a ET3(SS) when he left the Navy. Dan was also a TJC member.



**John Laman Peddicord , BKRSN(SS)**



Jack was also a beloved TJC member and was very active in the Base. Jack qualified in submarines on the USS Carp (SS-338) in 1945 and was a BKRSN(SS) when he left the Navy.

