



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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."

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Editor's Corner

Our very capable Membership Gal, Marilyn Senior, reported recently that she'd received a recognition Challenge Coin from the National USSVI Commander. Congrats, girl! She also got her USSVI Lifetime Membership card after a significant wait. All of you fellow Lifetime Members still awaiting your own cards, please hang in there! We understand they'll be coming soon. Meanwhile, you can find *me* in the Yeoman's Shack as always.—Jeff

Which Country Has the Most Submarines in Their Military?

(Reproduced from the SlashGear website - Published December 23, 2024)

by Daniel Meagher



Surfaced attack submarine at sunset.

Determining the country with the most submarines in its military arsenal is a bit tricky. Nations often keep their military statistics classified, so exact numbers aren't always available. However, large vessels are impossible to conceal forever, so the estimates of independent sources can prove fairly accurate—even when the country itself isn't forthcoming.

It's also important to recognize that the total number of submarines possessed by a country isn't a great indication of that country's submarine strength. Not all submarines are built the same. If a country wanted to collect World War I relics, they could theoretically possess the most submarines. For example, Russia reportedly has sixty-four submarines in total, but only around two-thirds are nuclear powered. Meanwhile, the USA has seventy-one submarines, all of which are nuclear powered.

This isn't to say that diesel-powered submarines are useless. While the most advanced modern subs are largely nuclear powered, diesel-powered submarines still have their advantages. Furthermore, older vessels are often outfitted with new technologies to modernize them, giving them superior power compared to their original, antiquated designs.

(continued on page 12)

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From the Wardroom...



Dave Vanderveen,
Base Commander

Shipmates and Ladies,

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the recent Western Region Roundup hosted by our base was a success. RMS *Queen Mary* is a 90+ year old ship whose boilers have been removed due to asbestos. The small auxiliary boiler added for ship operation struggles to heat the ship when temperatures are low. Because the ship operates as a hotel now, the big entry doors at the main deck level are always open, causing a zephyr to blow through much of the ship's interior. It was *cold* the first couple of days and nights! Still, we had a good, productive event and most of us who attended enjoyed ourselves. If you were there, thank you for participating. If you missed it, I hope you can attend the 2026 Roundup in Las Vegas.

Charlie McCarthy presented a program at the Roundup on the "41 for Freedom," our original fleet of ballistic missile-carrying submarines—informative, even for Boomer sailors. Also, Rich Abele presented his family's successful search for USS *Grunion*, whose CO was Mannert (Jim) Abele. Rich had presented this material to our base in 2012, and it's still gripping these many years later.

Captain Jessica OBrien, CO at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, addressed the group after lunch on the first day, and among other remarks, she informed us she'll pull together a group of volunteers within her command and will work with them herself to install the remaining bricks we have for the WWII Submarine Memorial. I've provided them with our drawings and work scope, and we will document the work so we can properly thank the Captain and her staff of volunteers.

During our March meetings, we decided we'll arrange more monthly meetings in the northern and eastern parts of the Los Angeles Basin to make it easier for members in those areas to attend. When we met aboard the Weapons Station, it made sense for folks to travel to the beach, but we no longer have that anchor. So, it makes sense now to mix it up a little. You'll see on page 5 that our April meeting will be held at Clearman's Boat-house in San Gabriel. More to come via email.

As always, please allow your own good sense to guide you in protecting your health and safety. We don't want to lose you!

Dave

Dave Vanderveen, Commander
Los Angeles-Pasadena Base



Minutes of March 15, 2025 General Meeting



March General Meeting Sailing List

Ed Barwick
 Sue Bolton
 Dennis Bott
 Darin Detwiler
 Ken Dorn
 Dave Geske
 Ron Jones
 Laurie Mabry
 and husband Harry
 Bill Moak
 Greg Paulson
 David Semrau
 Mike Swanson
 Ray Teare
 Dave Vanderveen
 Dennis Walsh
 Stan Westrick
 Mike "Willie" Williamson



Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called the General Meeting of the L.A.-Pasadena Base to order at the Radiant Brewery in Anaheim, CA at 1111 hours. Dave then led the Pledge of Allegiance, following that with a request for a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates.

It was noted that this month's Executive Board meeting had been held online earlier in the week. (See E-Board Meeting Minutes on page 18.)

Treasurer's Report:

Dave explained that the Treasurer's Report had been reviewed, approved and accepted into the base record by the E-Board, and to comply with our By-Laws asked Treasurer Sue Bolton to present the report to the General Members attending today. *(The report appears in the E-Board Meeting Minutes on page 18 in this issue.—ed.)*

Membership Update:

Darin shared the following information from a report emailed earlier by Marilyn Senior:

As of March 14, 2025, we have 99 total members: 66 Holland Club Members, 67 USSVI Life Members, and 64 Base Life Members. We all need to put on our recruiting hats: we're losing too many long-term members and need more submarine veterans joining our base. We'll work to retrieve our business cards to help with recruiting.

There's still no word from Erik Andersen regarding a memorial service at Riverside Veterans Cemetery for John Allan Andersen (departed on Eternal Patrol on November 10, 2024).

Sam Aboulafia has reported that our thoughts and prayers for him have been answered: he's currently in remission. A recent PET scan showed no lymphoma cancer in his system.

Memorial Update:

Dennis Bott reported reaching out to various entities in preparation for this year's ceremony. Sanitary SoCal Industries (Porta-Potties) is preparing a bid: their cost has increased from \$290 and may be as high as \$500! The Seal Beach Police Department has been notified of our usual plans.

The Memorial Foundation bill from the Charitable Foundation was discussed.

The Memorial Bricks Project was discussed. The Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station has agreed to install our thirty inscribed bricks, ideally before Memorial Day. The board discussed asking Ron Jones to video the work of the brick project if allowed.

(concluded on next page)



Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your thoughts—better yet, get in touch!

- **Sam Aboulafia** is thrilled to announce he's in remission from his cancer. He welcomes contact at:
cell: 702-274-7256
email: Aboulafiasam@gmail.com

c/o C.W. Young Veterans Hospital
10000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg. 71 CLC East
Bay Pines, Florida 33744-8200

- **Mike Cailor**, member and former Base Commander, remains on dialysis three days a week. He'd love some buddy contact:
2514 Elm Street
Seffner, FL 33584-5809
cell: 813-585-7615
email: rmcgfish@gmail.com

**Ad Still Here by
Popular Demand!**



Just the Place for Killer MidRats!

Hey, know anyone on boats out of New London? Or, planning a visit to Groton yourself? Drop anchor at this local dive: **Wings'n'Pies** at 924 Route 12, just down the road from the Base's Main Gate. Your editor enjoys firsthand knowledge that the pizzas here are some of the tastiest and sloppiest around. Forget those extra napkins—just wipe your greasy fingers on your shirt and they'll think you've been hanging out with the A-Gang!

General Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Western Regional Roundup 2025 Debriefing:

Most report that the event was “pretty cool” (heating was needed). Leftover lapel pins will be brought to our April meeting. USSVI Area 51 Base will host the 2026 Western Regional Roundup at Sam's Town near Las Vegas. Ron Jones recorded video of some events from the Roundup. Admiral Brown, who spoke at the Roundup on Saturday night, discussed the Chinese Navy, and our Navy's lack of facilities for submarine building and repair (only two!), plus the work going on in Washington, D.C.

New Business:

Our April 19th meeting will be held at CLEARMAN'S GALLEY (a.k.a. “The Boat”) at 7215 N. Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA (see page 5). It's located near the intersection of Huntington Drive. (Darin secured the reservation later in the weekend after this meeting.) We have the outside patio area reserved for us (covered, quiet, really nice and can accommodate about fifty). This is a sports bar with a great restaurant—burgers, salads, chicken, etc.

The May meeting will be held at the Memorial site to begin prep for the ceremony there later that month.

Potential future meeting locations include the L.A. Country Fire Museum in Bellflower, and perhaps a location in Simi Valley (at or near the VFW Military History Museum).

The Good of the Order:

Regarding our base memorabilia: Books were donated to local libraries. Plaques went first to our own members, then to other bases, with some auctioned off at the Western Regional Roundup. Some items will now go to a museum in Texas (they'll pay shipping costs). Other items will go to the VFW Military History Museum in Simi Valley. Critical base property will be stored at the VFW Hall in Anaheim; commemorative items unique to our base will be kept too. Greg Paulson noted a large number of memorial posters remaining.

The 125th Anniversary Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on April 19th in Monterey, CA.

Our pending order of base stickers was discussed, and it was also noted that name badges can be ordered from University Trophy in Long Beach.

There was no 50/50 Raffle held this month.

There being no further business, Ray Teare motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dennis Bott and passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 1145 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI

April Meeting at Clearman's Galley!

April Meeting

Date: April 19, 2025

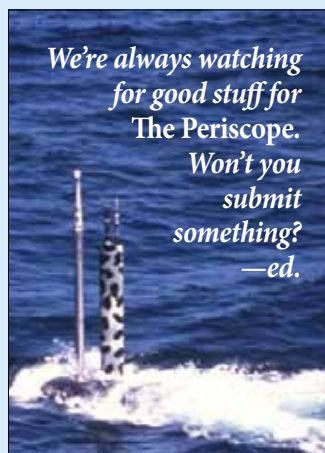
This month we convene our meeting at Clearman's Galley Restaurant, also known as their "Boathouse," in San Gabriel, address below. Recently remodeled, Clearman's offers great food & a fun atmosphere. Bring your appetite...and your wallet: your lunch is on you. :-)
It's off the 210 Freeway, just down from Huntington Drive. Sure hope to see you there!

Location:

Clearman's Galley Restaurant
7215 Rosemead Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Times:

- General Meeting: 11:00
- Self-Paid Lunch: Noonish
(E-Board mtg. online Thursday, April 17th from 6:00-6:45 pm)

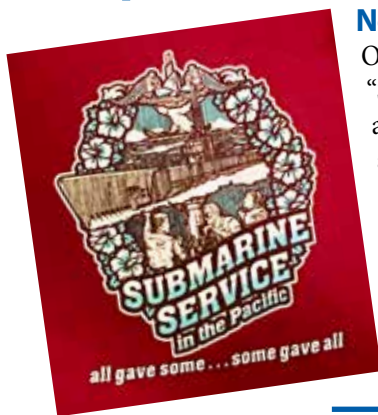


April Birthdays

We hereby extend the happiest of wishes to all our L.A.-Pasadena Base birthday celebrants!

Gary Krudwig 4/1
Tom Peratt 4/7
Laurie Ann Mabry..... 4/10
Ken Chunn 4/13
Ed Barwick 4/28
Anthony Bland..... 4/30

Ship's Store



New Reduced Price on T-Shirts!

Our ever-popular L.A.-Pasadena Base "Submarine Service" tees are once again selling like fresh whites after a fall down the pump room hatch! Now a mere **ten bucks** apiece, there's no reason not to have a closetful. Contact Bill Moak for yours, or just bring a few extra bucks to the next meeting, you skinflint!

2025 Calendars Still Available!

Order your calendar through Bill Moak or the National Storekeeper. See the ad elsewhere in this issue of *The Periscope*.



Get in touch with our base Storekeeper, Bill Moak, at golfnsurf46@aol.com for more information!



USSVI Logo Patch
(9¾ x 6¾)
\$11.00 ea.



L.A.-Pasadena Base Patch
(3¾ x 5)
\$5.00 ea.



Holland Club Member Patch (3x3)
\$6.00 ea.

LOS ANGELES - PASADENA BASE

2025 FLOWER FUND and BOOSTER CLUB

A special thank you to the following folks whose generous contributions this year have helped make our base activities and charitable functions possible:

- Bill Dillon • Bud Fox • Bob Schieve • Ken Dorn
- Scott Hultner • Willie Williamson • Ed Barwick
- Harold Staggs estate • Dave Vanderveen • Dennis Bott



Booster Club and Flower Fund donations are welcome in any amount and are often also popular with 50/50 Drawing winners at our base meetings. Contributions can be made in cash or by check payable to L.A.-Pasadena Base of USSVI. Checks may also be sent to Sue Bolton at 13561 Iowa Street, Westminster, CA 92683-2637. To ensure proper credit, be sure to indicate Booster Club or Flower Fund on your check. Thanks!

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE LOSSES ON ETERNAL PATROL

"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."

— Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN

APRIL TOLLING OF THE BOATS



USS PICKEREL (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 *Pickerel* went down off Honshu on her seventh war patrol. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area was known to contain numerous minefields. Seventy-four officers and men were lost aboard *Pickerel*.



USS SNOOK (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 *Snook* ranks tenth among American submarines in total Japanese tonnage destroyed and is tied for ninth in number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, probably at the hands of a Japanese submarine. Eighty-four officers and men went down with her.



USS THRESHER (SSN-593)

Lost April 10, 1963 *Thresher* was America's first nuclear submarine casualty and an especially tragic loss given that seventeen civilian technicians went down along with her crew of 112—the largest number ever lost aboard a single U.S. submarine. *Thresher*, a brand new boat, had been participating in deep-dive exercises. Fifteen minutes after reaching test depth, she informed USS *Skylark* she was having problems. *Skylark* heard noises like "air rushing into an air tank"—then silence. Rescue ship *Recovery* (ARS-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and internal insulation. Photos later provided by *Trieste* proved *Thresher* had broken up, taking all hands to their deaths at 1,400 fathoms some 220 miles east of Boston. A combination of design flaws and poor workmanship were determined to have caused the disaster, errors fully corrected in all subsequent U.S. submarines in a program called SUBSAFE.



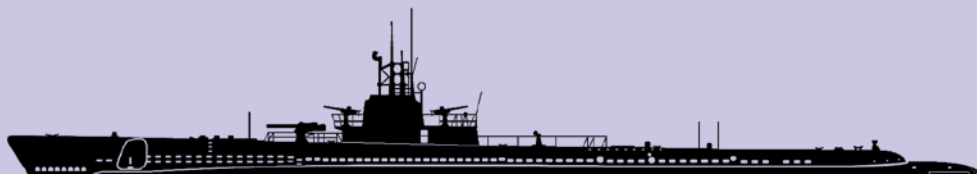
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)

Probably lost on April 18, 1944 southeast of Iwo Jima—but possibly lost instead on May 18, 1944, in a different attack on an unidentified boat heard by other American submarines in the area—USS *Gudgeon* went down with seventy-nine men aboard. A recipient of five Presidential Unit Citations, she was on her twelfth war patrol when she failed to return. *Gudgeon* was the first American submarine to sail out on a war patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. During that first patrol, she also became the first U.S. submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the Japanese submarine, *I-173*.



USS GRENADE (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life, *Grenadier* had been stalking a convoy during her sixth war patrol when she was spotted by a plane and dove. Passing 130 feet, she suffered severe damage from a bomb. Now stuck on the bottom at 270 feet, her crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. *Grenadier* later struggled to the surface, but was without propulsion and soon attacked by another plane, which she managed to shoot down. Once enemy ships arrived though, the CO was forced to abandon ship and scuttle the boat. Of *Grenadier*'s seventy-six crew members taken prisoner, seventy-two survived the war.



WE REMEMBER For those who gave their lives in defense of our country WE REMEMBER

France's Third *Barracuda*-Type SSN Submarine *Tourville* Arrives in Toulon

(Reproduced from the NavalNews website - Published November 29, 2024.)
A French Ministry of Defence press release – Translated by NavalNews



Third Barracuda-class SSN Tourville entering Toulon Naval Base. (Photo credit: Hervé Dermoune.)

The *Tourville* nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN), the third of six *Suffren*-class submarines, arrived at Toulon, her home port, on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. This marked a significant milestone in the Military Capability Verification (MCV) of the third submarine in the *Barracuda* program.

Following her first dive off Cherbourg in July, the program's government and industrial teams conducted a series of sea trials to ensure safe navigation and assess her technical and operational performance. These trials included:

- Static dives: Submerging without propulsion to evaluate the submarine's weight and stability, and to perform safety and operational tests on various systems.
- Surface tests: Assessing the submarine's maneuverabil-

ity and speed on the surface.

- Dive tests: Verify maneuverability at different depths and ensure the safety and functionality of critical installations, including the nuclear boiler room.
- Combat and communication systems tests: Evaluating the effectiveness of onboard systems under submerged conditions.

With a view toward admission to active service in 2025, the *Tourville* will begin a long-term operational deployment phase to confirm its full range of capabilities as part of a naval force. Toulon Naval Base will serve as the home port for the *Tourville*, which joins the four other SSNs operated by the Escadrille des sous-marins nucléaires d'attaque (or ESNA, the French SSN squadron). As the

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New French SSN Arrives at Base

(concluded from page 7)

third submarine in the *Barracuda* program, she represents a step toward the “all-*Suffren*” model. The current submarine fleet includes:

- Two *Rubis*-class SNAs (*Améthyste* and *Perle*, with the *Émeraude* recently decommissioned in Cherbourg)
- Three *Barracuda*-class SNAs (*Suffren*, *Duguay-Trouin*, and *Tourville*)

November 27 coincides with Submariner’s Day, instituted in 2003 to commemorate the five submarines, including the *Casabianca*, that escaped from the Toulon Naval Base on November 27, 1942, following the invasion of the free zone by Nazi troops.

Submarine Forces and the Strategic Oceanic Force

- France’s submarine force consists of 3,200 sailors operating a fleet of ten nuclear-powered submarines: Six SSNs and four ballistic missile submarines (SSBN).
- Each submarine is operated by two alternating crews

(Blue and Red).

- The job of a submariner is highly demanding, requiring high standards and great rigor on a daily basis.
- Since 1972, at least one SNLE has been continuously deployed at sea, ensuring France’s nuclear deterrence remains operational anywhere in the world’s oceans.
- SSNs are an essential component of the French armed forces. They are both combat vessels and instruments of power. The possession of SSNs gives the French Navy capabilities that support operational effectiveness (in terms of endurance, stealth, and performance).
- SSNs have four main missions: support for nuclear deterrence (by patrol the areas ahead of SSBN departures), protection of the carrier strike group (notably during aircraft carrier deployments), knowledge-anticipation, and intervention (deep strikes and deployment of special forces).

Submarines are a key capability of France’s defense.



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Silverdale, WA 98398-3870

Please indicate BSP and the name of the sponsored boat or organization in the memo field of your check

SUBMARINES IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

USS <i>Columbia</i> (SSN-771)	USS <i>Montana</i> (SSN-794)
USS <i>Connecticut</i> (SSN-22)	USS <i>North Dakota</i> (SSN-784)
USS <i>Delaware</i> (SSN-791)	USS <i>Kentucky Blue</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Greeneville</i> (SSN-772)	USS <i>Kentucky Gold</i> (SSBN-737)
USS <i>Helena</i> (SSN-725)	USS <i>Maine Blue</i> (SSBN-741)
USS <i>Hyman G. Rickover</i> (SSN-795)	

Questions?

Jack Messersmith
(928) 227-7753
or e-mail
MesserJ109@gmail.com

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Five Fastest Submarines in 2024: The World's Speediest Underwater Titans

Submarines have evolved to become faster, stealthier, and more maneuverable with each iteration. The five fastest submarines include the British Vanguard class, China's Shang class, Russia's Yasen-M class, and the U.S. Navy's Virginia and Seawolf classes.

(Reproduced from The National Interest website - Published September 14, 2024.)

by Brandon J. Weichert



U.S. Virginia-class SSN. (USN artist's rendering.)

Seawolf to Shang: The Fastest Submarines Patrolling the Oceans

Submarines may be an older technological platform, but each iteration gets better than the last.

Submarines are meant to be stealthy. More than that, though, subs must possess a high degree of speed and the ability to dive fast. They also must be highly maneuverable.

The list below, while far from comprehensive, uses those qualities to determine the five best fast submarines in the world.

5. Vanguard-Class Submarine

Once the greatest naval power in the world, the British Royal Navy today is a shadow of its former glory. Nevertheless, the British still possess some capabilities that make them competitive at sea. The *Vanguard*-class nucle-

ar-powered submarine is an excellent heir to the legacy of the great imperial navy that came before it.

Designed to fight the Cold War, these boats for now are still the primary submarine of the Royal Navy.

A *Vanguard*-class submarine displaces just shy of 16,000 tons when submerged. She's powered by one Rolls Royce pressurized water-cooled nuclear reactor that supplies steam to two sets of General Electric geared turbines delivering 27,500 horsepower to one shaft.

Her speed is a respectable 28 miles per hour. She can also dive in excess of 1,300 feet. The numbers don't lie. The *Vanguard* class is a solid sub.

4. Shang-Class Submarine

China's People's Liberation Army Navy is steadily advanc-

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Five Speediest Subs

(concluded from page 9)

ing its submarine capabilities to rival those of the Americans, Russians, and other advanced navies. The nuclear-powered *Shang*-class leads the way.

The *Shang* class has a 7,000-ton displacement and can carry around 100 crewmembers. Its top cruising speed is about 30 knots, or 34 miles per hour, and these boats can dive down to 2,296 feet.

As for this submarine's maneuverability, one analyst has written that, "China can ensure that [the *Shang*-class] submarine has a breakthrough in underwater navigation performance, and the nuclear power propulsion system has sufficient power to match the hull tonnage. Under better circumstances, [the *Shang* class] is entirely possible to achieve relatively excellent underwater speed and underwater maneuverability."

3. *Yasen-M*-Class Submarine

Russia may be more of a continental power rather than a maritime power, but the Russian Navy can build some remarkable underwater systems.

The *Yasen-M* class is especially impressive. Recently, the Russians converted this class of "tough" Russian subs (as *Business Insider* labeled them in 2023) into hypersonic missile carriers, making the *Yasen-M* the only active submarine in the world capable of deploying these next-level weapons. In June, the Russians deployed one of these boats in a flotilla to Cuba, skirting the U.S. Eastern seaboard in the process.

The *Yasen-M* can cruise up to 35 knots (40 miles per hour) and can safely dive to about 1,968 feet. She displaces around 13,800 tons.

In all, the Russians have one of the speediest, most lethal undersea platforms in existence today. Americans underestimate the *Yasen-M* at their own peril.

2. *Virginia*-Class Submarine

When America went looking for a replacement for the iconic *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine, it first landed on the highly complex but expensive *Seawolf* class.

Sadly, that submarine's cost and the lack of a Soviet enemy made Congress rethink its decision to make the *Seawolf* class the new primary attack submarine for America's Navy. Sent back to the drawing board, the Navy next produced the *Virginia* class.

A *Virginia*-class submarine goes about 28 miles per hour. Because the boats are relatively new, the Navy is not as forthcoming with certain design details. For example, the Navy is coy about this sub's maximum operating depth, listing it as "more than 800 feet." It carries fifteen officers and 117 enlisted personnel as well.

A highly maneuverable and fast submarine, the *Virginia* class is one of the finest attack submarines ever built.

1. *Seawolf*-Class Submarine

Now for the blue label of modern submarines, the U.S. Navy's *Seawolf* class. As noted above, this boat was meant to replace the *Los Angeles*-class attack subs beginning in the early 1990s, until Congress got cold feet.

At roughly \$4.3 billion per unit, one can hardly blame them. But given the kind of threat environment the U.S. faces today, a fleet of these submarines might have been the best long-term investment the Navy could have made.

Alas, there's no going back. The Navy currently possesses only three of these submarines, and there are no plans to reconstitute the production line. Besides, the Navy now prefers the *Virginia*-class submarine, which, while a versatile and fast boat as you just read, has limits to its speed and maneuverability that the *Seawolf* class does not share.

This boat can go in excess of 35 miles per hour. The *Seawolf* class is highly maneuverable and can dive up to 2,000 feet, with a maximum crush depth ranging from 2,400 to 3,000 feet beneath the waves.

The *Seawolf*-class submarine threat is widely believed to keep the Chinese and Russians up at night. It is not only the fastest submarine in the world today, it is also the best submarine ever built.

Brandon J. Weichert, a National Interest national security analyst, is a former Congressional staffer and geopolitical analyst who is a contributor at The Washington Times, the Asia Times, and The-Pipeline. He is the author of Winning Space: How America Remains a Superpower, Biohacked: China's Race to Control Life, and The Shadow War: Iran's Quest for Supremacy. His next book, A Disaster of Our Own Making: How the West Lost Ukraine, is due October 22 from Encounter Books. Weichert can be followed via Twitter @WeTheBrandon.

(Accompanying image is from Creative Commons or Shutterstock.)

Russian Navy Launches Sixth Project 636.3 Submarine for Pacific Fleet

Admiralty Shipyards, a part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), has held a launching and naming ceremony for the new Project 636.3 submarine Yakutsk for the Russian Navy.

(Reproduced from NavalToday.com website - Published October 16, 2024.)

by Fatima Bahtić



New Russian Project 636.3 Yakutsk submarine. (Credit: Admiralty Shipyard.)

Yakutsk is the sixth and the last submarine of the series for the Pacific Fleet. The keel was laid down at the shipyard in August 2021.

The launching ceremony took place on October 11, 2024, at the company's shipyard in Russia. The vessel was rolled out from the plant's production hall to the floating dock.

"We are launching the sixth submarine for the Pacific Fleet, completing the construction of a series of six ships as planned. Project 636 submarines are equipped with high-precision weapons that are capable of solving problems of any complexity in different areas of the ocean," deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Igor

Mukhametshin announced.

After launching, the ship will undergo a number of outfitting works at the shipyard berth, and factory sea trials will be performed. After that, the submarine will be delivered to the Russian Navy, according to the shipbuilder.

As a reminder, the fifth submarine in this class, *Mozhaisk*, was delivered to the Russian Navy in November last year.

Currently, five submarines of the series—*Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky*, *Volkhov*, *Magadan*, *Ufa* and *Mozhaisk*—are successfully carrying out combat service, fulfilling all the tasks assigned to them, the company concluded.

Who Has the Most Subs?

(continued from page 1)



Los Angeles-class *Flight I* attack submarine surfaced in San Francisco Bay.

The United States Navy: 71 Submarines

The most direct source for the number of submarines possessed by the United States comes from the U.S. government itself. According to the official U.S. Navy website, its current naval fleet consists of “53 fast attack submarines, 14 ballistic-missile submarines, and four guided-missile submarines.” That’s a total of seventy-one operational submarines in the U.S. Navy, a number corroborated by independent sources as well.

Thus, not only does the U.S. military have more subs than any other country’s military, but it likely also has the most modernized fleet. Every U.S. submarine in service is nuclear powered, and the latest models prove more advanced and deadlier than most people realize. Indeed, the U.S. Navy’s submarine fleet is kitted out with all the latest tech, with vessels receiving upgrades and enhance-

(concluded on page 13)

ments over time. Furthermore, older vessels are systematically replaced by the latest submarine classes, such as the “*Virginia-class*” fast-attack subs.

The U.S. submarine fleet is undeniably cutting edge. Around half of the fifty-three fast-attack submarines in the U.S. Navy are *Los Angeles-class* models. First commissioned in the mid-’70s, a total of twenty-five vessels of this class remain

in service. But though these craft are getting old in age, they’re powered by nuclear reactors that allow them to travel exceptional distances before needing to refuel. “Exceptional” might even be an understatement, since submarine crews worry about everything but refueling.

The Russian Navy: 64 Submarines

According to Nuclear Threat Initiative, Russia possesses a fleet of sixty-four submarines in total. Within that arsenal, fourteen are reportedly nuclear-powered attack subs,

Russian attack submarine.



Who Has the Most Subs?

(concluded from page 12)

eleven are nuclear-powered cruise-missile subs, sixteen are nuclear-powered ballistic missile boats, and the remaining twenty-three are diesel-powered attack submarines. Compared to the legendary submarine fleets used in World War II, these numbers might seem unimpressive. However, a fleet of sixty-four submarines in the 21st century is enough to place Russia second on the list.

Considering about one third of the submarines in Russia's naval fleet are diesel powered rather than nuclear powered, the modernity of the Russian fleet is questionable. However, many of these Russian boats are far from outdated, and Russia outfits its older vehicles with modern tech and upgrades rather than replacing them, a practice that's common for the largest militaries in the world.

For instance, Russia announced in 2019 plans to release a modern class of nuclear submarines, called "Borei-K-class" submarines. Four years later, two of the Borei-K-class subs had reportedly joined the Russian fleet. But adding fancy new vessels to the Russian Navy isn't the country's main practice. Instead, most Russian submarines are upgraded rather than replaced. The latest example is the "Antey-class SSGN" submarines, twelve of which were the subjects of repairs and upgrades. Such upgrades are expected to extend these submarines' service lives by twenty years.

Thus, while Russia's submarine fleet isn't entirely modernized, it's nonetheless maintained to competently compete in the modern world of warfare. The Russian submarine fleet is the second largest in the world, and it's certainly a force to be reckoned with

The Chinese Navy: 60 Submarines

According to independent sources, China has the third



Chinese attack submarine.

largest submarine fleet in the world with sixty vessels in total. It's the perfect example of a country with an impressive number of submarines while the actual strength of the individual craft is questionable. While the United States' subs are entirely nuclear powered, China reportedly possesses a total of twelve nuclear-powered subs in its fleet. Compared to the United States and Russia, China's submarine arsenal is undeniably inferior. But that doesn't mean it's weak.

Six of China's nuclear subs are "ballistic missile" submarines, and the other six are attack submarines. For the rest of the fleet, it appears that China is intent on modernizing.

According to Reuters, forty-eight Chinese subs are diesel-powered attack boats, and while China's submarine count falls third behind the U.S. and Russia, the country actually has the world's largest navy. China maintains over 370 ships, and the populous nation's plan to expand its naval fleet includes the addition of next-gen nuclear submarines.

Insight into China's plans for its navy and submarine fleet emerged from an accident that occurred in 2024 when a nuclear-powered Chinese submarine sank while docked at a pier. Of course, China didn't comment, but news of the sinking spread. The accident exposed China's push for a modernized, nuclear-powered submarine fleet, but it also drew questions about the designs and technologies employed for modern submarine vessels.

China may possess the third largest submarine fleet in the world, but the country is clearly on track to expand its naval capacities in the coming years.

Mike Hemming, “Boy Throttleman”

by Bob “Dex” Armstrong

Let’s get this out of the way at the outset. I am an Lunapologetic Mike Hemming fan. We were ship-mates and remain very good friends and the “Metric-Built Blonde” and I are crazy about Flo Hemming, the lady who has to put up with the rascal.

For those of you who have never had the honor and pleasure of meeting the crazy sonuvabitch, let me fill you in on Mike Hemming. He was one of those “engine house” snipes.

Most throttlemen on diesel submarines were old raggedy-ass lifers old enough to be your dad. Old, unsalvageable, raw vocabulary rapsallions who wrestled those big ol’ opposed-piston 38-D Fairbanks Morse 1600 horsepower rock crushers.

Mike was so damned young when he became an operating throttleman, he became known as the “Boy Throttleman.” For those of you with no point of reference with which to make a comparison, think of how often you hear of a Little League pitcher with a 100 mph fastball, an Eagle Scout with a laser eye surgery merit badge or a kindergarten kid winning the U.S. Open.

That’s what being a teenage engine room boss compares to. In short, Mike Hemming, the “Earl of Easton” was that good. You do not want to acknowledge that in his presence because every time someone does that, we have to Crisco the egotistical bastard’s ears to get him through doorways. His head can go from normal to Mount Rushmore size in thirty seconds.

But, his mechanical expertise pales in comparison to his virtuosity in penning prose.

I once had the honor of standing on a grassy hillside in Arlington Cemetery on a bright spring day, listening to the beauty of Mike’s words float above the final resting place of row on row of fallen heroes.

As those words were read, they triggered the incendi-

ary reaction found in the hearts of true patriots. And were powerful enough to have an old case-hardened World War II submarine skipper withdraw his pocket handkerchief to wipe the moisture from his weather-beaten face.

Mike is a very versatile fellow. At the first *Requin* reunion I asked, “Hey, Mike, what are you doin’ for ‘feed yourself’ bucks these days?”

Mike said: “Operating a nursery.”

It was hard to visualize a bearded, barnacle-encrusted Mike riding herd on little crumb crushers in three-cornered pants. Little thumb-sucking Pamper soakers. I never thought about the kind of nursery where folks raise plants.

Mike “Boy Throttleman” Hemming is also a master of the telling of sea stories. I once sat on a USS *Carp* veteran’s backyard patio and damn near laughed myself sick listening to Hemming relate an account of visiting an Italian cathouse. It was like watching Michelangelo paint or Beethoven monkey around, slapping together little musical ditties.

I just knew that a lot of you hadn’t had an opportunity to meet Mike and get to know him. So I just wanted you to know that he was worth buying a beer for.

If you want to meet a Squadron Six legend, he’s it.

*Keep a zero bubble...
Dex.*

*(Editor’s Note:
Mike Hemming’s writings
can now occasionally be
seen in American
Submariner magazine.)*



PRIDE RUNS DEEP

New Members

We proudly welcome aboard:

Frank M. Berezney

SK2(SS) E-5 Petty Officer (2nd)
Contact: daughter Catherine
528 S. Cardiff Street
Anaheim, CA 92806-4334
cell: 714-337-3936
email: frank.berezney@gmail.com
Qualified in 1969 on USS *Spinax*
(AGSS-489); served 1967-1971.
Also on *Greenfish* and *Gudgeon*.

Brian M. Senior, Life Member
(EM1-SS E6—Petty Officer 1st Class)
Son of the Seniors; Spouse: Tamar
2015 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307-1951
cell: 202-594-2050
email: briansenior@hotmail.com
Served '82-'94; qual'd on *Silversides*
(SSN-679) in '86; Nuc Operator;
in Navy Reserves 1990-1994.

Kathleen A. Carder

Associate; Significant Other of
Bill Moak; sponsor: Ray Teare
2865 Helm Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065-5257
cell: 662-335-5602
e: KathleenCarder@Outlook.com

David "Dave" Geske

(ICC-SS) E-7 Chief Petty Officer)
Spouse: Evelyn
4567 Pennyroyal Drive
Corona, CA 92878-3283
cell: 801-889-0178
email: dave.geske@outlook.com
Served '75-'86; qualified on *Thomas*
Jefferson (SSBN-618) in '77. Also
aboard *Ohio* (SSBN-726) '79-'82.

Charles B. "Charlie" McCarthy, Jr.
(LCDR - 04 - LCDR) Spouse: Anita
19068 Shadow Ridge Lane
Yorba Linda, CA 92886-2763
cell: 714-720-3837
email: cbmatylca@aol.com
Qualified in 1966 on *Geo. Bancroft*
(SSBN-643); served 1959-1976.

Laurie Ann Mabry

Associate; niece of Shipwreck
Kelly; sponsor: Ron Jones
Spouse: Harry
5923 Mildred Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4631
cell: 714-309-2367
laurieannmabry7082@gmail.com



Chapter News: Western Region Roundup!

Photos start here: see Dave's event writeup next page...



Your registration crew in action: Marilyn Senior, Sue Bolton, Mike Swanson, and National Senior Vice Commander, Tim Carlisle.



Some remaining plaques from Building 6—take your pick for \$20. (A bargain at any price!)



West Coast Specialties owner Max Schell, ready to assist with any submarine-related needs.



If Max doesn't have it, he can probably get it. (Hey Max, how 'bout a Gato-class Main Induction Valve?)



The tradition continues: submariners always get to enjoy the best food!



The auctioneer and his helpers: Sean Conboy gets a needed assist from a local troop of decorated Scouts. Another success!



Dave Vanderveen begins the event's traditional Tolling the Boats ceremony.



This ship's bell has pealed for many memorial moments.



Rear Admiral Brown receives his Speaker's commemorative plaque.

My thanks to Ron Jones, Sam Higa and Chuck Senior for their invaluable help with this photo coverage.—ed.

(more next page)



More Chapter News...

More from the Western Region Roundup

The event was another fun-filled success; here are just a few activities...

The 2025 Western Region Roundup hosted by our Los Angeles/Pasadena Base aboard RMS *Queen Mary* in Long Beach was a worthwhile event! We conducted some USSVI business and training, renewed acquaintances and met new shipmates, plus enjoyed discussions from Captain Jessica OBrien, CO of NWSSB, and from RADM-Retired Charles Brown, former Chief Information Officer-PACFLEET. During our closing banquet, the inimitable Sean Conboy (Bob's son) auctioned eight items yielding a total of nearly \$1,300! Although the ship was cold for a couple of nights, the Roundup was a big SUCCESS! —Dave Vanderveen



Attendees gather for a recruiting workshop.



Roundup committee members take a photo with luncheon guest speaker Captain Jessica OBrien.



Dave Vanderveen honors Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach CO with a commemorative plaque.



All hands on deck for the moving Tolling the Boats ceremony.



A near standing-room-only crowd turned out to honor submariners who'd lost their lives in the line of duty.



The obligatory group shot—see you all at the next Roundup!



L.A.-Pasadena Base 50-Year Holland Club

(75-year members noted with *)

Scott Hultner..... 2024
Stanley O. Westrick 2024
Ronald R. Jones..... 2023
Gerard A. Krudwig..... 2022
Gregory M. Paulson 2022
Michael J. Swanson..... 2022
Ralph J. Hansen 2021
Robert F. Schive, Sr..... 2021
Larry D. Long..... 2021
G. Judson "Jud" Scott, Jr.... 2021
Edward E. Kushins 2020
Bruce Evan Neighbors 2020
Frank M. Berezney 2019
David H. Vanderveen..... 2019
Dennis Bott 2018
Robert "Mike" Cailor 2018
Robert Miller..... 2018
Roger C. Dunham, MD ... 2017
Richard McPherson..... 2017
Harry "Bill" Moak..... 2017
Louis A. Myerson 2017
Elliot Rada 2017
Ronald G. Wagner 2017
Dennis J. Walsh..... 2017
Michael Kish 2016
Charles B. McCarthy, Jr.... 2016
Gary Wheaton..... 2016

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Los Angeles-Pasadena Base **2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

January 18	Monthly Meeting at Taco Surf, Los Alamitos
February 15	Monthly Meeting at VFW Hall
March 15	Monthly Meeting - Radiant Brewery, Anaheim
April 19	Monthly Meeting at Clearman's Galley in San Gabriel; Call for Memorial Day Prep Volunteers
May 17	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900 Monthly Meeting Nominating Committee Appointed Call for participants in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
May 24	Field Day at the Memorial Site - 0900
May 26	Memorial Day Service - 1100 Submarine Memorial, West
June 21	Monthly Meeting - Annual "Steakfest" Call for nominations for 2026 Base Officers
July 4	116th Annual... Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade
July 19	LeRoy Stone Memorial Picnic Location TBA
August 16	Monthly Meeting - "Hawaii" Theme 2026 Base Officer Candidates Announced
September 20	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Election of Officers
October 18	Monthly Meeting Annual Officer Installation Luncheon
November 15	Monthly Meeting - Thanksgiving Theme
December 20	Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Los Alamitos Golf Course

(Holland Club Roster, concluded)

Lawrence R. Butler 2015
Samuel T. Higa 2015
Harry P. Ross 2015
Charles H. Senior 2015
Larry E. Smith 2015
Sam Aboulafia 2014
David Palagyi 2014
Earl Thomas Peratt, Jr. 2014
David D. Semrau, DDS 2014
Ray Tracy Teare 2014
Milton Harry Boudov 2013
Kenneth Jon Dorn 2013
M. Mark Hoffer 2013
Michael P. Klein 2013
Ronald L. Levenson 2013
Edward L. Arnold 2012
T. Michael Bircumshaw ... 2012
Raymond Cheesebrough . 2012
John V. Mahan 2012
Lee Melody 2012
Clyde Matthew Turner 2012
George R. Walrath 2012
John L. Weisenberger 2012
Edward A. Barwick 2011
Joseph W. Koch, Jr. 2011
Stephen D. Diument 2009
David Whittlesey 2009
Dennis A. Yure 2009
Armen Bagdasarian 2008
Paul A. Riggs 2008
Rex L. Shields 2008
Francis R. Traser 2006
Ronald K. Thompson 2004
James Rogers 2003
*William F. Long 1999
*Kenneth E. Chunn 1998
*Patrick Zilliacus 1994
*William J. Dillon 1993



E-Board Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025

The Los Angeles-Pasadena Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Executive Board Meeting was conducted virtually on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

In attendance:

- Dave Vanderveen, Base Commander
- Darin Detwiler, Secretary
- Sue Bolton, Treasurer
- Chuck Senior, Director

Base Commander Dave Vanderveen called this online meeting to order at 1811 hours. A quorum was not present; however, there were no agenda items requiring approval of money expenditure, so we proceeded with business.

Minutes of February's E-Board and General meetings were reviewed. Darin Detwiler moved to accept the Minutes into the base record; this was seconded by Chuck Senior and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Sue Bolton

The Treasurer's Report as of March 13, 2025 was read into the Minutes by Base Treasurer Sue Bolton.

Checking	\$23,468.94
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Uncleared Checks:	\$165.38
Total	\$23,353.56

All vendors have been paid up-to-date.

Income:	\$825.00
Expenses:	\$758.88

Flower/Booster Club Additions:

Ken Dorn	\$400.00
Dennis Bott	\$25.00
Dave Vanderveen	\$250.00

Other Donations:

Dave Vanderveen, in support of the WWR (\$50 in Tips to Bell Staff, \$60 Supplies/Materials, \$40 Printing)	\$150.00
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There were no questions nor corrections needed. Chuck Senior moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and accept it into the base record; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and approved unanimously.

(concluded on next page)

6th Astute-Class Sub, HMS Agamemnon, Rolled Out of the Build Hall

Reproduced from the
Navy Lookout website,
October 1, 2024

HMS *Agamemnon* emerged from the Devonshire Dock Hall at Barrow today, marking the transition from the construction phase to the test and commissioning phase.

Following the rollout from the DDH, she will be lowered into the water on the shiplift and moved to the test and commissioning quay where her reactor will go critical for the first time.

She is the 6th boat of the much-delayed *Astute* class and she will probably now commission next year, likely in the shipyard, well ahead of beginning sea trials, as was the case with HMS *Anson*. It is important to note that the rollout frees up space needed in the DDH to begin the assembly of HMS *Dreadnought*, first of the much larger SSBNs that is due to be commissioned in the early 2030s.

The Sixth Royal Navy vessel to bear this memorable name, *Agamemnon* was an ancient king in Greek mythology who commanded the Achaeans during the Trojan War.

E-Board Meeting Minutes...

(concluded from previous page)

Memorial Report:

The Memorial Bricks Project was discussed. The Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station has agreed to install our thirty inscribed bricks, ideally before Memorial Day. The Board discussed asking Ron Jones to video the work of the brick project if allowed.

As with every year, there's much work to be coordinated prior to the Memorial Day ceremonies: hedge trimming, bleachers, canopies, etc. These efforts will commence.

Membership Update:

Our membership levels are static. Marilyn Senior reports that as of March 14, 2025, we have 99 total members, including 66 Holland Club Members, 67 USSVI Life Members, and 64 Base Life Members. We all need to put on our recruiting hats.

Memorabilia Update:

Bill Moak and Dave Vanderveen will work to remove our remaining memorabilia from Greg Paulson's garage. Books were donated to local libraries. Plaques went first to our own members, then to other bases, with some auctioned off at the Western Regional Roundup. Some items will now go to a museum in Texas (they'll pay shipping costs). Other items will go to the VFW Military History Museum in Simi Valley. Critical base property will be stored at the VFW Hall in Anaheim; commemorative items unique to our base will be kept too.

Western Regional Roundup, 2025:

The event was discussed and deemed quite successful. After an eventual full accounting of event funding, there may even be monies remaining to add to our base treasury!

There being no further business, Chuck Senior motioned for adjournment; this was seconded by Dave Vanderveen and passed unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 1826 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Detwiler

Secretary, L.A.-Pasadena Base, USSVI



PRIDE RUNS DEEP



USS Connecticut (SSN-22).

*In memory
of the
fifty-two
submarines
lost in
World War II*

SEALION
S-36
S-26
SHARK I
PERCH
S-27
GRUNION
S-39
ARGONAUT
AMBERJACK
GRAMPUS
TRITON
PICKEREL
GRENADIER
RUNNER
R-12
GRAYLING
POMPANO
CISCO
S-44
DORADO
WAHOO

CORVINA
SCULPIN
CAPELIN
SCORPION
GRAYBACK
TROUT
TULLIBEE
GUDGEON
HERRING
GOLET
S-28
ROBALO
FLIER
HARDER
SEAWOLF
DARTER
SHARK II
TANG
ESCOLAR
ALBACORE
GROWLER

SCAMP
SWORDFISH
BARBEL
KETE
TRIGGER
SNOOK
LAGARTO
BONEFISH
BULLHEAD

