



March 2024

INSIDE

March Lost Boats

Submarines and sailors on eternal patrol

Commander's Corner

A message from Boise Base Commander Gary

Next Meeting

March 16th at 1100 Meridian Senior Center, Dogwood Room

Submarine Class History

This month USS Holland class

Upcoming Events

Find great events to attend or help with

Boise Base Boosters

Thanks for your support!

Boise Base Eternal Patrol

Sailors, rest your oars

Our Creed: 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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

Boats lost in March

In the beginning God made submariners, submariners created submarines, and submariners created the brotherhood.

[USS Perch](#) [SS-176](#) [03/03/1942](#)

The crew of the USS Perch (SS-176) was forced to scuttle her on March 3, 1942, after being unable to repair damage from a depth charge attack. All crew members were picked up by a Japanese destroyer and spent the remainder of the war as POW's. Six men perished in captivity.

[USS Grampus](#) [SS-207](#) [03/05/1943](#)

The USS Grampus (SS-207) was lost on or about March 5, 1943, due to enemy action either with surface ships or aircraft. The Grampus was lost with all 71 hands.

[USS H-1 \(ex-Seawolf\)](#) [SS-28](#) [03/12/1920](#)

The USS H-1 (SS-28) was lost on March 12, 1920, after running aground south of Baja California. Four men, including the commanding officer, drown while trying to reach shore. 22 men were rescued by a passing ship.

[USS Triton](#) [SS-219](#) [03/15/1943](#)

The USS Triton (SS-201) was sunk by Japanese destroyers on March 15, 1943. Triton remains on eternal patrol with 74 souls, including ships cook second class Frederick Howard Christy from Blackfoot, Id and Lieutenant (XO) John Holbrook Eichmann from Boise, Id.

[USS Kete](#) [SS-369](#) [03/20/1945](#)

The USS Kete (SS-369) was lost sometime after March 20, 1945. Post-war records did not provide any additional information on her loss. 87 men remain on eternal patrol.

[USS F-4 \(ex-Skate\)](#) [SS-23](#) [03/25/1915](#)

The USS F-4 (SS-23) was lost on March 25, 1915, off Pearl Harbor in 300 feet of water during a training exercise. All 21 crew members perished.

Lost Idaho Submariners

[Fredrick Howard Christy](#)
Ships Cook second class Fredrick Christy was lost with the sinking of the USS Triton. Fredrick was from Blackfoot, Id.



[John Holbrook Eichmann](#)

Lieutenant (XO) John Eichmann, from Boise, Idaho, was lost with the sinking of the USS Triton.



[Kirk Comstock Sterns](#)

Electricians Mate 1st class Kirk Sterns, born in Pocatello, Idaho, was lost with the sinking of the USS Tullibee.



[USS Tullibee](#) [SS-284](#) [03/26/1944](#)

On March 26, 1944 The USS Tullibee (SS-284) was sunk by a circular run torpedo after she fired on a Japanese transport ship. One crewman from the bridge was knocked overboard and survived the war as a POW. 79 crewmen remain on eternal patrol, including EM1 Kirk Comstock Sterns who was born in Pocatello, Id.

[USS Trigger](#) [SS-237](#) [03/28/1945](#)

The USS Trigger (SS-237) was likely lost on March 28, 1945, after being attacked by Japanese ships and aircraft. Trigger was on her 12th war patrol at the time. 89 sailors remain on eternal patrol.

Gentlemen, rest your oars, we have the watch.

Holland Class Submarine (Class total 1)

The USS *Holland* (SS-1) was the first modern commissioned submarine in the US Navy. She was acquired on April 11, 1900, creating the US Navy Submarine birthday.

Holland included many features that submarines of the early 20th century would exhibit, although in later, more advanced forms. There was a conning tower from which the boat and her weapons could be directed. Also, she had all the necessary ballast and trim tanks to make precise changes in depth and attitude underwater. Her crew was six men and maximum diving depth was 75 feet.

For armament, she had a reloadable 18-inch torpedo tube with three Whitehead Mark 2 torpedoes and an 8.425-inch pneumatic dynamite gun in the bow (the dynamite gun's projectiles were called "aerial torpedoes")



She had both an internal combustion engine (specifically, a 4-stroke Otto gasoline engine of 45 bhp) for running on the surface and charging batteries, and an Electro Dynamic electric motor of 50 shp for submerged operation, with one shaft. A 66-cell Exide battery powered the electric motor when submerged. This allowed speeds of 6 knots surfaced and 5.5 knots submerged. Surfaced range was 200 nmi at 6 knots, while submerged range was 30 nmi at 5.5 knots.



Holland proved valuable for experimental purposes in collecting data for submarines under construction or contemplation. Her 166 mi surface run, from Annapolis to Norfolk from 8–10 January 1901, provided useful data on her performance underway over an extended period.

[Youtube video on Holland](#)

My favorite submarines!



[USS Boise \(SSN 764\) official Page](#)



[USS Idaho \(SSN 799\) Commissioning Committee page](#)

Boise Base Upcoming Events

None this month

Veterans Support Events

March 5th - [Kilroy Coffee Klatch](#) from 10 am - 12 pm at the Warhawk Museum (free)

March 16th - [USS Idaho christening](#) - 10 am EST in Groton, Ct. Broadcast by Idaho Public Television. Watch party information on [USSIdahocommittee.com](#)

March 23th - [American Legion Post #113 Koffee Klatch](#) from 9:00 - 11:30 am (donations appreciated).

USSVI National Convention

Aug 19-24, 2024 - Cleveland, OH hosted by the [Cod Base](#)

“Riding the vents” is the monthly publication of Boise Base. The editor is often guilty of plagiarizing anything he reads and likes. Please feel free to copy anything you like, but if he gets in trouble, so will you. If you would like a copy of this emailed to a friend or potential new member, please contact the editor at the email below.

This newsletter will also be available through a link on our Facebook page: [USSVI - Boise Base](#)

March Birthdays



8 Peter Tardiff

...many happy returns

Binnacle List



Frank Larvie, fall injury

Keep anyone we missed in your prayers



Boise Base Wardroom

Commander:

Gary Grunewald
(208) 960-4485
Boisebasefb@gmail.com

Vice-Commander:

Rich McPherson (needs to be confirmed at our next meeting)

Secretary:

Chuck VanDerhoff
(208) 602-4015
charles.vanderhoff44@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Kelley Howe
howe.kelly@yahoo.com

Newsletter/Facebook:

Gary Grunewald
(208) 960-4485
Boisebasefb@gmail.com

Storekeeper:

Brian Thompson
(425) 471-4917
bltzown@yahoo.com

Chaplin:

OPEN – Your Name here!

Membership:

OPEN – Your Name here!



Commanders Corner

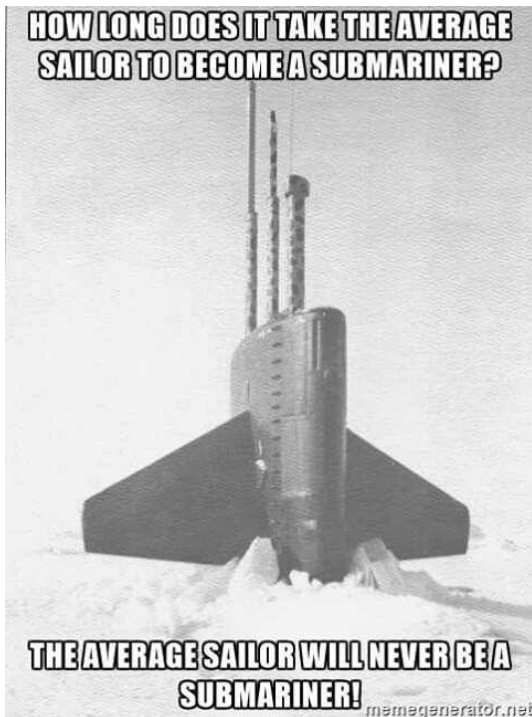


by Gary Grunewald

Greeting shipmates!

I'm both honored and excited to take on the role of base commander. I know it will be a learning curve, but with help I should be able to get qualified. I want to thank Doug for his service and leadership over the last year, I plan on leaning on him for answers in the future. We were also able to flesh out the wardroom with Rich McPherson, Kelly Howe and Brian Thompson all stepping into new roles. We have others available if you want to step up (which is not *volunteering yourself*) We have all served on the most complex and advanced warships in the world, but the true heart and soul of these ships are their crews. The heart and soul of the Boise Base is also her crew and all the little things we each do. We all need to keep our eyes open for new members to recruit to help keep the base strong. Starting in April we are going to start seeing different events to participate in, some parades and others as static events. These are great opportunities to educate the public and recruit new members, so please plan on helping when you can.

Let's make 2024 a great year!



Ship's Store

For all your USSVI needs

By Brian Thompson



If you need anything available through the USSVI national store, we can get it through our ship's store, with profits going into the base fund. This is a win – win where you get what you need and the base benefits. We currently have one or more copies of the patches shown below. Prices to be determined.



[National Storekeeper Site](#)

We also have a couple 2024 calendars left at \$12 each. These calendars highlight the [GUPPY](#) ([Greater Underwater Propulsion Power Program](#)) conversions started right after WW2. One of our base members served on one of these boats, so if you want firsthand information, we have a source for you! These trailblazing submarines provided guidance on our first nuclear ones.

Boise Base Booster Page

September 2023

Total attendance was 9 members and 3 guests.

October 2023

Total attendance was 7 members and 3 guests. We sadly noted the passing of our longtime Treasurer Bruce Philpot

November 2023

Total attendance was 10 members.

December 2023

No Meeting

January 2024

Total attendance was 12 members and 2 guests.

February 2024

Total attendance was 12 members and one guest.

Boosters for 2024

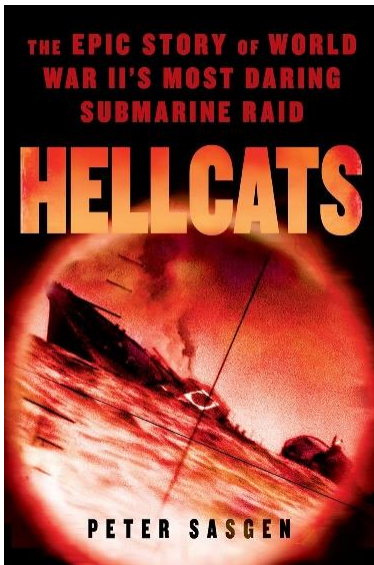
Many thanks to those who were Boise Base Boosters last year, helping to defray the basic admin costs of running the Base. Time rolls on and it is the new year. The Base still needs your help and support for 2024. Please bring your offerings to Kelley at the next meeting you attend, details below.

Ron Dale	Friend of Boise Base	USAF
Frank Larvie	USS Tirante	SS-420
Jeff Jensen	USS Benjamin Franklin	SSBN-640
Pete Tardiff	USS George Washington	SSBN-598
Gary Grunewald	USS Plunger	SSN-595
Tollan Whitlock	USS Tinoso	SSN-606
Mark Cluff	USS Michigan	SSBN-727
Mark Arnstam & Wife Cindy	USS Tullibee	SSN-597

Boise Base Boosters help defray the costs of the USS Boise model and Boise Base activities.

Annual Boosters - \$30 for yourself and an additional \$10 if you include your wife or friend. Larger contributions gratefully accepted.

Make your check out to 'USSVI Boise Base' and bring it to a meeting or mail to:
Gary Grunewald
1211 S Taylor St
Nampa, Id 83686



A heart-stopping true tale of a submarine mission aimed at destroying Japan's merchant marine lifeline and ending World War II.

Here is the incredible story of Operation Barney, the daring plot to penetrate the minefields protecting the Sea of Japan and decimate the enemy fleet. The brainchild of the dedicated sub commander Vice Admiral Charles Lockwood, the mission would hinge on a new experimental sonar system that would, with luck, guide American submarines safely past the mines and into the open sea.

The nine submarines chosen, nicknamed Hellcats, were tasked with the impossible—the combined crews of 760 submariners all knew their chances of survival hinged on an unproven technology and their own nerve. Based on original documents and the poignant personal letters of one doomed Hellcat commander, author Sasgen crafts a classic naval tale of one of World War II's most dangerous missions.

[Newsletter Links:](#)

This newsletter contains links to websites to provide more information on the subject. Look for anything in blue that is underlined. Click it and your browser should open to the linked webpage. You may need to allow (authorize) external links to work.

Stay Curious!

U.S. Navy Submarine, the future USS IDAHO to be Christened on Saturday, March 16, 2024

The U.S. Navy's newest Virginia-class submarine, the future USS IDAHO (SSN 799), will be formally christened and named on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. At the event, in a long-standing naval tradition, ship sponsor Terry Stackley will christen the submarine in the traditional manner with a bottle. In a uniquely Idahoan twist, rather than breaking a bottle of champagne on the boat's hull, Stackley will christen it with a bottle containing water that she has collected from four of Idaho's lakes, Lake Pend Oreille, Payette Lake, Henrys Lake, and Redfish Lake.

This is the first U.S. Navy warship that will bear the name USS IDAHO in more than 100 years; the battleship USS IDAHO BB42 was christened in June 1917. Stackley is no stranger to the Navy. Her father served and worked in private shipyards throughout the eastern seaboard, including Electric Boat Groton in the 1960s. Her connection to the Navy continued to grow after meeting her husband, Sean, who served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition from 2008 to 2017. Stackley dedicated nearly four decades as a navy wife and will now dedicate her time to serving Idaho and the future USS IDAHO crew throughout the submarine's service life.

The christening is the third of five major events in the life of a U.S. Navy warship before she joins the U.S. Navy fleet and is deemed ready for combat. Generally, this process takes about five years. The first event was the naming of the vessel. The second event was the keel-laying ceremony, officially marking the beginning of construction. The keel-laying took place on August 24, 2020, in Quonset Point, Rhode Island. After this third event, the USS IDAHO christening, the submarine will undergo a rigorous curriculum of sea trials to ensure that the performance of the ship is in accordance with its plans and specifications. After this rigorous series of tests, which should take about a year, the vessel will be accepted by the U.S. Navy in a commissioning ceremony prior to becoming an active part of our nation's military strategy.

The USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee has worked in partnership with the U.S. Navy since the inception of this new warship in our role of creating the bond between the people of Idaho and those who will serve in defense of our great state and nation aboard the future USS IDAHO. Our advisory board is actively chaired by former Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and our committee is made up of a myriad of Idaho business leaders, former military members, and a great many ordinary Idahoans who believe in the mission of the U.S. Navy and its newest submarine, the future USS IDAHO.

"This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event; to celebrate the naming of a navy ship for the great state of Idaho, to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans, to recognize the incredible navy history and navy legacy our state has and to recognize the amazing contribution our state has made to the acoustic stealth and nuclear power technology of our submarine force," said Kempthorne. Over the past few years, the USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee hosted seven visits to Idaho for the submarine's crewmembers as they work to become mission ready prior to the submarine's commissioning and upcoming sea trials. One goal of our committee is to build and enhance the bond between the sailors of the future USS IDAHO and the people of Idaho. The christening ceremony will be held at General Dynamics Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut. The USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee will host watch parties at various locations around the state. Please periodically visit the committee website at <https://ussidahocommittee.org/> for announcements of the start times and more details. Media representatives who would like to cover this ceremony should click on the yellow "Christening Info" tab for details.



About the USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee:

- ✓ We serve as the state's agent for the planning, preparation, funding and conduct of traditional and celebratory lay down, christening and commissioning activities under the guidelines of the Secretary of the Navy.
- ✓ We conduct a statewide outreach of social, informative, and educational activities to create the bond between the people of Idaho and those who will serve in defense of our great state and nation on the future USS IDAHO.
- ✓ We identify and implement a sustainable program so that the crews of the future USS IDAHO, from the first crew to all future crews, see tangible ongoing support from the people of Idaho to the crew and families.
- ✓ More information on the committee, its goals, and activities can be found at <https://ussidahocommittee.org/>. Visitors to the website will also find a wealth of information about the submarine and its capabilities.



The USS IDAHO crew and Electric Boat employees in front of the future USS IDAHO SSN 799 in October 2023. Photo courtesy General Dynamics Electric Boat via the USS IDAHO Commissioning Committee.

The Egyptian Theatre is presenting Idaho's Nuclear Navy on March 11 at 6:15 pm. This is a great presentation on the influence the early naval reactors had on the navy, and submarines in particular. Tickets are free and there will be a roundtable discussion following the movie. This movie is part of the history of these installations which are being removed. It's a great opportunity to view this on the big screen. Tickets available at [this link: Idaho's Nuclear Navy](#)

USSVI Boise Base

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting

Present: 12 Members 1 guests

Next meeting: **March 16, 2024 11 a.m. Meridian Senior Center, Kleiner Park, Meridian Idaho. (Kleiner Park is next to The Village at Eagle and Fairview Ave. We will meet in the Dogwood Room.)**

1. General Business

Commander Doug Brinkman oversaw the meeting,

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Tolling of the Bells, and the invocation. Last month's minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report: \$11,677.46 in Vets Memorial fund

\$5,262.47. in Boise Base fund.

Commander Brinkman started the meeting by providing information to the group from the Ada County United Veterans Council. The Director of the Idaho Department of Veteran Services, Mark Tschampi stated that the remodeling/building of Idaho State Veterans homes are being impacted by a current Presidential policy called Buy American, Build American (BABA). Currently there are no U.S. manufacturers of elevators. No waiver to the BABA policy is being allowed currently, so our veterans are being impacted.

The Commander also presented information that the continuation of the Submarine Veterans Memorial to be built in Veterans Memorial Park in Boise is going to be presented to the governor with a do not approve recommendation. The Commander asked for 2 things from the group due to this: First, alternative ideas on what type of memorial we could do and second, what should we do with the current money in the Veterans Memorial Fund. Discussion was held, and Commander Brinkman asked that any ideas be sent to him at his e-mail address.

The Commander then talked about USSVI dues and how members are notified when they are due. Unlike many organizations, USSVI notifies the base and not the individual regarding renewals. So, some members have become delinquent due to the base not properly notifying them. Due to this, the base has opted to pay half of the annual renewal for anyone who chooses to pay annual dues. Other options are available, up to lifetime membership.

USSVI national offices are moving back to Groton Connecticut. Any correspondence with them will need to be sent there. Address can be found on the USSVI website.

An election was held for a new Commander and treasurer. Gary Grunewald was unanimously selected for the new Commander's job. Kelly Howe was also unanimously selected to become the new treasurer. Rich McPherson will be the new Vice-Commander.

Brian Thompson stepped in to be our new Storekeeper. He has 2024 calendars, and he also talked about how members can order patches and paraphernalia via the USSVI website or BcPatch.com, a site on Ebay.

An ad hoc meeting of the Veterans Memorial Fund was also held. This meeting was necessary to keep its 501 C 3 status.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

BOISE BASE ON ETERNAL PATROL – SAILORS, REST YOUR OARS

Mitchell L Lint USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608) 2/12/2002 Former Boise Base Commander	William Hutchings USS Cod (SS-224) USS Tilefish (SS-307) 4/30/2007	Tony Wurschmidt USS Bremerton (SSN-698) 10/7/2011	Joseph H Strong USS Saury (SS-189) USS Spot (SS-413) 10/18/2012
William Charles Van Kirk USS S-45 (SS-156) 1/20/2013	Winston F Von Brethorst USS Pogy (SS-266) USS Gunnel (SS-253) USS S-48 (SS-159) USS O-2 (SS-63) 10/26/2013	Edgar Lee Carlson USS Spikefish (SS-404) 3/10/2014 Former Boise Base Commander	De Vaughn Wilder USS Perch (SS-313) USS Chivo (SS-341) 1/13/2015
Al Pilch USS Halfbeak (SS-352) 7/27/2015	John Henry King USS Mingo (SS-261) USS Parche (SS-307) 5/13/16	Steve Scott USS ?? (SS-???) 3/3/2017	Fred Don Wagner USS Redfish (SS-395) 1/18/2018
William Lee Heist USS John Marshall (SSBN-611) 6/19/2018	Louis (Marty) Martinez USS Catfish (SS-339) 8/12/2018	Curtis Alan Rideout USS Drum (SSN-677) 9/26/2018	Charles Everett Finney World War II USS Sub Relief Crew(SS0) 12/8/2018
Alan Fredrick Missman USS ?? (SS-???) 1/15/2019	Ronald Ray May Submarine Repair 2/10/2019	Jim French - Idaho Falls Commisioning Crew USS Nautilus (SSN-571) 4/11/2019	Archie Ray Clemins USS Pogy (SSN-647) 3/14/2020
Joe E Queen USS Nautilus (SSN-571) 3/23/2020	William Robert Walker, Jr USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN-644) 5/31/2020	Jack Douglas Gilmour USS Carp (SS-338) 2/11/2021	Byron Johnson 7/26/2021
Jame Arthus "Jim" Himing USS Ulysses S Grant (SSBN-631) 8/16/2021	Marion Shinn USS Guavina (SS-362) 3/18/2022	Don Ehinger USS Sea Cat (SS-399) USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641) USS James K Polk (SSBN-645) USS Hector (AR-7) 10/5/2022	William Clarke Syme USS Dace (SS-247) 1/24/2023
Leo Van Hoover USS ??? (SS-???)	Bill Bochat USS ?? (SS-???)	Edwin McGann USS Brill (SS-330) USS Sea Owl (SS-405)	Bruce Philpott USS Pickerel (SS-524) 10/18/2023

If you have any information that would help us update the eternal patrol list, please share it with boisebasefb@gmail.com Thank you!

Next Meeting....

March 16th at 11 am Meridian Senior Center in the Dogwood room

