



# **THE PUMP ROOM**



## **The Mare Island Base Newsletter**

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

Volume XXIV Issue 10

October 2022



### **Commanders Corner October 2022**

Shipmates:

Thanks for a great meeting – glad to be amongst you! One of the best things about being at a Base Meeting is that we all get each other – something that certainly does not happen at work!

Congratulations to Al Cole, who won a Robert Link award!

#### **National Convention Notes:**

1. USSVI Website was well-received by everyone – if you need assistance, please call me.
2. USSVI Office will move to Groton, CT at the Clubhouse at the end of 2023 – National Office Manager retires, and we save \$15,000 in rent (USSVI owns the clubhouse).
3. Pete Juhos became the Western Region Director, and I was appointed to fill out his term as the Western District 5 Commander.
4. Bill Andrea is our new National Commander.

#### **Base Notes:**

1. Congratulations to Hobe Scharff, who won the 50/50 Raffle!
2. Please reach out to your shipmates and ask them to attend our next two meetings – October we will have our regular meeting, and November will be our Base Officer elections!
3. We are still looking to fill the Secretary role – please contact, Bill, Mike or myself.

Pride Runs Deep!

Tim



## MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2022, MEETING

Commander Carlisle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, Followed by the Creed. He read and tolled the boats for the lost boats for the Month of September. Al Cole rang the bell.

One bell for all our departed shipmates.

Thank you to the Ladies for the lunch.

Minutes of last meeting: The August minutes were approved as published in the Pumproom

Bill Dornik read the financial report for August. It was accepted.

### **Sick Call:**

John Bushman

Larry Davis

### **Correspondence:**

Letter from Groton Base with Thanksgiving Appeal. A motion was made and approved to give \$200 to the Groton Base.

### **Committee Reports:**

None

### **Old Business:**

Tim gave an update on the new National Website which is now live. He also gave an update on the Convention and Awards.

### **New Business:**

Dues notices will go out October 1,

Bill stated that each member needs to go on the National Website to update their data.

### **Announcements:**



Shipmate Brian Woodson was presented with his vest.

### **Good of the Order:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by Hobe Scharff.

Next meeting will be October 15, 2022, at the Veterans Building.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.



## Mare Island Base Officers & Contacts

### Commander:

Tim Carlisle (925) 812-4239 4100 Alhambra #1341 Martinez, CA 94553. [timcarlisle00@hotmail.com](mailto:timcarlisle00@hotmail.com)

### Vice Commander:

Michael Brigandi (707) 342-1118 40 Wilson Ave, Vallejo, CA 94590 [snow963db@yahoo.com](mailto:snow963db@yahoo.com)

### Secretary:

### Treasurer:

William Dornik (707) 644-4746 751 Rollingwood Rd. Vallejo, CA 94591-5707 [wdornik@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wdornik@sbcglobal.net)

### Member at Large:

Gary Peterson (707) 644-4229 825 Ashwood Ave. Vallejo, CA 94591 [imppete@att.net](mailto:imppete@att.net)

### Storekeeper:

Ron Triplett (510) 331-9457 19412 San Miguel Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546-3425 [rjtriplett@comcast.net](mailto:rjtriplett@comcast.net)

### POC / Newsletter Editor / Pub & Web Master:

John North (925) 676-5784 1779 Elm Rd. Concord, CA 94519 [northjohn621@gmail.com](mailto:northjohn621@gmail.com)

### Western District 5 Commander:

Tim Carlisle (925) 812-4239 4100 Alhambra #1341 Martinez, CA 94553. [timcarlisle00@hotmail.com](mailto:timcarlisle00@hotmail.com)

### Western Region Director:

Pete Juhos (916) 983-7943 [dsv3.ss1@gmail.com](mailto:dsv3.ss1@gmail.com)



### Shipmates

U.S. Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Week is just around the corner!

Each Year K4K Week is celebrated around Veterans Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>).

Please contact Base Commander Tim Carlisle if you are interested in participating in this program.

**Program Coordinator:** John Riley (203) 668-9131 [subvets4kidss@gmail.com](mailto:subvets4kidss@gmail.com)

**United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation:** Ken Earls (541) 879-3038 [kenearls.ss@gmail.com](mailto:kenearls.ss@gmail.com)

<https://www.ussvcf.org/videos.html>



### Coming Events

**Mare Island Base Meeting:** October 15, 12 noon, Veteran's Memorial Building Vallejo, CA.  
**Basque Club Holiday Luncheon:** December 10, 12 noon, Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco CA

#### **ANNUAL BOOSTERS**

To become a booster, a donation of \$60 per year or \$5 per month is required

D. Boncore	D. D'Ambrogio
J. Infanger	J. North
D. Robinson	A. Cole
R. Gibson	J. Gibson
T. Foglesong	T. Moniz
J. Anderson	

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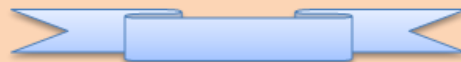
#### **MONTHLY BOOSTERS**

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** **OCTOBER**

Everett Burchell	Thomas Cosso
Allan Grissette	Peter Juhos
Jerry Marks	Donald Okrassa
Hobert Scharff	Gary Sloan

### **ETERNAL PATROL / SEPTEMBER**

**Lawrence Davis Jr. 9/23/2022**



**Sailor Rest Your Oar**



## **LOST BOATS / OCTOBER**

**Please Fly Your Flag On Lost Boats Days**



### **USS Seawolf (SS-197)**

Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.



### **USS S-44 (SS-155)**

Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.



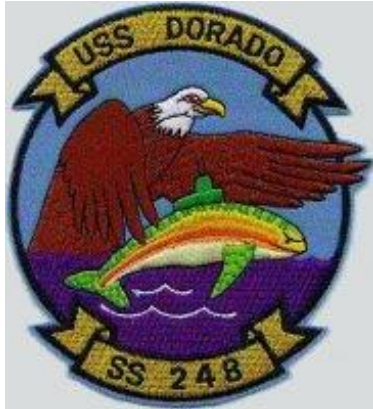
### **USS Wahoo (SS-238)**

Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

*Cont...*



"Lost Boats" cont...



### USS Dorado (SS-248)

Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.



### USS Escolar (SS-294)

Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.



### USS Shark II (SS-314)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.



### USS Darter (SS-227)

Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

Cont...

Lost Boats cont...



### USS Tang (SS-306)

Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



### USS O-5 (SS-66)

Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.



Photos taken at the Submarine Birthday Ball  
Monterey, CA



## **We Were a Different Bunch**

*by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong*

I remember a retired four-striper asking me one time, over late afternoon patio drinks,

"One thing I never understood about you lads in the submarine force... You were constantly at the center of damn near every 'dust up' and weird stunt involving in-portnaval personnel."

He went on to relate a personal experience. While serving in some liaison role with Spanish Naval forces, he and his lovely wife Anna Marie attended a bullfight. Late in the afternoon, a gentleman dressed only in dog tags, skivvy shorts and an inverted white hat, leaped into the ring... Yelled, "Hey, POT ROAST!" and did a strange boogaloo in front of a confused bull until the Spanish constabulary forces carted him off.

"What did that accomplish? What do you think made him do it?"

I gave him the 'This is probably what you want to hear' bullshit and went on. Why did we do that kind of stuff? Blame the selection process.

The general population of naval forces contains the full spectrum of humanity... A cross-section of middle America. Running from the exceptionally bright to the walkingbrain dead. In the middle of this seething caldron of raw, unvarnished manhood, a call went out for volunteers for the United States Submarine Service.

Prior to this 'Come forth, you adventurous devils' call, there was a lot of 'Most of you ain't got the cajones' talk, and 'We only take the best' bullshit. This was a form of naturalselection... You had to be or desire to be, something different to hop in that trick bag.

Next, they packaged up this band of 'Have no idea what they've gotten into' idiots and sent them to New London.

I have no idea what was involved in the New London selection process... Absolutely no idea what those strange practitioners of hocus-pocus did or wanted to accomplish. The net effect of this process was to filter out everyone but the devious, the wild, the class clown, and the 'Wait 'til they get a load of me' lunatic... All having a good grasp of mechanics, physics, common sense, logical reasoning, and a sense of humor. By some major miracle, the process magically located men who could live together in close proximity... Like a fraternity moving into a construction site portable john.

Once the process implanted the basic knowledge, weeded out the sick, lame, lazy, and the 'What'n th' hell would I want to live like this for?' crowd, and made sure you weren't a known carrier of some exotic tropical drop-dead virus, they packed you off to various obsolete contraptions located up and down the coast.

Like being born, God and BUPERS just assign you to a family. When you arrive, you are just another orphan with a sea bag, dumped on the doorstep of your new home.

*Cont...*



*"We Were" cont...*

When you dump your gear on the brow and hand your orders to the topside watch, another subtle selection process begins. The deck force sees fresh talent... The messcook, relief! The COB, another pain-in-the-butt kid.

In three months, if you're not linked up with all the lads standing topside, in a lifetime cement job relationship, you're probably moving to a new address. Once you had been accepted and baptized with a nickname, you began to notice attitudinal and behavioral changes.

You find that the Naval establishment makes allowances and allows a degree of latitude not given the rest of the fleet, supposedly to compensate for living compressed in a sardine tin... And knowing the type of lads that successfully negotiate the selection process, they constantly expand the allowances and latitude envelope, and plumb the depths of naval forgiveness.

The four-striper went on...

"Hell, you won't believe this... When the Spanish police turned this damn near nude idiot over to the duty officer, the corpsman said it was a touch of sunstroke and turned him into his rack. The exec apologized to the carabinieri and that was it... If that SOB had been a lad off my ship, I would have roasted that sonuvabitch alive." I rest my case.

There were times we didn't understand each other. If you were an East Coast smoke boat sailor, you will remember Maggie's. Maggie's house of carnal delights. Three girls - \$100 and Maggie, God bless her, would hold your I.D. and liberty card to ensure gentlemanly conduct. Maggie's was a highly respected institution. I once saw a Connecticut state trooper's hat hanging on a hook in Maggie's parlor.

"Jeezus Maggie, where'n the hell did THAT come from?" "Oh rats, Bill left his hat here again... He'll be back, darlin'..." I said to myself, if a Connecticut state trooper comes in, I'm going out a window. One night, there was a sailor out of SUBRON 8 sitting in Maggie's parlor. I said, "Hey cowboy, what're you gettin' tonight?" "Bed and clean sheets..."

"Bed and clean sheets? Why a bed and sheets?"

"Been out... Was out five weeks... Known Maggie a long time. If we come in and Maggie is having a slow night, she lets me shower and rack out for ten bucks. On an active night, Peggy takes me to her place when she gets off. Maggie's kinda like my mom..."

I never figured that guy out.

Last time I visited Maggie's was '62... Left an I.D. and bracelet I got for high school graduation, hanging on a toothbrush holder in room 2. Never went back.

If you never had breakfast, coffee, a hot shower, and a 6AM roll in the hay at Maggie's home for boat sailors, you missed one of the great cultural experiences of Naval service. Breakfast at Maggie's put a smile on your face at morning quarters. Lorine...

Dusty... Or Lorine & Dusty... 'Breakfast of Champions', and one of the primary reasons we won the Cold War. Ivan had Katrinka and Natasha... Wool bloomers, vodka breath, all packed in a canvas nightie...

We won.



**UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. MARISLAND BASE**

Application For Membership

**Our Creed:** "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their Country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward the greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States and its Constitution."

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOAT QUALIFIED ON & DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RANK/RATE ATTAINED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY:** YES ( ) NO ( )

**USN or USNR RETIRED:** YES ( ) NO ( )

**OTHER BOATS SERVED ON (Name/Hull#/Dates):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$10. Base Dues, and \$25. National Dues. If you prefer you can renew 3 yrs. at \$27. for Base Dues, and \$70. National Dues, or 5 yrs. at \$45. for Base Dues and \$115. National Dues. Life Membership for National: Under 45=\$500.00, age 46-55=\$400.00, age 56-65=\$300.00, age 66-75 =\$200.00, age 76+ =\$100.00. (Life Members must also pay Base Dues as stated above.) Please send your check made out to **Mare Island Base** to:

William Dornik  
751 Rollingwood Dr.  
Vallejo, CA 94591

Newsletter Editor  
John C. North  
1779 Elm Rd.  
Concord, CA 94519

