



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

The Dolphin Brotherhood

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Seattle USSVI Base

Meeting Recap

Here is a short recap of the most recent base meetings. You can read the minutes of recent meetings on the Seattle Base blog: (<http://seattlebase.blogspot.com/>)

January Meeting

At the January meeting we got the 2017 end of year reports from the Seattle Base officers. Then we moved to elections for new officers, see page 3 for the full list of officers. Thanks to out-going Base Commander Al Smith for his time in office. Special thanks to out-going Treasurer Jim Harper, who has been Treasurer longer than most of us have been members.

Ric Hedman took over as new Base Commander and talked about plans for 2018. We plan to attend the usual local parades and we are looking at adding a picnic and other events. If you have suggestions for something, please bring it up at a future meeting or contact one of the officers.

We will be manning the coffee booth at the north-bound Smokey Point rest stop on June 1 - 4. We hope you'll take some time to help out with this important fund-raising event. We will have further information at upcoming meetings.

Commander's Corner

By Ric Hedman, Base Commander



Shipmates,

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone who helped out with our Valentines meeting for our "Sweeties". Many thanks to Kerry Ryan's daughter for making the cakes, she is a professional Baker with Costco, and Kerry for stepping forward to transport them. Thank You's to Steve and Linda Shelton for "Midrats", serving the Ice Cream and picking up some decorations. Thank you to an anonymous donor for the 3 dozen Red roses that were given to our ladies. Thanks also to a donor for the Valentines cards; AND... many Thank You's to those who helped to set

up tables and chairs and decorate and then to those who helped take it all down and clean up when the event was over.

I have been suffering with intense back pain for close to two weeks and everyone's help has been very much appreciated by me.

I'd like to welcome a new member, Mr Ken Shang who served as an officer aboard the *USS James Monroe*. Welcome KEN!!! Remember, if you see a new face at a meeting take time to say hello and introduce yourself.

See "Commander's Corner" on Page 2

February Meeting

In February we got updates on Seattle Base some upcoming events. We will have a fund-raising event at Cabela's Tulalip store in Marysville on March 17 and 18. We need volunteers to help man the table/float space at the store. Please feel free to show up and help out.

We also learned that the 2018 Seattle Base Holiday Luncheon is set for Saturday, December 8. This year the lunch will be at the Nile Shrine Center in Mountlake Terrace with an estimated cost will be \$25 per person.

All of these events, along with several others, are listed in the 2018 Seattle Base Activities Calendar on the Seattle Base Blog. Be sure to have a look!

After a short business meeting, we had a belated Valentine's Day celebration to celebrate the ladies and them for the support they given us in the past and into the future. See page 4 for some photos from the meeting.

The monthly meetings are always a good chance to catch up with shipmates and share a few sea stories. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

U.S. Submarine Force Losses March - April Losses

Remembering our lost shipmates; thank you for your service and sacrifice.

March

USS Perch (SS-176) scuttled on 3-Mar-1942, 30 miles NW Soerabia, Java. All 59 crew were taken prisoner, 53 survived the war.

USS Grampus (SS-207) lost on or after 5-Mar-1943, with the loss of 71 crew, when it was sunk in the Vella Gulf in the Solomon Islands.

USS H-1 [ex-SEAWOLF] (SS-28) lost on 12-Mar-1920, with the loss of 4 crew, when it grounded in Magdalena Bay, Mexico and was sunk in 9 fathoms while being towed off.

USS Triton (SS-201) lost on 15-Mar-1943, with the loss of 74 crew, when it was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese destroyers.

USS Kete (SS-369) lost sometime on or after 20-Mar-1945, with the loss of 87 crew, when it was sunk on its 2nd war patrol probably somewhere near Okinawa.

USS F-4 [ex-SKATE] (SS-23) lost on 25-Mar-1915, with the loss of 21 crew, when it foundered off Honolulu Harbor.

USS Tullibee (SS-284) lost on 26-Mar-1944, with the loss of 79 crew, when it was sunk in operating area just north of Palau. One man was taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Trigger (SS-237) lost on 26-Mar-1945, with the loss of 89 crew, when it was sunk on its 12th war patrol in the area East of Kyushu.

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177) lost on 3-Apr-1943, with the loss of 74 crew, when it was sunk near Shiramuka Light off northern Honshu.

USS Snook (SS-279) lost sometime after 8-Apr-1945, with the loss of 84 crew, when it was sunk near Hainan Island.

USS Thresher (SSN-593) lost on 10-Apr-1963, with the loss of 129 crew and yard workers, when it was sunk while on sea trials near Isle of Shoals.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) lost on 18 April-1944, with the loss of 79 crew, when it was sunk off Saipan near Maug Island.

USS Grenadier (SS-210) scuttled 22-Apr-1943, after serious damage by aircraft near Penang. 76 crew were taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

"Commander's Corner" continued from page 1

Coming up in March is a fund raiser at Cabela's in Marysville on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th. I encourage folks to come out and talk to the shoppers as we are set up once again right at the south door. We always seem to have a lot of donations that these events. Please come help us. I have a speaking engagement at the Bremerton Base meeting on Saturday morning. So I will probably not be there on Saturday, but I will be there Sunday.

June 1st thru 4th we are at Smoky Point, Northbound, serving free coffee to travelers. It is a major fund raiser event for the Base and volunteers for shifts are needed.

Please put the 4th of July Parade in Kirkland on your calendar. It is always a lot of fun.

August is our Annual Tolling of The Boats at the Kirkland Waterfront. Dates to be announced at a later meeting. Check with Lois if you'd like to help

Our March speaker is our own Keith Watson. Future speakers are Steve Lewis, our resident Marine and president of the Thresher Base Sub Vets Motorcycle Club. Dave Schueler our newsletter editor has agreed to give us a presentation as well. His talks in the past have been well received. And last but not least, one of our own WW II SubVets, Ralph Sterley has said he'd be willing to tell us about his WW II service. In the intervening meetings I will have a talk or two ready to give if necessary.

Don't forget about the Annual Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, November 10, 2018 in Auburn, Washington. Please join us.

Our Christmas Luncheon this year is scheduled to be at The Nile Golf and Country Club on December 8th. The Nile club is just a block west of the I-5 freeway intersection with 205th/244th. Details to come in future meetings and newsletters.

And lastly but not the least, we bid a sad farewell to Seattle Base member and WW II Veteran John Baker RM/2 SS who passed on January 26, 2017. Fair winds and Following Seas Shipmate!!

Respectfully,
Ric Hedman
Seattle Base Commander

2018 -19 Seattle Base Officers

At the January meeting we had our elections for Base Officers and since there were no opposing nominations from the slate, the new officers were elected by acclamation. Western District 4 Commander Jim DeMott was on hand to swear-in the new officers.

Please welcome our 2018-19 officers and committee chairs.

- Base Commander – Ric Hedman
- Sr Vice Commander – Larry Abbott
- Jr Vice Commander – Earl Greening
- Secretary – Bill Giese
- Treasurer – Lois Mezek
- Chief of the Boat – Ralph Sterley
- Base Chaplin – Andrea Geisler
- Storekeeper – Ralph Sterley
- Newsletter Editor/Webmaster – Dave Schueler

We want to thank Al Smith for his work as Base Commander. We also want to say a special thanks to Jim Harper, who has finally been replaced as Treasurer.



Western District 4 Commander Jim DeMott swears in the new officers

Calendar Recycling

As you get ready to trade your 2017 submarine calendar for the 2018 version, you might be wondering what to do with this and any other old submarine calendars. How about turning them back in for recycling?

Karl 'Dutch' Krompholz has asked that members bring any old submarine calendars to him at future meetings. He will recycle the old calendar pictures for other purposes, such as giving away to kids and veterans.

So think about bringing your old calendars to the next meeting and give them a new life.

Smokey Point Rest Stop Event

We will be manning the coffee booth at the north-bound Smokey Point rest stop again. This year we drew June 1 through 4 (Friday through Monday). We are not required to man the booth between midnight and 5 AM, which will help with scheduling.

We will have more information as we get closer to the date, but be sure to mark this on your calendar as a reminder.

2018 USSVI Awards Nominations are Open

The 2018 National USSVI Awards Nomination Process started at the beginning of February. Please take a moment to look over the awards and consider nominating a shipmate or a Base for an award for all the good things this shipmate or Base did during 2017.

Let's acknowledge and reward our shipmates for a job well done by nominating them an Award. Please review the manual and follow the directions.

Currently, the Awards Manual can be found on the USSVI website (<http://www.ussvi.org/>) by clicking the Awards link on the left and then clicking the Manuals link.

All Award nominations (with exception of Newsletter Award) must be received by the National Awards Committee Chairman, John Stanford, by April 30, 2018. Awards will be presented at the USSVI National Convention in October.



February Valentines Meeting

We turned the last half of our February meeting into a belated Valentine's Day celebration to thank the ladies for the support they given us in the past and into the future. We had roses and Valentine's Day cards for all the ladies, along with decorations, cake, ice cream, and the usual refreshments. Everyone had a chance to fill out a card and present a rose before refreshments were served. Then there was time to meet new people and reintroduce ourselves to those we hadn't seen in a while.

Overall, it was a successful event and we had a nice turnout for the meeting.



Flowers and Cards



The ladies enjoyed the flowers



One of the cakes



Everyone liked the cake and ice cream



New member Ken Shang (right) talking with Doug Gilman



And the chance to visit

Oklahoma's Only Submarine: The USS Batfish Is Still 'Living History'

Galen Culver, Oklahomas' News 4

It's not buried in the earth or hidden behind the cornerstone of an old building, but Brent Trout and Corrie Twillie insist this historic metal container is every bit like a huge time capsule.

"Every day that I work, I come down here maybe 30 or 40 times," says Trout who is Executive Director of the USS Batfish Museum. "It's fascinating. There's always something new to see."

The *USS Batfish* emerged from seven different combat patrols during World War II. The last time we came down here in 1993 many of her original crew could still tell you where they worked and slept. 25 years after their 50th reunion that crew is down to two surviving members. The reunions are over, and people like Brent and Corrie are left to stand in for the men who took this vessel into combat.

Trout relates what those original sailors told him, "The simplest explanation is that it was the best time in their lives. They won't ever say this in front of their kids or wives, but the list goes sub service, marriage, kids." No other sub has as many enemy submarine kills. The *Batfish* has an unofficial record of enduring 125 depth charge explosions in one terrifying 8 hour period.

Twillie guesses that he's now spent more nights aboard the *Batfish* in Muskogee than any of the original crew. "You feel like you're coming to visit family," he says. "This feels like home."

He and a few other living historians will dress up in their Navy gear this weekend to show people what it was like to live and work on this boat, to earn your 'Dolphins', to smell the diesel that still lingers among the kinds of wartime artifacts you can still crawl through.

The *USS Batfish* and War Memorial Park are located along the Arkansas River at the Port of Muskogee.



Batfish at War Memorial Park in Muskogee Oklahoma

Submarine HMAS Onslow Returns To Museum After Tender Loving Care

Staff, 9 News



HMAS Onslow at the Australian Maritime Museum

The submarine *HMAS Onslow* led an exciting and mysterious life, which included stalking the Russian navy. But retirement has meant a more relaxed existence at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour. Yet, in the past few weeks she has been getting some tender loving care.

"She looks fantastic - we've had quite a few people saying is the vessel going back into service," Thales project manager Stephen Farrow told 9NEWS.

HMAS Onslow was decommissioned in 1999 after 31 years of service.

"The crews of the *Oberon* class boats remember them with a huge amount of affection," Navy Heritage Collections director Damien Allan said.

"They were quite deadly and stealthy in their day."

This year marks her 50th birthday with the aging, rusty submarine getting some much-needed attention with a \$1 million make-over.

"This was part of the corrosion issue," Mr Farrow said.

"This is part of the exhaust system which was causing a lot of the corrosion, so this has been taken away and you can see how bad the descaling is."

She has spent the last month being cleaned and repaired at Garden Island's dry dock, including a fresh lick of paint.

"With these new paints, instead of having a docking every three years, we'll be able to put it out to about six years which is a huge saving of money for the museum," Mr Allen said.

Returning home to the Australian National Maritime Museum, the public can climb aboard the rejuvenated *HMAS Onslow*.

Two “Mighty Mos”: Submarine *USS Missouri* Meets Its Battleship Namesake In Hawaii

Tyler Rogoway, The Drive

It was a unique moment in American naval history on January 26th, 2018 when the *Virginia* class fast attack nuclear submarine *USS Missouri* (SSN-780) arrived in its new homeport of Pearl Harbor, making its way past the famed, albeit retired *USS Missouri* (BB-63) battleship of the same name.

The battleship *USS Missouri* and the nuclear submarine *USS Missouri* couldn't be more different when it comes to warfighting vessels, but the rich heritage and lore that surrounds the name binds the two vessels together, in addition to their now common home. Just four American Navy vessels have been named after the 24th state.

The *Iowa* class battleship *USS Missouri* is by far the most famous of the lot, having participated in WWII, the Korean War, and the Gulf War. Yet the vessel is probably best known for Japan's signing of the official instrument of surrender on its teak deck, a moment that marked the end of horrific World War II.

The submarine *USS Missouri* was commissioned in 2010 and was originally based out of Groton, Connecticut before the orders to move her and her crew to Oahu came down. Packing up her 160 sailors and officers and their families and moving them thousands of miles away to an island in the Pacific is no small task, but it's hard to ask for a better station than gorgeous Hawaii's Pearl Harbor.

One thing the battleship and its nuclear

submarine counterpart have in common is weaponry. The submarine *USS Missouri*'s primary land attack weapon is the RGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile. The battleship *Missouri* received Tomahawk capability during her final refit in the 1980s via the installation of armored box launchers on her deck. At 01:40 am on January 17th, 1991 the ship fired its first Tomahawk in anger at Iraqi targets, followed by 27 additional missiles over the next five days. Desert Storm would also see the *Missouri* and her sister-ship the *Wisconsin* pull off the largest naval feint in decades with their mighty 16 inch guns.

Although there have been calls for the Navy to bring back these hulking antique vessels over the last two and a half decades, doing so would be a major undertaking and the cost would be massive.

Regardless of the great battleship debate, the arrival of the submarine *USS Missouri*, which like its forbearer goes by the nickname of “The Mighty Mo,” at Naval Base Pearl Harbor resulted in one hell of a photo opportunity. The vessel's sailors were decked out in their white uniforms as the submarine quietly passed by its namesake and the *USS Arizona Memorial*.

USS Missouri will join Submarine Squadron One and is the sixth *Virginia* class fast attack boat stationed at Pearl Harbor. Judging by current events, the submarine and her crew will extremely busy in the months and years to come as the Pacific increasingly becomes the strategic focus of America's military.



Missouri (BB-63) meets Missouri (SSN-780)

Canadian Submarine Makes First Trip To Asia-Pacific In 50 Years

Staff, Channel News Asia

A Canadian submarine is patrolling the western Pacific for the first time in nearly 50 years, amid heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Although *HMCS Chicoutimi's* mission was scheduled a year ago, it comes after the United States and its allies agreed at crisis talks in Vancouver last month to tougher measures to halt North Korean sanctions transgressions, including naval security operations to prevent maritime smuggling.

The sub's mission is scheduled to last almost 200 days, with port visits in Japan and Guam.

"This deployment signals the strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region to Canada and reinforces Canada's commitment to the maintenance of regional peace and security," Navy spokesman Captain Rick Donnelly told AFP.

The submarine, he said, was participating in "non-specific patrols and exercises with foreign navies" in the region, but will "not be doing any Olympic security" for the Seoul Winter Games, nor have "direct involvement" in enforcing sanctions imposed on North Korea.

Commander Stephane Ouellet earlier told public broadcaster CBC, which was invited inside the *Chicoutimi*, that the submarine was tasked with tracking merchant and military vessels while submerged, and observing suspicious activity on the sea to include ship-to-ship cargo transfers far from ports. North Korea has been accused of seeking to evade sanctions imposed on its isolated regime by transferring supplies from foreign vessels to its own ships on the high seas.

The last time *HMCS Chicoutimi* crossed an ocean in 2004, it flooded, caught fire and a sailor died. The sub did not return to operational service until 2015, after repairs and a retrofit.



HMCS Chicoutimi

WSU Team Helps NASA Test Space Sub For Titan's Seas

Staff, The Engineer,

Researchers from Washington State University (WSU) are helping NASA simulate the extreme conditions found on Saturn's moon Titan, to see how a space submarine might perform there.

The US space agency is planning a mission to Titan within the next 20 years and needs an autonomous submarine to navigate the moon's hydrocarbon lakes and seas. Comprised mostly of ethane and methane, these are the only known examples of stable liquid seas found anywhere in the solar system apart from Earth. However, the temperature in these hydrocarbon lakes can be in the region of -185°C , making them unlike any environment found naturally on our own planet.

To investigate how a submarine might operate in these extreme conditions, the WSU team recreated Titan's atmosphere in its cryogenic lab, building a high-pressure test chamber housing an ethane and methane liquid mix at very cold temperatures. It then added a two-inch, cylinder-shaped cartridge heater to simulate the heat that the space submarine would create. According to the researchers, one of the biggest challenges was understanding how nitrogen bubbles caused by the submarine's heat could affect its ability to manoeuvre, manage ballast systems and collect data.

In order to capture what was happening inside the chamber, the team engineered a solution using a borescope and a video camera that could withstand the conditions. Successfully captured footage showed ethane-methane rain and snow, mimicking the hydrocarbon precipitation believed to take place on Titan.

The group also studied the freezing temperatures for methane and ethane lakes and determined that, because of a small amount of nitrogen in the liquid, the lakes freeze at lower temperatures than would be expected: 75 Kelvin (-198°C) instead of 90.5 Kelvin (-183°C).

"That's a big deal," said Ian Richardson, a former graduate student at WSU's School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. "That means you don't have to worry about icebergs."

Richardson is WSU's first-ever recipient of a NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship and was approached about the experiment during an internship at the space agency.

"My research just took a right turn, and I went with it," he said. "It's a crazy experiment, and I never thought I would have had this opportunity. It's been a very fun and challenging experimental design problem."

Faslane Service Remembers Victims Of K13 Submarine Tragedy

Danielle Lappin, Helensburgh Advertiser

Royal Navy submariners past and present gathered to remember the 32 service personnel who died during the sinking of early submarine *K13* in 1917.

The ceremony, held at The Church of St John the Evangelist in Faslane, was attended by serving submariners from HM Naval Base Clyde and by veterans from the Submariners Association, including President Rear Admiral Niall Kilgor CB.

Association members from as far afield as Barrow-in-Furness, Manchester and Nottingham also attended to pay their respects alongside members of the local Royal British Legion Scotland, local Sea Cadets and members of Argyll and Bute Council. During the service the memorial bell was rung 32 times to remember those who lost their lives on January 29, 1917.

Submarine *K13* sank in the Gareloch while conducting sea trials. On board at the time were 53 Royal Navy submariners, 14 employees from Govan Shipbuilder Fairfields, five admiralty officials, a pilot and the captain and engineer from sister submarine *K14*. The crew of *K13* were trapped beneath the freezing waters of the Gareloch for 57 hours before help arrived.

Captain of the vessel, Lieutenant Commander Godfrey Herbert, and *K14*'s captain, Commander Francis Goodhart, made a desperate attempt to escape the stricken submarine to get help. The brave pair planned to use the space between the inner and outer hatches as an airlock, but only Herbert made it to the surface alive. Goodhart died after striking his head whilst escaping. He was later found trapped in the superstructure of the submarine.

Using Herbert's expert knowledge of the submarine, an air-line was attached to the vessel, allowing the submarine to raise her bow to the surface, where a hole was cut enabling the survivors to be rescued. However, by that time 32 people had already perished.

K13 was later raised from the Gareloch and returned to service as submarine HMS *K22*.



HMS K22 (formerly K13)

Submarine Detection A Rude Awakening For Sino-Japan Relations

Staff, Nikkei Asian Review

A Chinese submarine was recently detected in the contiguous zone around the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

The incident raised concerns on both sides. Japan was made aware that China is fully intent on continuing its maritime expansion while nominally working to improve ties with Japan. China, on its side, is facing domestic criticism for being easily detected by Japanese sonar.

In the afternoon of Jan. 10, a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force P-3C patrol plane dropped a sonar buoy into waters near Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture after spotting a submarine cruising underwater in a northwesterly direction. The device detected the sound of the submarine's engine and the MSDF destroyer *Onami* began tailing it. On Jan. 12, it was confirmed that the vessel belonged to the Chinese navy.

This marks the first recorded presence of a Chinese submarine in the waters. The vessel cruised in the direction of the uninhabited Senkaku Islands, which have long been a source of friction between Japan and China. Beijing claims the islands and calls them Diaoyu.

Another destroyer, the *Oyodo*, joined the *Onami* in following the submarine, which proceeded to enter the islands' contiguous zone in the morning of Jan. 11. The MSDF warned the submarine that it had entered the zone, but received no response. When the Japanese destroyers made their way into the zone, they were followed by a Chinese frigate that had been sailing nearby. The two Chinese vessels moved out of the contiguous zone a few hours later, with the submarine, identified as a Shang-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, resurfacing in the East China Sea on Jan. 12 and sailing under a Chinese flag.

"Is China's nuclear attack submarine too easy to detect?" the South China Morning Post wrote on January 28. "The early and long exposure of its underwater trajectory, according to military experts, suggests the vessel is not as quiet as it should be," the paper wrote.



A Shang (Type 93) Class submarine

India's New Attack Submarine Comes with Some Serious Firepower

Zachary Keck, The National Interest

After long years of neglect, India's submarine fleet is quickly growing.

On January 31, India launched *INS Karanj* at a naval dock in Mumbai. India's Navy chief, Adm. Sunil Lanba, was on hand to watch the event.

INS Karanj is the third of six Scorpène submarines that India is purchasing from France. Delhi and Paris first inked the agreement for the submarines in 2005, with the first one expected to be delivered in 2012. Instead, delivery was delayed until 2015 and didn't get commissioned into India's Navy until December of last year. The second Scorpène was launched in January 2017 and is currently undergoing sea trials. Local media reports say that *INS Karanj* is also expected to undergo sea trials for roughly a year before being commissioned into India's navy.

Delhi needs all the submarines it can get. By its own estimates, the Indian Navy needs roughly eighteen conventional attack submarines. Before commissioning the first of the Scorpène submarines in December, India's navy had thirteen aging ships, only half of which were operational at any one time. By contrast, the country had twenty-one submarines during the 1980s. The decline in India's undersea fleet is also evident from the fact that, according to the Times of India, Delhi hadn't commissioned a new attack submarine in seventeen years until the first Scorpène was commissioned in December 2017.

The Indian firm Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL) is collaborating with the French company Naval Group (formerly DCNS) in building Delhi's Scorpène submarines. Each submarine reportedly displaces around 1,500 tons, with a length of sixty-one meters. They boast six 533-millimeter torpedo tubes that can be armed with antiship torpedoes, antiship missiles or sea mines. The Scorpène submarines—which India calls the *Kalavri* class—are expected to be armed with the SM.39 Exocet underwater-launched antiship missile, which the lead ship, *INS Kalvari*, flight tested last year. The Exocet has a range of fifty kilometers and can also be fired at lower-than-periscope depths. The Hindu, an Indian newspaper, said the subs are powered by 360 battery cells that each weigh 750 kilograms, with two 1,250 kW MAN diesel engines charging the batteries. They are manned by a crew of forty-three sailors.

In a press release announcing last month's ship launch, India's Ministry of Defense stated: "The state-of-the-art technology utilized for construction of the Scorpene class submarines has

ensured superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons."

It added: "The attack can be launched with both torpedoes and tube launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface. The stealth of this potent platform is enhanced by the special attention given to various signatures. These stealth features give it an invulnerability, unmatched by most submarines." In addition, the Ministry of Defense said that the subs will be used in a multitude of different missions, including antisurface and antisubmarine warfare, along with intelligence gathering, surveillance and mine laying. The *Kalvari*-class subs are also able to operate in all different theaters.

One of the primary missions of the new submarines will undoubtedly be to monitor the increased Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Last July, local media reports, citing Indian naval and defense officials, said that the navy was particularly perturbed at the sight of more Chinese submarines in the waters. While some Chinese warships are expected given Beijing's participation in anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, an unnamed Indian naval officer noted: "Chinese submarines have been spotted in the region. Such assets are not used for anti-piracy operations. They are clearly making their presence felt in the region."

The Scorpène submarine was originally jointly developed by DCNS and the Spanish company Navantia. Other countries that have purchased Scorpène submarines include Chile, Brazil and Malaysia. The 2005 agreement with India was worth \$3.75 billion and included technology transfer. As such, the Ministry of Defense portrayed the new submarines as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India," initiative even though the original deal far predated his premiership.

At the ceremony launching the new sub, naval chief Admiral Lanba expressed hope that the earlier delays that plagued the program had been overcome. "MDSL and the Naval Group have put their houses in order and we have seen quick launches of the first three boats. I am quite confident that they have learnt from the experience of building and commissioning the first boat. I do not foresee any more delays in the program," he said. Regarding specific timelines for the three remaining submarines, an unnamed defense official told the Hindu, "The three submarines are in various stages of outfitting. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2020."

Base News and Information Page

Mark the Date

Here are a few items for 2018. You can find more on the calendar page on the Seattle Base blog. Be sure to mark them on your calendars so you don't forget. More dates will be posted as events are announced.

March 17 & 18: Seattle Base at Cabela's
Oct 21 - 28: USSVI National Convention, Western Carribean Cruise

Contact the Newsletter Editor for more information on these events. Be sure to check the 2018 Base Events Calendar for more items.

2018-2019 Seattle Base Officers & Chairs

Commander:	Ric Hedman	206-335-7424
Sr. Vice Commander:	Larry Abbott	425-745-9433
Jr. Vice Commander:	Earl Greening	360-982-2682
Secretary:	Bill Giese	425-355-5990
Treasurer:	Lois Mezek	253-373-0219
Membership Chair:	Larry Abbott	425-745-9433
Base Chaplain:	Andrea Geisler	425-702-2121
Chief of the Boat:	Ralph Sterley	360-568-4420
Storekeeper:	Ralph Sterley	360-568-4420
Webmaster:	Steve Shelton	206-526-1130
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Schueler	206-243-6784

Birthday Wishes

Here is a list of Seattle Base member birthdays for March and April. Be sure to wish them a 'Happy Birthday and many returns' the next time you see them, offer to buy them a drink, and see if they remember what year they were born.

Pat Householder	Mar 8
Carrol Burlingame	Mar 8
Ray Stewart	Mar 8
Stephen Miller	Mar 11
Robert Shirer	Mar 12
William Linn	Mar 14
Larry Abbott	Mar 15
Peter Berkebile	Mar 15
Don Ulmer	Mar 16
Schell Harmon	Mar 17
Bob Haslan	Mar 17
Seattle USSVI Base	Mar 23
Dennis Kerton	Mar 29
Andreas Benson	Mar 29
Dale Ness	Mar 30
John Mansfield	Apr 1
Ken Murray	Apr 1
Ian Ellis	Apr 5
John McKeon	Apr 7
Michael Bennett	Apr 9
Joseph Doyle	Apr 9
William Lightfoot	Apr 13
Don Masoero	Apr 18
Eric Muller	Apr 27

Upcoming Meetings

March

21 March, General Meeting

April

18 April, General Meeting

Meetings are held at the Lake Washington VFW Post 2995, 4330 148th Ave Redmond WA 98052. The meetings start at 7:00 PM with social time in the lounge and meeting room before the meeting.

Newsletter Notes

A full-color version of the current Seattle Base newsletter is available from the Seattle Base blog (<http://seattlebase.blogspot.com/>).

Remember, if you do not need a hardcopy of the newsletter mailed to you or if you just prefer reading the newsletter online or receiving a copy by email, please let me know. You would be helping out the base by reducing the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Also, remember to check the Seattle Base blog for meeting minutes, event updates, and new articles.

Finally, if you have any comments, good or bad, about the newsletter or if you have an article you would like to contribute, please feel free to talk with me about it. My mailing address is the return address for the newsletter or you can call me at: (206) 243-6784, or email at: daveshoe@aol.com

Welcome Aboard New Base Members

Ken Shang	James Monroe (SSBN-642)
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Dave Schueler, Newsletter Editor

Eternal Patrol: Ben Harrison



Seattle Base and Holland Club member Ben Harrison departed on Eternal Patrol on January 21, 2018.

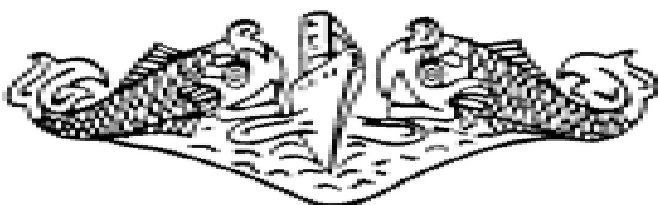
Ben was born on Aug 15, 1925 in Rochester WA. He was one of 12 children born to Max and Blanche Couture. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He volunteered for the Navy and served aboard

submarines during WWII and again in the Korean War. Ben qualified on *USS Piranha* (SS-389) and also served on *USS Parche* (SS-384), *USS Steelhead* (SS-280), *USS Cabezon* (SS-334), and *USS Pilotfish* (SS-386). He was very proud of his service to his country.

In 1954, his service in the Korean War ended, and he met his future wife Doris Eash in the Ambassadors Club at University Presbyterian Church. Doris and Ben married June 20, 1962. Following his military service, he attended the University of Washington School of Forestry, receiving his S.S. in 1966. His love of trees and the environment is his legacy. He was a kind, gentle man, an environmentalist of the first order. The forests of Western Washington will miss his expertise and care. He spent many years working with Weyerhaeuser in Federal Way, supporting and planting the forests in the Snoqualmie National Forest.

After retirement, Ben worked as a private contractor helping individual owners manage their timber. His love of photography often saw him with his camera around his neck, at the ready to catch the scenes of nature. Ben belonged to the Society of American Foresters, was very active in the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theatre and served as President, and he was a member of the University Presbyterian Church. He was a long-time supporter of the University of Washington and a Husky Alumni Club member, holding season tickets for many years of cheering the Huskies. Survivors include his wife of 55 1/2 years, many family and friends, and many trees in the forest.

Sailor, Rest Your Oar



Eternal Patrol: John Baker



John Baker departed on Eternal Patrol on January 26, 2018 after a four-month illness. John was born on July 12, 1924 in Seattle.

In 1943, immediately after graduation from Lincoln High School in Seattle, John joined the United States Navy. He trained as a radioman before going to Portsmouth, N.H.

to train for submarine duty. John began as a Radioman Third Class on the crew of a newly constructed diesel-electric Balao-class submarine, *U.S.S. Atule* (SS 403). The *Atule* crossed the Caribbean Sea and traveled to Pearl Harbor. In October 1944 the *Atule* left Pearl Harbor on the submarine's first of four war patrols in the South Pacific. The *Atule* was off the coast of Japan in 1945 when it received word that Japan had surrendered. John was discharged from the Navy in 1946. John wrote a book titled *My Story: My Love Affair with the US Navy*. John's book is partially published at:

www.johnrobertatule.wordpress.com.

After World War II John began studying pharmacy at the University of Washington. At college John met his wife, Barbara Shawcross. Upon graduation, John and Barbara moved to Wenatchee, WA, where John worked as a pharmacist at Thrifty Drug. In 1952, the family moved to Ephrata, where John owned and operated Minute Drug until 1973.

John left pharmacy to start a new career driving a moving van for North American Van Lines. John later left the moving business to drive for various trucking firms in the Seattle area.

After John retired in 1990 he and Barbara moved from Redmond, WA to Port Townsend. They were long-time volunteers for Port Townsend Visitor Information Center. John also became active in U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

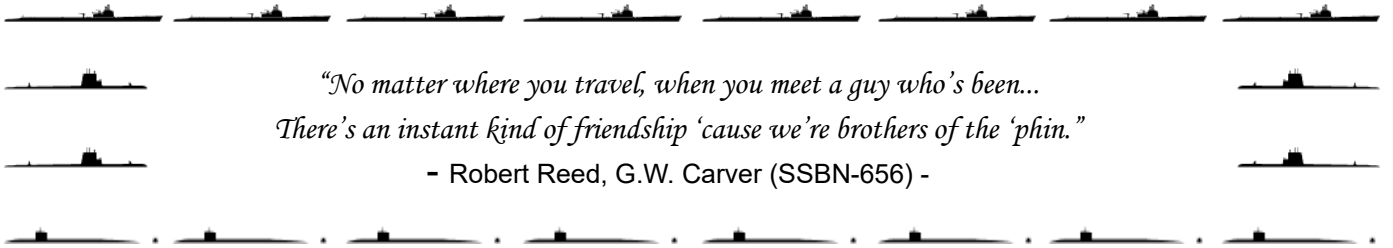
After Barbara died in 2012, John lived independently at his home overlooking Fort Worden. John was a voracious reader of books, magazines and newspapers. He completed crossword and puzzles on a daily basis to keep his mind sharp. John was also an avid Washington Husky and Seattle Seahawks football fan.

John's ashes will be buried at Tahoma National Cemetery, where his wife is buried. A memorial service will be held sometime this summer.

Sailor, Rest Your Oar

USSVI Seattle Base Newsletter
 c/o Dave Schueler
 10631 31st Ave SW
 Seattle, WA 98146

To:



*"No matter where you travel, when you meet a guy who's been...
 There's an instant kind of friendship 'cause we're brothers of the 'phin."
 - Robert Reed, G.W. Carver (SSBN-656) -*

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**Two "Mighty Mos" Meet at Pearl Harbor
 See page 6 for the story.**