



*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 each meeting on the Seattle Base website: <http://www.ussvi.org/base/Seattle.asp> and blog. A copy of the previous meeting minutes is also available to read before each meeting.

## November Meeting

We started the November meeting with a recap of the Auburn Veterans Day Parade (see page 7 for photos). We were joined by members from Bremerton Base and the Silent Service Motorcycle Club. Thanks again to Ric Hedman for helping to organize the parade this year.

We also were reminded about the Seattle Base USSVI Holiday Luncheon (see pages 8 and 9 for photos) and that it is time for annual members to pay their dues.

We got the slate of nominations for the January elections from the nominations committee. Outgoing Base Commander Al Smith thanked everyone for all the help and work members have done during his tenure.

Ric Hedman let us know that the Travel Channel is doing a special on USS O-5 and licensed some of the photos from his website, Pigboats.com, for the special. He will let us know more about when it will air as he gets the information.

We didn't have a program planned for the meeting, instead we opened the floor to share Thanksgiving stories. We got cooking tips from Doug Abramson on using popcorn in your stuffing, so you can tell when the turkey is done and Al Smith on not sealing the turkey too tightly. We also heard stories from Ric Hedman, Lois Mezek, and Jerry Gerten. Thanks to all that shared stories, it was a good way to wrap up the last meeting of the year.

There was no meeting in December due to Holiday Luncheon.

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.

## Commander's Corner

By Al Smith, Base Commander



Shipmates,

Here we are at the end of the year. I do hope that it has been a good year for all of you; it has been for me. I hope that you all had a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since this is the last time I will be sending this out for the Commanders Corner, I would like to tell all of you how much I have enjoyed your help and support. Without you all being behind me it would not have been possible for me to do what little I have done, so THANK YOU.

What a great time we had at our Lunch. It was wonderful to meet some of you that I have not seen before, to see some new faces, and for my wife to meet some of the great people that I have the honor of being My Shipmates. I hope that you all had as much fun as I did.

## U.S. Submarine Force Losses January - February Losses

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

### January

*USS Scorpion (SS-278)* lost on 5-Jan-1944, with the loss of 76 crew, when sunk in the East China Sea on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine. *Note: Date spread is 1-5-44 to 2-24-44 and this entry often appears in February.*

*USS Argonaut (SS-166)* lost on 10-Jan-1943, with the loss of 102 crew, when sunk by Japanese destroyers off Rabaul on her 3rd patrol.

*USS Swordfish (SS-193)* lost on or after 12-Jan-1945, with the loss of 89 crew, on her 13th patrol. The cause is unknown, but probably a mine. *Note: Loss declared 15 Feb 45, some use this date.*

*USS S-36 (SS-141)* lost on 20-Jan-1942 when destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, on her 2nd war patrol. All the crew were rescued.

*USS S-26 (SS-131)* lost on 24-Jan-1942, with the loss of 46 crew, when sunk after being rammed by *USS PC-460* in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light.

### February

*USS Barbel (SS-316)* lost on or after 4-Feb-1945, with the loss of 81 crew, when sunk in southern entrance to Palawan Passage on her 4th war patrol. *Note: Loss date could be as late as 6 February; however Japanese records indicate the 4th as the sinking attack date.*

*USS Shark (SS-174)* lost on 11-Feb-1942, with the loss of 59 crew, when sunk east of Menado, Celebes on her 1st war patrol. *Shark* was the first US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific.

*USS Amberjack (SS-219)* lost on 16-Feb-1943, with the loss of 72 crew, when sunk off Rabaul by Japanese air and surface forces on her 3rd war patrol.

*USS Grayback (SS-208)* lost on 26-Feb-1944, with the loss of 80 crew, when sunk in the East China Sea by Japanese aircraft on her 10th war patrol.

*USS Trout (SS-202)* lost on or after 29-Feb-1944, with the loss of 79 crew, when sunk by Japanese escort ships in the middle of Philippines Basin.

"Commander's Corner" continued from page 1

In closing I again would like to thank all of you for the help you gave me as Base Commander and ask that you give that same support to our next Commander.

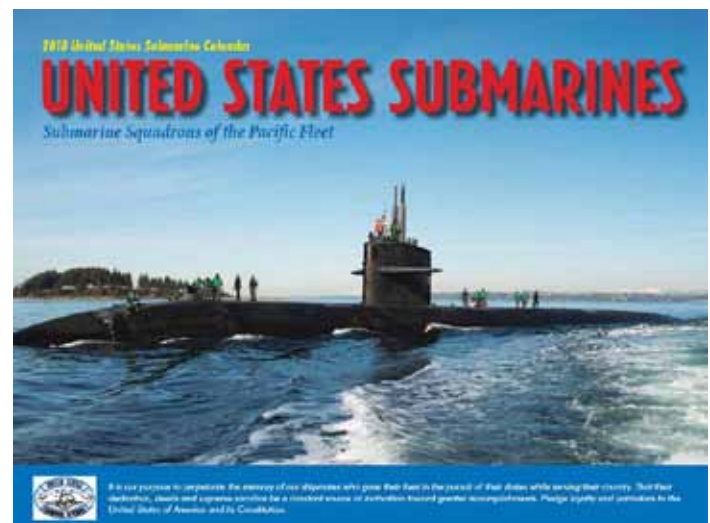
Your Shipmate,

Aubrey Allen Smith  
Seattle Base Commander

## 2018 Submarine Veteran Calendars

The 2017 USSVI calendar is available from our base storekeeper. Be sure to get your copy soon, so you can enjoy all 12 months!

This year's calendar features submarines of the Pacific Fleet and has lots of great photos of submarines in the Puget Sound area. Calendars are available from the Base Storekeeper for \$10.95. Be sure to get your copy before they are gone.



## 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.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

Remember that if you are an annual member, it is time to renew your National and Seattle Base USSVI dues.

Contact Jim Harper (tel: 425-357-6485) if you have questions or to take care of your dues.

Be sure to take care of this as soon as possible. You might even consider going with a lifetime membership. Talk with Jim about your options. Be sure to keep yourself off the DINK list!

## Pride Runs Deep



## U.S. Submarine Force

### Seattle Base Elections

Elections for the Seattle Base 2018-19 officers will be held at our January 2017 meeting. At the October meeting, the Nominations Committee turned in their nominees for Seattle Base officers and committee chairs.

Here is the list of officer nominees:

- Base Commander – Ric Hedman
- Sr Vice Commander – Larry Abbott
- Jr Vice Commander – Earl Greening
- Secretary – Joint position by Bill Giese and Lois Mezek
- Treasurer – Jim Harper

Committee Chairs:

- Chief of the Boat – Ralph Sterley
- Membership – Kerry Ryan
- Base Chaplin – Andrea Geisler
- Storekeeper – Ralph Sterley
- Webmaster – Steve Shelton
- Newsletter Editor – Dave Schueler

If you would like to throw your hat in the ring or nominate someone for a position, please contact one of the current officers (see page 10) and be sure to show up for the January meeting.



## Bessie Ulmer-USS Clamagore Connection

At submarine reunions wild tails abound, *USS Clamagore's* 2017 reunion was no exception. Bessie's number two son Donald commanded the ship 1967-9, a big deal to everyone but her.

Darrell Miller, was a nineteen year old seaman when he reported aboard in the Spring of '69 while *Clamagore* overhauled at Philadelphia and promptly assigned duties of ship's driver. Darrell, like all new reports, wished to make an early and good impression. His first assignment, drive to the skipper's boyhood home in nearby Beverly, NJ and pick up two lamps Bessie wanted Donald to have.

Though given clear locating directions, young Darrell knew not what to expect. His notion 'surely the Captain was raised in a plush house' dissolved as he pulled up in front.

His next impression, 'Wow, the Captain's mom looks just like my grandmother.' Bessie quickly made Darrell comfortable in his new surroundings.

"Have you had lunch?" Bessie asked.

"No, but the Captain says I have to get right back," Darrell explained.

As only Bessie could say it, "You tell the Captain I said he can wait. Now sit down while I'll fix you some lunch."

Darrell said at the reunion it was the first and last time he'd heard anyone say, "The Captain can wait."



**Above: Don's boyhood home**

**Right: Don Ulmer and Darrell Miller at the 2017 Clamagore Reunion**



## Lost WWII sub discovered off Oahu

By William Cole

A wreck-hunting organization announced that its search team has located the sunken World War II submarine *USS S-28* in 8,700 feet of water off Oahu.

STEP Ventures said on its website that the *S-28*, which was lost with 49 crew during training on July 4, 1944, is "considered to be one of the most important lost ships in the central Pacific."

"When the bombs fell on Dec. 7, she was being overhauled at Mare Island Naval Shipyard outside of San Francisco, Calif.," the organization said. "She was one of several S-boats that were put into service in World War II and was initially sent to Alaska to defend the Aleutians against a possible Japanese invasion."

STEP, which stands for Search for Those on Eternal Patrol, is made up of historians and explorers with a mission of discovering and documenting submerged maritime history. The organization said the expedition used autonomous underwater vehicles and a remotely operated vehicle to map and film the wreck, and that data will be shared with the Navy to help determine the cause of the loss.

The *S-28*'s was commissioned after World War I on Dec. 13, 1923, according to the organization.

The Naval History and Heritage Command said on its website that the sub got underway from Pearl Harbor on July 3, 1944, to conduct a week's worth of operations. The vessel made two practice torpedo approaches on the Coast Guard cutter *Reliance*.



USS S-28 (SS-133) patch



Photo of USS S-28 after a refit in Bremerton

A day later while off the Waianae Coast the *S-28* again carried out sonar exercises and made another practice approach on *Reliance*.

At 5:30 p.m. *S-28* dove while about four miles from *Reliance*, according to the Navy. The Coast Guard cutter made sound contact with the sub, but at 6:20 p.m. at a distance of 4,700 yards, *Reliance* permanently lost sound contact with *S-28*.

"At no time during the approach or the ensuing sound search were distress signals from *S-28* seen or heard, nor was any sound heard which indicated an explosion in *S-28*," the Naval History and Heritage Command said.

The Court of Inquiry determined the *S-28* sank shortly after 6:20 p.m. Because of the depth, salvage operations were not possible, the Navy said.

The court said the submarine lost depth control "from either a material casualty or an operating error of personnel, or both, and that depth control was never regained. The exact cause of the loss of *S-28* cannot be determined."

The "Lost 52 Project," dedicated to the legacy of lost World War II submariners, also announced the discovery, which it said was made on Sept. 20.

"Based on preliminary video and other documentation," the website said, "the team currently speculates that the sub suffered a hull failure that resulted in the eventual separation of the bow, causing a near instant loss."

A release on the discovery said the expedition team was led by explorer Tim Taylor, president of Tiburon Subsea, and is Taylor's third U.S. World War II submarine discovery. The team was supported by STEP Ventures, the release said.

## Australian First World War Submarine Discovered 103 Years After It Mysteriously Vanished

Tom Embury-Dennis, Independent

The wreck of an allied First World War submarine has been discovered 103 years after it sank off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The fate of the 800-tonne vessel was Australia's longest-running naval mystery after it vanished on 14 September 1914 without a distress call.

But following 13 separate retrieval attempts over the past century, an expedition was launched this week which found the submarine 300 metres (984ft) below the sea off the coast of the Duke of York Island group.

The *HMAS AE1*, which had 35 crew members aboard from Australia, New Zealand and Britain when it disappeared, was the first ever launched by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and its first wartime loss.

It had been sent from Sydney to help capture what was then German New Guinea, but disappeared a day after Germany surrendered the colony.

The images captured by the expedition show the submarine apparently in one piece. The Navy described the wreck as "remarkably well preserved".

Marise Payne, Australian defence minister, said that while the reasons for the submarine's sinking remain unclear, the Australian government was now trying to contact descendants of those killed on board.

"It was the first loss for the RAN and the first Allied submarine loss in the First World War — a significant tragedy felt by our nation and our allies," she said in a statement.

Ms Payne said a commemorative service was held to remember those who died after the vessel was found. Australia will now discuss with



**HMAS AE1**

the Papua New Guinean government the building of a lasting memorial and ways to preserve the site.

The *AE1* made final contact with an Australian ship at 2.30pm the day it disappeared. Mystified villagers on a nearby island at the time spoke of seeing a "monster" or "devil fish" that appeared and quickly disappeared into the water.

It had always been assumed the *AE1* was not a victim of enemy action, since the only German vessel nearby at the time was a small survey ship.

Because no wreckage, oil or bodies were found, it was also believed the *AE1* sank intact, most likely after striking a reef that punched a hole in the pressure hull. Whether or not this is what happened is still to be publicly verified.

## France To Have Its First Women Submariners On Mission

Staff, RFI Radio

The French Navy announced on Monday that four women will join the crew of a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine that will soon be on patrol. The four female officers, including a doctor, underwent a two-year period of training, before joining their submarine, said Admiral Christophe Prazuck, Navy Chief of Staff. "They are training on land and at sea," said Admiral Prazuck. It is planned that they will make the next patrol with their comrades. Among these pioneers are "a nuclear expert" and "an expert in diving safety". The third woman will be shift manager.

France has four nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines. At least one is permanently at sea. Each mission lasts 70 days. Until now serving on French submarines was not open to women. Serving in the submarine corps opened to women in 2014 but they were confined to posts on land.

"To respect our privacy rules, it's easier for officers who have single rooms in nuclear-powered submarines. We'll decide what comes next," added Admiral Prazuck.

Several countries in the world already have women onboard their submarines, including the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Sweden and Norway. The crew of the Argentinian navy submarine *San Juan*, missing since 15 November in the South Atlantic, included the first female submarine officer in Latin America.

The French army has a total of 15% women in its ranks, ranking fourth in the world in terms of feminization behind the Israeli, Hungarian and American armies, according to the Ministry of the Armed Forces. Women make up 14.7% of French Navy staff, 9% of whom are at sea.

## Fond memories aboard *USS Blueback* submarine featured at OMSI

Christine Pitawanich, KGW News,

For former Naval officer John Towle, it's nice to be back on the *USS Blueback*. The submarine was built in 1959 and decommissioned in 1990 before it was donated to OMSI. It has floated beside OMSI in the Willamette River since the mid-1990s. The sub is Towle's old stomping grounds, from more than 40 years ago.

"Very nostalgic to come back to this wonderful, wonderful boat," Towle said. Towle, who is now 79, served on the submarine for a few months in 1970 when he was 32 years old. Just this year, he visited for the first time over Thanksgiving. He made another trip to the sub on Tuesday. He did a lot in the few months that he was serving on the *USS Blueback*, but exactly what he did is a little unclear.

"It was classified. So that's about all I can say about that," said Towle. While some of the details of his stint on the *Blueback* were off limits, he could talk about some of his fondest memories. "I can talk about the camaraderie. Very special people, we had a lot of fun together. We joked a lot. That kind of takes away from the pressures aboard," Towle said.

There was substantial pressure, especially in such close quarters, and conducting clandestine operations. "She did a lot of SEAL operations, a lot of intelligence gathering operations," explained Michael Stephens, a veteran who served in the Navy for 20 years. He's now OMSI submarine tour guide. He said what sets the *Blueback* apart is its hull shape, which was cutting edge for 1959. The teardrop hull shape allowed it to outperform the rest.

"[Submarines] could go deep and fast for long periods of time and then this thing came out and we could go deep and even faster," said Stephens. The sub was also the last diesel submarine built for the U.S. Navy before submarines went all nuclear.

While the *Blueback's* capabilities are impressive, what Towle treasures most is the camaraderie, cribbage, and hot meals he shared with crew mates. He hopes younger generations realize the important role submarines play in history. "If you don't remember the past and don't study it, then you're destined to repeat it," Towle said. "You need to learn the lessons and mistakes of the past to make the future become meaningful."

Towle spent 21 years in the Navy. He said the captain of the *USS Blueback* was his favorite captain to work with. The submarine has gone

everywhere, from San Diego, to Hawaii, to Japan where Towle served for a time. He said when he got his feet back on dry ground after serving on the *Blueback*, he only had a couple days to make it to Chicago for his wedding. Fortunately, he made it. "I beat feet from Japan to Chicago, Illinois to get married," Towle said.

## USS Pittsburgh Completes Historic 1,000th Dive

NSSC Public Affairs, DVIDSHub.net

For *USS Pittsburgh* (SSN 720), making submarine history is just another day in the ship's long and storied tradition. On Nov. 15, *USS Pittsburgh* continued to add to history by completing its 1000th dive. The dive capped a busy underway period in which the ship completed Tactical Development Exercises, Submarine Command Course (SCC) and port visits to Port Canaveral, Fla. and Kings Bay, Ga.

During 32 years of commissioned service the ship has been a primary player in U.S. submarine history since its first dive in 1985.

*Pittsburgh*, the fourth U.S. Navy ship to be named in honor of the city of Pittsburgh, has conducted more than 15 deployments to various theaters in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. The ship has a distinguished combat history. *Pittsburgh* was the first U.S. submarine to launch wartime Tomahawk Cruise missiles as part of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, followed by a second strike in 2002 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With the busy schedule and operations, the crew hasn't lost sight of the 1000th dive milestone. Ship's Diving Officer Lt. Mike Wissehr reflected upon the great engineering feat the ship completed and closely tracked the progress as the ship inched toward the milestone. "It's great to be part of such a historical event and to celebrate the dives through the ship's history."

The crew is memorializing the event with a special 1000th dive T-Shirt designed by the ship's artist Machinist Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Ashton Gomez and certificates commemorating the event. Gomez said it was a lot of fun to be part of the celebration with the design, which has unique callouts to Adm. Hyman Rickover, Uncle Sam, and the city of Pittsburgh.

*Pittsburgh* is far from done, even after reaching the historic 1,000 dive milestone. The submarine and crew are preparing for another operational deployment in the coming months, where they will make more dives and more history.

## 2017 Auburn Veterans Day Parade

It was a cool, cloudy Saturday for the 52nd annual Auburn Veterans Day Parade. The rain showers came and went, but the rain stopped once the parade was ready to start.

The crowd was enthusiastic as ever and everyone seemed to enjoy the parade. Our turnout was a little lighter than normal, with members from Seattle Base, Bremerton Base, and Silent Service Motorcycle Club showing up. Even with the lighter turnout, it was a good time and great to see all the veterans out for the parade.

Here are a few photos from the event. More can be found on the Seattle Base blog (<http://seattlebase.blogspot.com/>).



**View from inside the parade**



**Seattle Base members ready for the parade**



**Pre-parade sea story swaps**



**Group photo of the submarine veterans at the parade**

## 2017 Seattle Base Holiday Luncheon

On Sunday, December 10, 2017 USSVI Seattle Base submarine veterans, family, and guests gathered at the Cascade Club at Trilogy at Redmond Ridge for our annual holiday luncheon.

The day started with the social hour, which gave us a chance to catch up with shipmates we have not seen for a while, share our exploits from the past year, and to look at some of the submarine memorabilia on display. We then moved on to opening remarks and started lunch.

After lunch, Dick Gonzalez presented the Shipmate of the Year Award to Dave Schueler. Dave was recognized for his work as the base newsletter and blog editor. Dave's work keeps us up on to date on Seattle Base events and submarine news from around the world. We also recognized and thanked Base Commander Al Smith for stepping up and serving as commander. We added Al's and Dave's names to the Seattle Base Honor Roll plaque.

Then the floor was then opened for sea stories and holiday remembrances. The microphone was passed around and we heard some old favorite stories, along with a few new tales. We all had a good time at the luncheon and special thanks goes out to everyone who helped organize and setup the event. It is always good to see all our shipmates and get a start on the holiday season with them.

Here are some photos from the event. More photos can be seen on the Seattle Base blog (<http://seattlebase.blogspot.com/>).



**COB Ralph Sterley leads the pledge**



**A view of the room before lunch**



**Memorabilia from USS Kamehameha (SSBN-642)**





**Submarine models**



**WW2 veteran Ralph Sterley and Lois Twelves**



**Photo of Ralph Sterley's radar class at Treasure Island**



**Ready for lunch**



**Opening wine for lunch**



**Shipmate of the Year Dave Schueler**

## Base News and Information Page

### Mark the Date

We are working on a new calendar for 2018 Seattle Base events. We will get the information out as soon as it is available. Here are a few items we know about. Be sure to mark them on your calendars so you don't forget. More dates will be posted as events are announced.

**Jan 17:** First Seattle Base meeting of 2018 and base elections.

**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.

### Birthday Wishes

Here is a list of Seattle Base member birthdays for January and February. 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.

Roy Rasmussen	Jan 3
Gary Van Dusen	Jan 4
Thomas Prettyman	Jan 5
Doug Gilman	Jan 7
Curt Maier	Jan 18
Al Smith	Jan 20
Bob Oppl	Jan 22
Fred Ensslin	Feb 3
Tim Floersch	Feb 8
James Shepperd	Feb 11
Dennis Doyle	Feb 13
Bob Morris	Feb 16
Edward Lemay	Feb 21
Bill Giese	Feb 25
C Angus McDonald	Feb 25
John German	Feb 28

### Welcome Aboard New Base Members

John German	Kamehameha (SSBN-642)
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### On the Internet

Seattle Base Website: [www.ussvi.org/base/Seattle.asp](http://www.ussvi.org/base/Seattle.asp)  
 USSVI National Website: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)  
 Ric Hedman's Website: [www.pigboats.com](http://www.pigboats.com)  
 Don Gentry's BBS: [www.bottomgun.com/bbs2/](http://www.bottomgun.com/bbs2/)  
 Ron Martini's BBS: <http://rontinisubmarinebbs.com/>

### 2016-2017 Seattle Base Officers & Chairs

Commander:	Al Smith	253-631-5010
Sr. Vice Commander:	Karl 'Dutch' Krompholz	253-631-5736
Jr. Vice Commander:	OPEN	
Secretary:	Bill Giese	425-355-5990
Treasurer:	Jim Harper	425-357-6485
Membership Chair:	Pat Householder	425-392-0440
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

### Upcoming Meetings

#### January

**17 January**, General Meeting and elections

#### February

**21 February**, 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 on the Base website ([www.ussvi.org/base/Seattle.asp](http://www.ussvi.org/base/Seattle.asp)).

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 (<http://seattlebase.blogspot.com/>) for 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](mailto:daveshoe@aol.com)

Dave Schueler, Newsletter Editor

## Search for Missing Submarine Winds Down

The Marine Executive

After a month and a half of continuous involvement, the United States has begun to draw down its operations assisting the search for the lost Argentine submarine *ARA San Juan* in the South Atlantic.

The sub and her 44 crewmembers went missing off Patagonia on November 15, and the U.S. Navy said that it learned of the casualty on November 17. American forces joined the search effort within 24 hours of notification. U.S. contributions to the search and rescue effort included three advanced aircraft, over 200 search and rescue personnel, four submersibles, one specialized underwater rescue unit, one ship, and more than 400 sonar buoys dropped in support of the operation.

Additionally, the U.S. provided an advanced sonar system, which was mounted on Argentine search vessels. U.S. planning and analytical specialists supported the efforts through data analysis, an effort that will continue.

The U.S. support team completed all searches in areas assigned by the Argentine Navy, sweeping each area twice with advanced sensors. However, this international effort has not yet located the *ARA San Juan*.

"On behalf of the people of the United States, we offer our respects to the families of the crew of *ARA San Juan* and the people of Argentina," said Rear Adm. Daniel B. Abel, director of operations, U.S. Southern Command.

The Navy-owned, university-operated research vessel *Atlantis* has returned to port, and the Russian vessel *Yantar* is the only international ship left participating in the search. By Wednesday, the last three likely sonar contacts in the search area had been investigated by the *Yantar's* ROV, without success.

This week, Argentina's senate unanimously approved a measure to create a joint commission to investigate the loss of the *San Juan*. Six congressional deputies, six senators, five subject matter experts and a group of family members will form the panel.

The *ARA San Juan's* last known location was about 300 miles off Argentina's southern coast. The submarine reported a malfunction after seawater entered the vessel's snorkel and caused a battery to short-circuit. An explosion was detected around the time and place that the submarine last made contact. Given the amount of time that has elapsed since her disappearance, authorities have given up hope of finding survivors.



**Missing Argentine submarine ARA San Juan**

## China Unveils New Submarine Family for Export: Soon in the Mediterranean?

Ami Rojkes Dombe, Israel Defense

The China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company revealed a new family of submarines displacing 1,100t, 600t and 200t at D&S 2017. Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have already shown interest.

During Defense & Security 2017 currently taking place in Bangkok, the China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company (CSOC) revealed a new family of submarines displacing 1,100t, 600t and 200t. A scale model of the 2,550t S26T currently being built for the Royal Thai Navy for \$385 million was also displayed.

"Perhaps the most interesting aspect was a video indicating countries currently interested in procuring Chinese submarines. In addition to Bangladesh and Pakistan that have already ordered Chinese platforms, those named by CSOC as interested parties are Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, Libya, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Venezuela," Shephard Media reported.

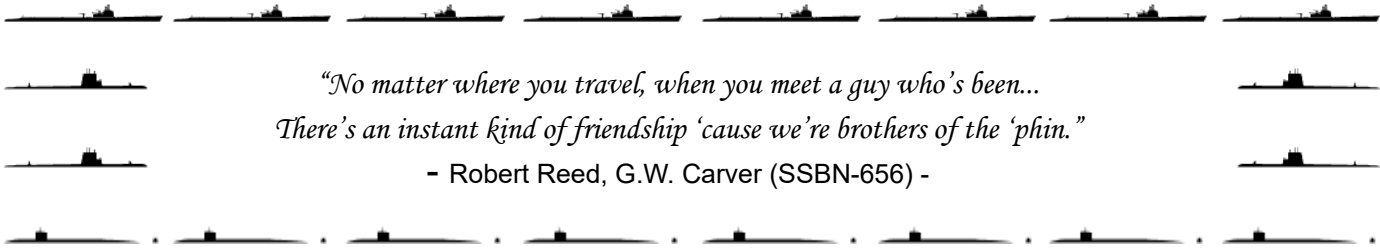
"In a rare move from a state-owned Chinese corporation, a lot of specifications about this family of submarines were available. This relative openness, as well as the revelation of a family range spanning 200t to more than 2,500t, shows China is serious about gaining greater export clients for its underwater technology," the report added.



**Model of Chinese export submarine**

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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**Submarine veterans getting ready to get underway at the Auburn Veterans Day parade. See page 7 for more.**