



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

January 2015

Volume 16, Issue 01

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's 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.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1100, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. JANUARY 17, 2015
 - b. FEBRUARY 21
 - c. MARCH 21
2. Duty Cook Roster:
 - a. JANUARY – FIFTH ANNUAL CHILI DUMP
 - b. FEBRUARY – GLENN BARTS, SR.
 - c. MARCH – CHRIS GAINES AND TOM POLZIN
3. **January Birthdays:** Robert Zorn 5th; Kep Preble 11th; Glenn Barts, Sr. 20th; Terry Elmeier 24th. Happy Birthday to All!
4. Watch Crash Dive and WWII Shipmate John Manasse's superb interview with a community television station. He does an outstanding job. The clip is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfE-6radygE>.
5. The grace period for national and base **dues** is closing. If you are uncertain regarding your dues status, contact our Membership Chair Tom Polzin ASAP. Tom's contact information appears below on Page 9.
6. The Commissioning Committee for the **USS Illinois (SSN 786)** includes several USSVI members. Ron Swetnam, USS Chicago Base; Chris Gaines and Len Wass, Crash Dive Base; and Loree Riggs, USS Springfield Base. Commissioning is scheduled for late 2015 or early 2016.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes December 20, 2014

1. Attendees:
 - a. Tom Polzin
 - b. Ray Ratliff
 - c. Larry Warnke
 - d. Gus Yakes
 - e. Clay Hill
 - f. Jan Hill
 - g. Frank Voznak, Jr.
 - h. Greg Miller
 - i. Dick Anderson
 - j. Ron Spooner
 - k. Herman Mueller
 - l. Glenn Barts, Sr.
 - m. Frank Walter
 - n. Chris Gaines
2. Meeting was called to order by Clay Hill at 11:11 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a round of introductions.
3. Secretary's Report given by Chris Gaines. Frank Walter moved to accept; Glenn Barts seconded; vote was unanimous.
4. Treasurer's Report given by Glenn Barts. Savings \$1173.69; Checking \$5,198.35 ; Memorial Checking \$19,530.45; Memorial Savings \$5.00; Held by National \$5,240.00. Glenn Barts moved to accept; Ray Ratliff seconded; vote was unanimous.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Newsletter – no news
 - b. Membership – Accepting dues payments. Send to Tom Polzin.
 - c. Charitable Service – Plan for 2015 to be ready for the January meeting. Have yet to disburse \$500 for 2014.
 - d. Community Outreach – Continue to collect toiletries for the USO. Glenn reports that the USO would appreciate an additional 20-30 pillowcases. Cobia working party planned for early February for below decks work. Thrift Shop hours vary weekly; call first.
 - e. Hospitality – Game feast upcoming; Larry has tickets.
 - f. Webmaster – Website updating and posting is experiencing problems that are being pursued.
 - g. Storekeeper – Acquired additional grave markers.
 - h. Procedures – No news.
 - i. Eagle Scout – No news.
 - j. Memorial –
 - i. WWII sub vet John Manasse did an outstanding job during an interview by Naperville Community TV; see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

com/watch?v=lfE-6radygE.

- ii. Steve Benicke is refining the letters with the hope of generating more donations.
- iii. Scale model
 1. Gary Walters will provide a model built by a WMM model builder at no cost to Crash Dive. It likely will be museum-quality.
 2. Our architects directed us to NRI (unsure of acronym meaning). Estimate of about \$270 for a seven-inch model, \$700 for a 10" monochrome model from their 3D printer. Likely portable and durable. NRI can paint it.
 3. Herman Mueller moved to table the discussion pending additional information. Glenn Barts seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- iv. Encourage forwarding links to the TV

interview to all of our friends and asking them to do the same.

6. Old Business
 - a. Negotiated a deal with WMM to replenish their stock of *Freshwater Submarines* books. If we buy 500 books, cost to print is about \$5.51/book. In return, we would receive the cost of the books plus \$1/book from WMM in Spring 2015. Larry Warnke moves to fund 500 copies from the Crash Dive treasury for the WMM per Karen Duvall's November 21 message; Ray Ratliff seconded. Vote was unanimous. Agreed to give WMM the entire order with the proviso that we can buy copies at cost.
7. New Business
 - a. Consider "Submarine Birthday Banquet"; invite Kristen from the Naperville TV station per Frank Voznak.
8. No news from Vic about convention. Clay will contact Vic with our express interest in hosting a CD2 convention. We will vote at our January meeting.
9. Good of the Order item:
 - a. Toys for Tots – Thanks to our generous Crash Dive

- shipmates who filled two huge boxes with toys. Larry Warnke delivered them to the USMC Reserve center after today's meeting.
- b. SVWWII is tentatively saving August 8, 2015 for the picnic; cannot make reservation until after January.
 - c. Duty Cook
 - i. January – Fifth Annual Chili Dump by Frank Walter and Larry Warnke.
 - ii. February – Glenn Barts, Sr.
 - iii. March – Corned Beef dinner by Chris Gaines and Tom Polzin.
 - d. Appreciation to Ron Spooner for his ongoing financial support of the memorial.
10. Glenn Barts moved to adjourn, Frank Voznak seconded; vote was unanimous. Adjourned at 1308.

Lost Boats

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	1/5/44
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	1/10/43
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	1/12/45
USS S-36 (SS-141)	1/20/42
USS S-26 (SS-131)	1/24/42

San Francisco Maritime National Park Seeks Articles

Submitted by: Alfred H Singleman Jr

Shipmates,

The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association (SFMNPA) revived their prestigious semi-annual newsletter, The Sea Letter. Amongst the vessels SFMNPA maintains is the museum boat, USS Pampanito (SS-383). They are requesting contributions for two articles for their upcoming Spring 2015 issue by submarine veterans.

Specifically, they seek anecdotal reminiscences about life aboard diesel boats. The first article being framed as follows:

Recollections of veterans of service in the Fleet Boats of WWII and Korean War: Close quarters, tedium, danger, advanced technology, and uncertainty fostered a unique submarine culture, focused on maintaining and fighting the vessel most efficiently. Specifics: protocols, command structure, hygienic, social structure, morale, stresses, reliefs, etc.

The second article being is about the evolution of technology and tactics during WWII that enabled the submarine service to become an effective offensive force:

Pampanito was designed and operated first and foremost as a weapon. How did strategy and tactics, as well as systems, technology and culture evolve to enable success? Communication, detection, weapons, ventilation, energy storage, etc. evolved in response to initial failures, adaptive and disruptive technologies, tactics, and mission creep.

Written submission length: 500 – 1,000 words as a MS Word document photographs and diagrams enhancing the

descriptions are encouraged & appreciated. Shipmates are requested to provide their name, rate/rank, qual boat & year, and USSVI Base to give credit for submissions; include contact information should a need for clarification be determined. Please send materials by email to dsvpilot@hotmail.com / Pete Juhos, District Commander, Western Region District Five. Deadline: Jan 16, 2015.

Pride Runs Deep!

Pete Juhos
DC - WRD5

USSVI Library

Submitted by: Joe Mathis, National Archivist

Happy New Year! In case you don't know, I'm in charge of the USSVI/AIMM National Submarine Reference Library. To date, the library has over 4,000 items on inventory. Most of these items were donated by fellow submariners or their families. There are books from all of the United States conflicts from the Civil War to today. The library includes books on both the United States Navy and navies from around the world. I am working diligently to organize and catalog all these publications. I have the USSVI and AIMM libraries separated and in the process of organizing them by conflict. Included in this inventory are the Submarine National Review/American Submariner magazine, the Polaris magazine from the Submarine Veterans of WWII, the Submarine Review from the Naval Submarine League, Proceedings magazine and several other periodicals relating to submarines. I do not have shelf space to have the entire library on the shelves, so I have removed the periodicals and put them in storage. As I organize the remaining library, I will

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removed duplicate copies from the shelf and also put them in storage. AIMM has provided a climate controlled building for storage of these periodicals and excess books. I have received a few research requests over the past year; mt asking for specific articles from the Submarine National Review/American Submariner magazine. I intend to keep this a research only library. If you have any questions or concerns about the library, please feel free to contact me, Joe Mathis at usnjrm@yahoo.com.

New Atomic Submarine Joins Russian Navy

globaltimes.cn, Dec 11

The Sevmash Shipyard in the northern Russian port of Severodvinsk has confirmed the delivery of the nuclear submarine Vladimir Monomakh to the Russian Navy Wednesday.

The Project 955 vessel completed a full round of testing earlier this year, including a test launch of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) in Kamchatka on Sept. 10.

The nuclear submarine will join the Russian Navy in an official flagraising ceremony on Dec. 19, naval sources confirmed on Wednesday.

According to Itar-Tass news agency, a total of eight new Borey submarines have been commissioned under the auspices of Project 955, with the last vessel in the series due for completion by 2020.

The subs will be equipped with 16 Bulava missiles each and will together form the basis of the Russian Navy's strategic nuclear capability over the coming decades.

Crash Dive Base
Rondout - Lake Bluff, IL

Saluting the silent heroes of the US Navy's submarine force

By [David J. Kaplan](#), Published Dec. 07, 2014
[FoxNews.com](#)



(Kaplan Public Service Foundation)

Our most recent elections demonstrated Americans are still very worried about the state of the economy and their own job security. However, there is an employer looking to hire young, motivated, and intelligent men and women—the United States Navy's submarine force.

It's not easy to be eligible for such employment. Officer and enlisted candidates must first graduate from rigorous nuclear engineering training or technical schools for non-nuclear enlisted rates. In addition, applicants must also pass a thorough psychological evaluation. The fortunate few that do indeed make the grade will then embark on a challenging, yet rewarding journey to become a qualified submariner.

After this extensive training pipeline and another intensive qualification process on board an actual submarine, sailors are rewarded with "Dolphins," the chest insignia that signifies membership to an elite brotherhood (and now sisterhood as well, since 2010) that very few individuals have the privilege to join.

Much like an astronaut, submariners become travelers in another medium deep below the sea.

On September 21, I, along with 13 other American civilians, experienced a brief glimpse into the life of a U.S. Navy submariner. As the guests of Captain Gene Doyle, the commander of Submarine Squadron 11, we were invited to embark on board the USS HAMPTON (SSN 767), a Los

Angeles Class fast attack submarine in the waters near San Diego, California.

The captain of USS Hampton, a no-nonsense, highly respected commander named Lincoln Reifsteck, along with his executive officer, David Fassel and chief of the boat, Richard Moses, welcomed us on board and introduced us to a world few civilians will ever have the honor and opportunity to experience.

We soon learned that Reifsteck's most difficult task wasn't submerging the ship 700 feet below the ocean's surface (the more difficult part is actually the resurfacing process in the crowded waters off San Diego) or even preparing to shoot a tomahawk missile. Instead, Reifsteck's greatest challenge is keeping his sailors motivated, ready, and vigilant 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over a period of several months (please note, the average age of a submariner is only 22). In our short time on board USS HAMPTON, we witnessed Reifsteck's uncanny ability to both motivate and prepare his sailors for any obstacle before them.

During 2013, the Hampton was at sea for 298 out of 365 days. That's 82 percent of the year away from family and friends with no access to a telephone, the Internet, or the daily comforts that we as Americans have grown so accustomed to. There is a very good reason why submariners earn on average 30 percent more than other sailors.

While much of their time underway was spent on surveillance, anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare, the HAMPTON spent 70 days at the North Pole with a team of professors from Columbia University taking water samples for research being conducted on current and climate change.

So if you are of the mindset that submarines are all about undersea warfare or hunting the "Red October"; think again. Modern attack subs are now doing everything from the weather change research to delivering special operators ashore on covert operations.

Initially, the outside observer may get the impression that the men of the HAMPTON live a difficult and isolated life onboard a windowless tube with little or no communication with the outside world.

However, we quickly discovered that the crew thrived in this seemingly austere environment. Through our conversations with them, we came to the realization that they live by the submarine mantra of "steel ships, iron men (and women)."

The absence of windows and natural sunlight quickly became irrelevant as the ship's electronics and sophisticated sensors became their window to the outside world.

Much like an astronaut, submariners become travelers in another medium deep below the sea. Any perceived isolation leads to a greater connection with their "shipmates" forming an everlasting bond amongst the crew.

After only one day underway, it became apparent to us that the submarine service is not for everyone—not all men and women are able to overcome the supposed "sacrifices" many civilians associate with a life at sea.

However, those individuals that successfully complete the demanding screening and training pipeline of a United States submariner, will have excellent advancement and future employment opportunities in both the military and civilian sectors.

Civilian employers are always looking to hire submariners for their technical acumen, leadership skill, and ability to operate under pressure. Those individuals that choose to leave military service are often rewarded with high paying jobs and quickly adapt and excel in the civilian workforce (the military does retain a very high percentage of these highly skilled individuals with large bonuses, special pay and the intangible sense of patriotic duty that accompanies wearing the uniform of a Navy submariner).

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners." From

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our experience with the captain and crew of USS HAMPTON, we couldn't agree more. Any danger of operating a ship under the sea was however quickly overshadowed by the competency of the sailors tasked with running America's most stealthy and vital warships.

May God bless the officers and crew-- and their families-- of USS HAMPTON and the Silent Service.

2015 War Veteran Status

Submitted by: William C. Andrea

First, let me wish everyone a "Happy New Year".

Secondly, we have qualified for "War Veteran Status" for 2015, by having 90% or more of our membership serve during a wartime. This allows any donations to USSVI to be "Tax Deductible". We must re-qualify for this status every year, and our current status runs from January 1st to December 31st.

If you were in the Military (even the Reserves) during the following time frames :Dec 7, 1941 to Dec 31, 1946, June 27 1950 to Jan 31, 1955, Aug 5, 1964 to may 7, 1975 and from Aug 2, 1990 to present, you qualify as a War Veteran.

To insure that you are listed as a "War Veteran", go to www.ussvi.org and click on the "My Profile" button. Next, click on Up-date PROFILE

Next, click on "Naval Career", and halfway down the page, check the box under "Served During a War". You MUST then go to the bottom of the page and click on "Save changes made to this page in order for the change to be registered.

While you are in your profile, please check any other parts of your profile that need changing. (Be sure to go to the bottom of each page and save those changes.)

Thanks, and Happy New Year again.

Bill Andrea
NJVC

Navy Unveils Spy Fish Drone

Denver Nicks @DenverNicks, Dec. 12, 2014



The 5-foot robot swims like a blue fin tuna

The U.S. Navy [has](#) developed an unmanned underwater robot that looks and moves like a blue fin tuna.

The robot is a result of Project Silent Nemo, which tested the prototype at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia on Thursday. The fish can be controlled with a joystick or be programmed to swim on its own.

Project engineers tell the *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper that the model is attractive because, by mimicking the evolved motions of a real fish rather than propelling itself through the water with a propeller like most submersibles, Nemo moves extremely quietly. The hope is Nemo will be able to sneak into enemy waters more effectively and patrol undetected in American waters.

“This is an attempt to take thousands of years of evolution—what has been perfected since the dawn of time—and try to incorporate that into a mechanical device,” said project lead Jerry Lademan.

Russian Navy To Focus Strategy On Arctic Zone And Black Sea

Damien Sharkov, Newsweek, Dec 9

The Russian navy has unveiled plans to strengthen its presence in the Black Sea and the Arctic zone, heavily focusing its military strategy on the two regions for the next 15 years according to the head officer of the Russian navy, admiral Victor Chirkov.

Speaking in front of the Russian government’s Marine Board on Tuesday, Chirkov said the new naval doctrine, which is in place until 2030, will see Russia strengthen its presence around Crimea and the North Pole.

“The role of the Arctic in the period between now and 2030 will grow objectively,” he explained. “This is a result of the need to strengthen Russian presence in region, to explore it, to defend national interests and promote national security around the Arctic.”

A crucial part of the new strategy, according to Chirkov, will be “modernising the facilities” on the North Sea route which is the shipping lane that connects Russia’s northernmost waters with the North Pole, Scandinavia and Alaska.

Russia’s territorial claim over the North Pole has seen Putin at odds with the governments of Canada, Norway, Denmark and the U.S., over the rights to access the oil rich region.

A military overhaul of Russia’s northernmost perimeter is expected to be part of the new strategy with heavy militarisation plans for the Murmansk area, Franz Josef Land, Wrangel Island and at Cape Schmidt, which were all announced in October.

Most recently, the Russian navy successfully tested new underwater ballistic missiles in November, firing them from the

Alexander Nevsky submarine in the Barents Sea, north of Scandinavia.

Chirkov added that the waters around Crimea will also assume the "highest priority" under the new naval plans.

"The Black Sea region is extraordinarily important and Crimea specifically," the admiral added. "We are facing a considerable amount of work in incorporating Crimea in accordance with Russia's maritime policy.

"In that regard the most difficult problem to resolve will be securing a legal framework that is welcoming of Russia in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait," Russia's top seaman said.

According to Chirkov, the construction of energy pipelines across sea will be another very important aspect of the navy's new strategy, with the cancellation of the South Stream project confirmed.

Although neither the U.S. nor the EU have recognised Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine earlier this year as legitimate, Moscow has always had a strong naval presence in the region in the form of the Black Sea Fleet, once a strategic Soviet Naval stronghold.

Russian military presence in Crimea has been maintained since 1997 after Ukraine and Russia struck a deal to share facilities on the Black Sea and in the Sea of Azov. Russia currently has more than 10,000 servicemen stationed there and over 40 warships under the control of the Black Sea Fleet.

Russia's defence budget is expected to hit a record high in 2015 despite the country suffering from an economic slowdown. The Ministry of Defence projects some 3.3 trillion rubles (\$81 billion) will be spent on defence.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

Vice-Commander – Frank Voznak, Jr. 9 South 255 Madison, Burr Ridge, IL. 60527; 630 986-0175 franklin2@comcast.net

Secretary (POC) – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Treasurer – Glenn C. Barts, Sr., 2000 Jamestown Drive, Palatine, IL 60074; 847-934-7418; gcbarts@msn.com

COB – Larry Warnke, l_warnke@msn.com

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Membership – Tom Polzin, 12463 Foxtail Lane, Huntley, IL 60142; (v) 847-867-8668; (f) 847-669-2444; tapolzin@aol.com

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; hermanandlorimueller@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, Jr.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

- I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ / _____ / _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
 Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
 Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** _____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ **YR left Mil Service** _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7,1975; and Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer, or mail to: Crash Dive Membership Chairman Tom Polzin, 12463 Foxtail Ln, Huntley, IL 60142; Cell 847/867-8668 Fax 847/669-2444