



# 1MC



The official newsletter of the Wolverine Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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## MoMM2 (SS) Carl Stramer Marks 75 years Qualified in Submarines



The Wolverine Base and USSVI honored Carl Stramer for being Qualified in Submarines for more than 75 years at the August base meeting. Enlisting in the Navy when he was 17 years old, Carl volunteered for submarine duty and was assigned to the commissioning crew of USS Puffer (SS-268), under construction at Manitowoc, WI. Designated “Qualified in Submarines” in 1943, Carl made four war patrols in Puffer before being transferred to USS Ray (SS-271), in which he made an additional four war patrols. Mustering out after the war’s end, Carl returned to his native Detroit and worked in the automotive industry until his retirement.

Base Commander Fred Kinsel presented Carl with a special certificate commemorating his achievement. It is noted that most of the members of Wolverine Base were not even born when Carl first wore his dolphins.

## Lake Huron Picnic

For the July Wolverine Base meeting, member Jim Thelander and his wife Pierrette graciously hosted the group at their spacious home in Fort Gratiot on the shores of Lake Huron. In spite of an unusually gray day, it was an enjoyable first in-person meeting the base was able to enjoy for several months.

Thanks, Jim and Pierrette



## Fourth Annual Bubblehead Barbeque at Ozzie's



Rich "Ozzie" Osentoski and his wife Marcia Gronos again graciously hosted the Wolverine Base summer picnic at their Trenton home in August. Great food, camaraderie, and sea stories!



Also, Ozzie and Marcia's swimming pool got some use on a nice Michigan summer day.



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## New Holland Club Member



Wolverine Base welcomed its newest Holland Club member at its September meeting at the Hamlin Pub in Shelby Township. Jim Thelander qualified in 1965 in USS Nathan Hale (SSBN-623). He joins seven other Wolverine Base Holland Club members (listed in order of qual date)

- Carl Stramer, USS Puffer (SS-268), 1943
- Ozzie Osentoski, USS Ronquil (SS-396), 1963
- Winter Hill, USS Razorback (SS-394), 1964
- Phil Klintworth, USS Remora (SS-487), 1964
- Tim Redman, USS Sirago (SS-485), 1965
- Dennis Halstead, USS Nautilus, (SSN-571), 1966
- Bob Buszta, USS Hardhead (SS-365), 1967



Carl, Ozzie, and Phil welcome Jim into the Holland Club.

The Holland Club was established in May 1994 and was adopted as part of the USSVI Constitution and bylaws that year. It was established to recognize those members who had been qualified in Submarines for 50 or more years.

In 1996 the Perch Base submitted a Holland Club Patch designed by Frank Rumbaugh, of Perch Base, denoting the 50 years of service. This Patch along with a Holland Club membership card, certificate, and challenge coin is now presented to new Holland Club members.

## MUSEUM SUBMARINES

A continuing feature of the *IMC* is a roster of current USN museum submarines, and some information about each. The current list follows. The data is taken mainly from the website of the Historic Naval Ships Association [[www.hnsa.org](http://www.hnsa.org)].

Name	Hull No.	Location	Configuration	Website
USS Marlin	(SST-2)	Omaha, NE	SST	<a href="http://parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park">parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park</a>
USS Cod	(SS-224)	Cleveland, OH	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.usscod.org/">www.usscod.org/</a>
USS Drum	(SS-228)	Mobile, AL	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.ussalabama.com/">www.ussalabama.com/</a>
USS Silversides	(SS-236)	Muskegon,	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.silversidesmuseum.org/">www.silversidesmuseum.org/</a>
USS Cavalla	(SS-244)	Galveston, TX	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/">www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/</a>
USS Cobia	(SS-245)	Manitowoc, WI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/">www.wisconsinmaritime.org/</a>
USS Croaker	(SS-246)	Buffalo, NY	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org/">www.buffalonaivalpark.org/</a>
USS Bowfin	(SS-287)	Honolulu, HI	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.bowfin.org/">www.bowfin.org/</a>
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.njnm.org/">www.njnm.org/</a>
USS Lionfish	(SS-298)	Fall River, MA	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.battleshipcove.org/">www.battleshipcove.org/</a>
USS Batfish	(SS-310)	Muskogee, OK	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.warmemorialpark.org/">www.warmemorialpark.org/</a>
USS Becuna	(SS-319)	Philadelphia, PA	Guppy IA	<a href="http://www.phillyseaport.org/">www.phillyseaport.org/</a>
USS Clamagore	(SS-343)	Mount Pleasant, SC	Guppy III	<a href="http://www.patriotspoint.org/">www.patriotspoint.org/</a>
USS Pampanito	(SS-383)	San Francisco, CA	Fleet boat	<a href="http://www.maritime.org/">www.maritime.org/</a>
USS Razorback	(SS-394)	North Little Rock, AR	Guppy II	<a href="http://www.aimmuseum.org/">www.aimmuseum.org/</a>
USS Torsk	(SS-423)	Baltimore, MD	Fleet snorkel	<a href="http://www.historicships.org/">www.historicships.org/</a>
USS Requin	(SS-481)	Pittsburgh, PA	Fleet snorkel	<a href="http://www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/">www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/</a>
USS Dolphin	(AGSS-555)	San Diego, CA	Deep diving	<a href="http://www.sdmaritime.org/">www.sdmaritime.org/</a>
USS Albacore	(AGSS-569)	Portsmouth, NH	Experimental	<a href="http://www.ussalbacore.org/">www.ussalbacore.org/</a>
USS Nautilus	(SSN-571)	Groton, CT	SSN	<a href="http://www.ussnautilus.org/">www.ussnautilus.org/</a>
USS Growler	(SSG-577)	New York, NY	SSG	<a href="http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/">www.intrepidmuseum.org/</a>
USS Blueback	(SS-581)	Portland, OR	Teardrop hull	<a href="http://www.oms.edu/submarine">www.oms.edu/submarine</a>

## Featured in this issue is USS Cavalla (SS-244)



USS Cavalla (SS/SSK/AGSS-244), a Gato-class submarine, was a ship of the United States Navy named for a salt water fish, best known for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier Shōkaku. Her keel was laid down on 4 March 1943 by Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 14 November 1943 (sponsored by Mrs. M. Comstock), and commissioned on 29 February 1944, with Lieutenant Commander (later Rear Admiral) Herman J. Kossler, USN, in command.

On her maiden patrol Cavalla, en route to her station in the eastern Philippines, made contact with a large Japanese task force on 17 June 1944. Cavalla tracked the force for several hours. On 19 June, she caught the carrier Shōkaku recovering planes, and quickly fired a spread of six torpedoes, achieving three hits and sinking Shōkaku, one of the carriers involved in the Pearl Harbor attack. The feat earned her a Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, Cavalla was converted to an SSK, which included remodeling her bow with the addition of a curved housing for a BQR-4 sonar system. It also involved the removal of two bow torpedo tubes and installation of the “Guppy” sail.

In November, 1961, Cavalla, pierside in Puerto Rico, provided emergency electrical power via umbilical connection to USS Thresher (SSN-593) which had suffered a diesel generator failure while the nuclear reactor was shut down. Cavalla successfully assisted Thresher's restart of her reactor.

Cavalla was decommissioned and struck from the Naval Register on 30 December 1969. On 21 January 1971 she was transferred to the Texas Submarine Veterans of World War II, and now resides at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, just north of Galveston, Texas. Cavalla has undergone an extensive restoration process and is open for self-guided tours.

### Seawolf Park

Seawolf Park is a memorial to USS Seawolf (SS-197), a U. S. Navy submarine lost during World War II. It is located on Pelican Island, just north of Galveston, Texas. It is the home of two preserved U.S. Navy ships, the Gato-class submarine USS Cavalla (SS-244) and the Edsall-class destroyer escort USS Stewart (DE-238). Also preserved at the park is the conning tower of the Balao-class submarine USS Carp (SS-338) and the sail of the Sturgeon-class nuclear attack submarine USS Tautog (SSN-639).



Seawolf Park damage following hurricane Ike in 2008.

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## COMING EVENTS

10 Oct	1000	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays Outing, Detroit Sportsmen's Congress (49800 Dequindre Rd., Shelby Twp)
18 Oct	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
15 Nov	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
13 Dec	1600	Annual Base Holiday Party , Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)

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## LOST BOATS [October - December]

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **USS Dorado (SS-248)**

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

### **USS Escolar (SS-294)**

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

### **USS Shark II (SS-314)**

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

### **USS Darter (SS-227)**

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

### **USS Tang (SS-306)**

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

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

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

### **USS Albacore (SS-218)**

Lost on Nov 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck

a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

**USS Growler (SS-215)**

Lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

**USS Scamp (SS-277)**

Probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

**USS Corvina (SS-226)**

Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

**USS Sculpin (SS-191)**

Lost on Nov 19, 1943 with the loss of 43 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner but only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell,

aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode the Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this, CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

**USS Capelin (SS-289)**

Lost on Dec 2, 1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location, date and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

**USS Sealion (SS-195)**

Lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.

**USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)**

Lost on December 17, 1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickrel(SS-22)) off San Clemente, CA.

**USS S-4 (SS-109)**

Lost on December 17, 1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.

## **Lost Harbor**

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

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**There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**



**Our purpose is** 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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



## **Wolverine Base**

### **Macomb County, Michigan**

**(586) 945-8561**

**<https://www.ussvimich.org/>**

#### Officers

Base Commander: Frederick J Kinzel

Sr. Vice Commander: Philip G. Klintworth

Secretary: Denise Walsh

Treasurer: Robert S. Walsh

Chaplain: Ron Wilkins

Chief of the Boat: Ted Smiglewski