



1MC



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

Volume 2024, No. 4

Wolverine Base Members Recognized at National Convention

Three Wolverine Base members were recognized at the 2024 National Convention in Cleveland for their exceptional service to the Base and to USSVI.

- Fred Kinzel, Past Base Commander and current Central District Six Commander, received the **Robert Link National Commander Commendation** for his significant and dedicated leadership in the operation of Wolverine Base and Central District Six.
- Steve Ritter, Base Commander, received the **Silver Anchor Award** for recognition of his efforts to provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment.
- Ron Mexicott received the **USSVI Meritorious Award** for his efforts to promote a positive image of the United States Navy Submarine Force and the United States Submarine Veterans through participation in local veteran affairs and organizations.



Steve, Fred, and Ron display their awards at the September Wolverine Base meeting.

Congratulations to these award recipients!

Cleveland Convention

The Embassy Suites (Cleveland Rockside) was the site of the 2024 National Convention for USSVI. Running from 19 August to 25 August, more than 600 submariners and guests had a great mid-western experience. Highlights of the event included:

- Dinner cruise on Lake Erie
- Tour of Cleveland breweries (of course)
- Visit to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH
- Luncheon talk by Frank and Charles Hood, authors of *Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots* and the following submarine tales book series
- Awards dinner presentation by VADM Robert M. Gaucher, USN, current Commander U.S. Submarine Forces, Submarine Force Atlantic, and Allied Submarine Command.

Wolverine Base was well-represented, and Base Commander Steve “Tex” Ritter and his wife Helene opened their suite as an informal hospitality room for other Base members and guests.



Wolverine and Escolar Base members and guests at the Cleveland Convention



Wolverine Base "hospitality suite"



Steve with the Hood brothers

Wyandotte July 4th Parade

For the first time, Wolverine Base provided a submarine force presence in the annual Independence Day Parade in Wyandotte, Michigan. Base member (and Wyandotte resident) Woody Gunderson was the main organizer for the project.

Base Commander Steve Ritter and Darryl Skop carried the Wolverine Banner, Phil Klintworth drove his 1995 LeBaron convertible with Ozzie Osentoski and Woody (our "down-river" representatives) being the Grand Marshalls, Carol Carter driving with Jan McKim navigating the truck pulling the float, Larry Anderson aboard the truck sounding the Klaxon for the DIVE - DIVE. The real workers passing out the flags and junior submariner stickers were: Frank Woechan, Sam Ritchie, Ron Mexicott, local resident Dan Fay, and Dave Ivers.

There were a handful of submarine veterans in the area that came up to us, not knowing there even was a Submarine Veteran group around. Several people came up and asked if they could have their picture taken with our tribute Scorpion float.

Following the parade we returned to the American Legion post where Carol Gunderson provided a delicious lunch. There also we had the Tolling of the Boats ceremony, with Ron Mexicott providing "Taps". It was a first time experience for the American Legion members and Jeep group from the parade to experience the tolling ceremony.



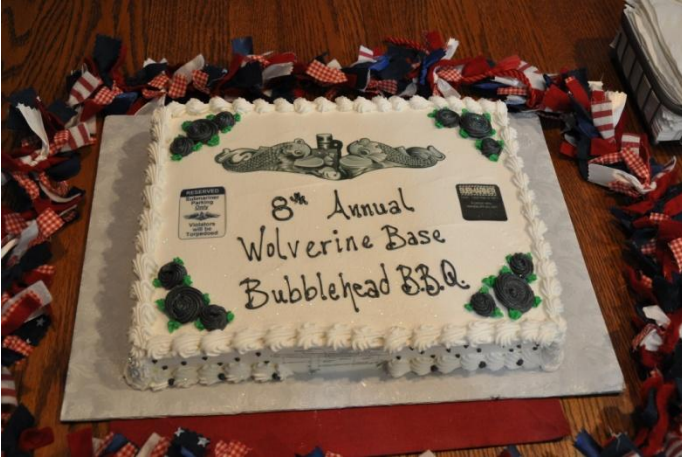
July Meeting at Ft Gratiot



In keeping with what has become an annual tradition, our July meeting was hosted by Jim Thelander and his wife Pierrette at their home on the shores of Lake Huron in Fort Gratiot. MANY THANKS, Jim and Pierrette

Ozzie's Bubblehead BBQ

Wolverine Base's Eighth Bubblehead Barbeque was hosted once again by Ozzie Osentoski at his Trenton, MI home. Aply assisted by family members and friends, Ozzie put on a great party. Even his swimming pool was open for those who wanted to further enjoy the great Michigan summer weather.



The cake



Ozzie with his Ronquil memorabilia

A highlight of the occasion was Ozzie's extensive collection of USS Ronquil (SS-396) memorabilia.

TEASER: More about this in the next issue of the **1MC**.



Guys and gals (& kids) at the Bubblehead Barbeque

LOST BOATS FOUND

Editor's note: The information in this article is taken from the website: <https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/>
Thanks are due to Charles R. Hinman, Director of Education & Outreach at the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum (formerly USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park).

Since 2005, ten U.S. Navy submarines that were lost in World War II and whose exact locations were not previously known have been discovered. One additional submarine that had been found soon after her sinking has recently been re-discovered. One submarine that was lost in 1958 has also been found.

These boats are:

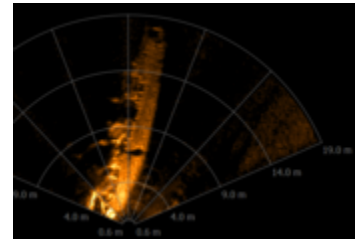
- USS Lagarto (SS-371) - confirmed discovery in the Gulf of Thailand
- USS Wahoo (SS-238) - confirmed discovery in the La Perouse Strait
- USS Grunion (SS-216) - confirmed discovery off Kiska Island in the Aleutians
- USS Perch (SS-176) - discovery in the Java Sea
- USS Flier (SS-250) - confirmed discovery near Palawan Island
- USS R-12 (SS-89) - discovery off Key West, Florida
- USS Harder (SS-247) – confirmed discovery in the South China Sea
- USS S-26 (SS-131) - re-discovery off Panama
- USS S-28 (SS-133) - confirmed discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Robalo (SS-273) - confirmed discovery off Philippine Islands
- USS Grayback (SS-208) - confirmed discovery off Okinawa, Japan
- USS Stickleback (SS-415) - discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Grenadier (SS-210) - discovery south of Phuket, Thailand (awaiting confirmation)
- USS Albacore (SS-218) - confirmed discovery off Hokkaido, Japan

This issue will provide details for S-26, S-28, and Robalo.

S-26

USS S-26 (SS-131) was rediscovered by a team led by Tim Taylor on the Pacific Ocean side of Panama in September 2014. In January of 1942, soon after the vessel was sunk in a collision with sub-chaser USS Sturdy (PC-460), divers located the vessel in 300 feet of water, but were unsuccessful in rescuing her crew.

[S-26 page on this site](#)



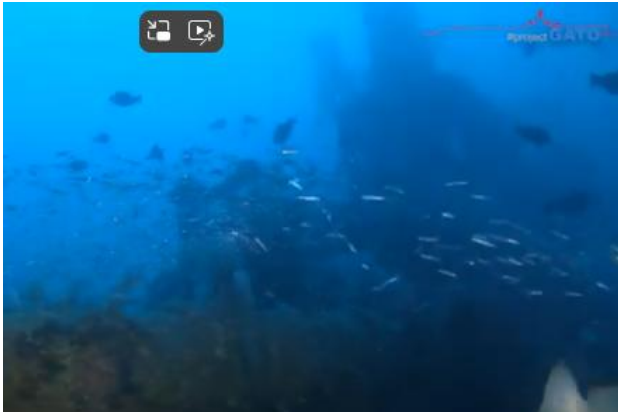
S-28



USS S-28 (SS-133) was found in September, 2017, in water greater than 8,000 feet deep off the west coast of Oahu, Hawaii. Tim Taylor once again led the group that made this discovery. Her identity has been confirmed by the U.S. Navy.

[S-28 page on this site](#)

Robalo



USS Robalo (SS-273) was found by the Sea Scan Survey Team in May, 2019, near Palawan Island in the Philippines. Her identity has been confirmed by the U. S. Navy.



See the YouTube video of the discovery at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whNrzuPp5x8>, and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's tribute to the boat and her men at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAe6lh7gCaA>.

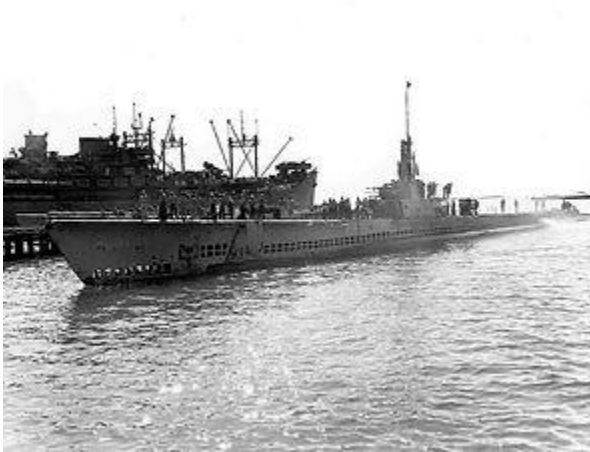
[Robalo page on this site](#)

MUSEUM SUBMARINES

A continuing feature of the *1MC* 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].

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

Featured in this issue is USS Lionfish (SS-298)



A Balao-class submarine, USS Lionfish was launched on 7 November 1943 and commissioned on 1 November 1944. Her first captain was Lcdr. Edward D. Spruance, son of the famous World War II admiral, Raymond Spruance.

After completing her shakedown cruise off of New England, she headed to the Pacific and commenced her first war patrol in Japanese waters on 1 April 1945. Ten days later, she dodged two torpedoes fired at her by a Japanese submarine and on 1 May destroyed a Japanese schooner with her deck guns. After a rendezvous with the submarine Ray, she transported B-29 survivors to Saipan and then made her way to Midway Island for replenishment.

On 2 June she started her second war patrol, and on 10 July she fired torpedoes at a surfaced Japanese submarine, after which Lionfish's crew heard explosions and observed smoke through their periscope. She subsequently fired on two more Japanese submarines and ended her second and last war patrol performing lifeguard duty (the rescue of downed fliers) off the coast of Japan. When hostilities ended on 15 August she headed for San Francisco and was decommissioned at Mare Island Navy Yard on 16 January 1946.

Lionfish was recommissioned on 31 January 1951, and headed for the East Coast for training cruises. After participating in NATO exercises and a Mediterranean cruise, she returned to the East Coast and was decommissioned at the Boston Navy Yard on 15 December 1953.

After serving as a reserve training submarine at Providence, Rhode Island, Lionfish was stricken from the Navy Register in 1971, and in 1973 she was unveiled for permanent display as a memorial at Battleship Cove, where she has evolved into one of the museum's most popular exhibits and a revered monument to all submariners.

As Lionfish was never converted to a GUPPY configuration, she is one of the very few preserved American World War II-era submarines in her "as built" configuration. Because of this state of preservation, she was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

Battleship Cove



Battleship Cove is a non-profit war memorial and historic military museum with an emphasis on naval heritage and a dedication to honoring the veterans who served in defense of our country. The organization is a living exhibit platform with a strong educational emphasis and an outreach message. With a commitment to providing an exciting, adventurous, and meaningful visitor experience, Battleship Cove provides outstanding exhibits and educational content that is presented in a dynamic, innovative, and enlightening way. In addition to USS Lionfish (SS-298), Battleship Cove includes battleship USS Massachusetts (BB-59), destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr (DD-850), and PT Boats 617 and 796.

COMING EVENTS

20 Oct	1600	Monthly base meeting, Steve & Helene Ritter's Home (27805 Bertrand Dr, Chesterfield, MI)
10 Nov	1400	Base Thanksgiving Dinner, Steve & Helene Ritter's Home (27805 Bertrand Dr, Chesterfield, MI)
15 Dec	TBD	Annual Base Holiday Party – Location TBD



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

**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/>

Base Commander: Steve Ritter
Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth
Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Woechan
Secretary: Carol Carter

Treasurer: Sam Ritchie
Chaplain: Robert Dickerson
Storekeeper: Frank Woechan
Chief of the Boat: Mike Loffreda