



1MC



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

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WOLVERINE BASE AT THE ST. CLAIR SHORES MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Wolverine Base members proudly marched in the 69th St Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade on May 29. The 2½ mile parade route ran down Harper Avenue through the heart of St. Clair Shores. Parade-goers lined both sides of the road for the entire route. World War II submarine veteran MoMM2(SS) Carl Stramer was our own Grand Marshal, riding in Phil Klintworth's 1995 LeBaron convertible.

This year our presence was enhanced by a float carrying a model of USS Scorpion (SSN-

589), the last United States submarine loss. See the following article for more information about the float. Frank Woechan towed the float with his truck, outfitted with a submarine diving alarm. Each time Frank sounded two blasts, the rest of the gang yelled out "Dive, Dive," to the delight of the crowd.

Following the parade, Base members proceeded to the Cpl. Walter F. Bruce VFW Post 1146, a short distance from the end of the parade route, and conducted the Tolling of the Boats ceremony. The ceremony was observed by many folks attending the other festivities being held at the VFW Post.



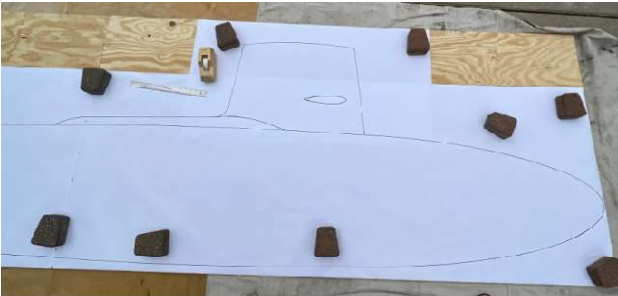


"Tolling the Boats" ceremony

BUILDING THE FLOAT



Wolverine Base and Holland Club member Steve “Tex” Ritter was the driving force behind the float used in the Memorial Day Parade. Mounted on a trailer provided by Jim Thelander (also a Wolverine Base and Holland Club member), the project was the culmination of countless volunteer hours by Steve and others. Hand-crafted dolphin signs on each side of the trailer were provided by Wolverine Base member Frank Woechan. The following pictures show the float in various stages of preparation.





Tools used



Frank and his sign (with helpers)

HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION



At the May meeting of Wolverine Base, Mel Kramer was inducted into the Holland Club. The Holland Club is comprised of USSVI members who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" for fifty (50) years or more. The Holland Club is named after John Philip Holland, an engineer who developed the first submarine to be formally commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

Mel qualified in USS Gudgeon (SS-567) in 1969. He joins twelve other Wolverine Base Holland Club members, most of whom were in attendance.



VETS RETURNING HOME

Vets Returning Home, a non-profit organization supported by the Wolverine Base for many years, is about to expand its facilities and outreach by opening a Veterans Thrift Store (which will be open to the public). A “Sneak Preview” was provided to Wolverine Base members and others on Friday June 24.



Sandy Bower with USSVI Wolverine Base members

Representing Wolverine Base were Bob & Denise Walsh, Carl Stramer, Ron Mexicott, and Steve “Tex” Ritter. Also pictured with Carl and Bob (right) is retired Judge Fred Mester of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Sandy Bower, who founded the organization in 2013 with her own funds as a way to help homeless veterans, issued the following statement on the organization’s facebook page:



A BIG WARM HEARTFELT THANK YOU to everyone that came out yesterday to the "Sneak Preview" of the Veterans Thrift Store opening to the public very soon. We had the great honor to have you all there with us in support of Vets Returning Home. We had a very special guest, Carl Stramer, who is a World War 2 Veteran. It was an honor to meet you ♥ We salute you and thank you for your service.

A HUGE THANK YOU and deepest appreciation to the United States Submarine Veterans for being such an amazing Supporting Partner of Vets Returning Home and for their continued support.

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 Clamagore	(SS-343)	Mount Pleasant, SC	Guppy III	www.patriotspoint.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 Pompanito (SS-383)



History

Pampanito's keel was laid down by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine, on 15 March 1943. She was launched on 12 July 1943, sponsored by Mrs. James Wolfender, and commissioned on 6 November 1943, with Lieutenant Commander Charles B. Jackson, Jr., in command. After six successful war patrols in the Pacific, she was placed in the reserve fleet until April 1960 when she was assigned to Naval Reserve Training at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. She served as a Naval Reserve Training ship at Vallejo, California, until she was stricken from the Navy Register on 20 December 1971.

Museum ship

Pampanito was turned into a memorial and museum at San Francisco on 21 November 1975, transferred to the Maritime Park Association (formerly the National Maritime Museum Association) on 20 May 1976, and opened to the public on 15 March 1982. In 1986, she was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and declared to be a National Historic Landmark.



San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

For more than 65 years, San Francisco Maritime National Park Association has worked to bring maritime history to life for visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area. When the Association was founded in 1950 as the San Francisco Maritime Museum Association, its primary mission was the operation of a museum in the landmark

art deco building in Aquatic Park at the foot of Polk Street. In 1954 the Association acquired the tall ship Balclutha, renovated it and opened it for public tours, thereby expanding the concept of what the maritime museum might become. The Association has played an integral role over the past four decades in the development of Victorian Park and Hyde Street Pier as historical sites. Initially a part of the California State Park system and later a unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the area became a distinct National Historical Park in 1989.

COMING EVENTS

17 Jul	1400	Picnic at Jim Thelander's [5802 Lakeshore, Ft. Gratiot, MI]
15 Aug	1400	6th Annual Bubblehead BBQ [Ozzie's house - 3701 Brookshire St., Trenton, MI 48183]
24-27 Aug		USSVI Convention, Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, NY
18 Sep	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)



LOST BOATS [July – September]

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 had been. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250)

Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).

USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 13, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

USS Harder (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential

Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Cochino (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

USS S-5 (SS-110)

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

USS Grayling (SS-209)

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

USS Pompano (SS-181)

Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

USS S-51 (SS-162)

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

USS Cisco (SS-290)

Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.

Eileen Mahoney's poem "In Waters Deep" sums up the loss of sailors at sea. It uses (intentionally) the same meter as "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

IN WATERS DEEP

In ocean wastes no poppies blow,
No crosses stand in ordered row,
There young hearts sleep... beneath the wave...
The spirited, the good, the brave,
But stars a constant vigil keep,
For them who lie beneath the deep.

'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer
On certain spot and think. "He's there."
But you can to the ocean go...
See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride...
In and out... with every tide.

And when your span of life is passed,
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."
And they who mourn on distant shore
For sailors who'll come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...

For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row.
And they can never lonely be
For when they lived... they chose the sea.

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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

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<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