



# 1MC



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

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## WOLVERINE BASE RECOGNIZES NEW EAGLE SCOUTS

Wolverine Base honored two new Eagle Scouts, Gabriel Morrow and Andrew Young, of Troop 391 in Macomb County at a Court of Honor on 8 March, 2020. Gabe is a relative of Wolverine Base Secretary Denise Walsh. Making the presentation were Base officers Bob Walsh and Phil Klintworth.



As part of the requirements to achieve Eagle rank, a scout must complete a project demonstrating that he can plan, develop, and give leadership to others. For his project, Gabe constructed and filled a lending library for a local elementary school. Andrew's project was a shelter and feeder for feral cats.



As an organization, USSVI has formally recognized Eagle Scouts for many years. The National Scouting Program Manager is Dave Farran, of Iowa Base. As part of the presentation, similarities between the submarine qualification process and the progression to Eagle Scout rank are explained, and the honorees are presented with a USSVI certificate.

Pictured at right: Gabe Morrow with Bob and Denise Walsh

## USS STICKLEBACK FOUND

On May 28, 1958, USS Stickleback (SS-415) was participating in an antisubmarine warfare exercise with the destroyer escort USS Silverstein (DE 534). In the course of these drills, the submarine had just completed a simulated torpedo run on USS Silverstein and was diving to a safe depth when she lost power and descended



uncontrolled past test depth. In response, the boat blew ballast tanks, and she ascended rapidly only to broach approximately 200 yards dead ahead of the destroyer escort. In spite of best efforts to avoid a collision, the DE hit the submarine on the port side of the forward battery compartment, breaching the pressure hull. Thanks to Silverstein and other ships that responded, all of Stickleback's crew was rescued. However, the submarine itself sank in about 1800 fathoms of water 19 miles off Barbers Point, Hawaii.

Recently, Ocean explorer and Tiburon Subsea CEO Tim Taylor and his "Lost 52 Project" team discovered Stickleback on the ocean floor. More about this achievement, and the Lost 52 Project, in our next issue.

## 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](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.buffalonavalpark.org/">www.buffalonavalpark.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 Cod (SS-224)



**USS Cod (SS-224)** is a Gato-class submarine, the only vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the cod, the world's most important food fish of the North Atlantic and North Pacific.

Her keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut on 21 July 1942. She was launched on 21 March 1943 (sponsored by Mrs. G.M. Mahoney), and commissioned on 21 June 1943 with Commander James C. Dempsey in command. Dempsey had already won fame by sinking the first Japanese destroyer lost in the war while in command of USS S-37, a tiny World War I-era submarine.

Making seven war patrols out of Australia, Pearl Harbor, and Guam, she was credited with sinking more than 12 enemy vessels totaling more than 37,000 tons, and damaging another 36,000 tons of enemy shipping. During her seventh patrol, on 9 and 10 July 1945, she went to the rescue of a grounded Dutch submarine, O 19 (*photo below*), taking its crew on board and destroying the Dutch boat when it could not be gotten off the reef. This was the only international submarine-to-submarine rescue in history.

Cod was decommissioned and placed in reserve on 22 June 1946, but was recommissioned in 1951. During the Cold War, Cod participated in NATO anti-submarine exercises. Decommissioned for the second time in 1954, Cod was placed in reserve, and in 1959 was towed through the St. Lawrence Seaway to Cleveland, Ohio, to be used as a training vessel. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in 1971.



A group of Cleveland residents formed the Cleveland Coordinating Committee to Save Cod, Inc., with the goal of preserving the ship as a memorial. In January 1976, the U.S. Navy gave guardianship of the submarine to the group. Cod opened for public tours as a floating memorial in May 1976. In 1986, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated Cod a National Historic Landmark. The memorial is open daily between 1 May and 30 September of each year from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Today, Cod is one of the finest restored submarines on display and is the only U.S. submarine that has not had stairways and doors cut into her pressure hull for public access. Visitors to the ship use the same vertical ladders and hatches that were used by her crew. Cleveland can claim partial credit as Cod's birthplace, since the submarine's five massive diesel engines were built at the General Motors Cleveland Diesel Plant on Cleveland's west side. She also has unique attractions such as the 5-inch deck gun that still can be rotated by visitors and mock-fired by Cod's volunteer crew.

The Cod memorial acquired two General Motors Model 248 engines that had originally been used aboard another World War II submarine, USS Stingray (SS-186). The two V-16 1,600 HP diesel engines were originally built in Cleveland, Ohio, the last in 1943, out of the General Motors Cleveland Diesel Plant on the west side. The engines were used for parts for the restoration of Cod's engines. Four out of the five engines on the Cod are in running and working order, and are fired up on special events throughout the year.

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## COMING EVENTS

Note: Monthly base meetings have been suspended until the restriction on public gatherings caused by the COVID-19 virus pandemic is rescinded.

23-30 Aug                      USSVI National Convention - Hilton El Conquistador Hotel, Oro Valley, AZ  
[As of the date of this newsletter, the USSVI National Convention is still scheduled to occur as planned.]

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## LOST BOATS [APRIL – JUNE]

### USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

### USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk, and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.

### USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

### USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the

area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

### USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

### USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.

### USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her

loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.

#### **USS Squalus (SS-192)**

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as a slave laborer in Japan.

#### **USS Stickleback (SS-415)**

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

#### **USS Herring (SS-233)**

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

#### **USS R-12 (SS-89)**

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO

and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

#### **USS Golet (SS-361)**

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

#### **USS Bonefish (SS-223)**

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

#### **USS S-27 (SS-132)**

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

#### **USS O-9 (SS-70)**

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

#### **USS Runner (SS-275)**

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

## **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**

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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

Chief of the Boat: Ted Smiglewski