



# 1MC



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

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## SECOND ANNUAL WOLVERINE BASE SUMMER PICNIC AT OZZIE'S

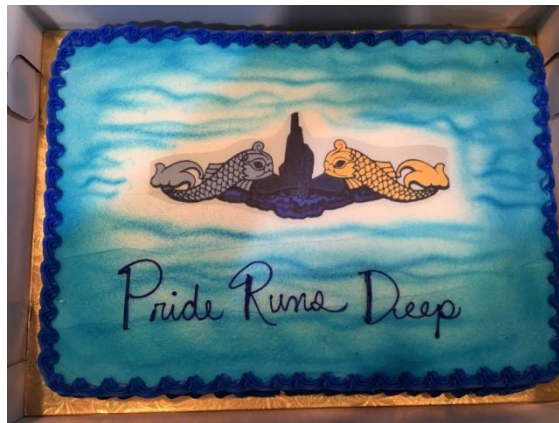
Rich "Ozzie" Osentoski and his wife Marcia Gronos again graciously hosted a "Bubblehead Barbeque" at their lovely home in Trenton on 19 August. Great food and cameraderie!



The group poses for the camera



Plenty to eat



## THE OLDEST OPERATIONAL RADAR IN THE WORLD

The SJ-1 surface search radar system on board the museum boat USS Cobia (SS-245) at Manitowoc, WI, has been restored to full 1943 working order, primarily through the hard work of Mr. Tom Aschenbrenner, a volunteer at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Remarkably, the original 1943 magnetron not only operated throughout the war but is still doing service today! The radar has a usable range of about 15 miles and, at 75 years old, is now the oldest operational radar system in the world. Since Cobia is docked in the Manitowoc harbor this radar has a view of Lake Michigan boat traffic.

Excerpted from *Up Scope*, the USS Cobia e-newsletter, Summer 2018, Vol 6 Issue 2 -- Used by permission

## EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITIONS



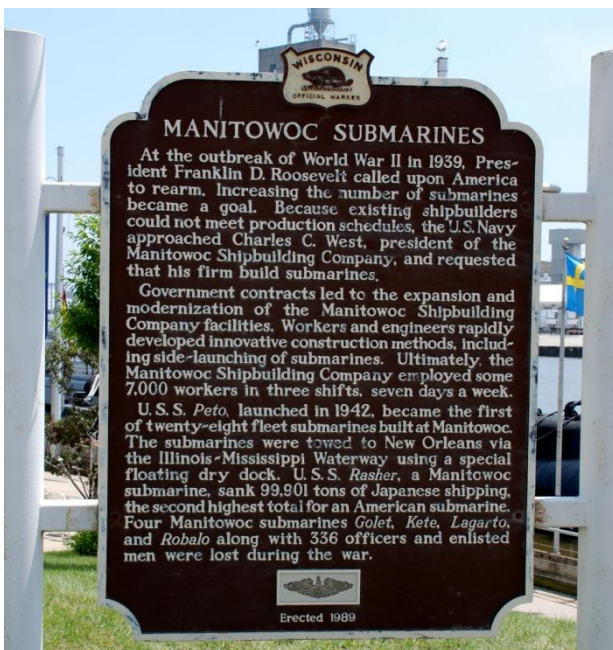
When requested, USSVI formally recognizes Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor, describing the similarities between the work necessary to achieve Eagle rank and the effort needed to become Qualified in Submarines.

Bob Walsh and Phil Klintworth participated in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tyler Bliznik on 28 July in Lapeer, MI. For his Eagle project, Tyler organized a book drive for the Lapeer Family Literacy Center.

Similarly, on 19 August, Rich “Ozzie” Osentoski, Fred Kinzel, and Phil Klintworth presented Eagle certificates to Zachary Polakowski and Erik Schaefer in Gibraltar, MI. Zack is Ozzie’s grandson.



## SUBFEST AT MANITOWOC



For many years, the town of Manitowoc, WI, along with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum has sponsored SubFest, a party lasting several days, honoring the memory of the submarines built in Manitowoc during World War II. Much support is also provided by USSVI bases in Wisconsin and neighboring states. This year, Wolverine Base was represented by Phil Klintworth.

Keynote speaker for the event was RADM Chuck Beers, USN (Ret). Beers, a former commanding officer of USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN-708) and USS Dixon (AS-37), is President of the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation.

Also speaking at the event was Mrs. Nancy Kenney, author of the book “The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War.” The author is the daughter of William Mabin, a member of the crew of USS Lagarto (SS-371), a Manitowoc boat lost with all hands on 4 May 1945. Her book chronicles

the life of the Lagarto, primarily through letters written between crewmembers and their families. It also describes the effort, once the ship's final resting place was found, to locate and contact descendants and other family members and friends of the crew.



Tolling of the Boats ceremony aboard USS Cobia (SS-245)



Subvets at the ceremony



USS Cobia files the colors



A wreath honors the lost



Tolling of the Boats



Photographs courtesy of Scottie Dayton (Volunteer Photographer/Wisconsin Maritime Museum)

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## COMING EVENTS

21 Oct	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
21-28 Oct		USSVI National Convention (Caribbean cruise)
18 Nov	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
16 Dec	1600	Base Christmas 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 (Pickerel(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/>**

### Officers

Base Commander: Frederick J Kinzel

Sr. Vice Commander: Philip G. Klintworth

Secretary: Denise Walsh

Treasurer: Robert S. Walsh

Chief of the Boat: Dan Fay