CORVINA BASE

November 2013



<u>Newsletter of the Year Awards</u> 2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner 2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner 2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

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SHIPMATES ON ETE Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	RNAL PATROL Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)
Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)	Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)
Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)	Robert Rich EN1 (SS)
Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)	Francis Signore CSC (SS)
Harold Lister EN3 (SS)	Stanley Blair ICC (SS)
James Avitt RM1 (SS)	Richard Burdette LT. (SS)
Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)	Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)
Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)	Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)
Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)	Melvin Schreckengost ET2
Norm Snyder EM1(SS)	Charles Hyman MM2(SS)
James T. Wright III	Gordon Lane RMC(SS)
Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)	Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)
Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)	Richard Ekenberg , ETC(SS)
Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)	Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)

Meetings are held on the first Saturday Of each month at Denny's Coffee Shop, 205 E. Nugget Ave. Sparks NV At 1400 hours.



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MAL



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Our Creed

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.





For those of you that didn't make the November meeting; you missed another great one. Lots of prizes, including a large grand prize. The Base elections were held for 2014. The following were unanimously elected for another term: Yours truly for Commander; Dennis Wiley for Vice Commander; Pete Akerson for Secretary; and Robert Talbert for Treasurer. Thanks to all for agreeing to serve, especially to Robert for relieving Don as Treasurer. The installation of officers will be held at the Christmas Lunch on December 7th. If you haven't already, get your checks to Don Brown by December 2nd for the event.

Veterans Day was special this year. It was encouraging to see all of the various new events put on by various organizations, schools and businesses. I first attended an event on November 8th at Carson High School, sponsored by the NJROTC Unit. They had the biggest turn-out of Veterans I have seen in recent years, honoring all of the Services and the Blue Star Mothers. Then the annual Virginia City Veterans Parade, was enthusiastic as usual, with a large turn-out. The weather was perfect, which I'm sure helped with the crowds. The sub float can now go into "mothballs" until next year.

As you may know, due to remodeling at the Reno Veterans Hospital, we will have to move our 10 foot display model of the USS Corvina. If you haven't seen it, it was made in the metal shop at the old Nevada State Prison in Carson City. The detail is very remarkable. It will be moved to the Sparks Heritage Museum at Victorian Square. They have graciously agreed to display it on loan from the Base. It should get a lot of public exposure there, and maybe drum-up some new members.

See you at the Christmas Lunch on Pearl Harbor Day!

Soul of a Submariner!	But his tales will go untold, because of history past. Of lessons paid in blood,	go.
He cast his soul to the wind, and let his spirit free. And his life was set on course, with a submarine decree.	the "Silent Service" it was cast. Though the days drift into years, the memories do not fade. Of good boats	Each year he grows more restless, the salt flows through his veins. But the depths are for the young, not the old with many pains.
Society had many rules, no way he would live by. No commuting to an office, no wearing suit and tie.	and tough missions, and the sacrifices made. Of Silver Dolphins and great ship-	His heart beats with a fever, his mind drifts to the sea. He knows the taste of liberty, and what it costs to be free.
No time to conform, no time for kids and wife. The sea was to be his home, the service was his life.	mates, and moonless dark sea nights. Of travel to exotic lands, and many bewildering sites.	He will hear the vents no longer, he will go to sea no more. For his final set of orders, has cast his soul
If only he could tell, of the sights that he had seen. Of the seas that he had sailed, on that fine old submarine.	O' to hear the claxon sound, his friends they do not know. He prays to once again, go where Submariners	ashore. By John Chaffey, Powell, WY-c 2001



Minutes of Corvina Base Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Commander Aunkst at 1400 as COB Heaps sounded an acceptable version of two blasts on the klaxon. After an Invocation by Chaplain Paul Allen, The pledge of allegiance, reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Bell Ceremony and moment of silent prayer for departed submariners, shipmates, friends and family followed in their usual order. There were 32 members and guests present.

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as published in the Newsletter.

Vice-CommanderIRecruiter Dennis Wiley reports that his efforts in finding and recruiting new members is continuing with his usual dedication and determination.

Secretary Pete Akerson reports no new mail requiring action by the Base.

Storekeeper Frank Urbani reports that no member has stepped forward to assume Storekeeper duties, and today is the final day for the closeoutlStock reduction sale.

Chaplain Paul Allen reports no changes for the Binnacle List.

Treasurer Don Brown is away from Reno, but has reported to Commander Aunkst that our financial condition is unchanged since last month's meeting.

Corvina Base will participate in the Virginia City Veterans Day Parade. We are to assemble in the usual area near the Fourth Ward School at

1000, November 11, 2013 and the parade will begin at 1100.

This month's Lunch-Bunch gathering will be at the Fandango Casino on South Carson Street in Carson City at 1130 on Friday November 15.

This year's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 in the Terrace Room At John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The

cost will be \$30 per person. Checks made out to Corvina Base should be mailed to Treasurer Don Brown at 13730 Algonquin Trail, Reno, NV

89521-7220 to arrive by December 1, 2013.

Once again, the November meeting was time for the election of Base Officers for the coming year.

All Current Base Office-holders except Treasurer Don Brown are willinglable to continue serving in their current positions. Robert Talbert has agreed to nomination as our new Treasurer. The nomination was made, seconded and passed. A motion to elect all candidates to office for 2014 to office unanimously was made, seconded and passed. Our newly elected Base Officers for 2014 are:

Commander Dave Aunkst; Vice-Commander Dennis Wiley; Treasurer Robert Talbert; Secretary Pete Akerson. They will be installed for their new terms at the Christmas Party on December 7, 2013.

After a brief recess for ticket sales, the Monthly 50150 raffle was held with the following results: Vodka - Dan Moran Wine - Frank Urbani Xmas Party Tickets - Stephen Salzman Black Bear Diner Meals - Pete Akerson - Frank Ely Wine - Leif Larsen. The 50/50 Cash prize of \$73.00 was won by Larry Shipman who very gener-ously donated a substantial part of that sum to the base. Thank you, Larry!

After a brief Benediction by Chaplain Allen, Commander Aunkst Adjourned the meeting at 1506 as COB Heaps sounded this month's interpretation of three blasts on the klaxon.

Respectfully,

Pete Akerson

Secretary





- 1. All account balances are available at Base meetings.
- 2. Deposits for November

	From Nov meeting	\$572.00	
	Christmas Party	\$630.00	
	New Dual Member	\$60.00	
3. C	Checks issued in October		
	Frank Urbani	\$35.70	Stores
	Dan Moran	\$25.00	Parade registration
	Northern NV Honor Guard	\$250.00	Donation





Binnacle List

<u>Jack Quade</u>: Primo Quarisa and I called on Jack at his residence this week and had a great visit. He gave us a tour of his home and we could see he is seriously organizing his and Sally's family pictures and history. Jack and Sally have great records of family, going back to Pasadena and the Midwest. Jack joined the Navy in 1943 went to boat camp in San Diego and moved across the bay to an S-Boat submarine school. He trained on the S-23, a boat whose keel was laid when his father was still in the Navy in WWI. Too bad we don't have an S-Boat in a museum today. Two things Jack has to tolerate, using a walker while his hip mends and he can't drive his car but depends on his Girl Friday to get him around. We found out that Jack is a great host.

Anniversaries 2013

In this year of 2013 there are several anniversaries that are significant:

- 200 years The United States is in the middle of the war of 1812 against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- 150 years- These United States were <u>not</u> united and we were in the middle of the American Civil War. The worst battle to ever take place in the Continental U.S., The Battle of Gettysburg, where 7,863 souls were killed, 27,224 wounded, and 11,195 captured or missing. This battle took place during the week of July 4, 1863 and was the 87th celebration of our nation's independence; but no one was celebrating. Also, 150 years ago on November 19, 1863, President Lincoln came to Gettysburg as a follow-up guest speaker for the consecration of the National Cemetery. He was sick with a light case of smallpox and his speech only lasted 3 minutes, but it became the famous "Gettysburg Address".
- 50 years The U.S. Navy lost the USS Thresher (SS-593) with all hands, on April 10, 1963 off the east coast of the United States. Our first submarine lost after WWII. Very sad day.
- 50 years The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 which shocked our nation and made us wonder how this could happen in America. I'm like most of you that I can remember where I was at when informed of his death.

72 years – On Saturday, December 7, at the Corvina Base Christmas Banquet we will remember

the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor , Hawaii.

One of the Corvina Base members, Bill Parsons on the USS Thresher (SS-200), was entering Pearl Harbor that day from a 40 day patrol. Also, 70 years ago on January 10, 1943 a great loss took place in the Pacific Ocean for Bill Parsons and his family from May, Idaho. This story is written with Bill's

permission and we want to honor his older brother, Rolla Parsons, who was on the USS Argonaut (SS-166) when it was lost with all hands, 102 submarine sailors, on that fateful day January 10, 1943. Rolla was 21 years old, a Radioman 2nd class and was on the largest non-nuclear submarine ever built. The USS Argonaut (SS-166) was commissioned on April 2, 1928 as a mine-layer but converted to a troop transport submarine after WWII started. Home based in Brisbane, Australia the Argonaut departed on patrol December 1942 to patrol her assigned area between New Britain and Bougainville Island, south of Bismarck Archipelago when attacked by 3 Japanese destroyers. By pure coincidence an American B-25 Mitchell returning from a





bombing mission witnessed the attack and the loss of the Argonaut. The namesake Ar-



gonaut is a relative of the octopus but ultimately the name is derived from the band of fifty heroes in Greek legend who sailed with Jason in the ship Argo to retrieve the Golden Fleece. Thank you to the Parson

family for giving your brother to the people of the United States of America for our freedom. Thank you God for men like Rolla and the crew of the Argonaut!

Christmas 2013

Christmas is about love. People get together to celebrate with family and friends because they love each other. The Corvina Base will celebrate Christmas with our "all you can eat" buffet and enjoy each other's company because we love each other. Christmas has the word "Christ" in it from the Greek meaning "the anointed one from God".

Scripture: 1 John 4:16 "God is love".

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and may God's blessings be on you.

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain





Welcome to are newest member LCDR Jim Gibson. He qualified in 1949 on the

USS Conger (SS/AGSS-477).

Jim also served on SS-489, SS-551, SS-337, SS-274, SS-391, SS-339, ASR-8



DECEMBER

3- BOD Meeting 0900hrs 7- Christmas Lunch 1 1300hrs (PH Day) (JA Nugget, Sparks) 20- Lunch Bunch 1 1300hrs 25- Merry Christmas to All 31- BOD Meeting 0900hrs

JANUARY 2014

1- Happy New Year to All

4- Base Meeting 1400hrs

17- Lunch Bunch 1 130hrs

REMINDER: 2014 Dues MUST be paid prior to 31 December 2013.

Birthday List			
December			
Hee Haw Hudson 7			
Dave Aunkst 11			
Jerry Atkins 23			
Dave Craig 24			
Oscar Rambeau 25			
Norm Peterson 26			

SUBMARINERS

There are stories told about knights of old and the shooting of Dan McGrew And the classic tale of the great white whale still thrills us through and through.

There's Farragut and John Paul but the saltiest of them all Were the boys in blue from World War Two who answered Freedom's Call. Now I won't boast so I'll drink a toast to the boys who went down under. With Navy pride they fought and died when their boats were ripped asunder. They learned their trade, our debt they paid in the world beneath the sea

And there they sleep in waters deep, a part of history. Those noble ships with sonar blips once fought their way to Glory And the men inside, because they died, left none to tell their story.

Proud Argonaut, you had your shot, you and the Amberjack,

'Twas near Rabaul you gave your all and never more came back. Pompano, you and Runner, too, were lost in forty-three. Your gallant crew went down with you, defending liberty.

The Pickerel too, the sleek Wahoo, the Grampus and the Herring, The Albacore, all lost in the war, have taken their last bearing. So many more, subs by the score, went to their watery grave, In silence deep they lie asleep, the young lads and the brave, But this I know, somewhere below lie those who paid the price,

Our debt is paid because they made the final sacrifice.

2013 BASE BOOSTER CLUB LIST Steve Warner Leonard Stefanelli R. Dennis Wiley Mark Hogan Jim (Smokey) Jordan Dan Moran (2) Jack Quade Bill Parsons Dave Aunkst Terry Bolin **Bob Heaps** Don Brown Oscar Rambeau **Terry Sheldon-Brown Bill Desormier** Scott Stanfill Pete Akerson (2) Frank Kenyon Primo Quarisa Mary Ellen Schwicktenberg Della Quarisa Jim Gibson

Robert L. Harrison

Where your money goes

Defense News Roundup: The Pentagon Goes Christmas Shopping

By Rich Smith December 1, 2013

The U.S. military has a reputation as a somewhat secretive organization. But in one respect at least, the Pentagon is one of the most "open" of our government agencies. Every day of the week, rain or shine, the Department of Defense tells U.S. taxpayers what contracts it's issued, to whom, and for how much -- all right out in the open on its website.

So what has the Pentagon been up to this week?

DoD is budgeted to spend about \$6.2 billion a week on military hardware, infrastructure projects, and supplies in fiscal 2013. (A further \$5.6 billion a week goes to pay the salaries and benefits of U.S. servicemen and servicewomen.) A holiday-shortened week, however, appears to have had an outsized effect on Pentagon spending, as the generals put barely \$1 billion on their credit cards through Friday.

And what did they get for their (read: "our") money? Actually, this week's spending pattern won't look at all unfamiliar to parents doing Black Friday Christmas shopping for the kids.

Santa? SOCOM wants a toy submarine ...

The week ended not with a bang but a whimper, when Defense Department contract officers awarded only a single contract Friday. Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) was the beneficiary, winning \$10 million from the U.S. Special Operations Command, which is leasing an S301i "dry submersible vessel" from Lockheed. SO-COM intends to use the vessel to test the utility of giving Navy SEALs a miniature submarine with which to attack the beaches.

... and the Navy wants a remote controlled airplane

Boeing (NYSE: BA) got a similar "toy" contract of its own Wednesday. The U.S. Navy exercised an option worth about \$9 million to the aerospace giant, instructing Boeing to supply it with a single Low Rate Initial Production Lot II RQ-21A "Blackjack" Unmanned Aircraft System. Measuring roughly 8 feet by 16, the Blackjack is a small, prop-driven UAV that launches from catapult, reaches speeds of up to 90 knots, and can remain airborne for as much as 13 hours before needed to return to base. It does not carry weapons.

More drone money for Northrop

In more serious news, Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC) won a somewhat larger robotic drone contract. In addition to buying a robotic drone airplane from Boeing, the U.S. Navy anted up just under \$14 million to pay Northrop to support its MQ-8B/C Fire Scout unmanned helicopters. The Navy has put several of Northrop's robo-helos into operational use already and is currently working with the defense contractor to develop a new-and-improved Fire Scout that can fly twice as far as the original, and carry three times the payload to boot.

\$6.2 billion a week

A Submarine Poemfor Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived in a crowd, In a 40 man berthing, with shipmates so loud.

I had come down the Sail with presents to give, And to see just who in this rack did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight did I see, No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings were hung, just poopy-suit close at hand, On the bulkhead hung pictures of far distant land.

He had medals and badges and awards of all kinds, but One in particular seem to catch my eye. Why they were Dolphins, with a tiny submarine... pinned on with pride, A sobering thought came into my mind.

For this place was different, it was so dark and dreary, I had found the house of a Submarine Sailor once I could see clearly.

> The Sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone, Curled up in his rack, dreaming of home.

The face was so gentle, the berthing in such good order, Not how I pictured a United States Submarine Sailor.

Was this the hero whom I saw on TV? Defending his country so we all could be free.

I realized the families that I've seen this night, Owed their lives to these Submarine Sailors who were willing to fight.

> Soon 'round the world, the children would play, And grownups would celebrate a new Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of the Sailor, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone, On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The Sailor awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa, don't cry, for this life is my choice."

> Defend the seas this day, So others may rejoice.

The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours so silent, so still, And we both shivered from the night's cold chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night, This Guardian of Honor, so willing to fight.

Then the Sailor rolled over and with a voice soft and pure, Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, All is Secure!!"

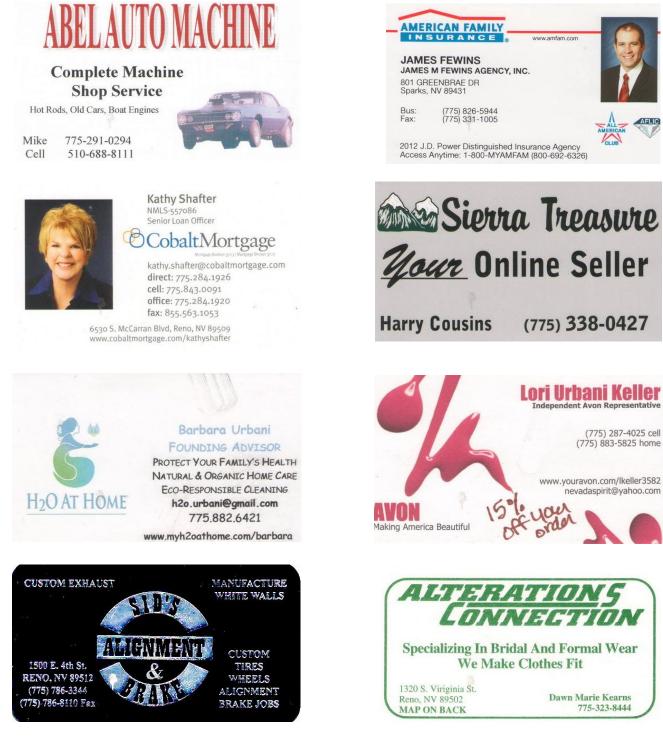
Classifieds

The following business have generously donated to defray the costs of

printing and distributing the Corvina Base Newsletter.

Please consider using them if you need one of their services and

let them know you saw it in the newsletter.





Holland Club members are those submarine veterans of USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.) that qualified on a submarine 50 or more years ago. When qualified, a sailor earns the right to wear, and responsibility of, the dolphin insignia of submarine service.



