

CORVINA BASE

July 2014

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter of the Year Awards

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

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SHIPMATES ON ETERNAL PATROL

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)	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)
Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)	Jack Quade SMSN(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.

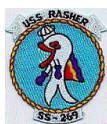
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Vice Commander

Secretary

Treasurer



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POC

Chaplain

Newsletter/WEB



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MAL

MAL

Assistant Chaplain

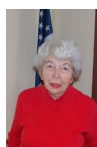
Past Base Commander



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575-0289
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867-3304
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Mercedes Parsons
626-0352
wp347@sbcglobal.net



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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.



Commanders Log

The July meeting was well-attended for a Holiday weekend. We had a interesting audio recording of the 5000th dive of the ARCHERFISH by Frank Ely; and an interesting sea story of how he was left on the bridge during a dive, as told by his visiting brother Jack. They both served on the ARCHERFISH at the same time.

The big news was that the contest to name the Newsletter and a Base motto has been allowed to die a peaceful death. This was a decision of the Board of Directors, after a minimal amount of participation from the Base members. We decided not to make any changes without the participation of at least half the membership. Many thanks to the people who did participate by submitting names and voting, maybe next time.

The Fourth of July parade in Virginia City, went very well. In spite of the heat, we had a turnout of ten members. For a town that size, they always have a great many entries and a great crowd. Thanks to Dennis Wiley, who towed the float up the hill. It was noticed that our Memorial at the Fernley cemetery was in need of a periodic sprucing up, especially prior to upcoming events. Thankfully, three members have volunteered to do just that: Mark Hogan, Wayne Levie and Dan Moran. Keep up the good work.

Queue the broken record: The USSVI National election for Officers and proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws is still ongoing. See the information listed in the last issue of the *American Submariner* (2014-Issue 2). You can either vote (by August 27th) on-line (preferred) or via snail-mail. As of this writing only 10 Corvina Base members have voted. One of the recent votes was via snail-mail filled out with a with a crayon; anyway we can get it done.

July 11th marked the 100th anniversary of the christening of the USS Nevada (BB-36). At a ceremony, at the Capitol Building in Carson City, the memorial was renewed with a new plaque, and rededicated. It was attended by a lot of dignitaries, including the COB and Sailor of the Year from the current USS Nevada (SSBN-733 Blue). The COB said the boat has maintained close ties with the State over the years, since she was commissioned in 1986. Other than him, there wasn't a whole lot of interest in hearing about targets.

Mark your calendars on Saturday, August 2nd, for the Annual Corvina Base Picnic. Meet at the Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley, starting at 1130hrs. Terry Bolen again has everything arranged, including the Carson City Naval Sea Cadet Corps Honor Guard to present the Colors.

Keep in mind, that there will be no regular Base Meetings at Denny's until October 4th. For the month of September, because of the USSVI Convention, the Annual Fernley Cemetery Memorial Service has been delayed until September 13th.

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Minutes of Corvina Base Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Commander Aunkst at 1400 as COB Heaps sounded two blasts on the klaxon.

After an invocation by Assistant Chaplain Mercedes Parsons, the Pledge of Allegiance, Reading of the USSVI Creed, Tolling of the Bell Ceremony for boats lost in July and moment of silent prayer for all lost ship-mates, friends and family followed in their usual order. There were 24 members and guests present.

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as published in the Newsletter. Secretary Pete Akerson reported that we had received a very gracious 'Thank You' letter from the

Veterans' Guest House for our recent donation. The letter was passed around for all members present to read.

The Virginia City Fourth of July Parade was a well- attended event. Special thanks go to Vice-Commander Dennis Wiley for stepping up to tow the float on very short notice.

Chaplain Paul Allen is travelling, so there was no Chaplain's Report for this meeting.

Treasurer Robert Talbert reports that the Base remains in very sound financial condition.

Terry Bolen reports that Member John Hannah has volunteered to serve as the Chef for our August picnic. The picnic will be held in our usual spot in Davis Creek Park,

August 2, 2014, starting at 1130. Please bring your families, raffle prizes, a dish to share with others your own plates and cutlery and your appetites for hot-dogs and burgers. Condiments and soft drinks will be provided by the base as usual.

After a brief recess, the monthly 50/50 raffle drawing was held with the following results:

The first item was an embroidered Sub-Vets polo-shirt auction. The auction was won by Gene Murphy with a winning bid of \$21.00. Raffle items and their winners were: Sangria - Dan Moran, Car magnets- Wayne Levie, Band-Aids – Ken Anderson, Magnum of Champagne - Pete Akerson, Card Wallet – Linda Ely, NV car sticker – Dan Moran, Merlot – Linda Ely, Wine – Bill Conklin. The \$52.00 cash prize was won by Dan Moran, who very generously donated half of that sum back to the Base. Thanks

Dan.

July's Lunch Bunch gathering was held at Claim Jumper on July 18th.

After a Benediction by Mercedes Parsons, the meeting closed at 1448 with the sounding of three blasts on the klaxon by COB Heaps

I hope to see all of you at the Picnic

Respectfully,

Pete Akerson Secretary



Treasurers Report

1. All account balances are available at Base meetings.

2. Deposits:

From Base Meeting:

\$ 53 Raffle

12 USSVI Memorial Fund

91 Boosters

===

\$156.00

3. Checks issued in March:

\$14.70 #1668 - Norm Peterson – Stamps



Chaplains Corner

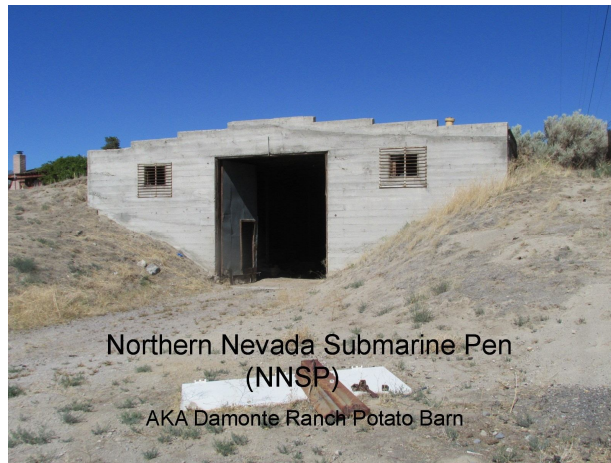
Our chaplain is still checking out the Scottish countryside.

"Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, I SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY."

JFK

August 1, 1963

The location is finally out.



Virginia City Parade 2014



Lowe's and Home Depot Military and Veteran Discounts Explained



Home Depot Military/Veteran Discount Policy

They offer a 10 percent discount, up to a \$500 maximum, to all active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members with a valid military ID, every day of the week.

All other military veterans qualify for a 10 percent discount during Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Independence Day.

Lowe's Military/Veteran Discount Policy

They offer an all day, every day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card.

All other military veterans will receive the discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends.

But please remember when asking about the discount, if the employee does not understand, do not make a big deal out of it. Ask to speak with the manager, and have your ID with you. And it must be a valid Government issued ID. It seems sometimes the employees get confused as to which policy a person falls under, which is understandable if they never served. So please be patient and courteous when asking about the discount.

These two companies have offered these discounts to the Military community as a courtesy for your service and sacrifice, it is not something they are required to do by any means.

Remember if you are a Veteran, but not Active, Reserve, Retired or disabled Veteran you are only authorized the discount on the above stated Holidays.

If you Are Active, Reserve, Retired, or a Disabled Veteran with a valid ID you can get the discount any day of the week.

We would like to thank [Lowes](#), and [The Home Depot](#) for thanking our current Military and Veterans with this discount.

2014 BASE BOOSTER CLUB LIST

Lon Schmidt
Dan Moran
Jim Gibson
Leif Larsen
Don Brown
Harry Cousins
Harvey Hudson
Chester MacDowell Family
Paul Young
Rick Dentino
Dale & Esther Poe
Dennis Wiley
Bill Desomier
Dave Aunkst
Norm Peterson
Dennis Wiley— In memory of Jack Quade
Pete Akerson— In memory of Jack Quade
Gene Murphy

Birthday List

August

1 Thomas Bonner
3 Taqqart Rogers
5 Bruce Hedrick
11 Joseph Casten
20 Walter Lewis
28 Phil Zeddies
30 Wesley Rece

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

2- Base Picnic @ Davis
Creek Park 1100hrs

15- Lunch Bunch 1130hrs

SEPTEMBER

1 to 7- USSVI Convention/
Burlingame, CA

9- BOD Meeting 0900hrs

13- Memorial Service @ Fernley
1000hrs

11- Patriot Day/Remember 9/11

19- Lunch Bunch 1130hrs

30- BOD Meeting 0900hrs



Helmsman with an attitude



For reasons he never quite understood, the Ensign's first tour was a little "rocky."



Street Smart

Hi, Sailors and friends. I'm here again!

VACATIONS, a great time to be had by all, but **not always**.

Here are some suggestions, that may help you and yours enjoy.

Please do not buy new luggage, this is what the dirt bags look for. In the airports, bag handlers. Your property is almost never recovered. In other places, you look like you have money. This makes you a target. You do not need this, take an old beat up bag, I mean luggage. Keep good items in your carryon bag. Canvas bags are easy to carry?

Try not to look like a tourist, no camera around your neck. Some say the new phones are good, it can translate to a language where you are.

A few overseas countries have flim flam men posing as police officers. They ask to see your ID. They take (steal) your wallet and money and leave.

Please don't tell people on FACE BOOK anything about your vacation plans. When you return, your home may be cleaned out. Not all the people on FACE BOOK are your friends. Use a telephone to inform a friend of vacation, they may be a house sitter for you.

Before you go on vacation, check with the State Dept. "TRAVEL.STATE.GOV." Enter the place that you are going (even Mexico) put the city, town or district. This will give you an up to date on what problems are in that area. In some area it is suggested that you do not leave the hotel property.

Enjoy your vacation. If it's too good to be true, it's not. Be careful; keep the wind at your back. Have lots of fun.

Dan Moran



The "Every Sailor a Deck Hand" campaign got off to a slow start.



The Captain began to rethink Standing Order #3: "When in doubt about anything at all, call the Captain."

A couple of Bob 'Dex' Armstrong's stories in his honor. He passed away on July 8.

Dex wrote many a story on the submarine navy. He will be missed.

Enginemen... God's Worst Creation

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

Did you ever wonder why diesel boat enginemen all live to a hundred and five, and have to be terminated with sledgehammers? The forward and after enginerooms on smokeboats were what the EPA calls hazardous waste sites. They had germs roaming around in there the size of snapping turtles. Any engineman who could survive six months, developed a level of immunity that could stand up to anything below the level of a ground zero nuclear blast.

Take Mike Hemming. In the world of natural selection, Mother Nature would normally provide something that would eliminate something as ornery and socially maladjusted as 'Boy Throttleman'... But if a rattlesnake bit Hemming, the damn snake would die. Why? He was an engineman.

When we ran out of clean coffee cups on Requin, the cooks would send a messcook to the enginerooms to locate, round up and return the vast collection of cups that migrated there and never returned. When enginemen made coffee runs, it was a one-way trip for whatever the coffee went aft in... An engineman will drink coffee out of anything he can pour it into... Cup... Bean can... Band-Aid box... Left boot off a dead yardbird... Didn't matter.

I have collected cups in enginerooms that a cat would have covered up in a litter box. Enginemen identified which cup belonged to which snipe by the patterns of black, greasy fingerprints covering the outside of the cups.

A first class motor mac once handed me a cup containing what had to be a weeks worth of Beechnut chewing tobacco spit roaming around in it. "Hey kid, when you haul your worthless ass forward, how 'bout a fresh cup."

"Sure... It'll take a couple of minutes to wash out your cup." "What for?... Just run some water in to get the chunky stuff out and draw me a fresh one."

'Fresh one' was an alien concept to a gahdam snipe... Just like soap... Razor use... And socially acceptable vocabularies. Snipes lived in a world never fully understood or appreciated by their shipmates. In a word... They were by far, the weirdest of the weird. I have no idea where the Navy found the sonuvabitches... My guess was they had to turn over a helluva lot of rocks and they just crawled out hauling big tools.

They were the only creatures in any of our armed services who considered acceptable personal hygiene could be achieved by turning your skivvy shirt inside-out every three weeks.

On the plus side, they were, hands down, the least self-absorbed, most generous bastards that ever lived... To them, an empty beer glass was unacceptable. Whatever they saved on soap, blades and laundry money went to pay for rounds of beer and taxi fares to haul drunken shipmates back to D&S piers.

Knowing full well that it is a gross violation of the Torpedoman's Oath to ever say anything positive about anything that ever crawled out of the lower flats on an enginehouse, I... Make that we... All knew that come anything from a bar brawl to a Mother's Day collection, the first three guys in line would be throttlemen and oilers.

By the time Hemming crossed the brow and became one of the 'Great Unwashed' on Requin, Stuke and I had mastered the E-3 survival skills, could operate thirteen-button blues without peeing on the flap and were known as 'The Two Idiots off Requin' by every master-at-arms on Orion. Hemming is called 'Boy Throttleman' because he was operating Fairbanks Morse on Tench boats fifteen minutes after his mom tossed his Cub Scout uniform in the Salvation Army collection box. He was bossing guys old enough to have changed his three-cornered pants... He was studying maintenance manuals when his contemporaries were still reading 'Little Golden Books'.

He took big-time heat, but teenage rock crusher drivers are as scarce as virgins in Little Rock. But he had the beer drinkers' tapeworm and ranked right up there on the enginemen's scuzzy scale... And he was ugly and came with the vocabulary of a sewer digger's cockatoo.

Flo married him... Could have been the victim of post-hypnotic suggestion but she loves the unrepentant rascal. Being married to Flo would redeem the worst sinner and probably did.

Bunk Bags

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

If you never rode the boats, this is going to sound silly and make absolutely no damn sense to you. If you did, you will remember the damn things and probably smile.

The contraptions were simply called bunk bags. Not 'U.S. Navy Bags, Bunk, Type II Mod 6, Unit of Issue, One Each'. Not 'Shipboard Personal Gear Storage Pouch (Submarine) with Zipper'... Just gahdam 'bunk bags'.

They were elongated bags, designed specifically for horizontal passageway storage, hung from the tubular bunk frames on diesel boats. They were ugly, a sickening shade of lime-green (which incedently, closely resembled the color of barf after a three-day drunk) and had four snap straps that connected them to the bunk rail.

It is my understanding that they were intended to eliminate the noise level created by Gillette safety razors, Zippo lighters, busted Timex watches, dice, flashlights, coins, and shrunken heads, purchased as gifts for wives, from rattling around in an aluminum sidelocker and giving away your position.

They were either that lime-green or some kind of gray tweed and they were uglier than a blindman's bride.

But they had many desirable qualities if you were a nomadic resident of a submersible septic tank. First, they increased the allowable storage space and damn near doubled it. In layman's terms, an E-3 could accumulate worldly goods amounting to those on par with migrating Mongolians and folks doing life on Devil's Island.

Next, and this can only be appreciated by an idiot bastard who ever had the wonderful experience of a surface battery charge in a state five sea, the damn things hanging down on the passageway side of a berthing compartment, kept you from being beat to death, bouncing off inanimate objects bolted to the pressure hull. They serve to pad the piping surrounding the bunks known as bunk rails. Your ribs were very grateful.

But the best thing about bunk bags was their ability to be converted into instant short-range luggage... Sort of a 'submariners Samsonite overnight' bag. By snapping the two center straps together, you could create what passed for a luggage handle... A poor excuse for a carrying device, but usable. A bunk bag full of the supplies needed for a 72-hour excursion into the heartland of the civilian population, was the worst of all possible choices.

Mentally picture the left leg of a fat woman's panty hose filled with Jello and stitched up at the open end and at midway from thigh to toe, attach a sea bag handle and you have the most unwieldy AWOL bag ever created and the ugliest gahdam contraption ever invented by man... A floppy sausage full of the meager possessions of a long-range boat bum.

The damn things had one distinct advantage that no other personal gear conveyance had. If you saw some fleet untouchable standing beside the highway with one of the fool things at his feet, you knew immediately that the hitchhiking sonuvabitch was a boatsailor. A fellow submarine sailor would burn flat spots in a new set of tires, stopping to pick you up.

To every old white-haired smokeboat vet, the words 'bunk bag' bring a smile to his weather-beaten face. You would find it damn hard to come across an old petroleum-powered submersible resident who didn't have fond memories of the worthless sonuvabitches.

Classifieds

The following business have generously donated to defray the costs of
printing and distributing the Corvina Base Newsletter.

Please consider them if you need one of their services.

Let them know you saw their ad in the newsletter.

ABEL AUTO MACHINE

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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.

Russell Noragon MMC (SS)



USS Segundo SS-398

Qual Date 1963

James Tiernan QMC(SS)



USS Irex SS-482

Qual Date 1958

Frank Urbani EN2 (SS)



USS Gudgeon SS-567

Qual Date 1958

Elmer Hopson



USS Pomfret SS-391

Qual Date 1963

Clyde Webber ETNSN (SS)



USS Trumpefish SS-425

Qual Date 1954

Phillip Zeddies ENFN (SS)



USS Caiman SS-323

Qual Date 1960

Arthur Akerson LCDR



USS Carbonero SS-337

Qual Date 1949

Gerald Baer ENFN (SS)



USS Charr SS-328

Qual Date 1959

Richard Barringer SOSN (SS)



USS Bang SS-385

Qual Date 1952

Joseph Casten EM3 (SS)



USS Baya AGSS-318

Qual Date 1954

Dave Craig ETC (SS)



USS Croaker SS-246

Qual Date 1961

Terry Critchett EM3 (SS)



USS Bluegill SS-242

Qual Date 1955

Richard Dentino EM3 (SS)



USS Tigrone SS-419

Qual Date 1955

Paul Allen EN1 (SS)



USS Blackfin (SS-322)

Qual Date 1963

Bruce Hedrick EM2 (SS)



USS Sea Dragon SS-584

Qual Date 1961

Donald Johnson RMC (SS)



USS Charr SS-328

Qual Date 1958

James Jordan TMSN (SS)



USS Toro SS-422

Qual Date 1948

Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)



USS Skate SS-305

Qual Date 1944

Walter Lewis IC1 (SS)



USS Rasher SS-269

Qual Date 1961

Frank Lipera EM2 (SS)



USS Greenfish SS-351

Qual Date 1960

Kenneth Anderson EMC (SS)



USS Perch SS-313

Qual Date 1963

Holland Club Members (cont)

<p>Kenneth McCray EN1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Blackfin SS-322</p> <p>Qual Date 1951</p>	<p>Daniel Moran EN3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Jallao SS-368</p> <p>Qual Date 1959</p>	<p>Raoul Noland EM2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Trutta SS-421</p> <p>Qual Date 1945</p>
<p>William Parsons RM1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Thresher SS-200</p> <p>Qual Date 1941</p>	<p>James Gibson LCDR(SS)</p>  <p>USS Conger SS-477</p> <p>Qual Date 1949</p>	<p>Primo Quarisa EN3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Aspro SS-309</p> <p>Qual Date 1952</p>
<p>Oscar Rambeau Qm3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Carp SS-338</p> <p>Qual Date 1954</p>	<p>James Saunders SOS3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Greenfish SS-351</p> <p>Qual Date 1960</p>	<p>Dennis Wiley E9 MMCM(MDV/SS/SW)</p>  <p>USS Medregal (SS-480)</p> <p>Qual Date 1963</p>
<p>Lionel Schmidt STS1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Seafox SS-402</p> <p>Qual Date 1955</p>	<p>Jon Schoenfeld ET2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Sea Cat SS-399</p> <p>Qual Date 1960</p>	<p>Delmar Schwichtenberg CWO3 (SS)</p> <div> <p>No</p> <p>Patch</p> </div> <p>USS O6 SS-67</p> <p>Qual Date 1941</p>
<p>Albert Skidmore YN2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Diodon SS-349</p> <p>Qual Date 1947</p>	<p>Herbert Starmer HMC (SS)</p>  <p>USS Cobia SS-245</p> <p>Qual Date 1944</p>	<p>Leonard Stefanelli QM3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Catfish SS-339</p> <p>Qual Date 1954</p>
<p>David Aunkst ET1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Rasher SS-269</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>	<p>Rod Friedline STS1 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Pomfret SS-391</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>	<p>Gabriel Fretias SK3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Wahoo SS-565</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>
<p>Harry Cousins LT</p>  <p>USS Chopper SS-342</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>	<p>Norman Peterson IC2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Growler SSG-577</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>	<p>Robert Heaps IC2 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Grampus SS-523</p> <p>Qual Date 1962</p>
<p>Bill Desormier SK3 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Plunger SSN-595</p> <p>Qual Date 1963</p>	<p>Wayne Levie SN (SS)</p>  <p>USS Bashaw AGSS-241</p> <p>Qual Date 1963</p>	<p>Thomas Bonner IC22 (SS)</p>  <p>USS Bonita SSK-3</p> <p>Qual Date 1958</p>

Holland Club Members (cont)

 The logo for USS Blackfin SS-322 features a purple submarine with a yellow conning tower, set against a blue background with a yellow border. The text "USS BLACKFIN" is at the top and "SS 322" is at the bottom.	Don Brown FTGC(SS) USS Blackfin SS-322 Qual Date 1964	 The logo for USS Greenfish SS-351 features a green fish with a yellow conning tower, set against a blue background with a yellow border. The text "USS GREENFISH SS 351" is at the top.	Leif Larsen ST1 (SS) USS Greenfish SS-351 Qual Date 1964	 The logo for USS Barb SSN-596 features a green submarine with a yellow conning tower, set against a blue background with a yellow border. The text "USS BARB SSN 596" is at the bottom.	Bill Conklin MMCM(SS) USS Barb SSN-596 Qual Date 1964
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