CORVINA BASE

November 2014





Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up

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.

Base Commander

Vice Commander

Secretary

Teasurer





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COB

POC

Chaplain

Newsletter/WEB





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Paul Allen 882-7971 pmgjallen1@att.net



Norm Peterson 322-5193 1971tr6@charter.net

MAL

MAL

Assistant Chaplain

Past Base Commander



Terry Bolen 575-0289 tbolen2000@yahoo.com



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Marcedes Parsons 626-0352 wp347@sbcglobal.net



Dan Moran 853-1126 morank61@hotmail.com







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.





November has been a busy month with two parades and the Base Meeting with the elections. The parades were well attended and the sub float looked good. (No more worries about the float's suspension and tires.) The Nevada Day parade on November 1st, was a little brisk with the cool weather, but the Reno Veterans Day parade was a big improvement. It was good to be back in Reno. The parades in Virginia City are always fun, but we get a lot more exposure in Reno at our "home base". Many thanks to Robert Talbert for towing the sub float to both parades.

Thanks to the candidates who stepped up for the elected officers for next year: Base Commander Dennis Wiley; Vice Commander Steve Salzman; Secretary Pete Akerson; and Treasurer Robert Talbert. (I think by now, most of their wives have found out.) Most of the appointed positions have agreed to remain, except Don Brown will take over as Base Recruiter. They are all more than qualified, and I am confident they will successfully carry on the business of the Base, especially with the preparations for the Convention.

We had a special guest and potential new member at the recent Base Meeting- Wesley Peltier (and young son Tucker). He is a CS1(SS), and currently on active duty on the USS Nevada. He and family recently moved to the Reno area, and expressed interest in Base membership. We will certainly welcome him, as it is rare to have a member still on active duty, especially on the NEVADA.

Nine of us traveled to the old Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY) on November 15th, to visit the historic gunboat USS LCS-102 (Yankee Dollar), and the MI Museum. It was a fast trip down and back, the weather was great, and Primo got to visit a gunboat similar to the one he served on presub service. The museum is quite big, and has a lot of history from the shipyard over the years. Many thanks to Frank Urbani and Paul Young for driving.

Hopefully everyone had a nice family Thanksgiving, and don't forget to attend the December 6th Christmas Lunch at JA Nugget in Sparks. The festivities start at 1130hrs. This is the final Base event of the year, and we always have great food, installation of the new officers, and a big raffle. By the time you read this, you may still have time (December 1st deadline) to sign-up and attend. See you there!



Minutes of Corvina Base Meeting

Secretary unavailable this month. Minutes will be read at January meeting for review.



Treasurers Report

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

69.00 - Raffle

42.00 - Booster Club

15.00 - USSVICF

1170.00 - Christmas Lunch

60.00 - Annual dues 2015

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\$1356.00

3. Checks issued:

63.36 - Recruitment

65.00 - USSVI 2015 Dues

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\$ 128.36



Chaplains Corner

<u>Joe Casten</u>: I made a pre-Thanksgiving visit to see Joe Casten at Emeritus at the Seasons assisting living facility in Reno and we had a great visit. It appears that Joe will remain in a wheelchair but the most disappointing problem he has is declining eye sight which takes away the ability to read and see his television. Joe looked and sounded good and it appears that he is very satisfied with the care he receives which also allows him limited independence. He said to give his best to the Corvina Base. For new members to the Corvina Base Joe is 85 years old and qualified on the USS Baja (SS/AGSS-318) in 1954 and also served on the USS Mingo (SS-261) and the USS Redfish (SS-395) as an EM3.

Christmas

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2 "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi

from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw <u>his star</u> in the east and have come to worship Him'."

This morning as I went out to get the newspaper from our driveway, about 5:00 A.M. and 28 degrees, it was dark of course, but as I looked up at the stars shining I thought of the Magi and their long trip. We really don't know how many men were in this caravan, but they were serious travelers to take a several week journey, probably from Persia, which is in Iran today, to see this child that was born to be King of the Jews, but they were the first gentiles to come and worship Him. This was a dangerous

time in the Roman Empire, but these men knew about Daniel's prophe-





cies, from the Old Testament book of Daniel, written by Daniel when he was a captive about 550 years earlier in Persia. Daniel's position and influence over the Magi no doubt ingrained upon them many years later that this king was going to be someone special. Here we are 2,000 years later still celebrating what took place under that star in Bethlehem Judea, the ancestral home of King David, bringing hope-to-millions upon millions of people! Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace-to-men-on-whom-His favor rests."

<u>Pictures</u>: I've included two photos that I snapped off the topside deck of the USS Blackfin in 1964/65 in Pearl Harbor at Christmas, showing the USS Halibut (SS GN/SSN-587) one at night and during the day with a Regulus missile on the launching ramp decorated with blue lights. It was beautiful!





Primo Quarisa:

This is a short article that Paul Young wrote and posted on Face Book about the Corvina Base trip to Mare Island with Primo. Also, on the trip were Dave Aunkst, Pete and David Akerson, Bill Conklin, Paul Young, Norm Peterson, Frank Urbani, Paul Allen, Steve Salzman and his wife, Dede. We also went through the Mare Island Historical Museum and had a great time reminiscing about our submarine days out of Mare Island.

"This past Saturday a of group of us from the USSVI Corvina Base took a trip to Mare Island to see one of



the last existing ships of its kind in the world. The USS LCS (L) (3)-102 (Landing craft support (Large) (Mark 3) reclassified in 1949 to the USS LSSL, it was purchased from Thailand and brought back to the states for renovation. The real reason we all went was because of a brother in the chapter Primo Quarisa who actually was on the #81 64 years ago and to see his face light

up and to be a part of his remembering the times he had was amazing.

Primo was part of the crew that took this ship from Oregon to Midway Island. Now keep in mind that this ship is a FLAT BOTTOM vessel and it had NO NAVIGATION and they took it all the way across the Pacific. You will see a big anchor in the back as they would beach this craft after dropping the anchor to give fire support to the Marines on shore and



then use the anchor to pull themselves back out to sea.

After being in Asia he filled out a chit to go to sub school in New London and 10

days later he was on troop transport and ended up in San Diego and was out right on the USS ASPRO SS 309,he is the only person I have ever met

that never went to sub school but I'm sure there are many from that time period. He loved his cigars and was the only one of the crew that didn't get sick even the CO a

LTJG was barfing it up and ho he was a SNIPE and seeing the engine room and smelling the diesel even brought back some memories for me. There's much more to put down so Primo I'll see you at the Christmas lunch and thanks for the pleasure in enjoying your memories."





I went on this trip to Mare Island also and really enjoyed the beautiful blue sky day and lunch at the Sardine Can Restaurant. I would like to add one more part to Primo's navy years. Before he reported to the LSSL-81 he had been sent to San Francisco in late 1950 after boot camp and embarked on a troop transport along with about 5,000 sailors and marines and sailed towards Pearl Harbor and then to Korea.

They made a port-of-call at the Marshall Islands where he was unloaded and assigned to a small gas tanker YOG 61 with a crew of 8. He spent the first six months at Kwajalein Island and then onto Eniwetok Island where he was a part of Operation Green House and the testing of four atomic bombs. The closest one was seven miles away and the furthest was fourteen miles away. Now we know why Primo glows sometimes. The YOG was later given to the Philippine Navy and the LSSL was sent to the Japanese Navy and later to the Thailand Navy.

I asked Primo if he had a certain Christmas memory and he told me this one. While in the Marshall Islands, supply ships and oil tankers would stop to bring supplies and especially aviation fuel for the airplanes that landed there to fuel bringing home wounded Americans from the Korean War. Christmas was coming and one day a barge pulled up to the pier loaded with Christmas trees. While men were unloading trees onto the pier side of the barge, Primo and some of the crew from YOG 61 helped themselves to a tree from the other side of the barge. Hurriedly, they took the tree aboard their boat and set it up in the galley and celebrated

Christmas with a tree.



We're thankful that Primo could make this trip so soon after going through treatment for prostate cancer. We're also talking about a trip in the future to visit the museum at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield.

Merry Christmas to all the Corvina Base and your families. God Bless You!

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain



DECEMBER

2- BOD Meeting 0900hrs

6- Christmas Lunch 1130hrs (JA Nugget, Sparks)

19- No Lunch Bunch / Cancelled

25- Merry Christmas to All

30- BOD Meeting 0900hrs

JANUARY 2015

1- Happy New Year to All

3- Base Meeting 1400hrs

16- Lunch Bunch 1130hrs

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

Russ Jennings

Robert Heaps

"How, sir, would you make a ship sail against the wind and currents by lighting a bonfire under her deck? I pray you, excuse me, I have not the time to listen to such nonsense." — Napoleon Bonaparte, when told of Robert Fulton's steamboat, 1800s



Birthday List

December

Hee Haw Hudson 7

Dave Aunkst 11

Jerry Atkins 23

Dave Craig 24

Oscar Rambeau 25

au 25

Norm Peterson 26

Diane Hogan 27

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to no one in particular?" – -Associates of David Sarnoff responding to the latter's call for investment in the radio in 1921



18

"Everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure." – -Henry Morton, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, on Edison's light bulb, 1880



Don't have any pictures from the Nevada Day parade, it was cold The following are from the Reno Veterans Day parade

















LOOKING BACK

By Paul Stillwell

ONE FROM THE BUCKET LIST

everal years ago, Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson starred in a delightfully entertaining movie called *The Bucket List*, whose premise was that each man had a list of activities to be accomplished before he "kicked the bucket." Celebrating the recent engagement of our son Rob to Katie, a lovely young California woman, provided the opportunity for a side-trip visit that involved completing an item on my own bucket list.

The former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, 25 miles northeast of San Francisco, was the site of the first U.S. Navy facility on the West Coast. The island is separated by the Napa River from the city of Vallejo, named in honor of Gen(AC-3), which was converted in 1920 to the Navy's first aircraft carrier, the Langley (CV-1). The California (BB-44), the Navy's only dreadnought-type battleship built on the West Coast, also had her origins on Mare Island. Captain Edward L. Beach, one of two officers for whom the Naval Institute's Beach Hall is named, was commandant of the Navy yard at the time of the California's launching in 1919. His son, Edward L. "Ned" Beach—then a toddler at Mare Island—later became a bestselling author.

In the mid-1930s the yard began specializing in submarines and built some of the great fleet boats of World War II, including Slade Cutter's Seahorse (SS-304), Dick O'Kane's Tang (SS-306), and Dudley

empty, and the dockside cranes served as mute, now-immobile sentries.

Fascinating for me was seeing the physical objects that served as representatives of different eras of naval warfare. The museum building, formerly a pipe shop, bears the date of 1855, the year after the facility opened. On the side of the building is a banner urging that the Spanish-American War cruiser Olympia be brought to Mare Island, though the fund-raising challenge makes that goal a long shot. Anchors and anchor chain lie nearby. One anchor is purportedly from

the steam sloop-of-war Hartford, Farragut's flagship at Mobile Bay in 1864.

people who had worked there or could I

hear the noises of a shipyard: trains mov-

ing equipment around, steam whistles, the

sound of hammers driving rivets home,

the shouts of men trying to be heard above

the clamor. The quiet I encountered was

pervasive. Large graving docks stood

One artifact that particularly caught my attention was the after end of an old naval gun next to the museum. Most of the barrel had been chopped off, leaving only a few feet of the weapon, including the intact breech mechanism. My impromptu fingertip-to-elbow measuring device indicated a bore diameter of 18 to 19 inches. A subsequent call to Barbara Davis, a volunteer librarian and tour guide for the museum, told me it had been a 16-inch gun when the rifled liner was in it. Over the years the yard re-

gunned a number of battleships.

Among other items I saw were the detached sail from the nuclear submarine Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN-658), built in the vard in the mid-1960s; a Polaris ballistic missile; SubRoc antisubmarine missile; torpedoes; cannon from the Hartford and from the 1814-built Independence, the Navy's first ship-of-the-line; the World War II landing craft LCS-102, reacquired after service in the Royal Thai Navy; the bell from the screw sloop Wachusett, which Commander Alfred Thayer Mahan brought to the yard in 1885 for decommissioning; and a 55-millimeter Hotchkiss revolving cannon from the Thetis, a wooden-hulled, Scottish-built whaler that served in the late 19th century and early 20th in the Navy and the Revenue Cutter Service.

In checking off this bucket-list item and seeing all those old treasures, I felt like the proverbial kid in a candy store. $\mathring{\mathbb{J}}$



PAUL STILLWELL

Situated on the site of the first U.S. Navy facility on the West Coast, the museum at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard is a treasure trove for naval history enthusiasts. Artifacts on display cover a wide span of naval warfare eras, including a cannon from the sloop-of-war *Hartford* and a detached sail from the nuclear submarine *Mariano G. Vallejo*.

eral Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who was a strong proponent of transforming California from a Mexican district into a U.S. state. One legend has it that the general was moving livestock across Carquinez Strait when one of his horses was washed to sea. The plucky mare swam ashore to save herself, landing on what was known as Isla Plana, or Flat Island, and thus gave a new name to the site.

The Navy bought the lot of land in 1853, three years after California joined the union. In 1854 Commander David Farragut, a future Civil War hero, established the Navy base. It remained in active service until shut down in 1996 as part of the base realignment and closure process. Over its long history as a shipyard, Mare Island supported the Fleet with both new construction and repair.

Among the more than 500 ships and craft built there was the collier *Jupiter*

"Mush" Morton's Wahoo (SS-238). In the nuclear era, Mare Island built and serviced both attack and ballistic-missile submarines.

In the years since the shipyard closed, the area has become home to a number of government and commercial ventures, as well as a museum that celebrates its storied history. There was little evidence of activity when I visited early one Saturday evening. As I drove across the causeway to the island, no guard was there to question my presence. The days of tight security were long gone, as were the hustle and bustle of activity that marked the yard at its peak. During World War II, the yard's workforce numbered some 48,000. When I was there, I saw perhaps half a dozen people, one of whom was a roving security man.

The setting sun reflected a golden glow off the buildings in the yard—many of them empty and deteriorating. Only in my imagination could I see those thousands of

UNITED STATES NAVAL INSTITUTE

T'was the Night Before Christmas— Submarine Style

T'was the night before Christmas, and what no-one could see,

The men with the dolphins were under the sea. Most of the crew was flat on their backs, Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.

Those men on watch were making their rounds,
Some manning the planes or listening for sounds.
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,
They all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due, And hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two. Against better judgment I took a short stroll, And found myself wandering into control.

The Nav had the Conn, the COW was in place, The COB had the Dive and a scowl on his face. The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware, The QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with the orders the Nav told the Dive, To bring the boat up with minimum rise.

The orders were given and soon they were there, At periscope depth with a scope in the air.

The QM confirmed our position with care,
The broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.
The Nav on the scope let out a small cry,
He shook his head twice and rubbed at his eyes.

He looked once again to find what it was, That interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause. Try as he might there was nothing to see, So down went the scope and us to the deep.

I asked what it was that caused his dismay, He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say. It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud, Or a meteorite he wondered aloud.

But to tell you the truth I guess I must say, Whatever it was it looked like a sleigh. And though it passed quickly and never was clear, I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer." We laughed and teased him and I got up to go, When our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio." They told us a message was just coming in, We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say, Your attempt at a joke is too long delayed. If it had been sooner it might have been neat, But I doubt we're receiving at four-hundred feet."

"Conn, Radio, you can come down and see, We're not playing games to any degree." I headed aft with nothing better to do, Surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

It stopped and was sent to control to be read, The Nav read it slowly and scratched at his head. Then again he began but this time aloud, To those that now waited, a curious crowd.

"To you Denizens of the Deep and men of the sea, Who risk your life daily so others stay free. I rarely have seen you on this, my big night, For far too often you are hidden from sight.

But purely by luck I saw you tonight, As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night. And lucky for me I've finally won, The chance to say thanks for all you have done.

I know that you miss your families at home, And sometimes you feel as if you're alone. But trust what I say and I'll do what's right, I'll take something special to your families tonight.

Along with the gifts I'll take to your kin, I'll visit their dreams and leave word within. They'll hear of your love, and how you miss them, I'll tell them that soon you'll be home again.

It might not be much I know that is true,
To thank you for all the things that you do.
But I'll do what I can, while you do what's right,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight."

Michael Bowman

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.



















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.

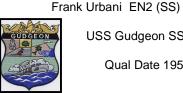
Russell Noragon MMC (SS)



USS Segundo SS-398 Oual Date 1963



USS Irex SS-482 Qual Date 1958



USS Gudgeon SS-567 Qual Date 1958

Elmer Hopson USS Pomfret SS-391 Qual Date 1963



USS Trumpefish SS-425 Qual Date 1954

Gerald Baer ENFN (SS)

Paul Allen EN1 (SS)

James Jordan TMSN (SS)

Frank Lipera EM2 (SS)



USS Caiman SS-323 Qual Date 1960

Arthur Akerson LCDR



USS Carbonero SS-337 Qual Date 1949



USS Charr SS-328 Qual Date 1959



Bill Conklin MMCM(SS) USS Barb SSN-596 Qual Date 1964

Joseph Casten EM3 (SS)



USS Baya AGSS-318 Qual Date 1954



USS Croaker SS-246 Qual Date 1961



USS Bluegill SS-242 Qula Date 1955

Richard Dentino EM3 (SS)



USS Tigrone SS-419 Qual Date 1955



USS Blackfin (SS-322) Qual Date 1963



Bruce Hedrick EM2 (SS) USS Sea Dragon SS-584 Qual Date 1961

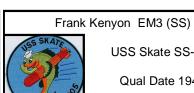
Donald Johnson RMC (SS)



USS Charr SS-328 Qual Date 1958



USS Toro SS-422 Qual Date 1948



USS Skate SS-305 Qual Date 1944

Walter Lewis IC1 (SS)



USS Rasher SS-269 Qual Date 1961



USS Greenfish SS-351 Qual Date 1960



Kenneth Anderson EMC (SS)

USS Perch USS-313 Qual Date 1963

Holland Club Members (cont)

Kenneth McCray EN1 (SS)



USS Blackfin SS-322 Qual Date 1951



USS Jallao SS-368 Qual Date 1959



USS Trutta SS-421 Qual Date 1945

William Parsons RM1 (SS)



USS Thresher SS-200 Qual Date 1941



USS Conger SS-477 Qual Date 1949

James Gibson LCDR(SS)

James Saunders SOS3 (SS)



USS Aspro SS-309 Qual Date 1952

Primo Quarisa EN3 (SS)

Dennis Wiley E9 MMCM(MDV/SS/SW

Oscar Rambeau Qm3 (SS)



USS Carp SS-338 Qual Date 1954



USS Greenfish SS-351 Qual Date 1960



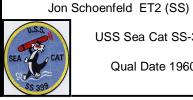
USS Medregal (SS-480)

Qual Date 1963

Lionel Schmidt STS1 (SS)



USS Seafox SS-402 Qual Date 1955



USS Sea Cat SS-399 Qual Date 1960

Delmar Schwichtenberg CWO3 (SS) USS O6 SS-67 No

Patch

Qual Date 1941

Albert Skidmore YN2 (SS)



USS Diodon SS-349 Qual Date 1947



USS Cobia SS-245 Qual Date 1944

Leonard Stefanelli QM3 (SS)

USS Catfish SS-339 Qual Date 1954

David Aunkst ET1 (SS) USS Rasher SS-269 Qual Date 1962



USS Pomfret SS-391 Qual Date 1962

Gabriel Fretias SK3 (SS)

Robert Heaps IC2 (SS)



USS Wahoo SS-565 Qual Date 1962

Harry Cousins LT



USS Chopper SS-342 Qual Date 1962



USS Growler SSG-577 Qual Date 1962

Norman Peterson IC2 (SS)

USS Grampus SS-523 Qual Date 1962

Bill Desormier SK3 (SS)



SS Plunger SSN-595 Qual Date 1963

Wayne Levie SN (SS) JSS Bashaw AGSS-241 Qual Date 1963

Thomas Bonner IC22 (SS)



USS Bonita SSK-3 Qual Date 1958

Holland Club Members (cont)



Don Brown FTGC(SS)
USS Blackfin SS-322
Qual Date 1964



Leif Larsen ST1 (SS)
USS Greenfish SS-351
Qual Date 1964