



July  
2015

# CORVINA BASE NEWS

## Newsletter of the Year Awards

2014 Class 2 First Runner Up  
2012 Western Region Class 2 Winner

2013 Western Region Class 2 Winner  
2011 Class 1 Honorable Mention

## Hamptons Police Acquire Surplus Submarine

Story on page 9



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Denotes a Holland Club Member



### 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.

### DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR OATH?

Back in the day, sometime in the last century for most of us, we stood tall and proud and swore a solemn oath before the Flag of the United States of America. We enlisted, reenlisted or accepted an officer's commission. How long has it been since you thought about what that oath meant then and what it means to you now. The oath, when we raised our right hand and swore to (or affirmed), is currently different for enlisted members and officers.

The oath was first approved by Act of Congress September 29, 1789 and applied to all officers, noncommissioned officers and "privates". The oath was changed to its current forms by Amendment to Title 10 in 1960 and became effective in 1962,

The **Enlistment Oath** is as follows: "I, (state the name of the enlistee), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

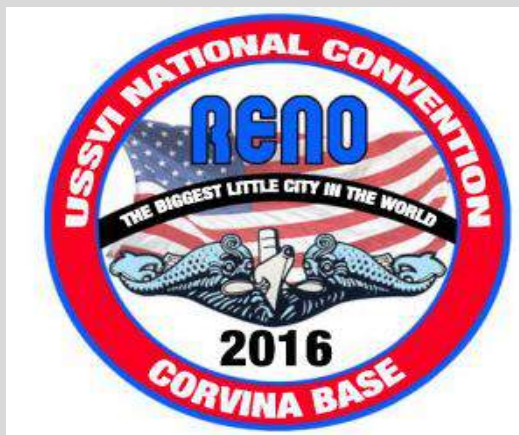
**Commissioned and warrant officers**, do not take the same oath as enlisted personnel, instead taking a similar United States Uniformed Services Oath of Office, as follows: "I (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter,"

**Note:** The oaths are for an indeterminate period; no duration is specifically defined. That's something to think about. Did it end when your enlistment expired, when you retired or when you resigned your commission? Think about that

**My** humble opinion is that I still remain subject to the oath I swore numerous times. I was never absolved of or in anyway released from my oath in any manner. So where does that leave me? The first two sentences of the oath stand firm in my mind as a responsibility and duty of being an American citizen. The last two sentences, are at times, debatable. No longer is the President appointed over me - once again my opinion. He now works for me or at least is supposed to. The closest entity who could be termed as an "officer over me" is my wife - COMWILEYGRU. If she issues an order, it will be carried out!

**So**, sailors, please think about the oath/s you took back in the day. What do they mean to you now? You all served and will have your own opinions which I will surely respect.

I served with pride and always will,  
Dennis Wiley  
Base Commander  
USSVI, Corvina Base



Your help will be needed  
To make it a great convention

## Base Officers

### Base Commander

Dennis Wiley  
972-0388

[mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdvwiley@sbcglobal.net)

### Vice Commander/POC

Stephen Salzman  
703-887-8933  
[sdshs@earthlink.net](mailto:sdshs@earthlink.net)

### Secretary

Pete Akerson  
856-2109

[peteakerson@hotmail.com](mailto:peteakerson@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Robert Talbert  
771-7811

[retalbert@gmail.com](mailto:retalbert@gmail.com)

### COB

Bob Heaps  
424-6829

[renoheaps@yahoo.com](mailto:renoheaps@yahoo.com)

### Recruiting

Don Brown  
853-5309

[donbrownss322@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donbrownss322@sbcglobal.net)

### Chaplain

Paul Allen  
882-7971

[pmgjallen1@att.net](mailto:pmgjallen1@att.net)

### Newsletter/WEB

Norm Peterson  
322-5193

[1971tr6@charter.net](mailto:1971tr6@charter.net)

### MAL

Terry Bolen  
575-0289

[tbolen2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tbolen2000@yahoo.com)

### MAL

Mark Hogan  
867-3304

[hogank@msn.com](mailto:hogank@msn.com)

### Assistant Chaplain

Marcedes Parsons  
626-0352

[wp347@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wp347@sbcglobal.net)

### K4K Chairman

Bill Conklin  
423-1451

[billcon@cccomm.net](mailto:billcon@cccomm.net)

### Past Base Commander

Dave Aunkst  
883-7276

[dmaun.cc@outlook.com](mailto:dmaun.cc@outlook.com)

## July Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by Commander Wylie as COB Heaps sounded 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 Observance for boats lost in July and August and Moment of Silence for all departed submariners, shipmates, friends and family followed in their usual order. There were 28 members, guests and wives present.

This month's submarine history presentation was a continuation Herb 'Doc' Starmer's writings about his adventures as a young submarine sailor during war patrols in the Pacific during WWII. Unfortunately, 'Doc' was unable to attend this meeting. Commander Wylie read an excerpt from 'Doc's' published writings.

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

XO Steve Salzmman had no vital information to report.

Secretary Pete Akerson reported that the base has received no correspondence requiring base action during the last month.

Treasurer Robert Talbert was not at the meeting and Commander Wylie reported for him that the base is still in sound financial condition.

Chaplain Paul Allen reports there are no new additions to the 'Binnacle List'.

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Norm Peterson had no news to report.

COB Heaps reported that the July 'Lunch Bunch' gathering would be at the 'Blind Onion' Pizza Pub in Sparks/Spanish Springs on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Recruiter Don Brown reports that his recent efforts have  
Cont. next page



been to contact potential new members and that one new member has been added in the last month.

Terry Bolen announced that the next 2016 Convention planning meeting would be at the Grand Sierra on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Kaps4Kids Chairman Bill Conklin reports that he has over \$600. in funds and is temporarily suspending his fund-raising efforts and concentrating on meeting local community members/leaders we will be dealing with in the future.

After a brief break to sell tickets, the monthly drawing/raffle was held with the following results. Wine – Paul Young Knife – Don Johnson Salami/sausage – Pete Akerson BBQ Sauce – Dave Chute Booze – Dave Aunkst Dolphin Décor Piece – DeDe Salzmänn Salami/sausage – Tom Donner Bottle Opener – Bobbi Heaps Car Magnets – Bill Conklin Wine – Linda Ely Salami/sausage – Don Brown Wine – Primo Quarisa Sausage/salami Bobbi Heaps Wine – Terry Bolen The \$82.00 Cash prize was won by Jim Turner who very generously donated his winnings to Corvina Base. We all thank Jim for his great generosity!

The Auction of a Dolphin flag was won by Paul Young.

Commander Wylie announced that we still have received no word from WRD-5 regarding the review of Corvina Base Documents

The Corvina Base annual picnic will be at Davis Creek Regional Park in Washoe Valley at 1000 on August 1, 2015. Please bring a main-dish or dessert to share and a raffle prize.

The bi-annual Corvina Base Yard/Garage Sale will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Pete Akerson's palatial estate, 7269 Bold Venture Ct, Hidden Valley. The entry fee has been paid and items for the sale are being temporarily stored/stowed in the potato barn at Damonte Ranch.

The Annual Corvina Base Memorial Service will be held on September 5th, 2015 at the Northern Nevada Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Fernley.

As a reminder: There will be NO Corvina Base Business meetings in August or September. The next scheduled business meeting will be at Sparks Denny's on Saturday, October, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

After a Benediction by Chaplain Allen, The meeting was adjourned at 1503 as COB Heaps sounded three blasts on the klaxon.

Respectfully,

Pete Akerson  
Secretary



## Treasurers Report

**I am sure we still have  
funds in our accounts.**

**Editor**



## Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) Status

Finances:	Last Month	\$623.25
	July donations	200.00
	Current	823.25

## Corvina Base Booster Club

Dennis Wiley	Primo Quarisa K4K
Peter Akerson	Paul Young K4K
Gloria Allen	Bill Conklin K4K
Don Brown	Leif Larsen K4K
Dell & Mary Ellen Schwichdenberg	Pete Ackerson K4K
	Dan Moran K4K
Frank Kenyon	Frank & Linda Ely
Mark Hogan K4K	K4K

## COBWEB

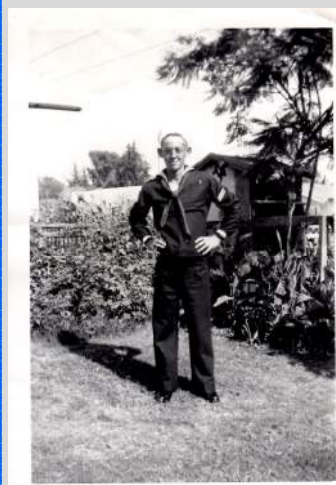
The Old English word for "spider" was  
"cob".



## Chaplains Report

Ken McCray: Ken recently made an overnight stay at the Carson-Tahoe Hospital because of a low blood count and required three units of blood to get his motor running better. He's also dealing with COPD and needs oxygen 24/7 plus he just recently had cataract surgery so he could keep his driver's license. Ken sounded upbeat and has good neighbors, also two school friends from the 40's who live in the Carson City area, and his children in Calif. keep an eye on him. Ken's wife of 47 years, Pat, passed away Dec. 26, 2014 which makes it a little lonely around his home.

Ken was born in Cortez, NV, Lander, Co, in 1932, in a mining town that today has the distinction of being open longer than any gold mine in NV. His father was a miner and mother was a school teacher that taught for 30



years. After Cortez they lived in Goldhill, Silver City, and Dayton because his mother never learned to drive an auto so they always lived near the school where she taught and could walk to work. In the last year of Carson High School (1949), Ken drove a 1927 Ford stake bed truck that had no doors or lights and upon returning from swimming at Mexican Dam, after dark, his friends would shine a flashlight if meeting another auto. After Ken graduated from high school and joined the Navy, his dad finally got his first good paying job building Folsom Dam and his mom taught school in Folsom. One more note on his family is his grandfather, Edward McCray, fought in the Spanish American War, Cuban War of Independence in 1898. Ken enlisted in the Navy in 1949 and was discharged in 1953 as an Engine-man 1 (SS). He went to boot camp and diesel school in San Diego and reported



to the USS Curlew (AMS-8) a minesweeper, then to the USS Washburn (AKA-108) a cargo ship before going to submarine school, New London. He was then assigned to the USS Blackfin (SS-322)

when it was recommissioned in 1951 with an added snorkel and qualified in 1951. I asked Ken if he had any Blackfin stories of which he gave me one. Because of the Korean War and the rush to get more men on the re-commissioned sub, the navy sent a 1<sup>st</sup> class Engineman to the Blackfin so Ken had a 1<sup>st</sup> class oiler with no sub school training. Ken said he couldn't even trust him to clean a fuel purifier and was transferred off the boat. Next, the navy sent a Filipino steward who qualified in 6 weeks and was a great worker.

With Ken's permission I am writing a short version about Ken's life after being discharged from the Navy. If anyone wants more details on this story there are several selections on the internet. His first job in 1953 was at the Folsom State Prison as a correctional officer from 1953 to 1966 then he was transferred to the San Quentin Prison. That's where Ken's story gets very interesting because he managed to stay alive and retire in 1972. On Sept. 21, 1971 prisoner, George Jackson, originally part of the "Soledad Brothers" and a member of the Black Panthers at the Soledad State Prison, attempted an escape from San Quentin where he was awaiting trial. Jackson was believed to have killed a prison guard at Soledad by throwing him over a balcony rail. In 1970, Jackson's younger brother Jonathan, using a shotgun, supplied by the infamous Angela Davis, took over a courtroom at the Marin County Courthouse intending to use hostages to free his brother, George Jackson, out of San Quentin. Jonathan was killed by officers along with the courtroom judge when the shotgun that had been taped to body discharged.

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At the 1971 San Quentin escape attempt George Jackson used a .38 caliber revolver smuggled into the prison by his attorney. Jackson set about 20 prisoners loose from their cells and during the melee 3 prison officers were killed along with 2 trustees. Using a knife they sliced Ken's throat and threw him in a cell where he feigned death which worked because he is still with us today. Ken was bleeding profusely but survived. Ken quoted Jackson as saying "This is it, gentlemen; the dragon has come"; alluding to the prison writings of Ho Chi Minh. We're glad you made it out Ken and have had a long good life. Jackson, 2 others

prisoners, and 3 officers lost their lives in the melee. I asked Ken if he was at either prison when Johnny Cash paid a visit and Ken was at both Folsom and San Quentin during the concerts but not involved with the concerts. Corvina Base member, Frank Urbani, also worked at Folsom for one year but decided it was not a good career.

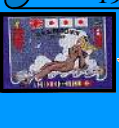
After almost losing his life Ken decided to retire as a lieutenant in 1972, worked as a painter then received his painting and construction contractor's license. Ken and Pat built a real nice home on one acre in the Johnson Lane area of Minden and retired there in 1998 to work several more years growing vegetables. Thank you, Ken for your service to the people of the United States of America.



**Scripture:** Psalm 121:1, 2 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

**Prayer:** Thank you God for the help you give us in this life as you did for Ken McCray at San Quentin or our submariners on patrol. We ask your blessings on the Corvina Base families and strengthen the ones that have physical needs. Thank you for hearing and answering our prayers O' Lord! Amen!

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain

 <p>1951</p> <p>Kenneth McCray EN1 (SS) USS Blackfin SS-322</p>	 <p>1962</p> <p>Robert Heaps IC2 (SS) USS Grampus SS-523</p>	 <p>1963</p> <p>Wayne Levie SN(SS) USS Bashaw AGSS-241</p>	 <p>1958</p> <p>Donald Johnson RMC (SS) USS Charr SS-328</p>	 <p>1963</p> <p>Paul Allen EN1 (SS) USS Blackfin SS-322</p>
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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)  
Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)

## Lost Boats in August

### USS Grunion SS-216

lost on **1-Aug-1942** with the loss of **70 crew** when it was sunk near entrance to Kiska (Alaska) Harbor

### USS S-39 SS-144

lost on **14-Aug-1942** when it was destroyed after grounding on reef south of Rossel Island Louisiande Archipelago. **All the crew were rescued.**

### USS Harder SS-257

lost on **24-Aug-1944** with the loss of **80 crew** when it was sunk off Caiman Point, Luzon.

### USS Flier SS-250

lost on **13-Aug-1944** with the loss of **80 crew** when it was sunk in Balabac Strait near Mantangule Island.

### USS Bullhead SS-332

lost on **6-Aug-1945** with the loss of **84 crew** when it was sunk in West end of Lombok Strait.

### USS Cochino SS-345

lost on **26-Aug-1949** when it was sunk in Norwegian Sea after fire, **one man from Cochino and 6 men from USS Tusk were lost** in the rescue operation.



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

## The screws are on the torpedo



### Senior Chief Starts 2nd Career – In Silent Service Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, June 27

Cassie Clark is realizing a dream she first had 18 years ago – the chance to qualify in submarines.

Clark is a year away from crossing the 20-year mark and as a senior chief has another six to go before mandatory retirement. She plans to spend that time as a member of the Silent Service, living a dream she first had as a young **seaman**. **[Shouldn't that be seawoman?]**

"My first duty station out of 'A' schools was at the [personnel support detachment] at the submarine base in Bangor, Washington," she said in a June 24 phone interview. "I always liked the professionalism I saw in the submarine force, but at the time the duty was closed to me – but I do remember thinking that someday the Navy might open up this duty to women and hoping I would be able to apply when that happened and now its here."

She's got **two warfare pins** to her credit, wearing both the **Enlisted Surface Warfare** and the **Enlisted Aviation Warfare specialist**, but isn't taking her next one for granted.

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"I know there's challenges ahead, but I'm up for it," Clark, 41, said of the rigorous qualification process to earn her **submarine dolphins**. [And likely a patrol pin].

As a **senior chief personnel specialist**, she'll convert to the **submarine yeoman** rating when she joins the submarine service in the next few months to begin training. As the most senior member of the first cadre of enlisted women submariners, she's also aware she needs to lead them as they train up and join their crews on the guided-missile submarine Michigan in fiscal year 2016.

She's no stranger to sea duty. She first served at sea on the Spruance-class destroyer Paul F. Foster and has also done three-year tours at sea aboard the forward-deployed aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in Japan and on the cruiser San Jacinto.

Her shore duty has been at other PSDs until her current assignment to the Pentagon, working for the Navy's senior leadership.

She said she thinks her surface fleet experience will help her, but also that she's entering a whole new world and is anxious to get started.

"This is a tremendous leadership opportunity, but I've got a lot of work ahead of me to get trained and get to the boat and get qualified in submarines," she said. "But as a chief, I also have to lead and mentor the young women sailors selected with me to make sure we get this right and have a successful integration of women into submarines."

#### A couple of simple submarine sailor observations:

1. The Navy used to spend money training sailors for a specific warfare specialty and in order to receive a return on money spent the sailor was expected to remain in that specialty and become an expert.
2. When I see a sailor wearing three or four different warfare specialty pins I wonder if they were successful in any of their endeavors.
3. I question a Senior Chief converting rates, although PN to YN probably isn't much of a stretch. Doubt if she will have to qualify as either COW or DO while working for the XO.
4. Wonder how she will "fit in" the goat locker?
5. An finally, with all those medals, warfare pins, and patrol pins she is sure to make MCPO, possible the first female COB or MCPOC of the Navy?

The Corvina Base News is published monthly for the use of the Corvina Base Members. Distribution is by E-mail along with 11 copies sent by the USPS. Submission of articles must be received by the 25th of the month. Holland Club Members are denoted in the newsletter with the symbol: Each member will show up about every third month.

For any questions or corrections contact:  
Norm Peterson  
Editor  
775-322-5193  
1971tr6@charter.net

**TE TRIPP ENTERPRISES**  
Howie Tuna  
Sales Manager  
htuna@tripp-enterprises.com  
office: 775.355.7552 x309  
toll free: 800.624.5177  
cell: 775.336.7257  
fax: 775.355.1561  
Contract Manufacturing / ISO Registered  
250 Gregg St. Sparks NV 89431 www.tripp-enterprises.com

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(775) 786-8110 Fax

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**Barbara R. Urbani**  
Founding Advisor  
h2o.urbani@gmail.com  
775.450.3637 cell  
775.882.6421 home

**HOGWASH**  
Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

**BARRELS OF OIL**  
When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.



# Hamptons Police Acquire Surplus Submarine



In order to better protect local shores and keep an eye on East End boaters, the Hamptons Police Department added a military surplus submarine to their fleet this week.

The decommissioned U.S. Navy Virginia-class submarine was taken out of service in 2013 and mothballed for nearly 18 months before ownership was transferred to the Hamptons Police Department.

"I want to emphasize that this submersible craft came at no cost to taxpayers," Hamptons PD representative Larry Hirsch

explains in a press release. "With the blessing of the Hamptons Municipal Board, we requested such a watercraft last year under a federal program to outfit local police departments with surplus military equipment."

Aimed mainly at counter-narcotic and counter-terrorism operations, this military grade gear—such as heavily armored MRAP vehicles, automatic weapons and body armor—was initially handed out to police departments in border towns and those with serious crime problems. But the need has grown drastically around the country in recent years, and smaller departments in seemingly "safer" areas are getting in on the action.

"While the craft reached the end of its usefulness for the U.S. Navy, the civilian applications of this submersible are numerous," Hirsch says in the statement. "You never know what's out there and we're here to protect the citizenry from the worst case scenario," he added in a phone call Tuesday. "Imagine the horror people would experience if a large military craft passed beneath their boat or emerged from depths within view of the beach—we're here to stop that from happening. This sub will make a strong statement about our power and might," Hirsch continued. "The people want to know their police will do whatever it takes—whatever it takes—to maintain order and control," he said. "They want to see us as an unstoppable force beyond the reach of sleazy criminals' lawyers and legal loopholes."

Named Jaws VIII by Hamptons PD, the submarine will be deployed to patrol the shoreline on weekends only leading up to Fourth of July, when patrols will be stepped up to seven days a week through Labor Day.

Hamptons PD marine patrol officers will be on the lookout for swimmers, surfers and boaters in distress, and will issue tickets to unlicensed operators of motorboats and to operators of all boats that are not carrying personal floatation devices. "We could even depth charge a large shark, should the need arise," Hirsch said.

The submarine travels between 30 and 35 knots—or 56 to 65 kilometers an hour. It can travel almost the entire distance of the Hamptons' southern shore in about 70 minutes.

Just days after announcing their acquisition of a decommissioned U.S. Navy Virginia-class submarine, Jaws VIII, the Hamptons Police Department has already used the military surplus craft to make an arrest.

In a daring mid-afternoon operation, the Hamptons Police Department Submarine Unit (HPDSU) responded to reports of an unruly group aboard a pleasure boat a few miles off the tip of Montauk. The boaters, who had been "blasting loud rap music," drinking to excess and mooning nearby fishing vessels, were "utterly shocked" when confronted by the massive submarine, police said, noting that they surfaced directly in the boat's path, making it impossible for the suspects to do anything but stop or crash.

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"You should have seen it," HPDSU Captain Buddy Covalleski said, recounting the arrest. "There's this little boat loaded with like 20 people, and they basically came to a dead stop and stood there dumbfounded," he said. "The driver was so stupefied he didn't even think to put down his beer or toss the marijuana cigarette—or joint—in his hand," Covalleski continued. "We had them dead to rights."

The boaters were detained in the sub's custom brig and booked with a bevy of charges, including boating under the influence, indecent exposure, harassment and possession of various controlled substances—2 grams of cocaine, a half-ounce of marijuana and four different unprescribed pharmaceuticals—along with several boating violations, such as failure to carry required safety equipment, overcrowding, reckless operation and failure to display validation sticker.

"It was terrifying," the boat's captain, Clint Bartholomew, said after his arraignment Friday morning. "Everything went dark as this huge, black shape emerged from the depths, and next thing you know, this dude is yelling at us through some kind of loudspeaker and waving his arms so I can see him up in that tower thing," the captain said, adding, "I have to say, it was pretty cool riding back in that thing, especially being totally baked as I was, but I'll definitely be following my boating Ps and Qs while that thing is out there."

HPDSU towed the offending boat back to shore where it was impounded.

## Area Man Reveals Hamptons Police Submarine Story as Hoax

Just as East End residents believed it was finally safe to go in the water this week, an area man reveals that the Hamptons Police Department did not, in fact, receive a \$2.664 billion Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine to bust local boaters for speeding, BUI and other safety infractions.

"There was just something about this story that didn't ring true," says Landon Jones, the intrepid young man,

22, who discovered the hoax about a small town police force receiving a \$2.664 billion nuclear submarine for free as part of a federal program to outfit local police departments with surplus military equipment.



As part of his investigation, which took the better part of 20 days following the original June 2 story, Jones said he carefully deconstructed the story, first by examining the photograph of the sub partially submerged and surrounded by bathers about 20 yards off a Hamptons beach. "For starters, the sub in the picture is not a Virginia class," Jones says, comparing it to various reference books and printed schematics he found online. "I also did a wake analysis, the kind CIA guys and Special Forces do, but I taught myself," Jones says. "It seems pretty clear a Virginia-class sub could not reach the speed required to make a wake like this with so many people and boats around."

The young sleuth points out that a \$2.664 billion Virginia-class submarine is 377 feet long with a 34-foot beam, adding, "I think that might run aground so close to the beach."

Further, Jones says the second article claiming the \$2.664 billion nuclear submarine made its first arrest also seemed dubious to him because the picture (this time of an actual Virginia-class sub) lines up perfectly with a public domain stock photo on Wikipedia. The picture, which is the second image that comes up in a Google search for “Virginia-class submarine” is in fact an exact match with the supposed arrest photo, but Jones says DansPapers.com claims Wikipedia had “reverse Photoshopped” the image to appear as though their graphics team had altered it. DansPapers.com editors say they did not simply add the words “Hamptons Police” to the side of the sub and insert a small boat into the water next to it.

“How could I be sure without making some calls?” Jones says, explaining that DansPapers.com, which is famous for creating satirical and hoax stories, stands by the assertion that Wikipedia “pulled a switcheroo” on them.

Hammering the final nail in DansPapers.com’s elaborate and convincing hoax that local police received a \$2.664 billion nuclear attack submarine for free as part of a program to arm police with military surplus weapons and vehicles, Jones says he learned the sub would cost in the realm of \$50 million in upkeep per year and require a crew of some 140 submariners. “I couldn’t reach the Hamptons Police Department, or find them in a phone book, but I’m almost certain they don’t have enough officers to man a Virginia-class sub,” Jones says confidently. “And while our government loves to waste our tax dollars—just look at that Obama guy—I don’t think our police could afford \$50 million per year, even if this is the Hamptons,” he continues. “Plus, what small-town police department has someone with the expertise to deal with the nuclear reactor and 90 percent enriched uranium?” Jones asks. “I’m just not buying it. The whole thing stinks if you ask me.”

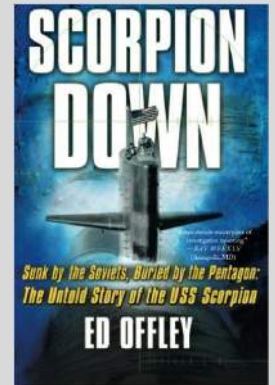
*From Dans Papers*

*This is the Hamptons*



## Book Review

### Scorpion Down: Sunk by the Soviets, Buried by the Pentagon: The Untold Story of the USS Scorpion



One Navy admiral called it “one of the greatest unsolved sea mysteries of our era.” The U.S. Navy officially describes it an inexplicable accident. For decades, the real story of the disaster eluded journalists, historians, and the family members of the lost crew. But a small handful of Navy and government officials knew the truth: The sinking of the U.S.S. *Scorpion* on May 22, 1968, was an act of war. In *Scorpion Down*, military reporter Ed Offley reveals that the true cause of the *Scorpion*’s sinking was buried by the U.S. government in an attempt to keep the Cold War from turning hot. For five months, the families of the *Scorpion* crew waited while the Navy searched feverishly for the missing submarine. For the first time, Offley reveals that entire search was cover-up, devised to conceal that fact that the *Scorpion* had been torpedoed by the Soviets. In this gripping and controversial book, Offley takes the reader inside the shadowy world of the Cold War military, where rival superpowers fought secret battles far below the surface of the sea.

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“X-rays will prove to be a hoax.” – Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society, 1883

