



December
2015

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

The Catcher Baseball History Few Know About

Story on page 10



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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.

Shipmates and friends,

We are just about to the point when we rig in and secure from another year. 2015 has gone by in a flash for me. Corvina Base has seen the good and the bad over the past twelve months.

Four of our great shipmates and friends transferred from Corvina Base to Eternal Patrol. Bert Skidmore, Walter Lewis, Frank Kenyon and Bob Heaps will be watching over all of us.

Several Submariners joined Corvina Base. Welcome aboard to shipmates Dave Chute, Aaron Engleman, James Turner, James McVey and James shipman, son of Larry Shipman. James Shipman is an active duty US Navy Sailor who is carrying on in the family tradition.

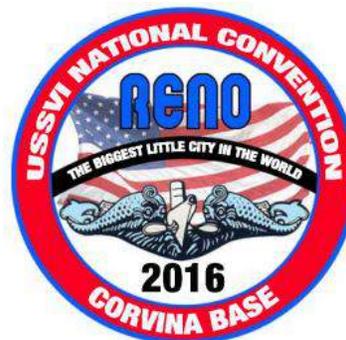
We participated in three parades during 2015. We did the Independence Day parade in Fernley, the Nevada Day parade in Carson City, and Veterans Day at Virginia City. All were well attended by Corvina Base members, family and friends. The crowds at all three of the parades were exceptional and can't seem to get enough of the klaxon.

In August we picnicked at Davis Creek Regional Park along with a raffle. In September we mustered at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery at Fernley for our annual memorial service and also held an Eternal Patrol memorial service for Shipmate Frank Kenyon. In December, we had our Christmas lunch at the Nugget in Sparks. The Base officers for 2016 were sworn in and good chow was had by all, including one homeless man who was clever enough to take advantage of the situation. The raffle was another great happening at the lunch. Thanks to all of you who donate the raffle prizes for all of our raffles at our business meetings and for our special occasions. The raffles go a long ways to helping keep the base coffers healthy enough to meet Base requirements and to support our many causes.

Next year, 2016, is going to be a big for Corvina Base. We'll be sponsoring and hosting the 2016 USSVI Convention at the Grand Sierra Resort. Terry Bolen has worked tirelessly to guide the convention committee and to deal with USSVI bureaucracy. We're well on the way and by August everything will come together for a very memorable convention. We'll need some help so don't be shy about volunteering. The convention will be a wonderful time to meet old shipmates and to hear and tell many sea stories about times gone by. Some will be new and, of course, the old ones will be embellished.

I wish all of you the best for 2016. May you all enjoy good health and good times and prosperity. We hope to see all of you at the meetings and the convention.

Best regards,
Dennis Wiley
Base Commander



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December Meeting Minutes



*Christmas party at the Nugget.
 No base meeting.*

Our illustrious secretary received the honor of the second annual Brownie award. Congratulations

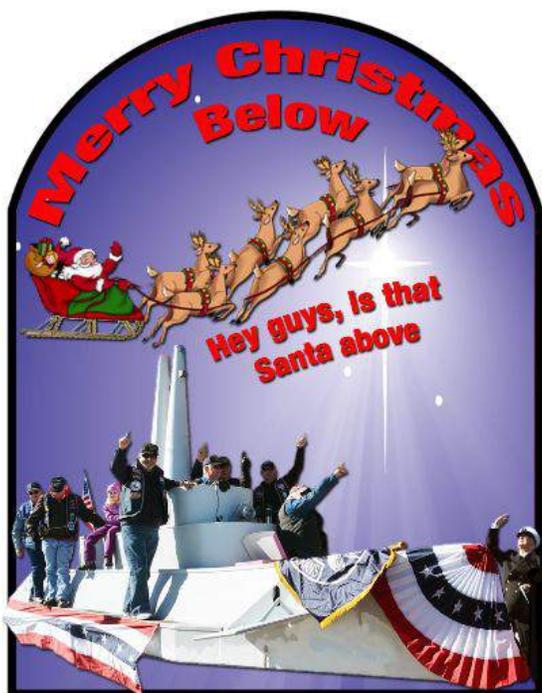


Merry
 Christmas



Happy
 New Year!

Frank Ely made some great wine labels for the wine he brought to the party.



Treasurers

Report



1. Account balances: Available at base meetings
2. Deposits:
 - \$ 585.00 – Base & national dues
 - 180.00 – Payments for 2015 Christmas Lunch
 - 100.00 – Booster club
 - =====
 - \$ 865.00
3. Checks issued:
 - \$ 30.00 – Christmas Lunch refund #2026
 - 20.00 – National dues # 2027
 - 5.00 – Dues refund # 2028
 - 265.00 – Food bank of NNV # 2029
 - 1913.10 – Christmas lunch # 2030
 - 560.00 - National dues # 2031
 - =====
 - \$ 2793.10

Corvina Base Booster Club

- Dennis Wiley
- Peter Akerson
- Gloria Allen
- Don Brown
- Dell & Mary Ellen Schwichdenberg
- Frank Kenyon
- Mercedes Parsons
- Jim Turner
- Frank Ely
- Basil & Dorothy Magro (K4K)
- Frank & Lisa Burke (K4K)
- Frank & Linda Ely (K4K)
- Leonard Stephanelli
- Terry Bolin in memory of Bob Heaps

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1949</p>  <p>Arthur Akerson LCDR USS Carbonero SS-337</p> | <p>1963</p>  <p>Paul Allen EN1 (SS) USS Blackfin SS-322</p> | <p>1963</p>  <p>Kenneth Anderson EMC (SS) USS Perch USS-313</p> | <p>1962</p>  <p>David Aunkst ET1 (SS) USS Rasher SS-269</p> | <p>1959</p>  <p>Gerald Baer ENFN (SS) USS Charr SS-328</p> | <p>1958</p>  <p>Thomas Bonner IC22 (SS) USS Bonita SSK-3</p> |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|



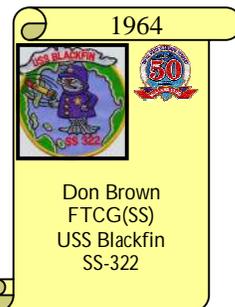
CORVINA BASE KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) TEAM VISITS ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC UNIT

The Corvina Base K4K Team conducted our monthly visit to St. Mary's Hospital Pediatric Unit on Tuesday Dec 15, 2015. As always, the Pediatric Staff and Nurses were very welcoming and supportive of our visit.

Two 16 year old boys were visited. Both were bright young men and asked lots of great questions. We discussed submarine life and operations in some detail, and presented the boys with caps and certificates designating them as "Honorary Submariners". Hopefully we planted the seeds for some future Submariners!

We also presented the Nurses with some stuffed animals for their use. Many thanks to Del and Mary Ellen Schwichdenberg for the generous donation of the animals. The Nurses were thrilled to get them!

The K4K Team consistently gets excellent feedback from the Staff at St. Mary's, and we look forward to our monthly visits. Team Members Bill Conklin, Primo Quarisa and Paul Young participated in the visit.



Facts about WWII



In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy. His real age was not discovered until after he was wounded. (Unbelievable)



Chaplains Report

Bob Lewis: I apologize to Bob because in the last Corvina newsletter I had listed the Corvina Base members that had served during WWII but had left out Bob's name. I listed five men but there are six of which all are important to America because of willingly serving our nation in the time of war. Bob served on the USS Bergall SS-320 and the USS Sea Devil SS-400. In August 2015 we had 7 WWII members but we lost Frank Kenyon to Eternal Patrol. In the Sept. 2015 Corvina Newsletter I wrote about Frank Kenyon on patrol in 1945 on the USS Skate SS-305 in a wolf pack when the USS Bonefish SS-223 was lost. Frank was quite emotional about the telling that story and in the 4th issue of 2015 American Submariner Mag, there was a short article about North Carolina Tarheel Base observing the 70th Anniversary of the loss of the Bonefish. One item I had missed previously was the Bonefish was the next to last lost submarine in WWII. The article also mentioned that there are 13 Bonefish Grills in North Carolina. Sounds like a good place to eat for our "Lunch Bunch."

The 40th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War

Kim Phuc Phan Thi: I saw this story on CBS News Sunday Morning Oct. 25, 2015 when Kim was interviewed by Jane Pauley. 2015 is the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War so I felt this story would be one of hope as we start this New Year 2016. On June 8, 1972, Vietnamese Associated Press Photographer, 24 years old Huynh Cong Ut (a.k.a. Nick Ut) snapped a photo that is considered to be among the top 10 world's most famous photos. Kim is now 52 years old, married with two children, and lives in Toronto, ON, Canada.



The Girl in the Picture

"A little girl screaming in pain, trying to outrun the napalm burning her body. It's an image seared into our consciousness still – the horrors of war visited upon an innocent child. Did you ever wonder, what happened to that little girl? Kim Phuc is now 52. It was 43 years ago that she got burned. It was the day that defined the rest of her life. Twenty-one-year-old Nick Ut was there that day, a Vietnamese photographer on assignment for the Associated Press. 'I look in my camera viewfinder, I saw the girl naked running,' he told Pauley. He took the picture that would win the Pulitzer Prize. 'When she passed by my camera, I saw her body burned so badly.' I said, 'My God, I need to help her,' said Ut. 'So they tried to help me,' said Kim Phuc. 'But after they pouring water over my body, seems like I pass out. I didn't remember anything else.' He wrapped her in a soldier's rain poncho. 'I don't want to see the picture of her naked,' he said. 'I had covered her.' She keep screaming, say 'I'm dying! I'm

dying!' all the time. He took her to the hospital, where the doctors thought she was dying too. 'They placed me to the morgue because they give up hope,' she said. 'And they consider I have no way to survive.' They decided, 'This one isn't gonna make it,' 'you were written off?' asked Pauley. 'Yes.' Her family found her still alive, but barely. After 14 months and 17 operations, she did make it. 'I said, Wow, God not finished with me yet!' Kim Phuc laughed.

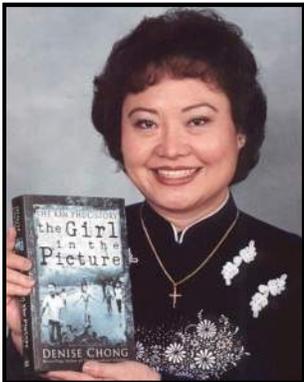


At the time, Kim did not feel like part of God's plan. Only a little girl so horribly disfigured, who would ever marry her? 'At nine years old, I remember I thought, Oh my goodness, I got burned and I became ugly. And people will see me different way,' she said. So she dreamed of becoming a doctor, and at 19 started medical school. But the picture caught up with her. The Vietnamese government found a national treasure – and a propaganda tool. 'So they started to take me out to do a lot of interviews,' Kim said. 'I didn't know what' going on, but I know that I couldn't go to school. I can tell you it was low point in my life. I became another kind of victim again, and it filled me up with hatred, bitterness and anger.' When she could, she escaped to the library, to read. 'I just want simply to find a purpose for my life, why I was still alive.' And at the library, she found an answer. 'Among the book I read is the Bible, New Testament: That is amazing turning point in my life. When I became Christian. I have so much peace in my heart. I trust that God will open the door for me.'

By luck, she was introduced to Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, and she told him that because of all those interviews, she couldn't study any more. 'When I met him for the first time I told him all my story.' And he said, 'Why they did that to you? I will help you.' And he did. She was sent to the University of Havana, with other Vietnamese students. And there, the girl who thought she was too ugly to be loved found the husband she thought she'd never have. His name is Toan. 'She call me sometimes Perfect,' he told Pauley. 'My name means 'perfect,' but I'm not perfect!' They married in Havana, and honeymooned in Moscow.

But on the flight back to Cuba, her journey took yet another amazing turn. Kim told her new husband she had a different destination in mind. At a refueling stop in Newfoundland, Canada, she plotted to get off the plane and not get back on it. 'How did you tell your husband what the plan was?' Pauley asked. 'I just explained so simple – I need, and I really seeking for freedom,' Kim said. 'I said, "No," recalled Toan. 'I was in shock. I said, 'Kim, it's impossible for me to stay.' But her mind was made up. She said, 'Toan, I really need you. So, if I stay alone, I don't know if I can survive.' I said, 'Okay, whatever you want, I do.' They got off the plane, and didn't get back on. In Canada, she was free to start a family and live a nearly-normal life. But once again, the picture caught up with her – only this time, she embraced it. 'I realize that that picture is a powerful gift for me,' she said.

'Wow, I pray,' she replied. 'I set my mind that I never, never concentrate on my pain. When the pain comes to me, I try to distract my mind by doing something, go out for a walk or talk on the phone or sing a song.' She turns to her faith, but still, sometimes, she despairs.



'I cannot wait to go to heaven to enjoy that no scar, no pain in heaven,' she told Pauley. By chance, she learned there might be a way to live a life without pain. 'I share my story at the church, talking about that, and one gentleman came to me,' and he say, 'Kim, I want to share with you the idea that I have.' His daughter-in-law, Dr. Jill Waibel, has pioneered a promising new treatment for burns. And last month, Kim Phuc went to Miami for the first in a series of laser treatments. 'What we know about scars is they're all wrong; it's just chaotic healing,' said Dr. Waibel. 'So we're going to take out pieces, teeny pieces of skin with this fractional laser and then allow the body

to heal it almost to normal.' Even with pain medication, the treatment can be difficult. Toan was there to hold Kim's hand. And AP photographer Nick Ut, her lifelong friend, was there this day, too, to document the first chapter in a new life for 'the girl in the picture.'"

Some of us in the Corvina Base are Vietnam Veterans and did patrols in Vietnam. Thank you for your service during those years.

This interview can be seen on the internet.

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

I hope all will have a great New Year!

Paul Allen, Corvina Base Chaplain

Understanding!!!

When the hatch closes over your head, the OOD says last man down and the COW says green board, you understand the meaning of adventure.

When the only thing between you and millions of gallons of seawater is a steel hull and some closed valves, you understand the meaning of courage.

When sonar calls out to the conn high speed screws in the water in hostile waters, you understand the meaning of fear.

When the messenger passes out the only family grams the satellite could catch and yours isn't one, you learn the meaning of loneliness.

When hissing water in the overhead turns from a slight annoyance to a terrifying rushing cascade bouncing off the hull and equipment, you understand the meaning of survival.

When you hear the quick sound that a curtain makes on your rack that indicates your watch is about to begin, you understand the meaning of irritation.

When you see a shipmate stand at attention while the Captain pins on the fish he worked so hard to earn, you understand the meaning of pride.

When you retire and they pipe you over the side for the very last time, you learn the meaning of great sadness.

When your eyes grow dim and your strength ebbs with age, you understand the meaning of envy every time you see a submarine getting underway.

When a shipmate from a time so long ago passes on and people say so many things they wish they had said before they departed, you understand regret.

Lost Boats in January

USS S-36 (SS-141) was lost on **20-Jan-1942** when it was destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, Near Makassar City, the **crew were all rescued.**

USS S-26 (SS-131) was lost on **24-Jan-1942** with the loss of **46 crew** when it was sunk after ramming by *USS PC-460* in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light.

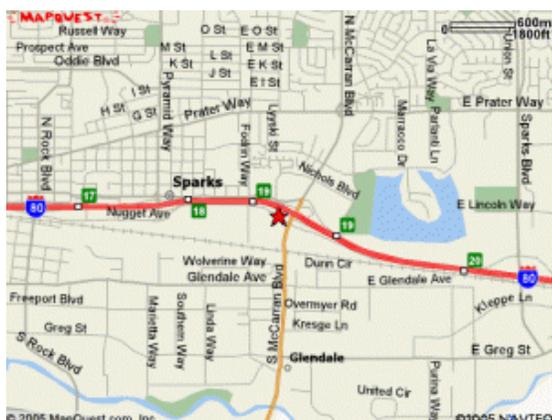
USS Argonaut (SS166) was lost on **10-Jan-1943** with the loss of **105 crew** when it was sunk off Rabaul

USS Swordfish (SS-193) was lost on or after **12-Jan-1945** with the loss of **90 crew** when it was sunk near Yaku Island off Kyushu

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 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 fourth month.

For any questions or corrections contact:
Norm Peterson
Editor
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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) | Walter Lewis IC1(SS) |
| Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS) | Bob Heaps IC2 (SS) |

1964

Bill Conklin
MMCM(SS)
USS Barb
SS-596

1965

Dennis Costarakis
CDR
USS Bluegill
SS-242



In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22.

The Catcher - Baseball History Few Know About

When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with 5 major league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player, but was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball." When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them, and many people wondered why he went with the team .



Moe Berg and Babe Ruth

The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy working undercover with the OSS forerunner to the CIA . Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese - Moe Berg had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc.



Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.. Berg's father, Bernard Berg, a pharmacist in Newark, New Jersey, taught his son Hebrew and Yiddish. Moe, against his wishes, began playing baseball on the street aged four. His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers every day. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver.

During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.



Tito's partisans



The R.A.F. destroys the Norwegian heavy water plant targeted by Moe Berg.

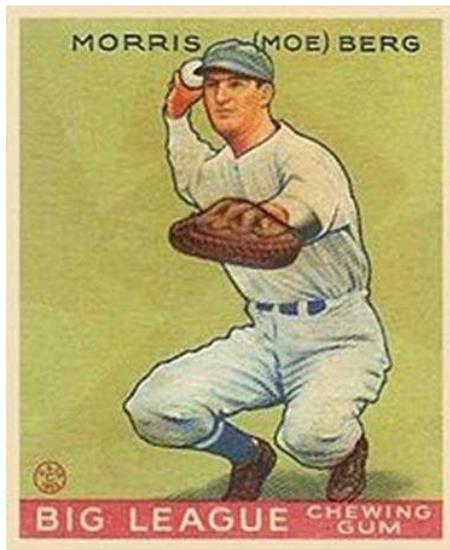
During World War II, he was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians. The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year. Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb.

His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy the plant. There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill. If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher."

Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States. After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept, as he couldn't tell people about his exploits.

After his death, his sister accepted the Medal and it hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown.



Moe Berg's baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington DC



Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest award to be awarded to civilians during war time)