



September  
2017

# 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



A trip to the “ USS Pampanito SS-383”

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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.



## Commanders Baltic Odyssey

Continuing on our Baltic Odyssey, the next port of call was in Lithuania. Klaipeda is Lithuania's only seaport, remains ice free year round and is the third largest city. Founded in 1252 and originally called Memel, the city was an important eastern Prussian and, later, German outpost. During the Napoleonic wars it was the capital of Prussia. Much of Klaipeda was destroyed during WWII and by the Soviets afterwards. Outside of the city, this was very evident. Like many Baltic countries, Lithuania is known for its amber and was abundant in the shops. Riga, Latvia, better known as the "Paris of the Baltics" was our next stop. It is the capital of Latvia and since declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Riga and Latvia are enjoying one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. We had no organized shore excursions planned here so we toured the city on foot and visited the Central Market, one of the largest in Europe.

Day 10 of our journey and we docked in Tallinn, Estonia, which lies between Russia and Latvia, on the Gulf of Finland. It too gained its independence in 1991 from the Soviet Union and has established its own currency, the Estonian Kroon. Tallinn is a beautiful city and



*Catherine the Great's Summer Palace:  
one of the formal ballrooms*

once was one of the largest in Europe. We took a shore excursion which included Toompea Hill, site of Toompea Castle which was built in 1773; and many of the former regimes' pal-

aces and office buildings. The view from Toompea Hill of the city and surrounding islands was incredible. We next toured Kadriorg Palace, built in 1718 by Peter the Great, for his wife Catherine the 1<sup>st</sup>. In Estonian, Kadriorg means "Catherine's Valley", but she seldom visited the palace. It is now an art

museum and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

St. Petersburg, Russia, was our next port of call and which I had anticipated visiting the most, as my grandparents were Russian immigrants. They were descendants of the Volga Germans, who Catherine the Great had lured to the Volga Region of Russia in the late 1700's to establish commerce. Founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great, it is the largest seaport in Russia and was the home of the Royal family. Our excursions included The Summer Palace of Catherine the Great, about one hour outside of the city. Much of the palace has been restored since WWII and is very opulent. They have recreated the Amber Room to pre WWII splendor, but the original contents that were looted by the Germans and Paul Cathedral, where former royals are the Great and Alexander II and most of their ter square of the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Great. St. Petersburg is built around a network on the Neva, Moika, and Fontanka Rivers and We also toured the Church of the Spilled was assassinated in 1881.



Spilled Blood Cathedral



*Catherine's Summer Palace*

Room to pre WWII splendor, but the original have never been found. We visited the Peter buried, including Peter the Great, Catherine family members. The cathedral is in the cen- first major structure built by Peter the of canals and rivers. We enjoyed a boat ride several of the canals that crisscross the city. Blood, built on the spot where Alexander II

The architecture of this church is exquisite and the interior is decorated with 75,000 sq. ft. of mosaics, completely covering the interior walls and ceiling. Of course, in European style, the altar and many other fixtures are covered in gold. One evening we were treated to a performance of classic Russian song and dance in a building that serves as a retired military officers club. On our last day in St. Petersburg we toured the Hermitage, founded in 1764 as a private museum of Catherine the Great. It occupies four enormous buildings including the Winter Palace which was the former official residence of the imperial family. The museum collection is one of the largest in the world, with over 7.5 million articles, including numerous works of art by Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Rubens. Of course, in the 3 hours we were allotted we did not see but a small fraction of the exhibit. One would need several weeks to take in all that St. Petersburg has to offer. I might also mention that there were enormous crowds at the most visited attractions and in some places it was difficult to get close to the exhibits and sometimes even difficult to move.



*Da Vincis Madonna and Child*

Our next to last port was Helsinki, Finland. Ingress into and egress out of the port of Helsinki is through Ice Age formations of many small islands and is breathtakingly beautiful. My compliments to the bridge crew for safely navigating us through them with only a few hundred feet of sea between the *M/S Nautica* (our ship) and our own "Costa Concordia" moment. Again, I wished we had our boat and time to explore the area. We did not have a planned excursion in Helsinki, but we did our own walking tour of the city nearby and the waterfront. Like most European cities we visited, the architecture is beautiful, the structures gigantic and everything paved with cobblestones.

The next morning we docked in Stockholm and disembarked the ship, the end of our water voyage but not the adventure. Stockholm is built on islands and we had reservations at a yacht hotel in Gamla Stan. The yacht, named *Lady Hutton*, was once owned by Barbara Hutton, the famous Woolworth heiress, and was a present from her father for her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Compared to the *M/S Nautica*, it was rather "primitive" but it was an adventure.

Stockholm is another city that would take several weeks but in the four days we were there we took in a lot. The highlight was a trip to the Vasa Museum. In 1628, the newly constructed and outfitted warship *Vasa*, the flagship of King Gustavus II Adolphus, was moored immediately below the Royal Castle. She was outfitted with 58 guns and 6 mortars and was meant to intimidate the country's enemies. She was fully loaded and ballasted and on Sunday, August 10, she was ready for her maiden voyage. The weather was fine with light winds and the crew was given permission to allow family members to accompany them through the archipelago. The ship was towed a short distance from her mooring, four of the ten sails were set, the ship fired a volley in salute, and the *Vasa* set off on her first voyage. Shortly, the winds picked up, the ship heeled hard to lee, righted herself briefly, then was struck by another gust and heeled over again. Water rushed in through the open gun ports and she went to the bottom under sail, pennants and all! She had traveled just 1,300 meters.

Fast forward to 1956; the Stockholm evening paper *Expressen* announced that a ship had been found in the bottom of Stockholm harbor and was probably the warship *Vasa*. After years of research and planning, on April 24, 1961, after 333 years on the seabed, the *Vasa* was lifted and broke surface. A piece of 17<sup>th</sup> century history had come to light. Because that part of the Baltic Sea is much less salty compared to the rest of the earth's oceans, and is very cold, it does not support the existence of shipworm mollusks (*teredo navalis*) that destroy wood underwater.



Vasa

The Vasa was virtually intact and when the seawater and mud were pumped out, the warship floated free and was towed 100 meters into a dock in Beckholmen. The cause of the sinking was attributed to the King who insisted that she be equipped with a second higher gun deck. After years of spraying the entire hull with water and polyethylene glycol for preservation of the wood, the Vasa was ready for display. This is a must see if you get to Stockholm. Nearby to the Vasa Museum, we toured the *Sankt (Saint) Erik*, an operational double-ended ice breaker powered by a triple expansion steam engine, very much like the engine on the Jeremiah O'Brien, and a light-ship moored across the pier. We also toured the Royal Palace. Although not as opulent as Russian

palaces, it was just as grand in scale. While there, we took in the official "Changing of the Guard". Lots of music and marching. One last noteworthy attraction was the Nobel Museum. The history of the Nobel Prize is interesting and the museum contains many artifacts (that were the inspiration for their work and awards), that the recipients were asked to bring with them when they received their recognition. Also, we were allowed to search the bottoms of the chairs that recipients have autographed. Needless to say, there is no autographed chair for Bob Dylan, as yet.

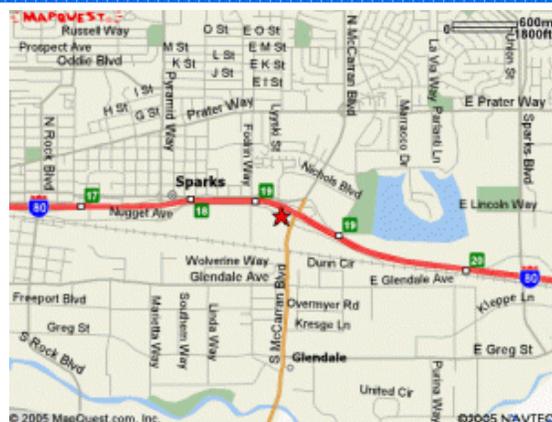


Stern of Vasa

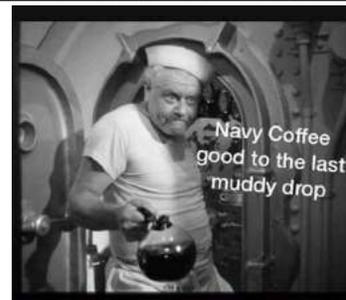
Steve Salzman  
Commander  
Corvina Base

### 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)
James Jordan TMSN (SS)	Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi



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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## September Meeting Minutes



*Pete got another months reprieve.*



## Treasure's Report

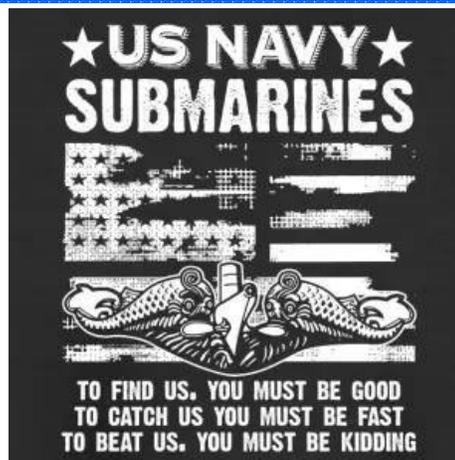
1. All account balances are available at the Base meetings.

2. Deposits for September:

None-No Meeting

3. Checks issued in September:

Steve Salzman- Reimburse June		
Float Repairs	\$ 84.72	
Nevada Vets Coalition- Donation Honor		
Guard	125.00	
Dave Aunkst- Reimburse Nevada		
Day Parade Entry	60.00	





## Chaplains Report

### Binnacle List

**Bobbie Heaps:** As many of you who have been active in the Corvina Base over the last several years knew and loved our former COB Bob Heaps who went on Eternal Patrol 2 years ago October. He had a great partner who helped him during those years, his wife Bobbie. Bobbie helped the Corvina Base in many ways such as helping organize the lunch bunch, volunteering at conventions, and even helping Bob with his COB duties as his health declined, but when the Corvina Base hosted the national USSVI 2016 convention she volunteered to head-up the scheduling for the volunteers working the convention. Bobbie now wants the Corvina Base family to know that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. A few knew this, but most of us did not, so it was a shock to us. Bobbie recently relocated to Washington to live with her daughter where the doctors have told her the cancer is terminal. When I talked with her she sounded strong and very positive because of her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She said when Bob and she moved to Reno, Bob had never really mentioned God before but they both wanted to find a church to attend so after trying different ones they attended Holy Cross Lutheran Church on S. McCarran Bl. and found a home. They grew to love the people and they loved Bob and Bobbie which we could see when the church hosted a luncheon after Bob's memorial service. That is where their faith in God and their future came alive and Bobbie says she is getting ready to see Bob in heaven.

Let's show Bobbie our love for her with some cards:

Mailing Address: 3117 214<sup>th</sup> PI SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075

**Linda Ely:** As of 9/21/17 Linda has been in Renown Hospital for almost one month, three more surgeries, not able to eat, and now has pneumonia. Frank has been traveling back and forth from Wellington to be with Linda almost every day with some help from Linda's daughter. Linda could use some encouragement and love from the Corvina Base family with some cards.

Mailing address: 38 Linda Way  
Wellington, NV 89444-9188

**Del Schwichtenberg:** Several Corvina Base members paid a visit to Del and Mary Ellen's home after lunch bunch on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a great visit with Del sitting up in a wheelchair which he couldn't do three months ago. He and Mary Ellen gave us all a tour of their home and all their collection of Del's military career artifacts of his 20 years starting when Del enlisted in the navy in 1940. He is now 95 yrs. Old. We owe Bill Conklin a thank you for the photos!

Mailing Address: 1041 Band Tail Dr.  
Carson City, NV 89701-5492



**WWI and Where the Red Poppies Grow**

**Jack and Frank Ely and their Great uncle:** In the last issue of the Corvino Newsletter from August this paragraph was accidentally left out which explained the poem "Watching and Waiting – by Jack Ely - about 1918". By reading the poem now it gives it a more distinctive touch.

Again, since this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States entering WWI in 1917, this poem is written by the great uncle of two Corvina Base members brothers Jack and Frank Ely. Their great uncle John (Jack) C. Ely was born in 1887 in Cleveland, OH with the last name "Elie" but by the time he registered for the Army the name had been changed to "Ely". His enlistment date was 29 May 1918 and since I am member of Ancestry.com I saw this comment on the web published in the state of Ohio about men from Ohio and John Ely was listed.

*"331 Infantry to 12 Sept. 1918; Co H 111 Infantry to discharge Private Meuse-Argonne; Forces 21 July 1918 Defensive Sector. Wounded in Action severely about 21 Oct 1918. American Expeditionary Forces 21 July 1918 to 28 April 1919. Honorable discharge 13 May 1919. 15% disabled."*

Jack and Frank don't know if these words were the original words in the poem because their father had memorized the poem and their mother had put it on paper as he quoted the poem. Very moving words from a man that had suffered war wounds,



Link to poem in last newsletter, page 5 and 6. [http://usscorvinabaseus.ipage.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017august\\_nl.pdf](http://usscorvinabaseus.ipage.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017august_nl.pdf)

**Scripture:** Luke 4:18, 19 Jesus stood up to read, "God's Spirit is on me; He's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's year to act!"

**Paul Allen Corvina Base Chaplain**

=====

Donald F. Brown 02/29/1936 - 08/28/2017

Thank you to all the Corvina Base family that came to our Annual Memorial Service and a Big Thank You to the Corvina Base members who participated in the ceremony on Sat. Sept. 2 to honor the lives of submarine veterans on Eternal Patrol but especially the recent passing of two Corvina Base members Don Brown, the Corvina base founder, and Rudy Massenzi. Both families were present and very pleased with the memorial service.

Thank you to Bill and Kim Conklin for taking some time to visit with the Massenzi family and presenting their two small boys present with hats from Kap(SS) for Kid(SS) which made it special for them. I knew Don when we served together on the USS Blackfin (SS-322) 1964-1966 after he came over from the USS Carbonero (SS-337). He was assigned to the Carbonero because the Blackfin was on a northern run so Don started his quals on the Carbonero. I didn't know Don that well in the Blackfin days because Fire Controlmen don't hang around the engine rooms. Hot and noisy! I had not seen Don since I left the Blackfin until 1999 when I heard that there was going to be a convention of Submarine Veterans at the Peppermill in Reno. I had not heard of USSVI until then so I called this guy named Don Brown and we found out that we only live 25 miles apart. He and Terry, Don's wife, were planning a Blackfin and Carbonero reunion also during the convention. It was great! Five chartered buses took us up to the Ponderosa Ranch, great fellowship with old shipmates, and all the food we wanted. I could hardly believe it. Don and Terry over the years organized 4 Blackfin reunions in Reno alone and over the years I began to see their LOVE for all submarine veterans. When Don saw how many sub vets lived in Reno area he had the vision to start the USS Corvina Base. Thank You Don for your love for the United States of America and submarine veterans. "Rest your oars Don, we've got the watch".

*Following this is a letter written by Terry Brown to the Corvina Base and Don's friends in which she will tell the rest of the story.*

Don was born in Olean, New York, a small town about 70 miles south of Buffalo. He was the baby of the family of five children. Don was a leap year baby and didn't have a "real" birthday until he was four years old. Don was a cute little thing, big blue eyes and a head full of blonde curly hair. After high school, Don apprenticed as a meat cutter. After about a year, he knew he needed to get out of Dodge, so to speak, because in a small town, everyone knew everyone else's business.

Don joined the Navy and did his first tours as a recruiter in Brooklyn and on tin cans in the north Atlantic. Don disliked his tin can days, being cold all the time, chipping ice constantly, and listing back and forth in the brutal Atlantic waves. One day Don said to himself, "there's got to be a better way to make a living." That's when he applied for submarines. Don was stationed in Hawaii for ten years. Don came to love everything submarine. Submarines were his life and he was so grateful for it.

Don was married three times. His third marriage was to Terry, third time's a charm! They had more than 30 years of wonderful married life. Don brought Terry into his submarine community and it was a blessing for Terry to be involved with Don in all things submarine. Don became close friends with Terry's brother Brian, whom he loved dearly. Brian's children, Lander, Danica, and Matt, were also a large part of Don's life, since he didn't have children of his own. Don considered them to be his own niece and nephews. Don and Terry spent as much time with Brian and his children as they could. They were family and it was always a good time when they were together.

After Don retired from the Navy, he worked for the Veterans Administration for 22 years in the warehouse, in Dietetics, and in Finance. Don had obtained degrees in Accounting and Auto Mechanics. Don retired from the VA in 1996 at age 60. At that time, Terry was still working. Terry thought Don needed something to do, so they opened up a small Mom and Pop travel agency that they worked out from home. They had the business for five years in the late 1990's. Don did a lot of the work since he was retired. They didn't make a lot of money, but they had fun. When Don retired, he would put breakfast on the table, make Terry's lunch, and wave goodbye when Terry went to work. Terry wasn't exactly thrilled with this arrangement, so she retired in 2000. She didn't like being away from Don. Terry and Don spent most all of their time together. It was a wonderful and happy life. They traveled a lot, especially cruising. But the crowning glory for them was to attend the annual submarine convention and the Submarine WWII memorial gathering in Kings Bay every November.

Because of Don's love for submarines, he founded Corvina Base in 2000 here in Reno. This was such a joy for him. To all you bubble heads, know that Don loved each and every one of you very much. He ate, slept, and breathed submarines. There was nothing better to Don than his brotherhood of the fin. Thank you for being a part of his life and bringing him much happiness. You are a lasting treasure for Don and he takes a part of you with him where he is.

Thank you all for including Terry in your close-knit submarine family. Your friendship will help sustain her. As you know, Don's ashes will be blasted out of a torpedo tube on a deploying submarine off Honolulu. Seems fitting, since Don was a fire controlman.

Please remember Don and keep him in your prayers.  
Diesel Boats Forever



# Corn from The COB

## For us old people

### ONE

Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets.

I asked for a half dozen nuggets. 'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied. 'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply.

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.' So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets

(Unbelievable but sadly true...)

(Must have been the same one I asked for sweetener and she said they didn't have any, only Splenda and sugar.)  
(And they think they are worth \$15.00 per hour)

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### TWO

I was checking out at the local Wal-Mart with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?' I said to her 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today.' She said 'OK,' and I paid her for the things and left.

She had no clue to what had just happened.

(But the lady behind me had a big smirk on her face.)

---

### THREE

A woman at work was seen putting a credit card into her DVD drive and pulling it out very quickly.

When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM thingy.

(Keep shuddering!!)

---

### FOUR

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

A Brunette, by the way!!

### Boats Lost in October

[SS O-5 \(SS-66\)](#) was lost on **11-Oct-1923** with the loss of **2 crew**

[USS S-44 \(SS-155\)](#) was lost on **7-Oct-1943** with the loss of **56 crew**

[USS Wahoo \(SS-238\)](#) was lost on **11-Oct-1943** with the loss of **79 crew**

[USS Dorado \(SS-248\)](#) was lost on **12-Oct-1943** with the loss of **78 crew**

[USS Escolar \(SS-294\)](#) was lost on or after **17-Oct-1944** with the loss of **82 crew**

[USS Shark \(SS-314\)](#) was lost on **24-Oct-1944** with the loss of **90 crew**

[USS Seawolf \(SS-197\)](#) was lost on **3-Oct-1944** with the loss of **102 crew**

[USS Tang \(SS-306\)](#) was lost on **25-Oct-1944** with the loss of **83 crew**

[USS Darter \(SS-227\)](#) was lost on **24-Oct-1944** . **All the crew were rescued by USS Dace.**

### Corvina Base Booster Club

James Gibson  
Steve Salzman  
James Turner  
Bobbie Heaps  
Dave Aunkst  
Paul Young  
Ken Anderson  
R.Dennis Wiley  
Leif Larsen  
Pete Akerson  
George Little  
Bill Desormier  
Lon Schmidt  
Dave Chute  
Paul Allen  
Michael Uva  
Dan Moran  
Frank Urbani  
Ted Henson  
Clyde Webber  
Frank Ely



### Great Timeless Truths

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a government.

**John Adams**

The Corvina Base News is published monthly for the use of the Corvina Base Members. Distribution is by E-mail along with 14

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

## A trip to the “ USS Pampanito SS-383”

We had a great visit to SF and the Pampanito yesterday. The weather was perfect and the drive and conversation was fine, except for the 80 mile traffic jam. A great big THANK YOU to Primo for arranging the trip and to Lenny Stefanelli for the welcome, parking and lunch. And a THANK YOU to Dominic from Mare Island Base for leading us through the boat. The Pampanito looks great.

Steve Corvina Base Commander



Ready for duty



Sure is a small hatch



This doesn't look like the "Kamehameha"



"Now when I was in the submarine Navy"



Where are those ducks?



Narrow passage



This crew could run a submarine?????



Great lunch