

February 2024

# CORVINA BASE NEWS



## **NEW YORK TO LONDON in 90 minutes**

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### **Our Creed**

To perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country;

That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

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## BOOSTER CLUB

John Malloy  
Terry Bolen  
Frank Ely



Kaps  
Booster club

## Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

### 2001

Harry Wellman CS1 (SS)

### 2002

Harry Sembagh EN3 (SS)

Stanley Blair ICC (SS)

### 2003

Melvin Phillips ET1 (SS)

### 2004

Boyd Tieslau TM3 (SS)

Russel Scofield TMCS (SS)

### 2005

Richard Burdette LT. (SS)

Robert Rich EN1 (SS)

Donald Campbell TM2 (SS)

Francis Signore CSC (SS)

### 2006

Harold Lister EN3 (SS)

### 2007

James Avitt RM1 (SS)

### 2008

Larry Garrelts ETCS(SS)

Melvin Schreckengost ET2

Charles H. Massie TM1 (SS)

### 2009

Wayne F. Garrett ET2 (SS)

Elvin L. Morrison FTC (SS)

Erick Bjorum CWO(SS)

### 2010

Norm Snyder EM1(SS)

Charles Hyman MM2(SS)

James T. Wright III

Gordon Lane RMC(SS)

### 2011

Edwin V. Schalbert TMC (SS)

### 2013

Chester E. MacDowell TMI (SS)

Gerald Stratton ENC(SS)

Jerry D. Noma MM2(SS)

Richard Ekenberg, ETC(SS)

Richard C. Barringer SOSN(SS)

### 2014

Lowell Wapelhorst MOMM2(SS)

Jack Quade SMSN(SS)

### 2015

Bert Skidmore YN2(SS)

Frank Kenyon EM3 (SS)

Walter Lewis IC1(SS)

Bob Heaps IC2 (SS)

### 2016

James Jordan TMSN (SS)

Herbert "Doc" L. Starmer: HMC (SS)

### 2017

Rudolph (Rudy) Massenzi

Don Brown FTGC(SS)

Joseph Casten EM3 (SS)

### 2018

Leonard (Lenny) Stefanelli QM1(SS)

Lionel Schmidt STS1(SS)

### 2019

Primo Quarisa EN3 (SS)

Dennis Wiley MMCM(MDV/SS/SW)

Raoul (Bill) Noland EM2(SS)

Taggart Rogers LT(SS)

Thomas Utley MM1(SS)

Delmar Schwichtnberg CWO3(SS)

### 2020

Rod Friedline ST1(SS)

William G. Parsons RM1(SS)

Jack C. Ely QM2(SS)

Richard R. Dentino EM3(SS)

### 2021

Oscar Rambeau QM3(SS)

Dale Poe EMC (SS)

James L. Stuart MMC

Kenneth M. McCray EN1(SS)

James Weaver SK2(SS)

### 2022

Dan Fawcett

### 2023

L. David Craig ETC(SS)

Bob Lewis TMSN(SU)

James Gibson LCDR(SS)

Clyde Webber ETNSN(SS)



# Commander's Log

Happy Belated Anniversary to everyone, we have been together for 24 years as of the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. There are not many Plank owners left amongst the ranks, there are only 9 left, so when you see one, please thank them for their efforts to put this base together and their leadership to get us where we are today. So, thanks to all of you, however, I personally want to thank Leif Larsen and Norm Peterson. I have leaned on them specifically for many things and picked their brains on many occasions and they have been there without fail as members of your Board of Directors.

March was a particularly heavy month for losses during WWII, in fact, it was the second heaviest month of the war. We lost 8 boats and 422 men. Obviously, we "Toll the Boats" at each of our meetings to pay respect for our fallen comrades. To me, this is one of the best parts of the entire meeting. I get to be in a room with my family that I live with and thank the ones that I did not get a chance to meet that paved the way and paid the ultimate sacrifice. It does not get any better than that.

In March we will be participating in the Veterans' Symposium again. Here we help the legislature decide what they need to bring up for the veterans during the upcoming legislature. If you have anything you would like me to bring to the table, please let me know. My contact info is at the front of this newsletter, if you show up at the meeting let me know there. Daylight Savings Time begins March 10<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to set your clocks ahead.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!  
See you at the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



# Secretary's Minutes



## Minutes of Membership Meeting held 10 February 2024

**14:00:** Rick Johns called the meeting of 15 members and 1 guest to order and asked all to silence their phones. Rick instructed Bill Conklin Peterson to dive the boat. Bill sounded the klaxon; all were asked to stand and Chaplain Mark Smith gave the invocation. Rick led the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the USSVI creed. Rick recited the list of boats lost in February with Bill tolling the bell for each one. Norm Peterson is absent today and the A/V equipment is not available. A round of introductions was made by everyone present.

**XO Report:** John Holtzer reported that the Grand Sierra Resort would be very happy to be the venue of any possible (no matter how remote the possibility) USSVI National Convention; assuming that our bid is accepted. <https://www.grandsierraresort.com>

**Past Base Commander Report:** Danny McHugh had nothing to report.

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**Secretary Report:** Eric [Meagher reported that minutes of membership meetings are now being sent to the USSVI National Archive.](#)

**Treasurer Report:** Dave Aunkst gave the account balances and advised the membership that the Certificate of deposit that some of our funds are in, is paying off well in this high interest rate environment. The official purge of members from the national roster of members who did not renew their dues is coming. It appears that Corvina Base is losing 2 members this year. <https://www.bankrate.com/banking/cds/cd-rates/>

**Newsletter/ Webmaster Report:** Norm is not here today, but Rick encouraged everyone to send before and after photos in for the website. <https://usscorvinabase.org>

**COB Report:** Paul Young is absent today as a precaution; after enjoying the apricity found in Arizona at this time of year some of Paul's family members may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

Bill advised the membership that the ship's bell for our float, the purchase of which was approved at a previous membership meeting, has arrived. A mount capable of holding the 15 lb. bell will need to be built. It



was suggested that may be something that Norm Peterson could manufacture. However, Bill Brehler has knowledge in woodworking as well. Danny will hold the bell at his house and assist Bill at the Potato Barn at an agreed upon time.

Bill thanked Ted Fanning for the excellent design of our new Corvina Base Challenge Coin and there was a round of applause by the membership. The deposit has been made for the coin (also approved at a previous meeting) and the die is being cut now. The manufacturer will send us one coin for approval before fulfilling the entire order. Frank Ely asked if the coins would be ready in time for the Western Regional Roundup; the answer is “maybe”, we expect the run of coins to be finished by late March or early April.

Bill has been exploring a possible tour of N.A.S. Fallon for Corvina Base and suggest we aim for a time of year when the weather is warm. The Point of Contact has changed and there may be difficulty for those of us without base access already to be able to visit. If we can get a tour, we could also lunch at the “O” club on the base which is renowned for the Mongolian Style Barbecue.

We may also try to have another tour of the Frey Ranch which was so successful last year. For that visit it is suggested we lunch at a retired Navy Airedale owned place, The Grid. <https://www.defense.gov/News/Inside-DOD/Blog/article/2567302/the-challenge-coin-tradition-do-you-know-how-it-started/>  
<https://cnrsw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Fallon/>  
<https://freyranch.com/farmers-distillers/tasting-tours/>  
<https://thegridfallon.com/original-restaurant>

**Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) Report:** Dan Delorey received an e-mail from Renown Medical Center; their policy for access to the Pediatric ward is unchanged and there is no indication that it will change anytime soon. Bill Conklin observed that if we can’t do K4K presentations, there may be an issue of the funds we have in that account such as the national organization might want the money. He also says that he has seen on the local news, that Basketball players and cheerleaders from UNR HAVE visited the children’s ward. Bill Brehler asked if there are any other hospitals that would like to participate in K4K; Renown is the only hospital that has a continuous children’s ward in the area. Rick will talk with a contact he knows at Renown to see if we can get some clarification on their policy if not access. <https://www.renown.org/locations/renown-regional-medical-center>

**AdHoc Report:** John Hulsey has a printed QR-code for anyone to scan if they would like to sign up for the Veteran’s Legislative Symposia in Reno and Las Vegas. The Reno event is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Washoe Senior Center beginning at 8:00 am for coffee followed by the main event from 8:30am to 11:30am. Rick says this is a good brainstorming session for ideas to suggest to the Nevada legislature. Bill Conklin opined that the legislature is positive when it comes to Veteran’s ideas and the symposia is the 1<sup>st</sup> step. He gave the example of the bill that gives Corvina Base the ability (and tax exemption) when we run our raffles at membership meetings. <https://veterans.nv.gov/>

**Recruiter Report:** John sent packets to Pat Powell and Mike Kisch.

**P.O.C. Report:** Leif Larsen is absent today.

**Parade Report:** Dave has nothing to report.

### Other Business:

**Travelling Vietnam Wall:** The moving replica of the Vietnam Wall will be on display in Minden Memorial Day weekend this year. Patriot Riders will escort the wall on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to the cemetery and assembly will begin. The display will open on the 24<sup>th</sup> and there will be a closing ceremony on the 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have a booth, but not the float in keeping with the solemnity of the event. East Side Memorial Park is seeking volunteer docents to assist in locating names and taking etchings off the wall. We will set up our booth the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>, with table, chairs, and other accoutrement taken home each night. <https://www.eastsidememorialpark.com/about-us/community-events/event-detail/56251-the-vietnam-moving-wall>

**Possible National Convention in Reno?** After approval from the membership last month, Rick is putting the finishing touches on, and will soon send in to National, a bid for Corvina Base to host the USSVI National Convention in 2026. Danny asked when a decision on bids would be made, but no one present is sure. Bill Conklin observed that in the past, specific boats held reunions in conjunction with National Conventions.

**Lunch Bunch:** The next Lunch Bunch will be at 11:30 am, Friday, February 16 at Cucina Lupo, 308 N. Curry Street in Carson City <https://www.cucinalupo.com/>

**Break:** The meeting took a 10-minute break and afterwards our customary raffle was held in accordance with [Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 462 section 130.](#)

### For the Good of the Organization:

Rick has a framed photo of the USS Queenfish (SSN-651) free for anyone who is interested.

**1530:**Mark led the benediction; Bill sounded the klaxon to surface the boat and Rick adjourned the meeting.

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## Lost Boats in March

### [USS F-4 \[ex-SKATE\] \(SS23\)](#)

lost on **21-Mar-1915** with the loss of **19 crew** when it foundered off Honolulu Harbor.

### [USS H-1 \(SS-28\)](#)

lost on **12-Mar-1920** with the loss of **4 crew** when it Grounded, Magdalena Bay, Mexico, was sunk in 9 Fathoms while being towed off

### [USS Perch \(SS-176\)](#)

scuttled on **3-Mar-1942** 30 Miles NW Soerabia, Java  
**60 crew were taken prisoner, 52 survived the war**

### [USS Grampus \(SS-207\)](#)

lost on **5-Mar-1943** with the loss of **72 crew** when it was sunk in the Blackett Strait

### [USS Triton \(SS-201\)](#)

lost on **15-Mar-1943** with the loss of **74 crew** when it was sunk at 0° 09N; 144° 55E

### [USS Tullibee \(SS-284\)](#)

lost on **26-Mar-1944** with the loss of **79 crew** when it was sunk in operating area just north of Palau.  
**(One man was taken prisoner and he survived the war)**

### [USS Kete \(SS-369\)](#)

lost sometime on or after **20-Mar-1945** with the loss of **87 crew** when it was sunk somewhere between 29° 38N; 130° 02E and Midway.

### [USS Trigger \(SS-237\)](#)

lost on **28-Mar-1945** with the loss of **91 crew** when it was sunk in area 32° 16N 30° 40N by 132° 05E-127° 50E

Video of lost boats in March  
[https://youtu.be/2R\\_oPfAwb2I](https://youtu.be/2R_oPfAwb2I)



# Treasurer's Report

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

2. Deposits for February:

Base Meeting Raffle Income	\$ 114.00
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3. Checks issued in February:

None

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## Navy Trivia

Why are Navy Chiefs referred to as "Goats"

When the rank of Chief was created in the late 1800's, they were tasked with the care of the livestock and kept the goats in their quarters. Even after goats were no longer used as a food source, they were still kept on board as pets/mascots. So, the Chief's berthing came to be known as the Goat Locker

**Has anyone ever told you to "mind your P's and Q's?"** This term was originally created by barkeepers, serving Navymen while they were on leave at shore. A "P" stood for a pint and a "Q" stood for a quart, when keeping track of all those tabs. Brilliant!



# Corn from the COB





# Will the colorful, loud jeepneys of the Philippines soon disappear from the roads?



By Kathleen Magramo, CNN

Updated 5:39 AM EST, Tue January 16, 2024

CNN —

They rattle through neighborhoods all over the Philippines decked out in gaudy hand-painted liveries featuring everything from the Virgin Mary to NBA stars, shuttling millions of people on their daily commutes to the tune of blaring horns and rumbling engines.

Affectionately called “king of the roads,” this form of public transport emerged from the resourcefulness of the post-World War II era when local mechanics converted huge numbers of jeeps abandoned by American troops, customizing them to accommodate civilian passengers.

With roughly 200,000 jeepneys across the country, they remain an affordable form of transportation in a country where the average annual income [is around \\$3,500](#).

Jeepney fares start at just 20 cents (13 Philippine pesos), ferrying roughly 40% of commuters everywhere from workplaces, schools and malls, according to data from the Department of Transportation.

But the government wants to replace these often worn-out, highly polluting diesel-powered vehicles with new minibuses.

For years, jeepney drivers have argued that the cost to transition to cleaner vehicles is out of their reach. Meanwhile, commuters also fear that replacing traditional jeepneys with brand new vehicles could eventually lead to fare hikes.

Groups representing jeepney drivers have held protests in recent months, with the latest gathering set for Tuesday in the capital Manila.

But Mar Valbuena, chairman of transport group Manibela, said police attempted to stall jeepney drivers from joining that protest.

“We cannot proceed because some of our members were stuck at police checkpoints this morning... Some have been held at various police checkpoints for nearly two hours,” Valbuena told CNN affiliate CNN Philippines from the start point of the protest.

Valbuena said he still expects roughly 15,000 jeepney drivers, in Manila and other provinces,

to protest against a mandatory program to retire the traditional public transport vehicles arguing the scheme was “not studied properly.”

The transport group’s main concern was that the government scheme lacked funds, putting pressure instead on drivers to take hefty loans to comply with the modernization plans.

The uncertain future of jeepneys began in 2017, when the transport ministry ordered vehicles over 15 years old to be replaced with imported minibuses.

The minibuses come with more spacious seating, air-conditioning and runs on cleaner fuel compared with their predecessors – along with a steep price tag of about \$50,000 (\$2.8 million Philippine pesos), far beyond the reach of many.

“We really can’t afford that... even if we take out a loan, we’d be in debt until we die,” jeepney driver Joseph Sabado told [CNN Philippines](#).

Jeepneys are mostly privately-owned and are often run by a sole proprietor. As a result, individual drivers have been reluctant to upgrade for new buses, saying the transition is pushing them into debt through hefty financing loans.

To qualify for government loans and subsidies, drivers and small-time operators must join co-operatives or corporations, which will own both the buses and the public franchises to operate them.

The government intended to mandate the switch by March 2020 but it has been pushed back three times due to the Covid pandemic.

This time, a firm deadline for jeepney operators to surrender their franchises and consolidate into cooperatives ended on December 31, 2023.

Jeepney owners who failed to join a cooperative will no longer be allowed to drive certain routes starting February, according to Zona Russet Tamayo, a director at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

The board said it is “determined to implement the program” saying “its benefits far outweigh the misunderstood program flaws,” said chairman Teofilo Guadiz III.

“We will continue to calibrate each component of the program in response to the clamor of the stakeholders, as we have done since the inception of the program. We will remain focused on the program’s primary beneficiaries – the commuters. We believe that overcoming the program’s challenges will lead in dramatic transformation in our transport system,” Guadiz told reporters in a press conference.

Roughly 76% of jeepney owners have chosen to consolidate under the program and over 1,700 cooperatives have been formed, according to official data, but activists dispute those figures and demanded the government to rethink its plan.

“It’s their right to protest, but commuters said they are getting tired of it. The important thing is that the consolidation is done,” Andy Ortega, head of the Office of Transport Cooperatives, told [CNN Philippines](#).

The US Navy is working on a radical new submarine that will slice through the ocean so fast that, even before you are halfway through watching 'Oppenheimer,' it will have zipped underwater from New York to London.

Last month, Lockheed Martin and NASA jointly revealed the [X-59 experimental aircraft](#), which is expected to fly at 1.4 times the speed of sound (925mph) without generating an explosive sonic boom. The sleek jet is expected to play an instrumental role in bringing back supersonic commercial air travel. But what if I tell you that researchers are working on a [submarine](#) that could travel more than three times faster than the X-59 jet? Yes, you read that right, and it is possible to travel at those speeds underwater, at least theoretically. Back in 2016, a team of researchers at Penn State Applied Research Laboratory funded by the US Navy started the development work on a revolutionary submarine that can attain supersonic speeds.

Obviously, the biggest problem for vessels reaching high speeds both on the surface of water or below it is the huge amount of drag created while moving through it. But there's a simple solution to overcome drag underwater – a bubble. The researchers are working on a technology called supercavitation that envelopes a submerged vessel inside an air bubble to mitigate drag. You'll be surprised that the technology is not new. The Soviets developed it during the Cold War era for a torpedo named Shakval. The Soviet torpedo reached a speed of 370km/h (around 230mph), making it a lot faster than any other conventional torpedo.

Interestingly, the researchers in the US aren't the only ones working on a supersonic submarine. According to the [SCMP](#), scientists at Harbin Institute of Technology's Complex Flow and Heat Transfer Lab in China started developmental work on a supersonic submarine, which also relies on the same supercavitation technology. The researchers claimed that the radical technology could cut down drag dramatically. In theory, the technology can help the submarine hit supersonic speed underwater, or about 5,800km/h (~3600mph). If developed, the supersonic submarine would cut down the journey time from New York to London to just 50 minutes. Furthermore, the 5300-mile distance between San Francisco and Tokyo will be covered in 90 minutes by the radical submarine. But don't expect the supersonic submarine to become a reality anytime soon, as there are some major hurdles on the way. Conventional propellers will never be able to help propel a vessel to such speeds. It would need a powerful underwater rocket engine, which still needs to be developed. Then there's the problem of steering, as traditional rudders won't work in a bubble and at those speeds. There are some other major challenges that might take a very long time to be solved.

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#### HOW TO START A FIGHT

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?"

"Yes", she sighed,

"He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

And then the fight started...

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, clean the golf clubs, the boat, making beer. Always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, "What's on TV?"

I said, "Dust."

And then the fight started...