



The official newsletter of the Wolverine Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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WOLVERINE BASE ELECTS OFFICERS

For the first time since its beginning eight years ago, Wolverine Base has some new officers. Elected at the March 2024 meeting were:

Base Commander Steve "Tex" Ritter
Senior Vice Commander Phil Klintworth
Junior Vice Commander Frank Woechan
Treasurer Bob Walsh
Secretary Denise Walsh

Past Base Commander Fred Kinzel remains Central District Six Commander, and is a candidate for Central Region Director when elections are held later this year.



Outgoing Base Commander Fred Kinzel
congratulates Steve Ritter



New Base Officers



NEW HOLLAND CLUB MEMBER



New Holland Club member Jimmy Mowry was inducted at the March meeting by Phil Klintworth and Steve Ritter. Jimmy qualified in USS Cobbler (SS-344) in 1967. He joins fifteen other Wolverine Base Holland Club members.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE DOLPHIN INSIGNIA



On 13 June 1923, Captain Ernest J. King, Commander, Submarine Division Three (later Fleet Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations during World War II), suggested to the Secretary of the Navy (Bureau of Navigation) that a distinguishing device for qualified submariners be adopted. He submitted a pen-and-ink sketch of his own showing a shield mounted on the beam ends of a submarine, with dolphins forward of, and abaft, the conning tower. The suggestion was strongly endorsed by Commander Submarine Division Atlantic.

Over the next several months the Bureau of Navigation (now known as BUPERS) solicited additional designs from several sources. Some combined a submarine with a shark motif. Others showed submarines and dolphins, and still others used a shield design. A Philadelphia firm, which had done work for the Navy in the field of United States Naval Academy class rings, was approached by the Bureau of Navigation with the request that it design a suitable badge.

Two designs were submitted by the firm, but these were ultimately combined into a single design. It was a bow view of a submarine, proceeding on the surface, with bow planes rigged for diving, flanked by dolphins (in the form of artistically stylized heraldic dolphins), in a horizontal position with their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes.

Today a similar design is used: two Mahi-mahi, commonly known as dolphin fish, flanking the bow and conning tower of a submarine. **On 20 March 1924**, the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that the design be adopted. The recommendation was accepted by Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Acting Secretary of the Navy.

Originally, the submarine insignia was to be worn by officers and men qualified in submarine duty only when attached to submarine units or submarine command organizations. The right to wear the pin was revoked if the service member transferred to a non-submarine billet. In 1941 the Uniform Regulations were modified to permit a service member to wear the submarine insignia for the duration of his career, once so authorized.

LOST BOATS FOUND

Editor's note: The information in this article is taken from the website: <https://www.oneternalpatrol.com/>
Thanks are due to Charles R. Hinman, Director of Education & Outreach at the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum (formerly USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park).

Since 2005, ten U.S. Navy submarines that were lost in World War II and whose exact locations were not previously known have been discovered. One additional submarine that had been found soon after her sinking has recently been re-discovered. One submarine that was lost in 1958 has also been found.

These boats are:

- USS Lagarto (SS-371) - confirmed discovery in the Gulf of Thailand
- USS Wahoo (SS-238) - confirmed discovery in the La Perouse Strait
- USS Grunion (SS-216) - confirmed discovery off Kiska Island in the Aleutians
- USS Perch (SS-176) - discovery in the Java Sea
- USS Flier (SS-250) - confirmed discovery near Palawan Island
- USS R-12 (SS-89) - discovery off Key West, Florida
- USS S-26 (SS-131) - re-discovery off Panama
- USS S-28 (SS-133) - confirmed discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Robalo (SS-273) - confirmed discovery off Philippine Islands
- USS Grayback (SS-208) - confirmed discovery off Okinawa, Japan
- USS Stickleback (SS-415) - discovery off Oahu, Hawaii
- USS Grenadier (SS-210) - discovery south of Phuket, Thailand (awaiting confirmation)
- USS Albacore (SS-218) - confirmed discovery off Hokkaido, Japan

This issue will provide details for Perch, Flier, and R-12.

Perch



USS Perch (SS-176) was found on November 23, 2006 in the Java Sea north-northwest of Surabaya City, Java, at a depth of 190 feet. The dive group was led by Vidar Skoglie. In December 2006, diver/photographer Kevin Denlay sent numerous photos of the wreck to Bowfin Park. Her identity has not yet been confirmed by the U. S. Navy, although physical evidence of the vessel's identity appears conclusive. Photo courtesy of Kevin Denlay.

The *On Eternal Patrol* web page for Perch is [here](#).

Flier

USS Flier (SS-250) was found near Palawan Island in the Philippines in the Spring of 2009, at a depth of over 300 feet. Father and son divers Mike and Warren Fletcher of the television show *Dive Detectives* filmed the dive on the vessel. A memorial ceremony was hosted by the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum (recently renamed the USS Silversides Submarine Museum) in Muskegon, Michigan, on August 13, 2010.

The *On Eternal Patrol* web page for Flier is [here](#).



R-12



USS R-12 (SS-89) was found in 600 feet of water off Key West, Florida, in October of 2010 by an exploration team led by Tim Taylor aboard the expedition vessel "RV Tiburon." According to their website, "In making the discovery, the team deployed a state of the art autonomous underwater robot which collected first ever imagery of the remains of R-12. They are collaborating and sharing their findings with the US Navy." RV Tiburon is planning additional expeditions to further investigate the possible causes of the sinking, and collect detailed archeological baseline data.

A small get-together was held in Key West in June of 2013 to commemorate the loss of the vessel.

Photo courtesy of Tim Taylor

The *On Eternal Patrol* web page for R-12 is [here](#).

USSVI CONVENTION 2024

The 2024 USSVI Convention is scheduled to be held 19-24 August 2024 at Cleveland, OH. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites Rockside. The Tolling of the Boats Ceremony will be held at the USS Cod (SS-224) Memorial. For further information, see the convention website: <https://subvetconvention.org/>



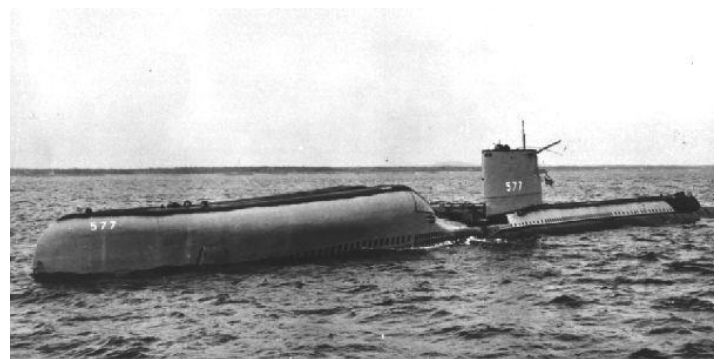
MUSEUM SUBMARINES

A continuing feature of the *1MC* is a roster of current USN museum submarines, and some information about each. The current list follows. The data is taken mainly from the website of the Historic Naval Ships Association [www.hnsa.org] and the websites of the boats themselves as indicated below.

Name	Hull No.	Location	Configuration	Website
USS Marlin	(SST-2)	Omaha, NE	SST	parks.cityofomaha.org/.../281-freedom-park
USS Cod	(SS-224)	Cleveland, OH	Fleet boat	www.usscod.org/
USS Drum	(SS-228)	Mobile, AL	Fleet boat	www.ussalabama.com/
USS Silversides	(SS-236)	Muskegon, MI	Fleet boat	www.silversidesmuseum.org/
USS Cavalla	(SS-244)	Galveston, TX	Guppy II	www.galvestonnavalmuseum.com/
USS Cobia	(SS-245)	Manitowoc, WI	Fleet boat	www.wisconsinmaritime.org/
USS Croaker	(SS-246)	Buffalo, NY	Guppy II	www.buffalonaivalpark.org/
USS Bowfin	(SS-287)	Pearl Harbor, HI	Fleet boat	www.bowfin.org/
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	www.njnm.org/
USS Lionfish	(SS-298)	Fall River, MA	Fleet boat	www.battleshipcove.org/
USS Batfish	(SS-310)	Muskogee, OK	Fleet boat	www.warmemorialpark.org/
USS Becuna	(SS-319)	Philadelphia, PA	Guppy IA	www.phillyseaport.org/
USS Pampanito	(SS-383)	San Francisco, CA	Fleet boat	www.maritime.org/
USS Razorback	(SS-394)	North Little Rock, AR	Guppy II	www.aimmuseum.org/
USS Torsk	(SS-423)	Baltimore, MD	Fleet snorkel	www.historicships.org/
USS Requin	(SS-481)	Pittsburgh, PA	Fleet snorkel	www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/
USS Dolphin	(AGSS-555)	San Diego, CA	Deep diving	www.sdmaritime.org/
USS Albacore	(AGSS-569)	Portsmouth, NH	Experimental	www.ussalbacore.org/
USS Nautilus	(SSN-571)	Groton, CT	SSN	www.ussnautilus.org/
USS Growler	(SSG-577)	New York, NY	SSG	www.intrepidmuseum.org/
USS Blueback	(SS-581)	Portland, OR	Teardrop hull	www.oms.edu/submarine

Featured in this issue is USS Growler (SSG-577)

USS Growler (SSG-577) was an early attempt by the U.S. Navy to field a cruise missile submarine that would provide a nuclear deterrent using its second series of cruise missiles. Built to deliver the Regulus I cruise missile, Growler was the second and final submarine of the Grayback class. Since Regulus I and Regulus II programs had problems, Growler and Grayback were the only two submarines built in this class as instead, the U.S. Navy veered its nuclear deterrence efforts into submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs)—the Polaris missile program.



Built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, she was commissioned on 30 August 1958. Proceeding to Pearl Harbor, HI, her new home port, Growler made her first Regulus deterrent patrol from 12 March to 17 May 1960. Subsequently, she made eight more such patrols, ending in December 1963.

Growler was decommissioned 25 May 1964 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and was placed in reserve. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 August 1980 and was scheduled to be used as a torpedo target. However, on 8 August 1988, Congress awarded the ship to Zachary Fisher, Chairman of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. The 6,500 mile tow (one of the longest in history of a naval vessel) began on



October 6, 1988 and Growler passed through the locks in the Panama Canal in early November 1988.

Six months since her departure from Bremerton and thirty-one years since her commissioning, Growler was moored opposite the aircraft carrier Intrepid at Pier 86 in New York City as the first guided missile submarine to open her doors to the American public.

In 2008, due to the renovations to the entire museum complex, including USS Intrepid and Pier 86, Growler was towed to Brooklyn for repairs. She returned to Pier 86 in late February 2009, and was re-opened to the public on 21 May 2009, during the Intrepid museum "Fleet Week 2009" celebration.

The Intrepid Museum



The Intrepid Museum (originally the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum) is an American military and maritime history museum in New York City. It is located at Pier 86 at 46th Street, along the Hudson River, in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood on the West Side of Manhattan. The museum is mostly composed of exhibits, aircraft,

and spacecraft aboard the museum ship USS Intrepid, a World War II-era aircraft carrier, as well as the cruise missile submarine USS Growler and Pier 86. The Intrepid Museum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1979, operates the museum.

COMING EVENTS

11 May	1100	Freedom Hill Submarine Memorial Rededication (Freedom Hill County Park)
19 May	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
26 May	1300	St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade (meet at 11:00 at VFW Bruce Post 1146)
23 Jun	1600	Monthly base meeting, Hamlin Pub (22 Mile Rd & Hayes, Shelby Twp)
19 -- 24 Aug		USSVI Convention, Embassy Suites Rockside, Cleveland, OH



LOST BOATS [APRIL – JUNE]

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk, and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.

USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

USS Lagarto (SS-371)

Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of

Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by USS Hawkbill (SS-366) 2 weeks later.

USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA. from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. 99 officers and men were lost.

USS Squalus (SS-192)

On May 23, 1939 USS Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Partially flooded, the submarine sank to the bottom and came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors use the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Later Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish. In an ironic turn of fate, Sailfish sank the Japanese aircraft carrier carrying surviving crew members from Sculpin, which had located Squalus in 1939. Only one survived after spending the rest of the war as a slave laborer in Japan.

USS Stickleback (SS-415)

Lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.

USS Herring (SS-233)

Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89)

Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361)

Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd

war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223)

Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

USS S-27 (SS-132)

Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400

yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.

USS O-9 (SS-70)

Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275)

Lost between June 26 & July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



Eileen Mahoney's poem "In Waters Deep" sums up the loss of sailors at sea. It uses (intentionally) the same meter as "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae

IN WATERS DEEP

In ocean wastes no poppies blow,
No crosses stand in ordered row,
There young hearts sleep... beneath the wave...
The spirited, the good, the brave,
But stars a constant vigil keep,
For them who lie beneath the deep.

'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer
On certain spot and think. "He's there."
But you can to the ocean go...
See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride...
In and out... with every tide.

And when your span of life is passed,
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."
And they who mourn on distant shore
For sailors who'll come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...

For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row.
And they can never lonely be
For when they lived... they chose the sea.

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Our purpose is 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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.



Wolverine Base
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<https://www.ussvimich.org/>

Base Commander: Steve Ritter
Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth
Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Woechan
Secretary: Denise Walsh
Treasurer: Bob Walsh
Chaplain: Robert Dickinson
Storekeeper: Frank Woechan
Chief of the Boat: Sam Ritchie