



1MC



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

Volume 2025, No. 1

WOLVERINE BASE HOLIDAY PARTY



The eighth annual Wolverine Base Christmas Party was held on 15 December 2024. A record number of members, spouses, significant others, and guests gathered at the Buoy 12 Pub and Eatery in St. Clair Shores, MI for the gala, organized by Steve and Helene Ritter.

Although for the most part a festive occasion, the meeting included a "Tolling of the Boats" for those lost in December, in honor of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol. Base Commander Steve "Tex" Ritter read the names of the boats and the circumstances of their loss and Base COB Mike Loffreda tolled the bell.



Jimmy Mowry, our own Santa



Wolverine Base Plank Owners in attendance
Fred Kinzel, Denise Walsh, Dan Fay, Bob Walsh, Darryl Skop, Phil Klintworth



Part of the festive crowd



WOLVERINE BASE BIDS “ALOHA” TO BOB AND DENISE WALSH



Wolverine Base members Bob and Denise Walsh are moving to Florida! Both Plank Owners (charter members for any non-Navy readers), very active members, and Base officers, these folks have been a vital part of our organization for eight years. Denise was Base Secretary, and Bob served as Base Treasurer and website manager. We will surely miss them, but we expect to get together with them again at the 2025 USSVI Convention, which just happens to be in Orlando.

In recognition of their tremendous service to the Base, we presented them with hand-made plaques memorializing their time with us. These were given at the December meeting. Creating the plaques was a corporate effort, with the major work being done by Steve Ritter and Frank Woechan. Good job guys!



NOVEMBER MEETING BECOMES THANKSGIVING DINNER

When the billing rules changed at Hamlin Pub, Wolverine Base had to find another venue for our monthly meetings. With time running short and no solution readily available, Base Commander Steve “Tex” Ritter and his wife Helene graciously opened their home for the October meeting. When it turned out that the meeting didn’t destroy their place, they proposed that the November meeting also be



held there, and be arranged as a “Thanksgiving Dinner.” Turkeys were provided by Frank Woechan’s and Carol Carter’s farm (can’t get fresher than that), and all the sides arrived “pot luck.” Helene provided a great dessert bar.

Many thanks to Steve and Helene!



More pictures from the Thanksgiving Dinner

SUBMARINE FORCE NEWS



23 December 2024

GROTON, Conn. – The U.S. Navy Submarine Force’s newest attack submarine, the future USS Iowa (SSN 797) was delivered to the Navy on Dec. 21, 2024, marking the 12th battle force ship delivered to the Navy this calendar year.

SSN 797 is the 24th Virginia-class submarine (VCS) co-produced by General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) and HII-Newport News Shipbuilding through a long-standing teaming agreement and the 13th attack submarine delivered by GDEB.

SSN 797 is the fifth U.S. naval vessel, and first submarine, named after the Hawkeye State. Previous ships named USS Iowa have included the highly decorated USS Iowa (BB 61), commissioned in 1943, which served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The sixth of 10 VCS Block IV configured attack submarines, she was christened at GDEB shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, Jun 17, 2023, by the ship’s sponsor, Ms. Christie Vilsack. The submarine’s commissioning is slated for April 5, 2025 in Groton.

WOLVERINE BASE SUBMARINE VETERAN OF THE YEAR

The November meeting included the presentation of the fourth Wolverine Base “Submarine Veteran of the Year” award. The recipient was Wolverine Base member Sam Ritchie, who was recognized for volunteering to assume important base roles during a time of unplanned transition. Sam

- Served faithfully as Wolverine Base Chief of the Boat (COB) for more than two years
- Assumed the duties and responsibilities as Base Treasurer during an unplanned transition, ensuring a smooth transition of all fiscal operations
- Assumed the management and maintenance for the Base website and Facebook page, maintaining excellence of communication and information for all current and prospective base members

WELL DONE Sam!



USSVI CONVENTION 2025

The 2025 USSVI Convention is scheduled to be held 31 August through 6 September at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. This is the same location that the 2017 Convention was held. Additional information will be posted on the website at <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].

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,	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)	Honolulu, HI	Fleet boat	www.bowfin.org/
USS Ling	(SS-297)	Hackensack, NJ	Fleet boat	
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 Clamagore	(SS-343)	Mount Pleasant, SC	Guppy III	Recently "recycled"
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 Marlin (SST-2)



The keel of the USS Marlin was laid on May 1, 1952 at the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. Marlin was launched on October 14, 1953 and placed in service on 29 November the same year. After fitting out, completion of builder's trials, and a short shakedown period, Marlin departed New London in January 1954 and proceeded to her assigned home port of Key West, Florida.

At 350 tons submerged displacement and 131 ft in length, Marlin and her sister ship Mackerel (SST-1) were the smallest operational submarines built for the US Navy since 1911. It is interesting to note that their general hull design is quite similar to that of the USS Holland, the first submarine accepted by the US Navy.

Designed and classified as a target submarine, Marlin's mission was to act as a target for our anti-submarine forces, and to develop tactics for our submarines to avoid enemy ASW vessels. Her operations consisted primarily of rendering target services to Fleet Sonar School, Key West, and ASW units (both surface and air) in the Key West and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, operating areas. Marlin, however, did possess the most modern operating equipment and machinery at the time and was equipped to fire torpedoes. Despite her role as target and small size, she was quite capable of performing successfully many of the missions common to submarine warfare. If the occasion had arisen, Marlin would have been a very likely candidate for missions in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

Marlin was deployed for services to the Fleet Training Group in 1956, 1958, 1959, 1962, and 1972. She was also utilized to train officers qualifying on fleet ballistic missile submarines. Many junior officers received a basic working knowledge of submarine shiphandling on Marlin.



Marlin and her sister ship Mackerel were decommissioned on 31 January 1973 in a dual ceremony at Naval Station Key West. Both also were stricken from the Naval Vessel Register that day. On 15 August 1973, the

U.S. Navy donated Marlin for use as a museum ship, and on 20 August 1974 she was assigned for display as a memorial submarine in Freedom Park at the Greater Omaha Marina in Omaha, Nebraska. She serves as a reminder of the sacrifice and devotion rendered by the men of the fifty-two American submarines lost in World War II.

Freedom Park

Freedom Park is an outdoor park and museum at the Greater Omaha Marina on the bank of the Missouri River in Omaha, Nebraska. It displays numerous military aircraft and artillery pieces along with its two major exhibits, the World War II minesweeper USS Hazard (AM-240) and Cold War-era training submarine USS Marlin (SST-2). The park closed as a result of flooding along the Missouri River in 2011, but reopened on October 7, 2015 after four years of restoration and cleanup work.



COMING EVENTS

19 Jan	1400	Monthly base meeting, Buoy 12, 29161 Jefferson Ave, Saint Clair Shores, MI
16 Feb	1400	Monthly base meeting, Buoy 12, 29161 Jefferson Ave, Saint Clair Shores, MI
16 Mar	1600	Monthly base meeting, Buoy 12, 29161 Jefferson Ave, Saint Clair Shores, MI



LOST BOATS [JANUARY – MARCH]

USS Scorpion (SS-278)

Lost on Jan 5, 1944 with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

USS Argonaut (SS-166)

Lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who along with 2 other destroyers depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sank her by gun fire.

USS Swordfish (SS-193)

Lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. Probably was lost to a mine.

USS S-36 (SS-141)

Lost on Jan 20, 1942 with no loss of life, on her 2nd war

patrol. She ran hard aground on a reef and radioed for help. The entire crew was rescued by a Dutch ship after they scuttled her.

USS S-26 (SS-131)

Lost on Jan 24, 1942 with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

USS Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage.

USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by

enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.

USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy.

USS Perch (SS-176)

Lost on March 3, 1942 near Java with no immediate loss of life, while on her 1st war patrol. She survived 2 severe depth chargings in less than 200 feet of water by 3 Japanese destroyers. The crew abandoned ship and scuttled her. Of the 59 officers and men taken prisoner, 53 survived the war and six died as POWs.

USS Grampus (SS-207)

Lost on March 5, 1943 with the loss of 71 officers and men, on her 6th war patrol. She was lost in Vella Gulf, sunk after engaging 2 Japanese Destroyers.

USS H-1 (SS-28)

Lost on March 12, 1920 with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita

Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

USS Triton (SS-201)

Lost on March 15, 1943 with the loss of 74 men. She was sunk north of the Admiralty Islands during a fight with 3 Japanese Destroyers. Triton was the 1st boat to engage the enemy in December 1941 off Wake Island, sinking 9 ships, 1 submarine and a destroyer.

USS Kete (SS-369)

Lost on March 20, 1945 with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. Probably sunk near Okinawa, by a Japanese submarine that itself was subsequently lost.

USS F-4 (SS-23)

Lost on March 25, 1915 with the loss of 21 men. She foundered 1.5 miles off of Honolulu when acid corrosion of the lead lining of the battery tank let seawater into the battery compartment, causing loss of control. She was raised in August 1915.

USS Tullibee (SS-284)

Lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner.

USS Trigger (SS-237)

Lost on March 26, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men, on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

Lost Harbor

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

There is a port of no return, where ships
 May ride at anchor for a little space
 And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
 Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .
 Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
 No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.



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 Macomb County, Michigan

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

Base Commander: Steve Ritter
Sr. Vice Commander: Phil Klintworth
Jr. Vice Commander: Frank Woechan
Secretary: Carol Carter

Treasurer: Sam Ritchie
Chaplain: Robert Dickinson
Storekeeper: Frank Woechan
Chief of the Boat: Mike Loffreda