

USS GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN643 “ASSOCIATION”

“ALL HANDS”

April 12, 2024

Ricky A. Hockensmith, “Commander”:

We have moved our organization forward with ambition and a keen eye to attain strategic goals since our ‘Reunion in Groton’ in 2023.

Our primary goal was to locate and contact the crewmembers of the boat. This was necessary to ensure the stability of our organization as we entered into 2024.

The work of our “Membership Committee” led by Ted Corbeill with the support of Joe McLaughlin, George Anderson, Aubrey Ducker and Rich Anderson, resulted in establishing valid contacts with more than 350 crewmembers as of this point in time.

Our “Association Bylaws” were updated and put into effect on January 1, 2024. This action provides our organization with a flexible means to conduct its business in the best interest of the membership.

The “Bylaws” established “Members In Good Standing” (MIGS) through an annual dues. This action provides the organization with a financial base and accountability of the membership.

Our “Association” website, www.ssb643.org, is our central point to communicate with the membership and the public. Dan Oldham continues to serve us in his position as Web Manager. The website is evolving. I encourage all of you to visit the website. We are striving to make it easy to navigate, informative; and, connected to submarine organizations, such as: “United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.” informally known as “Sub-Vets, at www.ussvi.org.

The “Picnic” at King’s Bay Submarine Base on April 26-27, 2024 is going to be fun. At last count, about 80+ tickets were sold. I am driving down from Hagerstown, Maryland in my F150. I need to pace myself for this “750 mile” drive. In the mid-70’s, when I was “20-something”, I could do a trip from Hagerstown to Charleston, SC pretty much non-stop . . . excepting “head calls”.

John Gardner deserves our utmost appreciation for his many months of work to make the picnic a “happening”.

The “Picnic” will be an official “Special Meeting” in accordance with the “Association Bylaws, Article 4-Meetings”. In my capacity as the Association “Commander”, I have the discretion to hold a special meeting on issues that may affect the best interest of the organization. The issues that will be discussed by the attendees at this meeting are:

- Leadership/Board of Directors (BOD)
- Website Management
- Association Events, e.g. “Picnic”, “Reunion”

These topics of discussion will enable the current Board of Directors to gain input for upcoming “BOD” bi-monthly meetings in 2024, that is May 19; July 21; September 15; and, November 17.

In March of 2025, we will hold our “Reunion/Bi-Annual Meeting” at King’s Bay Sub Base. This is the “60th Anniversary of the Launch of the USS George Bancroft SSBN643”.

Our “Picnic” will be the opportunity to start planning for the “Reunion”. A standing committee, “Reunion Committee”, needs to be manned.

I am bringing some items for a silent auction; horseshoes + pegs and my appetite for that “Willie Jewel’s” B-B-Q!! See you at the “Horse & Cow” on Friday night. “Hocky”

RAH:rah