THE PUMP ROOM

The Mare Island Base Newsletter

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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

Volume XXVI Issue 7 July 2026

Commanders Corner July 2026

Ahoy Shipmates:

Thank you Vice Commander Gary for running the June meeting while Holly and I attended a family wedding. Gary will again be your host for the July meeting while we are spending the fourth with our family up north.

Base Elections will be happening this year, nominations for the elected positions are due by the July 18th meeting. Nominations can be turned into any one of the base officers at or before the July meeting. You may also present your nominations during the meeting when the election process is presented to the members. A ballot will be published in the August Pump Room. Voting will be open for the offices as soon as the Pump Room is published. Please turn in ballots no later than Saturday, October 17th, 2026.

Voting results will be published in the November Pump Room. During our annual Christmas Lunch all of the base officers will be sworn in.

Your service and sacrifice to this country have made this day possible. Thank you.
Have a great 4th of July.

Keep and Even Keel
Steve Paganelli
MIB Commander

MINUTES OF June 20 2026 MEETING

Vice Commander Gary Peterson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by our Creed.
Base COB, AL Cole read the lost boats for the month of June and rang the bell, then added one bell for Frank McEneany plus one bell added for William Campbell both recently left on eternal patrol and another additional bell was rang for all the rest of our departed shipmates on eternal patrol.
Opening prayer was given by Base Chaplin/Vice Cmdr. Gary Peterson.
Thank you to the Ladies for lunch.
Walt Young brought a shipmate guest to the meeting! Tim Durant introduced himself & noted he served with Walt onboard USS Sam Houston
Roll-call of all attending members with boat/year qualified.
Last month's base meeting minutes were accepted as written.
Treasurer, Bill Dornik read the treasury report for June. It was accepted by base group.

Sick Call:

- Bill Putman was hospitalized in May with double Pneumonia, followed by low blood pressure & heart rate. He is now under hospice care at home.
- Patricia Harris was injured on a Bart train while she & Charley were in route to airport to attend an International Submarine Convention in Scotland. By the time they arrived in London, Patricia was in a lot of pain from the fall & Charley had to air ambulance her back to USA. She is currently recovering in an assisted living facility and showing progress & maybe back home in another month. We all signed a get-well card to send to her.

Correspondence:

- None

Committee Reports:

- Brian Woodson (VVMB Counsel Building Rep) gave update on latest Vallejo Vets Building accomplishments, issues, needs & over-all status and mentioned a lawsuit filed against the county.

Old Business:

- Nothing mentioned

New Business:

- Official Base Officer Nominations will be input at our next base meeting in July. Several members have already shown interest in positions expected to open. The nomination voting ballets will be made available to all members in the August Pump-room edition & final results of the base voting will be included in the November Pump-room edition. All Officers will be sworn in at the 2026 Christmas Holiday lunch.
- Base Pasta Feed is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th 12:00PM at Hayward Veterans Hall. Several volunteers are needed for kitchen help & to cook. We also need volunteers to help with the setting up the day before the event. Please get involved.

Announcements:

- Christmas Holiday Lunch reservation has been made at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco for the 2nd Saturday in December (Dec 12th).
- Next year's Crab Feed most likely will be on 3rd Saturday in January at Hayward Veterans Hall. Will confirm soon.

Good of the Order:

- Nothing mentioned

The 1st 50/25 cash raffle was won by Hank Hobbs! He donated all his winnings back to the Base.
The 2nd 50/25 cash raffle was won by Walt Young! He donated a portion back to the base.
Bottle of Wine raffle was won by Walt Young!
Next official Base meeting will July 18th at 11:00.
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
Closing prayer was given by Gary Peterson and the meeting was adjourned.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS
MARE ISLAND BASE
VALLEJO, CALIF

Mare Island Base Officer Elections

Nominations are now open for base officers.

Elected positions for 2027–2029-time frame are Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Base Treasurer.

Please turn in any nominations you have for any of the base offices, no later than Saturday July 18th, 2026. Nominations can be mailed to the Vallejo Veterans building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Ln. and addressed to Mare Island Base. Or E-mailed to the Base POC or turned in at the next meeting.

A final Ballott will be published in the August Pump Room.

Voting will be open for the offices as soon as the August Pump Room is published. Please turn in your ballots no later than Saturday, October 17th, 2026.

No matter if there is only one person running for an elected position all base members should turn in a complete ballet, by the date noted.

The results of the vote will be published in the November Pump Room.

All new and old base officers will be sworn in during the 2026 Christmas Holiday Lunch.

Mare Island Base Officers & Contacts

Commander:

Steve Paganelli (650) 766-2156 2370 Rosewood Dr. San Bruno, CA 94066
spagnel@prodigy.net

Vice Commander:

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imppete@att.net

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rontroutner@yahoo.com

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imppete@att.net

Storekeeper:

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Western District 5 Commander:

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SacSubVet@barrywyatt.com

Western Region Director:

Pete Juhos (916) 208-0667 194 Big Valley Rd. Folsom, CA 95630-4648
dsv3.ss1@gmail.com

Mare Island Base Facebook Page: Facebook.com/Mareisland.USSVI

Mare Island Base Website: ***"Temporarily inactive"***

Coming Events

Mare Island Base Meeting July18th , 2026 , 12 noon, Veteran's Memorial Building Vallejo, CA.
USSVI Annual Convention Corpus Christi Texas, September 6–11, 2026.
Mare Island & Dolphin Bases Pasta Feed Sept.19th 12 noon Veteran's Hall Hayward, CA

ANNUAL BOOSTERS

To become a booster, a donation of $60 per year or $5 per month is required

D. D'Ambrogio
J. Infanger
D. Boncore
W. Dornik
S. Paganelli
H. Hobbs
J. North
A. Cole
T. Kolda
W. Young

MONTHLY BOOSTERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JULY

David Brackett
John Douglass Jr.

ETERNAL PATROL JUNE

Sailor Rest Your Oar

Shipmates

U.S. Submarine Veterans Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)
Each Year K4K Week is celebrated around Veterans Day (November 11th).
Please contact Base Commander Steve Paganelli if you are interested in participating in this program.
Program Coordinator: John Riley (203) 668-9131 subvetss4kidss@gmail.com
United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation: Ken Earls (541) 879-3038
kenearls.ss@gmail.com
https://www.ussvcf.org/videos.html

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026
Corpus Christi, Texas
Registration Form Page 1

Use This Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.
This is a Fillable PDF form. Download the form onto your computer. Click the cursor on the block to be filled in. Type in the applicable information. TAB to the next block or click the cursor on the applicable block.

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):						
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member		Associate		Guest			
Address:								
City:	State:	Zip Code:						
Phone:	E-mail:							
Base:	Position:							
Qual Boat:	Hull No:	Qual Year:						
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:							

Spouse / Guest 1

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):				
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Member	Associate		Guest		
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:					

Guest 2

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):				
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate		Guest			
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:					

Guest 3

Name (First):	(MI):	(Last):				
Name for Badge:	USSVI (✓ 1): Associate		Guest			
Emergency Contact (Required):	Phone:					

Note: The Registration, Challenge Coin and 50/50 fees are Non-refundable. You will receive your coins and remain eligable for 50/50 drawing. Refund requests for any of the above events must be made prior to August 01, 2026. Registration must be received NLT August 21st to guarantee seats at events and tours. After this registration can be made at the convention on space available basis.

Make Check/Money Order Payable to:
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Memo: 2026 USSVI National Convention

Mail Registration Form (Pg. 1 & 2) and Payment to:
2026 USSVI National Convention
PO Box 270100
Corpus Christi, TX 78427-0100

For Questions or Comments Please Contact

Barb Boyle	Glenn MacDonald	Rick Mitchell
972-342-4761	832-515-4825	512-639-0035
barb.boyle@verizon.net	gemlcdr@gmail.com	rick.ussvi@gmail.com

2026 USSVI National Convention
September 6 - 11th, 2026 Corpus Christi, Texas Registration Form Page 2

s Form Only if Paying by Check or Money Order. Use On-Line Form if Paying With Credit Card.

Click the cursor in the Registration Qty block.Type in the number and press Tab. The total is computed automatically. and the cursor moves down 1 block. When complete, print both pages.

Date	Event		Cost	Qty	Total
A registration fee is required for every person 18or older attending any of the events below. <18 Free. Note that alcohol will be available.		Registration	$ 30.00		0
Sun 9/6	Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game and Dinner (Minimum 40)	1600 - 2200	$ 55.00		0
Mon 9/7	Fishing Trip #1 (GULF) Port Aransas	0600 - 1400	$ 80.00		0
	Texas State Aquarium Trip	0800 - 1200	$ 50.00		0
	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #1	0830 – 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Railroad Brewery Luncheon (min 45)	1230 – 1430	$ 35.00		0
	Welcome Aboard Party-Stadium Fare Popcorn, ballpark nachos, cracker jacks, hot dogs and pizza	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Tues 9/8	Fishing Trip #2 (BAY) Corpus Christi (max 35)	0600 – 1300	$ 60.00		0
	Grand Excursion Tour	0830 – 1500	$ 40.00		0
	Beer - BBQ & Spirits Tour (max 40)	1130 – 1630	$ 70.00		0
	Buccaneer Cruise - Sight Seeing Sunset Cruise (max 35)	1800 - 2100	$ 45.00		0
	Texas Tease Sunset Bay Cruise (Sold Out)	1800 - 2100	$ 50.00	Sold Out	0
Wed 9/9	Historical Sightseeing & WWII Heritage Trail Tour #2	0830 - 1200	$ 30.00		0
	Holland Club Luncheon 1130-1330 This event is open for everyone!	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Spirits - BBQ & Beer Tour #2 (max 40)	1400 - 1830	$ 70.00		0
	Half-Way Night Party & Ice Cream Social	1900 - Till	$ 35.00		0
Thur 9/10	Mens and Ladies Luncheon 1100 - 1300	Chicken	$ 45.00		0
		Beef	$ 45.00		0
	Tolling Ceremony	1530 - 1630	Free		
	Post Tolling BBQ Dinner on the Lex	1700 - Till	$ 25.00		0
Fri 9/11	Annual Awards Banquet *Special diet request please contact convention Chair	Chicken	$ 60.00		0
		Redfish	$ 60.00		0
		Beef	$ 78.00		0
50/50 Tickets (Drawn at Awards Banquet Attendence not required)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Extra Door Prize Tickets (prizes to be given away at all hotel events) (Each registration gets one ticket, these are extra chances)		Each	$ 5.00		0
Challenge Coin (Pre Order price only) $20 at Convention till sold out		Each	$ 12.00		0
		Total (if paying by check or money order)		=	0

LOST BOATS / JULY

Please Fly Your Flag On Lost Boats Days

USS S-28 (SS-133)

Lost on July 4, 1944, with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273)

Lost on July 26, 1944, with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216)

Lost on July 30, 1942, with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

Photos taken at the Submarine Birthday Ball
Monterey, CA

The Moonbeam Navy

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

I am, was, and shall ever be a Diesel Boat Sailor. It could properly be said that I am too stupid to be a nuclear-powered qualified man... We'll never know, because the only way you would get me on one of those sonuvabitches would take Chloroform and one helluva logging chain.

I went to sub school in '59. By that time, diesel boats had reached a stage where they were the Naval equivalent of a 95-year-old call girl. They were failing and falling apart all over the place, and parts were no longer available. By cosmetics we kept the old girls going until the last snap of their garters... And we loved them.

Rickover was an arrogant little sonuvabitch. The little weasel promoted, condoned and perpetuated friction between the conventional boat service and his little 'Merry Moonbeam Navy'. Today, nuke boats have come and gone, just like their diesel counterparts. Only thing is, outside of some long-range cruise missile Valentines, the entire nuke navy hasn't seen the combat service of a single WW II Balao or Tench boat. A cruise missile is the equivalent in manly expression of calling up the middle weight champion of the world on long distance phone service; to tell him you put dog crap in his mailbox. Sorry, but 'Red' Ramage, Slade Cutter and George White would have been lousy cruise missile boat sailors... They punched your lights out without going beyond their own zip code... And came home with a cigar box full of combat medals - Not gedunk, no-risk patrol pins.

It seems to me somehow; a submarine was never meant to rival ships of the Norwegian cruise lines. Hey, I watch the Discovery Channel... For years, I wondered why the milk and eggs never spoiled... In fact, I once set the world record for securing bulkhead flappers when the cook popped a 'blue egg' on the grill! I said to myself, "How are those guys drinking milk on day 32 of one of them two-month runs?" Simple. They carry cows... And chickens... In the after-farm compartment. They probably trim ship by moving the herd.

We used to watch movies in the crew's mess. We elevated the projector on two Pyrex cereal bowls, and the screen was the size of the cover of Time magazine. On a good night, we could pack twenty guys in there. On a nuke boat, if you don't like the film, you can move to another theater, in another compartment... The only drawback being, if you come in late, they make you sit in the balcony.

Nukes have beauty parlors, pool halls and Bingo night. The old oil burners had two or three decks of cards so damn dog-eared that guys in Maneuvering Room could figure out what hands were being delt just by listening to the cards being shuffled over the XJA.

I know that living in close proximity to the reactor on a nuke boat will not shrink one's testicles... The Navy says it... Science says it... And William Jefferson Clinton will give you his word, and we all know how reliable that is. Still, they've never explained the voice change of the 'Buck Rodgers' fleet.

No, I don't want to ride any submarine named for characters appearing on past or present postage stamps, or negotiable currency, or any place found on a AAA TripTik.

At New London, we were taught submarines were named for fish and other denizens of the deep, not Al Gore and East Jeezus, Minnesota.

Cont…

We had one crew - total accountability. When equipment screwed up, the old man knew exactly who to light up. It was not uncommon to see boat sailors with smoking hip pockets. There wasn't any of this 'Blue crew - Gold crew', 'He said - She said', bullshit either.

And another thing... The nuke boats paint big black dots all over their scope fairings... What the hell for? Camouflage??? Now, who's this gonna fool? A big contraption sticking up in the middle of the gahdam ocean with big black polka dots all over it. Do they actually think that somewhere on the globe there are folks stupid enough to collectively mistake that scope for a speckled trout?

I'm sure glad that I was fortunate enough to ride boats before Dorothy and the Wizard moved in... Maybe we were the lads from the wrong side of the tracks. Maybe we did hot sack, drink coffee with oil slick rainbows floating in it, smelled like the bottom of an iguana cage, and lived on sea store smokes and dirty books. At least we weren't required to drop our skivvies every night and take caliper readings on our fixtures of manhood.

"Editor's Note"

It has been brought to my attention that every 3rd Monday & Wednesdays of each month, there is Dinner served at the Vallejo Vets Hall for $15 a person.
Mondays are run by VFW & starts at 7:00PM.
Wednesdays are run by Post 550 at 6:00PM.
We need to RSVP ahead of time to Ray at Post 550. Phone: 720548-7148 You can pay by Zelle or cash at the event.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC. MARISLAND BASE
Application For Membership

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 the greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States and its Constitution."

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

BOAT QUALIFIED ON & DATE: _____

RANK/RATE ATTAINED: _____

CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY: YES ( ) NO ( )

USN or USNR RETIRED: YES ( ) NO ( )

OTHER BOATS SERVED ON (Name/Hull#/Dates): _____

_____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Annual dues are $10. Base Dues, and $40. National Dues. If you prefer you can renew 3 yrs. at $27. for Base Dues, and $113. National Dues, or 5 yrs. at $45. for Base Dues and $185. National Dues. Life Membership for National: Under 45=$750.00, age 46-55=$625.00, age 56-65=$450.00, age 66-75 =$300.00, age 76+ =$150.00. (Life Members must also pay Base Dues as stated above.) Please send your check made out to **Mare Island Base** to:

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Vallejo, CA 94591

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