



January 2022

Published Monthly

STEEL VALLEY DOLPHINS
USSVI REQUIN BASE NEWSLETTER



The USSVI Requin Base supports the National Creed

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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.”

Table of Contents

Meeting Information	2
Officers (National & Local)	3
Boats Lost	4
Submarines Commissioned this Month	5
Binnacle List	7
Eternal Patrol	7
Birthdays	7
Anniversaries	7
Commander's Corner	8
PCU Idaho SSN-799	9
Month in Review	10
Chaplain's Column	11
Store Keepers Report	11
Meeting Minutes	12
Upcoming Events	16
Membership	16
Eagle Scouts	16
Winter Wing Bash	17
Wolbrueck Commissioning	18
Featured Boat	19
This month in US submarine history	20
Articles of Interest	
Deep Patrol on a Polaris Sub	23
Sponsors	34

Meeting Information

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month, normally at the Baden PA American Legion. Quarterly meetings are held around our membership area.

Our next meeting will be

February 12 @ 1230 hours

At Baden American Legion 641

Base Location



American Legion Post 641

271 State St

Baden PA 15005

From the Editor

Please send ideas for articles or copies of articles, with full credit information to me for consideration of submission in the SVD.

We are a SUBMARINE group. As such, the articles should be SUBMARINE or NAVY related.

Lou Hamill - itgeek8088@gmail.com

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ATTEND A MEETING!

Our Website

For additional information about what is happening at **YOUR** base, go to

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



USSVI National Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
National Commander	Wayne Standerfer	972-298-8139	lwaynes@charter.net
Senior Vice Commander	Jon Jaques	615-893-7800	jjagues@bellsouth.net
Junior Vice Commander	Steven Bell	704-824-3510	usnret82@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Raymond Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Hiser	910-691-5650	paulhiser664@gmail.com
Past Commander	John Markiewicz	904-743-2924	markiewiczjohn4@gmail.com
Chaplain	James Sandman	615-975-4792	Jsandman85@gmail.com
Region Director Northeast	Leslie Altschuler	917-748-2275	CdrNJNorthBase@hotmail.com
District Commander EN3	Thomas Denton	301-845-0049	gcmfish@verizon.net



USS Requin Base Officers

Office	Officer	Phone	eMail
Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
1st Vice Commander	Chad Underkoffler	724-809-6830	candj981@verizon.net
2nd Vice Commander	Chuck "Bat" Masterson	724-869-1938	mastersoncf@aol.com
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
Chaplain			
Past Base Commander	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
COB/Historian	Eric Bookmiller	724-485-2341	ebookmiller@comcast.net
Photographer	Rick Flaugh	412-779-0497	flaughre@comcast.net
	Jack Sutherin	330-420-8064	jack.sutherin@comcast.net
Holland Club Chairman	Joe Campisi	412-322-3201	jcampisi654@comcast.net
Asst. Holland Club	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	dgdiving@gmail.com
Technology Chair	Lou Hamill	412-445-3998	itgeek8088@gmail.com
Eagle Scout Chair			
Awards Chair	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	dgdiving@gmail.com
Master at Arms	Dick Geyer	724-637-2995	dgdiving@gmail.com
Public Affairs Chair	Ed Derr	724-854-0781	rredde@gmail.com



Tolling of the Boats for January

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 sunk 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.





Submarines commissioned during the month of January.

Adder SS-3	1/12/1903	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Moccasin SS-5	1/17/1903	Wikipedia	NavSource	
H-3 SS-30	1/16/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
G-4 SS-26	1/22/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
K-2 SS-33	1/31/1914	Wikipedia	NavSource	
R-2 SS-79	1/24/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-3 SS-107	1/30/1919	Wikipedia	NavSource	
T-1 SS-52	1/30/1920	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-15 SS-120	1/15/1921	Wikipedia	NavSource	
T-2 SS-60	1/7/1922	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-11 SS-116	1/11/1923	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-41 SS-146	1/15/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	
S-27 SS-132	1/22/1924	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Shark SS-174	1/25/1936	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Pollack SS-180	1/15/1937	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pickrel SS-177	1/26/1937	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Sculpin SS-191	1/16/1939	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Tuna SS-203	1/2/1941	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Greenling SS-213	1/21/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Finback SS-230	1/31/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Trigger SS-237	1/31/1942	Wikipedia	NavSource	Eternal Patrol
Jack SS-259	1/6/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pogy SS-266	1/10/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Tinosa SS-283	1/15/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Lapon SS-260	1/23/1943	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pintado SS-387	1/1/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Perch SS-313	1/7/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pipefish SS-388	1/22/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bream SS-243	1/24/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Guitarro SS-363	1/26/1944	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Argonaut SS-475	1/15/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Moray SS-300	1/26/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Capitaine SS-336	1/26/1945	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Remora SS-487	1/3/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Trumpetfish SS-425	1/29/1946	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bonita SSK-3	1/11/1952	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Barbel SS-580	1/17/1959	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Halibut SSGN-587	1/4/1960	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Thomas Jefferson SSBN-618	1/4/1963	Wikipedia	NavSource	
George Bancroft SSBN-643	1/22/1966	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Pargo SSN-650	1/5/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Gato SSN-615	1/25/1968	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Sea Devil SSN-664	1/30/1969	Wikipedia	NavSource	
Bluefish SSN-675	1/8/1971	Wikipedia	NavSource	

Tunny SSN-682	1/26/1974	Wikipedia	NavSource
Indianapolis SSN-697	1/5/1980	Wikipedia	NavSource
Boston SSN-703	1/30/1982	Wikipedia	NavSource
City of Corpus Christi SSN-705	1/8/1983	Wikipedia	NavSource
Augusta SSN-710	1/19/1985	Wikipedia	NavSource
Alaska SSBN-732	1/25/1986	Wikipedia	NavSource
Scranton SSN-756	1/26/1991	Wikipedia	NavSource
Springfield SSN-761	1/9/1993	Wikipedia	NavSource
Santa Fe SSN-763	1/8/1994	Wikipedia	NavSource





Binnacle List

Eternal Patrol



In Remembrance

Huey Dietrich

Edie Dietrich

Michael Pellegrino

James Kontir

Robert Samson

All Present and accounted for.

John Good

Robert Goodley

Tom Stewart

Earl Wood

Ed Cramer

Ed Paul

Vince Segeleon

Birthdays

Member

Spouse

Anniversaries

John Sutherin, Sr	2/3
Ronald Weaver	2/3
Russ Osborne	2/5
James St Clair	2/5
Richard Keys	2/10
Dan Bagley	2/11
Luke Walters	2/13
Joshua Sewell	2/14
Stephen McKinney	2/15
James Cowher	2/18
Lawton Gaines	2/19
George Dolgos	2/26
James Harris	2/26

Linda Gaylor	2/9
Rosemarie Riley	2/9
Lynn Gourley	2/10
Rosemary McCarthy	2/12
Cassandra Sewell	2/18
Kim Bittner	2/19
Barbara Sorbie	2/23
Adele Wise	2/28

Flo & Michael Hemming	2/6
Marilyn & Alfred Regits	2/7
Julie & Edward May	2/13
Debra & Arthur Davis	2/14
Yvonne & Paul McKenzie	2/15
Barbara & Andrew Sorbie	2/23
Judith & John Fordyce	2/25





Shipmates: Our first meeting of 2022 was one of our best ever. There was good input and discussions from the BOD and members in attendance!

My first report is the Idaho Fund – we have reached our goal of 100% (\$15,000.00). KUDOS to all the members who made donations from \$5.00 up to and including \$1,100.00. It only took 10 months to reach our goal. In addition to the members and supporter’s donations, we sold wine, with our special submarine labels, submarine beer tap handles, challenge coin holders and submarine cribbage boards. With everyone’s support we are truly a great Veteran’s group – THANKS to the entire base.

We will continue selling our beer taps handles, challenge coins and cribbage boards. The profit will be used to balance our yearly budget. So don’t forget to put your order in! For the members who belong to other veteran clubs and have other watering holes – make a sales pitch – remember, there is no “I” in Team. Speaking of Team Members – Lou Hamill (Archer Clay Fish) and Eric Bookmiller are the designers and construction brains of the Taps, Coin Holders and Cribbage boards – KUDOS SWABS!

Before I forget, the base wants to thank my first mate Edie! All year long, she made home-made salsa and various jams. Her total contribution to the base is \$820.00 for the general fund.

One of our members, John Held, was on his way to our base meeting when he was T-Boned by another driver. Thank God, only his car got damaged. He traveled back to town just to come to our meeting. With no injury to himself he was able to visit his family.

Our base membership stands at 187. There are 11 members who have said “the check is in the mail” or have not responded. Our base adopted a policy - that we will not leave any shipmate standing alone on the dock. Seven members notified us that they intended to drop from the base! A base member stepped up and covered the dues of the others. Hopefully these 11 shipmates will send their dues so they will be credited and the shipmate will be re-imbursed! The eleven members will be contacted before the end of the month

THANKS for everything shipmates.....

Our board of directors meeting minutes and our base meeting minutes are published in this month’s SVD! Every issue was voted on and passed unanimously. I won’t duplicate them in my column, so please read both and if you have any questions or concerns, give me a shout.

PRIDE RUNS DEEP



<https://ussidahocommittee.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SSN799>

USS Idaho Support Fundraiser

Jan 8, 2022

As I said, we are Submariners, and by nature, we are over achievers.

Thank you to everyone that helped us reach our goal of \$15,000

The crew and their families appreciate the support.



Message from Commander Nicholas Meyers, USN

USS IDAHO (SSN 799) COMMANDING OFFICER

delivered to the — **UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO—NROTC Unit**

The "CREED" of the Crew of the new "USS IDAHO" Submarine is going to be—

- I — Integrity
- D — Discipline
- A — Accountability
- H — Habits
- O — Ownership

Here is the link to the customer photos.

<https://requinbase.org/customer-photos/>



If you would like to order a submarine beer tap handle [with or without the stand], a challenge coin holder or a newly added cribbage board.

contact [Huey Dietrich](#) or

Place your order for these and other USS Idaho items at

<https://requinbase.org/product-category/uss-idaho/>



Month in Review



Support for Tom Strang from Requin Base.
Thank you Chad for making this happen.



Shipmates,

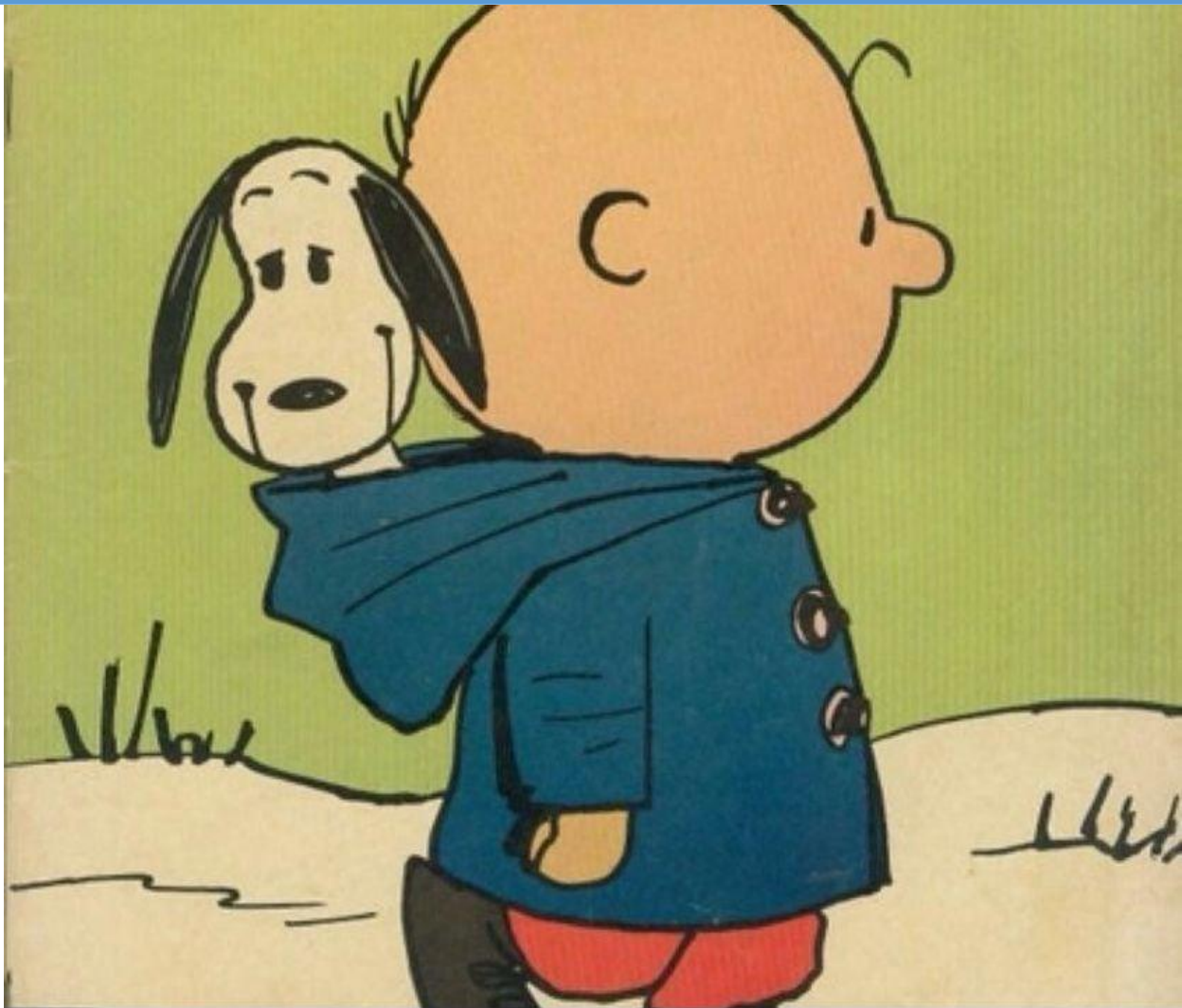
*Thank-You for the Monetary
Gift and your thoughtfulness.
Please keep us in your prayers.*

*Brother,
Tom.*



*Wishing you peace in your heart
and happiness in your home this Christmas.*

*Happy New Year!
Tom & Agnes Strang.*



In life, it's not where you go
- it's who goes with you.



Store Keepers Report

Please visit our online store at

<https://requinbase.org/shop/>

You can have your items shipped to you at home via USPS [for a small fee], or pick them up at the next USSVI meeting.





Meeting Minutes

Requin Base Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2022

Voting Members Present: Lee Bookwalter, Huey Dietrich, Jeff Simon, Chad Underkoffler, Bat Masterson
Non-Voting Members Present: Eric Bookmiller, Joe Campisi, Dick Geyer, Lou Hamill, Frank Nicotra, Jack Sutherin

Topics Discussed:

Base Budget:

As required in the Requin Base By-Laws, the following budget for 2022 was approved by the Executive Board. All other significant expenditures will be brought to the membership at monthly meetings.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Website Hosting 3 yr (due 2023)	\$224.00*
Base Website Domain Name	\$18.00*
Boat Sponsorship	\$30.00*
Eagle Scouts (coin/patch/certificate)	\$300.00
USS Requin Memorial Service	\$500.00
Guest Speakers (gifts)	\$100.00
Holland Club hats/pins	\$130.00
Holland Club Donation	\$85.00
Loyalty Pins	\$210.00
Advertising (Veterans Day, etc.)	\$525.00*
SVD & Office Expenses	\$3600.00
Nautilus float expenses	\$150.00
Scholarship (Eternal Patrol)	\$250.00
Good of the Order	\$100.00
Insurance (via National paid thru 2021)	\$25.00
American Legion VFW Xmas Gift	\$200.00
Christmas_Party	\$1000.00
Total:	\$7447.00

*Fixed amount, all others are estimates

Meeting Locations:

The practice of holding one meeting per quarter at a location other than American Legion Baden PA will continue this year. March meeting will be at VFW Post 191 in Canonsburg PA. June meeting will be at American Legion Post 290 in Columbiana OH. August meeting will be at American Legion Post 820 in Monroeville PA. October meeting will be at Golden Coral in Hermitage PA.

Parades/Memorials:

March 17 - St Patrick's Day Pittsburgh
May 29 - Memorial Service USS Requin
May 29 - Carnegie Parade
May 30 - Sewickley Parade
May 30 - Coraopolis Parade
July 4 - Canonsburg Parade
July 4 - Leetsdale Parade
Sept 1 - Requin Birthday
Oct 10 - Columbus Day Parade
Nov 11 - Veterans Day Parade

Additional Activities:

Visit COD Base, Road trip to Groton CT, National Convention

Appointed Committees:

Standing Committees:

Storekeeper – Nicotra
Chaplain – Vacant
Newsletter Editor – Hamill
COB/Historian – Bookmiller
Photographer – Flaugh
SVD – Hard Copy – Masterson
Holland Club Chair – Campisi
Asst. Holland Club – Geyer
Eagle Scout Chair – Vacant
Technology Chair – Hamill
Webmaster – Bookwalter
Master At Arms - Geyer
Awards Chairman – Dick Geyer
Active Duty Go-Between - Vacant
Requin Sailor Go-Between - Vacant

Projects:

Eagle Scout courts of honor, loyalty pin program, Kap(ss)4Kid(ss) program, honor Holland Club inductees, and Memorial Day service onboard Requin, Pearl Harbor Day.

Fund Raisers:

Parades, candy sales, 40-40-20 raffle, Booster Club donations, small stores sales, and challenge coin sales

Miscellaneous Topics:

Members where dues were waved
Members dropped for base
Members on Eternal Patrol in 2021
Holland Club inductees
New members
Base Life Membership
USS Idaho fund raising activities

Discussion of Base matters.

Setting up and take down at American Legion meetings
Price of meals at base meetings to be raised to \$15 per person starting February 2022.



Requin Base Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2022

Baden, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Willard Ashmore, Eric Bookmiller, Lee Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, George & Cindy Brown, Joe Campisi, Ed & Mary Jane Derr, Huey Dietrich, Rick Flaugh, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Lou Hamill, Bat Masterson, Vince Metz, Bob & Jude Meyer, Frank Nicotra, Chuck Shrump, Harry Sills, Jeff Simon, Jack Sutherin, Chad Underkoffler, Andrew Wolbrueck.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quote of the day: "Submarine life is not a service but a religion."

Requin History: Launched January 1, 1945. January 20, 1948 given hull classification OSSR-481 and modified to the Migrain II radar picket configuration. January 15, 1951 entered Mediterranean until May when she returned to normal operations on the US east coast and in the Caribbean. January 1, 1953 maintained her schedule of Second and Sixth Fleet operations but at the end of the year put into Philadelphia PA for extensive modernization overhaul that among other things removed her last remaining anti-aircraft cannon.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

Boats Lost:

USS SCORPION (SS 278) January 05, 1944

USS ARGONAUT (SS 166) January 10, 1943

USS SWORDFISH (SS 193) January 12, 1945

USS S 36 (SS 141) January 20, 1942

USS S 26 (SS 131) January 24, 1942

We also honor our departed shipmate of the Requin Base, John Good, Robert Goodley, Tom Stewart, Earl Wood, Ed Cramer, Ed Paul and Vince Segeleon. Finally let us remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Shipmate Joe Campisi gave the Invocation

COB Eric Bookmiller lead the base in the Pledge Of Allegiance

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous base meeting were published in the SVD. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits are available upon request. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Huey & Edie Dietrich, Pellegrino, Kontier, Sampson

Eternal Patrol: None

Membership stands at 187

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available items.

Shipmate Vince Metz reported on Eagle Scout court of honor presentations. New coordinator is needed.

Memorial and Ceremonies

Retirement of Lt. Peltier, Jan 15th at Soldiers and Sailors

Commissioning of Andrew Wolbrueck to Ensign on February 1 at Mindful Brewing Co, Castle Shannon PA

Old Business:

Appointed positions available include Chaplin and Eagle Scout Coordinator.

New Business:

Idaho fund donations have reached 100%.

Sale of beer taps, coin holders, and cribbage boards will now be used to balance the base budget.

Members are asked to help with cleanup following base meetings.

If members have ordered meals for a meeting, but are unable to attend, they are expected to pay for them at the next meeting.

Motion to raise the price of meals at base meetings to \$15 per person was approved by the members present.

Good of The Order:

Thank you letter from Shipmate Tom Strang was read

Motion to purchase a vest for Tom Strang was approved by the members present

Shipmate Joe Campisi gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: American Legion Post 641, Baden, PA at 1230 hours on February 12, 2022





Upcoming Events

Meetings

2/12/2022 Base Meeting AL 641
 3/12/2022 Base Meeting VFW 191
 4/9/2022 Base Meeting AL 641

Events

1/15/2022 —Peltier's Retirement Pg 12 of DEC SVD
 1/29/2022 —Winter Wing Bash Pg 17
 2/1/2022 —Wolbrueck Commissioning Pg 18



Membership

Regular Members	160	Holland Club	95	USSVI Life Members	72
Secondary	15	WWII	4	Base Life Members	53
Associate Members	12	Eternal Patrol	67		
Total Members	187				



New Members

No new member this month

Help us reach our goal of at least 10 new members this year.

Reach out and invite that submariner to join USSVI Requin Base.



Eagle Scouts

Please direct all Eagle Court of Honor requests to <https://requinbase.org/eagle-coh>



Congratulations to:

Damien John Michaels III T-99
 Joshua Robert Corey T-99
 Caedon Robert Vogel T-99
 Zachary Michael Snyder T-99



Winter Wing Bash

Sponsored by

Son's of the American Legion Baden Squadron 641

All You Can Eat and Drink Wings, Beer and Soda

Karaoke and Music by DJ Andy

January 29, 2022 6 pm to 10 pm

Cost: \$20 at the door

Location: Baden American Legion

271 State Street Baden PA 15005

All Proceeds go to Support Our Veterans!



You are cordially invited to the Commissioning of

MMN1(SS) Andrew J. Wolbrueck

to

ENSIGN

in the United States Navy

Tuesday, 1 February 2022

12:00pm

Mindful Brewing Co.

3759 Library Rd

Castle Shannon, PA 15234

Official Party: Service Uniform

Civilian Guests: Business Casual

Military Guests: Business Casual



History

Namesake	<u>Seawolf</u>
Awarded	9 January 1989
Builder	<u>General Dynamics Electric Boat</u>
Laid down	25 October 1989
Launched	24 June 1995
Commissioned	19 July 1997
Homeport	<u>Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton, Washington,</u>
Motto	<i>Cave Lupum</i> (English: "Beware the Wolf")
Status	in active service

General characteristics

Class and type	<u>Seawolf-class submarine</u>
Length	353 ft (108 m)
Beam	40 ft (12 m)
Draft	36 ft (11 m)
Propulsion	1 <u>S6W PWR</u> 57,000 shp (43 MW), <u>HEU</u> 93.5% 1 secondary propulsion submerged motor 1 shaft 1 <u>pump-jet</u> propeller
Speed	25+ knots submerged, 18+ knots surfaced
Test depth	Greater than 800ft
Complement	15 officers and 101 men
Armament	eight 26-inch <u>torpedo tubes</u> , 40 <u>torpedoes</u> and missiles, or 100 <u>mines</u>



The **wolffish** (or **wolfeel**, although they are not true eels), also known as **sea wolves**, are a family, Anarhichadidae, of perciform fish. There are three types of wolffish: the spotted Wolffish, the Atlantic Wolffish, and the Northern Atlantic Wolffish. They are native to cold waters of the northern Atlantic and Pacific oceans, where they live on the continental shelf and slope, to depths of about 600 metres (2,000 feet; 330 fathoms). They are bottom-feeders, eating hard-shelled invertebrates such as clams, echinoderms, and crustaceans, which they crush with their-strong canine and molar teeth. The longest species, *Anarrhichthys ocellatus*, grows to more than 2 m (6 ft 7 in) in length.



01/01/1943

USS Nautilus (SS 168) evacuated 29 civilians from Teop Island, Solomons. Also on this date, USS Porpoise (SS 172) attacked a Japanese convoy and sank the freighter Renzan Maru off northeastern coast of Honshu, Japan.

01/01/1944

USS Ray (SS 271) sinks a Japanese gunboat at the mouth of Ambon Bay, while USS Puffer (SS 268) attacks a Japanese convoy at the western entrance of the Mindanao Sea, sinking an army cargo ship. On the same day USS Herring (SS 233) attacks a Japanese convoy, sinking an aircraft transport ship 220 miles off Tokyo Bay.

01/02/1943

USS Argonaut (SM1) sinks the Japanese guard boat Ebon Maru in the Bismarck Sea.

01/02/1944

USS Finback (SS 230) sinks a Japanese merchant tanker in the East China Sea.

01/03/1909

USS Scorpion arrives to help the survivors of the Messina, Sicily earthquake. With the Great White Fleet making its way through the Suez Canal, President T. Roosevelt orders the U.S. Navy to assist.

01/03/1945

USS Kingfish (SS 234) attacks a Japanese convoy in the Bonin Islands sinking a Japanese army cargo ship and two freighters 200 miles north of Chichi Jima.

01/04/1943

USS Shad (SS 235) sinks German minesweeper M 4242 (ex-French trawler Odet II) in the Bay of Biscay.

01/04/1944

USS Bluefish (SS 222) and USS Rasher (SS 269) attack a Japanese convoy off French Indochina; Bluefish sinks a merchant tanker while Rasher damages another tanker. Also on this date USS Cabrilla (SS 288) sinks a Japanese freighter off Cape Padran, French Indochina while USS Tautog (SS 109) sinks a Japanese freighter off southern Honshu.

01/07/1945

Submarine Spot (SS 413) sinks the Japanese gunboat No.2 Nichiei Maru in the Inland Sea.

01/08/1983

Fast Attack Submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) is commissioned.

01/08/1994

Fast Attack Submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) is commissioned.

01/09/1942

Submarine USS Pollack (SS 180) sinks the Japanese freighter Teian Maru (ex-Yugoslav Tomislav) 40 miles south-southwest of Inubo Saki, Japan.

01/09/1959

Non-strategic submarine Halibut (SSGN 587), launches. Redesignated an attack submarine in 1965, she serves until decommissioned in 1986.

01/09/1993

Fast Attack Submarine USS Springfield (SSN 761) is commissioned.

01/10/1943

Submarine Trigger (SS 237) sinks the Japanese destroyer Okikaze off Yokosuka, Japan.

01/10/1944

Submarines Seawolf (SS 197) and Steelhead (SS 280) attack a Japanese convoy about 70 miles north of Naha, Okinawa, sinking three ships, including one while in the middle of a typhoon.

01/12/1943

Submarine Guardfish (SS 217) sinks Japanese Patrol Boat No.1 about 10 miles southwest of the Tingwon Islands, located just southwest of the northern tip of New Hanover, Bismarck Archipelago.

01/14/1943

USS Gudgeon (SS 211) lands six men, 2,000 pounds of equipment and supplies on Negros Island for first resupply mission for a submarine.

01/14/1944

Five U.S. Navy submarines sink five different Japanese vessels in and around the Pacific Ocean. USS Albacore (SS 218) sinks Japanese destroyer Sazanami 300 miles off Yap; USS Scamp (SS 277) sinks the tanker Nippon Maru off Sorol Island; USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks tanker Kenyo Maru southeast of Palau; USS Seawolf (SS 197) sinks tanker Yamazuru Maru off Okinawa, and USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks transport Yamakuni Maru off Hachijo Jima.

01/14/1945

USS Cobia (SS 245) sinks the Japanese minelayer Yuriijima off the east coast of Malaya.

01/15/1916

The submarine E-2 explodes at the New York Navy Yard because of escaping gases during an overhaul. The interior ship is severely damaged and four men are killed.

01/17/1943

Submarine USS Whale (SS 239) sinks the Japanese transport Heiyo Maru.

01/18/1942

Submarine USS Plunger (SS 179) sinks the Japanese freighter Eizan Maru (ex-Panamanian Aurora) off the mouth of Kii Strait, Honshu.

01/19/1943

USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks army cargo ship Myoho Maru, which was part of the Japanese Solomons reinforcement convoy, while USS Greenling (SS 213) damages Japanese cargo ship north of Rabaul.

01/20/1944

USS Batfish (SS 310) and USS Gar (SS 206) attack Japanese convoys and sink transport Hidaka Maru south of Shiono Misaki and army cargo ship Koyo Maru about 50 miles south-southwest of Palau.

01/21/1943

Submarines USS Pollack (SS 180) and USS Gato (SS 212) attack and cause the sinking of two Japanese ships.

01/21/1954

The world's first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN-571), is christened and launched at Groton, Conn.

01/21/1961

USS George Washington (SSBN 598) completes the first operational voyage as a fleet ballistic missile submarine, staying submerged 66 days.

01/23/1943

Submarine USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks the Japanese destroyer Hakaze off New Ireland.

01/24/1945

Submarine Blackfin (SS 322) sinks the Japanese destroyer Shigure in the Gulf of Siam.

01/24/1956

1956—USS Jallao (SS 368) becomes the first U.S. Navy submarine to transit the Suez Canal traveling from the Mediterranean to Massawa, Eritrea, Ethiopia.

01/25/1943

USS Shad (SS 235) encounters German blockade runners transporting ore in the Bay of Biscay. Shad fires on Nordfels, but the torpedo fails to explode, and Nordfels returns to Bilbao, Spain.

01/25/1945

USS Silversides (SS 236), despite the presence of auxiliary submarine chasers, sinks the Japanese army cargo ship Malay Maru off Kuro Jima.

01/26/1943

USS Wahoo (SS 238) sinks entire convoy of four Japanese supply ships north of New Guinea.

01/26/1944

USS Skipjack (SS 184) sinks the Japanese destroyer Suzukaze and the aircraft ferry Okitsu Maru in the Caroline Islands area. Also on this date, USS Hake (SS 256) sinks the Japanese auxiliary netlayer Shuko Maru off Ambon and USS Crevalle (SS 291) sinks the Japanese gunboat Busho Maru 175 miles southeast of Cape St. Jacques, French Indochina.

01/27/1942

Submarine USS Gudgeon (SS-211) becomes the first US Navy submarine to sink an enemy Japanese submarine in action during World War II.

01/28/1945

Submarine USS Spadefish (SS 411) attacks Japanese convoy west of Chuja Kundo, Korea and sinks escort vessel Kume and transport Sanuki Maru.

01/31/1945

USS Boarfish (SS 327) attacks Japanese HI 88 convoy and sinks freighter Enki Maru 50 miles southeast of Tourane, French Indochina. She also damages a cargo ship that runs aground and 14th Air Force aircraft destroys it the next day.



LIFE

Exclusive Photos of Our No.1 Weapon
DEEP DOWN PATROL
ON A
POLARIS
SUB

Jack Lemmon's Big Worry:
Does Anybody Like Me?

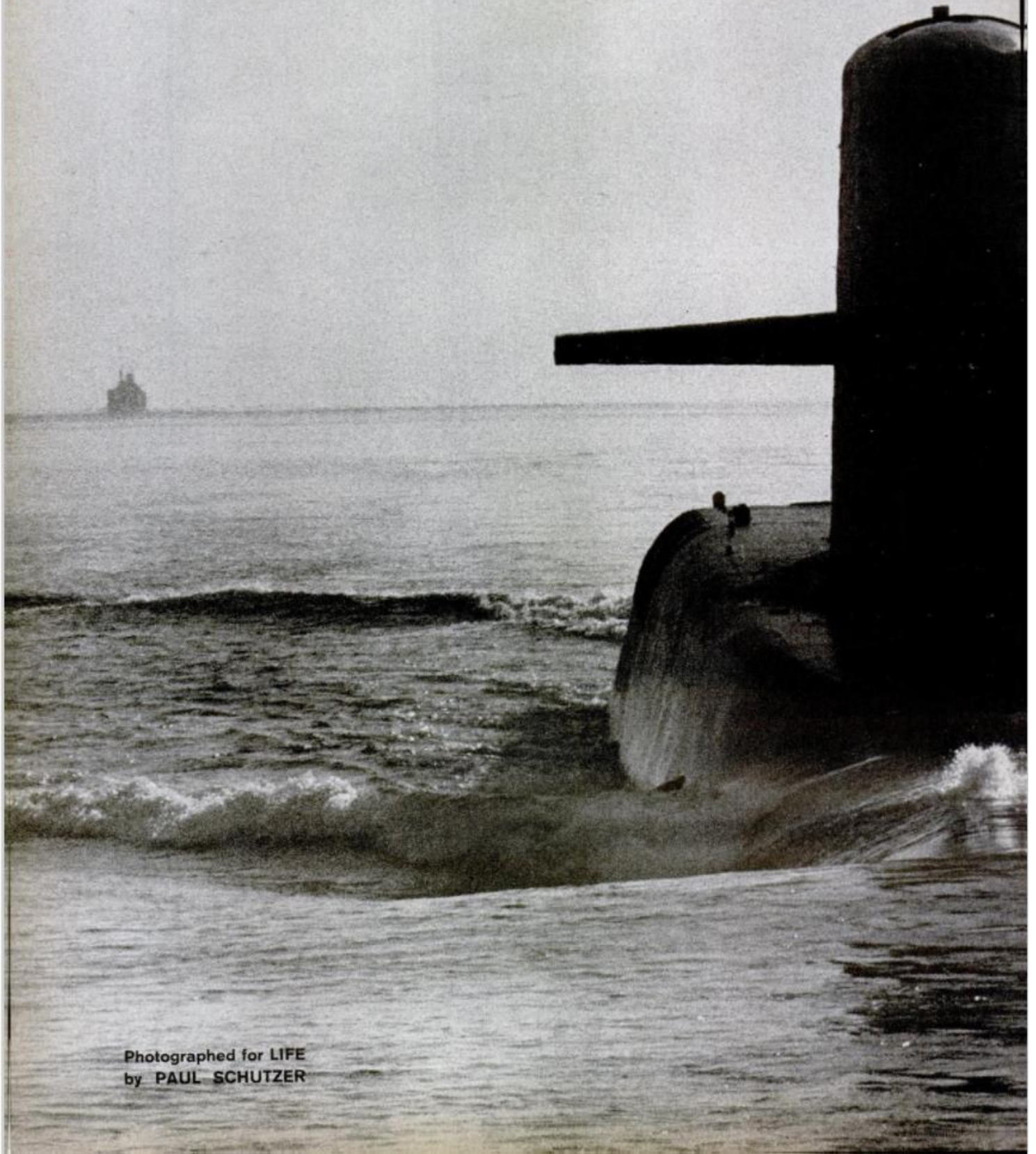


MARCH 22 · 1963 · 20¢


LIFE

Vol. 54, No. 12 March 22, 1963

OUR MOST-FEARED WEAPON DIVES



Photographed for LIFE
by PAUL SCHUTZER



TO ITS LONELY JOB

POLARIS SUB PROWL THE SEA

by ROBERT BRIGHAM

The submarine's horn gave a raucous blast. The cry "Battle stations, missile!" rasped through the ship's P.A. system. Men, rushing, took up their places in tiny, crowded compartments.

Amidships in the control center Commander John L. From Jr., the submarine's captain, wedged himself between the periscope and a radio panel and looked over the shoulder of the diving officer. In front of From sat two planesmen steering the ship with their airplane-type "joy sticks," bringing the ship to a "stable table," steady enough to launch the 16 nuclear-warhead missiles the sub carries.

In a nearby compartment the navigator, Lieut. Commander Bill Coale, watched, tense, as six computers, 10 electronic technicians—and some special hardware which nobody will discuss—continuously calculated the ship's exact position. Coale's job was to know precisely where the sub was when the rockets were launched. If they started right, they would come down right 1,200 miles away.

In the launch control center one officer and half a dozen intense men stood at a panel in "Sherwood Forest," the amidships missile compartment which is dominated by 16 white, tree-trunklike missile silos. The men watched hundreds of red, green and amber lights on the panel, and flicked hundreds of switches, making sure that the rockets would thrust up from the ship when ordered to.

Far forward, in the missile control center, 27 computers and five sailors counted down the missiles themselves through the intricate steps which would bring them to life. They gave the missiles their targets and made them ready for their trip.

All the ship was working together in a quiet, orderly process which could, at its end, send the 16 missiles—one after the other and a minute apart—bursting through

their open hatches and hurtling through the surface to stand for a moment atop a column of compressed air, then torch off into the sky.

This was just a drill aboard the Polaris-firing nuclear submarine *George Washington*, and the rockets did not go up. Nor would they have gone without express command from the President of the United States. But it was the most serious kind of drill aboard the most serious kind of ship in the world today. Photographer Paul Schutzer and I were passengers on a shakedown cruise from its base in Holy Loch, Scotland.

Along with the eight other Polaris subs already on active duty, each also armed with 16 missiles, the *George Washington* carries a major share of American deterrent power. Polaris is the one American weapon that Khrushchev says he respects and fears. We are working on 32 more Polaris submarines and we have also offered Polaris to NATO nations. The Russians are now operating some 35 missile-firing submarines of their own, 12 of them nuclear-powered. But their subs can shoot only short-range missiles and only from the surface. Polaris missiles can hurtle 1,200 miles from a submerged submarine lurking in constantly changing locations known only to a few men in the world.

The *George Washington*, more than three years old, was the first Polaris ship. She was an awkward compromise of a vessel—started as a nuclear attack sub, halted in the middle of construction, cut in half, put back together around a new, spliced-in compartment big enough to hold the 16 birds and all their attendant hardware. Her 124 men and 12 officers man a ship of 6,000 tons, the same size as a World War II light cruiser that needed some 600 men to put to

CONTINUED

POLARIS CONTINUED

sea. A vast array of electronic equipment aboard the sub makes this manpower saving possible. But the crew we were working with was just half that belonging to the *George Washington*. The Navy assigns duplicate crews to each Polaris sub, a Gold Crew and a Blue Crew, which alternate in running the ship. For each crew this means three months in New London, Conn., resting and studying, alternating with a three-month duty tour from the Holy Loch base. The duty tour includes a 60-day submerged patrol.

We started from Holy Loch, water rushing over our blunt bow, our diving planes sticking out like vigilant ears from our fin-shaped sail. Out of sight of land, we prepared to submerge.

"Dive! Dive!" said the loud-speaker. There were two ear-numbing *ahh-oohh-guh* blasts on the ship's klaxon. Captain From took up the dialogue of command.

"Open the vents."

"Open the vents, aye."

"Take her down to test depth."

"Test depth, aye."

We were diving to the greatest depth at which the ship was designed to operate. We were going there to find out if the ship was fully ready to do its job.

Every man's eyes roved valves and fittings that passed through the hull, looking for weak points the enormous water pressure outside would seek and exploit.

Every hundred feet on the way down, the sub leveled for a moment while the men checked, then tilted slowly down to the next stop. The ship complained mightily with creaks and groans. Each additional hundred feet brought another 6,400 pounds of pressure against each square foot of the hull. The weight crushed the sub together, literally shrinking her.

Reports began to come in from the compartments: "We've got a small leak in the engine room, sir. Forty drops a minute."

"A leak here the size of a pencil lead, sir."

For what seemed an hour the *George Washington* hung motionless at its greatest depth. The exact figure is secret. Then, satisfied that every leak had been identified so it could be repaired in more hospitable pressures nearer the surface, Captain From turned from his gauges and ordered, "Bring her up to 300 feet. All engines ahead two thirds."

Now, from the forward torpedo room to the engine room 390 feet aft, life settled into the routine of patrol. In the galley—tiny enough

to set any proper housewife to complaining—the cooks were at work. They turn out meals for 136 men. Each major meal calls for three sittings in the tiny mess compartment and two sittings in the officers' wardroom. Now they were slapping sandwiches together for the 3:30 p.m. in-between meal, called the "soupdown." Today the soupdown menu was hot soup, cheese, peanut butter, coffee. Later in the patrol, when all the food would begin to look the same, the chief of the galley would dig into his special horde for smoked oysters and anchovy paste.

Forward in the torpedo room, just about the only location on the three-decked, electronics-packed *George Washington* that still looks like the subs of any previous war, the men started the long process of lashing their bunks up out of the way. Then they got ready to roll half-ton torpedoes out from their nests for a practice shoot against a British ship the next morning.

Far down aft in the engine room, steam, produced by the nuclear reactor in the adjoining, heavily shielded compartment, coursed through turbines to generate the power that made the sub swim and live. There a sailor perched precariously in the overhead piping, a can of red paint in one hand, a brush in the other. He paused for a moment to study the esthetics of what he was doing, then with a flourish he finished touching up a pair of scarlet signatures on the turbines. One said "George." Its partner across the narrow way was named "Martha."

In a tiny cabin off the ship's control center a sonar operator switched on his tape recorder and took down the throb of a ship passing above the *George Washington*, far away on the surface. He played the tape back, cutting its speed in half and counting like a bandleader as the throb of propellers came clear. "Merchantman," he said. "Empty too. Listen to her creak."

Down in the crew's berthing compartment the vessel's doctor stopped to read the face of a radiation instrument. A nuclear-powered submarine is time and again checked for radiation, and every man aboard wears two different meters to measure his personal exposure. All are monitored by the doctor. At the beginning of each patrol the doctor goes through the crew collecting all watches that glow in the dark, for the radiation from those watches would cause his meters to read past their minimum sensitivity in just a few days.

Now, with the ship well under way, time starts a subtle change. Days begin to lose their sense of 24 hours divided between light and darkness. They revolve instead around the ship's watches or tours

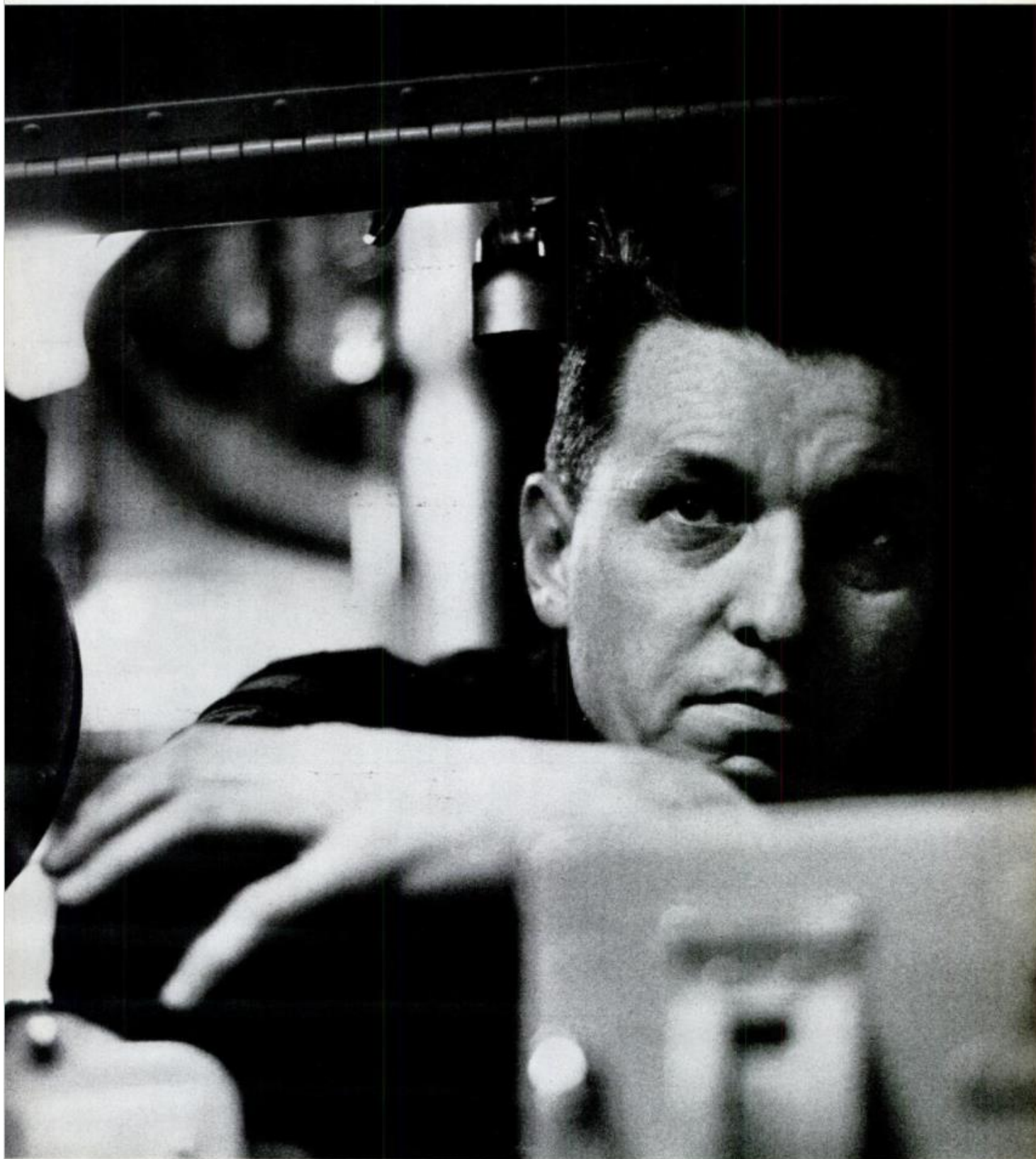
SAILORS STEER WITH



CONTROL CENTER. Heart of *George Washington*—equivalent to the bridge of a surface warship—is a complex, computer-crammed area from which sailors steer the ship. With a pair of "joy sticks," like the one at top, they angle her up and down and turn her.

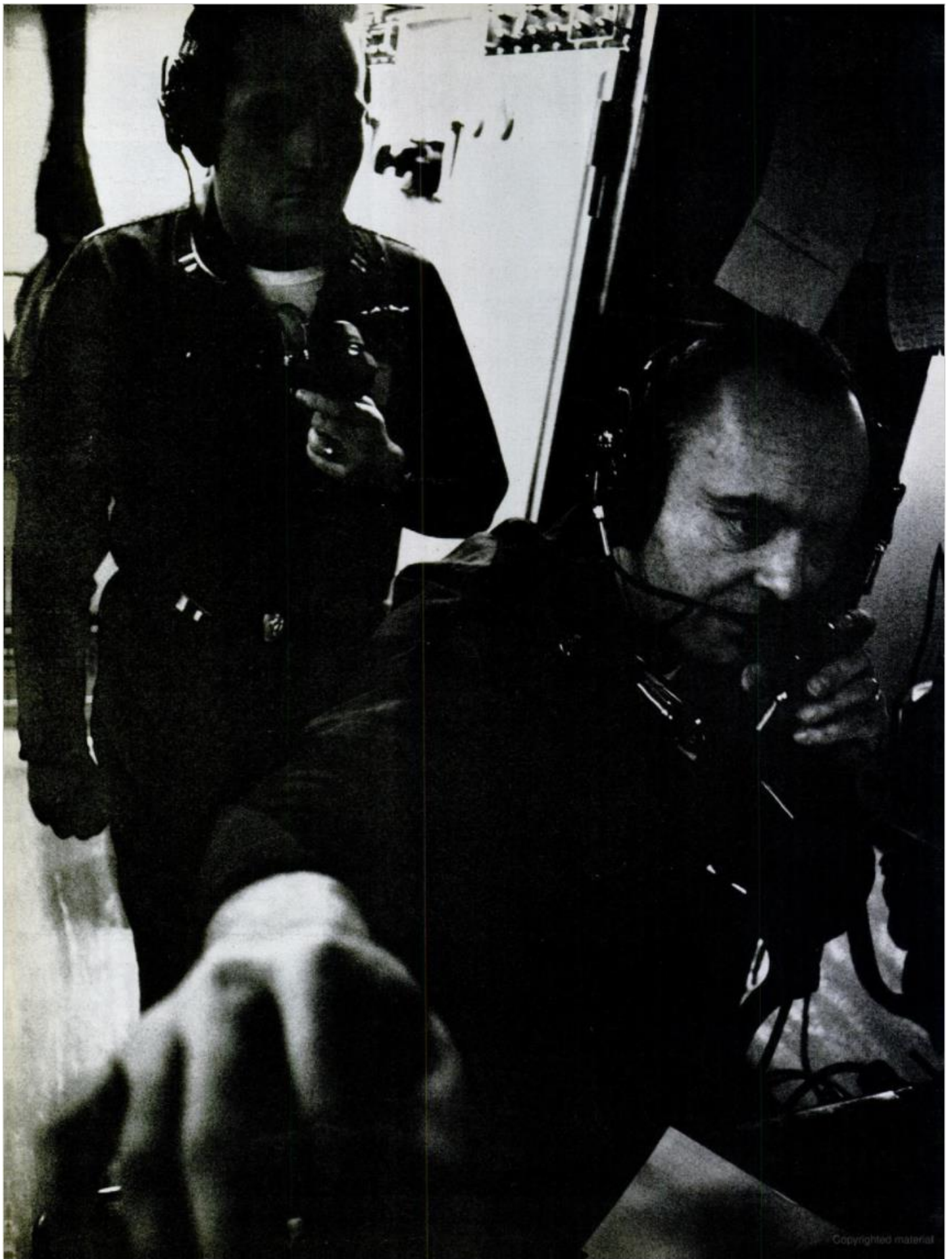
At the vast illuminated panel below, other sailors control and monitor her speed and depth. At right, inside the cramped control center, stands her captain, Commander John L. From Jr., 42, who gives the orders and upon whom so much responsibility rests.

JOY STICKS UNDER A TENSE SKIPPER'S EYES



25

Copyrighted material



Copyrighted material

POLARIS CONTINUED

of duty—four hours on and eight hours off, a routine broken only for the repeated drills that call the full crew to battle stations.

But there is a diurnal cycle to the *George Washington's* life. On every Navy surface ship, after the sun has set, the bridge and other action stations switch to a dull red illumination so that men who must peer outward are not blinded by light within. On the *George Washington* nobody needs to look out. But each night at dusk the ship is "rigged for red." The weird red glow bathes all the dials and gauges, makes masks of men's faces and substitutes for landmen's twilight. Its only real job is to indicate to the crew that another day is changing, that the world is getting on.

As days turn to artificial night, men come off duty to find their own corners amid the clutter—to pull a stack of letters from a plastic shirt bag, or add a page to their own letters that will eventually be mailed, all in one clump, at the end of the patrol.

Reading and writing take up a

few of the 16 hours men spend off duty; sleep takes up eight hours more. Most of the remaining time goes to studying their ship and their trade—scratching notes in mess hall lectures, crawling around things and under them, tracing every pipe and line and wire in the ship. They will be tested on what they learn to gain promotion and to qualify as full-fledged dolphin-insignia-wearing submariners.

The *George Washington's* crew, all volunteers, are already technically skilled to start with, and this background means they also devote some of their limited leisure to high-level technical entertainment. On her last patrol, for example, one crewman staggered aboard with a gift canister of hundreds of candy balls, identical on the outside but concealing varied soft centers: grape jelly, licorice, orange and what soon became the favorite, peanut butter. The men in the missile launch control center, accustomed to finding bugs in fire control circuits, soon solved the problem of locating the balls with peanut butter centers without demolishing the candy. They moistened both ends of a candy,

touched the two leads of a resistance meter to it and got a specific reading which inexorably separated peanut butter from the rest.

As a further assault on monotony a different movie is shown nearly every night of the patrol in the tiny mess hall that serves between mealtimes as the card room, writing room, lounge, chapel, study, theater and classroom. On movie nights the ship's cooks, who are working through the night anyway, make cauldrons full of popcorn to be passed through the audience while the film projectionist changes reels.

On a ship where an extra pair of shoes can cause a stowage crisis, room is also found each patrol for a guitar and a banjo. On the few nonmovie nights these are brought out for an all-hands sing-along. By tradition on the *George Washington* these nights always end with great wagon-wheel-sized pizzas, served by the cooks wearing hats especially equipped with long *George Washington*-style pig-tails of rope.

The pace the *George Washington's* men set themselves—the extra hours on duty, the notebooks full of neatly labeled drawings, even the full-throated participation in a sing-along—is their defense against monotony and the sudden insomnia that waits in the deep red shadows. Their isolation, not from their world in general but from their families, is the greatest single burden for the men of the *Polaris* subs. The *George Washington* receives messages over low frequency radio all through its submerged patrol but, because the ship's strength lies in concealment, it may send none. It might just as well shoot off flares to announce its position as to radiate any kind of electronic beam. If anything happens to a sailor's family, the Navy back in New London will keep up a stream of messages to give the man a sense of being involved, of knowing what is going on. But his inability to answer raises haunting fears. Four men became fathers on *Gold Crew's* last patrol and all found the waiting rough.

CONTINUED

'BATTLE STATIONS, MISSILE'—SHOOT STARTS



COUNTDOWN. Taut at their battle stations, missilemen count down a practice launch. At left, weapons officer Lieut. John R. Delaney stands,

vigilant, as missileman Robert Stewart makes crucial adjustments on the missile control panel. Above, at the other end of the same panel, another

missileman, Teddy Vaughn, tests rows of indicator lights which show whether *George Washington's* 16 *Polaris* rockets are all ready to shoot.



SPIEL AND SPUDS. Carrying out a Navy tradition, surface or submerged, sailors swap yarns in submarine's tiny mess compartment while another

(background) peels potatoes. Peelings, like all garbage, are ejected in weighted bags so they will sink and not tip off vessel's location underwater.



SUBMERGED SHOWER. Towel-wrapped sailor walks from showers past launching tubes in "Sherwood Forest." He sleeps between two of the tubes.



LEARNING THE PIPES. Another sailor, off duty, perches on a stool in the Forest, trying to draw from memory the myriad pipes running through it.



CATHODE RAY CONCERT. Off watch, two specialists run tapes of singer Julie London's voice through oscilloscope in workshop producing lines

on screen. Electronics technicians tape various singers, compare patterns their voices make, claim husky-voiced Miss London's are the best looking.

A MERRY BAND



LIVES AND SINGS IN SHERWOOD FOREST



POLARIS CONTINUED

Could the loneliness of this separate, remote world drive a man mad and send him, demented, to fire off the ship's rockets? Novelists have speculated that it might. But the facts shout against it. There is no single button on a Polaris sub—nor even a combination of five or six buttons. There are intricate systems built only to work together. No system works until every one of the thousands of bits in every other system is “go.” And many of the systems don’t even start to warm up until external information is fed into them—information available to the ship only when the President of the United States orders it to shoot. Captain From, who knows more about every piece of equipment in the ship than any other man, cannot even come close to firing a missile by himself. He, his executive officer and other key members of the crew must go through an elaborate series of cross-checks before they can shoot.

What will it be like if the order comes? Captain From, who has commanded the *George Washington's* Gold Crew for two years, got a good insight during an alert on his last cruise. “Normally,” he says, “when I call an alert, the word is passed right with it, ‘This is a test.’ This time we went onto an alert ordered by headquarters. None of the men knew for a good five minutes that this wasn’t the real thing.

“I was at the base of the control room ladder as the men came by to their stations. There was a tenseness there. They were taut and grim—thinking, yes, but not talking. That alert went more smoothly, swifter than any practice I had ever seen.”

Fire control technician Teddy Vaughn, who sits on the missile control panel, says, “We don’t talk much about launching. Nobody does. We know the possibility exists and we accept it. We know that if we ever got that word, it was because somebody else had already started something. And if he had, we’d be pretty sure that before we ever launched, we’d have no port to return to—and no families left waiting.”

FOREST DUET. Chief Jimmy Rebm on banjo and engineman Jack Evans on guitar sing the ship’s song amidst tubes housing missiles, nicknamed “birds.” The song’s chorus: “Fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly . . .”

CONTINUED 29

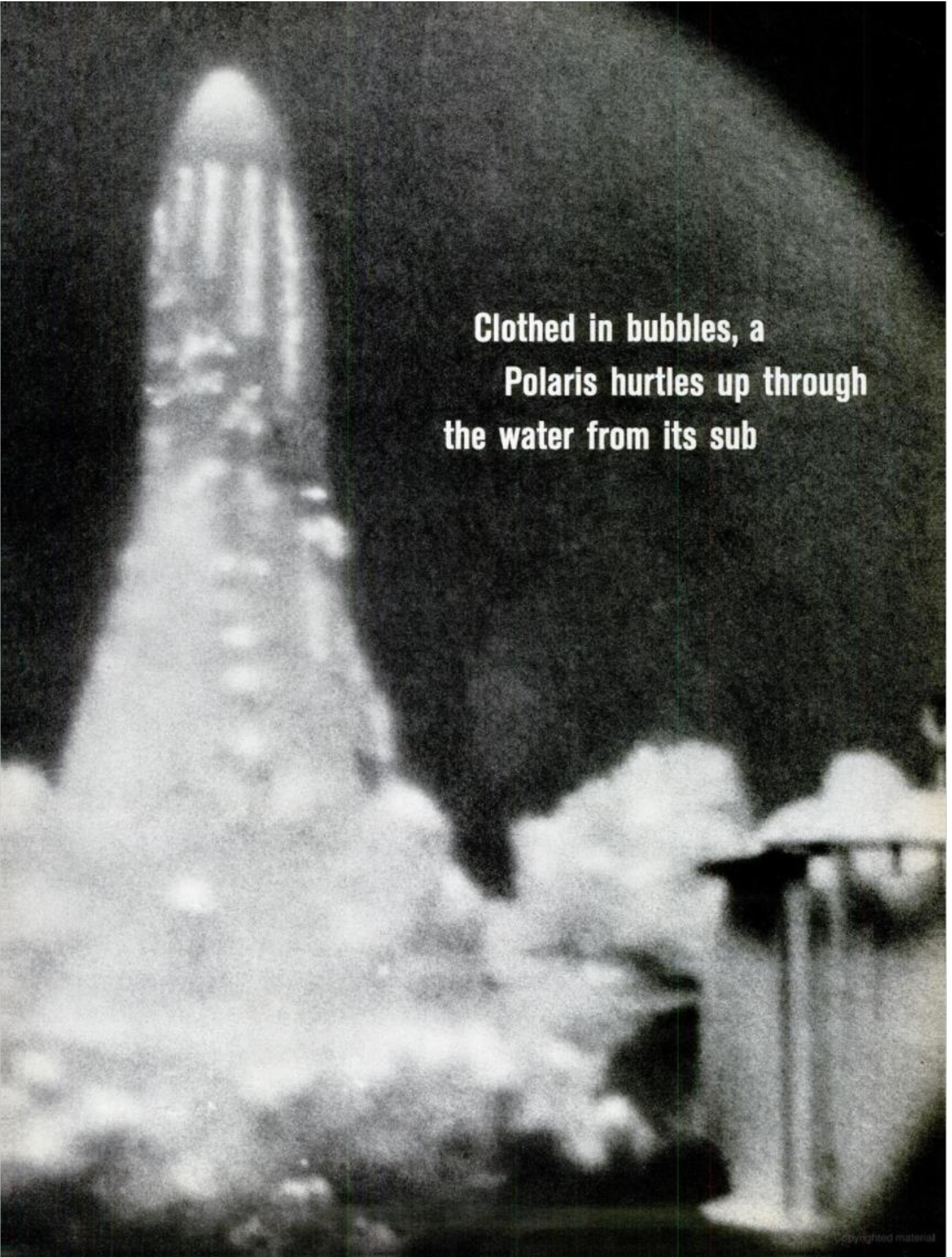
Copyrighted material

SURFACE STROLL. Skipper From walks alone on sunlit narrow deck outside ship's towering sail. On its 60-day combat patrols the ship operates entirely submerged, runs on surface only when leaving port or returning.

UNDERWATER FIRING. The photograph at right shows Polaris missile blasting toward the surface. Pushed by compressed air, it is leaving vessel in practice shoot that each ship makes before going on first patrol.



Copyrighted material



**Clothed in bubbles, a
Polaris hurtles up through
the water from its sub**

copyrighted material



Requin Base Supporters

The task of perpetuating the memory of our lost shipmates is forever and cannot be done alone. This task takes time, money, dedication and patriotism from all walks of life both veteran and civilian. USS Requin Base would like to recognize all those that help us fulfill the task of remembering and honoring those we have lost to secure the freedoms we enjoy.



Posts

80 249 290

368 481 641

902



Posts

191 311

7505

8168 9199

Z Florist Pittsburgh

Call to order! 412-486-1970

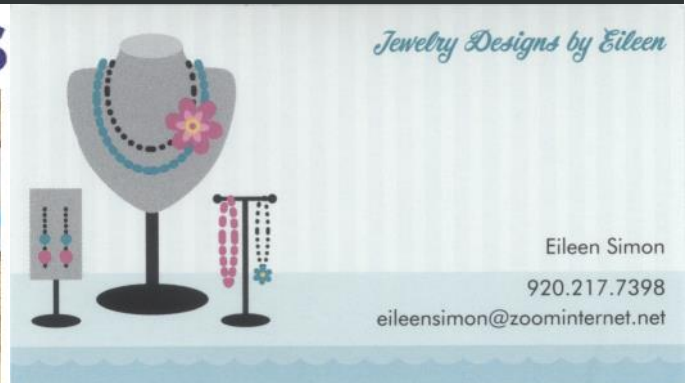


Beverly Geyer
Custom Greetings



412-821-2600
412-486-6060

Cavaliere Brothers



(412) 487-7199