

BONEFISH BASE
26 MAR 2022
General Bonefish Meeting
"All Rise"

Sunrise: 0644hrs

Sunset: 1905hrs

Plan of the Day (Minutes)
(In Port)
"Zacatecas Café"

Sailing List: (Per Sign-in Sheet) Gene Adams, Daryl E. Brock, Frank Campbell, William Douglas, William Hawkins, Rita Hawkins, Izar Martinez, Everett Noyes, Marty Noyes, Chuck Orman, Dan Rowland, Fred Tredy, Karl Williamson

1205hrs: Meeting called to order:

- **"Pledge of Allegiance"**

- **Our Creed**

Our organization's purpose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while service 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 the 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 lifestyles we enjoy today.

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The Prayer Said: All present stood with their heads down. Amen

- **Tolling of the United States Submarines lost in the Month of March:**

United States Submarines lost in the month of March:

F-4 (USS SKATE (SS23)) Commissioned 21 AUG 1909 as the USS SKATE (SS23). The navy renamed SKATE as F-4 on 17 NOV 1911. She foundered due to seepage of sea water into the battery, and was lost on 25 MAR 1915 near Pearl Harbor with all hands.

Her loss was the first United States commissioned submarine lost at sea. She was raised off the ocean floor on 29 AUG 1915 from 306 feet. The boat was turned to starboard almost upside down. Her remains were buried as a fill in a trench off the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

22 souls lost.

H-1 (USS SEAWOLF (SS28)) This boat was the first 'Holland' class submarines built. She was laid down on 22MAR1911 as the USS SEAWOLF (SS28). On 17NOV1911 she was renamed 'H-1' She was launched on 06MAY1913. The ship ran aground on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island on 12MAR1920. Four men, including the captain, lost their lives trying to reach shore. On 24MAR1920 she was pulled off the rocks but sank in only fifty feet of water forty-five minutes later.

4 souls lost.

USS GRAMPUS (SS207) The GRAMPUS was commissioned on 23 MAY 1940 and served in the Pacific Theater of World War II against the Japanese. She had six war patrols and was lost on the last one. She was only credited with one enemy ship she was in several campaigns against the Japanese navy. One of her primary duties was to drop off coast watchers on the islands around New Britain. It is still a mystery as to when and how she was lost. The Japanese claim that one of their sea plane pilots claim that a submarine was bombed and sank on 18 FEB 1943. They claim their bomb exploded right on the bridge of the submarine and that she sank. The sister ship to GRAMPUS, the GRAYBACK report seeing her on 04 MAR 1943 in her patrol area. With this and other factors it is believed she was lost by being depth charged by two Japanese destroyers on 05 MAR 1943 with no survivors.

71 souls lost.

USS KETE (SS369) The KETE was commissioned a little more than the end of World War II. She was utilized in the Pacific primarily as a weather picket ship and as an air flier rescue ship. She was accredited with three medium sized merchant ships sunk. Her loss is shrouded in mystery as so many submarines are. Though highly unlikely due to her positioning she could have hit a mine. It is more likely that KETE encountered one, two, or maybe all three Japanese submarines and been sunk. The Japanese after the war revealed that all three of the submarines were sunk by American destroyers before surfacing with their battle reports

87 souls lost.

USS PERCH (SS176) PERCH was commissioned 11 NOV 1936 out of Groton, Connecticut. Initially she was used in the Atlantic. She transferred to the Pacific fleet prior to the beginning of World War II. She was part of and witnessed the destruction and evacuation of Cavite shipyard. Her test depth of only 250 feet and only 10 hours at 5 knots handcuffed Perch. On 03 MAY 1942 she had been driven down by two enemy destroyers. After escaping the area and surfacing Perch ran into three Japanese cruisers and three destroyers that began firing on her. The boat was hit and her bridge was even hit. With holes in the boat the commander ordered her abandoned and scuttled. The entire crew was captured and spent the remainder of the war in a Japanese POW camp.

Five of those captured died of disease and starvation. The remainder was released on VJ Day.

5 souls lost

USS TRIGGER (SS237) The TRIGGER was launched on 22 OCT 1941 from Mare Island Naval Shipyard. She had twelve war patrols in the Pacific. TRIGGER was tied with the SEAWOLF and the RASHER for confirmed kills in both number of ships and tonnage taken down. She received eleven 'Battle Stars' and three 'Presidential Unit Citations'. Two Japanese warships, the CD33 and the CD59 depth charges and bombing by Japanese aircraft.

89 souls lost.

USS TRITON (SS201) (Named for the Greek God, Triton, God, the messenger of the Sea) was launched 15 AUG 40 from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. She had six war patrols in the Pacific and became the first United States submarine to sink an enemy vessel with only her deck gun. She sank 16 Japanese ships for 64,600 tons Japanese and evaded their warships and planes many times. Her loss, as with many other submarines is still a mystery. It was rumored that an Australian plane found her and bombed her. That was later discounted and it was determined that her loss was due to enemy action.

74 souls lost.

USS TULLIBEE (SS284) TULLIBEE was launched on 11 NOV 1942 from Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The TULLIBEE is credited with three Japanese ships sank for 15,500 tons and three damaged for another 22,000 additional tons. While on her fourth war patrol on 26 MAR 1944 TULLIBEE was on an attack on three Japanese merchant ships and a destroyer. This was in stormy seas and she was using torpedoes while on the surface. She fired two torpedoes. One missed her target and the second was a circular run familiar that sank TULLIBEE. The only survivor was Gunner's Mate Clifford W. Kuykendall that was on the bridge at the time of the loss. He heard voices around him for the following ten minutes or so then they stopped. The following day he was picked up by the Japanese destroyer Wakatake. He was held as a POW until V-J Day.

80 souls lost.

- **Binnacle List:** Warren Branges, Joe Canchola, Howard Hoyt, and Jan Noyes.
- **Old Business**
Rocky Rockers advised Gene Adams that he has been reimbursed the money he advanced to pay Bonfish Base insurance payment by USSVI. This means the payment previously approved to pay Rocky is rescinded.
- **New Business**
The Regional Round-up in Reno, Nevada next month was discussed and members wishing to attend were urged to make reservations and RSVP.

The picnic being hosted by the Trieste Base will be held on 16 APR 2022 in Lake Elsinore. Gene Adams will advise all members by email. Please make your RSVP as soon as possible.

The National Convention for USSVI will be held in Buffalo, New York in August this year. More information on the conference will be forwarded to all that want to attend.

The Huntington Beach 4th of July 2022 Parade will be held and Bonefish Base will be part of the parade with our float. We will have 'Bill Dillon' of the 'Submarine Magazine' as a guest on the 'Bonefish' float we will be with.

- **Guest Speaker George Riolo 'What it's like to be a Steward in the Navy in Submarines'** George explained to the 'crew' the basic history of the Steward rating in the navy. He pointed out the differences between the past navy and the navy of today and all the times in between. He indicated that it was a special job that was normally held by minorities. Those minorities were normally Filipinos. Their basic job was to take care of the needs of the wardroom. They would make sure that the officers had clean and pressed uniforms and shinned shoes. They would also take care of meals for the officers eaten in the wardroom. The Stewards were normally classed up with the ships cooks as to standing watches. Their job was to take care of the wardroom and officers needs. George advised the meeting that the Steward rating was a proud rating that frequently saw fathers being followed by sons being Stewards. The rating ended in the navy in the 90's.
- **1316 Adjourn**
- **First Call to the Noon Meal**

ADJOURN

Bill Hawkins, Secretary