



Veterans Day
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USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025

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REUNION CONTROL CENTER

2025 Stimson Reunion

October 1 - 5, 2025—Groton CT
From the Reunion Committee -
John & Gretchen Glaub

Reunion 13 is in the books! We hope everyone had a great time! We had 94 people attend! We would like to thank everyone for coming and especially thank everyone who donated raffle prizes, and door prizes, and all those that extended a helping hand during the reunion. We would be remiss by not thanking Karen Huckeba for the beautiful decorations for the hospitality suite and the banquet, and thanking Joyce Hladik for the beautiful quilt for the raffle. We would also like to thank Tom Krauser for all his AV and computer expertise.

Due to the government shutdown, we were unable to tour the USS Nautilus and the Nautilus Museum. We had a Plan B in place and people enjoyed going to the Mystic Village, Mystic Aquarium, and Mystic Seaport. Everyone enjoyed the day and the weather couldn't have been more beautiful for October.

On Friday, we attended BESS graduation where the class was named Henry L Stimson SSBN655.

There were 95 students who graduation. One of the biggest classes they have had. There were nine female graduates and several Australian graduates. Our own Ron Testa [ETN2 [LCDR RET] B/SY1/G 70-73, Association Life Member], was the main speaker for the graduation and gave an excellent speech. John Glaub [MM2(SS) B 71-74, Association Life Member, USSVI Life Member, Holland Club Groton Base, was the SUBVETS representative and read the Sailor's Remembrance and gave the Heritage Award to the deserving student.

On Saturday, we conducted our Tolling of the Bells ceremony, thanks to David Huckeba and the readers; we had our Association Business Meeting in the afternoon. Saturday evening was our banquet and our speaker was RADM Michael P. Holland RET. We met Mike through a mutual friend and he was more than happy to be our speaker. He did an excellent job relating his submarine experience to our shipmates' experiences.

We are looking forward to the 2027 Reunion #14 which will be held in Indianapolis, IN with Doug Cooper [TM2(SS) B 71-74] and Gary Owen [MT2/IC2(SS) G 70-75, Association Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Hoosier Base] being co-chairs. We will be able to sit back and enjoy!



**From the Association President -
Jerry Blevins [LT(SS) B 76-79,
USSVI Groton Base, Assoc Life
Member]:**

We had a very successful reunion in Norwich, and everyone that I spoke with expressed that they really enjoyed the event.

Many of our shipmates contributed towards the success of this reunion. Please forgive me if I leave out anyone – I assure you it is not intentional.

First, a big thank you to John and Gretchen Glaub for their hard work and the innumerable hours they dedicated to this event. All aspects of the reunion, from the hospitality suite and the offsite events to the banquet and guest speaker were exceptional.

Additional shipmates who made significant contributions towards this successful reunion included David & Karen Huckaba, Don & Donna Ort, David Hinkle, Gordon Long and Tom Krauser. Karen Huckaba created beautiful table center pieces and provided hand-made raffle items. Joyce Hladik donated two beautiful quilts that she handmade. Additionally, Gretchen created hand-crafted gifts for each of the 7 plank-owners present at the event. There were many other members who donated significant time to ensure everything ran smoothly.

I also want to thank Doug Cooper and Gary Owen for volunteering to be the Co-Chairs for our 2027 reunion in Indianapolis IN.

A sad note, Walter 'Gus' Kraus, a guest speaker at our 2021 reunion in Erlanger, Kentucky, died on 10 October, just a few weeks shy of his 105th birthday. He served on four boats, in the Pacific, during WWII. A biography of his extensive naval career from 1939 to 1969 is available at the following website:

<https://linknky.com/uncategorized/2021/05/21/at-100-walter-kraus-remembers/>



**From the Association Vice
President - Paul Clark [MM1(SS) B
73-78, USSVI/Holland Club
Denizens of the Deep Base, Assoc
Life Member]:**

By way of introduction, I am Paul Clark and I was elected Stimson Association Vice President at the Groton Reunion in early October. I was asked to say a bit about myself, so here it is.

I entered the Navy in January 1972 and attended boot camp in Orlando followed by Machinist Mate A-School in Great Lakes, Nuc School Class 7301 at Mare Island and Prototype at AIW in Idaho. Following my schools I reported onboard Stimson (Blue) where I served from December 1973 until November 1978 making 10 patrols and 11 refits, qualifying submarines December 20, 1974. I also served on John Adams (Gold) from February 1981 until November 1984 making an additional 7 patrols. My final sea tour was actually mostly in the shipyard on Finback from February 1988 to March 1990.

I had 3 shore tours during my career. The first was at Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington. TN where I made Chief in 1980. The second and probably most memorable was at the Naval Occupational Development and Analysis Center at the Anacostia Naval Annex of Bolling AFB outside Washington, DC. It was memorable because this is where I met and married my lovely wife Margaret who was in the DC area with the Traveling Nurse Corp working as an operating room nurse. We will be married 40 wonderful years in January 2026. My final shore tour was at SUBLANT where I served as Assistant Force QA Officer, then Force Machinist and for about 6 months for my second job, as Force Auxiliaryman following the unexpected retirement of the incumbent. The Admiral said "a Machinist Mate is a Machinist Mate, so the job is yours."

I retired in January 1992 as MMCM(SS) and

Submarines Lost During the Month of November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1 st War patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9 th War Patrol	Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs 21 survived the war

Five Boats and 376 Men Lost

I look forward to serving the Stimson Associates as Vice President and hope to see everyone in Indianapolis in 2027.



Give thanks to the Lord, call on
His name; make known among the
He has done. Psalm 105:1

Give the bad things to God. He has a way of making all things good.

Many of you still haven't asked for a copy of your check-in card. If you were on the Gold Crew during the time when Bob Weeks was the CO complete a check-in card for him. If interested in receiving your card please contact the Secretary 655webmaster@ssbn655.org.

[illegible]

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in front of large, illuminated letters that spell out "25th ANNUAL". The man is wearing a dark suit with a bow tie and a military-style jacket with epaulettes. The woman is wearing a light-colored cardigan over a dark dress. The background is decorated with large clusters of gold and dark blue balloons.



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Message to 2025 Reunion Attendees: Jim Kinney [LT (CAPT Ret), G 67-69 WEPS, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Tarheel Base], was the Reunion Chairman for the 2009 Kings Bay. He sent this message to those attending the 2025 Reunion.

BINNACLE LIST UPDATES: If you know of a shipmate who should be on the binnacle list please let me know. I will contact the shipmate for permission to add them to this list. I only add those who have given permission.

I am using the binnacle list as an ongoing story for each person on it. This way you will be able to understand the update better than if you do not remember what their health issues were.

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Sandy Hastie [CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol]

Cards to: 75 Lambeth Dr., Asheville NC 28803-3425

9.26.25: Email from Sandy & Donna:

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been a while since we sent an update on our health. It is not for lack of caring but rather for going through an extended period of waiting for doctor results so we could plan a course of action. The below information provides a status of where we are in a mixture of competing challenges.

Since our July update, the addition of chemo to Sandy's Keytruda immunotherapy was paused to determine whether the chemo or his heart issues were causing his increased dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and retention of fluid in the lymph system (lymphedema). Either the heart or the chemo or both could be causing these symptoms. The lymph system fluid retention causes significant fluid retention in his legs, making walking difficult. After thorough testing, the lymphedema was determined to be mainly caused by severe stenosis in the aortic heart valve.

Combine this with a fall in our home, resulting in a fractured collarbone that eliminates use of his right arm for his walking cane to offset the limp he received after an operation to remove cancer in his left hip. All these challenges caused the cancellation of our attendance at the 65th reunion at the US Naval Academy. This was the last big class reunion for his class, and he planned for so long to attend. We are still waiting for a decision on how to treat the aorta valve stenosis. A long introduction; now we will close with an update.

Donna's back continues to give her a lot of pain. We presently see no options to get rid of the pain; however, we continue to search.

With Sandy, we are balancing his health items. The first big question is his heart. The calcification

has worsened recently and is causing the symptoms of dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention, especially in the legs.

His cancer is also a worry because the cancer nodules in his hip and shoulder have started to grow again. He has been on a chemo drug in addition to Keytruda. The chemo was also causing dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention. For this reason, his oncologist at Duke and his local oncologist recommended stopping the chemo to see how it affected these adverse effects. After stopping the chemo for three infusions (nine weeks), the dizziness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid retention all lessened; however, the drawback is the hip and shoulder cancer continued to slowly grow. His heart specialist, who would install a replacement artificial valve inside the current aorta valve, is concerned about the cancer, which might make Sandy a non-candidate for this procedure. The procedure is a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TVAR). We are trying to get him to agree to do the procedure while Sandy is feeling better and before the heart gets any worse. That decision is still up in the air. We will start by having a heart catheterization on October 3, 2025. However, despite the above, we continue the fight for both of us. We will keep you informed if and when we get scheduled for the heart procedure and in three months when we get another PET CT scan.

We appreciate your prayers and support and wish we had better news. We know we have always been in God's hands. We are thankful we have a God that listens to prayers!

Warmly, Donna & Sandy

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Bruce Stefanik [MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Asheville Base]:

Cards to: 50 Fairway View Dr., Etowah NC 28729

3.17.25: Email from Bruce: I am doing well. I am holding steady with no progression and do not see my ALS doctor again until October after the Reunion.

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George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]

Cards to: 3025 Winterhaven Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

9.22.25: Email from George: Ann's back is

worse and there's nothing the doctors can do. Shots don't work and surgery is not an option in her case. Me - not much more the docs can do for me either. I am increasing my cayenne intake and that seems to help.

5.12.25: Email from George: The ravages of aging are taking their toll. In the past three months, my hands have been increasing in pain so that it is constant, actually, fingers to shoulders. Part of the peripheral neuropathy and arthritis I assume. Sometimes my skin feels like it's on fire. Even my exercise program is in shambles. I will see the VA doc next month. My heart is doing better but I do occasionally have a bad day when my heart is racing - and I'm not LOL

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John Cole [LT B WEPS 78-80, USSVI Member-at-Large, CDR Ret.]

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

NO RECENT UPDATES

7.31.24: Email from John: We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and happy. Susan and I are doing well as we fight the continuing battle against Parkinson's, Left Shoulder Surgery and now my C1-C6 surgery as well. It just seems like all of the parts are wearing out as time seems to fly by faster and faster. The things I miss the most are hunting, hiking, gardening and just being in the mountains. I must be content with the flowers and a few pots of garden plants on our patio. Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm

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Elam Lee Mauk [EMCM(SS) B 65-69 COB 66-68 Plank, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club USS Sailfish Base]

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

NO RECENT UPDATES

2.20.2024: Email from Gretchen Glaub: John has joined the USS Sailfish Base and received the following email from the Base Commander. Elam is a member of the USS Sailfish Base:

- I called his home and spoke with his wife. He is in the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte with dementia. I have added him to our binnacle list. Bill Heck, USS Sailfish Base Commander*

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Ron 'RG' Hyson [STS1(SS) B 70-75 (STSCM Ret), Assoc. Life Member, USSVI/Holland Club Hampton Roads Base]

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

No recent updates

3.26.2024: Email from Jean: The results of Ron's evaluation on January 2024, compared to last year, scored significantly lower on a test of global cognition. His doctor reported that Ron has transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia.

Thank you for all the prayers, caring thoughts, cards, letters, pictures, and memories Ron has received. They really brighten his day.

Jean/Ron

DID YOU KNOW??

+++++

3-second tech genius: Buying a secondhand phone? Dial ***#06#** to see its IMEI number. Then enter it on [Stolen Phone Checker](#) to find out if it's been reported stolen or blocked by a carrier.

Sign out of Google everywhere: If you've used someone else's computer, make sure to fully log out. Go to Google and tap your profile icon in the top right. Choose Show more accounts > Sign out of all accounts > Continue. Then go back, tap Sign in > Remove an account and delete yours from the list.

3-second tech genius: In Microsoft Word, you don't need to dig through menus to find tools. Click the search bar at the top and type what you need, like "table." Works in Excel, too.

Cast your PC to a smart TV: On Windows 11, you can connect your desktop to your TV wirelessly if both are on the same network. Press Windows key + K to open the Cast menu, select your TV and choose how to display it.

Mirror Android to TV: Sharing your phone screen on a smart TV is easy as long as both are on the same Wi-Fi. On your phone, go to Settings > Connected devices > Smart View, then select your TV name > Full screen > Start now.

Fix a frozen computer screen: If your PC freezes, reset the graphics driver by pressing Windows key + Ctrl + Shift + B. You'll hear a beep, the screen will go black briefly, and the driver will reload. Then press Ctrl + Alt + Delete, open Task Manager and End any unresponsive apps. If all else fails, press the Power button to Restart.

Create a Gmail group email: Tired of adding the same people one by one? Make a contact group instead. In Gmail, click Google apps (top right) > Contacts. Select your people, tap Manage labels (top right) > Create label and name your group. Back in Gmail, compose a message, type the group name in "To," and everyone's added automatically. Magic.

Take screenshots on Windows: The Snipping Tool makes grabbing part of your screen easy. Press Windows key + Shift + S to open it. Make sure the camera icon is selected, then pick a snip style like rectangle, freeform or full screen. Click and drag to capture, and your screenshot will pop up in the bottom right or in your Screenshots folder.

GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH

655 Association Website

www.ssb655.org

Submitted by John Lookabill, Charleston Base Shipmate

The Secret Submarine with Tiny Little Ski Legs

Nearly 400 feet beneath the freezing Sea of Okhotsk in the far east Soviet territorial waters, two divers clung to their lives through the umbilical cords that pumped warm water into their diving suits. As the men scoured the ocean floor, they kept looking for a 5-inch-diameter cable near their submarine's underwater skis. However, not even they knew precisely what they were doing or why, as their mission was so shrouded in secrecy that the sailors were told they were testing ocean engineering equipment. Little did they know that the submarine was conducting a series of spy missions to tap into Soviet communication cables between military bases, and was right on its way to becoming the most decorated submarine in United States Navy history...

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/the->

[secret-submarine-with-tiny-little-ski-legs/vi-AA1KXH0g?](https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/the-secret-submarine-with-tiny-little-ski-legs/vi-AA1KXH0g?ocid=winp2fptaskbarhover&cvid=d1f0edbc032141edeb2545969c93737a&ei=42)

[ocid=winp2fptaskbarhover&cvid=d1f0edbc032141edeb2545969c93737a&ei=42](https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/the-secret-submarine-with-tiny-little-ski-legs/vi-AA1KXH0g?ocid=winp2fptaskbarhover&cvid=d1f0edbc032141edeb2545969c93737a&ei=42)

=====

Submitted by Trin Rios [LCDR B NAV 76-78, USSVI/Holland Club Tri-State Base]

This is Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance lesson to school children. Excellent and worth the listen.

[https://youtube.com/watch?](https://youtube.com/watch?v=2HGHdFmu5GU&si=OnQU_yWigTQJ94p)

[v=2HGHdFmu5GU&si= OnQU_yWigTQJ94p](https://youtube.com/watch?v=2HGHdFmu5GU&si=OnQU_yWigTQJ94p)

May GOD Bless America!!!

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Submitted by George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]

Can US Nuclear Deterrence Be Upended by Potential Submarine Vulnerabilities?

Sandboxx writes that artificial intelligence (AI) is at the center of a technological revolution in anti-submarine warfare, powered by advances in sensors plus the technology and ubiquity of uncrewed surface vessels (USVs); these advances could upend nuclear deterrence as we know it.

The article describes technological advances in which sensors are no longer limited to being mostly acoustic. Advances would allow tracking the effects of a submarine moving through the water (e.g., subtle ripples, temperature gradients, magnetic field disturbances, vibrations in undersea cables). In addition, networked and AI-empowered USVs are multiplying. Over all of this, AI would add analytical speed, predictive power, and the ability to synthesize huge quantities and varied streams of data at speeds that human brains cannot replicate.

READ ARTICLE HERE

SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates

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Submitted by Tom Clark [FTCM(SS) G COB 76-77, USSVI/Holland Club Charleston Base]

Thought this was interesting . . .

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

- * We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
- * We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
- * We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

- * We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
- * We found new friends and new family.
- * We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed
- * We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
- * We didn't get enough sleep.
- * We smoked and drank too much.
- * We picked up both good and bad habits.
- * We worked hard and played harder.
- * We didn't earn a great wage.
- * We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
- * We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
- * We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
- * We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
- * Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
- * Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
- * We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
- * We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
- * We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
- * We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
- * We have celebrated and mourned.
- * We lost a few along the way.
- * When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
- * We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
- * We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
- * We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
- * We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

- * Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
- * It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

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*Submitted by Trin Rios [LCDR B NAV 76-78, USSVI/
Holland Club Tri-State Base]*

GRAMMAR

Everyone can use a little "grammar" update now and then, so here's yours for today...

Is it "complete", "finished", or "completely finished"? No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words - "Complete" or "Finished".

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin , a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.'

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED.

And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25 year old Scotch!

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Submitted by a Charleston Base Shipmate

We Are The Bridge

I'm in my 70's and I've come to realize something about my generation: we are the bridge.

We were born in one world... and grew up in another.

A world where summers meant open windows, the hum of a box fan, and the smell of fresh-cut grass.

Where neighbors waved from their porches, and if your bike chain broke, you didn't Google it — you knocked

on a door and someone came out with a wrench.

We lived in a world built on patience.

We waited for letters to arrive.

We waited for the library to open.

We waited for our favorite song to play again on the radio — and when it finally did, it felt like magic.

Then, almost overnight, everything changed.

Phones shrank. Music became invisible.

News arrived before the coffee finished brewing.

We learned to type, to swipe, to tap.

We learned to talk to machines — and to have them talk back.

We've seen milk delivered to the door in glass bottles...and we've scanned groceries without speaking to a single cashier.

We've dropped coins into payphones...and we've made video calls to loved ones across oceans.

We've known the deep quiet of a world without notifications —and the noise of one that never stops buzzing.

And sometimes, the younger ones look at us like we're behind.

But what they don't see is this:

We know both worlds.

We can plant tomatoes and write an email.

We can tell a story without Google — and then fact-check it with Google.

We know the weight of a handwritten letter and the reach of a message sent in seconds.

We've lived long enough to understand that you can change without losing yourself.

That you can honor where you came from while still learning where the world is headed.

We've buried friends and welcomed grandchildren.

We've seen diseases disappear and new ones arrive.

We've unfolded paper maps — and followed glowing blue lines on GPS.

We've sent postcards with stamps — and emojis with a single tap.

And maybe that's our greatest gift: the memory of a slower, gentler time, and the courage to adapt to a world that never sits still.

We can teach the young that not everything needs to happen instantly.

And we can remind our peers that it's never too late to try something new.

Because that's what we are — the bridge between what was and what will be.

And as long as we keep standing strong,

the world will always have something solid to cross on its way forward.

Because every generation builds the road a little further — and ours? Ours remembers both the dirt path and the highway.

Author Unknown

The Health Corner

By: George Stevens [MT2(SS) G 68-71]

(this article is written from the author's research and point of view)

Pain Mitigation

Consider this a continuation of my last article. I like to keep my articles short so I didn't previously cover a lot of things you can do to lessen pain.

The more basic non-medicine ones are:

Heat and Massage – When both are used properly, they can increase blood flow and bring oxygen to the affected area and help muscles, tendons and joints relax. Massage can also help relieve stress and can interfere with nerve pathways sending pain signals. It just feels good too. There is light massage, firm and deep tissue. Each has its own benefits and application. Find someone with experience that will look into the type of pain you have for the best results.

Acupuncture directly affects the transmission of pain signals and has been gaining a bit of popularity. Not every acupuncturist has the best knowledge so you need to find the best one for good results. Someone who will get a history of your life experience and discuss options with you including other options probably has a pretty good success rate.

Acupressure is much like acupuncture but it doesn't use needles. The basic principle is that irritated nerves can cause surrounding tissue to contract which restricts blood flow to the nerve which locks it into a pain loop. Applying pressure to the nerve and surrounding tissue will shock the area and allow blood flow to resume. Again, knowledge is key to success.

Chiropractic - If your bones are slightly out of place, especially in the spine, pressure can be brought to bear on nerves causing pain in areas you wouldn't normally associate with the spine being out of joint. Sciatic pain is probably the most common one. I've had amazing success and wasted time and money too.

Essential oils like frankincense, clove, ginger,

copaiba, lemongrass, chamomile, rosemary, peppermint, eucalyptus, bergamot, lemongrass, and lavender, all have applications for different types of pain. Personally I have had good experience with frankincense, clove, copaiba and lemongrass. Frankincense is my favorite. A good resource for information is healthline.com.

Research!

I am a huge advocate for ivermectin and the things it has cured. Uses range from killing many parasites, used to cure all forms of cancer, helping dementia and Parkinson's patients to fighting viruses like COVID. Now, it has also has shown to help fight pain by calming the same inflammatory signals that drive arthritis. The result is less swelling, a reduction in tissue degradation and relief from persistent pain. The research on this drug is still in its infancy but it is a powerhouse drug.

The last item is DMSO. First, the bad news. DMSO is a byproduct of the paper industry and is being used as a solvent in other manufacturing. It can dissolve paint and organic material. I tried it on my hands with little relief. My wife tried it on her back and had a rash that lasted two weeks from one application. Lots more could be said but I'll leave it at that.

Now, for some good news. DMSO was very popular for pain relief in the '90s in the athletic field. Athletes gave it credit for pain relief and healing/fast recovery. It is now being promoted by more than a few Internet doctors. Many applications but the one thing it does well is being absorbed into the body. Within minutes a liberal application will soak into the skin dragging with it whatever your skin has on it (good or bad), or what has been added to it, or any impurities it has. So that attribute can be a double edge sword. It is most common used topically but some have even tried drinking it and putting it their eyes. Not for me but, it has apparently helped many – another option to consider. There are lots of ways to mitigate pain. Do your own research and find the best option for you.

The Lean Submariner

Here's the latest posts on the blog. Still going strong. The link to his blog is

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

“Information from other sources sheds rather a different light on the matter.”

Underestimating any enemy can be dangerous

By Mister Mac on October 19, 2025

"Information from other sources sheds rather a different light on the matter." Underestimating any enemy can be dangerous.

Recently, I was browsing through the national archives and found some declassified documents dating back to the 1920's about submarine development abroad. During that time frame, there was a great desire on all parts of the world to limit arms and particularly battleships and all types of seagoing warships. The cost of the Great War was still bearing down on the economies of all of the participants, so stemming the flow of money into warships was an easy decision. Unfortunately, this savings did not take into account the nature of the nations involved to want to continue their domination of the seas in both commerce and arms.

Reports at that time about the Japanese navy were fairly negative.

International observers were claiming that the Japanese were falling behind their global navies in a number of areas. This was an era where battleship technology was slowly being usurped by air and undersea weapons. Communication technologies in the 1920's included radio advances around the globe and it appeared as if the smaller nations would not be as adaptable to their counterparts in the west. But the Japanese had other ambitions in their part of the world. The leadership had long since acknowledged its need for resources beyond its borders and becoming a global power would mean having free access to these resources. Even feeding the nation required commerce outside of the island chain that was their home. Expansion was not just about nationalism, it was about survival.

One of the documents I discovered in the archives was a previously designated top-secret report on Japanese activities in Switzerland dated 14 January 1921.

[Read the blog here](#)

Mr. Roosevelt's Views – Japan through Teddy's eyes

By Mister Mac on October 25, 2025

Theodore Roosevelt

I see there is another book out about Theodore Roosevelt.

To Rescue the American Spirit: Teddy Roosevelt and the Birth of a Superpower (The Presidential Series) Hardcover – October 21, 2025 by [Bret Baier](#) (Author)

I am a huge fan of Theodore Roosevelt.

One of my favorite books from recent times is "Theodore Rex" by Edmund Morris which is an amazing record of his life as one of the greatest leaders America has ever known. I have also been reading a lot lately about the lead up to Pearl Harbor. The complexity of the relationship between the United States and Japan has long been one of my favorite study areas. From Perry's forcible entry into the closed society of Japan until the morning of December 7th, 1941, many activities occurred that nudged the two countries towards war as well as outright shoving us down that rabbit hole.

[Read full blog here](#)

A Japanese Submarine operating in the Indian Ocean – From The archives

By **Mister Mac** on October 23, 2025

This black and white video comes from the National Archives. It shows life on board a Japanese submarine in the Indian Ocean.

Some interesting features include firing their deck gun, riding on the surface at night, sleeping arrangements (yes, they slept next to their torpedoes), off watch activities like playing cards and other games, preparing the food (lots of canned goods mixed with fish)

The fish were gathered off of the deck while the boat was surfaced and in motion. I guess that was a good way to extend their food supply.

While I never served on a diesel boat, I can imagine many of the things in this film would be somewhat familiar to those who did based on research and watching old World War 2 movies

[Read full blog here](#)

There will be wars and rumors of wars – What if the losing side wrote the history books?

By **Mister Mac** on October 23, 2025

There will be wars and rumors of wars Matthew 24:6-8 (King James Version)

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things

must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows

I have spent a lot of my life thinking and studying about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

I was stationed there three times in my life during my service and have visited those same grounds as a civilian. Even as a young boy, I sought after and absorbed every book and magazine that had to do with the second world war. The classic collections about the navy in World War 2 were my favorites and to this day I can feel the burning heat of the ships that were on fire and see the devastation in my mind. My imagination put me at the scene and I tried to imagine what the chaos would have been like.

Some of those memories have become real again as I read about a significant event that happened last year which marks the passage of another member of the greatest generation.

From the Navy News Page:

"Grass Valley, Calif. - Family, friends, veterans, active-duty service members, and community leaders gathered to memorialize the life of retired Lt. Cmdr. Louis (Lou) Conter April 23, 2024 at Saint Patrick Catholic Cemetery. Conter, the last living survivor from the USS Arizona (BB-39), which sank during the attack on Pearl Harbor, died peacefully in his home at the age of 102."

[Read full blog here](#)

Pre-war Footage of a Japanese Submarine

By **Mister Mac** on October 21, 2025

I was cruising through the National Archives today and found a short video clip of a Japanese submarine in operation. There is no sound to the clip, but it is pretty fascinating to observe the crew and the boat in action.

Based on her configuration, only one of the pre-war submarines I identified in Jane's Pocket Book of Submarine Identification, the boat featured was most likely an L class. Specifically, she most closely resembles the Ro-58, originally named Submarine No. 47. She was an Imperial Japanese Navy Type L submarine of the L3 subclass. She was in commission from 1922 to 1945. During World War II, she served on second-line duties in

Japan.

[Read full blog here](#)



The Computer Corner
By: George Birmingham [ET1
(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, USSVI/Holland Club
Carolina Piedmont Base]
Signs Your Computer Has Been
Hacked

Greetings Shipmates, and Happy Holidays to all!

By now many if not most of us are on Windows 11. And that means becoming comfortable with the new desktop environment and changes in the speed and responsiveness of the new operating system. As we go about our digital lifestyles, there is always the opportunity to ingest a virus, some sort of malware and other issues that suggest we might have been hacked in some way. But how do we know? We rely on our Anti-virus software, or the built-in protection with Windows Defender and Win11 security. Even if we update regularly, there is always that window of opportunity continuously being exploited between updates.

So here is an article from SimplyGeeky.com that offers information on things that might indicate your computer has been hacked:

Signs Your Computer Has Been Hacked

If you get those pesky pop-ups that your computer AV is outdated, that you have been hacked, or some tech support pop-up, and I'm sure we have all seen them, then use ALT-F4 to dismiss that window immediately, without touching the window. I have a friend in Florida who got caught by an AV pop-up, called the number on the screen, gave his credit card information for the "support" assistance, and then had to cancel his credit card as a result. Fortunately, he did not use a debit card in this incident. He knows better now.

In this article, one item in particular caught my attention - **Your Online Passwords Are No Longer Working**. As I use a desktop at home and a laptop for travel, keeping passwords synced is sometimes challenging, so I see this condition from time to time. I do not use a password manager, as they are cloud based and risky bets, at least for me. However, at the sites I use that are privacy critical, like banking, mobile phones, and healthcare, I have set alerts and multi-factor

authentication for those accounts in my profile so that if any attempts are made to make changes to those accounts, I get notified immediately and such action is blocked. It is a pain to always have to have my mobile phone by my side when conducting my affairs, but getting a passcode in response to my login attempt is reassuring, and far better that the pain that would be felt if they are compromised or abused. And in addition, I routinely change passwords on those critical accounts to make sure, that if by chance they were leaked in some way, they aren't out there for the long time. And since we are looking at the password topic, here is an article you may find interesting on creating strong passwords:

Tips for Creating Strong Passwords Without a Manager

Page 3 of this article talks about utilizing Two-Factor authentication.

So, in closing a good strategy to minimize the opportunity for getting hacked is to check for Windows updates frequently, not just on Microsoft's Patch Tuesday. If your PC maker has a system check capability like Dell's Support Assist as an example, run it often as well. Update your Anti-Virus package frequently and run a full system scan periodically. Do a **restore point** creation before installing new software (which you have scanned for viruses before installing, right?) or and installed app updates. And be sure to watch for those tell-tale signs as noted in the article. A digital lifestyle is fun, but also requires vigilance to be safe.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [**subvet_ssb@bellsouth.net**](mailto:subvet_ssb@bellsouth.net). And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George

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The Computer Corner pt 2:

From the Secretary & Webmaster.

I will begin with this caveat. I'm not a novice at setting up new computers and working with software. However....the rest of the story...

I don't know how many of you have shifted to Windows 11 due to the foolish decision Microsoft made to discard Windows 10. I hope and pray that if you did shift you have not had as many issues as I've had to get the new computer setup. Since

my laptop was vintage 2015 it was not compatible to upgrade from 10 to 11...meaning a new laptop. Suffice it to say it was a struggle for me. I have never had this amount of trouble with setting up or changing to any of the previous Windows versions.

I say all this to tell you if you are having computer issues and need to ask questions we have our own tech genius in our Association. George Birmingham led me through this process of setting up and learning Windows 11 operations and I know he was beginning to dread my emails and texts.

One really good thing he did was lead me to some great YouTube videos about Windows 11. I wanted to share those with you.

Bring the "Windows 10 look" back to Windows 11 — Everything I changed to restore the desktop UI experience | Windows Central

<https://share.google/0FX9fJkNBC0O9X5lb>

4 settings you should change on every new laptop for better performance

<https://share.google/JOQLekaAILYm1HKWF>

Windows 11 File Explorer: 15 Tricks in 3 Minutes!

<https://youtu.be/0ckaAzCM488>

8 underrated Windows features I wish I'd started using sooner



<https://search.app/sq9AR>

The Security Corner

**By: George Birmingham [ET1(SS)
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life
Member, USSVI/Holland Club**

Carolina Piedmont Base]

6 Alarming Signs Your Devices Have Already Been Hacked

Over time, as technology has advanced our digital lifestyles, we have moved from being desk-bound to freely moving around our earthly environment. To enable that mobility, we have readily embraced our mobile devices, like iPhones, Android phones, and Google phones, various tablet devices, and uber-lightweight wi-fi/bluetooth enabled laptops. As we have moved away from home networks, protected by routers

and firewalls whose security we manage, we moved on to public networks, like cellular phone networks and hotel wi-fi networks that are sometimes not as properly secured as they should be.

So how do we really know if the favorite apps we use, and the public networks they operate over, have not aided the bad actors around us to tap into our lifestyle in a not so good way. The article linked below discusses some of the tell-tale signs you might notice that says mischief is afoot.

6 Alarming Signs Your Devices Have Already Been Hacked

As the article notes, changing passwords on a more frequent basis, and embracing two-factor authentication for financial sites like on-line banking, and credit card providers will go a long way in protecting you on your mobile devices.

And my personal practice is to never store credit card information on a merchant or service provider website. Yes, it is a royal pain to have to enter that information each time, but far easier than the risk associated with a breach at that vendor and having to get new cards issued and having your credit card account suspended while that happens. I learned my lesson with two merchant breaches that caused two card replacements.



VETERANS AFFAIRS - RETIREE INFO - AARP

<https://www.va.gov/>
And FLEET RESERVE

THE LINKS BELOW WERE TAKEN FROM
THE EMAILS I RECEIVE FROM MANY
SOURCES. These are not in any order so
take a look at each of them and decide what
want to continue reading. You DO NOT have
to have special accounts to view this
information. There may be some general
areas of information in here that will be of
help to some of you.

"ALL HANDS TAKE NOTE"

The following attachments explain what has been attempted to resolve the Blue Water Issues

with **Submarine “Special Operations Patrols”** and what has not yet been accomplished to allow the VA to grant these Blue Water Claims issue. Attachment 2 fully explains why the location information is not available to the VA. There are 2 new officials in office that can help push this effort and both are Submariners. They are the New CNO and the New MCPON. The supporting information can be uploaded from: <https://app.box.com/s/0p1bpjor680jd6g4nuf4ogdeg840zd1f>

Pre Burial Planning for a VA National Cemetery
<https://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/>

Do Veterans Benefits Expire?
[https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916)
[ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916](https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates.html?ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916)

These Resorts and Hotels Are Just for Veterans and Military Members
[https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?](https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916)
[ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916](https://www.military.com/travel/these-resorts-and-hotels-are-just-veterans-and-military-members.html?ESRC=navy_250916.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250916)

Veterans: What's Taxed and What's Not on Your Federal and State Returns
[https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?](https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?ESRC=mr_250915.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250915)
[ESRC=mr_250915.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250915](https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?ESRC=mr_250915.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250915)

PTSD VA Ratings: What You Need to Know
[https://www.military.com/benefits/ptsd-va-rating.html?](https://www.military.com/benefits/ptsd-va-rating.html?ESRC=navy_250909.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250909)
[ESRC=navy_250909.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250909](https://www.military.com/benefits/ptsd-va-rating.html?ESRC=navy_250909.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=navy&utm_campaign=20250909)

Veterans' Private Residential Treatment Must Match VA's Quality and Cost
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2025/09/19/veterans-private-residential-treatment-must-match-vas-quality-](https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2025/09/19/veterans-private-residential-treatment-must-match-vas-quality-and-cost.html?ESRC=mr_250922.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250922)

[and-cost.html?ESRC=mr_250922.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mr&utm_campaign=20250922](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/08/20/va-processes-record-breaking-number-of-disability-claims-year-62-approval-rate.html?ESRC=dod_250829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250829)

VA Processes Record-Breaking Number of Disability Claims This Year, with 62% Approval Rate
[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/08/20/va-processes-record-breaking-number-of-disability-claims-year-62-approval-rate.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/08/20/va-processes-record-breaking-number-of-disability-claims-year-62-approval-rate.html?ESRC=dod_250829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250829)
[ESRC=dod_250829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250829](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/08/20/va-processes-record-breaking-number-of-disability-claims-year-62-approval-rate.html?ESRC=dod_250829.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dod&utm_campaign=20250829)

Issues relating to the Death of a Veteran
<https://app.box.com/s/qjbbvo67yaub993ndj2f1s2i0958ydzk>



U.S. Navy submariner joins mission to rebuild an Anglo-Saxon king's 1,400-year-old longship
By Archie Clarke
Updated on: October 1, 2025 / 11:29 AM EDT / CBS News

Woodbridge, England — In a far-flung corner of southeast England, in a boatshed on the River Debden, a former U.S. Navy submariner whose career saw him serve on some of the most advanced nuclear-powered vessels of the 20th century has embarked on a mission into the past. David "Mac" MacDonald is one of 180 volunteers building a precise replica of a ship that set sail under the command of a king almost one-and-a-half millennia ago.

They're working with The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company in the small town of Woodbridge, and their mission is to build a historically accurate reproduction of the wooden longship famously discovered on the site, which is believed to have been the final resting place of a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon king.

MacDonald grew up in New England and then lived in North Carolina for 30 years, but he moved to the U.K. seven years ago.

He built bespoke furniture and is a trained violin maker, but he put all that aside for a set of Anglo-Saxon axes after one of his wife's friends mentioned the project. Now he's part of the longship family, where he says he has "been made most welcome."

[Read complete story with pictures HERE](#)

U.S. Guided-Missile Sub Makes Rare Appearance In The Philippines

(USNI NEWS 29 SEPT 25) ... Sam LaGrone

A U.S. Navy guided-missile submarine capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles arrived for a port visit to the Philippines last week during its Pacific patrol, the sea service confirmed.

USS Ohio (SSGN-726) arrived Sept. 23 at the former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay and moored alongside submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS-40), according to photos from U.S. 7th Fleet.

Ohio is one four U.S. nuclear ballistic missile submarines that were retrofitted to carry the long-range Tomahawk missiles. The boats can deploy for up to two years at a time alternating between two crews that swap every few months. Last year, USS Florida (SSGN-728) returned from a 727-day deployment. USS Georgia (SSBN-729) deployed in September last year and is believed to be operating in U.S. Central Command. Georgia was part of the Operation Midnight Hammer strikes on Iran nuclear sites in June.

The Navy is intentional about announcing a region where an SSGN is operating as a signal of U.S. military power.

The revelation Ohio is operating in the South China Sea follows the sea trials of the Chinese aircraft carrier Fujian and the first public launching and landing tests with People's Liberation Army Navy naval aircraft.

Over the last several months, the U.S. has

publicly operated more closely with the Philippines while investing more in the country's military infrastructure and an expanded U.S. Navy presence at Subic Bay, USNI News has previously reported.

Earlier this year, Ohio traveled to Australia, where it was maintained by Frank Cable for a voyage repair.

<https://news.usni.org/2025/09/29/u-s-guided-missile-sub-makes-rare-appearance-in-the-philippines>

US Navy Invests In 3-D Printing For Submarine Production

(MACHINERY MARKET 16 OCT 25) ... Tony Miles

The US Navy's Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) Program has announced a major investment in additive manufacturing (AM) to support the accelerated construction of nuclear-powered submarines. In partnership with General Dynamics Electric Boat and Lincoln Electric, the initiative aims to integrate large-scale 3-D printing into submarine production to meet increasing demand and overcome persistent supply chain challenges.

The Navy is under pressure to deliver one Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine and two Virginia-class attack submarines annually by 2028, while continuing to sustain its current fleet. This ambitious target has prompted a shift toward advanced manufacturing technologies to boost throughput and reduce delays.

Matt Sermon, executive director of the MIB Programme, said: "This programme is charged with strengthening and expanding the shipbuilding and repair capacity our nation needs for deterrence and warfighting. By investing in AM at scale, we are helping ensure our industrial base has the tools, technologies, and resilience required to meet the Navy's mission."

General Dynamics Electric Boat will source critical components from Lincoln Electric's Additive Solutions facility in Cleveland, which now houses four SculptPrint machines — described as 'state of the art' in metal AM. This marks Lincoln Electric's largest government-funded AM capital investment to date.

Ken Jeanos, vice president of supply chain, materials and logistics for General Dynamics

Electric Boat, said: “Material availability continues to drive construction delays across the submarine enterprise. 3-D printed parts have the potential to accelerate construction and delivery of submarines to the US Navy by cutting lead times for critical components.

“This Maritime Industrial Base investment is a pivotal step to further unlock AM capabilities, enabling the defence industry to address complex supply chain challenges with innovative, efficient solutions. This partnership expands the use of AM and other innovative technologies that Electric Boat’s engineering and procurement teams have been working on for several years.”

Steven Hedlund, chairman and CEO of Lincoln Electric, said: “This investment strengthens our partnership with Electric Boat and solidifies Lincoln Electric’s commitment to delivering transformative solutions for the defence industrial base.”

The collaboration signals a significant step forward in the Navy’s efforts to modernise its manufacturing processes and ensure timely delivery of strategic assets.

<https://www.machinery-market.co.uk/news/40966/US-Navy-invests-in-3-D-printing-for-submarine-production>

Long Article – click the link to read entire article
US Navy's New Atlas Floating Drydock To Launch America's Largest Nuclear Submarines.

(ARMY RECOGNITION 16 OCT 25) ... Jérôme Brahy

The Atlas floating dry dock, built by Bollinger Shipyards in cooperation with General Dynamics Electric Boat, was christened in Tampa, Florida, on October 10, 2025. The dock will be used to handle the construction and launch of Columbia-class submarines, the largest nuclear subs ever built by the U.S.

On October 10, 2025, Bollinger Shipyards and General Dynamics Electric Boat christened the floating dry dock Atlas in Tampa, Florida, which was created to handle the construction and launch of Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines, the largest nuclear-powered submarines ever built in the U.S. The dry dock will provide construction and launch support at Electric Boat’s South Yard Assembly Building in

Groton, Connecticut, aligning with final assembly bays to handle modular submarine sections. Official statements confirmed that Atlas will begin operational integration following completion of dredging and site preparation in 2025.

The floating dry dock Atlas will be essential to the Columbia-class program, providing the specialized launch and maintenance capacity needed to assemble, service, and sustain the U.S. Navy’s next-generation ballistic missile submarines.

Measuring 188 meters (618 feet) in length and 43 meters (140 feet) in width, Atlas is designed to provide essential dry dock capacity for construction, maintenance, and long-term sustainment of the U.S. Navy’s Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines. The event, followed by official statements on October 13, underlined its importance as part of the industrial base supporting the Columbia-class, which will replace the Ohio-class submarines as they retire beginning in 2027. The Columbia-class will become the largest submarines ever built by the United States, measuring approximately two and a half times the size of the Virginia-class attack submarines, and will form the sea-based leg of America’s strategic deterrent for decades.

A floating dry dock is a submersible U-shaped structure composed of watertight pontoons and side walls equipped with ballast tanks that can be flooded or emptied to control buoyancy. When a ship requires maintenance or construction work, the dock submerges by filling its ballast tanks with water, allowing the vessel to be positioned above the central deck area. Once aligned on the dock’s keel blocks, the tanks are pumped dry, causing the dock to rise and lift the vessel completely out of the water, exposing the hull and propellers for repair, cleaning, or fitting operations. This method provides precise control over trim and stability, ensuring that large ships remain level during lifting. Many floating dry docks consist of multiple joined sections that can be configured according to the size of the ship or submarine. They are often fitted with cranes, power generation systems, and repair workshops to enable complex technical work on board, reducing the need for external facilities. The modular structure allows flexibility in operation, while the self-ballasting mechanism provides accurate adjustment of

buoyancy during every phase of the docking and launching process.

Floating dry docks such as Atlas are essential for the U.S. Navy because they provide mobile and scalable infrastructure for both surface ships and submarines, including the Columbia-class. They make it possible to conduct construction, overhaul, and emergency repair work without relying solely on fixed graving docks, which are limited in number and location. For nuclear-powered submarines, a floating dry dock offers the ability to lift extremely heavy hulls for maintenance of propeller shafts, hull coatings, and underwater fittings, ensuring operational readiness for deterrence patrols. For surface vessels such as destroyers, amphibious ships, and support craft, they provide a means to carry out rapid repairs close to operational areas, avoiding long transits back to major shipyards. Their sectional construction enables deployment to various naval bases and shipyards, including Groton, Pearl Harbor, and overseas support locations, depending on mission needs. By maintaining and restoring hull integrity, propulsion systems, and other submerged components, these structures sustain fleet availability and extend service life.

<https://www.armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/us-navys-new-atlas-floating-drydock-to-launch-americas-largest-nuclear-submarines>

So... the HOA won't let me park my unsightly truck and boat in front of the house...but strangely, there's zero mention of submarines. Don't mind me, just prepping the periscope and torpedoes for next week's HOA meeting



Dutch And Danish Navies Escort Russian Submarine Through North Sea

(BAIRD MARITIME 14 OCT 25) ... Will Xavier

The Royal Netherlands Navy (RNLN) and the Royal Danish Navy recently escorted a Russian submarine and its supporting tug through the North Sea and adjacent waters.

According to a press release from the Dutch Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Russian ships came from the Mediterranean Sea and were already escorted in the English Channel by a UK Royal Navy vessel. Once in Dutch waters, the RNLN hydrographic survey vessel HNLMS Luymes took over this task from the British ship.

Luymes escorted the Russian vessels, identified as the Improved Kilo II-class submarine Novorossiysk and the Goryn-class tug Yakov Grebelskiy, until they had left the Dutch exclusive economic zone (EEZ). An NH90 maritime combat helicopter provided support to Luymes during the escort.

The MOD said that although the Dutch EEZ is subject to an international right of passage, the Netherlands escorts all Russian naval vessels that pass through these waters.

"In this way, the Netherlands is showing vigilance and preventing Russian ships from sabotaging undersea infrastructure," the ministry said.

The MOD added that the escort of all Russian naval vessels is done in cooperation with the Netherlands Coastguard.

After a few days, the submarine and the tug entered the Great Belt strait, which connects the North and Baltic Seas just off Denmark, prompting the Royal Danish Navy to deploy two patrol boats to the area to provide monitoring and escort.

Although Russian social media reported that the submarine had experienced technical issues prior to the transit, the Russian Navy has assured that no serious problems were encountered.

<https://www.bairdmaritime.com/security/naval/naval-submersibles/dutch-and-danish-navies-escort-russian-submarine-through-north-sea>

