

SCUTTLEBUTT



Base Newsletter, 4th quarter 2020

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution

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Base Officers:

Base Commander – Joe Schmidt

Secretary – Jim Seacord

Chaplin—Bruce Stefanik

Historian—Gene Ipox

Vice Commander – Jerry Hoffart

Treasurer – Rich Cox

COB—Chip Wisard

Base Commanders Comments:

Continuing on with the pandemic restrictions, we will be going forward with meetings at my house/garage/workshop and using the zoom app. So far they have been going ok with some technical difficulties we need to work through. Ryan's reports they may be opening up their rooms in October. We will see. The Banner for the wall for the Lost Boat's Memorial is in the production stages. I should have it soon and will arrange a Working Party for setup and installation. If all goes well we can discuss the actions at the October meeting. When we go to the memorial to figure out the install we will also conduct fall trimming and cleaning of the memorial. Most parade activities for the fall have been cancelled. Asheville is discussing having a "Reverse Parade" where the entries are lined up on Biltmore Avenue stationary and people drive by keeping their social distancing.

This time year brings us to paying our dues for 2021 for those who are not life members. Get your dues to Rich soon so you don't forget. I would like us all to see if we can get another submariner to join us.

I believe we have done our best with the current status and as more places are allowed to reopen we get closer to the norm we have been accustomed to.



Treasurer's Corner

SK Report - We have over \$1300 (Retail Value) in stock. I will be happy to e-mail a copy of the inventory to anyone interested in seeing what we have. I would encourage all to support our base by purchasing items. I will also entertain special order requests.

Treasurer's Report - As of 31 August, we have a little over \$700 in the general fund. We have a little over \$1100 in the Moon-shine Mountain fund, \$560 of which was transferred from the general fund as registration money for 2021. This was done in order to draw some interest until those funds were needed in the spring. Our general fund is getting a little larger each month with virtual 50-50, donations, and modest sales from the ship's store.



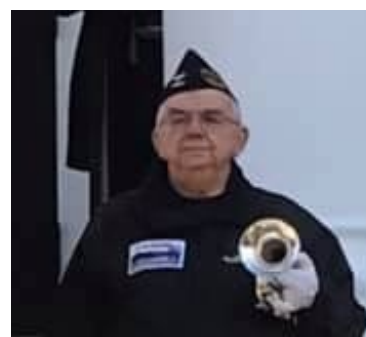
Chaplain's Corner

Psalm 95:1

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

SIMPLE WORDS

Make today your best day.
Yesterday has come and gone.
Tomorrow never seems to get here.



Up coming events: 4th Qtr 2020

All following are for planning purposes COVID-19 restrictions may change them.

02OCT2020 Fall cleanup at MM Memorial and hanging the new banner

06OCT2020 Monthly meeting, Base Commander's shop and Zoom.

03NOV2020 Monthly meeting, Ryan's if they are not open to groups then it will continue at the BC's house/zoom. Jim is working on zoom at Ryan's as well

08DEC2020 Monthly meeting, Ryans. If Ryan's cannot hold groups it will be at the BC's house and zoom.

Asheville Holiday Parade is to be a reverse parade, where you park your entry and cars drive by. I don't think we will be participating this year.

Lost Boats in 4th qtr:

USS Seawolf (SS-197) - Lost on 03OCT1944 with the loss of 83 Officers and men and 17 US Army Troops. She was mistook for a Japanese Sub that just sunk a destroyer and sunk by USS Rowell Destroyer Escort.

USS S-44 (SS-155) -Lost on 07OCT1943 with the loss of 56 men. Sunk off Paramusiru, Kuriles on her 5th war partol. After attacking merchant on the surface she lost a gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238) - Lost on 11OCT1943 with the loss of 80 Men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. She was lost to depth charges dropped by Japanese aircraft. Wahoo won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Dorado (SS-248) - Lost on 12OCT1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the Western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by US Patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-Boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294) - Lost on 17OCT1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war partol and was lost most likely to a mine in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314) - Lost on 24OCT1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry the name in WWII, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the casualty the freighter had 1,800 US POW's on board.

USS Dartar (SS-227) - Lost on 24OCT1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of Navy Unit Commendation, Dartar had sunk a heavy Cruiser and damages another and went aground while attempting an "End Around" on an enemy formation in hopes of attacking a battleship.

USS Tang (SS-306) - Lost on 25OCT1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war partol, She ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and won 2 Presidential Unit Citations. Tang was lost to a circular run of one of her own torpedos. 9 of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR O'Kane and 5 who gained the surface from her final resting place 180ft below. All survived the war and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66) - Lost on 29OCT1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Ababgarez off the Panama Canal.

USS Albacore (SS-218) - Lost on 07NOV1944 with the loss og 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of 2 Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her 11th war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that detected her.

USS Growler (SS-215) - Lost on 08NOV1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of 2 Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol and was lost attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

USS Scamp (SS-227) - Lost on 09NOV1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped the Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

USS Cornvia (SS-226) - Lost on 16NOV1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. Corvina was on her 1st war partol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese Submarine.

USS Sculpin (SS-191) - Lost on 19NOV1943 with the loss of 63 men near Truk. Severely damaged by depth charges after attacking an enemy convoy, Sculpin continued to fight on the surface. When the Captain was killed, the crew abandoned ship and scuttled Sculpin. 41 men were taken prisoner: only 21 survived the war. Among those not abandoning ship was CAPT Cromwell, aboard as a potential wolfpack commander, he rode Sculpin down, fearing that vital information in his possession might be compromised under torture. For this CAPT Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS Capelin (SS-289) - Lost on 02DEC1943 with the loss of 76 men. She was on her 1st war patrol, but her exact location and cause of loss remain a mystery. She may have been lost to mines or an operational casualty.

USS Sealion (SS-195) - Lost on 10DEC1941 with the loss of 5 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack.

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20) - Lost on 17DEC1917 with the loss of 19 officers and men when it was sunk after collision with the USS F-3 (Pickerell) (SS-22) off Clemente, CA.

USS S-4 (SS-109) - Lost on 17DEC1927 with the loss of 40 officers and men when it was sunk after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and recommissioned.

Base By-Laws training:

Duties of the Vice Commander shall include , but not limited to:

1. Assist the Base Commander in the discharge of his duties.
2. Assume the duties of the Base Commander in the event of his absence, illness or call to eternal patrol
3. Act as Chairman of the Membership Committee.
4. Act as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.
5. Member of the Executive Board.

Duties of the Base Treasurer shall include but not limited to:

1. Be the financial officer of the Base.
2. Be the custodian of all financial records of the Base
3. Receive and be responsible for the collection of all monies due and payable to the Base or National and for forwarding the latter to the appropriate National Officer
4. Have custody of all Base funds and provide for their safekeeping.
5. Member of the Executive Board

Base Historian: Prepared by Eugene Ipox.

USS Asheville (Gunboat No. 21/PG-21), the lead ship in her class of two United States Navy gunboats, was the first ship of the United States Navy named for the city of Asheville, North Carolina. The keel for Asheville was laid down on 9 June 1918, at the Charleston Naval Shipyard, North Charleston, South Carolina. She was launched on 4 July 1918; sponsored by Miss Alyne J. Reynolds, daughter of Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, MD, a prominent citizen of Asheville; and commissioned on 6 July 1920, with Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Elliott Buckmaster, who would later command the carrier Yorktown during World War II, in temporary command. One week later, on 13 July, Commander Jesse B. Gay relieved Buckmaster. On 17 July, the ship was given the alphanumeric designation PG-21.

Her service history include the Gulf of Mexico – 1921: she was assigned to the Special Service Squadron Havana, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama. The Asheville went through the Panama Canal, no less that 2 time giving her the honor of “Order of the Ditch” (Panama Canal) & “Order of the Spanish Main”. Asiatic Fleet – 1922: Sailed to join the Asiatic Fleet via the Mediterranean she earned the order of the “Rock”, “The Ditch” (Suez Canal), Indian Ocean Yacht Club”, “Golden Dragon”.

At the outbreak of World War II she was stationed at Manila Bay, PI. Asheville, presumed lost, was stricken from the Navy list on 8 May 1942. Not until after World War II, however, did the story of her last battle emerge, when a survivor of the heavy cruiser Houston, told of meeting, in prison camp, Fireman 1st Class Fred L. Brown. Hampered by engine troubles and sailing alone, Asheville was discovered on 3 March 1942 by a shipborne scout plane south of Java and overtaken by a Japanese surface force, led by Vice Admiral Nobutake Kondō, consisting of the destroyers Arashi and Nowaki, and the heavy cruiser Maya. As the cruiser stood by, the two Japanese destroyers closed and engaged Asheville at close range with their guns. After an intense 30-minute gun battle, the smoldering hulk of Asheville, her forecastle and bridge almost completely shot away, finally sank. Brown, an 18-year-old from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, had been in the gunboat's fire room when the surface force had overtaken the ship. Many men topside were dead by the time Brown arrived topside to abandon ship. After calling to ask if there was an officer among the swimmers, a sailor on board one of the enemy destroyers threw out a line, which Brown grasped and was hauled on board. Asheville's only known survivor perished in the Japanese Makassar prisoner-of-war camp on 18 March 1945, in the Celebes Islands of the Netherlands East Indies

Awards: Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, Yangtze Service Medal, China Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal with "FLEET" clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one battle star, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Defense Medal



USS Asheville (FP1), The Second Ship named USS Asheville was the FP1. Asheville-class patrol frigate of the United States Navy that served during World War II. She was laid down on 10 March 1942 by Canadian Vickers Ltd. in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

On 1 December 1942, she was commissioned in Montreal as USS Asheville (PG-101), a patrol gunboat. She was reclassified PF-1 on 15 April 1943. Initially Asheville served on convoy escort but then transferred to anti-submarine patrols. She was decommissioned in January 1946 at the Norfolk Navy Yard and struck from the Navy Register in February. She was sold in June 1946 and later resold to Argentina where she was renamed *Hercules* and later *Juan B. Azopardo* (GC 11). She was stricken in 1973.



USS Asheville (PGM-84/PG-84) was an Asheville-class gunboat acquired by the U.S. Navy for the task of high speed patrolling in shallow waterways. The third ship to be named Asheville by the Navy, PGM-84 was laid down on 15 April 1964 at Tacoma, Washington, by the Tacoma Boatbuilding Co.; launched on 1 May 1965. The gunboat departed Guam on 5 November and, after a 16-day stop at Subic Bay, returned to Vietnam at Vung Tau. Her duty in that war-torn country lasted until late March 1972 when she headed via Subic Bay back to Guam. The warship arrived at Apra Harbor on 31 May and remained in the Marianas until 13 November. After a stop at Subic Bay on 21 November, she briefly returned to Vietnamese waters before heading for Bangkok, Thailand, where she remained well into the second week in December. On 12 December, she departed Bangkok and, after the usual call at Subic Bay, reentered Apra Harbor on the 27th.

While she was there, the end of American involvement in the Vietnamese civil war halted her combat activities. For the next 17 months, Asheville continued to operate in the central and western Pacific. In November and December 1973, she interrupted her schedule of operations for a cruise to the southern Pacific during which she visited Surabaya, Indonesia, and the Australian ports Cairns, Darwin, and Gove as well as Rabaul on New Britain and Manus in the Admiralty Islands. She returned to Guam on 17 December 1973 and resumed operations from that port.

Asheville arrived in Chicago on 28 October 1974. The gunboat spent the remainder of her active career operating on the Great Lakes out of Chicago as a training platform for Naval Reserve personnel of the Chicago area. She continued that duty until placed out of commission on 31 January 1977, and her name was simultaneously stricken from the Navy list. On 11 April 1977, the ship was transferred to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Awards: 14 battle stars for service in the Vietnam War.



USS Asheville (SSN-758), the Latest vessel is a Los Angeles-class, nuclear powered fast attack submarine. She is the fourth vessel of the United States Navy to be named for Asheville, North Carolina. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 26 November 1984 and her keel was laid down on 9 January 1987. She was launched on 24 February 1990, sponsored by Mrs. Dorothy Helms, and commissioned on 28 September 1991.

Awards: Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), Navy "E" Ribbon Squadron Battle "E" Award, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, Engineering Excellence RED "E" (2), Medical Yellow "M", Navigation Red/Green N (2), 1999 Submarine Squadron III Commodore's Cup, Captain Edward Ney Award Silver Medal (2), CINCPACFLEET Gold Anchor, CINCPACFLEET Silver Anchor, Submarine Squadron Eleven Tactical "T" 2010

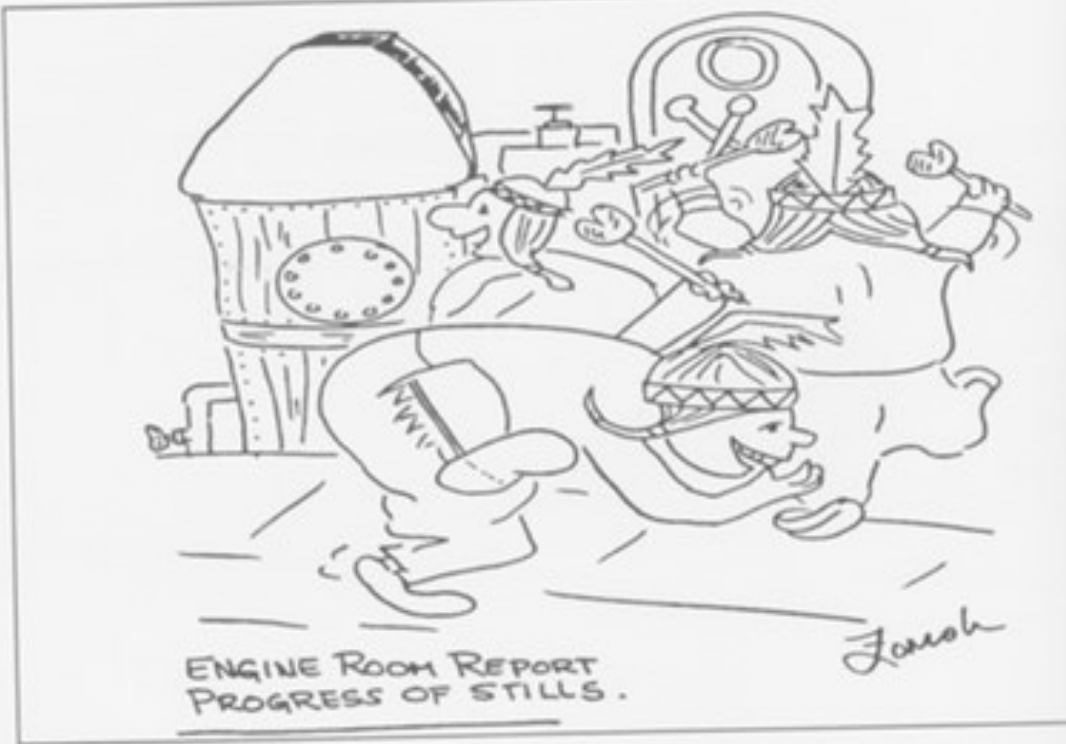


Base Activities

Base Picnic / Flag Retirement Ceremony:



ENGINEERING



Birthdays for the 4th quarter:

Tony Valovich 18 Oct

Jerome Hoffart 01 Nov

Vicki Stefanik 26 Nov

Bruce Stefanik 28 Nov

Robert Platt 31 Dec

Newsletter Contacts:

If you have information you think should be shared with the Base please send information to one of the following:

Base Facebook page: USS Asheville Base

Newsletter Editor/Base Commander

Joe Schmidt

1 Hampton Drive

Weaverville. NC 28787

Our meetings are open and we welcome guests and potential members to come and visit with us.

Please share this with friends. While out in the community let's all wear our organizations apparel. You will be surprised who you run into. Amazingly there are many Submariners you will run into that need just a cordial greeting and invitation.