

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans

July, 2023



In honor of the Submarine Forces 123rd birthday in April, here is some history on how we began:
(Contributed by Pete Jelik)

USS Holland was the United States Navy's first modern commissioned submarine, although not the first military submarine of the United States, which was the 1775 submersible Turtle. The boat was originally launched on 17 May 1897. She was acquired by the Navy on 11 April 1900 for \$150,000 and commissioned on 12 October 1900, becoming the first of the 6 Plunger Class submarines.

The *Holland* was built at Crescent Shipyard of Elizabeth, New Jersey (which eventually became the Electric Boat company).

Holland had ballast and trim tanks to make precise changes in depth and attitude underwater. Her complement was six men and maximum diving depth was 75 feet, which was very deep at the time.

The *Holland* had a reloadable 18-inch torpedo tube with three torpedoes and an 8.5-inch pneumatic dynamite gun in the bow. Originally there was a second dynamite gun in the stern, but it was removed in 1900 to make room for an improved engine exhaust, prior to delivery to the Navy.

The *Holland* had a 4-stroke 45 bhp gasoline engine for running on the surface and charging batteries, and a 50 shp electric motor for submerged operation. A 66-cell Exide battery powered the electric motor when submerged. She was able to obtain speeds of 6 knots surfaced and 5.5 knots submerged.

Although the *Holland* was the first commissioned submarine in the US Navy, she was the fourth submarine to be owned by the Navy. The first submarine was Propeller (also known as Alligator), the second was Intelligent Whale and the third was Plunger, built in 1895. More on these three innovative submarines will be coming in future articles.

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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.

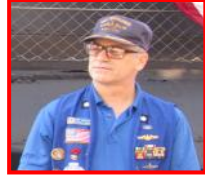


Commander's

Corner



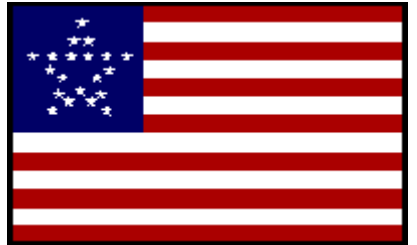
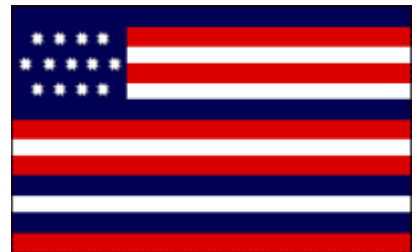
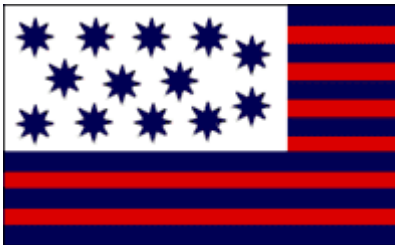
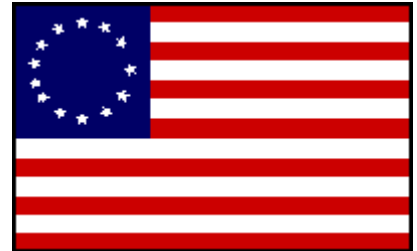
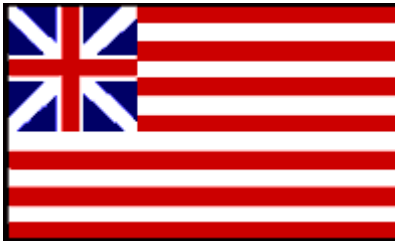
Greetings Shipmates. We had a good time at the campout. Not many of us were there but the ones that were ate well and had a good time. The weather was cooperative when we met and only stormed during the night hours. We had a meeting and decided to start trying the newsletter every couple of months. John agreed to do so but requested inputs from all of us so if you have something



of interest to add to the newsletter, please email it to John. We also discussed the repair of the sail (float) for parades and decided to wait on cooler weather to do so. We have a bunch of great guys and gals but we are dwindling in numbers so try to make it to meetings and events when you can. Also, anyone can get smaller groups of bubbleheads together anytime for impromptu lunches by just contacting folks and inviting.

Don't forget to help with overnights as you can. I ask everyone to consider taking a turn with a job on the Executive Board as any position. We are due for elections this year for the new officers to start their terms in January. Please contact me if you are interested. Don't forget to sign up for the baseball game!

Alan Malone, Base Commander



[Flag Picture Gallery \(ushistory.org\)](http://ushistory.org)



Activities for 2023

(Details for each as available.)

(Check website at <https://www.razorbackbase.com/about-1>)

(Or, check with Base officer listed on page 10.)

8 April 123rd US Submarine Celebration at the Birthday Brick and Forge Tap Room Conway



**Base Picnic/Camp Out
June 16 – 17 – 18th
Wolly Hollow State Park**

•Saturday July 29 - Baseball game

We have the picnic room again this year.

Have pre-paid \$400 for 20 tickets.

We will have Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Beans, Chips, and soft drinks included.

Contact Greg Zonner at

zonnerg@yahoo.com or (501) 307-5522.

FUTURE

•Aug - USSVI convention

Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, NY. August 24, 2022 thru August 27, 2022 August 24, 2022 thru August 27, 2022

Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, NY

Contact: Fred Marazita, buffalocon2022@gmail.com

•Sep - Potluck and Meeting in Evening

Possibly at RV Park near AIMM.

•Oct 27 - Navy birthday ball (looking at attending Reservist Ball)

•Nov 11- Veterans Day

•Dec 9 - Christmas Party



LOST BOATS

(Control C on boat name to see Wikipedia information.)

Ship Name	Hull #	Month	Year
Grunion	SS-216	7	42
Runner	SS-275	7	43
S-28	SS-133	7	44
Robalo	SS-273	7	44
S-39	SS-144	8	42
Flier	SS-250	8	44
Harder	SS-257	8	44
Bullhead	SS-332	8	45

Bradley Jae Christians



Bradley Jae Christians was born in Spencer, Iowa, on September 8, 1956, to James and Nyla Christians into the family with his 11 year old brother Bill and 8 year old brother Bob. He attended electronics technician "A" school. From there he went to Submarine school in Groton, Conn. After Submarine school, he was assigned to serve on the Gold Crew of the USS Robert E. Lee SSBN-601 attaining the rate of ET1(SS). While on board the Lee, he received his "AA" and "BA" degrees. He leaves behind his sons Ben and Will, and daughter Maisy. He was living in Marshall, AR, at the time of his death. There he had a friend in Martha.



Name	Exp.
John C. Barr	3-Nov-23
Pete Jilek	17-Nov-22
John Archer	13-Jan-24
In Honor of Bradley Jae Christians (SS)	8-Apr-24
Tom Salisbury	10-Apr-24

Funds from the *Booster Club* will be used for restoration of the *USS Razorback* and other special projects appropriate to the mission of *USSVI*. Your donation will be recognized for 1 year in the newsletter. The number beside your name is the month and year until you will be listed.
 Send donations to Razorback Base – USSVI, 9 Broadview Dr., Little Rock, AR 72207-5113
 (Memo – Booster Club).

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Eternal Patrol

Cecil H. Goins	11/17/2022
Leslie Owen Gleason	11/28/2022
Eugene L. Prohl	12/5/2022
Michael J. Wingeier	12/15/2022
Walter A. Gossfeld	1/15/2023
John F. Cameron	3/1/2023
Gilbert F. Houston	3/19/2023
Frederick "Carl" Schmidt	4/16/2023



Navy SEAL's New Mini-Submarine To Be Operational Within Weeks

Story by Joseph Trevithick

SEE FOR COMPLETE STORY—<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/navy-seal-s-new-mini-submarine-to-be-operational-within-weeks/ar-AA1b4EcU?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=f622479af62c4d09ca2dc7e63102e115&ei=32>

The first examples of a new special operations mini-submarine should be ready for real-world operations before the end of the month, according to U.S. Special Operations Command. The Dry Combat Submersible, or DCS, offers significant benefits over existing designs in U.S. Navy service, known as SEAL Delivery



Vehicles, or SDVs, in which individuals have to ride underwater fully exposed to the elements.



Officials from U.S. Special Operations Command offered updates on the status of DCS this week at an annual special operations-focused conference now known as SOF Week. The DCS is derived from the S351 Nemesis, designed by built by MSubs in the United Kingdom. MSubs is part of a team led by Lockheed Martin that has been developing the miniature submersible since 2016.

"This morning we received an operational test report," John Conway, the Program Manager for Undersea Systems within U.S. Special Operations Command's (SOCOM) Program Executive Office-Maritime (PEO-M), said at a briefing at SOFWeek yesterday. "So that means the Dry Combat Submersible is going to be operational by Memorial Day [May 29, 2023], and we're coming to an end scenario."

Many details about the DCS are classified, but its general capabilities at least are believed to be very similar to that of the 30-ton displacement and 39-foot-long S351. The Nemesis requires a crew of two to operate and has a stated maximum range of approximately 66 nautical miles when traveling at a speed of five knots and using its all-electric propulsion system. It can dive down to depths as deep as around 330 feet (100 meters). Beyond its crew, it can carry eight additional personnel or around a metric ton's worth of cargo.

(Continued on Page 6.)

(Continued from Page 1.)

The *Holland* finished her career and was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 21 November 1910. She was sold as scrap on 18 June 1913 for \$100. The hull of the *Holland* was on display for several years until she was finally scrapped in 1932.



Holland (SS-01), at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD., circa 1901-1902 .



(Continued from Page 5.)

In general, a submersible like this provides a way for U.S. special operations forces, especially the Navy's elite SEALs, to discreetly get ashore from [a submarine](#), even one that's submerged, or [another maritime launch platform](#) and/or exfiltrate from the area. This kind of capability is especially valuable for conducting various kinds of operations, especially ones conduct behind enemy lines or in otherwise sensitive locations. This can include missions conducted entirely underwater, such as infiltrating into an enemy port to plant mines or otherwise sabotage ships or infrastructure, or to gather intelligence.



As already noted, the big benefit of DCS over existing SDVs is the ability to carry its occupants in a totally dry environment. This might sound like a minor issue for special operations forces like the [Navy SEALs that are trained](#) to conduct underwater operations of various kinds, but it has significant operational implications.

As it stands now, SEALs and [other U.S. special operations forces](#) traveling extended distances below the waves using a 'wet' SDV, even [the Navy's latest Mk 11 type](#), ride the entire way exposed to the water. Even in tropical climates, this can be a cold ride, especially if done at deeper depths that further help personnel evade detection. In colder regions, being exposed to the water the whole time isn't just uncomfortable, it can potentially be dangerous. Furthermore, with a traditional wet SDV, operators then have to conduct whatever their mission might be soaking wet and likely cold, further increasing fatigue and other issues.

With the DCS, special operations forces can travel underwater from their launch point to the objective without being exposed this way. Thanks to a built-in lock-out chamber, they still have the option to get in and out while the craft is submerged. Doing so, of course, would help to reduce their chances of them being spotted as they infiltrate an area, but they would still be exposed to potentially frigid waters for much shorter periods of time.

“That ends a capability gap of 15 years — more than 15 years,” Navy Capt. Randy Slaff, the head of SOCOM's PEO-M said during a panel discussion at SOFWeek, [according to National Defense magazine](#), highlighting the importance of the DCS.

Slaff's remark also underscores how the current DCS program is not the first time SOCOM and the Navy have tried to acquire a capability like this. The Navy first outlined requirements for what became known as [the Advanced SEAL Delivery System](#) (ASDS) in the 1980s and development of this mini-submarine design got fully underway in the 1990s.

(Continued on Page 9.)

Barr's Opinion / Editorial Comments / Blah Blah Blah / Scuttlebutt

- My sincere thanks to Pete for contributing the article on the *Holland*. I *hate* to simply put *filler* in the newsletter. There is so much available on the WEB, but I assume many of you have already seen a lot of that material. I did put the article in on the new SEAL mini-submarine because it contrasts the unfortunate Titan submersible. Don't mix materials in your “watertight” submersible with different shrink/swell coefficients and/or reliability responses to repeated stress.
- The Base is contributing \$3,000 for replacement and repair of the *Razorback* HVAC system. A new unit (of the same type) has been installed and is up and operating. Other remedial repairs/fixes were also made to the other units in hopes of maintaining their operations. Even with this work, AIMM still has had to shut down early during this high heat. It simply gets intolerable inside the boat.
- We did nothing to observe Memorial Day. We need ideas for how to observe Veterans Day and the Pearl Harbor observance.
- **Special thank you to Pete for getting the Base a decent CD. See bottom of Treasurer's report.**



BIRTHDAYS	July
Michael H. Rainwater	3
Alan Sabatino	4
William J. Holland	5
John T. Hardin	6
Donald L. Taylor	8
Mary Christians	10
Bill L. Garrison	11
Donald Underwood	13
Sharon J. Hollaway	13
Richard James Pressly	14
James Caton	14
A. Royce Meredith	16
David M. Higgins	17
Sterling Claypoole	17
Ronald T. Sagaert	18
Ronnie L. Hudson	19
Allen D. Hutchinson	26
Derrell F. Clements	30
Lynn C. Richard	30

BIRTHDAYS	August
Robert G. Medearis	3
Bonnie Zonner	3
Allan Richard Standen	4
John A. Albers	7
Stanley A. Walker	9
Raymond Paul Wewers	11
John E. Przybys	18
Dennis D. Foster	19
Billy D. Hollaway	23
James M. Barnum	23
Nicholas Charles Proctor	25
James R. Stephens	25
Sandy Stephens	25
Gordon Joe Pack	29

TREASURER'S REPORT - May 2023	
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE	\$13,898.68
General Fund Beginning Balance	\$4,817.75
Credits	
Booster Club Donation, \$100, Bob Christians in honor of his brother.	\$100.00
Debits	
\$6000 transferred to a Certificate of Deposit. See notes/justification below *	
Of this \$6000, \$5369.41 was our savings balance, \$630.59 was from general fund.	\$630.59
General Fund Ending Balance	\$4,287.16
Designated Funds	
Maintenance Fund starting Balance	\$1,952.66
Maintenance Fund Ending Balance	\$1,952.66
Charity Fund Bal.	\$372.00
Snook Mem. Fund Bal.	\$1,386.86
Designated Fund Balance	\$3,711.52
Checking Balance (General + Designated Funds)	\$7,998.68
Other Funds	
Savings - Cash Balance	\$0.00
Certificate of Deposit, initial balance * Cash on Hand	\$6,000.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE	\$13,998.68
Submitted: 1 June 2023 Pete Jilek Base Treasurer	
Notes for next month:	
Expect an invoice for sub cooling system. Base agreed to donate \$3000 towards the cost. * Note: currently our business checking account earns NO interest. Transferred \$6K into a short-term (13 month) CD earning 4.5%, which should earn close to \$300 in interest.	

Minutes of USS Razorback Base Meeting held 25 March 2023

Meeting called to order by Alan Malone

Invocation by Joe Manning

Tolling of the boats for March presented by Joe Mathis and Mark Taylor

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alan Malone

Minutes of previous base meeting read by Joe Mathis

Treasurer's report from Pete Jilek. total: \$14098.68

Discussion on moving some funds to CD's

Guest speaker, Ellis Moses, Central District, District 1 commander.

Talked about

- national dues

- membership

- associate members

- recruiting new base members; parades, color guard, leaving copy of American Submarine magazine in doctor's offices, etc.

- keeping members by staying active.

Old business

Submarine birthday ball on April 8th at 5 pm at Brick and Forge in Conway.

Discussed possibility of combined birthday ball with district 1

Razorback HVAC

John Barr discussed the results of his HVAC survey of other submarine museums

Discussed replaced Forward Battery with current geo-thermal unit and looking into less expensive options for other units as the fail

Discussed operating costs

Motion made to allot \$3,000.00 to AIMM for replacing Forward Battery HVAC unit by Bob Christians, seconded by Joe Manning. 12 votes for, 1 no and 1 abstain. Motion passed.

Mark Taylor suggested the City of North Little Rock and AIMM look into solar to offset some of the operating costs.

New business

Alan Malone appointed Sterling Claypoole as the base Memorial and Ceremonies and Event coordinator

Upcoming events: April 8th, Submarine Birthday ball at Brick and Forge in Conway; May 27th, Murray's dinner theater, June 17th, Base campout and picnic; July 29th, Travelers baseball game.

AIMM overnight program is looking for sub vet volunteers.

Discussed repairs to USS Razorback parade float repairs. Alan Malone ready to purchase materials for repair.

Motion made to buy materials needed to repair parade float. Seconded by John Barr. Motion approved. Set tentative date of May 13th to make repairs to float.

Good of the order

Ellis Moses suggested putting base flyers on local bulletin boards; using the base parade float as static display in local locations; pay new members second year dues instead of 1st year.

Greg Zonner asked Ellis Moses why members still get a American Submarine magazine in the mail when they have opted out.

Bob Christians has a BAS scheduled for May 6th on the USS Razorback and is looking for volunteers. Greg Zonner and Joe Mathis are points of contact for ceremony.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Zonner, Seconded by Joe Manning

Benediction by Joe Manning

RAZORBACK BASE JUNE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2023

Wooly Hollow State Park campout

Al Malone opened the June Base meeting at 1050 with Invocation.

Al led group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence held for our departed shipmates.

- Al talked about a book that is out relating personal experiences during WWII especially Pearl Harbor. If anyone is interested, contact Al.
- Al reported that turnout for Murray Dinner Theater (10 people)
- Our annual baseball game outing is planned for July 29. Tickets are \$20/person. We have the party room rented with hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks. Contact Greg if you are coming and for your tickets.
- Razorback Base Parade Float repair. Base will purchase the lumber needed for the repair. Due to the heats, repair will be scheduled this fall, tentatively on September 23, 2023
- Base has invested \$6000 in a 13 month CD.
- Discussion ensued on the AC replacement and repairs on Razorback but no one present had an update.
- Newsletter---Discussion was held on frequency of Newsletter. It was recommended to return to monthly but the issue with that is there is not enough input from base members to fill the edition. John Barr has to come up with all the articles. It was decided to increase frequency to bi-monthly if John agrees. This will depend on Base members providing articles to John for inclusion.

Motion made by Pete Jilek to adjourn, second by Barbara Wewers. There were 14 members in attendance.

Meeting was closed at 1125 on June 17, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Wewers, Base Secretary

(Continued from Page 6.)

ASDS was roughly twice as big as the S351 and proved to be noisy, under-powered, and otherwise problematic. After years of delays due to technical issues and cost growth, the program suffered an especially bad setback in 2008 when the one prototype that had been built caught fire and was completely destroyed. The program was canceled entirely the following year.

The prototype Advanced SEAL Delivery System submersible is seen here on top of the rear deck of the Los Angeles class attack submarine USS Charlotte. USN



This was followed by a Joint Multi-Mission Submersible program, which was itself canceled in 2010.

DCS has proven to be a much more successful effort.

However, in the six years since Lockheed Martin first received a contract to develop this mini-submarine, other events have transpired and the overall geopolitical environment has changed. [Expeditionary and distributed operations](#), possibly in the context of a future high-end fight against China across the broad expanses of the Pacific, [are now at the forefront](#) of [many planning considerations](#).

On top of this, the Navy currently plans to retire its four Ohio class nuclear guided missile submarines, or SSGNs, before the end of the current decade. These submarines are designed to act, [among many other things](#), as special operations motherships, including with the capability to deploy personnel using SDVs via Dry Deck Shelters (DDS). A number of current Virginia class attack submarines [are also fitted with DDSs](#) to conduct special operations support missions and future boats in that class could be even more capable in this role. However, a new dedicated replacement for the Ohio SSGNs is likely decades away, as you can read more about [here](#). When the development of the DCS began, the design was already too big to fit inside existing Navy DDSs, anyways. Work on an expanded capacity DDS design has been ongoing in parallel, but it's not immediately clear what the status of that project might be.

(Continued on Page 10.)



(Continued from Page 9.)

Given its built-in lock-out chamber, the DCS could conceivably be carried externally on Navy submarines and personnel could then get inside either directly if a suitable hatch arrangement was available or after exiting via a DDS or other lock-out chamber on the mothership submarine. The larger ASDS design presented similar challenges and two submarines, the [Los Angeles class](#) attack submarines USS Charlotte and USS Greenville, were specially modified to carry it on its rear deck. Those submarines remain in service today with those hull modifications still in place.



USS Greenville carrying the ASDS

The DCS could be deployed for other maritime platforms, as well, such as the [well deck of an amphibious warfare](#) ship. Other [vessels capable of deploying boats](#) and submersibles via a crane or [a more specialized system](#) might also be configurable into motherships for these special operations mini-submarines.

Regardless, questions about how the DCSs, as well as existing SDVs, will be deployed and employed in future conflicts are clearly emerging. It's unclear how many DCSs SOCOM and the Navy expect to buy in the coming years, but it can be reasonably assumed that the total fleet size will be small. Lockheed Martin's initial contract called for the construction of just three pre-production examples, all of which appear to have been delivered. As another comparison, the Navy only expects to have acquired 10 of its 'wet' Mk 11 SDVs by the end of this year.

What all this means is that there will have to be tactics, techniques, and procedures in place not just for utilizing the new DCSs, but also getting them wherever they might not need to be and in relatively short order. There has at least been one test involving the transport of a DCS inside a shipping container via a U.S. Air Force [C-17A Globemaster III](#) cargo jet, which would provide at least one option for getting it closer to the desired operating area on short notice.

SOCOM and the Navy are also already interested in acquiring an improved DCS variant or derivative, originally known as DCS Block II and currently called DCS Next. Details about the requirements for that submersible are also limited, but one goal is to make it [deployable from a Virginia class](#) submarine. With this follow-on effort in progress, the current DCS mini-submarine is sometimes [referred to as DCS Now](#).

"We do have an additional area that we're looking at heavily and that's the expeditionary mobility for undersea. It's actually expeditionary mobility for all systems, but we had completed a prototype system proof of concept and it was on our... Mk 11 Seal Delivery Vehicle," Capt. Slaff, the SOCOM PEO-M head, said at a briefing at SOF Week that The War Zone attended. "So, we actually have it, it's out there in front doing its demo."

Slaff did not elaborate on exactly what this additional expeditionary capability for the Mk 11 SDV entailed.

"What we're looking at, obviously, with the SSGNs kinda sunseting here in the [20]26 to [20]28 timeframe, [is] getting the... operational flexibility for expeditionary employment through other means," he added. This "is something that we've been investigating and then rolling that over into... an operational requirement and moving forward with fielding the capability."

Base Officers

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Base Vice Commander	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Base Treasurer / Storekeeper	Pete Jilek	301-503-0483	pljilek@yahoo.com
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