



Newsletter of the
South Lake Subvets
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BLOW

October meeting date:
October 16, 1800hrs.

NEGATIVE

October 2025

Stacked Nickles

Commissioned: 17 August 1968 - USS Dolphin (AGSS-555) at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Kittery, ME. The unique Dolphin Class Submarine: Laid down, 19 December 1964, at Portsmouth Navy Yard, Kittery, ME Launched, 8 June 1968; Commissioned 17 August 1968.



USS Dolphin was the USN's last operational diesel-electric deep-diving research and development submarine.

Dolphin was decommissioned in September 2006 and now lies at the San Diego Maritime Museum at San Diego, CA.

USS Dolphin was the United States Navy's last operational diesel-electric deep-diving research and development submarine.

Dolphin's hull number, "555", is unusual in that it was taken out of sequence. At the time of her 1968 commissioning, the five other new submarines commissioned that year, all of the Sturgeon class, had hull numbers ranging from 638 to 663.

Dolphin's hull number was taken from a block of cancelled hull numbers from the World War II vintage Tench class, the last of which was commissioned in 1951. The reason for the selection of "555" as Dolphin's hull number is not known.¹

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dolphin_\(AGSS-555\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dolphin_(AGSS-555))



The deepest diving operational military submarine in the world, Dolphin is responsible for many “firsts”, but is not primarily associated with any specific historic event or time frame during her nearly forty years of service. Rather, it is her unique, extreme deep-diving capability that sets her apart and has continually placed the vessel at the forefront of undersea naval research during her entire career.

In November 1968, she set a depth record for operating submarines that still stands. In August 1969, she launched a torpedo from the deepest depth that one has ever been fired. Employed by both Navy and civilian researchers, the submarine is equipped with an extensive and impressive instrumentation suite that can support multiple missions. Since the boat’s commissioning in 1968, it has amassed a startling record of scientific and military accomplishments.

USS Dolphin (AGSS-555) is the U.S. Navy's oldest operational submarine and-more significant-its only non-nuclear submarine. The "Nickel Boat," so known for her hull number, has outlived many later nuclear-propelled submarines because of her great value as a deep-diving research platform.

In her research role, Dolphin has supported air-submarine laser communications, deep submergence projects, advanced sonars, oceanography, and antisubmarine warfare. The U.S. Navy claims that Dolphin-credited with an operating depth of 3,000 feet-established an unequaled world depth record for operational submarines in November 1968 and made the deepest firing of a torpedo in April 1969, although the precise depths involved have not been released. The Russians cite the ill-fated submarine Komsomolets (K-278)-given the NATO code name "Mike"-as the world's deepest-diving submarine, exceeding 3,300 feet, and having launched torpedoes at a greater depth than did Dolphin. Komsomolets, a fully operational combat submarine, was lost through uncontrollable fires and flooding in the Norwegian Sea on 7 April 1989.

For most of her career Dolphin has operated out of the submarine base at Point Loma, San Diego, California. She is operationally assigned to Submarine Squadron 11; the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command's Systems Center at San Diego provides homeport services and liaison with the scientific community and the Dolphin Project Team.²



Former and current crewmembers boast of the many important research efforts of their submarine. But disaster struck Dolphin on 21 May 2002, while operating some 100 nautical miles off San Diego. She suffered a major electrical fire and flooding while on the surface. Only minor injuries were suffered by the 43 on board-41 crewmen and 2 civilian scientists-who were forced to abandon the submarine. The flooding was stopped, the fires were extinguished, and Dolphin was towed back to San Diego. She was rehabilitated at a cost reported at \$9 million and returned to service in mid-2005.

**WELCOME
ABOARD**



Dolphin was completed in 1968 to a highly unusual design: The craft has a constant diameter pressure hull made of HY-80 steel with an outer diameter of 18 feet and hemispheric caps at both ends. There is a small, stepped sail, with the radar antenna, UHF antenna, and single periscope. An improved rudder design and other features permits maneuvering without forward diving planes but with only stern-mounted planes and rudders. There are minimal penetrations of the pressure hull (e.g., only one access hatch) and she has built in safety systems that help to surface the submarine in an emergency. These include a keel that can be released to lighten the submarine in addition to the normal ballast-blowing systems.

The boat has conventional submarine propulsion: two General Motors diesels for surface propulsion (no snorkel is fitted) and an Elliott electric motor with a single shaft for underwater propulsion. Maximum surface speed is rated at 7.5 knots; submerged speed varies with the battery type-10 knots with lead-acid and 15 knots with silver-zinc.

A single experimental torpedo tube was originally fitted to permit testing weapons at great depths (the tube was removed in 1970). Even without the torpedo gear Dolphin is crowded; with a full crew and scientists aboard,

² <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2006/march/nickel-boat-keeps-going-and-going>



mattresses are laid on the deck for all to have a "bunk." The sub's "mess deck" consists of a single booth that seats up to six-officers, sailors, and civilian riders eating together. But the food-by popular acclaim-is considered excellent. And that is no mean feat with the submarine's minute cooking and baking facilities.

The Nickel Boat-was unique in many respects-continues to perform important research work almost four decades after she completed.

BASIC LAWS OF HUMAN STUPIDITY author Carlo Cipolla, 1976

1. ALWAYS AND INEVITBLY EVERYONE UNDERESTIMATES THE NUMBER OF STUPID PEOPLE IN CIRCULATION - FINITE NUMBER, δ SIGMA
2. THE PROBABILITY OF A CERTAIN PERSON BE STUPID IS INDEPENDENT OF ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF THAT PERSON.
3. [GOLDEN RULE] A STUPID PERSON IS A PERSON WHO CAUSES LOSS TO ANOTHER OR TO A GROUP OF PERSONS WHILE HIMSELF DERIVING NO GAIN AND EVEN POSSIBLY INCURRING LOSSES.
4. NON-STUPID PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE THE DAMAGING POWER OF STUPID INDIVIDUALS. -IN PARTICULARLY NON-STUPID PEOPLE FORGET THAT AT ALL TIMES AND PLACES AND UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TO DEAL AND/OR ASSOCIATE WITH STUPID PEOPLEINFALLIBLY TURNS OUT TO BE A COSTLY MISTAKE.
5. A STUPID PERSON IS THE MOST DANGEROUS TYPE OF PERSON. - A STUPID PERSON IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN A BANDIT.³

New CNO Named



The Navy has a new top officer as the U.S. Senate confirmed Adm. Daryl Caudle as chief of naval operations late on Thursday night. The confirmation comes after the position sat empty for almost half a year, with a nominee to take over the role only recently named.

Caudle was one of several officers approved for high-ranking positions and was confirmed unanimously.

The chief of naval operations position has been empty since February, when Trump dismissed Adm. Lisa Franchetti from the role. She was one of several top military officers removed from leadership positions in a major reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with Air Force Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown Jr., the then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. No reason was given for the firings. Since February there have been

several high-level firings in the military.

Adm. James Kilby, who had been vice chief of naval operations since January 2024, has served as acting CNO in the interim.

Caudle, who currently serves as the head of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, has a background as a submariner. He previously commanded the submarines the USS Jefferson City, USS Helena and USS Topeka. Other leadership roles have included commanding submarine squadrons, working for the Joint Staff and deputy commander of the Navy's 6th Fleet.

Despite the importance of the CNO role and the Navy's heavy involvement in combat operations in the Middle East around Yemen, it took the Trump administration several months to nominate a replacement, naming Caudle as the pick in mid-June. During his confirmation hearing with the Senate in late July, Caudle stressed a focus on improving the quality of life for sailors.

Caudle also voiced support for the CNO Navigation Plan, a document outlining priorities and strategic goals for the Navy, which had been put forward by Franchetti in 2024. In his written remarks to the Senate, Caudle

³ Contributed by Ed Lashbrook.



highlighted some of the biggest challenges facing the Navy, including the rising threat of drones and multi-domain threats. He said that one goal of his is to develop weapons that are “modular, scalable, and built for rapid upgrade cycles to stay ahead of emerging threats.”

Caudle’s confirmation was one of three major military ones the Senate passed Thursday night. Alongside the Navy officer, the Senate also confirmed Space Force Lt. Gen. Shawn Bratton for the new Vice Chief of Space Operations and Vice Adm. Frank Bradley to serve as the head of U.S. Special Operations Command. Bratton has served as the deputy chief of space operations, strategy, plans, programs and requirements for the service since 2023; he also was approved for a fourth star. Bradley, the current commander for Joint Special Operations Command, will also receive a fourth star.⁴

New MCPON named

Fleet Master Chief John Perryman will be the Navy’s 17th Master Chief Petty Officer starting this fall, the Navy announced Friday afternoon.

Perryman is currently serving as the top enlisted sailor for U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Soon he’ll be in that capacity for the entire Navy. He’ll take over the role for James Honea, who will retire from military service on Sept. 12 after several decades in uniform.

“With decades of operational experience across the fleet, Perryman will play a vital role in advising Navy leadership, shaping enlisted policy, and maintaining warfighting readiness in an era of strategic competition,” the Navy’s statement said.

Honea served as the 16th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy since September 2022. In July, he announced he would be retiring from the Navy after 38 years, saying that it was “a profound privilege and honor to serve as your MCPON.” The position was first created in 1967 and the person in the role serves as an advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations on issues affecting enlisted sailors.

Honea will step down from the role of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy in September in a change of command ceremony at the Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C., according to the Navy.

Honea’s replacement, Perryman, is a native of San Antonio, Texas, and joined the Navy in 1994. He is a submariner, having trained as an **electronics technician** and serving in that capacity aboard several submarines, including fast attack subs the USS Bremerton and USS Cheyenne. He also worked for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He has served in several senior enlisted roles, advising commanders of Submarine Group Seven, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet and Submarine Force Atlantic.



In 2020, Perryman was named Command Senior Enlisted Leader for United States Strategic Command, which oversees the military’s nuclear arsenal and the forces that operate and maintain them. In his current role at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, he is the top enlisted sailor for a massive part of the Navy, with more than 100,000 personnel and 120 vessels — surface and submersible — under its authority.

Perryman’s appointment means he’ll be reunited with Adm. Daryl Caudle, who was confirmed by Congress as the new Chief of Naval Operations in July 31. Caudle, another former submariner, had served as commander of U.S. Fleet Forces from 2021 until this summer, working alongside Perryman. Caudle took over the role after it sat vacant for several months following the dismissal of Adm. Lisa Franchetti.

The History of the Real Popeye

He was born in 1868 in Poland and his real name was Frank "Rocky" Fiegel. He immigrated to the

⁴ <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navy-caudle-cno-confirmed>



United States with his parents, who settled down in a small town in Illinois.

As a young man, Rocky went to sea and following a 20-year career as a sailor in the Merchant Marines, Fiegel retired. He was later hired by Wiebusch's Tavern in the city of Chester, Illinois as a 'Bouncer' to maintain order in the rowdy bar.

Rocky quickly developed a reputation for always being involved in fighting (and usually winning). As a result, he had a deformed eye ("Pop-eye"). He also 'always' smoked his pipe, so he always spoke out of one side of his mouth.

In his spare time as a bouncer, Rocky would entertain the customers by regaling them with exciting stories of adventures he claimed to have had over his career as a sailor crossing the 'Seven Seas.'

The creator of Popeye met Rocky at the tavern and would sit for hours listening to the old sailor's amazing 'sea stories.' Years later, Segar became a cartoonist and developed a comic strip called 'Thimble Theater.' He honored Fiegel by asking if he could model his new comic strip character, 'Popeye the Sailor Man,' after him. Naturally Fiegel was flattered and agreed.

'Olive Oyl,' along with other characters, was also loosely based on an actual person. She was Dora Paskel, owner of a small grocery store in Chester. She apparently actually looked much like the Olive Oyl character in his comics. She even dressed much the same way.

Elzie Crisler Segar, the creator of the animated Popeye, kept in touch with Rocky and always helped him with money; giving him a small percentage of what he earned from his 'Popeye' illustrations.

Who didn't love cartoons??? We watched them religiously ... so funny, so moral ... each story had a good ending ... Who knew he was a real man??



Lack of GPS

On September 13, 1996, a North Korean submarine mission to spy on South Korean military bases went catastrophically wrong. The crew deployed three elite spies but, upon returning to retrieve them, found no one waiting. After multiple attempts to return to international waters, the submarine became entangled in seaweed and ran aground near a South Korean city. The stranded 26 crew members attempted to flee on foot, but were soon discovered by a local taxi driver, leading to a massive, 49-day manhunt involving 40,000 South Korean soldiers and police. The operation, which cost \$187 million, resulted in 24 North Korean fatalities and 16 South Korean casualties (12 military and 4 civilian). The mission revealed North Korea's harsh doctrine, as captured documents showed that soldiers were instructed to die rather than face capture. North Korea eventually expressed rare "regret" over the incident, and the only North Korean survivor became a navy instructor in South Korea.

In June 1998, another North Korean submarine incident occurred when a small submarine got caught in South Korean fishing nets near the demilitarized zone. After attempting to free itself and flee, the submarine capsized and was eventually towed by the South Korean



Navy. When the submarine was recovered from 30 meters underwater, the crew's grim fate became clear: five sailors had been killed by the four elite soldiers on board, who then took their own lives. The submarine's design included noise-reducing twin propellers and a plastic hull to evade detection. Both incidents exposed the challenges South Korea faces in monitoring small, stealthy submarines in coastal waters and highlighted the lengths North Korean soldiers are expected to go in service to their state. Despite these high-stakes confrontations, everyday citizens—taxi drivers, fishermen—played crucial roles in alerting authorities to these covert activities.

Resources

Tim Blevins recently completed Service Officer training conducted by FDVA. He is not a certified VSO, but he can provide you with some assistance while you work through the VA maze.

VA Health Care

www.va.gov/healthcare

"It is a shame for a man to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of which his body is capable."

Wills

Need a will? You can create a legally enforceable will at no cost. <http://www.legacywills.com>

Will VA Pay for Your Funeral? The Answer May Surprise You

What Will the VA Pay?

Since you're reading this, you probably are a veteran. Doesn't the VA pay for all of this?

Burial and Plot Allowance

The VA will pay a [burial allowance](#) to an eligible veteran's family to help defray burial and funeral costs.

Cemetery

All veterans with other-than-dishonorable discharges are eligible for [free burial in a national VA cemetery](#). [Check out all memorial benefits, including requesting military honors at a funeral.](#)

REAL ID

No Better Time Than NOW.

Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by December 31, 2025. The paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted after this date. The new cards are more secure and durable, incorporating features like plastic cardstock and enhanced security measures.

According to the DoD Common Access Card website, USID cards are issued to retired military and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy.

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know these old forms of ID will not be valid to access a military installation, and you will need issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be invalid. The deadline is 31 December 2025.

Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2). schedule



your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. - do it now!

You may want to get your REAL ID at the Naval Support Activity Orlando site on Science Drive takes walk-ins. Doors open at 7:30. Arrive early and you may be headed home in an hour. Carlos had an effortless time getting his REAL ID.

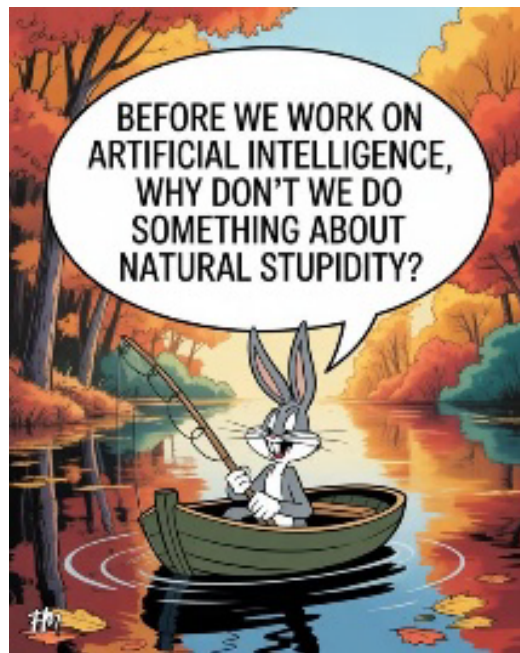
<http://installations.militaryonesource.mil>

Chapter Officers

Commander: Carlos Martinez
Vice-Commander: Fred Walter
Secretary: Tim Blevins
Treasurer: Sam Goodwin
Storekeeper: Bill Bish

Foundation Officers

President: Sam Goodwin
Secretary: Bill Bish
Treasurer: Paul Enrandez
E-VP: Tim Blevins



Brazilian Wandering Spider

The venom of the Brazilian Wander Spider can cause severe symptoms like intense pain, muscle spasms, difficulty breathing, and even death in rare cases, particularly in children or those with compromised health. Bites are uncommon, as the spider is not aggressive unless provoked, but its potency has earned it a fearsome reputation. **These spiders have a body size of 7/8" - 1 7/8" and the distance across their legs can 5-7".**

Interestingly, the venom's effect on nitric oxide has drawn scientific interest, with research exploring its potential in treating erectile dysfunction, though the risks far outweigh any benefits without medical intervention. Immediate treatment, including antivenom and supportive care, is critical for bite victims.

This spider, found primarily in South and Central America, delivers a neurotoxic venom containing a peptide called Tx2-6. This toxin affects the nervous system by increasing nitric oxide levels, which triggers vasodilation in blood vessels.



USSVI Creed

The purpose/creed of USSVI is 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 may be a



constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

2025 Christmas Party

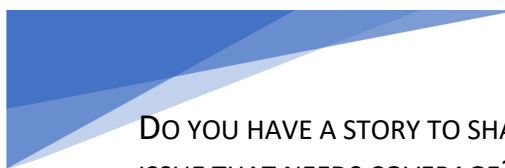
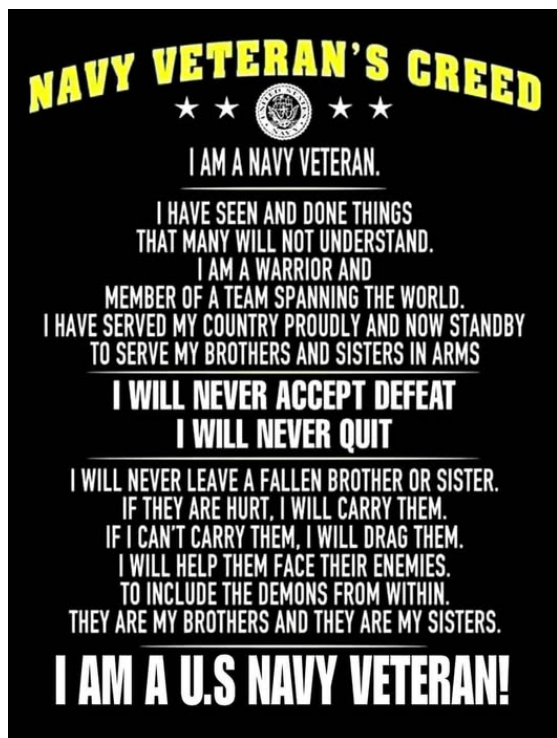
At the September meeting, Tim brought up what information he had gathered regarding the possibility of renting the American Legion Winter Garden's hall. Some other offered comments and it was left to everyone to gather information regarding alternate sites and catering choices. Tim has offered to collect all the information gathered and present that information to the members at the October membership meeting. Tim asks that you contact him at blevinst@gmail.com.

2025 Halloween Night (Minneola Safe Night)

We have agreed to participate in the Halloween activities hosted by Minneola on October 31. Chris Singh has acted as the point person for this activity in the past. He is certain to need volunteers. Please let him know that you will be at the event at our October meeting.

2025 VETERANS Day

November 11th, a Tuesday. Bobby Mock is still looking for volunteers to assist him in making this another chapter events. On Veterans Day, you will have some activities beginning at 0900 and you can stay and eat after which you will be home by 1400. Contact Bobby at rmock3@icloud.com.



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? IS THERE AN ISSUE THAT NEEDS COVERAGE? WHAT BOAT SHOULD APPEAR IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER?

[BLEVINST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:blevinst@gmail.com)

