Seawolf Submarine Association
April 2023 Newsletter

Coming Soon!

After some unanticipated delays, our Association website (http://seawolf21.org) should be ready to "go live" shortly. The website will enable people to make tax deductible contributions to the Seawolf Submarine Association in support of our mission. The website will also provide information on upcoming events and opportunities to serve. A separate email will be sent to our distribution list once the website is published.

Become a Seawolf Association Member

The Seawolf Submarine Association can't execute our mission without your help. We depend on the donations and contributions of our private and corporate members to provide support to the current and past Seawolf crews and their families.

As a member of the Seawolf Submarine Association, you can be proud to have helped establish some long-lasting traditions in support of the USS Seawolf – such as our First Night Duty Crew Dinner described below. Additional membership benefits include:

- Quarterly Newsletter outlining Association events and "News from the Boat".
- Opportunities to serve on Special Committees to establish guidelines for future Association projects.
- Invitations to attend and participate in Association events with the USS Seawolf crew.

- Opportunities to purchase USS Seawolf memorabilia.

The Association has set affordable membership dues at just under $21 a month. Know that you have the satisfaction of helping support our Submarine Community through USS Seawolf. Once our website is live, you'll be able to join via credit card or PayPal. A special email will be distributed once our website is up and running.

Message from Seawolf CO

On 26 APR, the Seawolf Submarine Association received the following note from CDR Jeff Fassbender, Commanding Officer of USS Seawolf (SSN 21).

SEAWOLF Sub Club,

First, I want to thank all of you for participating in this sub club – we are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to building our relationship. I also wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to our great crew and let you know some of the things they have accomplished over the last couple years.

As you know, SEAWOLF is an amazing boat – but we have an even more amazing crew who operate with enthusiasm, exhibit unmatched deckplate ownership, and really drive for success. Over the last few years, they have excelled and met every challenge head on – they have earned three consecutive COMSUDEVRON Battle "E" awards (2020-2022) and won the 2020 PACIFIC FLEET Arleigh Burke Trophy and 2021 PACIFIC FLEET Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award. Their success is not limited to the operational side either – over the last two years, they have achieved over a 50% advancement rate across 3 advancement cycles – more than doubling the fleet average for advancements in EACH cycle. They have also earned the RETENTION EXCELLENCE AWARD during each of the last two years, even while attaining one of the highest PERSTEMPO rates in the submarine force!

Last year, we completed a seven-month Western Pacific deployment from May to December, steaming over 60,000 NM through the deployment and arriving home in time to celebrate the holidays with our families. The crew absolutely crushed

the deployment, completing operations with very high-level fleet interest and gaining unmatched experience that will make us better as a submarine force for years to come. Over 80 Sailors completed their FIRST ever deployment (over 130 their first WESTPAC deployment) – throughout the deployment 45 of our young Sailors earned their Silver Dolphins and 7 Junior Officers earned their Gold Dolphins. We were also able to provide opportunities for experience to 21 Sailors from other commands – or as we like to say, we 21 more Sailors who were "raised by wolves".

That is just a quick snapshot of what this talented, young, and very driven crew has accomplished. We look forward to meeting all of you and building a long-lasting relationship that will help take care of our Sailors for years to come!

Beware the Wolf!
CDR Jeff Fassbender

Seawolf Returns from Deployment

On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, the Seawolf (SSN21) returned from a more than 7-month deployment to their new home port at Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor. Upon their arrival, the Seawolf became the first submarine to moor at the new Olympic Pier, opened in October 2022.

To read the Navy News article on their deployment, please click here.

Seawolf Submarine Association Hosts First Night Duty Crew Dinner

Upon Seawolf's return to their new homeport in Bangor, WA, the Seawolf Submarine Association hosted a catered dinner for the first night's duty crew. While most of the crew is able to leave the boat and reconnect with their families, a small contingent of the crew is required to stay on duty, aboard the boat, during this "first night". To ease their burden and welcome them home, the Seawolf Submarine Association provided an Italian feast, catered by the local Olive Garden, for all crew members staying onboard. Remaining crew members returning the next day even had some "leftovers" to satisfy their needs.

This was the first official event sponsored by the Seawolf Submarine Association.

USS Seawolf earns "Battle E" Award

On Jan 4, 2023, Rear Admiral Jeff Jablon, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), announced the winners of the 2022 Battle Efficiency Competition, or Battle "E" Awards. These awards recognize commands which were evaluated during 2022 to have attained the highest overall or departmental readiness. The USS Seawolf was awarded the overall Battle "E" award in the At Sea Category as well as the Engineering Readiness Red "E" and the Weapons Readiness White "E".

Congratulations USS Seawolf and Thank You for your efforts in defending our liberty and protecting our economic freedom.

Seawolf Change of Command Scheduled for May 2023

In May 2023, CDR Jeff Fassbender will be relieved by CDR Doug Hagenbuch as the Commanding Officer of the USS Seawolf (SSN21). CDR Hagenbuch is currently serving as Chief of Staff, COMSUBGROUP EIGHT in Naples, Italy. CDR Fassbender's next assignment will be as PCO Instructor at COMSUBPAC in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

We want to thank CDR Fassbender, and his wife Julie, for their assistance and advise as we formally organized our Association. We wish them *fair winds and following seas* as they begin their new assignment in Hawaii and we look

forward to continuing our excellent relationship with USS Seawolf and the Seawolf FRG through CDR Hagenbuch and his wife Melissa.

Seeking Committee Volunteers

The Seawolf Submarine Association is seeking volunteers to help establish the guidelines and processes associated with our mission to "support the transition of retiring active-duty service members to new career opportunities in the public and private sectors."

We are particularly interested in former active-duty members who have successfully made the transition or who are in current positions affiliated with recruiting and/or hiring veterans. If you have an interest in helping to define this area of our mission, please contact Mr. Gary Humes at humesconsulting@rochester.rr.com.

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer" – Gen. James H. Doolittle

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NSL-NW Chapter Hosts USS Seawolf Leadership

On Wednesday, January 18, 2023, the Northwest Chapter of the Naval Submarine League held their annual Holiday Luncheon. As the first "Sub Club" associated with the NW Chapter, special invitations to attend the luncheon were extended to the USS Seawolf Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and Ombudsman. The CO's wife and Ombudsman's husband also attended.

Happy 123rd Birthday to the Submarine Community

On April 11th, the Submarine Community celebrated its 123rd Birthday. On that date, in 1900, the United States government procured its first modern commissioned submarine, the USS Holland (SS-1).

Happy Birthday to all Submariners!