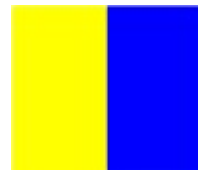
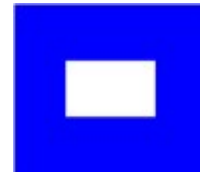
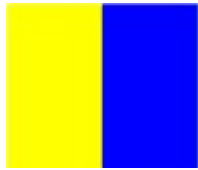
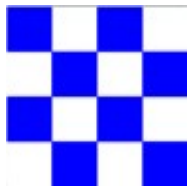


# SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



**Dedicated to those who served on this incredible Submarine**

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## **1. Next USS Sea Poacher National Reunion 2024**

We've started working with the ST. Mary's Submarine Museum , director Keith Post , to be in ST. Mary's Georgia October 30 to November 3 , 2024.

For now, please **put these dates on your calendar** and we'll send out more information in our January & April newsletters.

Basically, the Sub museum and the US Navy King's Bay have held these events in the past :

**October 31 Thursday**

CMC/COB Breakfast and evening BBQ on the US Navy Base.

**November 1 Friday**

WW II Memorial ceremony

**November 1 Friday ( continued ):**

Trident Training Facility Tours

Lunch & Dinner

**November 2 Saturday**

Submarine Tours

USS Sea Poacher Banquet

Again, I'll send out more information , registration forms, etc in 2024.

**2 . Jon Nagle MM 19621963**

Is Awarded USSVI's Holland Club Award at the Denizens of the Deep USSVI's Subbase in Aiken, SC.





**3. The following poem on PAGE 4 is from our own Jon Nagle MM 62-63:**

A long, long time ago, in a world far away,  
God gave the keys of these  
To a bunch of 20 year olds and said;  
"Go out amongst 'em, and when you are done,  
Go out and have some fun".  
He gave us beer and firewater and bars that never closed.  
He turned his head, when we were misled.....  
And gave us penicillin to help reduce the swellin, after a night at the The Ol'e San Juan.  
Now those days are gone.  
The diesels have shut down and their iron is cold.  
The Boys that rode them are all getting old.  
The Nukes have the field,  
It's their turn to be bold.  
The smoke boats live on  
In the thoughts of a few,  
Who are dwindling away like the morn's early dew.  
The smell of the smoke and the smell of the boat  
Lingers on in our seabags and still makes us choke.  
I'd do it again, I'd do it the same.  
I made it my choice and had fun at their game.



## 5. USSVI's Ben Bastura Award

Awarded to Bill Brinkman 2023

Hello Shipmates , just a few words explaining the Award:

1. Attached find the reasons for the Ben Bastura Award from USSVI.
2. I was nominated by members of my Central Texas Base, and they submitted the reasons and the wording of my Award.

However, I only saw the words when the Plaque was presented to me and note, it says I did many things for the USS Sea Owl SS 405. Obviously, it should have said USS Sea Poacher SS 406.

3. Also note that Ben Bastura's submarine Museum collection is now at the ST. Mary's Submarine Museum , so we'll get to see it next October -November 2024.

Bill



The Ben Bastura Historical Achievement Award is presented to the person who

- a) Demonstrated their understanding and commitment to our Creed in perpetuating the memory of submariners and submarines by gathering, creating, or in other ways preserving a significant volume of submarine history.
- b) Within the submarine community, demonstrated a broad and encompassing discipline of gathering submarine history.
- c) Demonstrated they are an expert in the many aspects of gathering and preserving submarine history, its artifacts, and documents.

The Award recognizes that for almost 50 years, Ben Bastura collected submarine artifacts, papers, and trivia. He also did much research on all facets of submarines and the people in them. Ben spent untold amounts of his own money to make a museum of his home in Waterford, CT. and to share his love of submarines with the people who came around or who asked for his help freely. Ben also was an author who wrote *History of U.S. Submarine Veterans World War II*. Ben is gone now; but, thanks to him, we have many valuable submarine books, papers, plaques, and other objects that are irreplaceable and are located at St. Mary's Submarine Museum in St. Mary's, Georgia. In the years to come, we are going to need more and more people like Ben; people who have a genuine love of those who have gone before and are determined to preserve our heritage.

Nominations may be made by any Member and submitted to the National Awards Chair.

The recipient of this Award shall meet the requirements listed above. Membership in the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. is not a requirement.



*Let it be known to all who present greetings that the*  
**BEN BASTURA HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
*For 2023 is presented to*

**William G. Brinkman**  
**Central Texas Base**

Who, by his outstanding performance as an original Plankowner of the Central Texas Base, he converted a 1200 sq. ft. separate guest house for Base meeting space supporting submariners. The house has ship's plaques and pictures, submarine related posters and newspaper clippings on the walls.

Various scale models of the Hunley, WWII and fast attack submarines, bookcases of submarine related books, movies and keepsakes are displayed. As the president, storekeeper and newsletter editor of the USS Sea Owl (SS-405) group, their WWII battle flag is displayed, mounted in a nice frame.

He has a genuine love of submarines and the history of the people that served and personifies the commitment to keeping the memories of submarines and submariners for posterity. He has demonstrated a broad understanding of the submarine community in his ability to collect and preserve our history.



## **6. Eternal Patrol**

**Robert Gromling SO 63-66**

Died January 1 , 2023 Seattle , WA

Robert's wife is Jo Ann.

We searched and couldn't find any more information on Robert's passing.

## **7 . USS Sea Owl SS 405 Rescue Bell Operations**

**The following article dated October 3 , 1959 from the *New London Day* tells the story of the rescue bell being used twice to bring 12 people down to the USS Sea Owl resting at 120 feet on the sandy bottom.**

**Its really fascinating to me, as I was on the USS Sea Owl that day, and don't remember it !**

**Perhaps i was “ out of the loop “ and nobody told me we were resting on the bottom of the sea !**

**Bill**



# How to Change Ships — While 120 Feet Below the Surface

By IVAN ROBINSON  
(Duo Staff Writer)

Talk about changing horses in midstream.

Thanks to the Navy, I changed ships on the floor of Block Island Sound—120 feet down.

The transfer was made by diving bell (or rescue chamber) from the Submarine Rescue Vessel Tringa to the Submarine Sea Owl, both units of Squadron 8 at the Submarine Base.

The place was northeast of Fishers Island, about four miles off Rhode Island's Misquameut Beach.

The 251-foot Tringa, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Charles T. Kincaid, was on a training exercise for her crew of five officers and 76 men.

Sea Owl, acting as a sunken sub, was waiting for us when we arrived on point at about 10 o'clock on a warm, sunny morning. Lt. Cmdr. William D. Wessinger, her skipper, had shut down her engines and let her settle in the sandy bottom.

The bell made two trips down. Some squadron staff officers went on the first. I went down on the second with an enlisted man, two Reserve officers on summer training and the bell's two operators—Warrant Officer First Class Alton Reid and Ensignman First Class Donald F. Garvin.

We had to put on football helmets before climbing into the bell. The reason soon became clear. Although it is 15 feet high and weighs more than ten tons, the bell bob on the surface like an empty bottle.

We lurched against each other and banged helmets as the bell began descending. Then everything steadied.

The six of us were in the bell's upper chamber, standing in a circle around the bulkheads. The chamber, about seven feet in diameter, contained valves, gauges and plumbing. It can hold 15 men when necessary.

The upper chamber is well lighted by two overhead bulbs and is supplied with air, electricity and telephone communications through hoses and cables from the Tringa.

The lower chamber has no bottom and is open to the sea. It contains two pressure-proof floodlights and through thick glass windows at six feet, we could see the brightly illuminated, yellow-green water below. The Sea Owl, however, was not visible.

Two Attempts Fail  
With the bell's buoyancy just about neutralized by the air-powered motor effortlessly latched us down the downhaul cable to the submarine. It only took a few minutes to make contact.

The first few attempts to make a watertight seal over Sea Owl's forward hatch failed. Reid and Garvin turned to hand operation, clanking and breaking the motor and levers to jack the mouth of the lower chamber onto the hatch properly.

Each time a seal was tried, the water had to be blown out of the lower chamber. And each time it failed, it had to be vented back in.

The procedure alternately raised and lowered the temperature and pressure around us. We broke out into a sweat and our ears throbbled.

Garvin showed us how to hold our noses and blow against our ears to relieve the pressure on our eardrums.

"You have to keep ahead of the bell," he shouted above the noise of the compressed air rushing up from the lower chamber.

The advice helped everyone except one of the Reserve officers, a young dental student. Try as he might, he couldn't get the knack and he developed a nosebleed.

Seal Finally Made  
On about the sixth try, the seal was made. It took only a few minutes to open the hatch and cure the bell and climb down into the submarine.

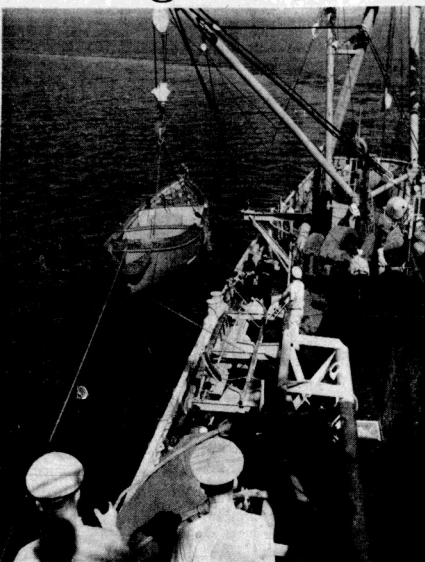
Some aspirin and a brief rest had the dental student fit again by the time Sea Owl returned to the base.

The adjoining photographs depict some of the Tringa's operations. 1. As Tringa circles the "sunken" submarine, crewmen put over one of the small boats that will help lay her mooring. Rescue vessels are considered the Navy's showcase of top-of-the-line seamanship.

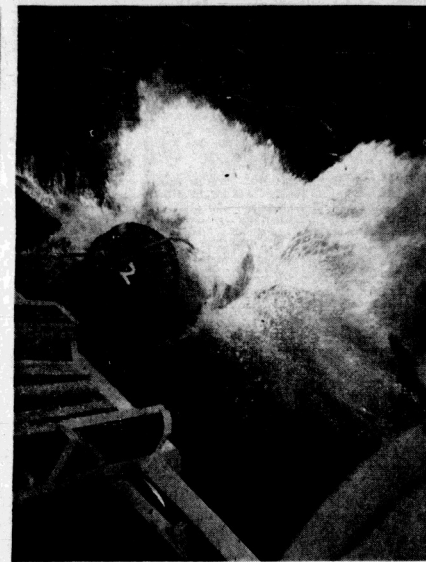
2. One of four huge buoys, called "spuds," cranes from the sea a split-second after its anchor, released from its rack by a hatch-swinging boom.

3. Spuds, dropped at the corners of a 500-yard square, form mooring points for the sub below. Tied to them with nylon lines run out by her workboats, Tringa uses winches to shift her position over the sub as the intersection of the diagonals.

4. Diver William Henderson goes down to the bottom 120 feet below, to make sure no fouled cables or other obstacles will prevent the diving bell from seating over the forward hatch. He came back up three minutes later to report a clear.



1. Mooring work begins by dropping workboats.



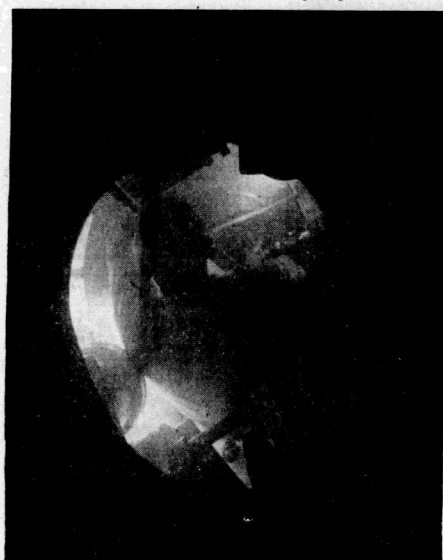
2. A "spud" splashes in after its anchor.



3. Descending to check sub.



4. Rescue chamber is put over the side.



5. On the sub, 120 feet down.



6. The long climb down.

water-tight seal over the Sea Owl's hatch—the upper is a sure sign—Reid descends into the lower chamber and fastens the bell to the sub with latching-down rods. Although sea pressure virtually welds the bell on, there's always the chance a disassembled sub will suddenly surface and shake it off.

A bell passenger alights on the deck of the Sea Owl's forward torpedo room. The top oval is the hatch between the bell's two chambers. The circle below is the submarine's outside hatch and the bottom oval is her inside hatch. Visible in the bell's lower chamber are the floodlights, ball-bearings and the downhaul cable and its reel.

Stassen Declares He'll Stand Clear  
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Harold Stassen, who was unsuccessful in three bids for the Republican presidential nomination, called "spuds" cranes from the sea a split-second after its anchor, released from its rack by a hatch-swinging boom.

Deportation Action Starts  
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Deportation proceedings were started yesterday against James Francis Duffy who was on the FBI's 10 most wanted list when he was arrested recently. Duffy, 31, is serving 2½ to 5 years in prison for robbing the Dresselhof Inn of \$5,200. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said he was brought to this country in 1930, three years after his birth in England, but never became a U.S. citizen.

State Official Completes Trip From River's Source to Saybrook  
Dr. Joseph Davidson has completed a 48-mile journey to Old Saybrook that gave him a first-hand look at pollution problems and development potential of the Connecticut River.

Old Saybrook  
Mrs. Elmer Vincent, Tel. EV 8 9399  
Lyme  
Mrs. Margaret Reynolds, GE 4-178  
Mrs. Young Moderator For Election  
The town election will take place on Monday between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the Lyme Town Hall.

Ed with morning from the Coughlin Funeral Home in Middletown. A 66-year-old brother-in-law was said in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Middletown. Burial was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown.

musical wedding ski, followed by a reading on fall flowers and bulbs by Hazel Stark, Lyme; games were played by Grotton Grange, directed by the master, Elizabeth Dean.

Salem  
Mrs. Donald H. Fraser, GI 2-782  
Crowd Expected At Tonight's Town Meeting  
A large crowd of taxpayers and voters are expected to attend the annual town business meeting at 8:30 o'clock tonight at the town hall.

with the receipts being divided between the Grange and the Library; Mrs. Harry Dutcher is general chairman and will welcome anyone willing to assist at the school during the day.