



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter December 2023 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
[nslpacsw@hotmail.com](mailto:nslpacsw@hotmail.com)



**Our program for **Tuesday, 12 December 2023:**  
**CAPT John C. Witte, USN**  
**Commanding Officer, Undersea Rescue Command (URC)****

**Please plan to join us from 11:15 AM to 1:00 PM  
at the **Oceanview on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)**  
for this in-person luncheon / professional forum.**

CAPT Witte is a native of Omaha, Nebraska. He graduated from Iowa State University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Food Science. He also completed a Master of Engineering Management at Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy at the Joint Forces Staff College.

His Division Officer tour was onboard USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN 706) in Groton, CT, where he completed an Engineered Refueling Overhaul and Arabian Gulf deployment. The ship earned the COMSUBRON TWO Battle Efficiency "E" Award in 2003. His Department Head tour was onboard USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727) (GOLD) in Bangor, WA, where he served as the Engineer Officer. MICHIGAN completed two Western Pacific Deployments and earned the COMSUBRON NINETEEN Engineering "E" Award in 2009.

His next sea tour was as Executive Officer aboard USS MINNESOTA (SSN 783) in Norfolk, VA, where he led the crew through initial construction, sea trials and commissioning.

He was the Commanding Officer of USS ANNAPOLIS (SSN 760) in San Diego, CA. During his time in command, the ship completed two Western Pacific Deployments and was awarded the COMSUBRON ELEVEN Battle Efficiency "E" Award in 2020.

His shore tours include serving as the Naval Special Warfare Officer at COMSUBRON ONE in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the U.S. Fleet Forces Command Nuclear Propulsion

Examining Board in Norfolk, VA, and most recently, as the Deputy Commander for Training at COMSUBRON ELEVEN in San Diego, CA.

CAPT Witte resides in San Diego with his wife, Lisa, and two children. He assumed command of the Undersea Rescue Command (URC) in San Diego in July 2023.

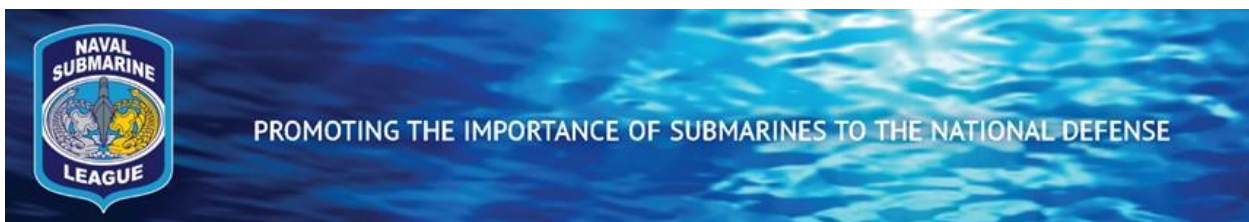


### Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

- 7 Dec (9:00 to 9:30 AM): Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and 52 Boats Memorial Commemoration with laying of wreaths and placement of flags
- 12 Dec: Chapter Luncheon
- 9 Jan 2024: Chapter Luncheon

Check the NSLPACSW website for a more complete [2023/2024 calendar of events](https://www.nslpacsw.com).

*Bruce Renne, President ([pres@nslpacsw.com](mailto:pres@nslpacsw.com))*





**Highlights of the 14 November 2023 luncheon / professional forum with  
Brigadier General James A. Ryans II, USMC,  
Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot,  
Western Recruiting Region,  
at the Bayview Restaurant and Catering Center on MCRD**



*The Bayview Restaurant was a fine venue for this luncheon meeting.*



*Chapter President Bruce Renne (L) & Chapter VP VADM (ret) Robert Thomas (R) greet  
BGen James Ryans II*



*Ed Langmaid & Mike Crawford*



*Jim Mueller, John Thomas & Bob Decesari*





*BGen James Ryans II, CAPT Jeff Yackeren, CDRE Ken Douglas & Bruce Renne*



*OCS 7204 grads Mark Bernhardson & Jeff Fischbeck*



*Former SUPPOs Keith Fargo & Mark Bernhardson*



*CAPT (ret) Chic Bowling, 101 years young*



*Don Mathiowetz & with Phil Klintworth (former SUBASE CO) & son Paul Klintworth*



BGen Ryans provided a dynamic and informative briefing on the status of current Marine Corps recruiting efforts and those of our other military services, suggesting solutions that have worked well for the Marine Corps over the years. He acknowledged the challenges of current low numbers of youth having the “propensity to serve” coupled with the dwindling numbers of those physically, mentally and morally able to meet current standards. His unique and enthusiastic approaches to wrestling with these challenges was inspirational.



*After BGen Ryan's presentation, Bruce Renne presented him with a copy of “A Century of Submarines in San Diego” and an NSL Challenge Coin.*

More photos from the November 2023 luncheon are posted on the NSLPACSW website [here](#). A video of the General's speech should be available on the website shortly.



## **Chilean submarine CS GENERAL CARRERA (SS 22) tour, 7 November 2023**

On 7 November 2023, 15 NSLPACSW members and friends toured the CS GENERAL CARERRA, which was docked at Naval Base Point Loma. This modern *Scorpène*-class diesel-electric submarine was in San Diego to participate in this year's DESI program (Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative) with U.S. Navy surface and submarine forces. It was constructed by the French company Naval Group (formerly DCNS) and the Spanish firm Navantia and was commissioned in July 2006.



*CARERRA docked at Naval Base Point Loma*



*Tour group 1 & tour guides*



*Tour group 2*



*CARERRA sailed by the USS Midway*



*Tour group 3*

# Scorpena Submarines

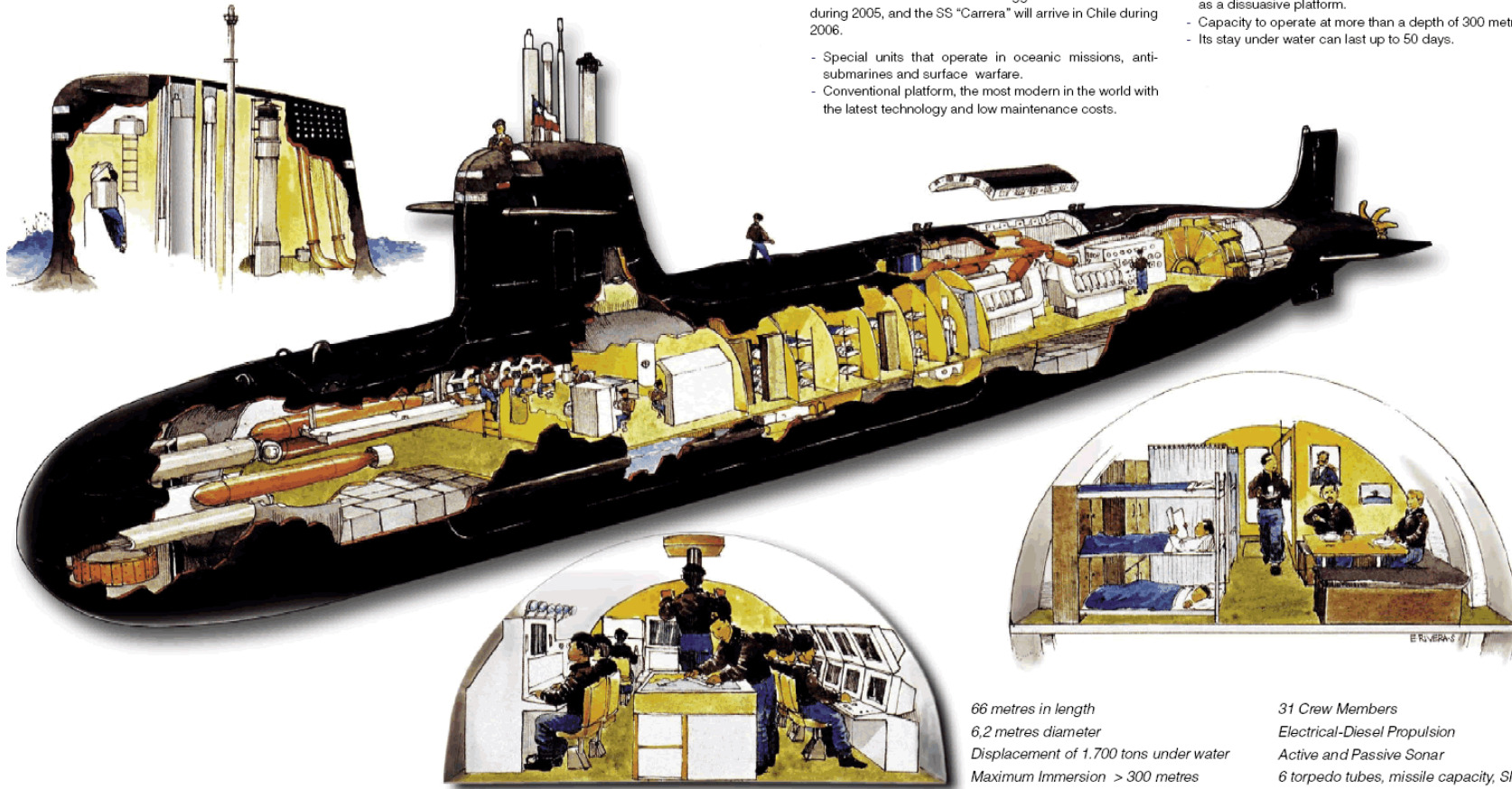
## "O'Higgins" and "Carrera"

### Project "Neptuno"

This considers the acquisition of two new submarines that will shortly be incorporated into service for the renovation of our combat units. The SS "O'Higgins" will arrive in Chile during 2005, and the SS "Carrera" will arrive in Chile during 2006.

- Special units that operate in oceanic missions, anti-submarines and surface warfare.
- Conventional platform, the most modern in the world with the latest technology and low maintenance costs.

- Propulsion System with integrated Platform Control and an Integrated Combat System.
- Infra-red Radiation Detector.
- Modern armament that can maintain its essential condition as a dissuasive platform.
- Capacity to operate at more than a depth of 300 metres.
- Its stay under water can last up to 50 days.



66 metres in length  
6,2 metres diameter  
Displacement of 1.700 tons under water  
Maximum Immersion > 300 metres  
Cruising Range of 50 days on patrol

31 Crew Members  
Electrical-Diesel Propulsion  
Active and Passive Sonar  
6 torpedo tubes, missile capacity, SM 39

Source: Pinterest



## **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 7 Dec 2023**



The 52 Boats Memorial Commemoration with laying of wreaths and placement of flags will be held from 9:00 to 9:30 AM.

This commemoration is sponsored by U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc - San Diego Base, 52 Boats Memorial Veterans and the Point Loma Association.

You'll find more information on this event at the following [link](#).

## **Submarine force news reported by the U.S. Naval Institute**

- "White House Calls for \$3.4B Boost in Submarine Industrial Base Funding," 20 October 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/10/20/white-house-calls-for-3-4b-more-in-submarine-industrial-base-funding>
- "AUKUS Sub Sale Will Cause 10-Year Dip in U.S. Attack Boat Inventory, Says CBO," 27 October 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/10/26/aukus-sub-sale-will-result-in-10-year-dip-in-u-s-attack-boat-inventory-says-cbo>
- "Second Set of Australian Sailors Graduate from U.S. Navy Nuke School," 31 October 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/10/31/2nd-set-of-australian-sailors-graduate-from-u-s-navy-nuke-school>
- "Navy to Award Long-Delayed Overhaul Contract for USS Boise in 2024," 7 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/07/navy-to-award-long-delayed-overhaul-contract-for-uss-boise-in-2024>
- "Navy Mulling Large Diameter Sub Hulls After 12 Columbias, SSN(X) Requirements Due Next Year," 8 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/08/navy-mulling-large-diameter-subs-hulls-after-12-columbias-ssnx-requirements-due-next-year>
- "Australia Will Announce AUKUS Nuclear Attack Boat Build Partner Next Year," 9 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/09/australia-will-announce-aukus-nuclear-attack-boat-build-partner-next-year>
- "Retired Navy Capt. Don Walsh, Deep Sea Submariner and Ocean Explorer, Dies at 92," 13 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/13/retired-navy-capt-don-walsh-deep-sea-submariner-and-ocean-explorer-dies-at-92>
- "Latest Continuing Resolution Includes \$3.3B Anomaly for Sub Construction," 17 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/17/latest-continuing-resolution-includes-3-3b-anomaly-for-sub-construction>



## **Submarine force updates from the Congressional Research Service & Congressional Budget Office**

- “An Analysis of the Navy’s Fiscal Year 2024 Shipbuilding Plan,” Congressional Budget Office, October 2023: <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-10/59508-shipbuilding.pdf>
- “Navy Virginia Class Submarine Program and AUKUS Submarine Program Proposal: Background and Issues for Congress,” Report RL32418, updated 23 October 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32418>
- “Report to Congress on SSN(X) Next-Generation Attack Submarine,” Report IF11826, updated 13 November 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11826>

## **More submarine news**

- “Progress touted in D&D of Idaho’s naval nuclear prototypes (S1W and A1W),” American Nuclear Society, 25 October 2023: <https://www.ans.org/news/article-5468/progress-touted-in-dd-of-idahos-naval-nuclear-prototypes/>

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all submariners, their families and the extended submarine community!**



**Wishing You a Boat Load of Holiday Cheer!**

Source: [HomeportGreetings, Etsy](#)

## Submariner's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Xmas and what no-one could see, the men with the Dolphins were under the sea.  
Most of the crew were flat on their backs. Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.

Those men on watch were making their rounds, some manning the planes or listening for sounds.  
Back in maneuvering or down in the room, they all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.

I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due, and hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two.  
Against better judgement I took a short stroll, and found myself wandering into control.

The NAV had the Conn, the COW was in place, the COB had the Dive and a scowl on his face.  
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware, the QM and ET were discussing a dare.

To comply with the orders the NAV told the Dive, to bring the boat up with minimum rise.  
The orders were given and soon they were there, at periscope depth with a scope in the air.

The QM confirmed our position with care, the broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.  
The NAV on the scope let out a small cry, he shook his head twice and rubbed at his eyes.

He looked once again to find what it was, that interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause.

Try as he might there was nothing to see, so down went the scope and us to the deep.

I asked what it was that caused his dismay, he sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say."  
It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud, or a meteorite he wondered aloud.

But to tell you the truth I guess I must say, whatever it was it looked like a sleigh. And though it passed  
quickly and never was clear, I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer.

We laughed and teased him and I got up to go, when our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."  
They told us a message was just coming in, we looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say, your attempt at a joke is too far delayed. If it had been sooner it might  
have been neat, but I doubt we're receiving at four hundred feet."

"Conn, Radio you can come down and see, we're not playing games to any degree."  
I headed aft with nothing better to do, surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

It stopped and was sent to control to be read, the NAV read it slowly and scratched at his head.  
Then again he began but this time aloud, to those that now waited, a curious crowd.

"To you denizens of the deep and men of the sea, who risk your life daily so others stay free. I rarely have  
seen you, on this my big night, for far too often you are hidden from sight. But purely by luck I saw you  
tonight. As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night. And lucky for me I've finally won, the  
chance to say thanks for all you have done."

"I know that you miss your families at home, and sometimes you feel as if you're alone. But trust what I  
say and I'll do what's right. I'll take something special to your families tonight."

"Along with the gifts I'll take to your kin, I'll visit their dreams and leave word within. They'll hear of your  
love, and how you miss them, I'll tell them that soon you'll be home again."

"It might not be much I know that is true, to thank you for all the things that you do. But I'll do what I can,  
while you do what is right, merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."





## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 12 December 2023**  
**Oceanview at Ballast Point, Building 501, Naval Base Point Loma.**  
**Doors open 11:15 AM.**

**The meeting is called to order at 11:45 AM.**

**Lunch is served at 11:50 AM.**

**The presentation starts about 30 minutes later and the meeting concludes after a Q & A session, usually a bit after 1:00 PM.**

### **For Members and Guests:**

**The Luncheon / Forum price is \$30 per person, payable at the door with cash, VENMO or check made payable to: NSLPACSW Chapter.**

**All active duty enlisted and officers O-1 to O-3 are guests of the Chapter and welcome to attend at no charge.**

**Please make your reservations with the NSLPACSW Secretary, Pete Lobner, by e-mail at this link: [nslpacsw@hotmail.com](mailto:nslpacsw@hotmail.com)**

- Make your reservation by **1600 Thursday, 7 December 2023**
- Include the names of each member and guest attending.
- BASE ACCESS PROCEDURES:
  - Individuals with CAC / DOD Retired ID / other accepted base access ID may enter the base after showing their valid ID at the base access gate.
  - Individuals without such an ID require a 5512 form on file with NBPL Security. THEN, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO STOP AT THE NBPL PASS & ID OFFICE AND PICK UP A ONE-TIME PASS EACH TIME YOU ENTER THE BASE. See Simone Reyes in the PASS & ID Office. Show this ID at the base access gate. If you are unsure of your base access status, please contact Pete Lobner at [nslpacsw@hotmail.com](mailto:nslpacsw@hotmail.com) at least 2 weeks prior to the luncheon to work out access details.
- Any cancellations are required by noon **Friday, 8 December 2023.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE