



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter January 2024 Newsletter

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



**Our program for **Friday, 2 February 2024:**  
**Rear Admiral Richard Seif, USN**  
**Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet****

**Please plan to join us from **12:30 to 2:00 PM**  
at the Oceanview on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)  
for this in-person luncheon / professional forum.**

Rear Adm. Seif is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a 1992 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering. He also holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary's Mason School of Business.

At sea, he has served aboard five nuclear fast-attack submarines. He served as a junior officer aboard USS Newport News (SSN 750), engineer officer and combat systems officer aboard USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723), and executive officer aboard USS Houston (SSN 713).

He commanded USS Buffalo (SSN 715), homeported in Guam, from April 2010 to February 2013. During this tour, he conducted extensive operations in the Western Pacific, and the boat was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Battle Efficiency awards, and the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy. He also commanded USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), completing a U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet deployment, and also served as Commodore, Submarine Squadron One and chief of staff to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Seif has served as the military assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities; deputy chief of staff for Operations for Submarine Group Seven/Task Force 74 in Yokosuka, Japan; the Navy's national director of Submarine and Nuclear Power Recruiting; board member and executive officer of the Fleet Forces Command Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board; and flag aide to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet/Submarine Allied

Command Atlantic. Prior to his assignment as Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet he served as Commander, Submarine Group Seven/Task Force 54/Task Force 74. On 15 June 2023, Rear Admiral Seif relieved Rear Adm. Jeffrey Jablon as Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

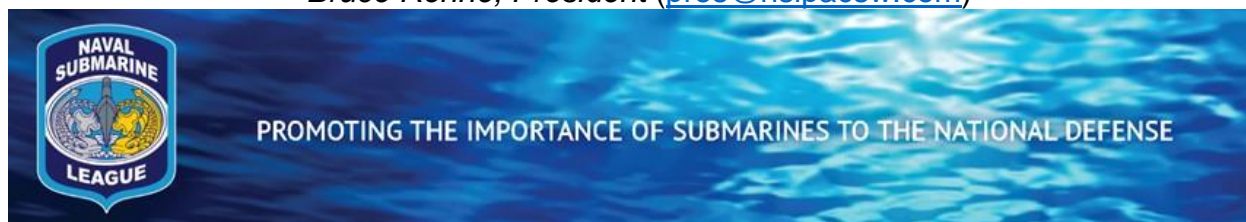
His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards). He has served with crews that have earned seven Battle Efficiency awards, two Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophies, and various unit and campaign awards.



*Adm. Samuel Paparo (center), Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presided as Rear Adm. Richard Seif (left) relieved Rear Adm. Jeffrey Jablon (right) during the COMSUBPAC change of command ceremony aboard the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Missouri (SSN 780) in Pearl Harbor, HI, on 15 June 2023.*

*Source: U.S. Navy photo.*

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





**Highlights of the 12 December 2023 luncheon / professional forum  
with CAPT John C. Witte, USN  
Commanding Officer, Undersea Rescue Command (URC),  
at the Oceanview on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)**



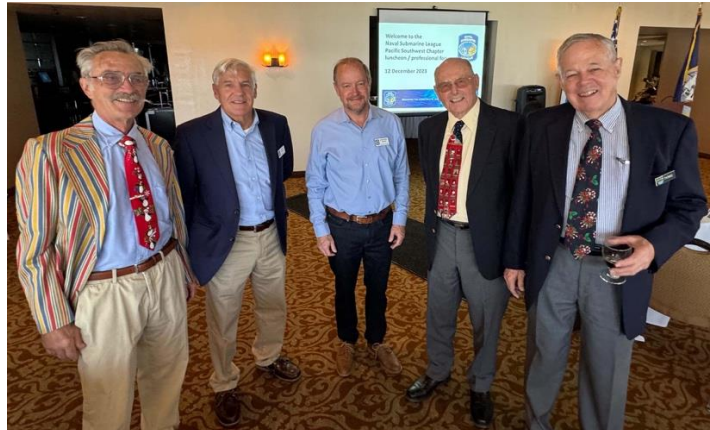
*Bruce Renne, Jim Bryant, Paul Van Benthem  
& CSS-11 CMDCM Brandon Wallis*



*CSS-11 Chaplain LCDR Dan Robinson & Curtiss-  
Wright members Sean Hartig & Omar Maestas*



*Speaker CAPT John Witte & Chapter VP  
VADM (ret) Robert Thomas*



*Chapter members in the holiday spirit.*



*The head table, (L to R): John Schiltz, CSS-11  
CDRE Ken Douglas, Bruce Renne, our speaker  
CAPT John Witte, VADM (ret) Robert Thomas,  
CMDCM Brandon Wallis, CAPT (ret) Keith Fargo,  
CAPT (ret) Jim Bryant*





*Chapter President Bruce Renne opened the meeting.*



*CMDM Wallis introduced Sailor of the Year candidates, LSS2 Steele (L) and ETN1 Pierce (R).*

CAPT Witte explained that URC is the home to the U.S. Navy's submarine rescue specialists. URC provides operational, administrative, maintenance, and logistical oversight of the Navy's shallow and deep water rescue systems as well as the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) intervention system. URC uses a mix of active duty sailors, reserve component personnel, and government contractors to provide 24/7 worldwide submarine rescue coverage for United States and foreign submarines. URC is the sole US provider of submarine rescue capability for the U.S. Navy. The goal of URC is to conduct open hatch rescue operations with a disabled submarine anywhere in the world within 96 hours of alert. You'll find more information on the [URC website](http://www.navy.mil/navsub/urc/).



*(Above) CAPT Witte explained how URC practiced a rescue operation with the Chilean diesel sub CARRERA during its recent DESI visit.*



*(Left) Chapter President Bruce Renne & Secretary Pete Lobner display the ship's plaque from the submarine tender USS Fulton (AS-11) that was donated to NSL by Cece Upson. Fulton was launched in December 1940 at Mare Island Navy Yard and served in the Pacific until 1947. After a brief period in the reserve fleet, Fulton was recommissioned and served the submarine force on the East Coast and in the Mediterranean for 40 years, from 1951 to 1991.*





*Sue Ward displayed her fanciful Christmas sweater.*



*Bruce Renne concluded the meeting with holiday wishes to all.*

More photos from the December 2023 luncheon are posted on the NSLPACSW website here: [Slideshow](#) and [Photo Gallery](#). A video of the CAPT Witte's presentation is posted on the NSLPACSW website [here](#) and you can view his PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

### **52 Boats Memorial Commemoration on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

On 7 December 2023, U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc - San Diego Base, the 52 Boats Memorial Veterans and the Point Loma Association conducted the annual remembrance ceremony at the memorial in Liberty Station, San Diego. Find out more about the history or the 52 Boats Memorial [here](#).



*(L to R) Placing a wreath on one of the 52 memorials; a decorated memorial; CAPT Jeff Yacker, USN, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Point Loma; Sandy Hanshaw, President, Point Loma Association*



*CAPT Jeff Yacker addressed the attendees. Source, all photos: Peninsula News, PLA*



## CSS-11 Commodore's Cup

Congratulations to Submarine Squadron 11 for winning this year's Commodore's Cup competition, which was coordinated by CSS-11 Command Chaplain LCDR Daniel Robinson and held at Naval Base Point Loma. With two events remaining, CSS-11, URC (Undersea Rescue Command) and STF (Submarine Training Facility) were separated by only two points in the standings. Then, CDRE Douglas brought home the winning time in the tricycle relay race. NSLPACSW Secretary, Pete Lobner, was one of the judges for the final event, the Chili Cookoff, which was won by the Squadron 11 Supply Officer, LCDR Seiler. URC placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition and STF placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.



(Top left) CDRE Ken Douglas brought the CSS-11 team home in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the tricycle relay race.  
(Bottom) The CSS-11 team awarded the Commodore's Cup trophy. Source: P. Lobner photos.

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

- Video: “Sweden’s Gotland-class Subs: AIP pioneers of the Baltic Sea,” posted 8 November 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rYt4M3JiNs>
- John Grady, “AUKUS Pact Stresses Long-term Workforce Development,” 28 November 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/11/28/aukus-pact-stresses-longterm-workforce-development>
- Sam Lagrone, “Senate Clears Promotion Backlog, Confirms Nominees for VCNO, Naval Reactors,” 21 December 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/12/20/senate-clears-promotion-backlog-confirms-nominees-for-vcno-naval-reactors>
- Aaron-Matthew Lariosa, “Navy Receives First of Six Prototype Extra Large Orca Underwater Drones,” 21 December 2023: <https://news.usni.org/2023/12/21/navy-receives-first-of-six-prototype-extra-large-orca-underwater-drones>

### **Submarine force update from the CRS & GAO**

- “Arctic Region: Factors That Affect the Advancement of U.S. Priorities,” GAO-24-107192, 29 November 2023: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107192>
- “Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS Report R41129, updated 20 December 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41129>
- “Navy Virginia-Class Submarine Program and AUKUS Submarine Proposal: Background and Issues for Congress,” CRS report RL33418, updated 21 December 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32418>

### **More submarine news**

- Megan Eckstein, “US Navy eyes two-submarine delivery rate in 2024 after schedule upset,” DefenseNews, 9 November 2023: <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/11/09/us-navy-eyes-two-submarine-delivery-rate-in-2024-after-schedule-upset/>
- Tony Cappacio, “US to Deploy Anti-Ship Missiles on Subs in 2024 to Counter China,” Military.com, 5 December 2023: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/05/us-deploy-anti-ship-missiles-subs-2024-counter-china.html>
- Stephen Ruiz, “That Time a Navy Destroyer Landed Atop a German Sub in WWII,” Military.com, 12 December 2023: <https://www.military.com/history/time-navy-destroyer-landed-atop-german-sub-wwii.html>
- “Putin unveils new Russian nuclear submarines to flex naval muscle beyond Ukraine,” France24, 13 December 2023: <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20231213-putin-unveils-new-russian-nuclear-submarines-to-flex-naval-muscle-beyond-ukraine>

### **Mark your 2024 calendars for these upcoming events**

- Apr (TBD): COMSUBPAC Sailor of the Year Award Luncheon
- 12 March: Chapter Luncheon

Check the NSLPACSW website for a more complete [2023/2024 calendar of events](#).





## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Friday, 2 February 2024**  
**Oceanview at Ballast Point, Building 501, Naval Base Point Loma.**  
**Doors open 12:30 PM.**  
**The meeting is called to order at 13:00 PM.**  
**Lunch is served at 13:05 PM.**  
**The presentation starts about 30 minutes later and the meeting concludes after a Q & A session, a bit after 2:00 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 Treasurer, Jim Piburn, by e-mail at this link: [treas@nslpacsw.com](mailto:treas@nslpacsw.com)**

- Make your reservation by **noon, Monday, 29 January 2024.**
- 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 OR registration in DBIDS. WITH A 5512 FORM ON FILE, YOU ARE 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. Then show the ID at the base access gate.
  - If you are unsure of your base access status, please contact Jim Piburn at [treas@nslpacsw.com](mailto:treas@nslpacsw.com) at least 2 weeks prior to the luncheon to work out access details.
- Any cancellations are required by **noon, Monday, 29 January 2024.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE