



## Naval Submarine League Pacific Southwest Chapter October 2023 Newsletter

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>  
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**Our program for **Tuesday, 10 October 2023:**  
CDR Christian A. Rivera, USN,  
Commanding Officer, Submarine Training Facility San Diego, will  
talk about the training facility mission & recent facility upgrades.**

**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. In addition, there will be a tour of the  
Submarine Training Facility immediately after the luncheon.**

Cmdr. Christian A. Rivera, a native of Grand Prairie, Texas, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in English. He holds a Master of Military Operational Art and Science with a joint warfare concentration from the U.S. Air Force Command and Staff College.

His sea tours include division officer on USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) in San Diego, California, where he completed a Western Pacific deployment, an Arabian Gulf deployment and one dry-docking availability. During this assignment, Rivera's ship earned the Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 11 battle efficiency (Battle "E") award in 2006 and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He served as department head on USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) in Bangor, Washington, where he served as the weapon's officer. During this assignment, the USS Jimmy Carter team was twice recognized with the Battle "E" and the Navy Unit Commendation.

His shore tours include naval science instructor for the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Texas in Austin; lead operational planner for Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and squadron executive officer for COMSUBRON 15 in Piti, Guam; officer in charge for Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NAVSUBTRACENPAC) detachment Guam, leading a team of instructors who earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation for their efforts during operations COVID Revive and COVID Defeat;

and deputy for the floating dry dock ARCO (ARDM 5) and Undersea Rescue Command (URC), Submarine Squadron 11 in San Diego. CDR Rivera currently serves as commanding officer for Submarine Training Facility San Diego.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards) and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).



### **Submarine Training Facility tour immediately after the luncheon**

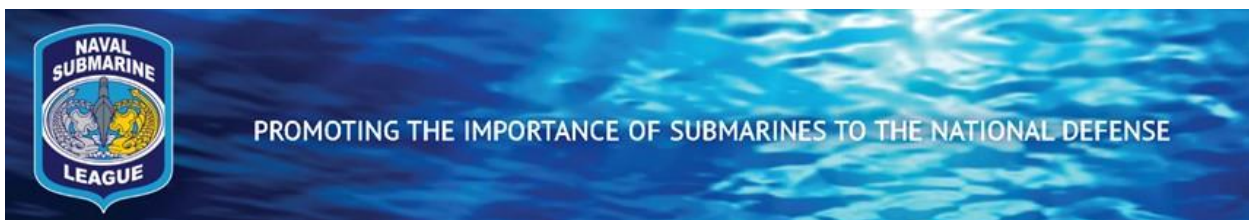
CDR Rivera has invited NSLPACSW members to a tour of the Submarine Training Facility immediately after the October luncheon. So, please set aside some additional time on Tuesday afternoon, 10 October, and join your fellow NSLPACSW members for what will certainly be a very interesting tour.

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

- Oct (TBD): Annual Submarine History Seminar
- Nov 7-8: [41st Annual Symposium](#) – Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- Nov 11: All Flags at the 52 Boat Memorial – Veterans Day
- Nov 12 (11 AM): Veterans Day Parade (Click [here](#) for details.)
- Nov 14: Chapter Luncheon

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

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





## Highlights of the 12 September 2023 luncheon / professional forum with CAPT Jeffrey Yackeren, CO, Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL)



*(Left) Don Mathiowetz greets CAPT Jeff Yackeren and wife Kelly.*



*(Right) VADM Robert Thomas greets recently commissioned Ensigns Mack and Hayden*



*Around the head table (L to R):  
Bruce Renne, Kelly Yackeren,  
CAPT Jeff Yackeren, VADM  
Robert Thomas, LT Eric  
Wootten, Jim Bryant, Don  
Mathiowetz and MIDN Hayden  
Yackeren*

*New corporate members from  
Curtiss-Wright, Omar Maestaes  
and Sean Hartig (foreground)*







*Bruce Renne called the meeting to order.*



*Invocation by CSS 11 Chaplain LCDR Dan Robertson.*



*(Left) Charlie MacVean provided a brief overview of the life of NSLPACSW member Joe Hughes, who passed away in July 2023.*

*(Below left) CAPT Yackerer provided an insightful overview of his Naval career.*

*(Below right) Bruce Renne thanks CAPT Yackerer and gives him an NSL Challenge Coin and a copy of "A Century of Submarines in San Diego."*

You'll find more photos from the September 2023 luncheon at the following links:

[Slideshow](#)  
[Photo Gallery](#)



**The November 2023 NSLPACSW luncheon will be at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego, on 14 November 2023, in the Bayview Restaurant and Catering Center**

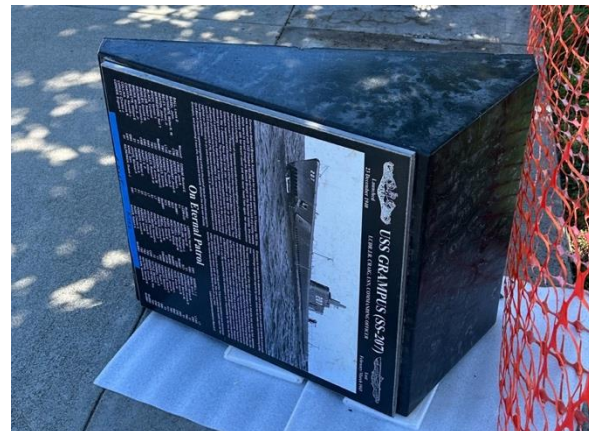
Our speaker for the November luncheon is Brigadier General James A. Ryans II, USMC. He assumed command of the MCRD, San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, from outgoing Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jason L. Morris at a change of command ceremony on 5 May 2023.



**American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) Fleet Maintenance & Modernization Symposium (FMMS) at the San Diego Convention Center**

NSLPACSW supported NSL HQ at the Symposium by staffing the NSL booth on the exhibit floor on 7 & 8 September 2023. Thanks to NSLPACSW members Don Mathiowetz and Jim Bryant for their support during the Symposium.

**Restoration underway at the 52 Boats Memorial at Liberty Station, San Diego**



The Point Loma Association reported that DPR Construction is removing the black granite memorials, which have seriously deteriorated, and some have been damaged, since their original installation in 2010. Each of the 52 memorials will be replaced by a durable concrete replica topped by a new information plaque. DPR is doing this work at no cost to the 52 Boats Memorial organization. With the assistance of the Point Loma Association's Mean Green Team, landscaping at the memorial also is being renewed.



## **Chilean sub *CS Carrera* (SS-22) visits San Diego for DESI**

The Chilean *Scorpène*-class submarine *CS Carrera* (SS-22) arrived in San Diego on 12 September 2023, just before the start of the NSLPACSW luncheon.



The Chilean Navy has four diesel-electric submarines; two Type 209-class (1400-I variant) submarines designed by the German firm Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW) in Kiel, and two *Scorpène*-class submarines jointly developed and constructed by the French company Naval Group (formerly DCNS) and the Spanish shipbuilder Navantia.

The *CS Carrera* (SS-22) was built at the Navantia shipyard in Cartagena, Spain and commissioned in 2006. It is here to participate in the Diesel Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) training program, operating with U.S. surface and submarine forces. You might recall that NSLPACSW had a presentation on the DESI program at our 11 October 2022 luncheon.

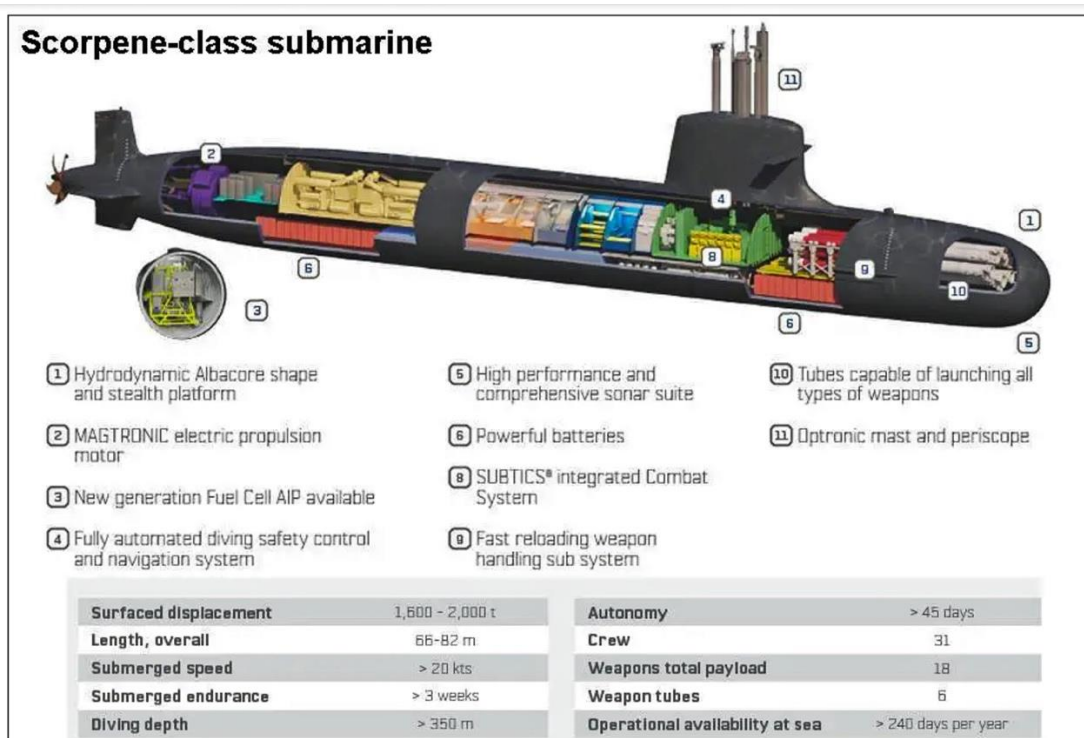


*The Chilean Navy's Scorpène-class submarine Carrera (SS-22) on its 2021 visit to San Diego.*

*Source: San Diego Web Cam capture via TheDrive (5 Jul 2021)*



*CS Carrera arrived in San Diego on 12 September 2023. Source. P. Lobner*



Source: Naval Group

You'll find more information on the *CS Carrera* here:

- "Chilean Submarine Carrera Arrives in San Diego," dvids, 12 September 2023: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/453713/chilean-submarine-carrera-arrives-san-diego>
- Joseph Trevithick, "Chilean Navy Diesel-Electric Attack Submarine Appears In San Diego (Updated)," The Drive / The War Zone, 5 July 2021: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/41387/chilean-navy-diesel-electric-attack-submarine-appears-in-san-diego#>

### **More submarine news**

Congressional Research Service (CRS) published the following updated reports that might be of interest to NSLPACSW members:

- CRS report R41129, "Navy Columbia (SSBN-826) Class Ballistic Missile Submarine Program: Background and Issues for Congress," Updated 16 August 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41129/240>
- CRS report RL32418, "Navy Virginia-Class Submarine Program and AUKUS Submarine Proposal: Background and Issues for Congress," Updated 11 September 2023: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL32418/254>

Also see the video "South Korea's Sophisticated KSS-III Submarines," (3:44 min), posted by U.S. Naval Institute on 26 July 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vWdhmQuLoc>



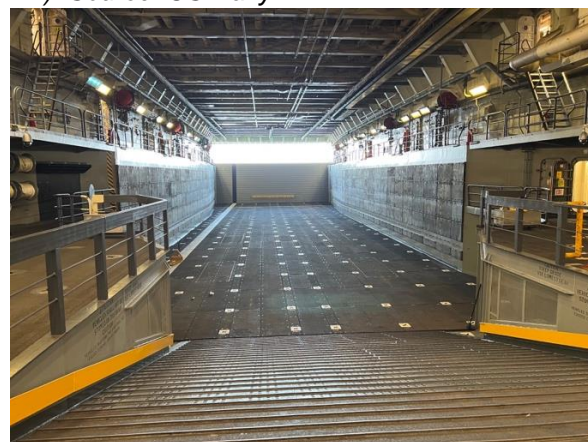
## USS SAN DIEGO (LPD-22) ship tour, 23 September 2023



Expeditionary Strike Group THREE (ESG3), which is an element of Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, invited NSLPACSW members to tour the USS SAN DIEGO (LPD-22); a modern San Antonio-class amphibious ship stationed at the 32nd Street Naval Station in San Diego. Fifteen NSLPACSW members and friends attended this tour.



*USS SAN DIEGO (LPD-22). Source: US Navy*



*Our tour started in an upper level of the well deck (left). The floodable lower level (right) can carry two LCAC hovercraft, which disembark when the well is flooded & the tail gate is lowered.*



*The flight deck can handle a variety of helicopters and the V-22 vertical lift aircraft.*





*The spacious bridge.*



*Above: The NSLPACSW tour group and our USS SAN DIEGO hosts.*



*Left: Our hosts: (L to R)  
ENS Giselle Alota,  
Command Duty Officer LT  
Jamard Bossicot,  
LT Michael Castro &  
ENS Vincent Goodis*

**Thank you USS SAN DIEGO!**

- You'll find background information on San Antonio-class LPDs here:  
<https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2222713/amphibious-transport-dock-lpd/>



## NSLPACSW Luncheon / Professional Forum Reservations Information

<http://pacificsouthwest.navalsubleague.org>

**Luncheon / Professional Forum - Tuesday, 10 October 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.**

**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 **1600 Thursday, 5 October 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 PASS & ID office. Show this 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 **Friday, 6 October 2023.**



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMARINES TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE