



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



February 2026

Secret Sub Story

Our February speaker will be Michael Mann, who will talk about his service on the NR 1, a unique submarine with a strange history.

Mike enlisted in the Navy right out of high school in 1969. He was assigned to the USS Seadragon, after completing nuclear power school. After further training, he was assigned to NR-1 from 1973 to 1976. After leaving the Navy in 1980 he worked for Energy Northwest and various Hanford jobs, completing his working life as Power Plant Manager in Palmer, Alaska. He retired in June 2020. Mike has 16 grandchildren, and 10 (#11 on the way) great-grandchildren.



Deep Submergence Vessel NR-1 was a unique Navy nuclear-powered ocean engineering and research submarine. She was the smallest nuclear submarine ever put into operation, casually known as "Nerwin" and never officially named or commissioned. The U.S. Navy is allocated a specific number of warships by Congress, but Admiral Hyman Rickover avoided using one of those allocations for the

construction of NR-1 in order to circumvent the oversight that a warship receives from various bureaus.

In the 1970s and 1980s, NR-1 conducted numerous classified missions involving recovery of objects from the floor of the deep sea. One publicly acknowledged mission in 1976 was to recover parts of an F-14 that were lost from the deck of an aircraft carrier and sank with at least one AIM-54A Phoenix air-to-air missile. NR-1 was also involved in recovering debris from the Space Shuttle Challenger wreckage.

NR-1's size limited its crew comforts. The crew of about 10 men could stay at sea for as long as a month, but had no kitchen or bathing facilities. They ate frozen TV dinners and bathed once a week with a bucket of water. She was slow, top speed of 4 knots and was typically towed to her mission site by a surface vessel. Rickover envisioned building a small fleet of NR-1 type submarines, but only one was built due to budget restrictions.

The NR-1 served from 1969 until decommissioning in 2008. Her 39 years of service made her the longest-serving submarine in US history.

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Attendees at the January meeting enjoyed Bahuru, a local marimba band. The band is composed of high school students from all over the Tri-Cities. The door prize, donated by the Seipts was won by George Stotz' guest Betty.

Dues

It's time renew memberships. Dues are \$25, unchanged since 2014, what a deal! Send your dues to

Paul Seipt
381 Clovernook St
Richland WA 99352

Make your check out to "L&C Chapter," pay it on the website, or better yet, bring it to the February meeting. A reminder email will be sent to those who haven't renewed.

New Chapter Email

For years, the email address used for chapter correspondence has been part of Bob Allen's personal email account. This leads to problems when he travels. We

now have a new email account for the chapter:

moaa.tricities@gmail.com

We will use this for reservations; any chapter officer can access it.

HqMOAA sends . . . 80-Year-Old VA Disability Criteria

A federal watchdog warned lawmakers that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to fully revise the 80-year-old criteria for awarding disability payments or risk miscalculating benefits for millions of veterans. Criteria the VA developed in 1945 do not align with modern medicine, employment and the impact of disabilities on a veteran's earnings

potential, the Government Accountability Office testified at a subcommittee hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"Without a rating schedule that fully reflects present-day changes in medicine and the labor market conditions, VA may overcompensate some veterans while undercompensating others," said Elizabeth Curda, GAO director of education, workforce, and income security.

The VA's executive director for compensation service, said the agency has made progress updating medical information on service-connected injuries and illnesses affecting 11 of 15 "body systems."

Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

Social hour: 5:00
Dinner: 6:00
\$30 per person members
\$35 per person on the web

A reservation made is a reservation paid

February Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

Reservations by
Thursday, Feb 12 to
Email:
moaa.tricities@gmail.com
On line:
<http://www.tricitiesmoaa.org>

Menu

Chicken Cordon Beu
Wild rice
Steamed vegetables
Salad
Rolls
Creme Brulee
Beverages