

Rogue Submarine Newsletter

Volume 7

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Rogue Readers,

Welcome to the 7th Rogue Submarine Newsletter! I appreciate your interest in the stories I write for you, and I hope to keep you entertained for many years.

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1. Audio Books Update

[Paul Christy](#) finished his narration of *Rogue Crusader* just before the last newsletter in 4Q16, and it's available on [Audible](#), [Amazon](#) and iTunes. He's half way through *Rogue Defender* now. At the moment, Paul is outpacing me, and I need to catch up with my listening. That's a good sign that Paul has hit his stride with the Rogue Submarine books. Audio listeners, stay tuned.

2. A Family "Between Jobs"

Anyone who was unemployed in Metro Detroit circa 2008-2010 knows hopelessness. It was just news reports to some, a Great Recession to others, but to me, it was the Great Depression.

I stood in lines with 300+ people for 1 job. I applied to 200+ jobs online and received 0 invitations to interview. Nobody was hiring in Detroit, and even my desperate nationwide search left permanent psychological scars. I ended up commuting to Cleveland to survive before getting my latest job, which was just eliminated in a restructuring.

The job hunt today is a hundred times better than during the Great Recession. That means it still sucks, and given my luck with employment, I teased myself with dreams of writing full time.

I floated the idea by my wife, assuming I'd tighten the family budget to accommodate it. There was swearing in English, swearing in Arabic, and swearing in Aramaic. I'm sure she thought about slapping me back into reality but restrained herself. My tri-lingual wife apparently isn't as keen on the rice and beans and shack-in-the-woods financial model as I am. She is, however, the inspiration for Jake's wife, Linda, in the Rogue Submarine series, in case it wasn't obvious.

I think I'll get back to my job hunt, which is thankfully going well, despite my bitching. It's nice to know that the world has recovered from those dark times.

3. Paperbacks update

I had a nagging feeling that the format of my paperbacks was a bit amateurish. So, I called upon my guru, mentor, friend, and muse, the Mighty Mighty Jeff Edwards. He told me there weren't hard and fast rules. Regardless, I panicked, which shouldn't surprise those who know me.

I did my research and borrowed a template from Jeff. My biggest discovery was on the location (and omission of) page numbers on different pages. So, I didn't make any major changes, but it was tedious work across ten novels to get the numbering right. I'm happy with the new look, and I think future readers will appreciate the extra polish.

4. Naval technology update

To start out the new year, I thought I'd check on the progress of America's submarine production. The United States recently commissioned the USS *Illinois*, a Block III *Virginia*.

So, what's in a Block III that you don't get in a Block II?

From Wikipedia: The horseshoe-shaped LAB sonar array replaces the spherical main sonar array which has been used on all U.S. Navy SSNs since 1960. The LAB sonar array is water-backed—as opposed to earlier sonar arrays which were air-backed—and consists of a passive array and a medium-frequency active array. Compared to earlier *Virginia*-class submarines about 40% of the bow has been redesigned.

Interesting, but why do it? I found on Defense Industry Daily that it's all about cost savings, primarily from eliminating SUBSAFE boundary penetrations. The same source also said that the 12 vertical launch system (VLS) tubes became 12 missiles in 2 "6-shooter" tubes similar to those of the *Ohio* SSGN, again citing costs as the only advantage for this Block III design. However, I found a second article stating that the missile payload could be more versatile with the 6-shooters and that the tubes allowed for more usable space within the submarine as compared to larger VLS tubes. Let's go with that, since it makes sense.

5. Scorpène-class compromised

An update on the hacking of secret data:

[Navigating the submarine leaks scandal:](#)

Internal squabbling in the Australian government, possible interference from the French submarine builder's German rival, India canceling a \$2Bn option for more submarines, and it all may have started in Malaysia with a real-world Pierre-Renard-wanna-be. Juicy!

6. Rogue Invader (and my new World Record)

Book #9, *Rogue Invader*, will be published within weeks. It needs its final edits, and it needs its final tweaks on its cover art. This time, I asked the Rogue Submarine series' cover artist, [Rob Sullivan](#), to put a little extra effort into displaying the *Goliath* in action.

I thought the *Goliath* looked timid on the *Rogue Goliath* and *Rogue Hunter* covers, and it's time to show it semi-submerged and without the burden of a submarine as its cargo. It's being showcased as a combatant in action in the *Rogue Invader* art.

Check out a draft of the [Rogue Invader Cover](#).

As a reminder, I'm sending the gang to Greece to disrupt that nation's commerce. The premise is that powerbrokers in Europe have had enough. They're hiring the Rogue Submarine gang to pressure a fictional (?) corruptly-led and failed economy out of the European Union.

And for fans of our newest mammalian heroes, Andrei and Mikhail, you can breathe a sigh of relief. The dolphins are working for Pierre Renard now and see action in *Rogue Invader*.

Finally, with my ninth book in the Rogue Submarine series, I believe I've just tied Michael DiMercurio for authoring the most submarine novels ever. What's the definition of a submarine novel? I don't know. Is this a world record? No idea. But it sounds real cool to start a buzz about it, and I'm planning to apply to Guinness after I finish *Rogue J*.

7. Rogue J

Writer's block hits me hardest between books since I fear starting a story without knowing how to finish it. So, I'm wrestling with Rogue J (Rogue Justice, Judah, Judea, Jericho?) which involves the Renard Gang picking one side, the other, or both in an Israeli civil war/Gaza Strip/West Bank/Golan Heights conflict.

Fortunately, I'm winning the wrestling match and feel a plot forming. I've written the first chapter, and I'm becoming optimistic that #10 in the Rogue Submarine series will come to life.

Any requests on where to send the mercenary fleet for Rogue K or L?

8. New URL / address for my website

I bought www.johnrmonteith.com and www.roguesubmarine.com because I thought they were easier to remember than www.subthriller.com, and they now both point to my website.

That's enough for one newsletter. Thank you for reading!

John