

Rogue Submarine Newsletter  
Volume 2  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015

Rogue Readers,

Welcome to the second 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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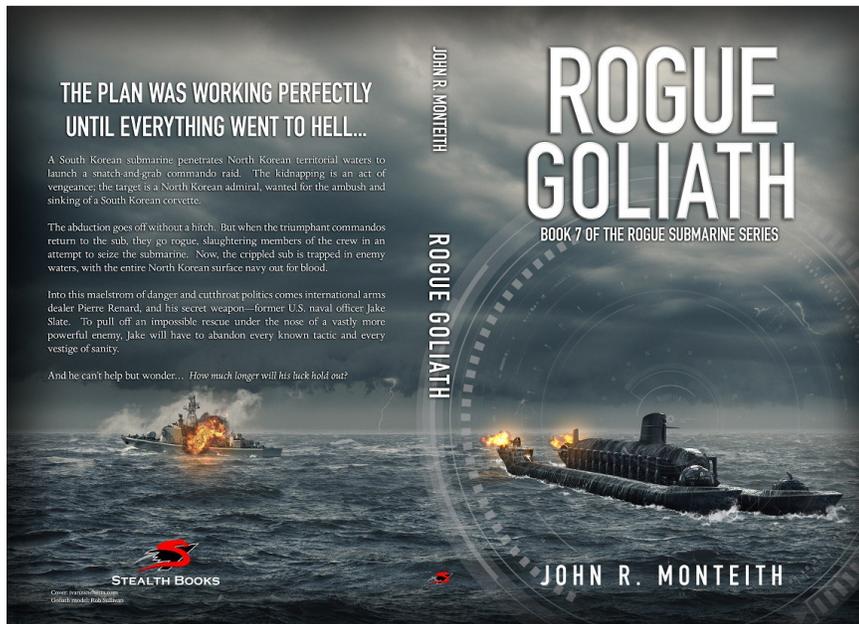
**1. Genesis of *Rogue Goliath***

*Rogue Goliath* is the first rescue mission, and to make the story plausible, I created a new ship equipped to evacuate a submerged submarine. That's illogical, since Pierre Renard had no reason to build such a ship. However, his fleet needed a high-speed transport to carry his submarines to his clients. Enter the *Goliath*, the armed transport ship, that can operate either surfaced or submerged.

When the South Koreans strand a submarine off the North Korean coast, opportunity knocks for our heroes since the *Goliath* is capable of the rescue. With some technical rigor and a great 3D artist the *Goliath* came to life. Readers thus far like the ship, and that's a relief for me since it validates the risk in creating it, and it expands the future possibilities for Renard's fleet.

I hope you get a chance to read *Rogue Goliath* and enjoy it.

3D model of *Goliath* by Rob Sullivan: <https://99designs.com/profiles/robsdesign/about>  
Cover art by (as always) Ivan Zanchetta: <http://www.ivanzanchetta.com/>  
Synopsis by (as always) the Jeff Edwards: <http://navythriller.com/>



## **2. Preview of Rogue Submarine book #8, *Rogue H..?***

I'm lucky to always know half the title of my next novel. *Rogue H - Hunter? Hercules? Horton Hears a Who?* - will be the 8<sup>th</sup> installment in the *Rogue Submarine* series.

The next story is targeted for *Crimea*, where Jake Slate will lead the gang in harassing the Russians, their Black Sea Fleet, and their lifelines to the former Ukrainian territory.

## **3. Audio Books Update**

Audio books are great if you enjoy a story while driving. They suck if you're an author trying to make a living.

It costs about \$2,000 to have a good voice artist read a book, and I make a pittance in royalties on *Rogue Avenger*, my only audio product. So no surprise that I haven't popped the next \$2,000 on *Rogue Betrayal*.

However, audio books lend credibility to the series, and they reach readers who demand multiple formats (i.e. jump from eBook to audio for the same novel). I also suspect that if I finish my series in audio format, listeners will be more willing to buy the first installments.

So... I'm going to become my own audio talent. Crazy? I thought so until I read an article by ACX, Amazon's ebook company, stating that self-read audio books are the trend. Apparently, an author's personal touch and enthusiasm make up for shortcomings in voice acting.

I bought my equipment, tried reading a few lines, and hated hearing voice. Do I really sound like that nasally pipsqueak? Oh well. Once I train my voice a bit and get shut inside for the winter,

I'm going to take a stab at *Rogue Betrayer*. I'm terrified to hear what I sound like as Olivia McDonald during the seduction scenes!

My initial experience made me wonder if ACX is creating propaganda to boost its own revenues. You be the judge: <https://www.acx.com/help/authors-as-narrators/200626860>

#### **4. Author Interview**

A blogger interviewed me about my writing. What's so interesting about that? Two things.

First, the blogger, Weam (Wee – ahm) Namu is an excellent writer with three novels under her belt depicting the subtle drama of being an Iraqi Christian in America. If you want to learn about that culture (or must learn, because you married into it like me), read Weam's books.

Second, the interview was about the hard knocks of writing. If you're an aspiring writer or know someone who is, my self-proclaimed wise nuggets of caution are on Weam's blog. If I sound harsh, it's because she asked such dangd hard questions!

Weam's Cultural Glimpse: <http://culturalglimpse.com/2015/09/02/john-monteiths-award-winning-book-series/>

#### **5. Real world submarine technology update**

In my prior newsletter, I looked at the *Virginia* class. This time, let's look at China's nukes.

I lost access to the classified information about worldwide submarine capabilities long ago. So I'm stuck reading public documents and guessing like most of us. Wikipedia tells me that the Chinese *Type 93 (Shang)* class SSN may be comparable to a Russian *Victor III*.

Well, my 2012 Ford Fusion may also be comparable to Victor III. They both transport people from Point A to Point B and represent great advances in sound quieting over the platforms they replaced. They both are easy to detect, too, for anyone with the right equipment. Just ask cops about my Fusion or Cold War American submariners about the Victor III.

But an SSN with Victor III capability is still invisible, has infinite endurance, and packs a deadly punch. And the Chinese are working on a *Type 95* class SSN, which will be less capable than a *Virginia*, but (I'm guessing?) more capable than a first flight *Los Angeles*.

Conclusion – China is ramping up in quality and quantity of its naval forces, and it will be able to control its regional (definition of regional = TBD) seas. Not to mention, China is building SSBNs with missiles that can reach the continental USA from within the regional seas under its control.

#### **6. He, She, They, or It. What pronoun to use for a submarine?**

This has bothered me since I've been writing, and it will always bother me. The submarine, made of steel, is an 'it'. It's commanded by a captain, which is usually a 'he', operated by a crew, which is a 'they', and is romantically referred to as a wooden ship of lore, a 'she'.

My use and abuse of the pronoun for a submarine has been inconsistent because that's what I learned on my submarine. During our training drills, I remember that we referred to the enemy as the 'it', the 'he', or the 'they' depending who the speaker's angst was focused upon, but we never called it a 'she'.

Of course, when I ran a poll on a Facebook submariner group, everyone said a submarine was a 'she'. My grammar search, however, says that it's and 'it' and that 'she' is archaic as a ship's pronoun. The term 'she' for a submarine should be allowed to drift into history along with 'thee' and 'thou'. Heck, maybe this is just a confessional about why, as a self-proclaimed prolific submarine novelist, I suck at this 'pronouncing' of submarine. But I just can't call one a 'she'.

At least in *Rogue Goliath* I tried to stay consistent with the term 'it', unless I was specific that my characters were talking about the captain or the crew.

### **7. Review of Author Panel with Joe Buff, Rick Campbell, George Wallace, and Bob Croft**

Listed in alphabetical order, I joined Joe Buff, Rick Campbell, Bob Croft, and George Wallace on an author panel at the 2015 United States Submarine Veteran Inc. convention in Pittsburgh, September 11, 2015. I was honored to join them at the event.

To summarize the 5 authors achievements. Two of us enjoy or have enjoyed multi-book deals with major publishers. One of us is a world record holder in free diving. Another has a movie deal pending. Then there's me. Ouch.

What did I learn having read and/or discussed the works of each of these gents?

Bob can hold his breath longer than I can hold your attention, is part fish, part machine, part human, and is in better shape than me despite being 81 years old. Rick and George are retired submarine officers – a noteworthy feat in itself. So... not dummies and no strangers to hard work. Therefore, no surprises that they're writing good stuff and will continue to do so. Joe Buff is renown because he respects deep, hard science (math degree from MIT), is a creative machine (wrote a 265,000 word Sci Fi manuscript), and is a workhorse committed to research, credibility, and writing quality. I was in good company.

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

John