

Dear %FIRSTNAME%,

Rogue Submarine Newsletter

Volume 21

3rd Quarter 2020

Rogue Readers,

1. Rogue Neptune
2. Rogue Outlaws
3. Covid-19
4. Fire!

1. Rogue Neptune

Well, Rogue Neptune is still drafted, meaning I didn't 'undraft' it since the 2Q newsletter. Duh. Otherwise, it's on ice waiting for me to finish Rogue Outlaws before publishing them together. Reminder: Both books will cover different phases of the same mission, which takes place in Yemen.

2. Rogue Outlaws

When I published the 2Q newsletter, I had just started Rogue Outlaws and was about 10% through it. Here comes my confession... it's only about 30% done now. For me (and your expectations) that's terrible progress for three months (3.5 actually, since I'm late with this newsletter). Sorry! I'll still have a staggered release of Rogue Neptune, Rogue Outlaws, and the next 3-book box set, but I'm expecting it in the fall.

The good news is that the final 70% of Rogue Outlaws is forming in my mind. That usually leads to a good writing spurt, and I'll push to draft your next Rogue novel asap

3. Covid

I've shared with this Rogue Submarine community that I suffer from some longstanding orthopedic problems. After Covid put me and all of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles on a work-at-home policy, I was able to periodically lay down and rest between work tasks, was spared the difficult (for me) task of driving to work, and could rest during the extra free time saved from not having to drive over an hour a day.

That doesn't sound like much, but the extra rest accelerated a stagnating healing process from a recent 'patchwork' surgery I'd had to address my ortho problems. That's a long-winded way of saying this disaster has had a silver lining for me, and I'm sharing since we're all looking for good news!

As for the isolation... I used to live on submarine! Apparently, that really matters. We submariners (bubbleheads) have been trained for this! As I read the posts from the submarine groups on Facebook, there's a lot of pride about it.

Covid is also big enough that I am going to address it in Rogue Outlaws. In fact, it might even help move the plot along, but I'll spare you the spoiler.

4. Fire!

The USS *Bonhomme Richard*, an amphibious assault ship, has been burning for days with at least two

fires.

I've posted CNN's version of the story. Deeper in the story, you see a good picture of the deck from above with holes burned through it. Metal burns hot! If I remember my old Navy training, when metal starting burning, you gave up and ran away, or you pushed an aircraft overboard to let it burn in the seas. But neither of those options will save this amphib.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/14/us/bonhomme-richard-fire-tuesday/index.html>

You all may recall the loss of the USS *Miami* to a fire. Yikes! Fires on naval vessels are horrible, especially on submerged submarines, where there is no topside to run to.

Since nobody from the ship remains hospitalized, I'll risk a little humor and give you a insight into the twisted and snarky mind of a submariner.

This is what was posted on one of my submarine veteran Facebook group pages for the *Bonhomme Richard*:

"Thoughts and Prayers for our surface puke brethren".

Indeed, our thoughts and prayers are with them as they fight the fire, and I hope they stay safe and don't puke in their (Covid-compliant!) face masks!

Thanks for reading! - John