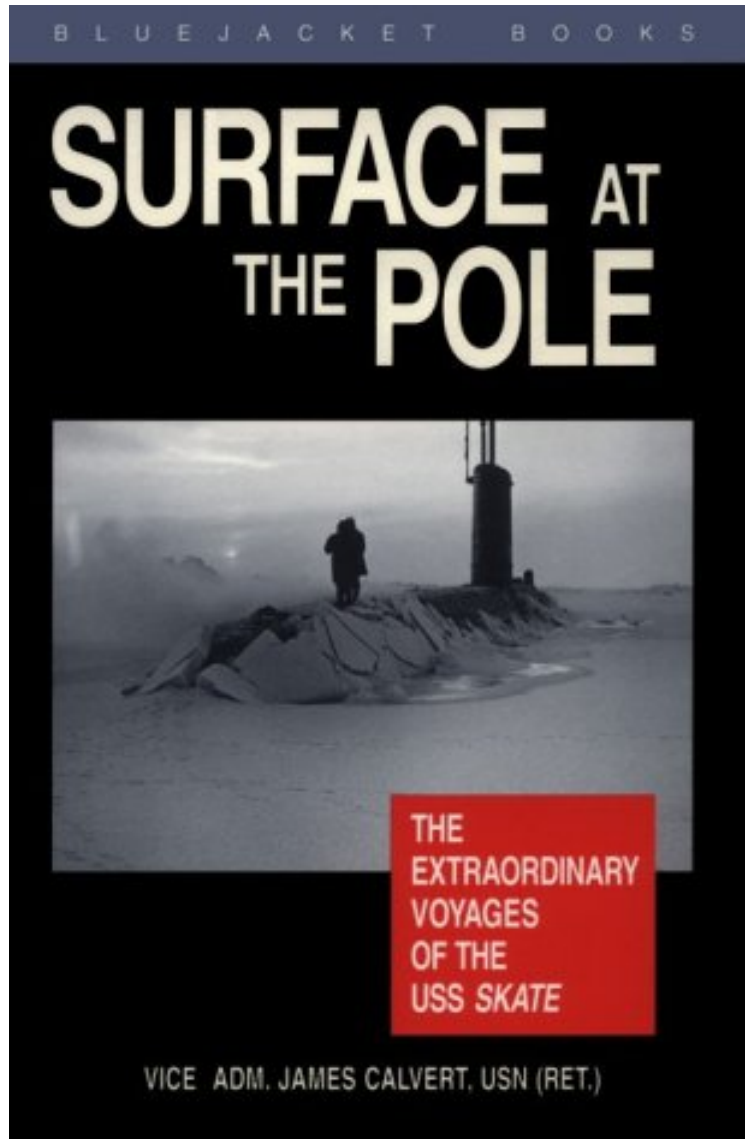


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Surface at the Pole: The Extraordinary Voyages of the USS Skate (Bluejacket Books)

James E. Calvert

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James E. Calvert : Surface at the Pole: The Extraordinary Voyages of the USS Skate (Bluejacket Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surface at the Pole: The Extraordinary Voyages of the USS Skate (Bluejacket Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Truly Captivating and FascinatingBy Alan BradleyImagine you are

in this fantastic machine totally sealed off from the rest of the world in the harshest environment on the Earth. Yet you are poised to trust the men around you and this one of a kind mechanism. You are 400 feet deep under the frozen Arctic Ocean and only ice is above. If something goes wrong you and your crew are lost. Your boat is the USS Skate, at the time the first production of its class state of the art nuclear submarine. Your orders from the highest authority task you to surface your boat and operate at the North Pole and you must learn to find weaknesses in the ice pack which would allow this submarine to break through the frost. A classic tale worthy of fiction but this is a true story. In two voyages in 1958 and 1959 the USS Skate plied the Arctic Ocean and conducted scientific and military objectives. This is one of the most amazing stories I have ever read, a first hand accounting by the captain of this submarine and the two voyages he guided under the North Pole and beyond. The stuff of science fiction. Like Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, except this adventure is entirely fact. Truly captivating and in reading I felt like I was there and part of the crew. Surface at the pole with Commander James Calvert, his crew, and enjoy his eloquent and poetic descriptions of the danger and peril, the wonder and awe, the mystic and unknown of the Arctic alien wilderness of this fantastic voyage. If you read no other book this year read this one. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read. By DHorst. Great account of one of the first nuclear subs and its treks under the polar ice cap. Although with nuclear power in 1954, there was no longer a need to surface to recharge batteries, there had never been a sub surface through ice and if anything went wrong while under the ice, could repairs be made without being on the surface? Incredible descriptions of the emotions and thought processes of Captain James Calvert; and ex-WW II sub vet who had plied the Western Pacific, hunting Japanese ships and was depth charged by the same. Go to the North Pole and surface there, through the ice for the first time; you will feel like you are with them! Not a wartime submarine book but I found it just as exciting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Story! By Edward J. A great story, one eclipsed by other historical events such as the Berlin Wall, HUAC, Sputnik and the Kennedy Administration. It's great look the infant nuclear submarine navy and all the challenges of long duration submergence. After reading this book I can only ask: can you believe it going from diesel boats to nukes in only 12 years after WW2?!?! If that ain't good enough, let's go to the north pole! Great companion book to Captain Edward Beach's "Around the World Submerged." Enjoy.

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