

Steel Valley Dolphins

March 2014



The official newsletter of the
USS Requin Base of the USSVI
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in Leetsdale at the VFW Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

- **Make a difference, get to a meeting!**

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Next meeting: Saturday April 12 at Leetsdale VFW 1230-/Leetsdale , PA

2014 USS Requin Base Officers

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Base Commander | Hubert C. Dietrich | 412-486-2635 | hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com |
| 1st Vice Commander | Joe Campisi | 412-322-3201 | jcampisi1@comcast.net |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Jack Sutherin | 330-482-4175 | jack.sutherin@comcast.net |
| Secretary | Jeff Simon | 724-502-4505 | jeffsimon@zoominternet.net |
| Treasurer | Lee M. Bookwalter | 412-795-8337 | booky143@verizon.net |
| Storekeeper | Joe Campisi | 412-322-3201 | jcampisi1@comcast.net |
| Chaplain | Carl Stigers | 412-995-8028 | carstenstigers@verizon.net |
| Past Base Commander | Joe Campisi | 412-322-3201 | jcampisi1@comcast.net |
| Newsletter Editor | Jack Sutherin | 330-482-4175 | jack.sutherin@comcast.net |
| Webmaster | Lee M. Bookwalter | 412-795-8337 | booky143@verizon.net |
| COB/Historian - | Clyde Porter, jr. | 740-635-3179 | candspporter@comcast.net |

----- Pride Runs Deep -----



April

USS PICKEREL (SS 177)
USS GRENADIER (SS 210)
USS Gungeon (SS 211)
USS SNOOK (SS 279)
USS THRESHER (SSN 593)

April 3, 1943
April 22, 1943
April 18, 1944
April 8, 1945
April 10, 1963

Binnacle List

George Denny
George Stefanik
RL Schmidt
Dex Armstrong



COMMANDER'S CORNER:

Our most recent meeting was held in Dawson, Pa. Shipmate Phil who is the proprietor of Phil's Night Club welcomed us with open arms. He really out-did himself with great Mid-Rats that really tasted like good old submarine CHOW. He also supported the base by buying from the small store and also a bottle of Hickory Bark Syrup, along with other base members as well. It was really a nice surprise to see shipmate Ed Yoder and his lovely wife Carolyn. Ed was the National Parliamentarian and supported the members of USSVI with his knowledge as an attorney. He has had health problems and we haven't seen him in awhile. KUDOS Edward for attending.

Shipmate Kossler informed me that it was the Port Authority that made the Requin Float and not Duquesne Light, that I reported on last month.

We had a great turn out and all seemed to **really** enjoy the meeting.

I received a letter from the Pittsburgh Pirates welcoming the Requin Base to join them for a special **Military Appreciation Night** at PNC Park on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, as the Pirates are hosting the Chicago Cubs at 7:05 p.m.. They want to recognize us for our service to our country. The REQUIN Base will be displayed on their color LED scoreboard to welcome us to the ballpark. Ticket request will be fulfilled in the order that they are received. When I opened the letter, I quickly went to the library and faxed our request the next day. Submission of the 'request form' does not guarantee **complimentary** tickets as tickets are subject to availability. I followed up with a telephone call to make sure everything was in order and was assured it was. I mentioned that we have our Nautilus submarine float, that we could display and they said if they can find room for it, they will let me know. A military group from Erie, Pa. is bringing a display. I was told that we should know if we are getting any tickets in about five(5) or six(6) weeks. I ordered 100 tickets for the base! If the tickets come in, each member who is going will be able to take family members. This will be the third acknowledgement from the sports teams in Pittsburgh. We had base members, late last year, at a Steeler game doing the TERRIBLE TOWEL TWIRL down on the field and we just had eleven (11) members attend the Penquin game and six (6) had the opportunity to ride the Zamboni between periods. Hopefully the Pirate game will be the trifecta!!

We have been invited to participate at a picnic and a day of fishing by VFW Post 3945 of the Morningside section of Pittsburgh. The event will be held at Squaw Run Park, in Aspinwald Pa (off Rt 28), on Wednesday, May 14 between the hours of

10:00 and 14:00 hours. Four (4) members can represent the Requin Base at this outing. They will have the veterans from the Southwest Veterans Home and the Vets Hospital in Aspinwald as HONORED guests. They stock the creek with fish and give out awards. The Requin base will donate ten (10) honorary submarine hats. They are also looking for donated socks to give as prizes.

The convention committee will be meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2014. If you are interested on serving on one of the committee, please e-mail me. We need a ton of help with all the work that has to be done. It may be a year and a half away, but the planning must be done now to set up this convention.

Convention **SEED** money is coming in slowly! Seven shipmates have stepped up to become super sponsors of the base with a donation of \$100.00 each and will be recognized in our convention program booklet. Any other shipmates can join the super sponsor group. Four shipmates have made a loan to the convention committee to help cover the expenses of the pre-convention costs which include the convention patch that Joey Campisi designed.

We are in the process of setting up activities for the convention. The dinner cruise on the Gateway Clipper is all set, as well as the bus tour to Shanksville, Pa. We will have a ceremony at the Shanksville site by laying a wreath. In addition, there will be a buffet luncheon which includes entertainment that will be a tribute to "AMERICAN HEROS".

BIRTHDAY'S

Allen, Mike - 03/14/49
Bates, Thomas - 03/15/63
Brenkus, Joseph - 03/02/28
Calabrese, Thomas - 03/23/62
Chatlos, Davie - 03/12/54
Elster, Rick - 03/05/41
Franz, Henry - 03/21/31
Hilgendorf, Charles - 03-06-36
Hoag, Mark - 03/08/69
Huntsman, Larry - 03/15/67
Johnston, James - 03/22/44
Poole, Gregory - 03/72
Sampson, Robert - 03/26/43
Snook, Ronald - 03/06/34
Stefaniak, George - 03/21/28
Thompson, Jeff - 03/18/71

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY'S

Crouch, Lynn - 03/23
Dietrich, Edie - 03/30
Gains, Christine - 03/10
Hilgendorf, Patricia - 03/27
Howton, Diana - 03/19
Lewis, Karen - 03/17
Lyons, Carol - 03/21

ANNIVERSARIES

Beauregard, Richard & Noreen - 03/05
Brown, Hubert & Dorothy - 03/29
Indoe, Franklin & Lynn - 03/31
Nixon, Charles & Sherry - 03/20
Segeleon, Vince & Eleanor - 03/04
Varney, James & Barbara - 03/03

New Member's

Jeffery Coren qualified in 1988 on the USS JACK SSN-605. Jeff is active duty as a O6 - Captain, at Carnegie University in charge of the midshipmen at Carnegie, Pitt and Duquesne University. Captain Thomas Calabrese is being relieved by Captain Coran in June. Jeff lives in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh with his first mate Kimberly. Please e-mail captain Jeff and welcome him aboard - coranjs@gmail.com In addition to Capt Jeff, we have six(6) other Captains that belong to Requin-Calabrese, Covey, Hayes, Kaufman, Schmidt, R. J., and Swinney, now that's what you can call FIRE POWER.

Dale "Moe" Moses qualified in 1974 on the USS WILL ROGERS SSBN-659. Moe left the navy in 1980 as a MM1(SS). He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with his first mate Colleen. If Moe sounds familiar, you will remember him as our past base commander and the editor of the SVD. He was in town last week and attended our base meeting in Dawson. He missed us so much that he decided to re join the Base. Please e-mail Moe and welcome him back - donutdad@att.net

Our base membership stands at 174. Our base goal is to recruit ten(10) new members per year. We are at 30% (3) new members for this year, with 70% (7) to reach our goal for 2014. Their are two(2) other recruits that are in the pipe line and hopefully they will decide to join the base.

The national USSVI officer's will be holding their elections in 2014. The last national election, the Requin base had 49 members vote, which was the best percentage in the eastern region. I don't ask for much from members of the base, but I will push hard for everyone to cast their ballot in this election. Below is the list of candidates and the office that they are seeking:

USSVI NATIONAL CANDIDATES

NATIONAL COMMANDER:

NATIONAL SENIOR VICE-COMMADER:

Eagle Scouts presentations are ongoing.

Members can buy small stores and base coins from Joe Campisi.

Memorials And Ceremonies:

Memorial service aboard USS Requin on May 25

Carnegie parade May 25 after memorial service on USS Requin

Sewickley parade May 26

Coraopolis parade May 26 after Sewickley parade

New Holland Club inductees to be honored at the July 12 base meeting in Columbiana, Ohio

Convention Preparation:

Bob MacPherson is building a website for the 2015 convention.

Deposit payment for the Gateway Clipper was paid on Feb 25 (\$1000). Additional deposit payments are due on Nov 25 (\$2000), March 25 (\$2000), and Sept 3 (\$5000).

A bus trip to Shanksville PA including lunch and entertainment is being planned.

Convention seed money has been donated by Mike Markel, American Legion Auxiliary Post 106, Carrick Brentwood Legion Post 725, Titusville American Legion, and Titusville Lions Club.

Old Business:

Selected shipmates attended Penguins game February 27.

New Business:

A volunteer is needed to prepare a written description of the Requin Base and its activities for the Marine detachment newsletter.

Preparations are underway for base members and their family to attend a Pittsburgh Pirates game on June 10 at 1905 hours for military appreciation night. One hundred tickets have been requested.

For The Good Of The Order:

Dale Moses reported on the various programs conducted by the Carolina Piedmont Base.

Chaplain Carl Stigers gave the Benediction and blessing of today's meal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Leetsdale, PA VFW at 1230 hours on April 12, 2012.

Why I say "Diesel Boats Forever". Bernie Sigler

SMOKE

It's hard to believe for some, but there is an aging group of men bound together by smoke. Not smoke people ordinarily draw into their lungs for a buzz, legal or illegal, but stinky old diesel smoke made by burning hydrocarbons. It's burned in great big old noisy diesel engines designed for railroad locomotives and transplanted into a submarine, of all places.

This smoke binds them together with wispy chains stronger than the finest hardened steel. Men that sit around remembering shipmates and times good and bad, their memories brought to them on grey blue clouds. Clouds of it shot out over ports of the seven seas, on lighting off for going to sea. Underway and across those seas the smoke settles to an efficiency haze, but the diesel smoke smell follows them. The smoke and sounds that shut down when reaching home port after many days alone at sea.

Today, these old timers travel many miles to see, hear and once more catch that wonderful reminder of their youth. With tears in the eyes of some, they lean forward to breathe it in. They take photographs of diesel smoke clouds belching from exhaust pipes of museum piece subs. Back home they show them to others and post video clips on the internet. Others sit and wait for these clips to download over slow internet connections, just to see that smoke and hear the sound.

It is said that the sense of smell brings back the strongest memories. If so, then we are lucky one because our smoke is strong and memorable. Along with our smoky chains, we have those memories and neither can be removed from our hearts. Many a submariner says, "One more time, just one more time". For some, that means to go out and make another dive, for others just to hear the roar and to smell that smoke.

Me, I'd like to yank a throttle lever, feel the deck plates shudder under my feet, hear the sounds, smell the smoke and be with those that are bound together by these things. Just one more time and for a little while. (Author Unknown)

Subject: When God Created a Submariner

I thought you might enjoy this with your morning coffee. Stay safe and well.

Today at the Groton Sub Vets Holland Club monthly Luncheon the guest speaker was *Captain Jane F. Vieira*. For half of her career she has served as a submarine force Chaplain. She will be retiring at the end of the month. I think after reading what she prepared for today you will see how special she is.

When God Created a Submariner

15 May 2012

When the good Lord created a Submariner, it was almost 2300 on the sixth day. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

And the Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? It has to be able to think independently, yet be able to take orders; have the qualities of both a scientific mind and a compassionate heart; be able to mentor juniors and learn from seniors; run on black coffee; handle emergencies without a Damage Control Manual, respond competently to critical incidents, decipher cryptographic codes, understand pneumatics, hydraulics and sonar, have the patience of a saint and six pairs of hands, not to mention the strength of three its size."

The angel shook its head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands - - No way!"

And the Lord answered, "Don't worry, we'll make other Submariners to help. Besides it's not the hands which are causing the problem. It's the heart. It must swell with pride when a Shipmate earns his Silver Dolphins - which above all else signifies the crew members trust it with their lives, sustain the incredible hardship of life at sea in a steel tube, beat on soundly when it's too tired to do so, and be strong enough to continue to carry on when it's given all it had."

"Lord," said the angel touching the Lord's sleeve gently, "Stop! It's almost midnight!"

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something unique.

Already I have one whose hands blend knowledge with skill to perform the most intricate procedures, yet are strong enough to patch a ruptured seawater pipe; whose ears can discern the sonar sounds of a myriad of ocean life, yet detect the slightest shift in ventilation; whose mind can practice the science of nuclear submarining, yet not lose sight of the art of teamwork; and whose eyes can peer through a periscope to identify a hull down ship, yet search within to embrace and personify honor, courage and commitment."

The angel circled the model of the Submariner very slowly. "It's too serious," the angel sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Submariner can do or endure."

"Can it feel?" asked the angel.

"Can it feel! It loves Ship, Shipmates and Country like no other!"

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the Submariner's cheek.

"There's a leak," pronounced the angel. "I told you you're trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, frustration and pride!"

"You're a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked pleased and replied, "I didn't put it there." Filled with pride, the Lord continued, "Great things are planned for this Submariner. It will be one of many and together they will lead a legacy of excellence like none has known before."

And with that the Lord rested. It was the seventh day.

CAPT Jane F. Vieira

Chaplain Corps, United States Navy

Description: signature

When asked what I did to make life worthwhile in my lifetime....I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served a career in the United States Navy."

DoD Proposes TRICARE Overhaul

March 05, 2014 | [Terry Howell](#)

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DoD's Proposed Health Benefit Reform

The President's 2015 defense budget seeks to overhaul the current TRICARE system and create a new "Consolidated" system – essentially eliminating the three current programs (Prime, Extra and Standard), replacing them with a single system which would more closely resemble the Standard POS offering, but with some additional fees and premiums. According to the DoD's budget overview, the system would "leverage proven utilization management controls by building a shared commitment to health care while offering beneficiaries more flexibility and choices." A Simpler System that would provide beneficiaries with "open access to providers and less complexity in their health plan."

The DoD's proposed TRICARE overhaul includes the following key elements:

- **No Change for Active Duty** – There would be no change for active duty service members. They would maintain priority access to health care without any cost sharing and would still require authorization for civilian care.
 - **New Cost Shares** – New cost shares will depend on beneficiary category (excluding active duty) and care venue and are designed to "minimize overutilization" of costly care venues, such as emergency departments. Cost shares would be the lowest in MTFs, higher in the network, and highest out of network. The new cost shares for in-network care will range from \$0 for a clinical preventive care visit to \$75 for a trip to the emergency room.
 - **New Enrollment Fee** – Retirees (not medically retired), their families, and survivors of retirees (except survivors of those who died on active duty) would pay an annual participation fee (\$286 individual/ \$572 family) or "forfeit coverage" for the plan year.
 - **Open Season Enrollment** – Under a new open season enrollment, similar to most commercial plans, participants must enroll for a 1-year period of coverage or lose the opportunity.
 - **New Higher Catastrophic Caps** – Catastrophic Caps would increase slightly but remain "sufficiently low" to protect beneficiaries from financial hardship. The participation fee would no longer count towards the cap. The new cap for a family will be \$3,000 per person or \$5,000 for the family.
- Fee Waivers for Medically Retired and Survivors** – Medically retired members and their families and survivors of those who died on active duty would be treated the same as Active Duty Family Members with no participation and lower cost shares.

The 2015 defense budget proposal also includes the following changes:

- **Increased Co-pays for Pharmaceuticals** (excludes active duty service members). Designed to increase the use of mail order to refill maintenance medications. The co-pays for brand name medications will cost \$26 in 2015 and increase annually, reaching \$45 by 2024. Generics will hit \$14 by 2024.
- Enrollment Fees for TRICARE for Life** – Implements "modest annual fees" for TFL coverage, but the proposal will grandfather TFL beneficiaries in the program prior to enactment. The TFL enrollment fees will be phased in over a 4-year period and will be based on a percentage of the beneficiary's military gross retired pay up to an annual fee ceiling with indexing to retiree COLA after FY 2018. TFL fees will increase each fiscal year, capping out at \$818 for flag officer retirees in 2019.

Read more: <http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2014/03/dod-proposes-tricare-overhaul/#ixzz2wSK5A8c0>
MilitaryAdvantage.Military.com