

Steel Valley Dolphins

April 2017



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 BADen at the American Legion Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

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

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

Next Meeting: May 13th 1230 American Legion Post 641, 271 State Street Baden PA

2017 USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
1st Vice Commander	Carl Stigers	412-995-8028	carstenstigers@verizon.net
2nd Vice Commander	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	Relster565@comcast.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
Treasurer	Lee M. Bookwalter	412-795-8337	booky143@verizon.net
Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
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
Photographer	Peter Foster	724+980-7657	gopetro2000@gmail.com
SVD Hard Copy	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	relster565@comcast.net

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

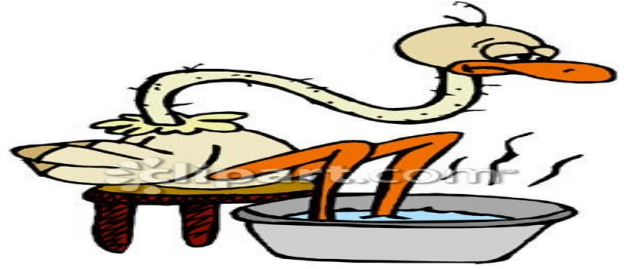


Binnacle List

Sandra Messer

Bob MacPherson

Gerry Gaylor



From: nicholda@pittsburgh.navy.mil
To: hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com, jfcaspero@verizon.net
Sent: 4/21/2017 10:15:34 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: PIT Monthly Update

Huey

1. Here is a quick update/article for your newsletters, meetings, etc. Based on Huey's request I am going to try to send you one of these approximately monthly.

"Since returning from a 6 month deployment to the European Command Area of Responsibility USS PITTSBURGH and crew have been able to take some well deserved time off and prepare for a significant maintenance period. The crew had a great stand down from mid-February through mid-March where everyone was permitted time to spend time with their families, take leave, travel and catch up on hobbies that they had missed over deployment. Since stand down has ended we have been preparing for a significant maintenance period that will extend over the next several months. We have moved PITTSBURGH into the floating dry-dock (ARDM SHIPPINGPORT) here on SUBASE. The superb preparation by the crew ensured the transition to dry-dock went smoothly with no issues. While we are still getting used to being out of the water, it will be a great opportunity to complete much needed maintenance and preservation. It will also be a huge boost for qualifications when junior sailors are able to walk around under the ship to see and touch all of the components they are learning about. We have also completed a highly successful awards night where the crew was recognized in front of their families for their hard work on deployment with medals and letters from COMSIXTHFLT, CTF-69 and the Commanding Officer. The ceremony was followed by dinner and dancing.
-Heart of Steel Sends"

2. Also, as a reminder, we are still tracking for a trip to Pittsburgh in support of Navy Week from 19 to 25 June. We don't have any schedule updates yet but I have made it clear to SUBLANT that we would like to conduct events with both SUBVETS and the Navy League. Other than normal meet & greets, if there are other specific events you would like I can pass them on. Also, at some point while we are out there we would be interested in participating in a community relations project, one of the "get your hands dirty", mow, paint, clean-up type events. If either of you have ideas we would be happy to try to get it in the schedule to help out.

Well, I think that is about all for now,
-Dave

VR,
LCDR David Nichols
Executive Officer
USS PITTSBURGH (SSN 720)
860-694-3630

A Laundry Funny

It was 6 p.m., and I was about to leave the coin laundry where I was employed. My boss called me over and asked if I would mind dropping off someone's laundry on my way home. "It's for my cousin," she apologized, "who's eight months pregnant and can't get out much anymore."

I cheerfully agreed and, driving to the address, knocked at the door. A little girl, the sister-to-be, answered.

"Hi, there," I said with a big smile. "Is your mommy home?" Holding up the white bundle of clothes, I explained, "I have a delivery for her."

The child's mouth dropped, and her eyes went wide. "Mom!" She shrieked, "come quick! It's the stork!"

US Navy Redesigning its Submarines to Accommodate Women

Jennifer McDermott, Associated Press, April 19

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Every submarine in the U.S. fleet was designed with the height, reach and strength of men in mind, from the way valves are placed to how display screens are angled.

That's going to change.

With women now serving aboard submarines, defense contractor Electric Boat is designing what will be the first Navy subs built specifically to accommodate female crew members.

The designers are doing the obvious things, such as adding more doors and washrooms to create separate sleeping and bathing areas for men and women and to give them more privacy. But they are also making more subtle modifications that may not have been in everyone's periscope when the Navy admitted women into the Silent Service.

For example, they are lowering some overhead valves and making them easier to turn, and installing steps in front of the triple-high bunk beds and stacked laundry machines.

The first vessel built with some of the new features is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2021, the future USS New Jersey.

The Navy lifted its ban on women on submarines in 2010, starting with officers. About 80 female officers and roughly 50 enlisted women are now serving on subs, and their numbers are expected to climb into the hundreds over the next few years.

For now, the Navy is retrofitting existing subs with extra doors and designated washrooms to accommodate women. But Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, is at work on a redesign of the Navy's Virginia-class fast-attack subs and is also developing a brand-new class of ballistic-missile submarines, relying on body measurements for both men and women.

"We have a clean sheet of paper, so from the ground up, we'll optimize for both men and women," said Brian Wilson, Electric Boat director of the new ballistic-missile sub program.

Electric Boat officials had no immediate estimate of how much the modifications will cost.

As anyone who watches war movies knows, submariners are always turning valves, whether to operate machinery, redistribute water between tanks or isolate part of a system that has been damaged.

On the Columbia-class boats, valves will generally be placed lower, Wilson said. Sometimes there will be an extension handle, and some will be easier to turn. Sailors will be able to connect their masks into the emergency air system at the side of passageways, instead of overhead.

Emergency air masks are being moved on fast-attack submarines, too, but the bulk of the changes on those subs are to ensure privacy.

Seats in the control room on the ballistic-missile submarines will adjust forward a little more so everyone can touch each display and reach every joystick. Steps will be added so shorter people can climb into the top bunk or see into the washers and dryers, since clothes that get stuck in the machines are a fire hazard.

The first Columbia-class ballistic-missile sub is scheduled to join the fleet in 2031.

At 5-foot-6, Lt. Marquette Leveque, one of the first women to serve on a submarine, said that she didn't have any trouble reaching valves and other equipment but that the ergonomic changes will be helpful for shorter crewmates.

Leveque was assigned to a compartment with two other female officers on the USS Wyoming. They shared a washroom with male officers. A sign on the door could be flipped to show whether a man or woman was using it.

With so few women on board, the timesharing worked, she said. But with more on the way, the need for separate spaces is greater, she added.

"Privacy is important anywhere you are," she said. "We live on this boat, as well as work there."

COMMANDERS CORNER - APRIL 2017

At our last base meeting, the members present voted to move our base meetings from the VFW in Leetsdale to the American Legion Post 641 in Baden, Pa. Its only four (4) miles down Rt 65. There were almost 50 members and first mates in attendance. Our regular meeting room was being used for a wedding and we were moved to the second floor.

We had a guest speaker from the Veterans Breakfast Club. Ben Wright was a very interesting individual, even if he is an AIR FORCE veteran. I wish everyone would take advantage of attending the different veterans breakfast meetings around the area. I have attended a few and it was so rewarding to listen to other veterans.

The President of the Home Association of the Post was in attendance and welcomed the members to the post. They are all so friendly and accommodating.

My first mate and I arrived Friday evening with our supplies for the meeting. I went into the club house and asked for help, and six (6) American Legion members jumped up and helped to unload the car. KUDOS to the members of the post.

It will be all hands on deck, to help set up and take down for the base meetings.

We will be having moving day on Saturday, April 22 at around (13:00). I will check with the VFW, to ask when someone will be there to open the doors. A number of shipmates offered to help move, Hamel, Metz, Bouts, Weismantle, Stigers (if I left your name off, please let me know! And if I have your name on the list by mistake, let me know also - it gets hectic at times at the meetings. There is no finer group of shipmates than the ones that belong to the REQUIN base - KUDOS-Shipmates.

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Members

Boutelle, Larry 5/27/33
 Davis, James 5/19/93
 Edwards, John 5/25/43
 Landri, Bruce 5/04/37
 Lyons, Ed 5/25/43
 Metz, Vince 5/09/67
 Mac Pherson, B 5/20/54
 Regits, Al 5/14/32
 Schmidt, R. L. 5/26/39
 Solinger, Bob 5/13/40
 Stewart, John 5/23/40
 Tolbert, Chuck 5/20/54

First Mates

Bruce, Connie	5/30	Geyer, Dick & Beverly	5/8
Campbell, Nita-Lou	5/31	Klein, Bob & Marilyn	5/12
Donnelly, Helen	5/20	Myers, Bob & Jude	5/29
Foster, Stepheny	5/17	Masterson, Bat & Kim	5/18
Geyer, Ann	5/08	Campisi, Joe & Jill	5/18
Greenlee, Donna	5/19	Osborn, Russ & Francis	5/21
Lindsay, Sandra	5/20	Siege, Brian & Tina	5/29
Masterson, Kim	5/25	Zdarko, Ed & Barbara	5/27
Naso, Cathleen	5/20		
Porter, Sharon	5/30		
Stahl, Dorothy	5/24		

NEW MEMBER

James Schwarz qualified on the USS Thomas A. Edison SSBN 610 in 1976 as a MM1 (SS). He left the navy in 1977. James lives in Aliquippa, Pa with his first mate Sandra. Please e-mail James and welcome him aboard - jimo600@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FISH RODEO:**

May 10 - VFW Post 3945 - 5th annual "Hospitalized Vets Fish Rodeo", Squall Run Park, Fox Chapel, Pa. TIME 10:00 hours - The base donates Honorary Submarine Hats and Shipmate Mike Allen gathers socks and other gifts and presents them to the Vets. We assist anyone who needs help with their fishing rod, and we just enjoy the morning with them and lunch in the afternoon.

Memorials & Ceremonies:

May 19 - USS REQUIN SS481 will be inducted in the World War II Submarine Veterans Memorial Hall of Fame at the Naval Submarine Learning Center on Naval Station Norfolk, Va at 10:00 hours. Shipmates are staying at the double tree by Hilton Airport Hotel.

Access to the Naval Station is restricted and everyone attending needs to be on the access list and present a photo ID in order to gain access to the base. Entry will be only through Gate 5 on Hampton Blvd., where a Petty Officer from SLF will be standing by with the list beginning at 0900. Please submit your name and dates you served on the Requin and the names and relationship of anyone else riding with you to:

john.donaldson@earthlink.net or mail to:

John Donaldson, 2205 Caddwind Ct., Virginia Beach, Va 23456.

There will be a picnic behind the Submarine Learning Facility at the conclusion of the ceremony and the Facility will be open for tours and, if available, a submarine will be open for tours. Please call John's cell if you have any questions - (757) - 270 - 0205.

May 28 - Requin Memorial Service (10:00) hours on board the Requin.

Arrive at 09:30 hours - Muster at 09:45 hours

May 28 - Carnegie Parade - (14:00) hours

Muster at (13:00) at Carnegie Borough Building Parking Lot- by VFW Post 331

May 29 - Sewickley Parade - (10:00) hours

Muster at (09:30) - flag pole - Frederick Ave & Broad Street

May 29 - Coraopolis Parade - (13:00) hours

Arrive on Main Street by (13:00) hours

PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

Plate Co-coordinator Joey Campisi gave a report on the program. There are a total of fourteen (14) base members signed up and two (2) others from other USSVI bases in Pa.

The first order was Six (6) and the second order was eight (8). There were two (2) vanity plates requested at a cost of an extra \$100.00 per plate.

There are 125 shipmates that live in Pa from the Requin Base, who may not have their plates as of yet. Contact Joey at jcampisi654@comcast.net or (412) - 322-3201.

REQUIN BASE MEETING

The May meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 641, 271 State Street Baden, Pa., at 12:30 hours. Going North on RT 65, you will pass the VFW in Leetsdale, then going past Ambridge, you will come upon a BIG car dealership and a stop light at (Johnston Ave) at McDonalds. Make a right and go up almost to state street. The legion is on the right. Turn into the parking lot

where the door way is (bottom door).

REQUIN BASE MEMORIAL (project)

The base will be placing a granite memorial at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Our fund raising so far is as follows:

1. \$200.00 discount on stone - Soupy Campbell
2. \$200.00 discount from owner of the stone company
3. \$150.00 donated on GoFundMe
4. \$160.00 donated at last base meeting
\$710.00 Total donated and discount.
5. The USSVI Charitable Foundation will match us up to \$1,500.00 (we will apply)
6. We need \$790.00 to reach our goal. The stone has been ordered and Joe and Sarge are working on the art work. The BOD will review the art work and will propose any additions or changes.

USSVI BOD MID-TERM RESULTS

As District Commander of the Year, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the USSVI for one (1) year. The Mid-Term meeting was held in Dallas Tx. Our Regional Director, Les Alschuler sent out his complete notes to all the District Commanders in the North East, so everyone would have the same and complete notes, which I sent out to the base by e-mail. I am over viewing Les's notes. The results are as follows:

1. Audit of all accounts within the USSVI.
2. Insurance review for events and parade floats.
3. Base/individual ownership under review by Ways and Means Committee.
4. Holland Club Funding
5. Conventions
 - a. Orlando 2017
 - b. Cruise 2018
 - c. Austin Tx 2019
 - d. Kansas City ?
6. War Veterans Status - there is a moratorium for new non veteran associate members.
7. Base Handbook will be developed this year.
8. A new Constitution and By-Law is in the works - to clean up the wording
9. New USSVI web-site
10. CF - developing a better guide for the organization to function a little tighter.

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2017

Baden, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

Boats Lost:

Boats Lost:

USS PICKEREL (SS 177)	April 3, 1943
USS SNOOK (SS 279)	April 8, 1945
USS THRESHER (SSN 593)	April 10, 1963
USS GUDGEON (SS 211)	April 18, 1944
USS GRENADIER (SS 210)	April 22, 1943

We also remember our departed members of the Requin Base David Helmold, Jack Kordes and Larry Simon. Let us also remember the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Chaplain Carl Stigers gave the Invocation.

Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Minutes of the last meeting were published in the SVD and the base website and approved as posted.

No treasurer's report was given.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Sandra Messer, Bob MacPherson, Gerry Gaylor
Shipmate Earl Wood went on Eternal Patrol January 1, 2017
Membership stands at 224.

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra has submarine veterans hats, USS Requin hats, Requin Base sub lead pencils and other items for sale.
Chaplain Carl Stigers reported on Eagle Scouts presentations.

Shipmate Joe Campisi reported on PA License Plate program. First order has been sent.

Memorials And Ceremonies:

New Holland Club members for 2017 inducted at today's meeting.
USS Requin SS-481 will be inducted in the submarine hall of fame on May 19, 2017 in Norfolk, VA.
Memorial service on USS Requin, May 28th
Efforts for memorial in Cemetery of the Alleghenies were discussed.

Parades:

Carnegie, PA May 28th
Sewickley, PA May 29th
Coraopolis, PA May 29th

Social Events:

Veterans of the 38th District will recognize Vietnam Veterans April 13th 1500-1700 hours
Fish Rodeo for Veterans Hospital May 10, Squal Run Road, Fox Chapel Rd
Navy Week June 19 to 25
Navy Ball October 20, Harmar House in Cheswick PA. Two table are reserved, first eight shipmates to fill 16 seats. First come first served, members must pay their own way. Contact Rick Elster if you wish to attend.
Guest Speaker Ben Wright provided details regarding the Veterans Breakfast Club.

Old Business:

Motion to move normal meetings to Baden American Legion Post 641 was approved by the members present.
Motion to approve \$100 thank you gift to Leetsdale VFW and to pay for missing kitchen cart was approved by the members present.

New Business:

Next Base meeting will be on May 13, 2017 at the Baden American Legion Post 641
Shipmate Mike Allen reported on the cost of a submarine veteran's memorial in the National Cemetery Of The Alleghenies.
Motion to purchase \$50 brick for Shaler Veterans Memorial Pathway was approved by the members present.

For The Good Of The Order:

Agenda items from USSVI Mid-Term Meeting held March 31 to April 2nd were discussed including War Veterans status, Associate Member status, NED3 Director on the Mid-Term and Base Handbook is being developed.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Baden PA American Legion Post 641 at 1230 hours on May 13, 2017.

