

Steel Valley Dolphins

February 2018



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: 1230 10 March at the American Legion in Baden Pa.

2017 USS Requin Base Officers

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2nd Vice Commander	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	Relster565@comcast.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
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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

Major Galloway
Jack Sutherin



Hus-

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your support and everything you have done for PITTSBURGH over the years. Your support is truly a blessing and does not go unnoticed! I look forward to maintaining our strong relationship for many more years!

CDR JACK M. SUTHERIN
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS PITTSBURGH (SSN-720)



HUBERT C. "HUEY" DIETRICH
USSVI REQUIN BASE COMMANDER

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January, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

The United States Submarine Veterans of the "Requin Base" in Pittsburgh, Pa., is having our annual Booster Club Drive for 2018. There are five Plateaus - Silver (\$25.00), Gold (\$50.00), Platinum (\$75.00), Diamond (\$100.00) or Nuclear ^^^^

We are made up of submariner veterans from twenty-one (21) states, with the core of our base, from the Tri-State area. We participate in community events and parades, with our float - "THE NAUTLAS". Our base activities include the "KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)" program. We give honorary submarine hats and Certificates to boys and girls who have cancer or other medically challenging situations. This year we will be reaching out to the families of the KIDS and attempt to sponsor a day with them on board the USS REQUIN. We are also involved with the Boy Scouts, who attain the rank of EAGLE SCOUT. We present the scout, at his court of honor, a patch, certificate and a REQUIN BASE CHALLENGE COIN, honoring him for his accomplishment.

Every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day, the Requin Base conducts a memorial service on board the USS Requin, which is docked at the Carnegie Science Center. The Marine Detachment 310 of the Three River Leather-Necks and the VFW Post 9199 supply the color and honor guards. We plan on having a young lady sing the star spangle banner, along with other individuals and other groups. With the help of our shipmates and supporters, we will be able to continue our programs and hopefully add more.

Please consider becoming a BOOSTER for 2018 for the Requin Submarine Base! Send Booster donation (check - payable to Requin Base).

Pride Runs Deep:

Huey Dietrich - Commander
Requin Submarine Base
213 Andrew Drive
Glenshaw, Pa., 15116



I recently attended a Basic Enlisted Submarine School graduation. Like everything else in both life and our military forces today, all the presentations and graduation speeches were temperate, colorless, gentle admonitions to go forth and do good stuff... Keep your fly zipped and don't piss on the petunias.

I sat there and mentally composed what I would have said to these fine young men poised on the threshold of the finest experience of their lives. John Kill asked me to put into words what I felt being a submariner was all about from a raghat point of view.

A Submarine School graduation talk should ignite a raging fire in a young man's heart.

"Gentlemen, you represent the top 2% of The United States Navy and to be here with your butts planted in folding steel chairs in this magic carpet ride launching pad, you had to volunteer not once, but twice. Once to join the finest navy that there ever was or ever will be and next, to sign up for one of the most respected fraternal organizations in the history of naval warfare - The United States Submarine Service.

"The course completion certificate you will be given here today will serve as your adoption papers in a family that will embrace you for a lifetime and define you as a citizen of this fair republic who earned his rights by unselfish arduous service in a universally recognized tough, elite outfit. A man... A very wise man, once told me to look on the back of my Dolphins...

"Dex, you see an expiration date on your Dolphins?"

"No, sure don't."

"You know why?"

"Don't have a clue."

"Because you are just as much a member of this community today as you were the day they pinned those Dolphins on your wet dungaree shirt."

"Think about that a second... Let that sink in. The United States Submarine Force is a commitment you have made voluntarily, and have proven, through rigorous selection and the successful completion of this course, worthy of acceptance in an organization of special men having lifetime benefits.

"You are the latest, bright, shiny link in a continuous chain of American Submariners who have established a worldwide, fully justified reputation as the world's toughest saltwater meateaters riding the finest steel sharks ever made.

"You stand on the threshold of an adventure... An unparalleled magic carpet ride that will exceed anything you can conjure up in your finest fantasy. What you are about to embark on, is a trip that would make Jules' Verne's eyes pop out. I envy you. I am so damn jealous of your youthful enthusiasm, your evident pride in your accomplishment and the amazing journey you begin here today

"Ah, the yellow brick road.

"Fathers will point you out in bus stations...

"Son, you see that sailor over there?"

"Yessir."

"He's a submarine sailor. He rides submarines."

"He rides submarines. Can you think of a prouder title? I saw a little kid riding a tricycle on the sidewalk in Groton. The kid was wearing a T-shirt that read, 'My dad is a submariner'. I can only think of one kid's T-shirt that would top that... 'My dad checks Meg Ryan for ticks.'

"Your voluntary selection of the Sub Force as your way to serve your nation has given you access to the seaports of the globe and a life where you will be able to fit all your worldly possessions in a seabag.

"You will go places in the oceans of the globe where damn few men have ever been... Where you will hear sounds and experience sensations known only to a minute fraction of the world's population.

"You will serve in the most advanced technical submersible platforms known to man. Craft that serve as the farthest extended invisible bulwark of American defense.

"You will go from here to earn your Dolphins, representing your qualification and acceptance as a United States Submariner.

"I have previously mentioned how I envy you. I have had my opportunity to dance the saltwater fandango with the Goddess of the Main Induction. I have experienced the camaraderie that you will soon experience. I have heard the creak and groan of steel at depth, but nowhere near the depths the modern marvels you will ride, will achieve.

"You have opened the magic oyster that will change your life forever and that will serve as your ticket to adventure. You have achieved a status that will provide the only credentials required to sit at tables covered with beer glass rings and swap bullshit and sea stories with your undersea fraternity brothers while the sailors not associated with the life below sunshine penetration look on in wonder and envy.

"And, you will be forever embraced by the elite Sub Force family up to the point that the Great Commander issues you your pine peacoat and assigns you to a boat moored at the Big Silver Pier in the Sky.

"A hand salute to the mothers who bore you. The parents who put the steel of honor and conviction in your spine and the patriotic values in your hearts. You are, by the road you have chosen to travel, a credit to, not only your family, hometown, state and nation but to yourselves.

"Let me assure you that your name will be listed alongside the best of the best. It will appear on a list containing both long ago legends and giants of the force and the names of the pioneers of nuclear propulsion. Lads, that is a damn fine group of men to be associated with.

"In conclusion, as you sit here today, there are lads in your hometown whose greatest thrill in life will be making a three cushion shot at the local pool hall. They will never travel more than 300 miles from the hospital where they were born and end up marrying some sweetheart whose ambition will begin and end with accumulating grocery store discount coupons and attending PTA spaghetti dinners.

"The closest those jaybirds will get to exotic faraway lands will be thumbing through the pages of a barbershop National Geographic.

"While your uncle Ralph is back home guarding his hen house with a rusty 20-gauge, you will be cruising the seas of the planet, hauling ordinance capable of causing urban renewal with a 500-mile radius. You will be standing watch over weapons, capable of sending entire populations off to Hell in a firey flash.

"The American submariner is the principle reason the bad guys rarely get to peek under Lady Liberty's nightie and your kids don't eat sushi at school.

"You have joined the family of America's undersea warriors.

"Tomorrow when you shave, take a good look in the mirror, smile and say to yourself...

"Mothers, lock up your daughters, there's a new boatsailor in town."

"WELCOME ABOARD, SAILOR."

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2018

Baden, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Tino & Sally Bolcato, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, George Brown, Greg Bushoff, Tom Calabrese, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick & Judy Elster, Peter & Stephanie Foster, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Ron Goron, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Rick & Joan Guntang, Lou Hamill, Bill & Sandy Lindsey, Bat Masterson, JB & Sandra Messner, Frank Nicotra, Chip & Sharon Porter, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Carl Stigers, Chad Underkoffer, Mike & Tina Wyckoff

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quote of the day: "In the nuclear navy there is an obsession of the exquisite over the practical"

Requin History: February 1, 1969, Requin was towed to Florida where she served as a Naval Reserve training ship. February 21, 1990 Senator John Hines introduced Senate Bill S2151 which allowed Requin to be transferred as an exhibit at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh PA.

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:

USS BARBEL (SS 316)	February 4, 1945	
USS SHARK (SS 174)	February 11, 1942	USS AMBERJACK (SS 219) February 16, 1943
USS GRAYBACK (SS 208)	February 27, 1944	
USS TROUT (SS 202)	February 28, 1944	

We also honor our departed shipmate of the Requin Base lost in February, Richard Claypoole, Chuck Dreer, John Mills, Devern Pyatt and Robert Vaughn. Finally let us remember all 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.

Chief Of The Boat Chip Porter led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous meeting were published in the SVD and on the Requin Base website. With no objections, the minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter gave an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits are available upon request. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Jack Sutherin, Major Galaway

The Base participated in Eternal Patrol services for Vince Segeleon and Ed Paul

Membership stands at 181

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available small stores.

Parades And Ceremonies:

Memorial service USS Reguin – Sunday May 27

Carnegie parade – Sunday May 27

Sewickley parade – Monday May 28

Coraopolis parade – Monday May 28

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Base meeting on March 10 will be in Baden PA. Base meeting for April 14 will be in Canonsburg PA.

Adopt A Cop program for this year will honor police forces from Freedom, Conway, Baden and Ambridge PA.

For The Good Of The Order:

USSVI Submarine Veterans Flag was purchased to be displayed at the Perrytown Inn in Perrysville PA.

Members are encouraged to have a colonoscopy and shingles vaccine.

Members may sign up children and grandchildren for scholarships from USSVI.

Letter from Commanding Officer of USS Pittsburgh was read.

A gift of appreciation was given to Edie Dietrich for her service to the base.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Baden PA American Legion at 1230 hours on March 10, 2018

Commanders Corner:

I want to thank all the members that showed up early to help set up the base meeting room. It went so well, that we all had time to sit and shoot the breeze and tell some sea stories. We also moved the display case from the storage room to its permanent place in the event room. Many thanks to the American Legion for extending the opportunity to place it so everyone will be able to observe the many submarine artifacts that we have to display.

Again, we had a tremendous turn out and GREAT participation from the membership on various topics. Thanks shipmates for showing and participating in the friendly discussions and events of the Base. Each member has something to offer – friendly talk, setting up and breaking down the meeting room, coming up with many new ideas to make our Base so unique and for having their first mates bring such wonderful GEE-DUNKS to share with everyone. Its always a pleasure to be together with all our great members and their first mates.

My first mate, Edie, was extremely surprised when the base acknowledged her contributions and support. Shipmate Rick Elster thanked her for her time and effort on making her home/made jams and salsa as a fund raiser for the base. She donated all the profits to the base. Rick presented her with a gift card and a wonderful acknowledgement that made her speechless, (which for her is a rarity!) She sends a heartfelt THANKS to all of you

Our next base meeting will be held on March 10, 2018 at the Baden's American Legion. We have a special treat for everyone – Pastor Jill, from the Legion and the Lutherin Church in Baden, will be our guest speaker and will have some special prayers for us.

Perrytown Tavern, on Rt 19 in Perrysville, Pa., has graciously accepted our request to fly our USSVI SUBMARINE VETERANS flag on their building, along with the Stars and Stripes, Marine Corp, and MIA/POW flag. The Tavern is situated on a main thorofare in Perrysville, Pa, and will be observed by thousands of people throughout the days and months that it will fly. A date will be agreed upon and proper notification to the base members, so they can participate in the flag

positioning outside of the building. They have great food and hopefully they will have their bar-be-que wagon set up.

BIRTHDAYS

Members

ALLEN, Mike	3-14-49
BATES, Tom	3-15-63
BUSHKO, George	3-18-54
CALABRESE, Tom	3-23-62
CHATLOS, Dave	3-12-54
ELSTER, Rick	3-05-41
FARINA, Reno	3-04-44
GREENWALD, Eric	3-10-74
HILGENDORF, Charles	3-06-36
HOAG, Mark	3-08-69
HUNTSMAN, Larry	3-15-67
JOHNSTON, James	3-22-43
POOLE, Gregory	3-0?-72
SAMPSON, Robert	3-26-43
SNOOK, Ronald	3-06-34
THOMPSON, Jeff	3-18-71
VOSKUHL, Fred	3-18-23 (95 years young)
WYKOFF, Mike	3-24-54
TRIPP, Mike	3-22-46
KONTIR, James	3-02-40

Firstmates

AMENTI, Ashlee	3-10
BISTYGA, Claudia	3-12
DIETRICH, Edie	3-30
GAINS, Christine	3-10
GRESH, Debra	3-20
HILGENFORF, Pat	3-27
HOWTON, Diana	3-19
LEWIS, Karen	3-17
LYONS, Carol	3-21

ANNIVERSARIES

BEAUREGARD, Richard & Noreen	3-15
Brown, Hubert & Dorothy	3-29
INDOW, Franklin & Lynn	3-31
NIXON, Charles & Sherry	3-20
WENDELL, James & Valeria	3-15

If there are any corrections or deletions, please let us know.....

The following parade list has been accepted by their parade committees:

CARNEGIE – May 27

SEWICKLEY – MAY 28

CORAOPOLIS – MAY 28

The Carnegie parade will be held after our Memorial Service on board the USS REQUIN, at the SCIENCE CENTER. Please mark your calendars!

(Remember our MOTTO – At least - one meeting – one event – PER YEAR.....)



Thank you card for Edie Dietrich