

Steel Valley Dolphins

March 2019



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 May 11th at the American Legion in Baden Pa.

USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
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Storekeeper	Frank Nicotra	412-835-6540	nicotrafrank@gmail.com
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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

:
Aaron Ellis
John Lukasik
Clyde and Sharon Porter
James Kontier
Terry Swinney



Congratulations to Carl Stigers New National Chaplain.



COMMANDERS COLUMN:

At our last base meeting we honored our 2019 HOLLAND CLUB Members – Mike Allen SK(3)SS, James Bence EN2(SS), George Brown STS(2), James ListMM1(SS), John Lukasik ET1(SS). Shipmates Paul McKenzie MMC(SS), Terry Swinney Captain, and Art Kalimon ET1(SS) were not able to attend. We also received a late notification that our newest base member, Richard Keys MM2(SS) is eligible and his certificates and gifts will be mailed to him when we receive them. We had the privilege of seeing Capt Swinney on FACE TIME. We all enjoyed seeing him live and him seeing all of us.

During the meeting, shipmate Robert Hall stopped into visit and was so impressed with all the shipmates present, that he could not wait to fill out his Requin Base application.

After I returned home from the meeting, to my surprise, I found an application in the mail. Commanding Officer Jason Deichler of the USS PITTSBURGH SSN720 will become the One Hundred Eighty Second (182) member of the Requin Base. With a hearty (HERE WE GO)! Jason has just been informed that he is on the SELECT list to be promoted to CAPTAIN! The Requin Base proudly salutes Captain Jason Deichler on his promotion – KUDOS Captain.

During the St. Patrick's Day week end, we had the honor and privilege to be heavily involved with Commander Jason. COB – Davis Lewis, Assistant Navigator Dave Jackson. We joined Jason on board the Requin – our crew in attendance was Huey, Elster, Loshkosh, Campisi, Geyer and Shrump along with is first mate. The next day we marched with the PITTSBURGH crew in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the city of Pittsburgh. Our crew in attendance was Huey, Elster Simon, Campisi, Bookwalter, Underkoffler, C., Loshkosh, Geyer, Shrump, Bookmiller, Metz, Allen, Hamill, Lindsay and his first mate, Kontier and his daughter. We had our Nautilus Float leading our group and our troop transport following with the USS PITTSBURGH 720 banner attached. The picture of the parade was in the March Issue of the SVD!

After the parade we returned back to the German Club and Commander Jason and his chiefs along with their families. We had a great German Lunch and great tasting SUDS from Germany. (Picture was in April edition of the SVD).

As a gesture of great friendship and camaraderie, the Requin Base is purchasing three (3) USSVI winter jackets for the Captain and chiefs as a farewell gift – they will be the smartest looking active duty sailors in Bremerton, Washington.

Kudos to the shipmates of the Requin who talk the talk and walk and walk supporting all of the base activities, including the support of the PITTSBURGH. We have no hidden agenda. We represent truly good, admirable BROTHERS OF THE PHIN!

Our next base adventure was to travel up to Groton and make one last visit to bid farewell to the Captain and crew of the USS PITTSBURGH. The members that were part of the caravan were – Huey, Hamill, Bookwalter, Sills, Campisi, Elster, Nicotra, Lindsay with first mate Sandra along with Loskosh and first mate Nancy. Shipmate Lawton Gains, from Massachusetts traveled down to be with us. This is the fourth (4th) time that Lawton came to spend time with us in Groton. Lawton qualified on board our beloved REQUIN. Lawton commented that he is so impressed the Requin Base and its members with the activities that we perform, that he will be traveling down to Pittsburgh to be with us to participate with us in one of our activities. Shipmate Richard Beauregard, originally from Johnston, Pa, now from Groton and works in the shipyard, found time in his work schedule to spend some time with us on the PITTSBURGH.

We spent the first afternoon on board the Pittsburgh. The entire crew welcomed us and really made us feel good to be there. What a wonderful group of hardworking dedicated sailors. While on board, they were looking us over and probably thought that we looked HUNGRY!! We were all invited to the crew's mess and had dinner with the crew. It really brought back a lot of great memories especially after we had great GEE-DUNKS – apple pie.

After wards we traveled to the fleet reserve to have some refreshments and believe you me, that also tasted so good. While we were there, we ordered pizza for everyone and it was the best pizza ever. (always is when your starving and need some food in your stomach. We departed the fleet reserve and traveled back to our barracks to finish off the first night with a lot of good fellowship. The next day we went to the navy exchange so everyone could check out their navy memorabilia and gear. Shipmate Hamill, saw a sign for ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, which is where his daughter attended. Imagine finding that in Groton. He purchased it for her birthday which will be coming up next month,

along with some of their crews. Commander Jason gave a tremendous farewell speech – He acknowledged and thanked all the REQUIN Sub Vets in attendance for all their support and thoughtfulness for the crew of the USS PITTSBURGH SSN720. In attendance, were two (2) female submariners from the John Werner. We all were very impressed with their navy professionalism. Hopefully we will add a picture of them with us at the party. It was a GREAT gathering of dedicated sailors which I can say, made us all so PROUD to be in their company. Sad day to see the PITTSBURGH go – but their crew will carry forward-----HERE WE GO! All in all, the road trip was a great success! Hopefully we will be able to find another Groton Submarine to support and for the base to continue being who we are.

IF I LEFT ANYONE OFF PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

The complete library of photos can be found on the base website
<https://www.requinbase.org> under About Us | Base Photos

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Members

First Mates

Boutelle, Larry 5/27/33	Bruce, Connie 5/31	Geyer, Dick & Beverly 5/08
Davis, James 5/19/93	Campbell, Nita-Lou 5/31	Klein, Bob & Marilyn 5/12
Edwards, John 5/25/43	Donnelly, Helen 5/20	Myers, Bob & Jude 5/23
Gresh, Garry 5/23/43	Foster, Stephany 5/17	Masterson, Bat & Kim 5/08
Landri, Bruce 5/04/37	Geyer, Beverly 5/08	McGinty, Shawn & Lisa 5/08
Lyons, Ed 5/25/43	Greenlee, Donna 5/19	Campisi, Joe & Jill 5/18
Metz, Vince 5/09/67	Humes, Gosia 5/13	Osborn, Russ & Francis 5/21
MacPherson, B. 5/20/54	Lindsay, Sandra 5/20	Siege, Brian & Tina 5/29
Regits, Al 5/14/32	Loskoch, Nancy 5/30	Zdarko, Ed & Barbara 5/27
Schmidt, R.L. 5/26/39	Masterson, Kim 5/25	

Jason Deichler qualified on the West Virginia SSBN736 (Gold). He is on active duty as Commanding Officer of the USS PITTSBURGH SSN720. Jason has just been “selected” as Captain. He lives in Mystic, Ct. with his first mate Michelle. Jason is currently on assignment, sailing the USS PITTSBURGH to Bremerton, Washington for De-commissioning.

Richard Keys qualified in 1966 on the Simon Bolivar SSBN641 as a QM3(SS). He left the navy in 1969 as a QM2(SS). He lives in Brownsville, Pa with his first mate Karen. Please e-mail Richard and welcome him aboard - dexnat@hotmail.com

Robert Hall qualified in 1968 on the USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN635 as a ET2(SS). He left the navy in 1973 as an ET1(SS). He lives in Moon Township with his first mate Jacquie. Please e-mail Bob and welcome him aboard – rob@cmsdad.com

UPCOMING PARADE SCHEDULE: (all accepted and approved)

May 26 – Memorial Service on board Requin

May 26 – Carnegie Parade

May 27 – Sewickley Parade

May 27 – Coraopolis Parade

July 4th – Canonsburg Parade

July 4th – Leetsdale Parade

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

MY 27 – Ambridge – honoring Shipmate Knapp- lost on the Thresher.

Underkoffler and Stigers will officially represent Requin Base.

NATIONAL APPOINTMENT:

It is my pleasure to announce to the base membership that Chaplin Carl Stigers has been appointed as the new National Chaplin of USSVI. We could not be more proud for Carl. He has done a tremendous job for the Requin base and now the entire USSVI will be served by a very good and caring Chaplin. I can honestly say that Carl is a great shipmate with no drama. His soul purpose of being a part of the Requin Base was to serve the membership and carry out our creed. "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their 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." KUDOS to Carl.

In addition to Carl, here are two listings of former members who held National Office and Present members holding Office.

FORMER OFFICERS

Andy Sorbie – North East Region Director 1996-2000

Bill Britt – Holland Club Chairman – 2000-2008

Ed Yoder - National Parliamentarian – 2001-2011

PRESENT OFFICERS

Huey Dietrich – NED3 Commander – 2011-present –

District Commander of the Year (DCOY) 2017

Lou Hamill – National Convention Webmaster– 2015-present

- National Technical Committee Chairman – 2018-present

Carl Stigers – National Chaplin- 2019



USS John Warner Main Propulsion Assistant LTJG McNamara and Engineering Officer LCDR Shaw with members of USSVI Requin base

L > R Beauregard, Hamill, Elster, Dietrich, McNamara, Bookwalter, Shaw, Gains, Nicotra



Everyone enjoying the evening meal at Paul's Pasta Shop

I still have e-mail from Bill Britt that I refuse to delete!

NEXT BASE MEETING – SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 – BADEN AMERICAN LEGION



Captain Deichler with members of USSVI Requin base

L > R Hamill, Bookwalter, Dietrich, Deichler, Sills, Elster, Campisi, Gains, Nicotra

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2019

Baden, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Jim & Beverly Bence, Tino & Sally Bolcato, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair Bouts, George & Cindy Brown, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick & Judy Elster, Reno Farina, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Lou Hamil, Mark & daughter Hoag, Bill & Sandra Lindsay, James & Charlene List, Pete & Nancy Lockoch, Emmitt Lowery, John Lukasik, Bat Masterson, Mike Pellegrino, Bernie & Dorothy Sigler, Harry Sills, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Chuck Shrump, Carl Stigers, Jack & Genny Sutherin, John & Kim Swords, Chad Underkoffer, Mike & Tina Wyckoff

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "Take your sub quals seriously. Just remember when you report to your new boat submarining is no big deal. Any ship in the Navy can sink but it is your ability to make the other part happen that counts."

Requin History: April 28, 1945 commissioned with Commander Slay D. Cutter in command. April 4, 1967, Requin departed for 6th Fleet deployment.

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 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.

Secretary Jeff Simon led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous meeting were published 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. With no objections, the report was approved.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: John Lukasik, Bill Greenlee, Chip & Sharon Porter, James Kontier, Terry Swinny, Judith Underkoffer

Eternal Patrol: None

Membership stands at 181.

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available small stores.

Social Events

Cod Base will attend our June 8 meeting in Columbiana, Ohio

Cod Base will also visit the USS Requin the third week of August

Requin Base will attend Cod Base at a date to be determined

Visit to Williamsport, PA in May or June is being planned for rededication of Submarine Memorial.

Memorial And Ceremonies

Carnegie parade – Sunday May 26

Sewickley parade – Monday May 27

Coraopolis parade – Monday May 27

Canonsburg parade – Thursday July 4

Old Business:

Details for USS Pittsburgh visit and St. Patrick's Day parade in March were discussed.

New Business:

Holland club members were honored at today's meeting: Mike Allen SK3(SS), James Bence EN2(SS), George Brown STS2(SS), James List E6(SS), John Lukasik ET1(SS), Paul McKenzie MMC(SS), Terry Swinney Captain, Art Kalimon ET1(SS)

Chaplain Carl Stigers has been appointed National Chaplain of the USSVI

For The Good Of The Order:

Plans continue for the Requin Base 25th anniversary in September

Groton trip is being considered for May 2-4. See Chad Underkoffer for details.

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 11, 2019