

Steel Valley Dolphins

August 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 14 September at the American Legion in Baden Pa.

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
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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

:
Ginny Sutherin
Rick Elster,
Diana Gervais (Underkoffler),
John Lukasik,
Chip & Sharon Porter



Commanders Column:

The August Base Meeting at the River Forest Country Club was a great success! Sally Smith was the event organizer. Sally even decorated all the center pieces, which were offered to all in attendance. THANKS SALLY – we all had a great time.

We had two (2) of our associate members in attendance. Marian Miller and James Kontir, who was a navy spook. Marian even won the 40-40-20 raffle.

As usual, after the meeting, we floated into the canteen to have a few brewskies. We met one of the new owners of the Country Club. While we were shooting the s---, we also met his lovely wife. Edie and she talked about all the pretty flowers they had on the tables and outside. They were both so nice and happy that we held our meeting at their CC. They took pictures of us –Joey, Edie and I. They will put the pictures on their face book page!

They asked us how everything went and how we felt about the food and service. It was pointed out to them that we were not complaining, but just offering constructive criticism They offered to make it up to us! We told them we will be back next year and look forward to meeting up with them some time, later this year.

DINK NOTICE

A notice was sent out to all members of the base, reminding them of our 25th anniversary celebration. It is scheduled for September 7th.

The committee is doing an outstanding job and needs everyone's support. Shipmate Eric Bookmiller has carved a set of dolphins from one of the resting oak blocks of the USS PHOENIX, just prior to her launching in December 1980. They will be raffled off at the anniversary dinner. Contact Eric – ericbookmiller@comcast.com if you want to purchase your raffle tickets on line. Ticket price is \$5.00 each or &20.00 for seven (7).

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND – PLEASE CONTACT:

Dick Geyer -dgdiving@gmail.com

Lou Hamill – itgeek8088@gmail.com

Lee Bookwalter – booky143@verizon.net

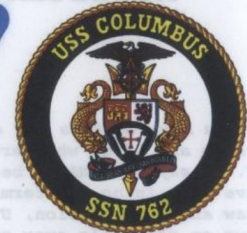
**FAIR WINDS AND
FOLLOWING SEAS**



*Any man who may be asked in this century
What he did to make his life worthwhile,
I think can respond with a good deal of satisfaction
"I served in the United States Navy"*

-President John F. Kennedy

Retirement Ceremony



**Chief Machinist Mate
Auxiliary, Submarines
Martin J. Abel
United States Navy**

Friday, 26 July 2019



Chief Martin Abel, a member of the Requin Base and a Navy Chief Petty Officer, held his retirement ceremony at soldiers & Sailors hall, on July 26. He is leaving the navy after 20 years of service. He served on the Columbus and Pittsburgh while at sea. He currently is assigned to Bettis Labs in West Mifflin, Pa.

Base Commander Dietrich & wife Edie, & Shipmates Campisi, Brown Underkoffler, Bookmiller, Hamill and Base/National Chaplin Stigers were in attendance. Hamill presented Chief Abel with a beautiful glass plaque (17 pounds) that highlighted Martins active duty status. Carl Stigers, our Chaplin did and outstanding service honoring the Chief. All the other members held a flag folding ceremony in honor of the Chief was presented to Martins Mother.

Afterward, we were all invited to his reception at the boat house in North Park, which is in the North Hills of the County. We all got to meet and chat with his lovely wife and children, along with his Mom & Dad and many friends. He had such wonderful mid-rats, that since he is retiring from the navy, that he can do some mess cooking for us – HA, HA. We wish the Chief a great retirement and hope he gets to enjoy being with his wife and kids and still be living in the Pittsburgh area.

THANK
You

Huey & Subvets,

Thank you so much for helping to make my ceremony great! I'm proud to be a part of the Subvets and the Reguin base with you fine gentlemen (and Joe!) Ha! it was great to see you guys and thank you again for helping with my retirement ceremony and coming to the boat house too!

Marta

There were 5 other active and retired submariners in attendance and I am waiting on their applications???????

Upcoming Social Events:

1. August 14 – Veterans Breakfast Club – 8800 Peebles Rd., Allison Park, Pa
2. Sept 7th – Base Birthday Ball – Springdale, Pa – 1500 hours
3. Sept 14th – Base Meeting – American Legion, Baden, Pa
4. Sept20th - Ronquil/Cod – Friday, Cleveland, Oh
5. Sept 26 – USS Thresher Commemorative Monument, Arlington, Va.
6. October 11 – Navy Ball – Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall
7. October 12 – Base Meeting – Noon – New Castle, Pa – Crane Room
8. November 9 – Base Meeting – American Legion, Baden, Pa
9. November 11 – Veterans Day Parade
10. December 1st – X-Mas Luncheon – German Club
11. December 7th – Pearl Harbor Day

BIRTHDAYS

MEMBER

Burdin, Thomas 9/23/45
Dietrich, Huey 9/19/44
Gasparovic, Mike 9/15/66
Elias, Phil 9/04/50
Howton, David 9/25/55
Krautstruak, R. 9/18/24
Kuhn, Blain 9/25/55
Myers, James 9/44
Molierno, Sal 9/18/25
McCarthy, Richard 9/27/57
Nichols, David 9/24/80
Riley, Earl 9/17/45
Sills, Harry 9/19/45
Swords, John 9/26/49
Watson, Robert 9/21/25

ANNIVERSARIES

SPOUSE

Bence, Beverly 9/04 Ewald, Bob & Jody 9/09
Boutelle, Barbra 9/13 Hilgendoarf, Chuck & Pat 9/17
Campisi, Jill 9/11 Hoag, Mark & Adrians 9/20
Cantwell, Pat 9/11 Hughes, James & Joan 9/30
Johnston, Janice 9/15 Holzwarth, Scott & Eva 9/29
Kontier, Mary Ann 9/29 Lewis, James & Karen 9/27
Ladie, Chris 9/19 Morgan, Ed & Sandra 9/28
Lucas, Pam 9/01 Riley, Earl & Rosemary 9/29
Larson, Judy 9/18 Koppenhour, Fred & Pat 9/23
McKenzie, Yvonne 9/30 Stewart, John & Lois 9/13
Myers, Jude 9/01 Underkoffer, Chad & Judith 9/5
Strode, Trudith 9/14
Wendle, Valerie 9/25
Cochenour 9/08

Weismantle, Robert 9/17/46

Everly, Patricia 9/25

NEW MEMBERS

Douglas Johnston qualified in 1973 on the USS TINOSA SSN606 as a MM2. He left the navy in 1976 as a MM1(SS). He lives In Cranberry Township, Pa., with his first mate Ruth. Please e-mail Doug and welcome him aboard – doug@1782.com

Thomas Strange qualified in 1961 on the USS CARP SS338 as a TMSN. He left the navy in 1963 as a TM2(SS). He lives in Canonsburg, Pa with his first mate Agnes. Tom is a paralyzed Veteran and serves as the Membership Officer/Hospital Liaison Officer/Associate Sports Director in the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. He recently returned from Tennessee with five (5) gold medals that he won at the Paralyzed Veterans wheelchair games. Please e-mail Tom and welcome him aboard – pv3333@msn.com

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2019

Freeport, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Tina Balcato, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, Clair & Nancy Bouts, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Sandy Ellis, Rino Farina, Gerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Lou Hamil, James Kontier, Chuck & Nancy Lockoch, Bat Masterson, James Messer, Vince Metz, Marian & John Miller, Frank Nicotra, Mike Pellegrino, Jeff & Eileen Simon, Carl Stigers, Chad Underkoffler, Mike & Tina Wyckoff

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: “Submariners are a bunch of intelligent misfits that somehow seem to get along, understand each other and work well together”

Requin History: August 24, 1944 keel laid at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. August 14, 1945 two weeks after her arrival and three days before starting her first war patrol, WWII ended and the Requin was recalled and ordered back to the Atlantic. August 1, 1952 Requin was back in European waters, during September she visited the United Kingdom, then in October the submarine transited the Straits Of Gibraltar for regular 6th Fleet duty. August 15, 1959 upon her conversion to fleet snorkel configuration, the Requin was given hull classification SS 481 and rejoined Subron 6 in Norfolk VA for operations as a normal attack submarine, a role she retained until her decommissioning. August 7, 1990 Requin left International Ship Repair in Tampa FL under tow to Baton Rouge LA. August 11, 1990 Requin was lifted onto barges and began her ride up the Mississippi River and Ohio River to 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 BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944
USS S 39 (SS 144)	August 16, 1942
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949
USS POMPANO (SS 181)	August 29, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmates of the Requin Base: Robert Campbell, Frank Gogul, John Irons, Louis Kleinlein, Sam McGrew, Neal Sever, and Edward Yoder. 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.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon 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 will stand 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: Rick Elster, Diana Gervais (Underkoffler), John Lukasik, Chip & Sharon Porter

Eternal Patrol: None

Membership stands at 185. Requin is now the 6th largest submarine veteran's base in the USSVI and the largest inland veteran's base.

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on available small stores

Shipmate Vince Metz nothing to announce

Social Events

August 14, Veterans Breakfast Club, 8800 Peebles Rd, Allison Park PA

September 7, Base Birthday Ball, Springdale, PA

September 14, Base meeting Baden, PA

September 20, Ronquil/Cod meeting in Cleveland OH

September 26, USS Thresher Commemorative Monument in Arlington VA

October 11, Navy Ball, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall

October 12, Base meeting will be at 1200 hours in New Castle PA at the Crain Room

November 9, Base meeting will be in Baden PA at the American Legion

November 11, Veterans Day Parade

December 1, Christmas luncheon at the German Club

December 7, possible Pearl Harbor Day remembrance

Old Business:

Base participation in the retirement ceremony held for Chief Martin Able on July 26th was discussed.

New Business:

Arrangements being made to have Ms. Christina Lonigro, an expert on VA and Medicare benefits, as a guest speaker.

Heinz History Center is hosting the Vietnam War 1945-1975 exhibition through September 22nd. All veterans receive half off regular admission.

For The Good Of The Order:

Decommissioning activities for the USS Pittsburgh were discussed.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Baden PA at 1230 hours on September 14, 2019