

Steel Valley Dolphins

December 2020



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

USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our ship-mates 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 -----

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Next Meeting: Hopefully 9 January 2021

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Commanders Corner:

It was with great sadness that we had to cancel our December Base Meeting and Holiday get together. The good Lord was looking over us because the very next day our Governor CLOSED all bars and clubs. The Legion shut down and we would have scrambled to notify everyone not to travel to the meeting. We will enjoy the holiday season with close family and enjoy it as much as we can. This has been one lousy year and I hope next year will be one of our greatest for having our meetings and base activities. Both Edie and I and your Executive Board wish everyone a great holiday season –

Merry Christmas – Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year!

The dues season has arrived and it's wonderful to make contact with everyone! As of today (12/16) there are 58 members who have not sent in their dues for 2021. Please check to see if you already sent in your check and if you find out that you haven't, please send asap. The past years at this time, we had less than 10 members who were close to the DINK list. We were late sending out the notices because the calendars were late arriving, that was thru no fault of the base. If anyone has financial problems, please let me know and your dues situation will be worked out. E-mail me at hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com

We will be working on our schedule for next year's base meetings and activities in the next few weeks. If anyone has any questions or concerns about scheduling additional events, reach out to me and let me know!

The raffle tickets that we purchased from the Baden's American Legion on the Pa lottery had no winners – we tried.

I was informed that our National Treasurer, Paul Heisel has come down with the virus. He had an old friend in town, and he offered him a place to stay. As luck has it, three (3) days later, Paul came down with the virus. So watch yourself and always take an extra step to stay safe – WEAR A MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCEING AND WASH YOUR HANDS FOR 30 SECONDS along with using HAND SANTIZER

I have not heard of anyone from the base coming down with the virus, so we all must be doing something right. Don't forget to keep everyone in your thoughts.

BIRTHDAYS

Algee, John	1/31/53	Nicole LaPietro Cowher	1/06
Clark, Robert	1/14/52	Michael Deichler	1/14 Willard & Margret Ashmore
Coker, Jess	1/13/76	Barbara Fraina	1/09
Iden, Larry	1/05/43	Joan Hughes	1/08
Iliff, Jefferey	1/09/68	Julie May	1/31
Kielar, Bill	1/16/30	Kelly McKinney	1/05
Lowry, E.	1/24/28	Sandra Morgan	1/10
Markel, Mike	1/15/41	Tina Siege	1/15
Myers, Bob	1/21/53	Cynthia Weaver	1/07
Moore, Bob	1/08/48		
Naso, Angelo	1/29/42		
Nelson, Fred	1/29/44		
Phelan, James	1/20/38		
Phelps, Dan	1/06/62		
Schmidt, Bob	1/15/61		

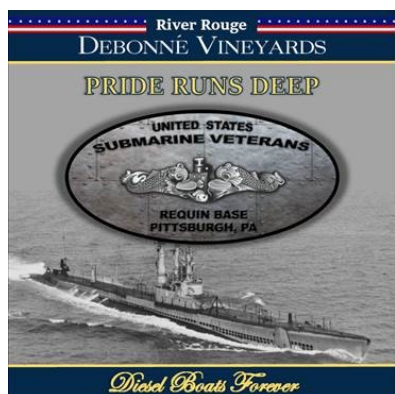
ANNIVERSARIES

Carl & Carol Benson	1/20
Bob & Kim Bittner	1/06
Eric & Margie Bookmiller	1/19
Dave & Diane Howton	1/27
Carl & Gosia Humes	1/18
Art & Rita Ann Kalimon	1/20
Richard & Karen Keys	1/29
Fred & Patricia Nelson	1/26
John & Susan Sutherin, Jr.	1/08

Siege, Brian 1/23/66
 Smith, Aubrey 1/20/46
 Stewart, John 1/21/42
 Wassingerberg, Paul 1/27/34
 Wise, Herb 1/14/39
 Any additions, subtractions or corrections, please let me know.

Our sale of USSVI calendars has gone extremely well. We had only one outside veteran's organization cancel their order. As of today, there are ten (10) calendars left. If anyone wants extra's please let me know – when they are gone, they will be gone – no more to be had.

Our wine fund raiser for the USS IDAHO has gone over the top.



Majority of the orders have been picked up and or delivered. Over the course of the next couple of days, the last two orders will be in the hands of the shipmates for the holidays. I will give a complete report in the January newsletter (SVD). If anyone wants any of the wine, I have some bottles available, Riesling, Red Blend, River Rouge and Chardonnay. I find that our shipmates enjoyed them so much that they ordered more for Holiday presents.

We loved the wine labels so much we sent the Captain, Exec, and COB of the Idaho and Captain Deichler, of the Pittsburgh, a bottle for the holidays.



This is what the captain wrote back to me – Mr. Dietrich –
Thank you so much for the thoughtful (and inspiring) bottle of wine. What a label! My wife, Sarah, and I will save that bottle for a special occasion – then celebrate a toast to our brothers at sea and veterans, who forged our proud undersea legacy! Until then – Merry Christmas to you and the REQUIN BASE SUB VETS. On behalf of IDAHO (SSN-799), Thank you! for your sponsorship of our growing crew.
Thanks for shipmate Lawton Gains who traveled from Massachusetts to Groton and delivered them to the Cob for distribution.

Congratulations to Captain Deichler on his promotion.



OUR NEXT BASE MEETING HOPEFULLY WILL BE ON 1/09/2021

Life Hacks

A Few Things to Make Your Life Easier

As Covid lockdowns and restrictions begin to grip the country again, one thing is clear: We're going to be spending a lot of time at home this winter regardless of where you live. So why not get ready with these awesome household life hacks? The term "**life hack**" is defined as "a tool or technique that makes life easier and more efficient." Whether it's putting vinegar-soaked bread in your garage, pouring salt down your drain, or using ultraviolet lights to blast germs off the surfaces of your home, there are plenty of very timely life hacks that will help make this winter more bearable!

Placing A Rubber Band Around Both Door Knobs

Everyone has rubber bands in their messy drawer, but now you'll actually have a use for them besides holding things together. If you have young kids or ever did, then you know nothing is worse than waking them up by accident when they are sleeping. And one of the most common ways to wake them is by going into their room to check on them only to have the sound of the door opening wake them up. To stop the loud noise the lock makes is very easy. Take a rubber band, wrap it around each doorknob, and over the lock/latch. This allows you to open and close the door without ANY noise, letting your sleeping baby stay asleep. Wrapping a rubber band around the door is also a good way to stop a toddler/child from locking a door on purpose or accident.

Pour Salt Down Your Sink Drain To Fix Clogs

Salt is one of the most commonly found minerals on earth. And while most people associate it with cooking, it actually has tons of uses all around the house. One of the more helpful alternatives uses for salt is to help fix clogged drains. Here's what you need to do. First, clear as much of the blockage as you can by hand. Then take 1/2 a cup of salt and 1/2 a cup of baking soda and pour it into the drain. Then take vinegar and pour it down the hole. It will bubble up fast, then by the time the bubbles stop, the clog should be gone. Salt can also be used for things like putting out a dangerous grease fire. You can also use it as an abrasive to help clean a very dirty pot or pan. There are literally ended uses for salt around the house, that's why it pays to always keep extra in your pantry.

Use WD 40 in Your Bathroom Faucets

For most people they deal with hard water which over time can make cause things to become harder to do. For example, your shower or bath faucets, as hard water build-up, turning the hot water knob can become increasingly more difficult. Or the same can happen with the shower/bath diverter spout (that little thing you pull that will make the water come out of the faucet or showerhead). Instead of taking apart your faucet or paying a plumber to come to fix it, you can use WD40. Just take a can of WD40 (preferably one with a long flexible hose) and spray it inside of your faucet. The WD40 will loosen up the hard water and make the diverter work as smoothly as day 1. The same goes for a hard to turn shower knob, a spritz of WD40 and it will work like brand new.

Use Bread Soaked In Vinegar as a Deodorizer

We have all dealt with this problem before, you go to throw out some garbage and as soon as you lift the lid you are hit with a wall of terrible smells. Disgusting! Then you try and clean it with sprays you can buy from the supermarket, but those don't really help. Now your garbage will smell like chemicals and rotting food. Luckily, there's a better solution and you likely have the items in your house already. All you need to do is take a piece of bread (stale one is even better) and soak it in some plain old distilled vinegar. Throw it in the bottom of any garbage can overnight, then in the morning toss it away. All the nasty smells will be gone!

Sleep With a Bar Of Soap Under Your Sheets

It might sound strange, but there's some evidence to back this up. People claim that sleeping with a bar of soap helped cure their leg cramps at night. This trick has gained so much popularity that it even made it to the TV show "The Doctors". When they polled their audience, 40% said this has relieved their leg cramps or restless legs syndrome. Some suggest placing soap near your feet helps ions to go from the soap to your body and eventually your nervous system. It's these ions that help ease your cramps. While there's been no official clinical study on this, anyone who suffers from leg cramps should give this a shot as you have nothing to lose.

Dish Soap Used In the Toilet

With endless products claiming they can make your toilet look brand new, it can be hard to sift through them all and figure out which one to buy. Rather than spending money and time wasted, there's something in your house already that you can use. And it's not what you might think. Dish soap is the answer you've been looking for. And it couldn't be any more simple to use. Take 1/4 cup of dish soap + 1/4 cup of baking soda + 1/4 cup of water. Mix them together, then pour them into the toilet. Stir the solution, then let it sit overnight. The next morning, do a light scrub and your toilet will look brand new! You can also use dish soap to unclog a toilet without a plunger. Simply put 1 cup of soap into your toilet, let it sit for 30 mins. Then take hot water and pour it into the bowl. The clog will be gone.

Helping Onions and Garlic Last Longer

You don't have to be a top chef to know the flavorful benefits of cooking and sautéing with onions and garlic. By simply adding these two staples, you can totally change the game when it comes to the taste of some of your favorite foods or dishes. Although such veggies as onions, garlic, and even shallots last much longer than their counterparts, such as bananas, apples and oranges, there is a simple hack to further their longevity by as many as three more months. Just take a paper bag, such as a lunch bag, and using a paper punch and punch holes all in the bag. Once you have that done, fold the bag top down a couple of turns and secure it with a paper clip.

[Source: Lifestyle | Tracy Few | November 16, 2020 ++]

Home Rodent Control

Humane Tips to Keep Them from Moving In

Having rodents in your home is never a good thing. Rats and mice are unwelcome house guests, but they have the supernatural ability to find their way into places they are not meant to be, most of the time leaving clues of their presence such as chewed up cords, droppings, and holes in the walls. Some of them are so audacious that you might even find one scampering across your kitchen floor or even your counter or across your foot as you lie relaxing on the couch. While dealing with a large scale rat or mouse issue is usually a professional job, handling rodents when there are only one or two can be done relatively cheap and without causing any harm to the animal. Respecting the animal does not mean that you would have to live with them in your home.

Once you are not dealing with a major issue, dealing with rodents is always a good starting point. That being mentioned, mice in particular breed extremely fast, so if you have not solved your issue within a week or less, then you need to contact a professional, as mice multiply quickly. Below are a few tips for removing the rodents humanely.

Use a Live Trap

The use of a live trap will hold a rodent without actually causing harm so that you will be able to sanitarily get rid of it from inside your home. Live traps are simple to use; they do not involve the touching of the animal to be able to release it afterward, however, you should still protect yourself with a pair of heavy duty gloves just in case. This will safeguard you from bites, as well as from coming into contact with any feces, which is one of the ways rodents can spread diseases. You must choose your bait wisely. House mice are not actually fond of cheese as we were taught, this is really a myth, so do not waste your favorite sandwich maker, instead select one of their known favorites like grains, seeds, or fruit.

However, rats are a bit different, they are not as picky, they are indiscriminate about their food selection, but they do have a preference for vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, and meats. You should note however that if you plan to use live traps in an effort not to harm the rodents, you should be checking in on your trap at least once an hour. Rats and house mice are susceptible to stress and this can often be fatal. As it relates to releasing the rodent, it is suggested that you travel far enough away from your home that they are not likely to return.

Find and Seal Points of Entry

Rodents are going to expertly maneuver their way into getting into your home, they will find some route, some small crevice to contort their bodies through. It might be quite difficult to find the entry points of these devious invaders but once you are on the hunt to find them, chances are that you will. Rodents normally seek entry through holes and cracks in your foundation, your floors, and your walls. The pipework to your home can also be an entry point once it is not sealed correctly on the exterior. A detailed walkthrough of your property is needed to determine any entry points, and once found you will need to take the correct steps in sealing the area. Spray foam would be a great option as it can be molded to fit any space, crack or crevice you are trying to close up.

Do Not Leave Food Out

Preemptive measures are one of the most effective ways that you can employ to humanely deal with rodents. In spite of everything, the best-case scenario is that they never become comfortable in your house from the start. It is crucial that you do not leave any food out, just lying around for an extended period of time, this also includes your pet food. Store as much as you possibly can in your cabinets, fridge, and pantry. Ensure that you clean the table and the floor that is beneath the table after you have eaten. When you leave crumbs on the counter or floor, this sends an invitation to the rats and mice to visit and enjoy the buffet and will begin to consider your home as a dependable source of food. As you continue to take steps towards storing all your food away, be mindful of your garbage and have that sealed as well.

Try Peppermint Oil

They may have been some mixed reviews on this, as it relates to the effectiveness and how well it works. So if you are experiencing a mouse or rat problem, and you also know the entry points into the home, try placing some peppermint oil at the mouth of the entrance and it could aid as a natural deterrent. It has been proven that while mice and rats love to rumble through sewers and garbage cans, they do not enjoy the scent of peppermint and try to stay clear of it. After sealing the known entry point of the rodents, apply one hundred percent of peppermint spray or oil around the entire area to offer that extra layer of protection. An idea would be to soak a cotton wool ball in the peppermint oil and then place them all around the entry point. Peppermint plants around your property where mice or rats are most likely to appear.

[Source: Outdoor Wear Newsletter | November 19, 2020 ++]