



Publication for members of USS Illinois Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



Tom Ramsay
USS Illinois Commander
MS1(SS), USN Retired

Let's start the New Year off Submarine Style! At our next meeting, I invite you to bring "show and tell" memorabilia, photos, models, clothing, patches, and plenty of stories to share about life aboard the boats, or just your stint in the Armed Forces. We want to get to know you.

Don't worry if you don't have any memorabilia – You are a sub sailor, so you must have a story or two about yourself or your boat that you can share. Whether your tour of duty was for two years or 25 years, you have fun memories. Share a story, or just tell us something you liked about a certain boat (where you went, what you did, what you saw, etc.) Or, maybe something you didn't like.

I have been around enough Sub Sailor events during my life to know you have a lot to share.

Did you ever have a Captain's Mast in the morning and later that afternoon receive a Good Conduct medal? Only to have the Skipper

throw your good conduct medal at you, rather than pin it on your chest? I did. If you haven't figured it out, I didn't wear gold hash marks on my sleeve. I got caught and proudly wore red ones. Fact: If you had red hash marks you have stories.

Did you ever have shore duty where had the opportunity to spread a load of dirt from the back of a dump truck. But, things didn't go well, and you ended up with the grill of the truck pointing straight into the air like it was taking off for the stars? I did. The Seabee Chief tried to give me bad marks on the way I drove a dump truck and for my lack of painting skills. I had to remind him I was not a Seabee. I was a cook.

Did you go through a Blue Nose ceremony when you went under the polar ice, or did you go through the Order of Neptune when you crossed the Equator. Having spent a number of years on one boat, I was ap-

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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 accomplishment. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

www.ussillinoisbase.org





Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Tom Ramsay, Base Commander

12 members present: Tom Ramsay, Chuck Mongan, Kate Ramsay, Dick Martin, John Stines, Connie Stines, Dave Spencer, Terry Elmeier, Wayne Orrison, Sherm Buetsch, Don Bossetti, Jim Helsell. **Guests present:** Jan Spencer, Richard Doden.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Connie Stines.

Tolling of Bells Ceremony by Dave and Jan Spencer.

Reading of USSVI Creed by VCDR Chuck Mongan.

Introductions of members and guests.

Minutes. Copy of minutes posted in Base newsletter (emailed to members and posted online). Motion made by Chuck Mongan to approve minutes as posted; seconded by Dave Spencer. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Kate Ramsay for Treasurer Bruce Pickering.

- A correction made to December 2nd Treasurer's Report. Bruce Pickering presented a revised November 2017 report to correct an error where a credit was posted as a debit. Correction: the beginning bank balance for November was \$1,159.92. The month-end bank statement (11/27/17) was \$1,411.92. Cash hand as of the end of November was corrected to read \$1,312.92.
- Beginning bank balance for December 2017 was \$1,312.92. Deposits \$357. Cleared checks: \$150. Bank statement balance as of 12/23/17 was \$1,519.92. Cash on hand 12/31/17 the same.

- Names of members who have not paid national or base dues as yet were read.
- Dave Spencer made a motion to accept the reports. Motion seconded by Richard Martin and carried.

Membership Report by David Spencer. Current membership is 26. Working on two new prospects.

Commander's Report by Tom Ramsay.

- **National Elections** will be held this year. He explained USSVI's communication (printed in the December issue of *Green Board*) that addressed balloting procedures. Base commanders will no longer be collecting paper ballots, keeping the integrity and privacy of the balloting process. Elections will be online. Base CDRs will only receive a percentage number of members who have voted. No names of voters/non-voters will be released to Bases. This change is hoped to increase the number of members who vote. Our Central Region Director Dave Farran is stepping down. Two names are on the ballot thus far. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, an application is online at USSVI.org.

- **USSVI's 2018 National Convention** is a Caribbean cruise leaving and returning to Ft. Lauderdale. Convention dates are October 21-28, 2018. Need to register early. Info at www.ussviconvention.org/2018.

- Current USSVI's magazine, **USS Submariner**, is available online at ussvi.org. USSVI urges members to elect the electronic version to save national both added printing and postage costs.

Storekeeper's Report. None.

Chaplains Report. None.

Event Committee Report by Richard Martin

- Need to start thinking about fund raising opportunities and upcoming parades. Richard is researching local 2018 parade dates.

- The Christmas for Vets program was well received. The Martins, Spencers, Stines and Ramsays participated on behalf of the Base.

- **After-Holiday Party.** The party be at the Martin's home at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13th.

Old Business. None.

New Business.

- Richard Martin represents our Base (USSVI) on Winnebago's Veteran's Administration Commission (VAC). VAC has increased the partner donation request to \$100 in support of medical van services for veterans. He also added VAC 2018 dues are now \$20 per organization. He paid VAC \$20 at the last meeting out-of-pocket. A motion was made by Dave Spencer to repay Richard Martin \$20 for VAC's dues, plus pay VAC \$100 earmarked for the Medical Van project. Seconded and motion carried.

Good of the Order.

Sherm Buetsch shared that an organization he is involved with has a "Mercy Fund." Money collected from the 50-50 raffles helps to purchase get-well cards, flowers and/or gift cards to help members hospitalized.

50-50 Raffle. Money collected--\$55. Jan Spencer won the Raffle and donated her share to the Base.

Adjournment/Next Meeting.

Following a closing prayer by Connie Stines, a motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Next meeting Feb. 3, 2018 at Mustang Bar & Grill, South Beloit, IL, at noon.



CDR's Column Continued

SEA STORIES



by Tom Ramsay
MS1 (SS), USN Retired

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pointed as Neptune's baby wearing diapers with a sticky concoction on my stomach and a cherry in my belly button.

Those who came before Neptune had to bend down, using no hands, and eat the cherry off my belly.

After 10 years on one boat during the Viet Nam "Conflict," I was tired and requested Shore Duty. Again, I was told "Request Denied, due to need of the fleet."

Enough was enough. I called the Exchange in Washington D.C. and asked if they could send flowers to the Pentagon. "Yes," they said.

I told them I wanted a dozen "DEAD" roses (not one alive) sent to my detailer at the Pentagon. And, they had to be DEAD! My detailer was a Yeoman, not even a cook. He was from Squadron and wore dolphins after going out for just one run on a sub.

The Florist was excited to deliver the flowers, since he had never received such a request. The message I wanted to accompany the dead flowers was: "Good Luck, Fat Rams!"

Come to the meeting and I will show you the photo.

Bring your photos and memorabilia to our next meeting. We will have a short business meeting and then get down to some fun memories.

Let me know of any special programs you would like at future meetings.

Lo and behold, three days later I received new orders to the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada, which in just 10 short months was being transferred over to a Joint Service Command under the leadership of the Army, but that's another story.

Not only did I meet my wife of 40 years in Hawthorne, but I also had three things there I didn't have on a submarine: 1) Sunshine every day, 2) Daily mail delivery, and 3) A chance to escape!

"This is
for real!"

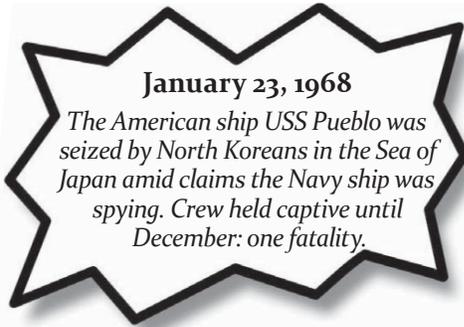


Share your stories for a future issue. Make a few notes about one of your best memories and send it to your editor at kateram@jcwifi.com. Don't worry if you aren't a writer, I can call you and put it together for you! Send pictures if you can.

Congratulations Richard L. Martin

Richard Martin (lft), receives the 2017 Commander's Volunteer Achievement Award from CDR Tom Ramsay, recognizing his outstanding service to the Base. Richard Martin has been a major "go-getter" in putting our name and mission out into our local communities.





Order your own personal sub

Aston Martin News (Monaco)-- We all know that Aston Martin makes the cars for the heroes. It's been that way since a silver DB5 rolled onto the silver screen in 1965's "Goldfinger."

At last, Aston builds one for the supervillains, called Project Neptune. It is a luxury standalone submarine.

Compared to your typical personal submarine, which prioritizes function over form, you can definitely see where the Aston Martin influence comes in. It makes every other personal sub look hopelessly clunky by comparison.

Aston's partner for the Project Neptune program is Triton Submarines of Vero Beach, FL, a builder of undersea craft.



Aston Martin brings its expertise in sports car design and craftsmanship to create a \$4 million underseas exploration vehicle.

Misdiagnosis could cost VA

Navy Times (Columbia, S.C.)—A U.S. Navy veteran is suing a hospital that he says misdiagnosed him as being a cocaine addict instead of suffering from gallbladder and pancreas disease.

The State newspaper in Columbia reports Eric Walker has sued Dorn Veterans Hospital in Columbia for

its treatment of him when he went to the emergency room in May 2015 with severe abdominal pain.

The lawsuit, filed last month, says Walker's urine sample was switched with that of another patient. It says Dorn discharged Walker and offered him pamphlets about treatment of substance abuse.

Blue Angles flying our way



Navy Times (Washington, DC)—Get ready. The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, released its 2018 air show schedule and two of them are coming our way.

They are headed June 29-30 to Davenport, IA, and August 17-18 to Chicago.

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and profes-

sionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 496 million fans.

For more information about the Blue Angels, including the 2018 and 2019 air show schedules, visit <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil>.



Base Event captured in Photos "After-Holiday Party"

Richard and Renee Martin opened their home on Jan. 13, 2018 for a festive After-Holiday Party for the entire Base. The food was excellent and plentiful. Besides good friendly discussions, a White Elephant gift exchange brought out a few extra laughs.



Nice ladies watches, Richard Martin! Tried to give them away, but no takers.



"Keeps on ticking" Dave Spencer won a man's watch.



The Pumpkin Lamp went home with Connie Stines.



Chuck Mongan shows his silver cockroach boot remover. He didn't have it for long.



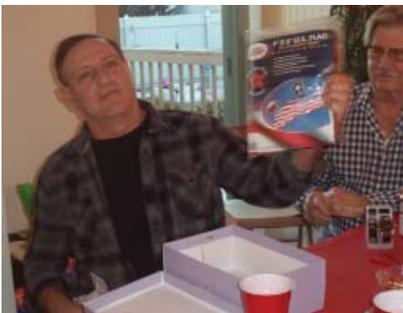
Jaw breaking bubble gum and a Battleship game for Bruce Pickering.



Plenty of good food! Thanks everyone!



A princess phone for a prince. No cord, just the phone for Tom Ramsay.



Mark Powell was flagged as our special "Bubblehead" Trainee.



Renee Martin got just what she needed -- a drinking glass with its own umbrella.



Wayne & Phyllis Orrison peak at Wayne elegant new soup bowl.

It's popcorn time for John Stines. "Just what I wanted!"



Tolling of the Bells for Lost Boats

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."



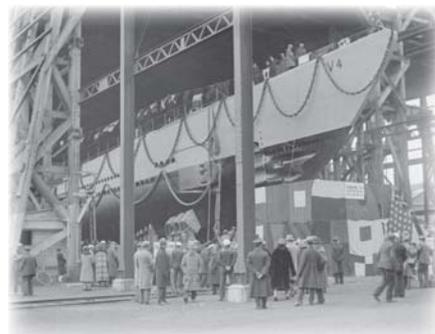
January

USS S-36 (SS-141) lost Jan. 20, 1942 when destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, Near Makassar City. Before abandoning she was flooded and destroyed. All 11 crew rescued.

USS S-26 (SS-131) lost Jan. 24, 1942 when it was sunk after ramming by USS PC-460 in the Gulf of Panama. Loss of 46 crew. The CO, XO and one lookout, who had been on the bridge, were the only survivors.

USS Argonaut (SS-166) lost on Jan. 10, 1943 when sunk off Rabaul in the Java Sea on her 3rd war patrol. Loss of 102 crew. Attacking a convoy, she apparently hit an escorting destroyer. Two other destroyers downed her with depth charges and shelling.

USS Scorpion (SS-278) lost Jan. 5, 1944 on 4th war patrol when sunk in



The Argonaut (SS-166) being launched in Portsmouth, N.H. on Nov. 10, 1927. Originally commissioned the USS V-4.

the Yellow Sea off China. Loss of 76 crew. Exact fate unknown, but assumed she was lost to a mine.

USS Swordfish (SS-193) was lost on 13th war patrol on or after Jan. 12, 1945 when sunk near Yaku Island off Okinawa probably by a mine while conducting photo reconnaissance in preparation for Okinawa invasion. Loss of 89 crew.

Story behind the Story

Luck be with you: Survivor story

One of three survivors of the tragic USS-131 sinking, Lt. Robert Ward, later went on to command the USS Sailfish during the last three of her 12 war patrols. Ward took the Sailfish, who many considered jinxed because it had sunk during her original test trials as the Squalus in 1939. After tireless efforts, the Squalus was raised and recommissioned the USS Sailfish.

CDR Ward's gallantry and leadership earned him two Navy Crosses while aboard the Sailfish. First dur-

ing the boat's 10th War Patrol (Nov. 1943 to Jan. 1944). He aggressively penetrated enemy convoys, attacking and sinking a Japanese carrier and three important freighters, and damaging another freighter.

Adm. Chester Nimitz presented the Sailfish with a Presidential Unit Citation, and presented Ward with his 2nd Navy Cross for distinguished service during the boat's 11th War Patrol (July 9, 1944 to Sept. 6, 1944) in enemy controlled waters of the Luzon-Formosa area.

Bring your Navy memorabilia, photos, and sea stories to the next meeting for show and tell. This month's business meeting will be short with plenty of time to travel down memory lane.

Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base, USSVI, meeting. We meet monthly on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Next USSVI Illinois Base Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018
Time: Noon
Location: Mustangs Bar & Grill
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



Share this application with a fellow submariner!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____ Tel: (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ Base/Chapter Desired: _____

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 115.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 25.00;
(Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 30.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____ / ____ / ____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): ____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ YR left Mil Service ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.

Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, please deliver to: Your Base Chapter Secretary, or if you do not know of a base location near you,
Mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org

