



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



'Thumbs Up' for Fairbanks Morse Engine Tour



We had a fun and informative tour on May 5, 2018 at the Fairbanks Morse Engine Manufacturing Facility in Beloit, Wis. Base members and friends were given a VIP treatment. 'Thank You' Fairbanks Morse Engine! Special thanks to members Bruce Pickering and Wayne Orrison, former Fairbanks Morse employees, for helping make this possible.



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 12:12 p.m. by Tom Ramsay, Base Commander

15 members present: Tom Ramsay, Chuck Mongan, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Terry Elmeier, Bob Fleck, Jim Helsell, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Wayne Orrison, Bob Bates, Patrick O'Brien, Phil Owens.

Guests present: Marge Mongan, Mark Maxted.

Tolling of Bells Ceremony by Bob Bates and Wayne Orrison.

USSVI Creed by VCDR Chuck Mongan.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

Guest Speaker: Chaplain Mark Maxted from the Beloit Regional Hospice, a unit of the Beloit Health System. He provided information about several special programs: (1) A Veterans Recognition Program honoring veterans within the Hospice program; (2) The Palate of Care Program which includes intermediary care with doctor visits, bereavement support, CNA support, etc.

Secretary's Report: by Kate Ramsay. Copy of minutes posted in Base newsletter (emailed to members) and posted on the Base website. Richard Martin made a motion to accept minutes as printed; seconded by Chuck Mongan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce Pickering. Bank balance as of 4/1/2018 was \$1,405.94. April deposits totaled \$715.12. Checks issued for \$120: to Crystal Lake Engraving and USSVI, Cleared checks \$253.80. Ending balance on 4/30/2018 was \$1,867.26. With one uncleared check for \$75,

our available balance is \$1,792.26. A motion was made by Bob Fleck to accept the report, seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion carried.

District Commander's Report by Phil Owens.

- **Chicago Base Memorial.** Questions have been raised from area sub vets about problems facing the Chicago Base Memorial. The City of Chicago has informed the Chicago Base that the location of the planned memorial will no longer be available. The Phil stated he would keep us informed.
- **USSVI National Website.** National is still facing issues with the unveiling of their new website. Phil noted he did not have information about an anticipated transfer date.
- **USSVI Awards.** The deadline for base or individual 2018 USSVI awards is near. Discussion followed. Kate Ramsay stated that a Merit Award nomination for Richard Martin was submitted by the Base Executive Committee, along with a copy of our Base newsletter, Greenboard. Awards will be presented at the National Convention.
- **National Elections.** Tom Williams from Texas is running as the Central Regional Director. Phil asked for our support of Williams. Dave Farran, our current Central Regional Director is moving up.

Commander's Report by CDR Tom Ramsay. He thanked everyone for participating in the Fairbanks Morse Tour this morning, with a special thanks to Bruce Pickering and Wayne Orrison for making it possible!

- **USSVI Boat Sponsorship.** A correction is made for the recent newsletter. The USSVI Boat Sponsorship program cost is \$30 and not \$25 as reported. Your \$30 donation purchases three issues of the American Submariner to be sent to the location(s) of your choice. The Base

has again sent a sponsorship asking that issues be sent to the USS Illinois SSN 786. Individual donations welcome.

- **Cobia Working Party.** Volunteers are being sought to help work on restoring the USS Rasher's sail and/or the Cobia for the weekend of May 19-20. Volunteers will be able to sleep in the museum. If interested in going, contact the CDR.
- **Committee volunteers needed.** Base Committees need additional member support to help keep our Base growing, in particular both the Membership and the Events Committee Chairmen could use your help. If interested in helping Dave Spencer, who heads our Membership Committee, or Richard Martin on the Events Committee, let them or the Commander know.
- **USSVI 2018 Annual Convention.** As a reminder, the 2018 Annual USSVI Convention will be a cruise this year, from Oct. 21-28, 2018. The boat leaves and returns from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. For full information, go to USSVI's website.

Events Committee Report by Richard Martin.

- **Parades.** The Base has signed up for spots in five parades so far, and USSVI insurance forms have been submitted. The parade list was noted in the April issue of the *Greenboard*. We plan to be in the same six parades we were in last year, but we are awaiting information for the last parade. The first two parades will be on Memorial Day, first in Rockford and in early afternoon in Pecatonica.
- **Navy Museum.** A new museum located outside the gates of the Naval Station Great Lakes in North Chicago has opened. It is called the National Museum of the American Sailor (NMAS), celebrating the history of the United States Navy's

(Continued on page 3)



Minutes continued

(Continued from page 2)

Sailor. It was suggested that we partner with the local Navy Club to charter a bus to take us to this new museum. Members expressed interest in such a trip.

- **Fundraising Options.** Discussion held on fundraising options. Jim Helsell offered to donate a rifle/gun from his shop and explained that gun raffle permits were required. Wayne Orrison offered to contact the County to research how we could obtain a raffle permit.

Storekeeper's Report. None.

Chaplain's Report by Bob Fleck. If you have information about a fellow member or his/her family member, pass this information on to the Chaplain, so a "get well" or similar note can be sent on behalf of the Base.

Old Business.

- Base Family Picnic. Bruce Pickering reported that Thresherman's Park in

Edgerton, Wis. has offered our Base the use of its Diesel Building for a Base Family Picnic on Sept. 8, 2018. Their user fee has been waived. The Park has offered to have equipment running for us on this date, which is an added plus.

New Business.

- A "thank you" letter, a photo of the USS Illinois (SSN-786), and our Base patch, were presented to the management of Fairbanks Morse on behalf of the Base for inviting us to tour their facility. Individual thank you notes will be sent to each tour guide thanking him/her for giving us a day off to be with us.

Good of the Order. None.

50-50 Raffle. None.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Bob Fleck.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m. Motion was made by Kate Ramsay and seconded by Bob to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting June 2, 2018 at Mustang Bar & Grill, South Beloit, IL, at noon.

Base Contacts

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NEWS from **NATIONAL**

National notified all Bases about the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) Project. A monument to be erected in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, which is in the front yard of the Arizona State Capitol Building in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ASSM vision for a submarine veterans' memorial is founded on honoring ALL "Silent Service" veterans by constructing a dramatic monument dedicated to those who have and are currently serving in U.S. submarines, (not exclusive of those individuals from Arizona).

The ASSM has several fundraising ventures underway with a \$100,000 goal, of which they are at \$75,000.

The ASSM Foundation is a designated 501(C)(3) non-profit orga-

Arizona Silent Service Memorial

nization. For your tax-deductible contributions you will be eligible to have your name drawn to win a \$500 Gift Certificate towards the purchase of your choice of a replica of one of Mel Douyette's Cold War Submarine models as advertised in the American Submariner magazine. Many Illinois and Wisconsin sub sailors know Mel, who is a member of the Great Lakes Base.

You have two ways to win. One is through cash donations and the other by buying a Memorial Paver. A \$10 donation gives you one chance to win; \$15--two chances; and \$25--four chances. Pavers can be purchased for as little as \$100.

Visit www.arizonasilentservicememorial.org for full details.





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

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fairbanks Morse Tour on May 5th. It looked like everyone had a good time. I would like to see us have more adventures like this.

It is that time of the year for Sub-Fest. We should have a good time this year, and I hope that each of you—and your families—can come and join in the festivities. Manitowoc is one town that knows how to treat submarine sailors! I hope to see you there.

Too, its summertime. At our last meeting we set up a date of Sept. 8, 2018 for a USS Illinois Base family picnic at Thresherman's Park in Edgerton, Wis. The park is opening its doors for us, giving us free use of one of the buildings, plus they have waived their usage fee for our group.

For those of you who would like to see one of Fairbanks Morse's engines in operation, the park has told

us they will have one running. This is a good opportunity to introduce the younger members of your family with diesel engines.

We need ideas from members at the next couple of meetings to help us arrange entertainment for youngsters and "oldsters" alike. Put your thinking caps on, and let's plan a fun family picnic.

National has sent out a message, which I forwarded to each of you, about changes to USSVI's National Bylaws and Constitution. It is important that you look this information over, plus educate yourself on the upcoming elections for officers.

Please make an effort to vote in our National Elections. You may not think your single vote means much, but it does. Support the USS Illinois Base by voting in USSVI's upcoming elections.

Event Coordinator Report

Richard Martin
 USS Illinois Base



Mark your calendar for you and your family to come out in force to show Submarine Pride in one of the following parades scheduled for USS Illinois Base participation.

As in the past, our Parade entry has a few seats available in the back of my truck that pulls our distinctive trailer that is all decked out, leaving no mistake that submarine sailors are here, or you can walk proudly behind our Base Banner.

Scheduled 2018 Parades



Memorial Day Parade: Rockford – Monday, May 28. Successful! Photos in next newsletter.

Memorial Day Parade: Pecatonica – Monday, May 28. Successful! Photos in next newsletter

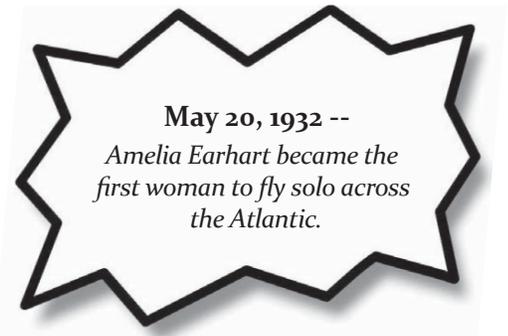
2018 Heritage Day Parade: Belvidere – Sunday, June 24. Line up on Logan Ave. at 2 p.m. and step off at 3 p.m.

4th of July Parade: Winnebago-- Wednesday, July 4. Line up behind Winnebago High School at 9 a.m. and step off at 10 a.m.

4th of July Parade: Rockford – Wednesday, July 4. Line up at 6 p.m. and step off at 7 p.m. Details on where to line up will have to be sent out at a later date, however it's usually in the same area as the Memorial Day parade.

Additional parades announcements will be sent to you, and posted online, as more information is made available. If you have a parade request in your community, email me the specifics at pops1945@comcast.net.





USS Fitzgerald CO readies for trial

(US Naval Institute (Annapolis, Md.)—"The former commander of the U.S. warship, USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62), involved in a fatal collision off the coast of Japan last year, is vowing to take his case to court-martial and is accusing Navy leadership of trying him in the press before his trial," reports Sam LaGrone, online editor of USNI.org.

The USS Fitzgerald collided on June 17, 2017, with a 29,060 ton container ship, ACS Crystal, operated by a Japanese shipping firm. Seven sailors aboard the Fitzgerald lost their lives.

CDR Benson did not seek a plea deal. "A fair court-martial will ex-

pose the facts of the collision's causes and CDR Benson's actions," his attorney states.

In the official Navy report of the incident, Benson was sleeping in his berth at the time of the collision which bent the walls of his stateroom. He was left clinging to the side of the ship for 15 minutes before being rescued.

CDR Benson took command of the Fitzgerald five weeks prior to the collision. The navy clearly established that he was never alerted that the ship was in danger, which was in direct breach of his standing orders.

General Dynamic to expand Groton Shipyard

*(US Naval Institute (Annapolis, Md.)—*General Dynamic's EB officials and Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy announced that EB will be spending "about half of its previously announced \$1.7 billion multi-year capital expenditure plan to upgrade Groton's manufacturing facility to accommodate building the new Columbia-class nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine."

The plan includes building a new third dry dock and a manufacturing superstructure to house construction of the new class submarine. The Columbia-class will replace the aging Ohio-class nuclear ballistic missile submarines.

According to the USNI, "The Navy plans to buy 12 Columbia-class subs, currently estimated to cost \$7.3 billion each."

Life on a Sub: 'Raunchy, Cramped, Smelly'

"In the military, nothing breeds camaraderie better than adversity. The harder and riskier a job or mission, the tighter the bond that forms between those who endure it together.

"For Navy submariners, every day at sea and aboard ship brings with it a certain level of risk. They operate in a world where disaster is narrowly averted by

the smallest of margins, due in large part to the hard work and diligence of every sailor onboard. It's a dangerous job in an unforgiving environment.

"Fortunately, submariners know how to relieve tension and they do it in spectacular fashion — from riding makeshift go carts down the ship's passageways, to hilarious ceremonies and rites of passage."

(TrackandPurpose.com)--Excerpt from article by James Clark, published October 2016.



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."



May



Mark your calendar for SubFest 2018 in Manitowoc, WI. July 12-15.



USS Squalus (SS-192) lost on May 23, 1939 when it flooded and sank off Portsmouth, NH. Loss of 26 crew with 33 rescued. Boat was raised, overhauled and refitted, then recommissioned as Sailfish.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) lost on May 12, 1944 when sunk off Saipan near Maug Island in the northern Marianas on her 12th war patrol. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Hawaii following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and was the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship. Loss of 79 crew.



USS Lagarto (SS-371) lost on or shortly after May 3, 1945 when sunk on her 2nd war patrol off the Gulf of Thailand by a Japanese radar-equipped minelayer. Loss of 85 crew.

USS Stickleback (SS-415) lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while being towed after a collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). All crew rescued.

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) lost on May 22, 1968 due to an undetermined cause while in transit from the Mediterranean to Norfolk. She was located five months later 400 miles southwest of the Azores at a depth of 10,000 ft. Loss of 99 crew.

Story within the Story



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

A boat deep in history is today on an eternal patrol. The USS Gudgeon (SS-211), a Mare Island-built boat, served gallantly during World War II, successfully completing 11 war patrols, only to disappear during her 12th war patrol in the northern Marianas.

On Dec. 11, 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Gudgeon was the first American submarine to depart Pearl Harbor with orders to carry out unrestricted submarine warfare. This boat holds the added distinction of being the first American submarine to sink an enemy warship on Jan. 27, 1942 during this historic first patrol.

On April 4, 1944, Gudgeon set out from Pearl Harbor to begin her 12th war patrol. She topped off her fuel tanks at Johnston Island three days later and was never heard from again.

Postwar examination of Japanese records, show that she was probably lost on April 18th after being spotted by a Japanese aircraft on anti-submarine patrol about 170 miles southeast of Iwo Jima.

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, June 2, 2018
Time: Noon
Location: Mustang 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

