



February 2019

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



What's a party without a lamp shade on a head. It looked good on Jan Linquist-Spencer's head. Too bad she lost it in the White Elephant exchange.

Photo Review

The Year 2018 ended with a flurry of activity and civic duty, and 2019 opened with fun with our Annual Holiday Party. Enjoy the photos.



Kudos to Chuck and Marge Mongan for opening their beautiful home for this year's Base Holiday Party.



A party can't be a Submarine Party if there's no food, or is it drinks? I forget.



Terry Elmeier and Deb (his "Better Half") joined 28 other Base members at this year's party.



Dist. CDR Phil Owen and his wife, Evie, joined in the fun. The perk of being a Dist. CDR is you get to be first in the food line.

For more Photos turn to Page 6 for:

- More White Elephant Antics
- Hometown Heroes -- honoring local Vietnam Veterans
- Christmas for Vets



Nothing says travel gift necessity than a box of Q-Tips, just ask Sherm!

(more photos on page 6)





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Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by CDR Tom Ramsay.

19 members present: Tom Ramsay, Chuck Mongan, Mark Dykstra, Bruce Pickering, Kate Ramsay, Bob Bates, Don Bosetti, Sherm Buetsch, Terry Elmeier, Jim Helsell, Joe Jones, Dick Martin, Renee Martin, Patrick O'Brien, Phil Owens, Kep Preble, Dave Spencer, Jan Lindquist-Spencer, Kelly Smith.

3 Guests present: Chuck Bailey (Great Lakes Base); and Gary Walters and Victor Buchholz (Wisconsin Base)

Tolling of Bells; Reading of USSVI Creed; and Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation by Bruce Pickering.

Minutes by Secretary Kate Ramsay. Motion by Chuck Mongan to accept January's minutes as published. Seconded by Sherm Buetsch. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Bruce Pickering. No business meeting held in January, so report includes December 2018, January 2019, and 2018 End of Year (EOY) sent to National. He shared two "thank you" letters from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum: one for our \$357 donation to Operation Santa, and another for the Rudy Kraut memorial donation to the Cobia's Dry Dock Fund.

- **December Report:** Beginning balance \$2,503.16; Deposits \$195; Cleared checks \$525. Ending Balance \$2,173.16. Uncleared checks \$232; Available balance \$1,941.16.

- **2018 EOY Report:** Beginning balance on 1/1/2018 was \$1,519.92; ending balance \$2,173.16.

- **January Report:** Beginning balance \$2,173.16; Deposits: \$0. Cleared checks \$257.00. Ending balance: \$1,916.16; Uncleared checks: \$50; Available balance: \$1,866.16.

Motion made by Phil Owen and seconded by Dave Spencer to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Commander's Report by Tom Ramsay.

- **USS Cobia working party** will be re-scheduled due to weather conditions.

- The request to place a memorial to the USS Thresher in Arlington has been approved.

- **Board Meeting update:** Directors discussed ideas for Base events for 2019. Many ideas were presented and shared with members. The floor was then opened for ideas from all members.

- --Gary Walters, from the Wisconsin Base, offered us options for parades and static displays that included the use of the USS Wisconsin float. Much discussion followed regarding insurance liabilities, costs (maintenance, fuel), etc.

- --Mark Dykstra discussed having a USS Illinois Base table at Janesville's Warbird Weekend, slated for July 19-21. Discussion followed. Mark was asked to procure a space for the Base. We can be listed as sponsors by providing volunteers during the event.

District CDR Report by Phil Owens.

- He had sent 130 emails out to prospective sub sailors in our District. Thus far, he has received no replies.
- Reminder about payments due to Rust Insurance for Base liability. (Note: USS Illinois Base has already made payment.)
- No information on National regarding new website.
- Encourages us to seek out and read other base newsletters.
- He continues to look for opportunities to start additional bases.

Good of the Order.

- We received a "thank you" letter from the Winnebago Vet Stand Down Committee for our 2018 participation in their program. More than 210 veterans in need attended this event.
- **Vets Roll 2019.** There will be ten buses, carrying 40 people each leaving Beloit. For eligibility information visit vetsroll.org.

50-50 Raffle. \$70 collected. The raffle won by Phil Owen, who donated his share back to the Base.

Closing Prayer by Bruce Pickering.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Motion made by Kate Ramsay and seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion carried.





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

We had an excellent meeting last month discussing what types of programs and events you would like your Base to present in 2019--not only for you our members, but for your families as well.

In 2019, we would like to include your family into some special events. Some of the suggestions included:

- A continuation of our Family Picnic at Thresherman's Park;
- A group trip to the USS Cobia, possibly seeing if we could arrange a sleep over for kids and grandkids on the boat.
- A group trip to an area museums such as the Great Lakes Naval Museum.
- A family outing to Great America in Gurnee.
- A trip to see the U505 at Chicago's Science and Industry Museum.
- Group trip to Arcadia Memorial Park, Wis.
- Wisconsin Military Museum, Madison, WI.
- Cantigny Park, Rockford, IL

For program suggestions, we discussed having a group of Sea Cadets from Crystal Lake visit us to tell us about their program. Their leader is a former submarine sailor a few of us met at the Midway Museum WWII Re-enactment Days this past year.

We also talked about setting up a date where a representative from the Wisconsin Maritime Museum could come and speak to us about the Cobia and some of the projects they are involved in at this time.

On the other hand, it was suggested to me that we take time to "smell the flowers" or "smell the salt water" from time to time. It was suggested that we sometimes need to forgo for-

malities from time to time and open the floor for stories (sea stories, or as I like to call them stories with a bit of submarine humor).

Another option would be to open the floor to some of you--you heard right. You gentlemen have a lot of information you could share. For example, Wayne Orrison was COB on a recovery vehicle--I don't know squat about SRVs. How about you?

Me? As a Navy Cook, you could invite your wives to the meeting, and I could share cooking tips and recipes enough to serve 100. I have a box of old Navy recipes just waiting to see sunshine again.

I want our meetings to be fun, and above all, something that you look forward to each month. Share your thoughts and ideas with me. You can email me at tram688@jcwifi.com, or call me at 815-291-2535.



Become a USSVI Boat Sponsor

The purpose of the Boat Sponsorship Program (BSP) is to make the active duty submarine force members aware of USSVI and to provide them with information about our activities through receipt of the *American Submariner*. The cost is \$30 per year for a total of 12 magazines (three each of the four annual volumes). Join our Base as a Boat Sponsor.

You can name the boat of your choice, or send the magazines to VA hospitals, NROTC units, schools, libraries or others. Complete application info is on page 8.



When the Skipper said I could lose my stripes, I didn't think he meant this?





NEWS from NATIONAL

On the Mend

by National Chaplain Harold William Dixon

(Editor's Note: Chaplain Dixon suffered a severe heart attack a couple of months ago. We are happy it is on a sound recovery.)

I want to thank all of you and your families for the love and prayers that were sent to Heaven for me and Barb. God truly answers prayer. I got best wishes from all parts of our country.

I am at home trying to get a routine started for my next life! I want to thank all who picked up the Chaplain's ball to move it forward. I still need a couple of weeks yet to get squared away at home and then get back to business. God bless you all.

Book supports Scholarship Fund

USSVI encourages bases to let members know about the book "Poopie Suites and Cowboy Boots" written by two brothers (Frank and Charles Hood), who served on submarines during the height of the Cold War between 1969 and 1972. The book is available for purchase through several online book stores, such as blurb.com and Amazon. Soft and hard bound books, audio, and e-book versions are available.

The book is written in an easy to understand language for both civil-

ians and veterans. Once you read it, you can pass it on to your children or grandchildren, so they can understand what you went through during your service aboard submarines.

All proceeds from sales are donated to USSVI's Scholarship Fund, a worthy charity that supports educational needs of the families of deserving active duty or retired U.S. submariners. Visit online bookstores for the costs.

National Awards Submissions

by Wayne Standerfer, National CDR

The National Awards nomination period has started (February 1st). Please read the individual award requirements and submission procedures described in the 2019 USSVI Awards Manual.

The Manual can be found by following this link. https://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Awards_Manuals_2019_USSVI_Awards_Manual.pdf

2019 Awards Submission deadlines:

- ▶ Feb 1, 2019: Entry submissions open from members in good standing.
- ▶ Apr. 30, 2019: All Award nominations (with exception of Newsletter Award) must be received by the National Awards Committee Chairman.
- ▶ May 15, 2019: Deadline for submission of Newsletters for Newsletter of the Year Award.

Update:

Cobia working party

by Tom Ramsay, CDR
USS Illinois Base



Another working party is set for April 7 - 10. The plan is to arrive prior to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. Monday and Tuesday will be working days, with our departure on Wednesday morning, April 10.

The more bodies we have, the more we can get done. If you have any questions or comments, just give Greg Miller, our Cobia Working Party coordinator, a call. His home phone is (630) 543-7855, and cell number (331) 307-9497. Our you can call

me at (815) 443-2535 home, or (815) 291-2535 cell phone.

Need a ride? Give me a call. Kate and I will be driving to Manitowoc on Sunday, April 7. You are welcome to join us. Working party members have a choice to sleep free on the boat, in the museum (bring your sleeping bags), or if you are like me, I pay for comfort in Baymont Hotel next door from the museum. Join me--these working parties are FUN!



February 6, 1959 --
The United States achieved its first successful firing of a Titan intercontinental ballistic missile at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Agent Orange Act benefits open to 'Blue Water' sailors

SMITHSONIAN.COM (Jan. 31, 2019)--Jason Daley, a Madison, Wis.-based writer specializing in natural history, science, travel, and the environment, shared a recent court ruling announcing the eligibility of Agent Orange Benefits to 'Blue Water' Veterans. "Sailors had long been excluded from health benefits related to the dioxin-tainted herbicide the military spread during the war," he said.

efits to those exposed to the chemicals. But the act was interpreted by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to cover only those who spent time on the ground in Vietnam or who served on its river system, excluding "blue water" Navy personnel serving on ships off the coast," Daley reported.

A new Federal Court ruling clarified that blue water veterans are also eligible for these benefits, following a court case filed by 73-year-old Alfred Procopio Jr., who served on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid during the war. "Mr. Procopio, who served in the territorial sea of the 'Republic of Vietnam,' is entitled to [the law's] presumption. We find no merit in the government's arguments to the contrary," the 9-2 decision reads.

It was reported some 650,000 veterans have made Agent Orange claims. It's estimated that the new change will make 50,000 to 70,000 additional veterans eligible for Agent Orange benefits. These benefits apply to the veterans and their offspring— whom research indicates may also have been put at risk by their parent's exposure.

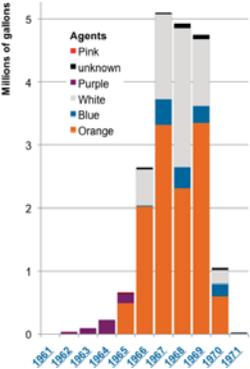


Chart from from Chicago Tribune

He added that between 1961 and 1971, "about 20 million gallons of herbicide" were spread across 4.5 million acres in Vietnam, "as well as Laos and Cambodia."

While there were other color-name herbicides used to defoliate forests and destroy food crops (Green, Purple, Pink, White, and Blue), the most commonly used was Agent Orange.

Vietnam veterans won a major victory in 1991, with the passage of the Agent Orange Act, which acknowledged that these herbicides were strongly linked to various cancers and other diseases later in life. The bill authorized special health ben-

WWII USS Hornet wreckage found

NNS (Seattle, Wash.) -- The Navy announced that the wreckage of WWII aircraft carrier USS Hornet has been found in the South Pacific around the Solomon Islands, about 17,500 feet below the surface. The discovery was made by the expedition crew of Paul G. Allen's Research Vessel (R/V) Petrel.

The Hornet was best known for its part in the fateful Doolittle Raid that launched in April of 1942. In June, its support in the surprise sinking of four Japanese carriers at Midway, turned the tide of war in the Pacific.

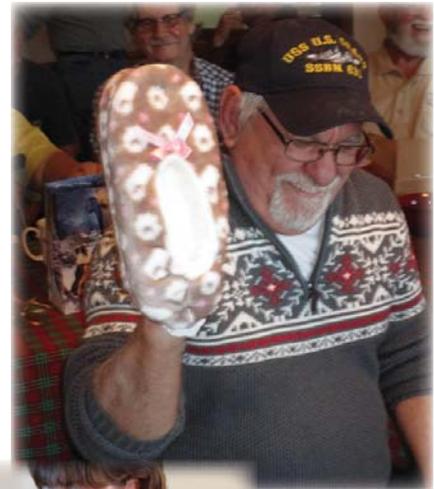
The Hornet was sunk on Oct. 26, 1942, during the Battle of Santa Cruz Island. Crew lost: 111 out of 2,200 men.



Photos continued from Page 1

'More White Elephant Antics'

White elephant gifts provide an excellent way to re-gift unwanted 'gifts' without any remorse. We had several items re-gifted several times--they were that good "or that bad".



Furry warm slippers "with a bow" -- just right for a crusty sailor like Daryl Rorabaugh.



Jim Helsell (above) was the lucky recipient of this "plush" pillow with a delightful pig pillow case.

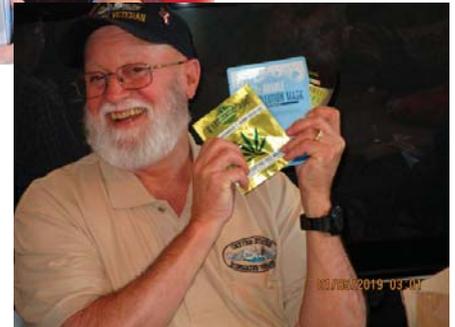


The marvels of technology. Renee Martin can now cook two hot dogs and their buns at the same time!



Sorry, Jim! Wayne Orrison, (right) snatched your prize Pig Pillow, and traded his surprise gift to you instead.

Hubbie Dick Martin, however, has bubble bath and essence oils for his next in-house spa treatment.



'For Good of the Order'



Christmas for Vets

We join other veteran groups visiting area rest homes with gifts. Fellow vets enjoy the gifts, cookies, cards made by area children, and our friendship.



Hometown Heroes Project

Rockford, Illinois
Nov. 10, 2018

Honoring Vietnam Veterans -- "Here to represent VietNam Era Submariners who are often forgotten."



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."



This Memorial to the lost crew of the USS Trout (SS-202) rests at the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, Calif. It honors the efforts of this highly decorated boat and its crew.



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 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.

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 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.

FEBRUARY

USS Shark (SS-174) lost Feb. 11, 1942 on her 1st war patrol off Menado, Celebes Island, believed to be the result of one of three Japanese antisubmarine attacks in the area. Loss of 59 crew. Evidence of her loss is not conclusive, and the cause remains unknown.

USS Amberjack (SS-219) lost on her 3rd war patrol on Feb. 16, 1943 off Rabaul in the Solomon Sea. Loss of 72 crew. She was sunk by Japanese aerial bombs and surface craft.

USS Grayback (SS-208) lost on Feb. 27, 1944 off Okinawa on her 10th war patrol. Loss of 80 crew. She was caught on the surface and bombed by a Japanese carrier plane, followed up by depth charges from a surface antisubmarine craft. During her last patrol, she cost the enemy 21,594 tons of shipping.

USS Trout (SS-202) lost on her 11th war patrol on Feb. 29, 1944 in the Philippine Sea during a Japanese surface attack. Loss of 81 crew. She was the recipient of eleven battle stars and three Presidential Unit Citations.

USS Barbel (SS-316) lost on Feb 4, 1945 during a Japanese air attack off the entrance to Palawan Passage. Loss of 81 crew. She was the recipient of three battle stars for her World War II service.

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: March 2, 2019
Time: Noon (lunch available during or after meeting)
Location: Mustang Bar & Grill
 482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



Join the USS Illinois Base and become an individual sponsor of the USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program. Several Base members are sponsors, and we would welcome more. Help USSVI get the word out to active duty submariners and the community about our valuable organization.



USSVI BOAT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Shipmates,

You know the value you get from reading the American Submariner, and you also know that getting new members for USSVI is necessary for our organization to survive. What better way to reach current Sub sailors in the fleet, our hospitalized vets, our NROTC and JNROTC units, schools, and other potential new members, than through their reading of the latest issue of our great magazine. The Boat Sponsorship Program is designed to do just that.

The cost is only \$30 per year for a total of 12 magazines for the year (three each of the four annual volumes). The subscriptions may be in the name of a Base or an Individual.

Subscriptions activated between now and December 31st will cover all of 2019.

Make Check payable to "USSVI".

Write "Boat Sponsorship Program" on the memo line.

Use a separate sheet of paper to list the boat or facility you want the AS magazine to go to.

Mail check to:

USSVI National Office

PO Box 3870

Silverdale, WA 98383-3870.

Each sponsor will receive the special BSP patch the first time they sponsor. In addition, all sponsors will be entered in the quarterly USS VI boat bottle giveaway contest, a \$500 value (one entry per sponsorship.)

Un-sponsored Boats as of September 15, 2018

USS COLUMBIA SSN-771

USS CONNECTICUT SSN-22

USS DELAWARE SSN-791

USS GREENEVILLE SSN-772

USS HELENA SSN-725

USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER SSN-795

USS INDIANA SSN-789

USS KENTUCKY BLUE SSBN-737

USS KENTUCKY GOLD SSBN-737

USS MAINE BLUE SSBN-741

USS MONTANA SSN-794

USS NORTH DAKOTA SSN-784

USS VIRGINIA SSN-774

Contact Jack Messersmith at 928-227-7753 or email at messerJ109@GMail.com

Regards,

Wayne Standerfer

NSVC



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

