A Cold War Tale of the George C. Marshall (SSBN 654)
as told by Dutch Kaiser

This is an account of an event that I participated in, in 1967. This is how I remember the events that occurred; but of course, due to the time that has elapsed, some of the details may not be as accurate as I describe. My memory is not as good as it used to be, but the incident described did occur and this is how I remember it.

I was a member of the Gold crew of the George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) when the Blue crew had a collision with a Russian Submarine while on patrol in 1967. The change of crews was to take place in Rota, Spain. The tender was the Canopus.

We arrived before the boat and were standing on the deck of the Canopus when the Marshall arrived. We noticed that the boat was listing to port badly. When she was tied up along side the tender and we were allowed aboard, we found out the news that she had a collision with a Russian submarine and that the port side forward ballast tanks had been punctured from the collision. The Blue crew had surfaced using the Low Pressure blower. We were warned by the squadron commander and several admirals to keep our mouths shut about what had happened.
**USSVI 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 and it’s Constitution.

That's our CREED, but it's not who we are. We are United States Submarine Sailors! We were, and are, members of the elite fighting force of the United States Navy. We are all QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES. Included are submariners from the very early boats: S, R or earlier; WWII boats; post-war GUPPY boats and FBM and Fast Attack Submariners.

All Qualified in Submarines from E2 to 4 Stars. Retired, short timer, or active duty - it makes no difference. If you are Qualified in Submarines we want you in United States Submarine Veterans. Inc.

---

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>Jim DeMott</th>
<th>360-895-0547</th>
<th><a href="mailto:jedemott@Hotmail.com">jedemott@Hotmail.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice Commander</td>
<td>Steve Corcoran</td>
<td>360-4712704</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcorcoran@gmail.com">jcorcoran@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Commander</td>
<td>David Niemy</td>
<td>360-692-5122</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ssbnswo@aol.com">ssbnswo@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Wayne Sieckowski</td>
<td>360-362-2064</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wsieckowski@gmail.com">wsieckowski@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Dennis Nardone</td>
<td>360-830-5843</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnardone@wavecable.com">dnardone@wavecable.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of the Boat</td>
<td>Hank Hollis</td>
<td>360-377-1370</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hhollis423@comcast.net">hhollis423@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonefish Manager</td>
<td>Sam Swenson</td>
<td>360-275-3638</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swenson@tscnet.com">swenson@tscnet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks Chairman</td>
<td>Mike Sullivan</td>
<td>360-377-9243</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikesullivan575@comcast.net">mikesullivan575@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Chairman</td>
<td>John Gardner</td>
<td>360-692-8994</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jgardner@donobi.com">Jgardner@donobi.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western District 4 Commander</td>
<td>John Mansfield</td>
<td>360-569-0507</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnss377@yahoo.com">johnss377@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Contact the editor if you find errors!
Submit officer and committee reports, articles, or stories with or without photographs to Dave Pittman—The Puget Soundings Editor. drpittman@wavecable.com
Sailor Rest Your Oars
Unknown Author

When your final dive is made, and your battery's running low,
You'll know there lies a boat, many fathoms down below.
With your dive planes jammed on full, on your depth gage needle bent,
Your hydraulics are now dry of oil and your air banks are all spent.
It's then you get to wondering, "is my life boat rigged for dive?"
Your guessing drill commences, "am I dead or still alive?"
You pace the flooded decks with scorn,
Into the realms of Rex you've stepped and here you'll make your stand.
To live your life, as sailor must, at the bottom of the sea,
There's one you'll have to reckon with...that one, my friend is thee.

Will your conscience do you justice, when the final musters in?
Did you lead the kind of life you should, in the ports to which you've been?
The answers to these questions and so very many more,
Are locked in the hearts of sailing men
From Cannes to Singapore.
So when your day for Mast rolls round, the choice is up to you.
So sailor, chart your life's course now, But chart it straight and true.
Now's the time to flood your tanks, and trim up fore and aft,
It's far too late when the klaxon sounds
To square away your craft.
Your final billet lies below,
Deep on the ocean's floor.
Prepare yourself...the last word has now been passed,
It is your time...Sailor, Rest Your Oars!

USS Bullhead (SS-332) Aug 6, 1945
USS Flier (SS-250) Aug 13, 1944
USS S 39 (SS-144) Aug 14, 1942
USS Harder (SS-257) Aug 24, 1944
USS Cochino (SS-345) Aug 26, 1949
USS Pompano (SS-181) Sept 25, 1943
USS S 5 (SS-110) Sept 1, 1920
USS Grayling (SS-209) Sept 9, 1943
USS Cisco (SS-290) Sept 28, 1943
USS S 51 (SS-162) Sept 25 1925
USS Seawolf (SS-197) Oct 4, 1944
USS S 44 (SS-155) Oct 7, 1943
USS Wahoo (SS-238) Oct 11, 1943
USS Dorado (SS-248) Oct 15, 1943
USS Escolar (SS-294) Oct 17, 1944
USS Darter (SS-227) Oct 24, 1944
USS Shark II (SS-314) Oct 24, 1944
USS Tang (SS-306) Oct 24 1944
USS 05 (SS-66) Oct 29 1923

A Cold War Tale of the George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) as told by Dutch Kaiser

It was apparent that we would have to go into dry dock to have the damage repaired. However, the floating dry dock that would have been used was in dry dock in Italy. After the change of command we thought that we would have to take the damaged boat to dry dock in the States. We were anticipating going back for a long period of repairs.

The repair officer on the tender told the squadron commander that he and his men could repair the damage.
He was putting his career on line. Most of us did not believe this could be accomplished. I happened to be the top side petty officer and therefore helped to rig the boat for the repairs and was in a great position to watch the divers and ship fitters.

The ship fitters constructed a huge cofferdam that would fit against the submarine’s port side ballast tanks. They built this cofferdam on the helicopter deck of the tender. Then they fitted the cofferdam against the submarine and sealed it against the ship with six eight-inch wide by one-inch thick rubber gaskets and chain falls that went around the hull of the boat. When they tightened the chain falls and tried to seal the cofferdam it leaked badly. So bad in fact, that five huge submersible pumps could not keep it dry.

Back to the drawing board! Eventually, after several tries, the tender divers and ship fitters were able to attach the cofferdam to the boat and keep it dry enough with submersible pumps to accomplish the repairs. Fortunately, there was no damage to the pressure hull. All the damage was to the superstructure and the ballast tanks.

“Diving Officer, I believe we are airborne.” OOD, looking out the periscope after a breach. Gene Brockingham ETCS (SS) retired
Base Commander’s Comments

Let me start off by talking about something that should be considered an item of importance for all USSVI members. That is the National election. The ballot has been open on-line and paper copies can still be mailed, as long as they are received by the Election Master no later than August 25, 2012. On-line voting closes September 2, 2012. National Office Manager, Fred Borgmann, has offered to assist anyone who would like to vote on-line, but may not have access to a computer. He can be contacted at the National office. If you are eligible to vote, and haven’t done so yet, you should. This is your organization. By submitting a ballot, you are saying that you care about what happens in it. Those positions where a candidate is unopposed should be marked also. This shows support of the member who has made themselves available to be of service to us and fill the position.

For those who don’t know, we decided to change the venue for our annual picnic this year, due to the fee requirements at the park. We moved to the Elks in Bremerton, where Saturday, August 4, was the best available date. The picnic is usually a good time, with plenty of food and fellowship, and this year should be no exception. Our friends “Up North” have been invited, and are likely to be there. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Back in May, San Diego Base Commander, Bob Bizzonnette, was in town on business. It just happened that that same night was our scheduled E-Board meeting. Bob asked if he could attend, and we welcomed him. As we discussed different items of business, Bob gave some input, ideas, and suggestions on how they do things at his base. It is good to get some new, fresh ideas and different perspective on things, sometimes. Saying that, I would encourage anyone with ideas or suggestions to come to an E-Board meeting. You don’t need to be an E-board member to attend. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 1800. The meetings are held at the FRA, in the same room we hold our monthly membership meeting.

I want to thank everyone who helped out in one way or another in the past three months. There were a lot of things happening, and sometimes at the same time. Between scholarships, fireworks, and parades, we got a lot accomplished. I can’t thank everyone individually, but just know your commitment to the Base is greatly appreciated.

Jim DeMott
Commander USSVI Bremerton Base

"Our Submarine Force is the best in the world today because of the commitment of our people and the organizations that support the Force. Our team is equipped with advanced platforms, sensors and weapons systems, yet we are ultimately dependent on our people to accomplish the mission." - During Change of Command, Dec. 10, 2010.

-- Rear Adm. James F. Caldwell, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet

Commander, Submarine Development Squadron 5 (COMSUBDEVRON Five)
USS Seawolf (SSN 21)
USS Connecticut (SSN 22)
USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)

Active duty sailors—Did you get a copy of The Puget Soundings from your COB?
The Election

The biannual USSVI National election is upon us. By the time you read this post, the polls will be open and the latest hard copy edition of the American Submariner (AS) will be in your hands.

You can vote with a mail in ballot from the AS, or via the national web site. I prefer the internet method. It is very simple. See Election Master’s instructions below. If you do not know how to log in, follow the instructions. If not call me 360-509-0250, and I will help you.

On-line voting was opened Friday, June 15th. No rush, that form of voting will not close until Sept 2, the beginning of the national convention in Norfolk. Mail in ballots should mailed in so they arrive no later than 25 August, 2012

Only 4 of the 8 national positions are competitive. Senior Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and Western Region Director bios are on pages 26 through 30 of the American Submariner Volume 2012 Issue 2. I have my preferences and would be glad to express them to you in person, or by phone. However, all candidates are willing to compete and have shown their willingness to lead in the American Submariners.

The details of all proposed amendments are on pages 29 through 35 of the AS. To me, the proposed change #2012-02 (PA-2) to amendments to the constitution is vital and needs to be passed and my preference of the synonymous names is “American Submariners”. It will identify us for what we are from the day we qualified. Hopefully, it would encourage active duty submariners to join up as many think they need to be out of the service to be submarine veterans. The American Submariners name would also be easily recognized by all Americans. At the bottom of page 30 are the details of PA-2.

Also, PA-8, gives the national organization authority over local leadership of national conventions. Apparently, the national organization has financial responsibility but had but an advisory role in organizing and operating the conventions. At the bottom of page 33 are the details of PA-2. I do not think we can expect a volunteer at the national level to watch dog convention preparations, as there may 2 or 3 in early to late stages at once. Most conventions take 2 to 4 years to plan and prepare. I will vote no on this PA.

I have no problems with the other PA’s.

Vote, and vote wisely. Don’t vote more than once for frauds have been detected before.

V/R

Red Bassler
Bremerton Base Webmaster

“Go to www.ussvi.org, then click the VOTE NAT ELECTION button. Follow the instructions to log in as a member, then register your vote. (Be sure to have your copy of AMERICAN SUBMARINER Magazine at hand so you can review the full text of the Proposed Amendments and the Candidate Bios.)”
Scuttlebutt From the Fleet
By Dave Niemy
KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (NNS) -- Sailors from submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) and Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) help improve the quality of life for children at Bukit Harapan Therapeutic Community Orphanage in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, April 5. Bukit Harapan Orphanage is a non-profit organization for the physically and mentally handicapped. The U.S. Navy has been the first military service to provide support to the orphanage. Land is in Malaysia conducting a coordinated tended mooring with Louisville as part of a theater security cooperation and good will mission in the region. Land is currently on an extended deployment to Guam serving as 7th Fleet's lead afloat fleet maintenance activity from the ship's permanent home port of Diego Garcia. For the complete story see: http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=66339.

BREMERTON BASE BOOSTERS for 2012
The following Members are recognized for their generous donations to the Base Operating Fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rig for Dive</th>
<th>Periscope depth</th>
<th>Battle Stations</th>
<th>Deep Submergence</th>
<th>Unit Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.00 - $19.99</td>
<td>$20.00 - $29.99</td>
<td>$30.00 - $49.99</td>
<td>$50.00 - $99.00</td>
<td>$100.00 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Schaefer</td>
<td>Anonymous-WWII Vet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Niemy</td>
<td>Lester Franks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudor Davis</td>
<td>American Maritime Intl Inc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Ryan</td>
<td>Sam Swenson III</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you may have heard, the USS CLAMAGORE SS343, a museum ship at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant SC, is facing the scrap heap. Neither Patriots Point nor the state of South Carolina has the money to pay for the much needed multi-million dollar overhaul.

The USS CLAMAGORE Veterans Association has established a fund and a website where you may donate money to save the Clamagore. Please visit the website here: http://www.savetheclamagore.com/

A $2.00 donation is all that is asked of each of us (you may, of course, give more as many have). We also need your help is seeing that every submariner in the world knows about CLAMAGORE. So, after you've donated, please pass this message on to every submariner that you know. Send it by email; post it on facebook pages of submarine friends; tweet it to your followers on twitter; put it on your blog or website; have your kids and grandkids put it on their facebook pages. You get the idea.

Your help is much appreciated.

Disclaimer: This is not a solicitation by or for USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655 Association. The Association Board of Directors has given permission to use the Association E-Mail List as a means to contact more submarine veterans who may wish to support this cause. Do not forward funds for this cause to the Association.
A Cold War Tale of the George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) as told by Dutch Kaiser

While the repairs were being accomplished the Russian trawlers were trying to watch what was going on by coming into the harbor. Tugboats were dispatched to chase them away to make it harder for them to watch the activity. Some of the construction being done on the helicopter deck was disguised by painting “Bob Hope Christmas Show” on the steel. I doubt it fooled the Russians.

The repairs were completed under the most trying of conditions. Divers were always tightening the chain falls and replacing broken rubber gaskets. If I remember correctly, the repairs were completed in forty-five days and we were on our way on patrol.

The tender repair officer received a Legion of Merit and his crew of divers and ship fitters all received commendations. They were well deserved. The repair and the activity that I witnessed were the most amazing thing that I saw in my twenty-one years in the Navy.

I did not mention this affair ever because it was a secret need-to-know event. I was reading the book “Blind Man’s Bluff” in 1999 I think, and it was mentioned in the book that the George C. Marshall had a collision with a Soviet submarine in the Mediterranean.

Ship in the Spotlight

USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL was one of the BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - class nuclear powered fleet ballistic missile submarines. Generally similar to the LAFAYETTE - class, the twelve BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - class submarines had a quieter machinery design, and were thus considered a separate class. USS GEORGE C. MARSHALL was the first ship in the Navy to bear the name.

Decommissioned and stricken from the Navy list on September 24, 1992, the GEORGE C. MARSHALL was adjacently disposed of through the Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash. Recycling was completed on February 28, 1994.
Base Membership 285  
with War Vets 268  
National Bases—160  
National Membership—

Talk to a shipmate and ask him to join USSVI Bremerton Base Subvets. It only takes a couple minutes. We value your membership.

School of the Boat  
National USSVI C & B Tutoring  
By Dave Niemy  

Have a concern or recommendation for the National Organization?  
From the National Bylaws, Article VII, Biennial Elections, Section 4: Procedures. A. Any issue to be brought before the Annual Business Meeting shall be first presented to the membership for vote at the local Base. The tally of that vote shall be presented at the Annual Business Meeting, each Base presenting the votes of its members. For more info see: https://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Online_Organization_2010_Bylaws_Revised.pdf

Honor Our WWII Submarine Heroes — They are few!

---

I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast for I intend to go in harm's way. John Paul Jones
When God Created a Submariner

15 May 2012

When the good Lord created a Submariner, it was almost 2300 on the sixth day. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

And the Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? It has to be able to think independently, yet be able to take orders; have the qualities of both a scientific mind and a compassionate heart; be able to mentor juniors and learn from seniors; run on black coffee; handle emergencies without a Damage Control Manual, respond competently to critical incidents, decipher cryptographic codes, understand pneumatics, hydraulics and sonar, have the patience of a saint and six pairs of hands, not to mention the strength of three its size."

The angel shook its head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands - No way!"

And the Lord answered, "Don't worry, we'll make other Submariners to help. Besides it's not the hands which are causing the problem. It's the heart. It must swell with pride when a Shipmate earns his Silver Dolphins - which above all else signifies the crew members trust it with their lives, sustain the incredible hardship of life at sea in a steel tube, beat on soundly when it's too tired to do so, and be strong enough to continue to carry on when it's given all it had."

"Lord," said the angel touching the Lord's sleeve gently, "Stop! It's almost midnight!"

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something unique. Already I have one whose hands blend knowledge with skill to perform the most intricate procedures, yet are strong enough to patch a ruptured seawater pipe; whose ears can discern the sonar sounds of a myriad of ocean life, yet detect the slightest shift in ventilation; whose mind can practice the science of nuclear submarining, yet not lose sight of the art of teamwork; and whose eyes can peer through a periscope to identify a hull down ship, yet search within to embrace honor and personify personhood, courage and commitment."

The angel circled the model of the Submariner very slowly. "It's too serious," the angel sighed.

"But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Submariner can do or endure."

"Can it feel?" asked the angel.

"Can it feel! It loves Ship, Shipmates and Country like no other!"

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the Submariner's cheek. "There's a leak," pronounced the angel. "I told you you're trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, frustration and pride!"

"You're a genius!" exclaimed the angel.

The Lord looked pleased and replied, "I didn't put it there."

Filled with pride, the Lord continued, "Great things are planned for this Submariner. It will be one of many and together they will lead a legacy of excellence like none has known before."

And with that the Lord rested. It was the seventh day.

CAPT Jane F. Vieira
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy.
For half of her career she has served as a submarine force Chaplain.

"Helm, bridge...what are you doing 60 degrees off course?" "Bridge, helm...coming back from 90 degrees, sir."
Thanks to all our Submariners for your service.

AMI International, P.O. Box 30
Bremerton, WA 98337
360.373.2686
www.amiinter.com

Fathoms of Fun

You may fire when you are ready Gridley. 'Commodore George Dewey'

Armed Forces Day
Congratulations to the 2012 Willie Spoon Scholarship awardees. Students and their universities/majors are listed in the June minutes.

Even though congratulations are in order for all of the Bremerton Base Scholarship winners, there are two who have achieved a special honor. The announcement of the USSVI National Scholarships revealed that Ariana Sheridan and Joseph Wiltz had both received additional awards.

Ariana received the Joan Peters Scholarship Award in the amount of $1250.00. She is the daughter of Base member James Sheridan. Joseph Wiltz received the Gary McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship Award in the amount of $1000.00. He is the son of Base member Steven Wiltz.

The Bremerton Base had donated $1000.00 for a National Willie Spoon Memorial Scholarship. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Megan Joslin, the granddaughter of Ivan Joslin, of the Seadragon Base.

Again, congratulations to all the winners!

Jim DeMott
2012 Willie Spoon Raffle Winners

Grand Prize (Bremerton Base)  Ann Waller  Extreme Audio  Dave Pittman
2nd Prize (Bremerton Base)  Tom Sullivan  Whiskey Creek Steakhouse  Bobby Whitlow
All Star Lanes Rock & Bowl  Bill Rossiter  Nicole Strickland Massage  Linda Tenneson
Red Robin  Mike Gray  Roundtable Pizza  Lasier Francie
Bremerton Symphony Association  HR Back  Roundtable Pizza  Jessica Heaton
Bremerton Symphony Association  Jim DeMott  Azteca Restaurant Poulsbo  Robert Robertson
Aloha Kitchen  John Gardner  Book'em  Milo Van Decar
Aloha Kitchen  Ami Watters  Olive Garden  Rob Zamora
Sizzlers  Donald Sweet  Applebee's  Skip Benefiel
Sizzlers  Hndtovic  Kelly's 19th hole  Leon Lusczydski
Sizzlers  Mike Murphy  Kelly's 19th hole  Albert Thurlow
Centering Massage  Lori Wilson  Kelly's 19th hole  Sam Swenson
Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse & Bar  Chris Stocks  Kelly's 19th hole  Lonnie Urrutia
Chip's Casino  J. Sandy  DMD David Houpt  Steve Wiltz
Chip's Casino  George Pfoest  Rachels on the East Side  Noel Macabalipbo
Creative Edge Barber Shop  Hoyt Burrows  Meineke Econo Lube  Craig Benson
Creative Edge Barber Shop  Mark Ponty  Los Cabos  Julius Sanders
Creative Edge Barber Shop  Al Elger  Brother Dons  Regina Rawey
Tony's  Kevin Sheehan  Brother Dons  Mike Sullivan
Extreme Audio  Robert Liland  Remember these?

FAST SERVICE AT THE RIGHT PRICE

“Where Quality & Service Make The Difference”

- Flyers
- High Speed Copies
- Letterheads
- Newsletters
- Resume’s
- Artwork
- Business Cards
- Graphic Design
- Digital Color Printing
- Business Forms
- Custom Labels
- Envelopes
- Corporate Development

FREE Color Ink Days!
FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!

360-692-3470
9985 Silverdale Way NW
Towne Centre Shopping Center
SILVERDALE

Amanda G. Mayes, DMD
Advanced Cosmetic Dentistry
Preventive—Restorative—Implants
2920 Perry Avenue, Suite A, Bremerton, WA 98340
(360) 479-2240
Web Site: www.AmandaGMayes.com
A Northwest Practice Dedicated to Excellence
Comprehensive smiles with an Individual touch

“The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war” —ADM Hyman Rickover
Minutes of the Bremerton Base USSVI meeting conducted 17 April 2012

Base Commander Jim DeMott called the meeting to order at 1900.

Opening observances were conducted. 30 members signed the rooster.

Base Chaplin Fred Borgmann conducted the opening invocation.

Minutes for the 20 March 2012 were approved as corrected.

Base Treasurer Dennis Nardone reports the total base financial assets as of 31 March 2012 are $75,026.70.

Membership Chairman Dennis Nardone reports the base has 274 members of which 214 are USSVI Life Members, 167 Base Life Members, 122 Holland Club members and 260 war veterans.

Base Storekeeper Ralph Harris presented Past Base CDR Dave Niemy a “Mail Carriers for Obama” tee shirt.

National Office’s executive administrator Fred Borgmann discussed his navy career from his days growing up in Philadelphia, PA to his retirement from the Navy. His career had him serving on several submarines including USS Triton, USS James Adams and instructor duty at Nuclear Power School at Idaho Falls Id. He joined the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1992 as a LCDR. In 2001, he took over the National Office as Executive Administrator, an office he currently holds.

Mike Sullivan the Fireworks Chairman thanked all who have signed up for shifts this season. He also asked everyone to sign up early to get the shift they want. The better shifts are going fast.

Ralph Harris the Base Storekeeper has Subvet Hats, cups, patches and several ships plaques for sale. See him after the meeting.

Sam Swenson brought the float to the Dolphin Dash. The float has been cleaned and is ready for the upcoming Armed Forces Day Parade. He also has brochures for the CPOA Scholarship Fund for anyone interested. Sam Swenson, Dutch Kaiser and Dene Rogers attended the CPOA luncheon and were given head of the line privileges for the luncheon buffet. Sam will need all articles for the upcoming Puget Soundings’s by 19 April 2012. This will be Sam’s last newsletter. He is turning over the Puget Soundings’s to Dave Pittman. Thanks for all the work you did for the Puget Soundings Sam, You produced an excellent newsletter. Once again thank you very much.

Dave Pittman the new Puget Soundings Editor requests a brief Bio from all upcoming speakers to be put in the newsletter.

The Chief of the Boat, Hank Hollis reports the Base Picnic will be on 4 August 2012 at the Elks Picnic area and this years Christmas Party will be 8 Dec 2012 also at the Elks. Please save these two dates.

John Gardner reports the Dolphin Dash made $570.00 for the Scholarship Fund. He has Dolphin Dash Tee Shirts for sale, $10.00 each or 3 for $25.00. He still has raffle tickets available. See John if you require more.

Dave Pittman son is graduating from Washington State University with financial help from the Dolphin Scholarship and Dave wanted to thank the organization and let everyone know how much help the scholarships were.

John also reports the Bremerton Armed Forces Day parade will be 19 May 2012. He doesn’t know our parade number yet but will have Don Bassler post it on Gertrude-Check when known.

Don Bassler will be installing 19 bricks plus the Medal of Honor bricks around 12 May. Jerry Peeling took his family to Deterrent Park and everyone was impressed with the memorial and Jerry’s bricks. Dave Pittman took his class to Deterrent Park to see the memorial. Jerry Drum attended the Patrick Henry’s reunion and encouraged people to buy bricks and have them grouped together. As we go to reunions we should take Deterrent Park literature and encourage your former shipmates to buy bricks.

Don Bassler has the update of Gertrude Check progressing smartly. He would like everyone to review the new site and report to him any discrepancies found.

Paul Christopherson and Wayne Sieckowski and their significant others attended the Submarine Birthday Ball at the Sheraton in Seattle. Paul was the oldest qualified submarine in attendance and cut the birthday cake. He was also honored by the Master Chief of the Navy recognizing him and the war patrols he made. Paul qualified in 1943.

Fred Borgmann said it is time for the National Elections. The ballots will be in the next issue of the American Submariner. Fred then presented John Gardner with a star necklace because John is a shining Star of a volunteer.

John said he has received many letters donating gifts for the “2012 William” Willie” Spoon Memorial Scholarship Raffle”. It was recommended he post on Gertrude Check who has donated so they won’t be bother again this year.

Sam Swenson won $38.00 from the 50/50 raffle. He donated $20.00 to the scholarship fund.

Commander Jim DeMott asked everyone to remember the older base members. He encouraged everyone to give them a call or go visit them.

Fred Borgmann gave the Benediction. Cdr Jim DeMott adjourned the meeting at 2015.
Minutes of the Bremerton Base USSVI meeting conducted 15 May 2012

Base Commander Jim DeMott called the meeting to order at 1900

Opening observances were conducted. 31 members and 2 guests signed the roster.

Base Chaplin Fred Borgmann conducted the opening invocation.

Don Loughridge, a WWII Subvet and current Bremerton Base member was introduced. Two Guest of Wayne Sieckowski Jim and Chester Doucette were introduced. They were visiting from Fernandina Beach, FL. Jim served with Wayne Sieckowski on the USS James Monroe SSBN 622.

Holland Club induction ceremonies were conducted for Don Loughridge.

Base Secretary Wayne Sieckowski discussed his career from duty at Naval Station Sangley Point, Cavite City, Luzon, PI to his duty on James Monroe, Sam Houston, Aspro and Queenfish. He introduced Jim Doucette as on of his mentors who helped him to a successful career. He retired as an SKCM (SS)

Minutes for the 17 April 2012 meeting were approved as corrected.

Base Treasurer Dennis Nardone reports the total base financial assets as of 30 April 2012 are $75,277.59

Membership Chairman Dennis Nardone reports the base has 273 members of which 213 are USSVI Life Members, 167 Base Life Members, 122 Holland Club members and 259 war veterans.

Fireworks Chairman Mike Sullivan reports the TNT Fireworks demonstration and BBQ will be June 1, 2012 at 48th Ave CT E Suite C & D. Doors open at 1830, class starts 1930 and Fireworks demonstration after sunset. Those who desire to attend the demonstration please let Mike know a few days before so he can RSVP TNT Fireworks. Al Thurlow has been kind enough to loan us his 5th wheel again this year to support the fireworks stand. Sam Swenson has the watch bill. There are still shifts available. QFC will be contacted about us using their parking lot.

Base Storekeeper Ralph Harris expects to have the Challenge Coins at the next meeting.

Sam Swenson reports the float is ready for the upcoming parade season. The Bremerton Armed Forces Parade is 19 May 2012 and we are unit C-18. Sam also presented Dave Pittman with his Puget Soundings Editor Badge.

Chief of the Boat Hank Hollis reminded everyone the Annual Picnic will be 4 August 2012 at the Elks Picnic Area on Pine Road and the Christmas Party is 8 December at the Elks.

Cdr Jim DeMott reports on 24 May 2012 at 1000 there will be a “Tolling of the Boats” at Naval Undersea Museum Keyport Washington. In fair weather it will be conducted by the Sturgeon’s Sail and Foul weather it will be conducted in the Auditorium. Immediately following the Olympic Peninsula Base will induct VADM Roger F Bacon USN Ret into the Holland Club.

He also said he has been contacted by Lutheran Social Services; they are looking for Veterans 55+ to volunteer to help vets in need. Contact Jim DeMott for more information.

Vice CDR Steve Corcoran reports the scholarship recipients have been selected and results will be published at the next meeting. He is also trying to put together a July meeting on a Saturday Morning at Keyport Museum. He will have all information at the June meeting. He is also wants to have a group attend the South Sound Base’s meeting on 14 June to capture the traveling dolphins. Information will be published on Gertrude Check.

Don Bassler had a working party on 12 May who installed 20 bricks and the MOH bricks at Deterrent Park

Boy Scout Troop 1549, Cub Pack 4549 and the Knights of Columbus will have a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday June 16 from 1000 to 1400- at Holy Trinity Parish at 4215 Pine Road, Bremerton, Wa. If you need to retire a flag you can then.

Chaplin Fred Borgmann said the Benediction. Cdr Jim Demott adjourned the meeting ay 2025.
Minutes of the Bremerton Base USSVI meeting conducted 19 June 2012

Base Commander Jim DeMott called the meeting to order at 1900.

Opening observances were conducted. 29 members and 2 guests Shane Foraker and his wife Janet from the White Sands New Mexico Base signed the roster. The scholarship recipients and their family and friends were also in attendance.

Base Chaplin Fred Borgmann conducted the opening invocation.

USSVI National Secretary Candidate and Bremerton Base Life Member John Clear addressed the meeting.

National Office Director Fred Borgmann discussed the importance of the National Elections. He made available the computers in the National Office and offered his help for anyone having trouble voting online. He also expressed his feelings on Amendment PA1 dealing with Associate Members.

Vice CMDR Steve Corcoran presented the traveling dolphins he and his party retrieved from South Sound Base. He said a good time was held by all who attended.

Scholarship Chairman John Gardner conducted the presentation of the scholarships. The following were the recipients:

- Branden Carlson sponsored by his father, Chris Carlson. He graduated from Central Kitsap HS and will be attending Seattle University.
- Jasmine Diaz sponsored by her father, Steven Diaz. She graduated from Central Kitsap HS and will be attending Pacific Lutheran University.
- Kimberly Gray sponsored by her grandparents, Robert Boyce and Myron Gray. She is attending the University of Washington, majoring in Speech and Hearing.
- Ariel Hay sponsored by her father, REX Hay. She is attending the University of Washington. She also was able to study abroad at the University of Sydney in Australia. She is majoring in Biochemistry.
- Caitlin Heber sponsored by her grandfather, George Verd. She graduated from Central Kitsap HS and will be attending MIT.
- John Marks sponsored by his grandfather, Stan Marks. He graduated from North Kitsap HS and will be attending Washington State University majoring in Engineering.
- Ariana Sheridan sponsored by her father, Jamie Sheridan. She is attending Texas Christian University and is majoring in Movement Science and Pre-Med.
- Joseph Wiltz sponsored by his father, Steven Wiltz. He is attending Grand Canyon University majoring in Christian Studies.

The Bremerton Base awarded 8 $1,000.00 Scholarships locally and 1 $1,000.00 scholarship to the National Office. After the Presentation of the Scholarships the drawing was held for the 2012 Willie Spoon Memorial Scholarship Raffle. The Grand Prize ($300.00) winner was Ann Waller and the 2nd place Prize (150.00) winner was Tom Sullivan.

John Gardner reminded everyone the Fathoms of Fun Parade is 30 June at 1800. We should meet at 1700. The unit number in the parade is 47. The Bainbridge Island Parade will be at 1300 4 July.

The next meeting will be at 1000 at the Naval Undersea Museum at Keyport. It will be held in the Mary Bonnin Classroom downstairs and coffee and donuts will be available. Bill Glavani the retiring museum director will be the guest speaker. Spouse, dependents and significant other are invited.

Dave Pittman the Puget Soundings editor says the cutoff for articles for the upcoming newsletter is 30 June.

Fireworks Chairman Mike Sullivan said all is ready for this season. He also reported 2013 will be his last year as Chairman and is looking for a relief.

Cmdr. Jim DeMott requests all who can help with the Fireworks stand please see Sam Swenson to sign up. Help is urgently needed especially on 3 and 4 July.

Cmdr. Jim DeMott adjourn the meeting and invited everyone to help themselves to the refreshments.
Take a break—come to lunch! These establishments support the Lt. William “Willie” Spoon Memorial Scholarship http://gertrude-check.org