West Islip Country Fair a Success

Once again, Long Island Base had a good showing at the West Islip Country Fair on Sunday, 20 September 2009. One couldn’t have asked for a better day. The weather was great! Many base members and their wives turned out, in force, to help sell raffle tickets, clothing and jewelry. When the day was over, Long Island Base made in excess of one thousand dollars, giving the treasury a good boost. This is the only event the base attends for the purpose of raising funds for the general fund. The money is used to maintain our memorials, base scholarship program and various veteran related events and donations. The 26’ “Spadefish” submarine float was placed on display and viewed by hundreds of fair goers. The spadefish is always a big hit with the young and old alike. A special thank you goes to all those who volunteered their time and energy to make the day a success. They are: Milton Seltzer, Marty Hansen (Past Cdr), Ray Hansen, Mike Carmody (XO), Bill Klein (Chaplain), Bill Beach (Past Cdr), Michael Zemser (Cdr), Murray Lewis (Storekeeper), Al LaRocca (Eng. Officer) Joe Silverstein (COB), Charlie Hilgendorf, Jim Edis, Ron Muller, Lenny Sinacore (Past Cdr), and Doug Scofield. A special thanks to First Mates Clare Hansen, Ellen LaRocca, Joy Sinacore, Erin Sinacore, Gladys Pulido, Phyllis Zemser, Pat Hilgendorf & Barbara Silverstein. Base members pose for a photo (inset) at the West Islip Country Fair. They are l to r: Milton Seltzer, Marty Hansen, Ray Hansen Mike Carmody, Bill Klein, Bill Beach, Michael Zemser, Murray Lewis, Al LaRocca & Joe Silverstein. More photos on pg. 4
**Base Officers**

**USSVI Creed:** "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

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**Bill Fuchs**  
**United Veterans Organization Liaison Report**

To: Cdr. Michael Zemser  
From: Bill Fuchs, U.V.O. Liaison  
Subj: U.V.O. meeting of 20 Oct 09

Motion made to authorize funding for a new UVO plaque out side the tower at Eisenhower Park.  
Wreaths Across America will have 2700 wreaths available to be placed on graves at L.I. National Cemetery.  
UVO Veterans Day service to be held on 8 Nov. 09 at 1000 hrs. at Eisenhower Park.  
Walls of honor are running out of name space. Existing walls will be used to add more names to the bottom of each wall. 3,500 more names can be added.

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**Message from Lou Robert**  
**Membership Chairman**

Shipmates,

National is requiring that the 2010 membership dues must be paid on or before 31 Dec 2009. Failure to do so means loss of longevity status. Make sure I receive your dues as soon as possible. The renewal application is on page 10 of this newsletter. Don’t forget to send your dues to me at my home address. The address is on the form. Remember, life members must still pay their $15 base dues. If you are not a life member your dues is $35.

*Lou*
Commander’s Message

Hope the summer and warm weather treated all well. At SubVets we continued to our thing. We had a mini picnic, since our first one was cancelled due to weather. All present had a great time on the planes. Thanks Mike Stroud for arranging.

We had our fair in West Islip and it was a great success for our LI Base financially. Thanks to Mike Carmody and his bracelets and Murray Lewis our storekeeper for his endless supply of fine/reasonable priced military hat/shirts. Special thanks to all the volunteers who took the time to help.

The submarine convention in San Diego was well attended by members and a vast amount of information was received. Former Chaplain Joel Tuchfeld was there and sends his regards.

We’re trying to obtain a duel meeting on the Growler with the New York Base and possibly with Ling Base in New Jersey.

The Spadefish was worked on thanks to Mike Carmody, Al LaRocca and Lenny Sinacore. Our scholarship fund chairman Charlie Hilgendorf has applications. Don’t wait too long to fill one out for this year. Mike Lally our treasurer informs us that we’re solvent.

Our prayers are with our COB’s (Joe Silverstein’s) son Bradley now serving in the Air Force overseas.

The holiday party is going full steam ahead, send in your money if you plan on attending.

Our monuments are in good shape thanks to all who volunteer to help.

We wish all on the Binnacle List a speedy recovery.

Also, thanks to Bill Fuchs for his UVO reports. We’re still looking for new members. Take care and look forward to seeing all at the next meeting.

Future Bubble Heads

Michael & Davida Vormittag announced in August that they were the proud grand parents to two grandsons, Nicholas (left), born to their daughter Kerry and Liam (right), born to their daughter Allison. Mike is a long time member of Long Island Base.
Spadefish on display at the West Islip Country Fair

Al LaRocca, Engineering Officer, with Spadefish

Michael Zemser, Base Cdr.. answers questions from a young future submariner,

Mike Carmody, Base XO, selling Peace Bracelets to fair goers. They are the latest craze with school kids.

Steve Edis & Gladys Pulido

Ellen LaRocca

Lauren, Lenny & Joy Sinacore
History of the Peace Sign
by Mike Carmody, Editor

After the October general meeting at the Babylon American Legion Post, a Vietnam Marine Veteran mentioned to me that he was surprised to learn the Submarine Veterans were selling “Peace Bracelets” at the West Islip Fair. When I asked him why, he replied, “Do you know what that symbol stands for?” I answered, “Yes, I do, they represent peace.” He went on to tell me the symbol represented chicken feet and that it was used to protest against our soldiers during the Vietnam War, in that soldiers were chickens.

Having known this man for many years, I respected his opinion enough not to get into a heated discussion over the issue. It was obvious he had formulated his own unwavering opinion of the symbol. I politely told him I respected his opinion and that I was going to thoroughly research the origin and history of the 60’s piece symbol. I further told him that if I found any relevance to his statement I would refrain from selling the symbols at future events.

Having served in the military during the Vietnam War, I personally knew the symbol stood for peace and was primarily used during anti-war protests. I also recall it being used by pacifists who were against nuclear weapons. Often times, I saw them protesting outside the Electric Boat Company and the Submarine Base at Groton, CT. I remember they were peaceful demonstrators. Like the anti-war demonstrators, they displayed the peace symbol at their demonstrations. Not once did I ever see the peace symbol used or having anything to do against the military or mocking our soldiers and sailors.

After extensive research of the origin and history of the Peace Symbol, the following was my finding:

I will first give the definition of the peace symbol. A peace symbol is a reprepresentation or object that has come to symbolize peace. The dove and the olive branch, or a dove carrying an olive branch in its beak, are ancient symbols of peace; in the latter part of the twentieth century, the peace sign, developed by the Campaign for nuclear disarmament and the V hand signal came into use around the world.

The Peace Symbol was originally designed for the British nuclear disarmament movement. It was designed and completed on 21 February 1958 by Gerald Holtom, a professional designer and artist in Britain for the 4 April march planned by the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC) from Trafalgar Square, London to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston. Christian in England The symbol was later adopted by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). It was adopted by first the 1960’s anti-war movement, then the counterculture, and finally the popular culture of the time.

The peace sign flag first became known in the United States in 1958 when Albert Bigelow, a pacifist protestor, sailed his small boat outfitted with the CND banner into the vicinity of a nuclear test. The peace sign button was imported into the United States in 1960 by Philip Altbach, a freshman at the University of Chicago, who traveled to England to meet with British peace groups as a delegate from the Student Peace Union (SPU). Altbach purchased a bag of the buttons while he was in England, and brought them back to Chicago, where he convinced SPU to reprint the button and adopt it as its symbol. Over the next four years, SPU reproduced and sold thousands of the buttons on college campuses. By the late 1960s, the peace sign had become an international symbol adopted by anti-war protestors of the Baby Boomer generation.

The symbol itself is a combination of the semaphore signals for the letters "N" and "D," standing for Nuclear Disarmament. In semaphore the letter "N" is formed by a person holding two flags in an upside-down "V," and the letter "D" is formed by holding one flag pointed straight up and the other pointed straight down. Superimposing these two signs forms, the shape of the peace symbol.

While it appears reasonable that the modern day peace symbol comes from Gerald Holtom, the fact remains that the symbol has been used for evil both in modern times and for thousands of years. It was used by Hitler’s 3rd Panzer Division from 1941 to 1945. The symbol can also be found on some of Hitler’s SS soldiers’ tombstones.

The symbol was used as an anti-Christian symbol by the Saracens as early as 711 A.D. For the Saracens, the image placed on their shields symbolized the breaking of the Christian cross.

Anti-religious and satanic groups use the “Nero Cross” or inverted “Latin Cross” to symbolize everything opposite of Christianity. Today this is clearly illustrated by “black metal” or heavy metal music lyrics and imagery that communicate anti-Christian sentiments.

The symbol has also been used to communicate support for communism. Bertrand Russell once said: “There is no hope in anything but the Soviet way.” Governments—both those who supported communism and those opposed to it—have perceived benefits in aligning the peace symbol with communist ideology. For people like Bertrand Russell, the author of the 1927 essay Why I Am Not Christian, the symbol represented not only a pro-communism meaning but peace without God.

Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan, used the symbol as the backdrop for his alter.

Rudolf Koch’s Book of Signs explains the downward pointed fork represents the death of man. Placed in the circle the symbol means the total death of all people which is the exact opposite of what Holtom worked to prevent with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The anti-God, communist and death of man arguments are a long way from being representative of the majority of people who wear the peace symbol today. In fact, they can frustrate the sincere efforts of peace makers.

Today, many people carry or wear the symbol without understanding its history and they miss the opportunity to address these historical uses and move forward to reclaim the symbol for good and peace.

During the protests in the USA against the Vietnam War and subsequent anti-war demonstrations, protestors often flashed this sign while vocalizing “Peace.” As a result, it became popularly known, through association, as the peace sign and is used similarly today.

I don’t think Gerald Holtom was aware that the symbol he designed in 1958 from the semaphore letters N & D was used earlier in history to represent something evil. He was passionate in his views concerning nuclear disarmament and one would have to be hard pressed to think his views were otherwise.

I must confess, it wasn’t until after I Continued on next pg.
Peace sign from pg. 5 conducted this research, that I became aware the symbol had been used in past history for not so popular purposes. On the same token, I wasn’t aware that the present day peace symbol was designed by Gerald Holtom for the nuclear disarmament movement more than 50 years ago.

Let me be the first to raise my hand and say I am in favor of reclaiming the symbol to represent good and peace and I will view it as good thing as long as it remains a symbol for peace.

T/Sgt Bradley Silverstein serving in Afghanistan

T/Sgt Bradley Silverstein, son of Long Island Base member, Joe Silverstein (Base COB), is presently serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army.

Bradley recently informed his father that movie DVD’s are very popular amongst the soldiers in his unit. He requested that anyone who has DVD movies they would like to donate to his unit should send them directly to him or give them to his father to send. The DVD’s would be shared with other soldiers. Bradley’s address is:

1 ERGHG/REDHORSE
WOLVERINE
APO, AE 0935

Sean Robert becomes an Eagle Scout and receives USSVI scholarship award

Sean Robert is the son and grandson of Long Island Base members John and Louis Robert. The family was very proud of Sean when he attained the level of Eagle Scout in April 2009. Michael Zemser, Long Island Base Commander attended the ceremony and presented Sean with the Submarine Veteran’s Eagle Scout Achievement Certificate and patch. From l to r are Sean’s brother Joseph (Life Scout), Susanne (mother), John (father/Asst. Scout Master), Sean (Eagle Scout), Louis (grandfather) and Michael Zemser, Cdr., Long Island Base.

During the summer of 2009 Sean was the winner of the Joseph “Joe” McGrievy Scholarship Award from the U.S. Submarine Veterans organization. He was awarded $1,000.00. On 16 Aug 2009 Sean was presented with the scholarship award by Michael Zemser, Long Island Base Commander. In the photo below, Sean receives the award at the Bay Shore Marina Submarine Memorial. On hand were from l to r: Lenny Sinacore (Past Base Cdr.), Michael Zemser (Cdr), Sean Robert, John Robert (father) and Louis Robert (grandfather).

Congratulations to Sean and his proud family!
Meeting Minutes
13 July 2009
Babylon American Legion Post 94
22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY

1930 Cdr called meeting to order / Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our departed shipmates and prayer by Base Chaplain Bill Klein. Lou Robert made a motion to dispense with reading of June minutes, seconded by Bill Fuchs and passed. Cdr Zemser reported that he was recently informed that L.I. Base shipmate William J. Tobin passed away on June 6th. Past Cdr Bill Beach reported that Al LaRocca is recovering at home and expects to attend the base picnic and August meeting. Cdr Zemser introduced new base member Steve Edis. Shipmate Edis qualified aboard British submarine H.M.S. Opossum in March, 1977.

UVO Liaison Bill Fuchs reported that the next scheduled UVO meeting will be in November. Treasurer Mike Lally reported that the Base is solvent and that the financial report is available for inspection by any member at all meetings. XO Mike Carmody reported that he has been in communication with the Big Apple Base Commander regarding a joint base meeting at the USS Growler. He was advised that, due to seating constraints, meetings are held aboard the Inrepid. No definite plans for joint meeting have been made at this time. Base Picnic – Sunday, August 9th. Ken Jacobs reported that he has, so far, received just 17 reservations for the base picnic. Base members planning on attending are urged to send their reservation forms and checks ASAP so that adequate food and supplies can be purchased. Jim Garvey requested volunteers to assist with the shopping for the picnic. Mike Zemser, Mike Carmody, Rich Demato and Joe Silverstein volunteered. Arrangements have been made for cooks. Joe Silverstein requested that all attendees bring ice, preferably frozen in milk containers. Cdr Zemser reported July birthdays: C. Carmody, R. Boreck and… L.I. Base (42 years old!). West Islip Fair: September 20th, rain date is the 27th. Good membership turnout last year. Volunteers needed again this year. A motion to dispense with reading of July minutes was made by Jim Garvey, seconded by John Maloney. 2008 Meeting adjourned. Minutes prepared by Edward Rivoire, Base Secretary.

Next regular meeting: August 10, 2009

Meeting Minutes
10 August 2009
Babylon American Legion Post 94
22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY

1934 Cdr called meeting to order / Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our departed shipmates and prayer by Base Chaplain Bill Klein. Base Engineer Al LaRocca was welcomed back after his recent illness. Membership Officer Lou Robert advised that he has received no new applications for membership. A motion to dispense with reading of July minutes was made by Lou Robert, seconded by Bill Fuchs and passed. There were 35 members in attendance. Treasurer Mike Lally reported significant expenditures and advised that the Base is solvent. The financial report is available for inspection by any member at all meetings. Cdr Zemser reported that the Base received a letter of thanks for our donation from the Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund.

Base Picnic: Jim Garvey reported that the decision on whether or not to cancel the picnic went down to the wire. His shopping team (Mike Lally, Richie DeMato and Mike Zemser) assembled at Costco the day before the scheduled picnic. They agonized over the decision for about an hour while monitoring several weather forecasts in the Costco TV department. The decision was finally made, based on forecast thunderstorms, to not risk buying the food. The membership present at this meeting applauded their decision as being the correct one. Kudos to Jim and his team.

Following a discussion, a consensus was reached that the picnic will be rescheduled if the picnic area at Phelps Lane can be reserved. Several members suggested alternate locations and some said they would investigate locations and dates. Ken Jacobs turned cash and checks to all who had signed up.

West Islip Fair: September 20th, rain date is the 27th. Good membership turnout last year. Volunteers needed again this year. Vice Cdr Mike Carmody reported that he can still get the peace bracelets but, according to his supplier, there are no other “hot” items this year. A raffle for a mini laptop or mini dvd player and a 50/50 raffle were suggested. No decision made at this meeting. Congratulations to John Robert’s son (also Lou Robert’s grandson) for winning a $1000 scholarship from USSVI National.

Cdr Zemser reported that National Commander Pat Householder has ordered that political discussion or endorsements are not allowed as a part of any USSVI meetings.

A letter was received from Kevin Crumlish of West Islip American Legion offering Long Island Base use of a ground floor meeting room at their hall at no charge if we require it.

Reminder: There is no longer a grace period for National dues. Payment must be made no later than 31 January 2010. Drawing for 50/50 was won by Al LaRocca. Cdr Zemser thanked COB Joe Silverstein for his continuing efforts and sacrifice to provide us with the monthly meeting collation. Outstanding, Joe! Motion to adjourn made by David Bingham, seconded by Walter Johnson. 2010 Meeting adjourned. Minutes prepared by Edward Rivoire, Base Secretary.

Next regular meeting: 14 September 2009

Meeting Minutes
14 September 2009
Babylon American Legion Post 94
22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY

1950 X.O. Mike Carmody called meeting to order / Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our departed shipmates and invocation by Base Chaplain Bill Klein. There were 31 members in attendance. X.O. reported that Cdr. Zemser, former Cdr. Sinacore and Storekeeper Lewis are at the International Convention in San Diego.

Binnacle list: Bill Shearn suffered a heart attack and is recovering at home. A Treasurer’s report was unavailable at this meeting.
Long-time members Marty Thompson and John Gaidus, who have been unable to attend meetings for some time, were present at this meeting and warmly “welcomed back to the fold”. Marty complimented Mike Carmody on his production of an outstanding newsletter. Said it made him feel that he had never missed a meeting.

Bill Klein reported that the VA Hospital in Northport has flu vaccine available to all veterans. Al LaRocca reported that a blank sign has been erected, probably by the Lions Club, on Deer Park Ave. near the Southern State exit and that this would be a good location for a “Home of Long Island Base Submarine Veterans” (or something to that effect) sign. X.O. asked that anyone with any connections investigate availability. Issue was tabled for next meeting.

George Archer displayed a prototype coffee mug which is available to members for $13. The mugs have the Long Island Base logo on one side. The other side has the dolphin insignia and is personalized with the member’s name, rating and boat name and hull number. Any member interested in ordering should contact George or Ed Rivoire. Mike Stroud announced that he will be, once again, collecting tube sox to be given to patients at the VA hospital and nursing home. He distributed 1016 pairs last year and thanked everyone for their continued generosity. The socks are greatly appreciated by the patients. Mike Carmody passed along thanks from Cdr Zemser to Rich Demato, Mike Stroud and Joe Silverstein for their assistance in planning and preparing for the picnic which was held, on short notice, at the Bayport Aerodrome Society. Also thanks to all who attended. Those who attended complimented the hospitality of the Society pilots and members. Mike Stroud reported that many of the subvet attendees were taken aloft in vintage aircraft and money ($143.) collected to reimburse for fuel was declined by the pilots. They asked that it be donated, instead, to the Society. Members of the Society expressed interest in attending a joint function with our membership, perhaps at the Nautilus Museum. Congratulations to John Robert’s son, Sean, (also Lou Robert’s grandson) for winning a $1000 scholarship from USSVI National. Sean also became an Eagle Scout recently. The award was to be made at this meeting but Sean is already away at school.

West Islip Fair: Next Sunday (September 20th). Volunteers needed – all (or any part of) day. Set up between 0830 and 0900. Same location as last year. X.O. will make arrangements for refreshments for volunteers. We will be selling “peace bracelets” and conducting raffles – mini laptop computer and 50/50. Volunteers are encouraged to bring memorabilia for display and to explain submarine operation to fairgoers. Holiday Party: Sunday, December 6th at Captain Bill’s. Ken Jacobs has volunteered to collect reservations and payments. X.O. reported that invitation may be extended to the NYC (Big Apple) Base. Entertainment issue remains unresolved. Reminder: There is no longer a grace period for National dues. Payment must be made no later than 31 January 2010. Drawing for 50/50 was won by Bill Beach. Motion to adjourn made by Steve Garvey, seconded by Sam Albanese. 2050 Meeting adjourned. Minutes prepared by Edward Rivoire. Base Secretary.

Next regular meeting: 12 October 2009.

Meeting Minutes 12 October 2009
Babylon American Legion Post 94
22 Grove Place, Babylon, NY
Invite your friends and relatives. As in the past, the base will be raffling some very unique and interesting holiday gifts. Entertainment will be supplied. Reserve early. Reservation form can be found on page 10 of this newsletter. Make checks payable to U.S. Submarine Veterans and send to Ken Jacobs, 3 Brandy La., Lake Grove, NY 11755. Reservation form also on Page 10 of this newsletter.

**Holiday Party 2009**

**Place:** Capt. Bill’s Restaurant  
122 Ocean Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706  
(631) 665-6262

**Date:** Sunday, December 6th  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** $40.00 per person

Price includes beer, wine & soda, DJ, hot buffet with several food choices.  
Toys for needy children will be collected at the party.  
Please wrap girl’s gift in red and boy’s in green. Indicate age on package.

**New Member**

Siedlicke, David W. joined Long Island Base on 22 Oct 2009. He and his wife Marguerite reside in Baldwinsville, NY. They recently relocated from Florida. Dave qualified on the USS James Monroe (SSBN-622) on 1 Jan 1972. He retired from the Navy as a MSCS (SS) in 1987. Naval service highlights were Master Training Specialist, Senior Enlisted Academy and Chief of the Boat. Other boats served on were: USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619) as lead cook, USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN-617) as Chief of the Boat (Blue Crew) and the USS Lafayette (SSBN-616) as Chief of the Boat (Gold Crew). Welcome aboard!

**Binnacle List**

**Lou Robert** entered Mercy Hospital on Mon., 26 Oct 09 with a lung irritation. He was diagnosed with melanoma cancer to one of his lungs. As of 10/29/09 he was still in the hospital. Follow-up treatment will be scheduled upon his release from Mercy Hospital.

**Larry Hanna** had back surgery on 10/28/09 at Good Samaritan Hosp., W. Islip, for herniated disks. Larry has had an ongoing back problem. His last surgery didn’t help much. According to Linda, Larry’s wife, it appears this surgery went better. He is resting at home and hopefully he’ll have a full recovery.

**Eternal Patrol**

It is with sad duty to report the passing of Albert “Al” LaRocca on 30 Oct 2009 after a short illness from leukemia.

Al was an active member of Long Island Base up until his passing. He presently held the position as Base Engineering Officer. He rarely missed a meeting and attended just about every base function. He played an instrumental role in the construction and maintenance of the 26’ WWII Submarine Float “Spadefish” in the 1990’s.

Al was born 7 April 1926 in NYC. He enlisted in the Navy just prior to his 17th birthday to serve in WWII. He volunteered for submarine duty & was first assigned to a submarine relief crew in the Pacific. He subsequently was assigned to the USS Spadefish (SS411) during her 5th & final patrol. After the war, Al worked in the electronics field until his retirement in 1987.

His military awards include the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Submarine Dolphins Insignia, Combat Patrol Pin and NY State Conspicuous Service Cross.
2010 DUES RENEWAL FORM

Send to:
Louis Robert, Membership Chairman, 831 Midwood Dr., North Bellmore, NY 11710 (516) 826-1655
Life members: $15 — Non-life members: $35

Members name: ______________________________ Date of birth: ______________
Address (If changed): ______________________________ ______________________________
Tel: (If changed) ______________________________ E-Mail: (write clear) ______________________________
Past/Present Occupation (please don’t use retired) ______________________________

Holiday Party Reservation Form

Send to: Ken Jacobs, 3 Brandy Ln., Lake Grove, NY 11755  (631) 588-8793
Captain Bill’s Restaurant - Sunday, 6 December 2009

Please reserve _____ tickets @ $40 per person. Make checks payable to the U.S. Submarine Veterans,
Member’s name: ______________________________ Address: ______________________________
____________________________ Zip ______________ Telephone No: ______________________________