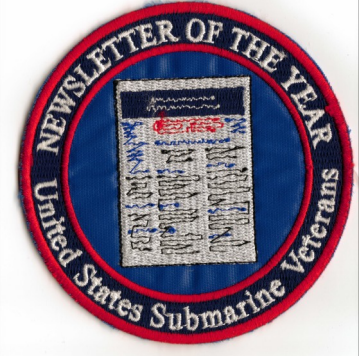


Piedmont Periscope



Piedmont Periscope

December 2012

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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.

The Commander asked me to delay the issue of this month's PP just a couple of days until after the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner on the 8th. So I agreed. Then I had to scrap my front page and write this new one.

I was presented with the SE Region District 1 Commander's Award. A joint decision on behalf of outgoing DC Dick Kanning and current DC Steve Bell. I am most humbled. The Certificate reads "For you initiative and tireless efforts in the development of the Bilge Rat Productions of the 'Half Way Night Show' that is given to various ses-



Lost Boats for December

"Sailors, rest your oars"

sion citizen facilitates, a Flag Etiquette Program that not only is presented locally, but is being shared within USSVI. You have started the Carolina Piedmont Base Color Guard and the Carolina Silent Service Motorcycle Club. You have produced the Carolina Piedmont Periscope which has been awarded the Newsletter of the Year for two consecutive years." WELL DONE Steve Bell Commander, District One, Southeast Region.

I got the award, but it's the performers of Bilge Rat Productions that get the credit. They are the ones that follow through with my "crazy ideas". And mostly, my wife Colleen, who has to hear them first and is my big-

gest supporter. I thank you all.

Color Guard members, BRAVO ZULU to you. You are the best. With just a little bit of practice all that stuff that was packed in our brains in boot camp came back to the surface. And thanks to our SubVettes for contributing to have their men look sharp.

The Flag Etiquette is something that I started in '95 with the American Legion in MO and have just keep up through the years. A very self-rewarding program to teach our young.

And the Newsletter, after being a judge last year, I've learned some new tricks and have some new plans starting in January. We are going for 3 in a row. — Moe(SS)

USS F-1 (SS 20)	December 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS 109)	December 17, 1927
USS SEALION (SS 195)	December 10, 1941

CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



As we come to the close of the year I like to look back and see how we, as a base, did for the year. I must admit, I think we had another successful year. We have done well in all the projects we have taken on, both the Subvets and the Subvettes. I would like to thank all of you for your efforts in each of those projects. I think we can all sit back and feel good about our accomplishments for 2012. **WELL DONE** to all of you. One of the not so much fun tasks that occurs the end of the year is the collection of dues from those members that have not paid. If you have not paid your dues to National by the 31st De-

cember, you go on a “dink” list until 31 January, at which time you are dropped from the roles of USSVI. So that really means we need the dues a week before the end of the year so that they can be received by National by the 31st of December. At the time of my writing this, there are 22 members that owe National dues and 21 that owe Base dues (there is always a difference in those two because of either Life Members and/or Holland Club members). All those that owed dues (in general) have received more than one e-mail reminding you so you know who you are. For those that still owe (and any others for that matter) might want to consider paying for multiple years in order to make it easier for all of us. That would make our list

smaller each year and we would not have to bother you as often regarding dues. If you are considering this, please get in touch with Jack Jeffries and he will give you the details (i.e., the cost) on multiple years. Please get the dues in as soon as you can so we can put this to bed.

Now for some good news. The Pearl Harbor Banquet that was hosted by the Nat Greene Base was a real success. It was a very enjoyable and moving event. The guest speaker, Capt. Pete Graef, had a very interesting talk. The important part of the evening (for us) was that our member, editor, and head of the Bilge Rat Productions, Dale Moses, was awarded the District Commanders Award. This is for the individual that could be considered the “Subvet

of the District” for the year. We congratulate Dale and also would like to pass on a **WELL DONE** to him.

I do hope that many of you will show up at our meeting (really a get together for Christmas) this week. The VFW will be putting on the meal and this is a way of us paying them back some for the use of their facility during the year. We really appreciate the generosity they show us there.

At the end of this month I will no longer be the NC Subvets Commander. I will be relieved by Jim Myers, Base Commander of the Nat Greene Base. I have had the position for three years now (filled in for two other base commanders). I want to thank all of you for your support in that effort and ask that you provide any

Carolina Piedmont Contacts

Base Commander	Steve Bell	usnret82@carolina.rr.com	704 824 3510
Vice Commander	Jack Jeffries	jckjeffries@interlink-café.com	704 -764-5211
Base Secretary	Mike Hubbell	Mleohub@aol.com	803-628-1908
Base Treasurer	Lee Hickerson	ssnret@carolina.rr.com	704-573-9480
Chief of the Base	Paul Myers	holltkids@aol.com	704-28904650
Base Chaplin	Raymond Fritz	raysabode@bellsouth.net	803 831 7235
Base Storekeeper	Jeff Nieberding	jan7334@comporium.net	803-366-9255
Holland Club	Walt Sealy	walt_sealy@yahoo.com	803-327-5661
Coordinator			
Newsletter Editor	E. Dale Moses	ppeditor@carolina.rr.com	704-248-7610

necessary support for Jim. I know he will do a good job at that position. It is one that we just try to make things better and have enjoyable times with the events that involve all North Carolina bases. Next month is nominations for our offices will open up. Jeff Nieberding will be the Election Master this time. Stepping up and being a base officer is really not as bad as many may think. Getting new people in has a couple of advantages. I think it is

always good to have new folks rotate in, good experience for them, gives others a break, and new ideas seem to flow better that way. If you have any questions about any of the positions, please do not hesitate to talk to me about it. I would say that the positions are really what you make of them. So if you have the slightest interest, think about it and put your name in the "hat". I have survived four years as the Base

Commander and I don't think it hurt one bit. Of course you might have a different outlook on that. In closing I want to wish each and every one of you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We look forward to next year in hopes that we continue to improve our base, enjoy the times we have together, and maybe add some new projects to the list of things we do. I ask all of you to take care of yourselves, look

forward to seeing you at our next meeting. May God bless all of you and help keep you safe.

The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. USSVI vests are also available to order thru the SK.

Patches, the SK is now able to order patches from BC Patch LLC at wholesale prices. This is usually \$2 - \$3 less per patch than we normally see. Let the SK know what you need.

Flag Trivia—Where did this Flag fly in our Nation's history? See Page 21



December 15th

Dinner at

1800 hours!!

\$7/person

Ham w/red roasted potatoes

VFW Ladies Aux.

Doing the cooking

XO's Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries



Carolina Piedmont ROCKS- Well Thanksgiving has come and gone. I for one am Thankful for each and every one of you. We have a group that is unmatched in all of USSVI, an Award Winning Base that is involved in many different programs.

We are scheduled to make a return trip to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte the 22nd of January and anyone that is interested in attending, please contact me.

We are permitted to have a total of 10 members attending.

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner is set for the 8th of December and hopefully you have already sent in your reservations.

The Myers' are scheduled to make a trip to Johnson City VA Hospital with clothing and goodies for the homeless shelter there. Thank you for all that has donated to this cause.

The Subvettes are preparing the Christmas goodies for delivery to the USS North Carolina a BIG BZ to them for this annual endeavor.

Now onto the Membership drive, we still have members that have not renewed their National/Base dues.

We have to have them delivered to the National office no later than December 31st. PLEASE send your dues to Lee Hickerson 8410 Clear Meadow Lane Charlotte NC 28227. Make out the check to USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base. Base dues are still \$10 and National dues are \$20. National dues are required to remain a member of any base, if you don't know your status please contact me at jckjeffries@interlink-cafe.com and I will inform you.

I would like to take this time to wish you a Joyful Christmas a safe New Year; and please remember the Reason for the Season.— Jack

Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes

For November 17th, 2012



-Call Meeting to Order

1900hrs. the meeting was called to order by Base Commander Steve Bell.

-Invocation

The Invocation was given by Base Chaplin Ray Fritz..

- Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Bell.

- Tolling of the Boats

The Tolling of the Boats was presentenced by Ray Fritz and Jack Jefferies.

-Member Introductions

There were 24 members present.

-Special Presentations

Ray Fritz was presented the Base Atta Boy by Steve Bell in recognition for his services to the Base and to USSVI as Chaplin for the last 4 plus years.

Ma Bell and Glenna Hubbell received special 2012 USSVI National Convention Challenge Coins in recognition of their efforts and time as volunteers during the convention.

-Reading/Approval of the last Meeting Minutes

The motion to accept the Minutes of the Base Meeting held on October 27th, 2012 as posted in Carolina-Piedmont Periscope News Letter was made and seconded. The motion carried.

-Reading/Approval of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasure's Report was given by Lee Hickerson.

Base Minutes (Con't)

As of November 17th, 2012 the following funds where available to the Base.

CURRENT BALANCE	\$6,431.70
MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUNDS	\$ 542.50
KAPS-4-KIDS	\$1,861.05
USSVI SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 146.65
BASE FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$3,881.50

-Old Business

None

-New Business

None

-Store Keeper's Report

Jeff Nieberding reminded the membership that he has Base window stickers, Challenge Coins and various patches for sale. He further noted that all items currently on hand have been paid for, and all future sales of these items will go to the Base Funds.

-Good of the Order

-Hurricane Sandy Relief Donation

The membership passed the hat in support of all those affected by the hurricane. A total of \$131.00 was raised. Steve Bell directed the Base Treasurer Lee Hickerson to forward the donation to the American Red Cross.

-Special Donation to the Kaps-4-Kids Fund

Lee Hickerson reported that our Base Commander Steve Bell gave a speech at the Bill Parker Sertoma Club. As a result of Steve's speech a \$100 donation was made to the Base Kaps-4-Kids Fund.

Base Minutes (Con't)

-Hurricane Sandy Relief Update

Rick Petit reported on his personal experiences with the American Red Cross in New York City. And of the time he spent in Levittown, NY assisting those recovering from the storm damage.

-USS Thresher Memorial

Steve Bell reported on the national effort to raise petition signatures for a USS Thresher Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Project. The intent is to have the Memorial dedicated on 50th Anniversary of the loss of the USS Thresher. The USSVI Official Business – Subvet News 2012-104 refers. Steve Bell noted that it would only cost you a stamp.

-Veterans Day at Saluda Middle School, Rockhill, SC

Jack Jefferies reported on the Base visit to the Saluda Middle school. It was very similar to a “show and tell” for the entire school.

Kaps-4-Kids

Jack Jefferies reported on the Base visit to the Jeff Gordon Children’s Center. Jack also reported that there will be a visit to the Levine Children’s Hospital on January 22nd, 2013. Up to ten members may attend this visit. Those wishing to attend should contact Jack for further information.

Membership Renewal

Steve Bell reminded all members who have yet to pay their membership dues that time is almost up. Under the new rules, USSVI will drop those who do not get there dues in on time. National and Base dues are \$30.00 total for one year.

News Letter

Dale Moses reminded all that the newsletter deadline will be December 6th, 2012.

-Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Carolina-Piedmont base will be held on December 15th, 2012 at the VFW in Fort Mill. Dinner will start at 1730 hrs. The VFW will be providing the meal again this month.

-Benediction

The Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

Base Minutes (Con't)

-Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Hubbell

Base Secretary



Commander Steve Bell presents Ma Bell and Glenna Hubbell special Challenge Coins for their extra work during the 2012 National Convention. The coins were from the sponsoring Hampton Roads Base.

New members

Welcome Aboard

None this Month

But keep asking!!!

Don't forget to pay your 2013 Base and National Dues by December 31, 2012

Send them to Lee Hickerson

8410 Clear Meadow Lane Charlotte NC 28227

Chaplain's Corner - Ray Fritz, National Chaplain



Merry Christmas and to our Jewish friends, Happy Hanukah!
[December 8-16 The first candle of the menorah is lit at nightfall on Dec. 8]. And to all, may God bless you with a Happy and prosperous New Year!

The “*Love*” chapter of the New Testament is 1 Corinthians 13. Here is...

A Christmas Version (Author unknown)

*If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.
 If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.
 If I work at the soup*

*kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.
 If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.
 Love stops the cooking to hug the child.*

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.
 Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.*

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
 Love never fails.
 Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.*



Each year the stores rush Christmas more and more. This year stores began stocking Christmas items even **BEFORE** Thanksgiving! **Black** Friday now starts on Thanksgiving night. I guess we call it **Black** Thursday and Friday! Nevertheless, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year.

Yes, I went shopping Thanksgiving night! The news headlines are always about the rude and obnoxious people but I witnessed a lot of laugh-

ter, people patiently waiting until the item was made available. Admittedly, many people had their hand on the item they wanted but, for the most part, it was a joyful time. For most people, even in the hustle and bustle of the time, it is a memorable time.



**To contact for
 Your Chaplain
 needs —
 Chaplain Ray at
raysabode@bellsouth.net**

When I was a child I remember hearing the church **bells** on Sunday. On cold clear day they could be heard for miles! It reminded the people that it was time to gather for worship. Sadly, we don't hear church **bells** much anymore. Perhaps we should. Besides, many people seem to have other things to do – sleep, go to the beach or the ski slope – you know, important things.

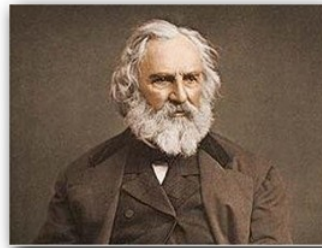
I can remember the **bells** tolled loudly at the end of WWII and at other historic events in my childhood.

When Christ was born there were no **bells** to announce His birth but God did a more spectacular thing... a **star** in the heavens to guide people to Him!

Matthew 2:1-12 ESV
Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief

priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet."⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

We have a clichés such as "**Wise men still seek Him**" and it's true but it's not that simple. We say, "**Jesus is the reason for the season**" and He is! I wonder... Have you heard the **bells** on Christmas Day?



Many of our great hymns and carols arose out of personal tragedy. I like "**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**" but until recently I never knew the history behind the words. Do you?

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-150Y6Hf8ds>

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow composed the words to "**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**" on December 25th, 1864. Its original title was "**Christmas Bells**" and had 7 stanzas. The rearranged version by

John Baptiste Calkin (1827-1905) in 1872 has only 5 stanzas, omitting 2 stanzas that contained references to the American Civil War.

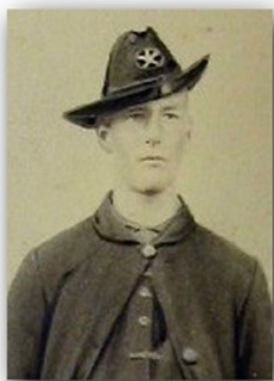
Shortly after Longfellow penned the words to his poem Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.



Henry Longfellow and Francis (Fanny) Appleton were married on July 13th, 1843 and settled down in the historic Craigie House overlooking the Charles River in Cambridge, MA. Charles was born on Jun 9, 1844 and eventually their household rang with the voices of four other children: Ernest, Alice, Edith, and Allegra.

The words flowed out of Henry's experiences. Tragedy struck the Longfellow family in 1861 when Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard fired the opening salvos of the American Civil War on April 12th. It was that year the Fanny

was fatally burned in an accident in the library of Craigie House on July 10th. She had cut some of 7 year old Edith's beautiful curls. To preserve them she decided to put them in sealing wax. Melting the bar of wax from a candle she didn't notice some of the hot wax dripping on her dress which caught fire. When she ran to Henry he tried to smother the flames with an undersized throw rug. In a desperate attempt to save her he smothered her in his arms severely burning his face, arms, and hands. Fanny died the next morning. Henry was too ill to attend the funeral. His full beard arose because of his inability to shave after the tragedy.



In 1863 Longfellow received word that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded with a

bullet passing under his shoulder blades and injuring his spine. Although some believe he died, Lt. Charles Longfellow did not die that Christmas. So the much loved Christmas carol was not due to Charles' death.



Sitting down to his desk, one Christmas Day in 1864, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow heard the church bells ringing. It was in this setting that Longfellow wrote these lines:

I heard the bells on
Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols
play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good
will to men!

And thought how, as the
day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good
will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on
its way,
The world revolved from
night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good
will to men!

Then from each black,
accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in
the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good
will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a
continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good
will to men!

And in despair I bowed
my head;
"There is no peace on
earth," I said;
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good
will to men."

Then pealed the bells
more loud and deep.
"God is not dead, nor
doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth,
good will to men!"

**A Prayer of Thanks
Before A Christian**

Christmas Meal

Our Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the birth of your Son and the celebration of His life. Help us to remember that this festive day is set aside to celebrate all He has done for us. We give thanks for our family and friends, and for the blessing that you have given us so we can plan and enjoy a Christmas meal together. We thank you for your provision of a home, a kitchen, for loving hands and for the abundance of food upon this table. May we remember that there are those who have no families, no place at a table, and no one with whom to share a Christmas dinner.

Our prayer is for our men and women serving in the military around the world, many in harms way. We pray for their safe return home to their loved ones who anxiously await their return. We pray for those who serve beneath the seas that you would protect them and guide them safely to their home port and to waiting family and friends. We pray for peace even as we are engaged in combat in several places. And we pray, especially, for the Peace

of Israel.

Help us to listen to your still small voice and to obey that still small voice so we can reach out and help their Christmas be a more merry one. We ask that you would bless our time around this Christmas table and we ask you to bless our food. May our hearts and attitudes, our actions and our lives be blessings to you. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, we pray. Amen.



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Chaplain Ray and Diana



Cribbage Trivia for Submariners

Cribbage has been popular with mariners for hundreds of years, enjoying especially widespread play in the Navy during World War II. It was thought of as the unofficial game of submariners, who played round the clock as they patrolled for Japanese ships.

The most famous incident related to cribbage in the Navy occurred in 1943 aboard one of the war's most celebrated submarines, the USS Wahoo. For the Wahoo's fourth war patrol, it was ordered to head to the extreme northern reaches of the Yellow Sea, an area where no sub had gone before. The waters near the Dairen Peninsula were shallow, and crewmembers grew nervous as they glided into dangerous territory. To take their minds off the tension, the sub's commander, Dudley "Mush" Morton and his executive officer, Richard "Dick" O'Kane, began a game of cribbage. Morton dealt O'Kane a "Perfect 29" hand — four fives and a jack — the highest possible score for combinations in a single cribbage deal. Back-of-the-

envelope calculations were done, and 216,000 to 1 were the odds thrown out as to the chances of that happening. The crew's spirits were bolstered by what they felt was a very lucky omen. O'Kane had his fellow officers sign the five cards and he framed them.



Rear Admiral Richard Hetherington "Dick" O'Kane. O'Kane has the distinction of directly participating in more successful attacks on Japanese shipping than any other fighting submarine officer during the war.

Good fortune did prevail on the patrol — at its end the Wahoo had set a record for the number of ships sunk. It continued for O'Kane too. When he was detached from the Wahoo and given command of the Tang, that sub broke the for-

mer's record for most ships sunk in a single patrol. And while he was captured by the Japanese when the Tang was sunk by an errant torpedo that circled back and hit it, O'Kane survived the war, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during his submarine's final operations.

O'Kane's lucky cribbage board has (Con't on page 19)

From the COB



Hello fellow Shipmates hope all is well in your household. Sandra and I are getting things ready for Christmas and looking forward to seeing Emily and Will. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. — Paul

Binnacle List

Pat Busila

Glenn Harris

National Chaplin Ray Fritz

Happy Birthday to:

December

Sandy Westberry 11/1 (missed last month)

Ray Fritz 12/06

Glen Snyder 12/08

Doc Hopkins 12/12

James Hanks 12/16

Charles Breese 12/23

Ron Busila, Jeff Nieberding 12/26



“You know horses are smarter than people. You never heard of a horse going broke betting on people.” - Will Rogers



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

December

Barbara and Otis Sealy - 12/7

Sandy and Al Westbury – 12/7

Wendy and Jerry Paciorek – 12/19

Donna and Glenn Harris - 12/28



SubVettes—President Sandra Myers

Merry Christmas Sassy Sisters hope you are not working too hard getting ready for the holidays. I am almost done other than the cooking. I am so proud of us with all the projects we have accomplished this year. The boxes have been shipped to Operation Warmth and to the USS North

Carolina 777 for Christmas, and items have been delivered to the VA in Johnson City. I think we have a total of 25. I bought some granola bars at Harry and David while we were at the beach for the troops in our name. Should you need or want a cookbook please give me a

call 704-289-4650 or email me hollt-kids@aol.com.

I hope to see you at the next meeting and please do not forget

your final gift for you secret sister.

May God Bless You and
Yours. Love Sandra



Roasted Pears with Brie & Pistachios

Looking for something different to bring to that holiday party? Look no further, this appetizer is easy to make, pretty to show-off, and taste delicious!

4 servings (8 if cut in half)

Active Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 45 minutes



Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 tablespoons honey mustard | 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil |
| 1 teaspoon lemon juice | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper | 2 ripe pears, preferably Bosc |
| 2 ounces Brie cheese, cut into 4 slices | 4 teaspoons chopped pistachios, toasted (see Tip) |

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Coat an 8-inch-square (or similar-size) metal baking pan with cooking spray.
2. Whisk mustard, oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper in a small bowl.
3. Cut pears in half lengthwise, hollow out the core and slice a small piece off the other side so they will lie flat when served. Brush all over with the mustard glaze and place cored-side down in the prepared pan.
4. Bake the pears for 30 minutes, basting halfway through with the glaze. Gently turn them over, baste again and place a piece of Brie in the hollow of each pear. Bake until the pears are tender and the Brie is slightly softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Sprinkle each pear half with 1 teaspoon pistachios. (If you want something smaller, cut pears in half again after they are baked).

Tips & Notes - To toast seeds and chopped, small or sliced nuts (pages 30, 40, 63), cook in a small dry skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until fragrant and lightly browned, 2 to 4 minutes

VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

**Deadline for
the next issue
of the
Piedmont
Periscope
will be
January 17th.
Please have all
items to
Moe(SS) at
ppeditor@
carolina.rr.com
by then.**

Your Veteran News From the RAQ Bulletin

TRICARE Prime Update 17: With the presidential election over, Defense officials are expected to announce soon that military retirees and their dependents living more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site will lose access to TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option. These beneficiaries would be expected to shift to TRICARE Standard, their fee-for-service insurance option, which would mean an increase in out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries who are frequent users of health services. A total of 171,000 retirees and dependents are expected to have to shift coverage when remote Prime networks go away. Tentative plans are for this to occur 1 APR in the West Region, which would coincide with UnitedHealth Military and Veterans Services taking over the region's support contract from TriWest Healthcare Alliance after 16 years. The North and South TRICARE regions are expected to close down Prime service areas beyond 40-mile catchment areas of bases or base closure sites by Oct. 1,

2013, the date when current Prime enrollment periods expire for most beneficiaries.

Active duty members and their families generally would not be impacted. Drilling National Guard members and reservists living far from military bases could see small increases to health costs. This would occur if they have been taking advantage of modest discounts available under TRICARE Reserve Select when network providers are used. Such discounts would end in areas far from bases if the Prime option goes away. Under TRICARE Prime, beneficiaries get managed care through providers in the network. They pay an annual enrollment fee of \$269.28 for individual coverage or \$538.56 for family coverage. Retirees and family members also are charged co-pays of \$12 for each doctor visit. Under TRICARE Standard, beneficiaries can choose their own physicians and pay no annual enrollment fee. But when they need care, retirees must cover 25 percent of allowable charges. Retirees also have an annual deductible of \$150 for

the individual or \$300 per family. Total out-of-pocket costs, however, are capped at \$3000 per family.

In most Prime service areas, about half of eligible retirees already choose to use Standard rather than enroll in the network. The end of Prime outside of 40-mile "catchment" areas of military treatment facilities has been anticipated since 2007, when Defense officials drafted the third generation of TRICARE support contracts. It called for returning the managed care option to its original concept of being a backup network to military clinics and hospitals when they can't provide managed care to all beneficiaries living nearby or in areas where bases have been closed and military health facilities shuttered. Through the first two TRICARE contracts, on the assumption that managed care saved money for the government, contractors had financial incentive to establish networks beyond 40-mile catchment areas. In the South Region, for example, the contractor has offered Prime everywhere. But experience

has shown that providing Prime far from bases can add costs to the system, TRICARE officials concluded. Though they wrote the new generation of support contracts to constrict Prime service areas, health officials wanted the shift to occur across all regions simultaneously. That hasn't been possible until now because of delays in finalizing contract awards, the result of multiple protests and even a few reversals of original contract awards.

Contracts for every region are now settled. Health Net Federal Services has been running the North Region under the new contract since April 2011. Humana Military Healthcare Services has operated the South Region under the new contract since April this year. But all Prime service areas have been maintained with contract modifications, awaiting final word from Defense that Prime area restrictions are to be implemented. The new contracts were drafted during the Bush administration and are intended to be more comprehensive and efficient. But sensitive to how a change in Prime eligibility might be used by politicians

this fall, Defense officials ordered plans to end Prime for retirees living outside catchment areas, including draft notification letters, shelved until after the election. Plans for implementation have not changed, congressional and health sources said. But they also have not been announced officially yet. "The Department is considering whether to maintain the same number of PSAs (Prime service areas) as it has now," said Cynthia O. Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Defense. Until a decision is final on reducing PSAs, the department won't confirm the number of beneficiaries potentially impacted or the likely dates for executing the changes.

Some members of Congress already are concerned. Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV.) told Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, in recent letter he was "dismayed" by news reports that Prime "will be cut for many of the military families and constituents I represent, not only in Reno but also throughout the northern part of the state." Heller said the plan would cause "more

out-of-pocket expenses and longer drive times...I am very troubled by these changes and am concerned that these alterations are not being made in a transparent manner. If changes are made, I hope you will notify those affected immediately." A spokesman for Heller said Woodson had not yet answered the letter. Given the nation's debt crisis and the budget cuts looming for defense programs, Congress is not expected to block this longstanding plan to tighten access to Prime if the intent is to hold down costs. Doing so likely would require lawmakers to find equivalent budget savings elsewhere. [Source: Military.com | Tom Philpott | 8 Nov 2012 ++]

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update 11: He was the first American soldier killed in Vietnam; the first name of 58,282 listed on the granite wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. And with the reading of his name, Capt. Harry Griffith Cramer Jr. became the first to be honored 7 NOV in what will be a 65-hour marathon session by 2,000 people reading all the names on the wall from then until Veterans Day. "It's not just reading names, because each of those names ... is a human being," said former Sen.

Chuck Hagel, who is also a Vietnam War veteran. "There's a story, there's a family. That's not just part of a memorial." For Cramer's grandson and son, who were the first two to read names, that meant researching the lives of the men whose names they would be speaking. There was an Air Force sergeant who was killed by a fellow American; a Special Forces captain killed in Laos; a young radio intercept operator who was tracking the Viet Cong through radio signals. And Capt. Harry Griffith Cramer, who was commanding an Army Special Forces team training South Vietnamese soldiers. Cramer, 31, was killed Oct. 21, 1957 in an explosion while leading a patrol. "I didn't feel it was fair to them to read for me to just get up and read names as if I were reading a phone book," said Hank Cramer, Harry Cramer's son. "Every one of these names, there's a family just like ours. And maybe their families are gone, or maybe their families can't be here, but I owe it to them. I want to know who these people are." And even though Harry Cramer's grandson, Hank Cramer, Jr., wasn't even alive dur-

VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

Got a Story?
Sent it to
Moe(SS)
at
ppeditor
@
carolina.rr.com



ing the war, he still felt the need to fly to Washington D.C. from Colorado to participate in the reading. "I respect their stories, I respect what they do for our country," said Hank Cramer, Jr. "I feel that it's a small way to pay them back and say, 'Thank you.'"

The tribute comes on the 30th anniversary of the wall, and is the fifth time that the reading has been done since it was completed in 1982. This year also marked the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War. "For many people who lost a friend or family member, it's a spiritual place," said Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

"Reading the name brings a sense of relief to their to their spirit. "This is really part of a healing process for the country to remember, it's a healing process for the veterans, and it's a way to show people how much pain people still feel in their hearts," Scruggs said. "There's a real connection between the living and the dead here, and these are people who

gave their lives for their country." The pain was still fresh for Vietnam veteran Gary Janulewicz, who was reading the name of a 25-year-old Army lieutenant he had met just an hour before the infantry position they were holding on a hill was overrun during the war. The lieutenant, Brian Kay Skinner, died in Janulewicz's arms. "I need to do it," said Janulewicz, lips trembling. "I can't explain it better than that. It's something that doesn't go away. I don't have closure yet on that." [Source: Stars & Stripes | C.J. Lin |

Elections 2012 Update

01: Even though Barack Obama has served as commander in chief for the last four years, his re-election 7 NOV will mean significant changes for the military in coming months, especially in terms of defense spending. Where his challenger in the presidential campaign promised big increases in military budgets in coming years, Obama has planned almost \$500 billion in spending reductions for the military over the next decade, calling it a responsible post-war plan.

Republicans in Congress fiercely oppose the effort, but the president's re-election blunts their hopes of increasing or even holding steady defense spending. Those cuts would come on top of the \$500 billion in automatic defense spending reductions slated to start in January. The president in recent weeks has stepped up his pressure on Congress to find an alternative plan, declaring in the final presidential debate that the cuts "will not happen." But lawmakers haven't been able to approach a compromise on the issue. Obama has said he won't let the military be decimated by sequestration, but also won't sacrifice other domestic programs to save the services. Here's a look other military challenges for Obama's second term:

❑ **End strength cuts.** Obama has pledged to trim back the military's end strength -- the Army by about 70,000, and the Marine Corps by about 18,000, over the next five years -- and reign in the number of senior civilian and military personnel at the Pentagon. The services should start feeling that pinch in 2013. Advisers have said his proposed 2014

budget, due in February, will reflect the strategy he outlined in January of a leaner, quick-response fighting force, one with a smaller footprint in Europe and a larger presence in the Pacific. In a statement to Stars and Stripes before the election, Obama said the more modern defense posture will be more flexible and more sustainable, “helping allies and partners build their capacity, with more training and exercises.” But it will also be done with fewer personnel, a claim his critics on the right have called impossible to execute.

The Defense of Marriage Act. The fight over federal recognition of same-sex marriages isn’t directly tied to the Defense Department, but it could have dramatic effects on who receives military benefits. Obama has publicly stated his opposition to DOMA, which prohibits the government from giving same-sex married couples access to federal benefits. Gay rights advocates have made the issue their key battleground, especially since the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law has been overturned. If DOMA is repealed (or overturned by the courts), gay military

couples could have access to health care, housing and commissary benefits that are only open to heterosexual couples. Veterans benefits and health care would also be open to those individuals.

□ **Promises to veterans.**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki promised to end veterans homelessness by late 2015, eliminate the veterans benefits backlog by late 2015, and establish a joint VA-DOD lifelong medical records system by 2017. All of those ambitious deadlines will come during Obama’s second term. The VA promises come amid a wave of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans leaving the military for civilian life. The unemployment rate among the youngest generation of war fighters has remained stubbornly high for the last four years, usually exceeding the national jobless rate. Lawmakers in recent months have criticized the department for not having enough mental health specialists on hand, prompting promises of new hiring and better outreach to veterans. Veterans groups have lauded the lofty goals, but privately have been skeptical about

whether the VA can follow through and succeed. [Source: Stars and Stripes | Leo Shane | 7 Nov 2012 ++]

Tomb of the Unknowns Update 08:

In the face of Hurricane Sandy, the Army continued to guard the Tomb of the Unknowns on Monday but not with the familiar, choreographed 21 paces that the public typically sees. A photo that went viral on social media of three soldiers from the Army’s Third U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as The Old Guard, keeping watch over the tomb was actually taken during a September rainstorm. The Army became aware of the photo and said on its Twitter account and to media that it was from a series of photos taken by photographer Karen Markert during a torrential rainstorm on 18 September 2012. (Refer to http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/25447106_rRDwDr#!i=2095580721&k=SBLxh2X to view all the photos taken by Market.). The Army handed out the below photo that was taken the morning of 29 OCT before Arlington National Cemetery closed because of the storm. Afterward, when morning funerals were completed, the Old

Guard soldiers were still on duty but had moved into an enclosure covered by a green awning known as “the box,” about 20 feet away from the tomb, according to regiment spokesman Maj. John Miller. He said if the weather becomes intolerable, the tomb can also be guarded from a room inside a nearby amphitheater. But no such order was given on Monday afternoon. [Source: Associated Press 29 Oct 2012 ++]

**From the
Carolina
Piedmont
Base Officers
and the
Editor of the
Piedmont
Periscope
We All Wish All
Base Members and
Readers
A Very
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**



USS S-4 (SS-109) was an S-class submarine of the United States Navy. In 1927, she was sunk by being accidentally rammed by a Coast Guard destroyer with the loss of all hands but was raised and restored to service until stricken in 1936.

Building - Her keel was laid down on 4 December 1917 by the [Portsmouth Navy Yard](#) in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 27 August 1919 sponsored by Mrs. Herbert S. Howard, and commissioned on 19 November 1919 with Lieutenant Commander Percy K. Robottom in command.

Service - Following acceptance trials, a visit to [Havana, Cuba](#) from 14-19 January 1920, and subsequent operations along the [Gulf of Mexico](#) and [New England](#) coasts, S-4 departed [New London, Connecticut](#) on 18 November to rendezvous off [New Hampshire](#) with her assigned unit — Submarine Divisions 12 ([SubDiv 12](#)) — and SubDiv 18. The two divisions were about to

Lost Boats— USS S-4 (SS-109)

embark on a historic voyage which, at that time, was to be the longest cruise undertaken by American submarines. Assigned to Submarine Flotilla 3 of the [Asiatic Fleet](#) at Cavite in the [Philippine Islands](#), they sailed via the [Panama Canal](#) and [Pearl Harbor](#) and arrived at Cavite on 1 December 1921.

S-4 operated out of the [Cavite Naval Station](#), with occasional visits to Chinese ports, until late 1924, when the two divisions were reassigned to the West Coast. Departing Cavite on 29 October, they arrived at [Mare Island, California](#) on 30 December.

Remaining at Mare Island in 1925, she operated along the West Coast through 1926, mainly at [San Francisco](#), [San Pedro](#), and [San Diego](#). She departed Mare Island on 10 February 1927 and sailed to the [Panama Canal Zone](#), where she operated through March-April, then proceeded to [New London, Connecticut](#), arriving on 3 May. For the remainder of the year, she operated off the [New England](#) coast. Sinking - On 17 December 1927, while surfacing from a submerged

run over the measured-mile off [Cape Cod](#) near [Provincetown, Massachusetts](#), she was accidentally rammed and sunk by the [Coast Guard](#) destroyer [Paulding](#). *Paulding* stopped and lowered life boats, but found only a small amount of oil and air bubbles. Rescue and salvage operations were commenced, only to be thwarted by severe weather. Heroic efforts were made to rescue six known survivors trapped in the forward torpedo room, who had exchanged a series of signals with divers, by tapping on the hull. As the trapped men used the last of available oxygen in the sub, a diver placed his helmeted ear to the side of the vessel and received this morse-coded message, "Is ... there ... any ... hope?" Sadly, there was no reason for hope and all six men perished. The six men who were trapped were:

[Lieutenant](#) Graham N. Fitch
[Torpedoman's Mate](#) Russell A. Crabb
[Seaman](#) Joseph L. Stevens
[Seaman](#) George Pelham
[Torpedoman's Mate](#) Roger L. Short

[Torpedoman's Mate](#) Frank Snizek
 Despite best efforts all were lost. S-4 was finally raised on 17 March 1928, by a salvage effort commanded by [Captain Ernest J. King](#). Several of the salvage divers, including Eadie and [Frank W. Crilley](#), were awarded the [Navy Cross](#) for their actions during the operation. The submarine was towed to the [Boston Navy Yard](#) for dry-docking and was decommissioned on 19 March. Return - S-4 was recommissioned on 16 October, after repairs and conversion to a test vessel for submarine rescue experimentation. She served at [Key West, Florida](#) early in 1929-1930, and in the northeast during the remainder of those years. In 1931, she operated again at New London until departing there on 3 January 1932 for Pearl Harbor. Sailing via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Pearl Harbor on 29 August. On 7 April 1933, S-4 was decommissioned and laid up. She was stricken from the [Naval Vessel Register](#) on 15 January 1936 and destroyed on 15 May by sinking.



Con't from page 11

become an important submariner tradition; since WWII it has been passed along to the oldest active submarine in the United States Pacific Fleet. Once the sub is decommissioned, it is given to the next oldest submarine, where it is placed in the wardroom.

The famous crib board currently resides aboard the USS Bremerton SSN698, which launched in 1978.



USS S-4 Story and Pictures from Wikipedia.com.

Top—Towing after sinking.

Bottom—after re-commissioning, location ??

Ship's Patch—none found

“America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to the job at hand.”

- Harry Truman

Bertha and Betty Supply by Jack Jeffries

Two 90-year-old women, Bertha and Betty, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Bertha was dying, Betty visited her every day.

One day Betty said, "Bertha, we both loved playing softball all our lives, and we played all through high school.

Please do me one favor: When you get to heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there."

Bertha looked up at Betty from her deathbed and said, "Betty, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you."

Shortly after that, Bertha died. A few nights later, Betty was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding

flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, "Betty, Betty." "Who is it," asked Betty, sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?" "Betty -- it's me, Bertha."

"You're not Bertha. Bertha just died."

"I'm telling you, it's me, Bertha," insisted the voice.

"Bertha! Where are you?"

"In heaven," replied Bertha. "I have some really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," said Betty.

"The good news," Bertha said with joy and enthusiasm, "is that there's women's softball in heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before me are here, too. Even better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always Springtime and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired."

"That's fantastic," said Betty. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?"

"You're pitching Tuesday."

Life is uncertain - Eat dessert first!!!

T'was the Night Before Christmas—Submarine Style

T'was the night before Christmas, and what no-one
could see,
The men with the dolphins were under the sea.
Most of the crew was flat on their backs,
Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.
Those men on watch were making their rounds,
Some manning the planes or listening for sounds.
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,
They all hoped the oncoming watch would come soon.
I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due,
And hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two.
Against better judgment I took a short stroll,
And found myself wandering into control.
The Nav had the Conn, the COW was in place,
The COB had the Dive and a scowl on his face.
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,
The QM and ET were discussing a dare.
To comply with the orders the Nav told the Dive,
To bring the boat up with minimum rise.
The orders were given and soon they were there,
At periscope depth with a scope in the air.
The QM confirmed our position with care,
The broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.
The Nav on the scope let out a small cry,
He shook his head twice and rubbed at his eyes.
He looked once again to find what it was,
That interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause.
Try as he might there was nothing to see,
So down went the scope and us to the deep.
I asked what it was that caused his dismay,
He sheepishly said, "I'm embarrassed to say."
It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud,

Or a meteorite he wondered aloud.
But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,
Whatever it was it looked like a sleigh.
And though it passed quickly and never was clear,
I almost believe it was pulled by reindeer.
We laughed and teased him and I got up to go,
When our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."
They told us a message was just coming in,
We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.
"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,
Your attempt at a joke is too long delayed.
If it had been sooner it might have been neat,
But I doubt we're receiving at four-hundred feet."
"Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,
We're not playing games to any degree."
I headed aft with nothing better to do,
Surprised by the fact it was still coming through.
It stopped and was sent to control to be read,
The Nav read it slowly and scratched at his head.
Then again he began but this time aloud,
To those that now waited, a curious crowd.
"To you Denizens of the Deep and men of the sea,
Who risk your life daily so others stay free.
I rarely have seen you on this, my big night,
For far too often you are hidden from sight.
But purely by luck I saw you tonight,
As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night.
And lucky for me I've finally won,
The chance to say thanks for all you have done.
I know that you miss your families at home,
And sometimes you feel as if you're alone.

But trust what I say and I'll do what's right,
 I'll take something special to your families tonight.
 Along with the gifts I'll take to your kin,
 I'll visit their dreams and leave word within.
 They'll hear of your love, and how you miss them,
 I'll tell them that soon you'll be home again.
 It might not be much I know that is true,
 To thank you for all the things that you do.
 But I'll do what I can, while you do what's right,
 Merry Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight."



WANTED

Items are needed for props for the next round of Halfway Night Shows. We need old jeans jackets that to make "vests" for a motorcycle gang. We need any type of old hippie or beatnik looking clothing. Wigs are always welcome. Mics and mic stands, large heavy pieces of cardboard, small pieces of lumber, etc. If you think we could use it, before you throw it out, give Moe(SS) the old scavenger a call at 704-2487610. I'll even come pick it up. I grew-up on a farm, was a MM, and have a good imagination (just ask our group), so I'm pretty good at making something out of just about anything. All items will be greatly appreciated by Bilge Rat Productions of the Carolina Piedmont Base.

And we are always looking for more entertainers too!

Thanks, - Moe(SS)

SSMC NEWS

The SSMC or Silent Service Motorcycle Club is actually a Base of the USSVI. The Carolinas Chapter was founded in April of 2011 by 9 members including 4 from the Carolina Piedmont Base, Bob Bickford, John Wardean, Arnold Kirk, and Dale Moses. Moe (SS) served as the Chapter President for 2011 and 2012.

Recently, elections were held and the new Carolina Chapters Officers for 2013 are: President Frank Reno, Vice President Mike Adams, and Secretary/Treasurer Joe Peek. Moses will as "founder" will stay on the Board of Directors as the National Bylaws permits. He did not run for President again due to the demands of his job.

If you are a USSVI member of a Base in North or South Carolina and ride a motorcycle, we encourage you to join the Carolinas Chapter of the SSMC and be a "Bubblehead Biker" with us. We have more than doubled our membership in less than a year and a half. Come grow with us.— Moe(SS)



January Meeting
January 26th
Dinner at 1730
Meeting at 1900
Dinner prepared by ours
SubVettes at the cost of
\$6.00/person
Please pay and support the Base

Answer to the Flag Trivia:

This is the State Flag of Missouri which became the 24th State on 10 August 1821. The state was much smaller than the territory. The area to the west and northwest of the state, which had been in the territory, was commonly known as the "Missouri Country" until May 30, 1854, and certain of the post offices in this area show a Missouri abbreviation in the postmark.

But when did the actual Star go on the Flag? July 4th of the following year. Just like any new State!

Piedmont Funnies Page

There comes a time when a woman just has to trust her husband...

A wife comes home late at night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom.

From under the blanket she sees four legs instead of two; a man and a woman. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can.

Once she's done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine.

"Hi Darling", he says, "Your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say 'hello'?"

A very prestigious wealthy man and his wife were having dinner at a very fine restaurant when this absolutely stunning young woman comes over to their table, gives the husband a big open mouthed kiss, then says she'll see him later and walks away. The wife glares at her husband and says: "Who was that?" "Oh," replies the husband, "she's my mistress." Well, that's

the last straw," says the wife. "I've had enough. I want a divorce!" "I can understand that," replies her husband, "but remember if we get a divorce, it will mean no more shopping trips to Paris, no more wintering in Barbados, no more summers in Tuscany, no more Jaguar in the garage and no more yacht club. But the decision is yours."

Just then, a colleague of the husband enters the restaurant with a gorgeous babe on his arm. "Who's that woman with Matt?" asks the wife. "That's his mistress," says her husband. "Ours is prettier," she replies.

Dear God (from the Dog)

Supplied by Ruth Worth

Dear God: Is it on purpose our names are the same, only reversed?

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there

cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a Dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God: If a Dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad Dog?

Dear God: We Dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and frisbee flight paths What do humans understand?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God: Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good Dog.

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.

2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.

3. The Litter Box is not a cookie jar.

4. The sofa is not a 'face towel'.

5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.

6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.

7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying 'hello'.

8. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table.

9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house - not after.

10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt across the carpet.

11. I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch.

12. The cat is not a 'squeaky toy' so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.

Irish Wedding

At the wedding reception, someone yelled, "Would all the married men, please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living?"

The bartender was almost crushed to death.

THE MULE AND THE NAGGING WIFE

An old hillbilly farmer had a wife who nagged him unmercifully. From morning till night (and sometimes later), she was always complaining about something. The only time he got any relief was when he was out plowing with his old mule. He tried to plow a lot.

One day, when he was out plowing, his wife brought him lunch in the field. He drove the old mule into the shade, sat down on a stump, and began to eat his lunch. Immediately, his wife began haranguing him again. Complain, nag, nag; it just went on and on. All of a sudden, the old mule lashed out with both hind feet; caught her smack in the back of the head; killed her dead on the spot.

At the funeral several days later, the minister noticed something rather odd. When a woman mourner would approach the old farmer, he would listen for a minute, then nod his head in agreement; but when a man mourner approached him, he would listen for a minute, then shake his head in disagreement. This was so consistent, the minister decided to ask the old farmer about it. So after the funeral, the minister spoke to the old farmer, and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women, but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men.

The old farmer said: "Well, the women would come up and say something about how nice my wife looked, or how pretty her dress was, so I'd nod my head in agreement."

"And what about the men?" the minister asked.

"They wanted to know if the mule was for sale."

A woman was sitting at a bar enjoying an after work cocktail with her girlfriends when Steven, a tall, exceptionally handsome, extremely sexy, middle-aged man

entered. He was so striking that the woman could not take her eyes off him.

This seasoned yet playful heartthrob noticed her overly attentive stare and walked directly toward her, as any man would. Before she could offer her apologies for staring so rudely, he leaned over and whispered to her, "I'll do anything, absolutely anything, that you want me to do, no matter how kinky, for \$20.00...on one condition..."

Flabbergasted but intrigued, the woman asked what the condition was. The man replied, "You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words."

The woman considered his proposition for a moment, and then slowly removed a \$20 bill from her purse, which she pressed into the man's hand along with her address. She looked

deeply and passionately into his eyes, barely concealing her anticipation and excitement, and slowly and meaningfully said....

"Clean my house."

Marriage is like a deck of cards...

In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond.

By the end, you wish you had a club and a spade.

(just kidding Dear) -Moe(SS)



WWII DIESEL BOAT ERA

by Michael Skurat Member Groton Base USSVI & Central CT Chapter of SubVets

There have been many major changes in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service since the WWII Diesel Boat Era. It might be interesting historically to note some of them. Initially there were only seven pay grades (actually eight). They ran from one to seven with Apprentice Seaman (AS) as one, Seaman Second Class (S2/c) as two, Seaman First Class (S1/c) as three, Petty Officer Third Class (e.g. MM3c) as four, Petty Officers Second and First Class as five and six. Chief Petty Officers were initially promoted to "seven A" for one year (Acting Appointment) and then to Chief Petty Officer as pay grade seven. There were no Master or Command Chief, etc. The "C" for Chief Petty Officers preceded the rate designation, for example CMM not MMC as today. For all of the seaman ratings there was a comparable Fireman (F)

The Officer's rank structure has remained consistent with minor exceptions. During WWII a five star Fleet Admiral rank was added and bestowed on Nimitz and

King. No one promoted to that rank since WWII. Another thing there was no Commodore rank utilized. Officers were promoted from Captain to Rear Admiral (lower half) and hence to Rear Admiral (upper half). The Rear Admiral (Lower Half) replaced the Commodore rank. As it is custom to call any Commanding Officer Captain it also was custom to call a Submarine Squadron Commander Commodore.

Before WWII an Apprentice Seaman's pay was \$21.00 per month. Pays increased in WWII with Apprentice Seaman to \$50.00 per month and to around \$120.00 per month for a Chief. All personnel on Submarines got 50% submarine money and 20% sea duty pay. When added together added up to about 80% extra pay.

If you were married and/or had dependents your pay was reduced by \$28.00 per month the U.S. Navy supplemented another \$22.00 and your dependent was sent a monthly check for \$50.00. Consequently, an Apprentice Seaman would get \$22.00 per month. However, enlisted personnel below pay grade four

could not marry without the permission of their Commanding Officer. This breached more often than observed and obviously many entered the service married.

At one time the Navy Paymasters would pay personnel with \$2.00 bills so that when spent it would indicate to the local economy the impact of the service. Also when being paid by the Paymaster on board a tender you would line up with your "pay chit" to draw your pay. When you reached the pay desk you would salute the Paymaster, put your fingerprint on the "pay chit" and draw your money. There was a posted pay list indicating what you had on the "books" and you could draw all or whatever amount you desired.

Submarine and sea pay were a real boon, especially when sea store cigarettes at six cents a pack and a bottle of beer on Bank St. was twenty-five cents. Later when you came in off patrol you would have that back pay and be really flush. Due to rapid expansion of every aspect of the U.S. Navy, if you could cut

the mustard, promotions were forthcoming. Many a serving enlisted person commissioned (called mustangs) or advanced in rating because of the enormous need to fill billets in new construction and replace casualties. Classes at the U.S. Naval Academy graduated early. Personnel with special qualifications were coming into the service rated and/or commissioned. You could see a Chief Petty Officer with no hash marks. These ratings were derided and called "slick arms" (no hash marks) and/or "Tojo" ratings by the old-timers. Some enlisted personnel commissioned as regular line officers, Warrant Officers and Limited Duty Officers (LDOs) in specific areas. Such commissions initially were considered temporary with reversions back to their permanent grades at the conclusion of hostilities.

They created many specialty ratings. In their "Crow" specialty designator was a diamond with a letter inside, e.g., the letter "A" would be for a coach or professional athlete who would conduct physical conditioning,

etc. Most, if not all, of these ratings ceased to exist with the end of the war. Some referred to these as "square knot" rates. There were right and left arm rates. Right arm rates were considered "Sea Going Rates" (BM, QM, GM, SM, FC, TM, etc) and the "Crow" was worn on the right arm. Left arm rates were ancillary and were MM, Y, EM, RM, MoMM, ET, etc. Right arm rates were senior to left arm ratings. There was no Boatswain Mate Third Class they were called Coxswains. Seamen and Firemen wore a "watch stripe" round the right shoulder - white for seamen red for firemen. There was other colors of "Watch Stripes" for aviation, CBs, etc. Indication of rate was on uniform cuffs. One white/red stripe for AS/FA, two for S2c/F2/c and three for S1/c and F1/c. The present diagonal 1, 2, or 3 stripe(s), in color was originally for WAVE uniforms and after WWII were adopted for the present enlisted uniform and the watch stripe was eliminated. The "T-Shirt" a part of the enlisted uniform initially served two purposes. (1) It was to be worn without the Jumper on work details, especially in tropical locations. (2) It was

meant to have the high white neckline to show in the "V" of the Jumper. Some personnel, to enhance the appearance would cut the tab off and wore the "T-shirt" backward for a better appearance especially if with age and washings it seemed to sag. The popularity of the T-Shirt expanded into wide public acceptance after WWII and is now utilized, not only as an undergarment but as outerwear with various designs, logos, etc.

There were no Silver Metal Dolphins for enlisted personnel. Dolphins for enlisted personnel consisted of embroidered "patches". (white for blues and blue for whites) sewn on the right forearm. Silver Metal Dolphins for enlisted personnel was authorized after WWII. All enlisted personnel wore embroidered "patches" as distinguishing marks e.g., if you were a designated striker you could wear the insignia for that specialty on the left upper sleeve. Other distinguishing marks for enlisted personnel were "patches" on uniforms, e.g., an Expert Lookout "patch" binoculars, a diver a divers helmet (M for Master. with degree of qualification indicated on the chest section of the helmet. These

worn on the right upper sleeve and there were many of them. One "perk" that has persisted is the wearing of gold rating insignia and hash marks for those with 12 years of good conduct. Chief Petty Officers merely pinned their fouled anchor hat insignia to the front top of their hat covers. The black band and background for the insignia was initiated after WWII. Officers did wear Gold Metal Dolphins as they do today.

Unknown today was also the fact that there was a dress white uniform for enlisted personnel. The collar and cuffs were blue and were adorned with piping. What is worn today are "undress whites". Pictures of them are in old "Bluejacket Manuals". Officers wore swords for ceremonial occasions as they do today but back before WWII Chief Petty Officers had a cutlass for ceremonial dress occasions.

Another uniform item that is now past is the flat hat. Once the ribbon had the name of your ship but this discontinued for security reasons and all flat hats merely had U.S. Navy in gold on the ribbon. In boot camp all of your uniform items were

stenciled with your name and service number. There were no doors on lockers and each item had a prescribed method of folding and stowing. It was even prescribed as to how you would pack your sea bag.

Originally, the entire submarine base was literally below the railroad tracks. Later as the base expanded it was called "lower base". Most of the upper base buildings, i.e., Morton Hall, Dealey Center, etc., were constructed for WWII. The road from the present main gate past the golf course was the Groton-Norwich road. About half way up the road was an overhead railroad bridge. The entrance to the base was under the bridge and the Marine guard stationed there in a guard shack. The base commander's office was housed in a small brick building about half way between the training tower and the Torpedo Shop.

Submarine School - six weeks enlisted and three months for officers. Of some 250,000 men who applied for submarine duty less than 10% made it to Sub School and many of those washed out.

Submarine School was

the sole tyrannical domain of one Chief Torpedoman Charle Spritz. Submarine School was called "Spritz's Navy". He ruled with an iron hand and was feared by instructors and students alike. He had little regard for rate whether you were a Seaman First Class or a Petty Officer First Class. To call him eccentric was a gross understatement. He did not smoke, did not drink and was single. It is open to debate as to if he ever even pulled a liberty. His total devotion was to the Submarine School. It was universally conceded that he had gone "Asiatic", not 100% stable and perhaps as a youngster he might have been dropped on his head.

He insisted that personnel, at all times, be properly and neatly attired in the regulation "Uniform of the Day" without exception. No tailor-mades, proper rolled neckerchief down to the "V" in the Jumper with immaculate white T-Shirt showing, shoes well shined, etc. He did not permit smoking nor any type of horseplay. He demanded that all personnel move at a fast pace.

Chief Spritz had the uncanny ability to be everywhere at all times and pity the poor individual

who crossed his path. His discipline was swift and sure. He felt it was his personal mission to ascertain that anyone leaving sub school for submarine duty was in every respect ready. He had many axioms but his favorite was "There is room for anything on a submarine except a mistake". Sub school students were not "boots", many, if not most, had time in the U.S. Navy and were rated.

There is an article in POLARIS issue of August, 2000 (Submarine Saga segment) which delves into more detail relative to Chief Spritz and is briefly incorporated here as it is a definite part of the Diesel Boat Era.

Sub Vets of WWII in recognition of respect, and a fealty obligation to this once feudal lord and master, wear a "Spritz's Navy" patch on their vests. It would seem that the screening at Sub School served us well. Friction between members of the crew was unbefitting and unacceptable. If an individual demonstrated an inability to "get along" he could be transferred to another boat. If the same conduct prevailed there he would be transferred out of submarines.

The training tower caused many a wash out for both physical and mental rea-

sons. If a person could not "pop" his ears it could cause pain and even bleeding from the ears. Your voice changed dramatically to a high pitch under pressure. All personnel had to qualify from the 100' lock with the Mommsen Lung. Right after the war it was noted that some German submariners had made emergency escapes using free ascents. A number of crews from boats went to the tower and made free ascents.

We had less pomp in so far as the ceremony observed when a member of the crew qualified than is apparent today. The individual, thrown over the side then sewed dolphins on his uniforms and wore them with pride. They have always been, and always will be, a badge of honor regardless of manner in which bestowed.

There was less reverence on some other occasions also, e.g., when a "Good Conduct Medal" was awarded to a member of the crew it would be given by the Captain (or perhaps the Exec) at quarters amid "hoots and hollers" with cries of "Undiscovered Crime". There was also a bonus system for awards ranging from \$1.00 per month for the Good Conduct

Medal to \$5.00 per month for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"Tailor Made" dress blues were the uniform of the day for liberty. The jumper was skin tight with a zipper in the side so that it could be taken off. Accentuated bell bottoms were mandated. The inside of the cuffs were decorated with embroidered color decorations, usually dragons, etc., and were only visible when the cuffs were turned up.

When you made Chief you initially bought the cheapest hat you could find since it was also considered appropriate and properly respectful to have all of the crew urinate in your first hat.

Sad to note in this day and enlightened age all of the military services of the United States were segregated during our era. The practice abolished by President Truman over 50 years ago. Stewards, at that time, recruited from American territories and from American minorities. Even in such a tight knit group as American Submarines two racks in the Forward Torpedo Room hung off the overhead beneath The Torpedo Loading Hatch were reserved for the Stewards.

Rated Stewards wore uniforms similar to Chiefs.

The submarine sailor was a very irreverent individual with an avid distaste for regulations, etc. The average life span of a submarine sailor was four patrols (about a year). Despite bravado, that thought prevailed to varying degrees depending upon the individual. That premise however, was unsaid but used as an excuse for hell-raising. Rarely mentioned in tales of WWII submarine lore was the fact that going through minefields was as apprehensive as being depth charged.

Submarine Officers and crews were very young anyone past thirty was a very old man. Admiral Charles Lockwood (Uncle Charley) Com-SubPac was most forgiving, as were Skippers and Execs, of transgressions of both Officers and men. Returning from patrol crews were treated extremely well. Another "perk" of the submarine force was that any record of "minor" disciplinary action that a member of the crew suffered would be entered into the "page 9" of his service record. Virtually all disciplinary action was handled internally on the boat. However, both the original and carbon copy (BuPers

Copy) retained in his jacket. When transferred, the original and copy, removed by the Yeoman to be deep sixed. Unless there was a serious offense personnel transferred with a clean record.

Many friendships were formed in sub school, plus other training and schools and transfers were not uncommon due to the needs of new construction, promotions, etc. Consequently, the force became even more closely knit. It was the rare boat that did not have personnel whom you knew. Submariners were very independent and resourceful, both individually and as a group. Needs (and desires) of the boat as prescribed by the U.S. Navy, did not always coincide with what was considered proper nor adequate. Therefore, a system of "midnight requisitioning" and "midnight small stores" developed to enhance efficiency. This avenue of acquisition considered a solemn duty in promoting the war effort. Those proficient and innovative in this endeavor were greatly admired. It was an art as well as a science executed individually or as a group cooperative effort. Some of these escapades took great ingenuity as well as "brass balls". As a term of affection they were called

"scroungers" and/or "dog robbers". If a Skipper or Exec made an "innocent" passing remark that some particular thing might be "nice" it would appear mysteriously in due time.

On board an informal, but professional, attitude prevailed. Although we had an evaporator to make fresh water, battery watering was primary. In the design and scheme of things, personal hygiene or washing of clothes did not seem to be considered. One Engineering Petty Officer, called the "Water King" ran the evaporators. Personal hygiene or washing of clothing was an afterthought. The use of after-shave lotions, deodorants and especially talcum powders prevailed. Large cans of "Lilac" were the norm, purchased inexpensively and sprinkled liberally.

To the unacquainted it could appear that the rapport between Officers and men was quite informal and to a degree it was but it in no way detracted from efficiency, military courtesy, tradition or discipline. There was a strong mutual respect. Aye-Aye Sir, Very Well and Well Done were accorded as appropriate. The vast majority of the crew was rated and competent in their skills.

Obviously so were our officers. There was no such thing as stenciled ratings on dungaree shirts so a person coming aboard a submarine at sea would have a difficult time determining any individual's rate. Also there was an axiom that in submarines "you left your rate on the dock". Ability was the hallmark.

When conditions approached that of a Chinese garbage scow junk with an overflowing head and the crew in dire need of fumigation, the Skipper might decide to allow showers piece meal by sections. You lined up to enter the shower, the Chief of the Boat turned on the water for 2 seconds and shut it down while you soaped down. You were then allowed a correspondingly brief rinse.

Each member of the crew was allotted one locker which measured about 12" high, 18" wide and about 18" deep. You kept your uniforms under your mattress. Your rack had a plastic zip around cover. Your mattress was encased in a "mattress cover" which was akin to a oversized pillow case. Able to be turned over once and some even turned them inside out and got two more uses. Less the un-

initiated be stunned by that you must be cognizant of lack of water for regular laundry.

Internal communications on board were conducted by the 1MC and 7MC phone and speaker systems.

To reenter a submarine after handling lines etc. when returning to port was a shocking revelation. It was impossible to believe that you had survived that malodorous environment. Politely put the atmosphere was conducive to a shanty town house of ill repute that also was inundated by a back up of its sewer system. Pity the poor relief crew that had to come on board and make the boat shipshape again.

You could immediately identify an Electrician on a submarine. He was the individual with the most shredded moth eaten dungarees.

Ribald humor was the tenor of the day. No topic or human frailty was off limits. Nothing was sacred. Horseplay and trickery were the order of the day. The antics and demeanor of the crew, both at sea and ashore, would not be socially acceptable nor politically correct nowadays. I fear that the late Admiral Rickover would

have been aghast.

One real advantage was food, especially when you first went out. Although they were ridden without mercy the cooks did an excellent job of feeding the crew. We ate family style off china plates. Our officers ate exactly what the enlisted personnel did. The stewards would come back to the After Battery Galley and fill their serving plates and bring it to the Forward Battery for the Wardroom. When leaving port rations were stored in every conceivable space (including the shower since it wouldn't be needed). However, as supplies diminished the cooks were hard pressed to come up with varied favorable menus. All boats had "open icebox" so you could prepare and cook anything you wanted at any time as long as you cleaned up after yourself. The After Battery "Mess" was for chow, off duty recreation, meeting space and a hang-out.

This is a collective attempt at recollection after the passing of a half-century so any errors or omissions hopefully forgiven as "senior frailties". Much of this is collective memory and is a compilation of boats in general. There is no pride of authorship so any comments, additions, corrections and/

or deletions are welcome and appreciated. This is merely a historical comparison as best one can do and is in no way a negative reflection between "then and now". GOD BLESS ALL SUBMARINERS - Past, Present and Future - Michael Skurat Central Connecticut Chapter U.S. Submarine Veterans World War II

Editor's Note: I tried to contact Mr. Skurat to obtain permission to print his article in the Periscope. His number had been disconnected. I looked at the Groton Base Roster, he was no longer listed. I "googled" his name and found his obituary. Lt. Skurat left for Eternal Patrol on 10 May 2012. "Sailor Rest Your Oar".

**Next Meeting
is at
December 15th
Dinner at 1800
Dinner prepared by VFW
Ladies Auxiliary at the cost
of \$7.00/
person**

When Periscopes Were Periscopes.

by Jim Schenk

When periscopes were
periscopes,

The men I knew were
bold.

We plied the oceans
depths unseen,

For missions still untold.

When diesel boats were
diesel boats,

The fuel oil was our
friend.

Now free neutrons make
the steam,

And dinky's oil rarely
spends.

When the klaxons were
actual klaxons

We managed the ticks
and the tocks.

Now they depend upon
something that sends

Alarming electrons from
a box.

When surfacing was sur-
facing,

The hammer-valves
would ring.

Our Negative and Safety
tanks

Were just a passing thing.

When Control was in
Control,

More manual functions
then.

Remote monitors and wa-

terfalls

Perform for many men.

When Sonar was a new thing,

And Radar was a babe,

You stand upon our shoulders now

With technology at your trade.

When forward ratings came to pass,

Why did they lately re-move?

QM's FT's, RM's, ST's, MM's and IC's,

Now, just ET's, but what was improved?

When Quals were Quals we had to know

The workings of the boat.

We'd crawl around in voids unknown,

Spurred on by the Chief-Of-The-Boat.

When Quartermasters were Quartermasters

The charts and tools of the trade,

Manipulated by the best,

Their knowledge made the grade.

When Wardroomers were officers,

Their esteem and respect would rule.

Now the yes-men riding on the boats,

Only wish they were that

cool.

The seamen gang is still the same,

The topside chores remain.

The WEPS has total dominance

O'er all the nubbies' brains.

When Enginemen were engine men,

They were stout and hearty then;

The likes of which, compared to now

Will never be again.

When Topside Watch was Topside Watch

Cold New London winters were felt.

We'd eat the chow, then watch the brow,

With .45 and a guard belt.

When IC-men were IC-men,

You never had to fear.

Their expertise and acumen,

Kept up the needful gear.

When battle stations were battle stations

The Captain would never fail;

To Conn from the most crowded tower

Not the fairwater or the sail.

When Radiomen were Radiomen,

Their shack was oh so small.

Now the space they have is lacking,

To try and hold it all.

When Machinist Mates were Machinist Mates,

They had so many tricks,

But let something break, they never would take,

Much time to give it the fix.

When Maneuvering was Maneuvering,

Men threw the sticks to go.

Now clipboards, gauges, and seats immobile,

Set film badges all aglow.

The Sonar Shack, our blind man's ears,

Back then had more respect.

Now they call them girls, but let me say,

Your giddiness should be checked.

When ET's were ET's,

Loran and Radar they knew.

Now components fail and they but have,

To insert a module new.

When bow planes were bow planes

The quicker descent ruled the day.

I see they've gone back to what worked the best

No sail-planes which diving delays.

When Torpedomen were Torpedomen

Their muscles brought to bear,

The heavy bullets of the past,

Now deadly missiles from the air.

When dungarees were dungarees,

We'd muster on the pier.

No poopie-suits nor camouflage,

To make us look so queer.

Still - submarines are submarines,

And one may surely bet.

An enemy will yet be met

With an ominous stealthy threat.



2013 U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS SE REGIONAL

SHERATON, NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

APRIL 7,8,9,10,11 – 2013

RESERVATIONS: (NLT 6 March 2013) 1-843-747-1900

HOTEL ROOMS: \$85.00 (plus tax)

NAME _____ GUEST _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

April 7 SUNDAY

Early Registration and Hospitality Room Opens
(Daily Free Libations and delicious Snacks)

APRIL 8 MONDAY

11:30 AM- All Hands Lunch @ FRA 269

2:00 PM- Tour of NNPTU & Weps Station

Circle if Attending

Yes No

Yes No

APRIL 9 TUESDAY

10:30 AM- Men's Meeting/ Luncheon

10:30 AM- Ladies' Meeting/ Luncheon

2:00 PM- CSS HL Hunley Submarine Tour

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

APRIL 10 WEDNESDAY

1:00 PM- WW II/USSVI Cold War Memorial Service

6:00 PM- Cocktails (cash bar)/BANQUET/Dance

Yes No

Yes No

APRIL 11 THURSDAY

8:00AM – 10:00AM Depart Day/ Hospitality Room Farewell

Registration Fee (per person) \$25.00 x _____ = _____

All Hands Lunch @ The Fleet (pp) \$15.00 x _____ = _____

Men's/ Ladies Luncheon (pp) \$15.00 x _____ = _____

CSS HL Hunley Sub Tour (pp) \$15.00 x _____ = _____

Banquet Dinner and Dance (pp) \$35.00 x _____ = _____

50/50 Depth Charge Drawing 1@\$1.00, 7@\$5.00, 20@\$10.00 = _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable To: Thomas S. Beach

Send To: Thom Beach, 1014 Live Oak Ave, Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Problems or Questions? Contact: thombeach@yahoo.com or 1-843-761-7134

LINKS: www.ussvicb.org www.sheratoncharleston.com www.fra269.org

RESERVATIONS:

1. Room reservations must be made one (1) month before the start of the convention.
2. Cancellations must be confirmed at least three (3) days prior to your scheduled arrival date.
3. Please mail in your registration form indicating the events you desire so I can make reservations and tours for you.

TRANSPORTATION

1. We need to share rides to all scheduled events away from the hotel. All events are within ten (10) miles of the hotel.
2. Please help out and share your empty seats.
3. The hotel provides shuttles to and from the airport, to downtown Charleston, to Tanger Outlet Mall and within approximately three miles of the hotel. Tanger Malls is across the bridge over the interstate, turn right at the light and then turn right at the next light.

THE AREA:

1. The Sheraton Hotel is located at I26, exit 213B.
2. The FRA is located at the intersection of Red Bank Road and Hwy52, just behind Wendy's hamburgers.
3. The American Legion is south of Red Bank Road from the FRA approximately one (1) on the left mile behind the used car lot.
4. The VFW is north on Hwy 52 on the right approximately one (1) mile from the FRA beside Circle K.
5. The Cold War Memorial (leaving from the hotel) is East on I26 towards Mt. Pleasant ext. 220. Make a right turn at the bottom of the bridge and a second right turn at gas station. Cold War Memorial is ½ mile on the left.
6. The After Battery is West on I26. Take exit 187. Turn left, go to the BP station and turn right onto Hwy 78/178. Bear right at the fork of the road Hwy 178. Go to School House Road and turn left. Watch for a US flag on the left, turn and enter the driveway and go to the end.

RED BANK ROAD:

In the north area, Red Bank Road was the back bone of the military from the 40's through the 90's. It runs from the waterfront at the Navy Weapons Station to the railroad tracks in the middle of Goose Creek. It was used to transport ammo, bombs, torpedoes, and missiles to and from the weapons Stations for ships, submarines and the old Army Depot. It was also a fine liberty strip and it has still remained pretty much unchanged over the years.

When leaving the hotel complex, turn right onto Montague. Go to Park Circle and go ¾ of the way around the circle and turn right onto North Rhett. Stay on North Rhett for approximately four miles until you come to Red Bank Road. If you turn right on Red Bank Road, you enter the military complex where you will find the Exchange, Commissary, and VA Clinic. If you turn left onto Red Bank Road, you will find that the road ends at the railroad tracks by Wendy's Restaurant. Wendy's is on the right and the Fleet Reserve is behind Wendy's.



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Nat Greene Base Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner
9 	10	11	12	13	14	15 Base Mtg VFW Dinner
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31	Jan 1 A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Halfway night Show – working on the location

One way to support VFW Post 9138 is to attend their Sunday Morning Breakfast held on the second Sunday of each month from 8am to 11am— Come on out! -

