



SubVets Scuttlebutt

Albany-Saratoga Base Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2006 Volume 1 Number 1

Jim Irwin - Editor



USSVI CREED

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

2006 Albany-Saratoga Base Officers

Base Commander - John Cook
Sr. Vice Commander - Fritz Feldhaus
Jr. Vice Commander - Ray Koch
Secretary - Bill Preece
Treasurer - Fred Carlson

Meeting Schedule

Base Meetings are held at the American Legion Adirondack Post 70 located on West Avenue in Saratoga Springs, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:00pm. Put those dates on your calendar.

Upcoming Events

March 15 - Monthly meeting
April 11 - National Submarine Day
April 19 - Monthly meeting
May 17 - Monthly meeting
May 20 - Armed Forces Day
May 29 - Memorial Day
June 14 - Flag Day

Let's Have a Quality Base

Belonging to the Albany-Saratoga Base means paying dues and carrying a membership card. Being a **part** of the Base is what is really important. Show up for meetings, join committees, and help out

wherever you can, recruit new members, suggest ways to improve our/your organization. We want you and we need you to be a **PART** of the Albany-Saratoga Base.

Commanders Log

So starts a new year and we are getting off on the right foot with this first issue of our Newsletter thanks to Jim Irwin for volunteering to be our first publisher.

As we start out the year our plate is full. We have some very ambitious projects and I personally have some very strenuous goals that I feel are very important to our success as a USSVI Base.

My first goal is to increase meeting attendance and member participation. In order to accomplish this first goal we are planning to survey the membership as to why they do not attend meetings regularly, what can we change to promote better turn out, and how do we maintain interest once we have it.

My next goal is to make the meetings more meaningful and the time spent in the meetings more productive and enjoyable. We will try to do this by keeping them short and to the point. We will plan guest speakers, short video's, and small projects that can be done rather easily, yet bring members

Pride Runs Deep

<http://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/>

together to accomplish something worthwhile that may even benefit the community. I would like to see more member participation in the meeting.

To meet my goals I am going to need much help from all members. If anyone has suggestions as to how to accomplish my goals please send them via e-mail or letter to me. Two major projects for this year are the NY State Memorial for lost submarines and submariners which will be chaired by Bob Ondek; hopefully with the help of so many members he won't know how to keep them all busy. The second project, on a much smaller scale, will be to build a replica of a WWII boat sail that we can use as a float in the parades we attend. We have the drawing. All we need is material and manpower. This one could be lots of fun.

So my message is, let's get together and have a productive year and a fun year. I am wide open to suggestions. See you all at the next meeting.

John Cook - Base Commander

2006 Base Officers Installed



Ray Koch Fritz Feldhaus Fred Carlson John Cook

At the January meeting the Base Officers took the Oath of Office which was administered by District 5 Commander Al Singleman. We wish them the very best.

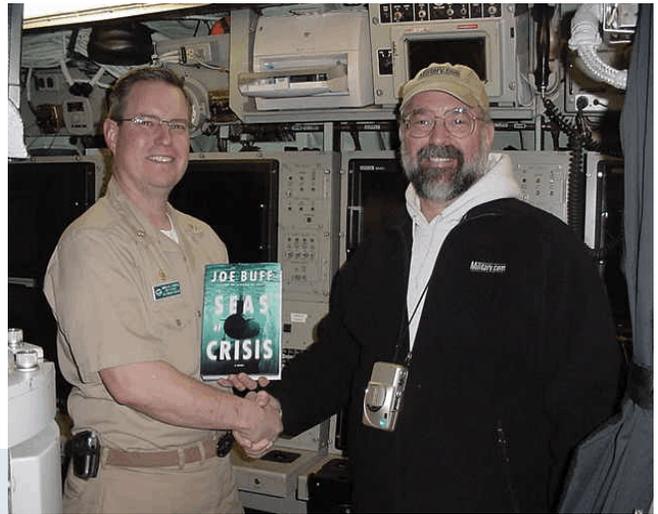


Photo: Author Joe Buff visits USS Springfield (SSN 761)

U.S. Navy photo, 4 February 2006

Military author and Albany-Saratoga Base member Joe Buff presents a memento to MMCM (SS) Paul Wierbonics, Chief of the Boat, USS Springfield (SSN 761) during a recent visit aboard the fast attack submarine. Built by the Electric Boat division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, USS Springfield is the 47th Los Angeles class SSN delivered to the U.S. Navy. Since her commission in 1993, Springfield has conducted eight deployments.

Be sure to read "Super Subs, Super people" by Joe Buff later in the newsletter.

Albany-Saratoga Base WWII SubVets

- Walt Bydairk
- Charles Carson
- Lou Drapalski
- Ralph Folger
- Gene Harvey
- Ray Koch
- Bill Whitney

Gentlemen - Thank you for a job well done!

Pride Runs Deep

<http://www.albany-saratoga-subvets.com/>

USSVI 2006 National Convention

This year the 2006 USSVI National Convention is scheduled to be held from September 5 - 10 in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Convention Chairman Ray Wewers and Co-Chairs Barbara Wewers, and Bob & Mary Christians are assuring everyone that the Convention will be a good one. So make your plans to attend.

First Ever 598 Class Boat Reunion

August 24 - 27, 2006 at the Groton Motor Inn and Suites located on Route 184 just off Interstate 95 on the Groton side of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge. Individual Boat Coordinators are as follows:

Ken Szablewski 598 Boat

(860)376-5238 E-mail: gwash598@juno.com

James Q. Warrick 599 Boat

(435)635-7659 E-mail: jwarrick@infowest.com

Jim Irwin 600 Boat

(518)383-2481 E-mail: jirwin1@nycap.rr.com

Tim VeArd 601 Boat

(321) 722-9919 E-mail: tveard@ssbn601.com

Doc McCance 602 Boat

(860) 464-6758 E-mail: 11doc@comcast.net

If you are interested or would like more details contact Jim Irwin

National WWII Memorial

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of

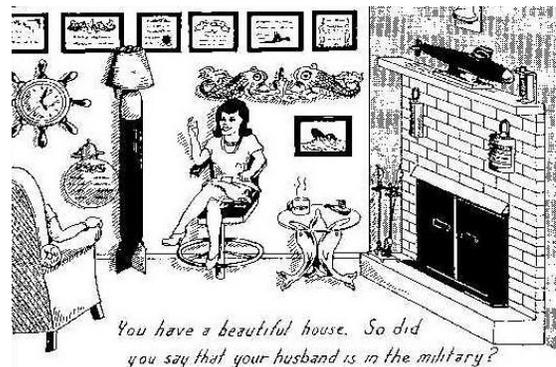
the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people. The Second World War is the only 20th Century event commemorated on the National Mall's central axis.

The memorial opened to the public on April 29, 2004 and was dedicated one month later on May 29. It is located on 17th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues, and is flanked by the Washington Monument to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. For more information about visiting the memorial, accessibility, parking, directions, special events and other details, please visit the National Park Service Web site at www.nps.gov/nwwm or call the Park Service at (202) 619-7222

World War II Memorial Registry

To search the electronic World War II Registry of Americans who contributed to the war effort, or add the name of a loved one, visit the Memorial's web site at: <http://www.wiimemorial.com/>

Thanks to Base member Mike Lynett for the preceding information. Mike tells us it's fast and easy to add a name to the registry.



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SUPER SUBS, SUPER PEOPLE

By
Joe Buff

Since their creation over a century ago, submarines have always ranked among any nation's most high-tech and important warfighting tools. Today, with the Global War on Terror and emerging naval threats like China, that couldn't be more true. Breathtakingly advanced combat sensors, state of the art data processing systems with displays so sophisticated they're classified, and genuine, operational weapons that seem to come from science fiction all define key features of America's nuclear submarine fleet.

But all the fancy technology can blind us to the importance of the people who design, build, maintain, and use this equipment to achieve our country's indispensable defense goals. Watch any old war movie and you'll see World War II diesel boats depicted as hives of human activity by vivid characters that aren't just patriotic and courageous, but also colorful, irreverent, even flamboyant. Read the memoirs of the Smokeboat Sailors and you'll notice the same sort of people on every page, except they're real. But somewhere along the journey to nuclear power, the microchip, Trident II ballistic missiles, ultra-smart ADCAP torpedoes, and Tactical Tomahawks that network-centric platforms talk to by satellite and redirect to new targets while in flight, U.S. pop culture seems to have missed that it's people who make it all go. Flesh and blood people with aspirations, loved ones -- and daily practical concerns not so very different from yours and mine. These people range from designers and craftsmen at contractors now facing imminent pink slips, to qualified

submariners at the sharp tip of the spear on secret, high-risk, vital deployments. And the men are still definitely masters of the machines.

So what is today's generation of American submariners like? In the past half-year I've been privileged to visit USS DALLAS in dry-dock, USS VIRGINIA and USS SPRINGFIELD at their Groton piers, and also joined an underway on the newest SSBN-to-SSGN conversion, USS OHIO. The skippers exude quiet competence and confidence, and pride in their work and their ships, traits that they make contagious through subdued but unmistakable command presence and charisma. Chiefs -- who always ran the Navy and always will -- are gregarious yet demanding, larger than life, and as likely to have a master's degree in something or other as they are to have arms covered with tattoos. Enlisted men, like their superiors, these days come in all sizes, colors, shapes, and personalities. They're probably the best educated young submariners the U.S. has ever sent off to sea. The quality of their training, through computerized team simulators on land, and continuing education programs they run on their laptops while under the ocean, would astonish Dolphin-wearers who did their own service in yesteryear.

Without these terrific guys -- some still pimply-faced teenagers, some fighting middle-age spread -- all the gadgetry and the hulls that contain them would be just hyper-expensive heaps of ineffective, useless junk. Never forget that it's the super people who put the "super" in super sub!

Best selling author Joe Buff is a member of Albany-Saratoga Base and a Life Member of USSVI.

SUPPORT THE USSVI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

USSVCF General Fund

The US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation General Fund was established to accept donations to the Charitable Foundation without a designated program recipient.

USSVCF Scholarship Fund

Your gift to the United States Submarine Veterans' Scholarship Fund can help a Submarine Veteran's child or grandchild; take their first step toward achieving their educational knowledge goals!

USSVCF Memorial Fund

The US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation established the Memorials Fund to act as a tax deductible means to aid Submarine related memorials and USN Museum Submarines.

USSVCF Brotherhood Fund

The proceeds from the US Submarine Veterans' Brotherhood Fund are used to assist needy active duty Submariners and their families as well as other helping projects.

USSVCF Library Fund

The US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation Library Fund was established to facilitate the procurement of submarine related books, videos, and other media. This material will be stored and available for loan from the St. Mary's Museum, which is located in King's Bay, GA.

Submariners Helping Submariners



USS Ohio Returns as SSGN 726



USS Ohio is the first SSGN converted from an SSBN and will provide transformational capabilities to joint warfighters. Ohio and the other three SSGNs still undergoing conversion will be able to launch up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, conduct sustained Special Forces operations, support up to 102 Special Operations Forces (SOF) personnel for short durations or 66 SOF personnel for sustained operations, and provide 67% operational availability forward deployed in support of combatant commanders' mission requirements. The other three submarines: USS Florida (SSGN 728), USS Michigan (SSGN 727), and USS Georgia (SSGN 729) will be converted to SSGN through 2007.



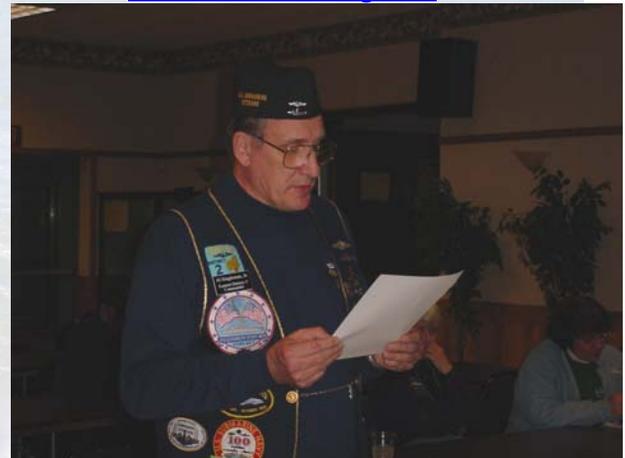
Submarine Factoid Trivia

- 1 - More decorations for valor have been awarded, per man, to the submarine service than any other Navy Branch.
- 2 - Per cubic inch, there is more science packed into a submarine than into any other warship. Submariners say 'There is room for everything aboard a submarine except a mistake.'
- 3 - In clear water, a submerged submarine can be spotted from the air at depths up to 100 feet.
- 4 - The USS NAUTILUS steamed 60,000 miles on a lump of Uranium the size of a golf ball. A diesel powered submarine would have required 3,000,000 gallons or 300 railway tank cars of oil.
- 5 - One of the first women to submerge in a submarine is believed to have been Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross.
- 6 - True or False - The "Kaiten" was one of the deadliest midget submarines used by the Imperial Japanese Navy. (False - It was actually a piloted torpedo used as a suicidal weapon)
- 7 - Sean Connery, co-star of the movie **Hunt for Red October** and something of a stud in all his movies, declined the opportunity to go for an actual ride in a submarine while the movie was being filmed. The gossip around

the subs used in the movie was that he was afraid of going underwater in a submarine.

New USSVI Eastern District Commander

Congratulations to Albany-Saratoga Base member Al Singleman who was appointed to the position of Eastern District 5 Commander. His District is comprised of all seven Bases in New York State. Al will be putting a lot of miles on his car in the coming year. If you need to contact Al, he can be reached at (518) 355-2119 or by Email at al@awards4sailing.com.



District 5 Commander Al Singleman administers the Oath of Office to the 2006 Albany-Saratoga Base Officers

42nd Anniversary of USSVI

Groton Base will be hosting the USSVI's 42nd Anniversary weekend running from Thursday May 4th through Saturday May 6th, 2006. The theme for the weekend will be the 30th Anniversary of 688 Class Submarines and the 25th Anniversary of Trident Class Submarines.

For additional questions/information contact **John Wynn** at (860) 691-2425 or anniversary@subvetsgroton.org, or **John Carcioppolo** (860) 464-8770 or commander@subvetsgroton.org

Don't miss out on the next issue of this newsletter - be sure your 2006 dues are paid in full!

What is the Green C Award?

Congratulations to the USS Albany SSN 753 for earning the Communication Green C Award. This award is given in recognition of the superior work performance in the Communication field that makes outstanding battle efficiency possible. Nice Job Albany!



Storekeeper's Corner

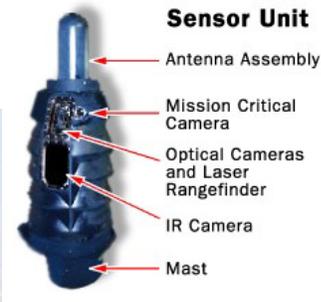
Base Storekeeper Diane Singleman would like to remind everyone that she has a wide assortment of items available for purchase. They include sweatshirts, golf shirts, ball caps, and garrison hats all professionally embroidered with USSVI and Base information. She also has a wide variety of miscellaneous pins and patches. You can contact Diane at 355-2119 or by email at diane@awards4sailing.com or you can normally catch up with her at Base meetings.

Periscope vs. Photonic Masts

Crews onboard a submarine can spend months at sea, submerged, with no way to catch even a single glimpse of sunlight -- the only window to the outside world is the eyepiece of the periscope in the control room. The periscope is a fundamental piece of submarine equipment, and provides valuable visual data during battle and in determining the ship's position.

Despite its valued service for more than 80 years, the U.S. Navy will soon say "so long"

to the conventional periscope. In 1999, construction began on a new breed of attack submarines that won't have a periscope. Instead, these new Virginia-class submarines are now using non-penetrating imaging devices called photonics masts to perform surveillance tasks.



There are two problems with conventional optical periscopes. First, a periscope well runs the entire height of the ship to house the periscope, and its size restricts the arrangement of the sail and interior compartments. The second problem is that a periscope can accommodate only one person.

Each new submarine is now equipped with two photonics masts, which are basically arrays of high-resolution cameras that capture and send visual images to flat-panel displays in the control room.

Images are recorded on both video cassette and CD-ROM.

The photonics mast is the latest tool to be added to the United States' electronic-warfare arsenal. This new technology will make the Virginia-class submarines the most advanced and automated submarines in the naval fleet.

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter or have an idea for something you'd like to see, contact Jim Irwin at 383-2481 or by email at jirwin1@nycap.rr.com

Albany-Saratoga Base salutes its members of the Holland Club.

- Walt Bydairk
- Fred Carlson
- Charles Carson
- Charles Cleveland (2006 inductee)
- Jack Cornell (2006 inductee)
- Vito DeLeonardis
- Frank Dorchak (2006 inductee)
- Lou Drapalski
- Ray Folger
- Tom Glenn
- Frank Hardick
- Gene Harvey
- Marv Hassell
- Ed Luther
- Bob Ondek
- Anthony Santiago
- Harry Terzian
- Bill Whitney



This represents nearly 20 % of our Base membership. Congratulations and thank you to all.



The line going into the Canfield Casino for the Welcome Aboard Party

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As John Cook said in his Commanders Letter on of our projects for the immediate future is the construction of a float for use in parades and other events in which we participate. The present plans for the float are the deck area and a sail of a WWII era boat. We have a blueprint of the USS Growler that we can use for a model and now we need you. We have a trailer that has been donated but we need more ideas and more manpower. If you are willing to help out by working on the float or if you have any contact with a vendor who would be willing to donate some lumber or other materials for the project please contact either John Cook (518) 583-4688 or Al Singleman (518) 355-2119.

We also need donation of several interior luan type doors. These will be used for our displays. Al Singleman will hinge them together so they can be unfolded and used for display tables for displaying the Base Memorabilia. Contact Al for the particulars. Please help your Base - We need you!

Let's finish up with Some Memories of the 2004 (the best ever) USSVI Convention



Al Singleman leading Albany-Saratoga Base in the parade

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