



SubVets Scuttlebutt

Albany-Saratoga Base Newsletter
Winter/Spring 2007 Volume 2 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."

Qualification in submarines is a daunting task. However, once finished you become part of a fellowship that can only be understood by those who have done it themselves. That can only be truly recognized by the very small and special group of men that have the pride and honor of calling themselves SUBMARINERS.

2007 Albany-Saratoga Base Officers

Base Commander - Al Singleman
Sr. Vice Commander - Fritz Feldhaus
Jr. Vice Commander - Ray Koch
Secretary - Mike Lynett
Treasurer - Fred Carlson

Don't miss Joe Buff's latest article on the USS Cavalla "One Sub Has Five Careers" - beginning on page 3

Albany-Saratoga Base Officers for 2007 are sworn in by ED-5 Commander

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 21 - Regular meeting
April 11 - Submarine Day Ceremony
April 14 - 107th Submarine Birthday Celebration - Hudson Valley Base
April 18 Regular meeting
May 16 - Regular meeting

Welcome New Base Members

John Christopher - Ballston Lake
David Moyer - Saratoga Springs



At the January meeting the 2007 Base officers were sworn in by ED-5 Commander Jim Irwin. From left to right above are Ray Koch - Jr. Vice Commander, Al Singleman - Base Commander, Fritz Feldhaus - Sr. Vice Commander, Fred Carlson - Treasurer, Mike Lynette - Secretary and Jim Irwin.

Pride Runs Deep

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

In Search Of!

Let's preserve the memories. As most of you are aware the Albany-Saratoga Base's planned NY State Memorial will include a library and museum area. Although we are still in the early planning stages and are several years from its completion, we are always on the lookout for potential museum display and library items.

We are looking for real submarine artifacts from the attic. Remember that item you saved from the decommissioning shipyard scrap man? Don't let it go into the hometown landfill now. We need to preserve our history.

Please get the word out in any way you can think of that we are interested. Talk with friends and relatives, other Veterans groups, members of other Bases, Church groups, anyone you can think of and let them know that we are looking for any Submarine related material. We don't want these valuable items ending up in a landfill or being sold on e-Bay. We want them to be preserved for everyone to enjoy and to appreciate.

Please contact the new Memorial Committee Chairman Al Singleman at 355-2119 if you have any questions.

A NOTE FROM THE BASE CHAPLAIN

Please contact our Base Chaplain to notify her of any members who are sick or otherwise incapacitated so she can send a card. You can send her an email at ijanet1@hotmail.com or call her at 383-2481 and leave a message.

Commander's Log

Shipmates:

We are off to a good start for the New Year. As of March 2, 2007 there are only 6 members who have not re-upped and paid their 2007 dues out of 101 members. WELL DONE TO ALL!!!

The process of forming the Albany-Saratoga Sub Vets Memorial Foundation is

moving along nicely. On February 12, 2007 we were granted a Provisional Charter of Incorporation by the NYS Education Department. The Charter is for both a Foundation and a Museum and is good for five years. After that time we have to apply for an extension or a final Incorporation. Step #1 complete. Step # 2 is the 1023 IRS form for the 501(3)c. If all goes well we should be a 501(3)c by the end of July.

Our next event is the April 11th Tolling of the Boats at the Ballston Spa Municipal Building # 5. I have reserved the space from 1100-1500. We are trying to get some high profile State and Local Politicians to speak and show up.

February's Meeting was the first time I showed a movie in the chow hall during a meeting. It seemed to go over well and I plan to continue doing this by showing Silent Service clips, and video clips of interest. Along with these clips I intend to show members how to check out the USSVI website, check their data and review base or USSVI documents. For those of you who can not make the monthly meetings please check the E-mailed minutes for up coming events and information. That's it for now. Pride Runs Deep. - Al

Robert J. Ondek

On December 2, 2006 Robert J. Ondek departed on Eternal Patrol. Bob was not only a member of Albany-Saratoga Base, he was a shipmate, and he was most of all a friend. Bob



was a driving force in the formation of the Albany-Saratoga Base. He was a former Base Commander and he was an integral part of the 2004 USSVI Convention Committee. Anyone who attended the National Convention in Saratoga

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will remember his smiling face as he rode up and down Broadway on either his golf cart or his scooter.

He organized not only the Convention Parade, but he put together the Convention yearbook, the parade handbook, and he organized the concert in the park.

Bob was born in Bridgeport, CT on July 2, 1930. He graduated from Bridgeport High School and went on to graduate from Union College in Schenectady NY with a Bachelors Degree and from George Washington University in Washington, DC with his Masters. Bob served for eight years in the Navy as an Electronics Technician, and then for fourteen years in the Air Force (we forgive you Bob) as a chemical engineer. He qualified on the USS Irex SS-482 in 1950 and also served on USS Tang SS-563, USS Queenfish SS-393, and USS Seawolf SSN-575. Bob attended the Nuclear Prototype Training Unit in West Milton, NY and was a member of the very first graduating class. After his retirement from the military, Bob worked at Knolls Atomic Power Lab as a health physicists until his retirement.

Perhaps Bob's greatest passion was the establishment of the New York State Submariners Memorial, the project of which he was presently serving as chairman. The Albany-Saratoga Base has formed a Memorial



Foundation and will be establishing this Memorial. Outwardly it will have the appearance of a submarine with decks awash. Inside it will house the memorial, a library, a museum area, a meeting space, and an

archive storage area. It was his vision to create this memorial to honor all New York State Submariners who had lost their lives while serving their country as members of the

Submarine Service. He along with Paul Wittmer has spent literally 1000's of hours researching countless sources to identify these names. He was still working on this at the time of his death.

If you would like to honor Bob with either a monetary donation or a submarine artifact you would like to have exhibited when the Memorial is completed you can contact Al Singleman 355-2119 or al@awards4sailing.com or Jim Irwin 518-383-2481 or jirwin1@nycap.rr.com

Base Birthdays

January 7 - Frank Hardick, 12 - Will Asher, 23 - Edward Huether

February 4 - Robert Bailey, 6 - John Andrews, 7 - Bill Mackey, 9 - Bill Preece, 14 - Chickie Barden

March 3 - Ted Curley, 4 - Jim Albert, 7 - Charlie Cleveland, 13 - Margaret Koch, 16 - Fred Carlson, Jeremy Boord, 18 - Gus Negus, 26 - Cindi Mackey, 29 - Bill Whitney, Kurt Semon

ONE SUB HAS FIVE CAREERS

By Joe Buff

Last month my wife Sheila and I were privileged to visit USS CAVALLA, SS-244, at Seawolf Park in Galveston, Texas. For more than sixty years now, CAVALLA worked hard as a U.S. Navy warship in three distinctly different ways, followed by her service as a museum ship -- while also acting as backdrop to an important Submarine Memorial. This resume of different jobs held by a single vessel is testimony to the ongoing and very fine tradition of innovation and adaptability by American submarines and all the men who crew them.

USS CAVALLA was commissioned on February 29, 1944. During six war patrols against Imperial Japan, she sank 34,180 tons

of enemy shipping. Her greatest achievement during the Second World War was to sink the carrier SHOKAKU, a major player in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Then one national security era transitioned to the next. The end of World War II led quickly to the start of the Cold War. New enemies needed to be contained, deterred, and spied on in whole new ways. CAVALLA answered the call. The GATO-class fleet boat went through major modifications to start her second career. For better submerged speed and quieting, her deck armaments were removed. Two of her forward torpedo tubes, and one of her three diesel engines, were also taken out. This latter might seem odd for a ship intended to go once again in harm's way. But it was done to be able to build in revolutionary new combat and surveillance capabilities. The tubes made way for a brand-new bow sonar array, whose electronics -- cutting edge stuff in those days -- were installed aft in the footprint where that big diesel had sat. CAVALLA went back to war as an SSK, a hunter-killer, against the Evil Empire of the Soviet Union, a war which to submariners was never really "cold."

In 1963 the reliable lady CAVALLA went through some further upgrades and was re-designated again, as AGSS-244. Now she was an experimental antisubmarine research vessel, a vital role as the Cold War became ever more high tech. In 1971 she was retired from active duty and began her fourth career, in Galveston, as a museum ship, being gradually restored toward mint condition inside and out by the loving hands of submariners and enthusiasts -- efforts which continue today.

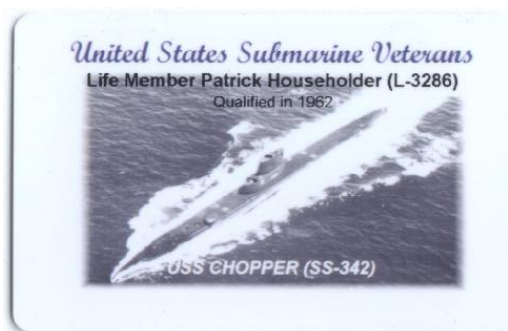
Now the Cold War is over, and the War on Terror rages, yet CAVALLA still serves to educate and inspire the public about the exciting, ever changing contributions of the Silent Service. She also fulfills a more somber

purpose. Beside her is a stepped plaza including plaques memorializing each of the diesel boats lost in World War II. In this way CAVALLA, by no means retired, fulfills the Creed of the U.S. Submarine Veterans.

SUPPORT THE USSVI'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.DONATE NOW.

Life Member Personalized Membership Card Program

In FY 2002 USSVI initiated a new fundraising program to benefit the US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation General Fund. This program offers the USSVI Life Members the opportunity to have a personalized membership card. The card will include a picture of the submarine of your choice.



Example

A \$50.00 donation to the Foundation General Fund is a requirement to obtain this card. In the event that you are not presently a Life Member, you may update your membership at the same time by including the dues payment according to your age group with your request. To find out the Life Membership fee for your age group please contact the USSVI National Office for details.

Base Christmas Party

At the December meeting the members attending collected unwrapped toys for the Toys of Tots program. Shown below is the results of their effort. Well done shipmates!



After the meeting was over the members and their guests enjoyed a variety of terrific food. Everyone brought a dish to share and a good time was had by all.



About 25 members and guests of Albany-Saratoga Base were on hand to enjoy all the good food after the December meeting. A variety of salads, Hors d'oeuvres, breads, meats, cheeses, and deserts were served.

The 2007 USSVI Convention is drawing near - Don't miss your opportunity!

Bremerton Base & AAA invite you to join your shipmates and their guests who have already signed up to take part in this alluring adventure! Spend a week exploring the stunning **Inside Passage of Alaska** on board Holland America's gorgeous cruise ship, the *ms Oosterdam*.

Hear the crack of calving glaciers before they crash into the ice-blue waters. Revel in the thrill of being the first to see an enormous breaching humpback whale. Relax and enjoy being pampered on board ship as America's last great wilderness slips by one historic port city after another.

Don't wait to make your reservations. The best cabins are filling up fast!



Contact Information:

Kim Boekenoogen
 AAA Travel Services
 Email: KimBoekenoogen@aaawin.com
 Phone: (360) 475-3061 • 1-877-802-6894

SUB VETS LICENSE PLATES



Show them who we are. Would you like a Sub Vet License Plate? In New York State, if you are a member of USSVI in good standing you are eligible for an Organizational license plate. It will display the Sub Vets logo and identify you as a United States Submarine Veteran. If you are interested or you would like additional

information you can contact Mike Carmody from Long Island Base at 631-669-6967.

Sneak Peek of our new Parade Float



It is almost ready for its first parade. Will you be ready? Past Commander John Cook along with some help from Frank Dorchak has been busy designing and building our parade float. Frank Hardick designed the trailer it will be carried on. If everything goes as planned it will be ready for the Memorial Day Parade.

President Gerald R. Ford

Former President Gerald R. Ford, 93, passed away on Dec. 26, 2006 at his home in Rancho Mirage, California. The accompanying photo is



of Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Ford in uniform 1945, who later became the 38th President of the United States (1974-1977). Ford received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S Naval Reserve on April 13, 1942 and later

participated in many actions in the Pacific aboard the fast aircraft carrier USS Monterey (CVL 26). He was eventually released from active duty under honorable conditions in Feb. 1946.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

The USS Ethan Allen, (SSBN-608) operating in the Pacific as a unit of Joint Task Force 8 Operation Frigate-Bird, fired the only nuclear-armed POLARIS missile ever launched on 6 May 1962. A POLARIS A1 missile was launched from the USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608) while submerged in the Pacific, and its nuclear warhead was detonated over the South Pacific at the end of its programmed flight. The shot was made during the 1962 atomic tests and hit "right in the pickle barrel." The captain of the 608 was Paul Lacy, and ADM Levering Smith was aboard. To date, this is the only complete proof test of a U.S. strategic missile.

Navy Practices Nuclear Sub Escape

Navy News | December 06, 2006

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (NNS) -- Seven personnel practiced locking out from the attack submarine USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) and ascending to the surface wearing special suits that are designed to enable a free ascent from a stricken submarine Dec. 2 during ESCAPEX at the Navy's Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility in Ketchikan, Alaska.

While several foreign navies practice the maneuver routinely, the U.S. Navy had not conducted it in more than three decades, and never from a nuclear-powered submarine.

The Navy's renewed interest in submarine escape comes as U.S. submarines operate more frequently now in shallow coastal waters, said Submarine Development Squadron (CSDS) 5

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Commander Capt. Butch Howard, who oversaw the exercise. "Today, submarines spend a greater amount of time in the littorals or shallow water, which supports the overall concept of escaping from a possible distressed submarine," said Howard. "It's imperative that our sub crews be familiar and comfortable with this operating procedure no matter how remote the potential for its use."

The MK10 Submarine Escape Immersion Equipment, or SEIE, allows survivors to escape a disabled submarine at depths down to 600 feet, at a rate of eight or more men per hour. It is designed to enable a free ascent from a stricken submarine and provides protection for the submariner on reaching the surface until rescued. The assembly is comprised of a submarine escape and immersion suit, an inner thermal liner and a gas inflated single seat life raft, all contained in an outer protective stowage compartment.

For the exercise, Los Angeles embarked six U.S. Navy divers, as well as a British diver from the Royal Navy. The submarine submerged to 130 feet, where each of the seven divers donned the SEIE suits, entered the escape trunk, and ascended.

Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SW) Sean Daoust, a submarine escape instructor at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn., was the first to ascend. Daoust said he was honored to be the first to escape from a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine, and couldn't wait to return to his students with his firsthand knowledge.

"I teach this procedure on a daily basis," said Daoust. "I have a lot of confidence in the system. Now I can show them the data and the statistics so it will benefit them, because if you see one of your shipmates being blasted out of a submarine, it's the best way to ensure them the system works."

After Daoust, there were three tandem escapes. Los Angeles crew member Fire

Control Technician 2nd Class (SS) Gary Halsey was one of the Sailors given the chance to participate in a tandem escape. While thrilled at the experience, Halsey also said it was reassuring to know that the escape system works.

"Not many people get to do things like this in their whole Navy career," said Halsey. "The SEIE worked great, which instilled confidence, not to mention being very comforting to all of us working on submarines."

Cmdr. Erik Burian, commanding officer of Los Angeles, attributed the exercise's success to his crew's tremendous skill and professionalism. He said he was grateful that the namesake of the Los Angeles class was the boat selected to do the exercise.

Submariners can have an added degree of confidence in knowing that the SEIE suits on U.S. submarines can save them in the unlikely event of a stranding, said Howard.

"As a result of ESCAPEX, we've confirmed the procedures and our SEIE suits work," he said. "The ship and the folks at SEAFAC [Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility] did a great job."

In addition to the team from CSDS 5, Los Angeles and SEAFAC, the ESCAPEX team was made up of members of numerous commands, including Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, Naval Sea Systems Command and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11.

America loses Nautilus Submarine Hero

William Robert Anderson, 85, of Leesburg, a retired Navy captain who in 1958 commanded the submarine USS Nautilus on the first voyage in history from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the North Pole, died Feb. 25 at Inova Loudoun Hospital. Capt. Anderson was born June 17, 1921, in Bakerville, Tennessee, graduated from the Columbia

Military Academy in 1939 and the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942.

He received instruction at the U.S. Navy Submarine School in New London, Conn., and served aboard submarines in World War II and the Korean War and during peacetime. On April 30, 1957, he was ordered to duty as commanding officer of the Nautilus, the first atomic-powered submarine, and on June 19, 1957 became its captain. The next year, he and his crew of 115 made their historic voyage across the Arctic, passing under the ice at the North Pole on Aug. 3, 1958. They received international attention and presidential citations and awards.

Albany-Saratoga Base historical items

Base members, please look through your file cabinets, dressers, basements, briefcases, and anywhere else you may have stored early Base documents. We are putting together archives of the history of our Base from the beginning. We are looking for early newspaper articles, photos, or anything pertaining to the Base plus copies of the following months meeting minutes - August 2000, September 2000, October 2000, November 2000, December 2000, and January 2001. If you have any of them please contact Jim Irwin or Al Singleman.

Attack submarine USS Virginia (SSN 774) is covered in snow and moored to the pier at Submarine Base New London



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Aerial view of NTPU in West Milton



ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE SUMMER PICNIC/OUTING

The August meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base will be held on August 25th at Lanthier's Grove in Latham New York and will include a picnic lunch and dinner. The outing is a fully catered all day event and runs from 12:00 noon until 8:30pm. There is a break between the lunch portion and dinner portion of the outing during which we will hold our regular meeting. The cost of the event will run between \$33.50 and \$40.00 per person depending on your choice of dinners. (See the attached flyer) **Everything** is included. Additionally all Albany-Saratoga Base members will receive \$5.00 off the indicated prices. Non Base members and guests will pay full price. **Anyone wishing to attend must be paid in full no later than July 18th at the Base meeting.** Your money (checks made out to Albany-Saratoga Sub Vets) and your dinner choices should be sent to Jim Irwin, 1557 Crescent Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065 before the deadline. If you have any questions please contact Jim at 383-2481. We plan to have either raffles and/or auctions so if you have anything you would like to donate please let me know when you send in your reservations. You can also sign up at the meetings.