



SubVets Scuttlebutt

Albany-Saratoga Base Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2007 Volume 2 Number 2

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

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

August 5 - Sub Base trip with Hudson Valley
August 25 - Base Picnic
September 12 - US Army Field Band (SPAC)
October 9 - USO Show - Saratoga City Center

Welcome New Base Members

Tom Kelley - Saratoga Springs
Ray Misiewicz - Clifton Park
Donald Savino - Greenville
David Wolf - Clifton Park
Donald Amorosi - South Glens Falls

Don't miss Joe Buff's latest article "Lack of Submarine Production Brings Dangerous Risks" - beginning on page 3

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.

Pride Runs Deep

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

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

So far this summer the Base has had a good showing of members at the meetings. The silent Service videos and Ray's talks have been a big hit. We have done 2 parades so far with 2 more to go and I hope as many members as possible will take part. We have been getting new members at a rate of about one a month and these new members are taking part in Base meeting and events. One new member, Donald Amorosi, is helping the Base take part in USSVI's KAPSS4KIDSS program through Paul Newman's and Charlie Woods Double H Ranch. He is donating hats to the program and the Base is using its' half of the 50/50 raffle to buy hats to support the program. I just got a letter from the IRS saying they need more info on our charter and other items. I called the contact person and it seems the IRS never checked the enclosed documents we sent them thru our CPA. After 15 minutes she called back and told me she was walking our paper work down the hall and we should have the Foundation 501(3)c in about 3 weeks. So much for Government work!

Well I hope all of you are have a great summer and I'll see you at the Base Picnic or the September meeting. - Al

Lois J. Bydairk

The members of the Albany-Saratoga Base mourn the loss of Lois Bydairk who passed away on April 7, 2007. Lois was the wife of past Base Commander Walt Bydairk. Lois is survived by her husband Walt and their children, Brett, Tracey, and Wendy. Lois was a Korean War veteran and an active member of the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery Honor Guard. We will all miss her very much.

Base Birthdays

April 2 - Mike Frasl, 5 - John Cook, 12 - Craig Parvu, 16 - Roy Purtell, 17 - Joe Kuehn, 30 - George Derway

May 8 - Peter Masterson, 12 - Charles White, 16 - **Albany Saratoga Base**, 23 - Christopher Duryea, 25 - Fritz Feldhaus

June 1 - Charles Wojton, 7 - Clark Shafer, 8 - Anthony Santiago, 10 - John Cornell, 12 - Charlie Carson, Gene Harvey, 14 - Walt Bydairk, 16 - Shawn Patrick, 17 - Mike Stoneback, 18 - Bruce Mitchell, 21 - Walt Barden, 26 - David Moyer

July 2 - Ken Schunk, 3 - Tomas Alberts, 5 - Craig Weber, 9 - John Malasky, 11 - Walt Forney, 15 - Randy Stein, 22 - Joe Buff, 26 - Lou Drapalski



16 May 2007 marked the Bases 7th Anniversary

LACK OF SUBMARINE PRODUCTION BRINGS DANGEROUS RISKS

By Joe Buff

[Originally published in The Day, New London, CT, on 10 June 2007. Copyright by The Day, reproduced here with permission.]

If the past five centuries of geopolitical history teach one unchanging lesson, it's that maritime superiority vacuums get filled by emerging rivals in a destabilizing, warlike way. The United States at present appears dangerously close to long-term decline in at least one crucial arena of transoceanic defense preparedness. The ability to sustain a Submarine Force rightsized for national needs -- as one organic part of a properly balanced U.S. Navy -- is endangered by a confluence of nearly inescapable trends in timing, funding, manpower, and international competition. The looming shortfall in American undersea power puts at risk global standards of living, and could even impair worldwide life expectancies. Will the submarine industrial base wither away due to lack of enough work to sustain its critical mass of unique, ultra- high-value personnel expertise? The Catch 22 is that unless we as a country take active steps soon, we might permanently lose the ability to ever regain the ground lost in sub platform capabilities and numbers -- relative to already projected needs -- in the out-years of the current longterm shipbuilding plan.

The greater undersea warfare community, and other interested parties, have for some time been actively debating how to redress the significant shortfall, anticipated on a 2030 timeframe, between advanced nuclear powered fast-attack subs required (48) vice the number actually expected to be in commission then (only 40). A promising avenue to help plug this gap is to raise the Virginia-class build rate, boosting it from one per year to two per year earlier than the officially planned 2012.

Doing so demands both a reduction in unit price and a steady multi-year increase in funding. The U.S. Navy and the industrial base are working very hard to lower costs, while Members of Congress struggle to free up the money. Later in 2007, a decision will be made whether to appropriate enough extra cash to start building a second Virginia in 2010. The capacity to do so is there if the financial wherewithall is forthcoming.

But last year, the opportunity was lost to procure more Virginias as early as 2009 when the necessary Congressional appropriations failed to pass. In fact the original time intended to buy and build two Virginias annually had been 2002. Due to repeated deferrals, it slipped by a full decade.

Had these slippages never occurred, we would not now be looking at a future gap of 8 near-Virginia-equivalent subs, and would not now be forced to ponder the vexed question of redressing this substantial cumulative inadequacy. Nor would we be facing the permanent erosion of advanced nuclear-powered submarine design and construction talent caused by repeated layoffs which were in turn forced by the insufficient build rate.

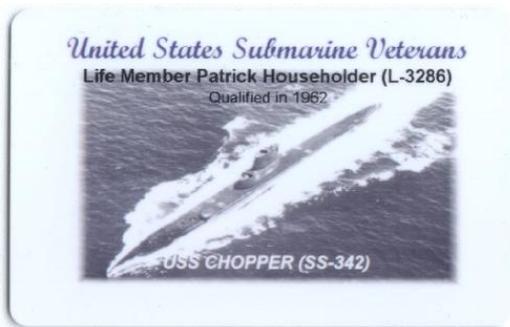
Decisive action is required promptly to keep this troubling Catch 22 from becoming an irrecoverable crunch. It will surely be much less expensive to America in the long run, and less risky to world peace, to appropriate sufficient funds for that second Virginia starting in 2010.

**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 members line up next to our parade float just prior to the Memorial Day Parade. We had a great turnout - 27 members and 2 grand kids.



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USS Hawaii (SSN-776) Commissioned

On May 5, 2007, America's newest attack submarine was placed into commission.

The third submarine of the Virginia class, SSN 776 will bear the name Hawaii to recognize the tremendous support the Navy has enjoyed from the people of the Aloha State and in honor of the rich heritage of submarines in the Pacific Theatre.

Admiral Gary Roughead, Commander, US Pacific Fleet delivered the ceremony's principal address. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle was the sponsor of Hawaii the state's namesake submarine. The ceremony was highlighted by the time honored Navy tradition when Gov. Lingle gave the first order to "Man our ship and bring her to life!"

Hawaii has improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that will enable it to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements. Hawaii's capabilities include anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, special operations forces delivery and support, and covert mine warfare. In addition to these mission areas, Hawaii will be able to strike targets ashore with precision Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other maritime forces. With enhanced communications connectivity, the submarine also will provide unique, fully-integrated strike group and joint task force support.



"The addition of USS Hawaii to the fleet provides needed capability to meet the challenges of the future," said Navy Secretary Donald C. Winter. "This ship's stealth, endurance, flexibility, and lethality, combined with a highly trained and ready crew, make for the most robust undersea warfare capability in the world."

Capt. David A. Solms, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., is the ship's commanding officer and will lead a crew of approximately 134 officers and enlisted personnel.

Submarine facts and trivia

There are now three types of nuclear-powered attack submarines in the Navy: the Los Angeles, Seawolf and Virginia classes. There also are 14 larger Ohio-class Trident nuclear ballistic missile boats. Four of them have or are being converted to carry conventional guided missiles, with an additional capability to transport and support special operations.

Unlike conventional submarines, the Virginia Class has no periscope, using a photonics mast with a camera instead. Its nuclear reactor is fueled for the life of the ship -- 30-plus years. Currently, the Navy's attack sub force of 53 is split almost evenly, with 28 boats prowling the waters of the Atlantic and 25 in the Pacific. By 2010 there will be 31 nuclear-powered attack subs in the Pacific Fleet and 21 assigned to the Atlantic Fleet.

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.

New Eagle Scout

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout Matthew J. West from Troop 15 in Richmondville, NY. Matthew was presented with his Eagle Scout award at a ceremony held on May 26th in Cobleskill. For his Eagle project Matthew did renovations in the old Cobleskill library building to accommodate the Head Start program. If you know of an Eagle Scout and would like to have him presented with a certificate from the Albany-Saratoga Base, please contact Base Commander Al Singleman or Jim Irwin.

Last Navy Veteran of WWI

Lloyd Brown, the last known surviving World War I Navy veteran, has died. He was 105. Mr. Brown died Thursday March 31st at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in St. Mary's County, according to family and the US Naval District in Washington.



The deaths leave three known survivors who served in the Army and a fourth who lives in Washington State but served in the Canadian Army, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Brown was born Oct. 7, 1901, in Lutie, Mo., a small farming town in the Ozarks. His family later moved to Chadwick, Missouri. In 1918, 16-year-old Mr. Brown lied about his age to join

the Navy and was soon on the gun crew on the battleship USS New Hampshire.

"All the young men were going in the service," Mr. Brown told The [Baltimore] Sun in a 2005 interview. "They were making the headlines, the boys that enlisted. And all the girls liked someone in uniform."

Mr. Brown finished his tour of duty in 1919, took a break for a couple of years, and then reenlisted. He learned to play the cello at a musician's school in Norfolk, Va., and was assigned to an admiral's 10-piece chamber orchestra aboard the USS Seattle. When Mr. Brown ended his Navy career in 1925, he joined the Washington Fire Department's Engine Company 16, which served the White House and embassies. He married twice and had a son and daughter from one marriage and two daughters from the other. Even after reaching 100, Mr. Brown remained independent, living alone in his Charlotte Hall bungalow and driving a golf cart around his neighborhood.

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.

Albany-Saratoga Base historical items

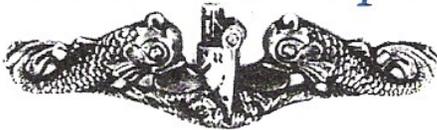
Base members, please look through your file cabinets, dressers, basements, briefcases, and anywhere else you may have stored early Base documents. We are putting together archives of the history of our Base from the beginning. We are looking for early newspaper articles, photos, or anything pertaining 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.



The crew of Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Albany (SSN 753) moors the submarine to the dock in Norfolk as they return home from a six-month deployment. Albany participated in the first mission in the Gulf of Guinea and directly supported counter-narco-terrorism operations in the Caribbean.

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ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE SUMMER PICNIC/OUTING

There will be no regular meeting of the Base on the 3rd Wednesday of August. The Base will conduct their August meeting 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.

21 June 2007 Fast-attack submarine USS Seawolf (SSN 21) sails past downtown New London as she makes her way out of the Thames River and into the Long Island Sound. The submarine departed Naval Submarine Base New London for the last time on her way to a new homeport at Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, Washington. Seawolf, commissioned in 1997, is relocating after 10 years of service as part of the submarine force realignment process.



We mourn the loss of Admiral Fluckey

Rear Admiral Eugene Fluckey, one of the greatest naval heroes of World War II who was awarded the Medal of Honor and four Navy Crosses for his daring submarine attacks on Japanese shipping, died June 28, 2007 at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Maryland. He was 93 and had Alzheimer's disease.

Admiral Fluckey, a native of Washington, was a pioneer of submarine warfare and among the most highly decorated veterans from any branch of the military.

In 1944 and 1945, as commander of the USS Barb, he became a Navy legend for his nighttime raids that sank dozens of enemy

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ships along the east coast of China. His bold forays were complicated by continual barrages from Japanese airplanes and boats and by shallow waters that often forced him to bring his submarine to the surface.

On Jan. 25, 1945, Admiral Fluckey embarked on what Navy officials, seldom given to hyperbole, called "virtually a suicide mission -- a naval epic." In "an exceptional feat of brilliant deduction and bold tracking," in the words of his Medal of Honor citation, Admiral Fluckey found more than 30 Japanese vessels in a concealed harbor protected by mines and rocky shoals.

Evading a cordon of armed escort boats, the Barb slipped into the harbor on a moonless, cloudy night and scored eight direct torpedo hits on six large ships. One of them was an ammunition vessel, which exploded and caused "inestimable damage by the resultant flying shells," according to the Medal of Honor citation.

The Barb fled at high speed "through uncharted rocky waters thick with fishing junks," pursued by two Japanese gunboats. Because of the shallow water, the submarine had to stay on the surface, dodging obstacles and steady fire for a full hour before reaching the safe depths of the open sea.

On one mission, Admiral Fluckey selected eight commandos from his crew to paddle ashore in rubber boats and place a 55-pound bomb under railroad ties on the northern Japanese island then called Karafuto. As the men were rowing back to the Barb in darkness, the pressure-sensitive charge blew up a 16-car troop train. It was the only time in World War II that US forces set foot on the soil of the Japanese home islands.

Admiral Fluckey and his 80-man crew were credited with sinking 29 ships, including an aircraft carrier, destroyer, and cruiser. He destroyed more gross tonnage than any other

submarine commander. For his wartime exploits, he became known as "Lucky Fluckey" and the "Galloping Ghost of the China Coast."

Admiral Fluckey sometimes violated Navy regulations by stashing cases of beer in the officers' shower. Whenever the Barb sank a ship, everyone on board was entitled to a cold beer.

In addition to the Medal of Honor and Navy Crosses (second only to the Medal of Honor), Admiral Fluckey received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and a host of lesser decorations. His greatest achievement, he often said, was that no one under his command ever received another well-known medal: the Purple Heart.

Eugene Bennett Fluckey was born Oct. 5, 1913. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1935. He was nearsighted and knew he would have to leave the academy if he failed an eye exam. After studying optics, he designed a pair of glasses for himself and, with exercises, restored his vision to 20-20.

He joined the submarine corps in 1938 and served in the Pacific before taking command of the Barb. After the war, he became the personal aide to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, the chief of naval operations.

Later in his career, Admiral Fluckey served as director of naval intelligence and commanded amphibious units and the Navy's Pacific submarine force. He headed the electrical engineering department at the Naval Academy and led a fund-raising campaign for the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

His wife, Marjorie, died in 1979 after 42 years of marriage.

Admiral Fluckey leaves his wife, Margaret, of Annapolis, Md.; a daughter from his first marriage, Barbara Bove of Annapolis and Summerfield, Fla.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.