



Underway in WESTERN DISTRICT 4

VOL 3 Issue 1 June 2011



WD4 Commander's Comments

Shipmates and Friends,
NEWS FLASH ! THE TRAVELING DOLPHINS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED FROM BREMERTON BY SOUTH SOUND BASE !

It's time to 'think summer' as winter and spring were long, cold and very wet. Bases are showing off their floats in parades and other events and I'm visiting Bases within District 4.

District Commander elections are upon us. Voting starts July 1st and will be concluded by the end of August.

I wish you all a fun summer and hope your membership recruiting and fundraising efforts are very successful.

I am open to comments and constructive criticisms when appropriate. My phone numbers are:
(253) 202-6433 Cell
(360) 569-0507 Home (no cell coverage)
Email: johnss377@yahoo.com
Fraternally,
John Mansfield, 2011
WRD4 Commander

WD 4 Base Commanders 2011

- Blueback Base - Ray Lough
- Bremerton Base – David Niemy
- Central Oregon Base – Johnny Corbin
- Olympic Peninsula Base – John Clear
- Seattle Base – Keith Watson
- Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC) Bob Oppl
- South Sound Base – David Richards
- Yakima Base – Mark Briggs



**111 Years of Silent Service
and Going Strong**



WD4 – Base Meeting Schedules

Blueback Base – 2nd Thu 1900
VFW Post #4248, 7118 SE Fern,
Portland, OR 97206

Bremerton Base – 3rd Tue 1900
Fleet Reserve Association 521 S.
National Ave., Bremerton, WA 98312

Central Oregon Base – 3rd Sat 1400
VFW Post #4108, 1836 SW Veteran’s
Way, Redmond, OR 97756

Olympic Peninsula Base – 3rd Thu
VFW Post 7498
31 Matheson St.
Port Hadlock, WA 98339

Seattle Base – 3rd Wed 1900
VFW Post 2995 4330 148th Ave NE,
Redmond, WA 98052

Silent Service Motorcycle Club
(Internet Base)
Robert Opple
12708 Sunbreak Way NE
Redmond WA 98053
425-968-2037
Bopple@aol.com

South Sound Base – 2nd Thu 1900
VFW Post #969
3510 E. McKinley Ave
Tacoma, WA 98404

Yakima Base – 2nd Sat 1830
American Legion Post 36
1120 N 34th Ave
Yakima, WA 98902

June Lost Boats
USS Herring (SS-233) 1944
R-12 (SS-89) 1943
USS Golet (SS-361) 1944
USS Bonefish (SS-223) 1945
S-27 (SS-132) 1942
O-9 (SS-70) 1941
USS Runner (SS-275) 1943
Sailors Rest Your Oars.

Western Region District 4 Activities



Olympic Peninsula Base

At their January 20th meeting, awards, plaques and gifts were presented to Olympic Peninsula Base members in honor of the Base’s 1st year anniversary. Refreshments were served. Congrats OPB.

I attended Olympic Peninsula’s Base meeting on April 21st and a great BBQ at John & Millie Clear’s home on April 23rd where VADM Roger Bacon entertained guests with his stories. There were members from Blueback, Bremerton and South Sound Bases in attendance.





WRD4 Commander John Mansfield presenting a copy of his book “Cruisers For Breakfast: War Patrols of the USS Darter and USS Dace” to VADM Roger Bacon.

VADM Bacon generously donated 130 boat and unit wall plaques for the Base’s online auction fundraiser that has already produced more than \$2,200. Submarine Memorabilia, Inc. operates the fundraiser. If you have items to donate to their program, contact Base Commander, John Clear.



USSVI Past National Commander, Patrick Householder reads Holland Club certificates to Dan Martini & John Clear as WRD4 Commander John Mansfield observes.

Past National Commander, Patrick Householder and I performed a Holland Club induction ceremony for Olympic Peninsula Base Commander, John Clear and his long time friend Dan Martini on June 16th. They have known each other since “Boot Camp” in 1960. Welcome to the Holland Club, Shipmates.

OPB is being very visible by having their torpedo float in no fewer than five

parades this year. A great way to show our organization’s colors.



Yakima Base

Yakima Base Commander, Mark Briggs inducted two USS Tang (SS-563) shipmates, Richard Womack & Rob Jacobsen, into the Holland Club at their April meeting. Both men qualified in 1961. Congratulations Shipmates.

Base members were in the Yakima Memorial Day Parade on May 28th.

Joel Cooper continues to publish “The Snorkel,” keeping everyone informed of Base events, new members, birthdays, anniversaries, monthly tolling of the boats, local happenings and information from national and global submarine related stories.

On June 18th, several Base members participated in the “Cast For Kids” fishing program at Sarge Hubbard Park.

Yakima members held their June meeting in Ellensburg at the “Bar 14 Restaurant.” It gave folks in that area a chance to meet closer to home. Their annual Base Picnic will also be in Ellensburg on September 10th.

At the end of meetings members hold 50/50 raffles and also offer books, DVDs and other donated items as prizes.





South Sound Base has been busy with a variety of activities. Six members visited the USS Blueback museum boat at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry on February 26th. It was a great tour and brought back many memories of diesel boat life.

On their way back to Tacoma the group toured the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, with amazing displays of memorabilia and artifacts from the Revolutionary War to present day. One of the largest U.S. flags ever made hangs on a wall. It is 30 feet x 60 feet and was used as the backdrop for President George W. Bush's visit on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.



South Sound Base Members Mike Robb, Mike Ellis, Dave Richards, John Mansfield, Gary Dillard and Greg Lee at Blueback

South Sound Base began having "Soup Downs," modeled after Bremerton Base's very successful social program. Members, spouses and guests have met at The Homestead, Harbor Lights, Spuds, and Poodle Dog restaurants, and

The Beach Tavern. Everyone has a great time sharing sea stories and adventures.

Members of South Sound Base made their fourth Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) visit to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma on April 13th. They presented Ball caps, certificates and photos to 20 smiling children. Always a very rewarding event. Hospital Child Life Specialists there are awesome to work with.



Danielle was very excited about receiving her Honorary Submariner ball cap, certificate and photo.

The Base also held its annual Memorial Day Fundraiser at the South Puyallup WalMart on May 30th, raising nearly \$400.00 for their youth activities and community service projects. Three potential new members stopped by to say hello and were given applications and invitations to attend meetings.



SSB Members John Mansfield, Mike Robb, Dave Richards, Jon Schoenfeld, Mike Ellis & Greg Lee



Bremerton Base

Bremerton Base, the largest in District 4 continues to grow. I attended their April 19th meeting at the Fleet Reserve Association. It was great to see new and younger members get involved by volunteering to hold positions of office and on committees. Their “Bonefish” float and members appeared in the “Armed Forces Appreciation Day” parade which always draws large crowds.

Don “Red” Bassler keeps everyone informed as to Base goings on through his weekly “Gertrude Checks.” The Base newsletter, “Puget Soundings” is outstanding. The Base also has an awesome website with a home page that includes, meeting minutes, newsletters, events, Soup Down schedules, storekeeper information, a history of the base, Bonefish history and a list of Base supporters.

On May 7th, Base members installed 27 memorial bricks on the simulated deck of the Woodrow Wilson at Deterrent Park on the base at Bangor. If you wish to honor someone or a group, the request form is also on the Base website.



Bremerton Base members participated in the annual “Dolphin Dash”, a fundraiser in which they brought in \$1,000 for the Scholarship Fund.

Their big fundraiser of the year is the week of June 28th to July 4th in which they sell fireworks from their stand at the QFC store in Bremerton.

At their meeting June 21st, Bremerton Base presented eight \$1,000 “Lt. “William ‘Willie’ Spoon” Memorial scholarships to high school and college students. Hearing of their accomplishments, GPA’s and colleges they plan to attend makes one feel that there is hope for our country yet. Refreshments and libations were also available.



‘Willie’ Spoon Scholarship Winners



Blueback Base continues to have almost 50 members at meetings which is awesome for a base of their size. Members are involved in many community and veterans support programs, sending care packages to the troops in Afghanistan. They can always

use books, magazines, puzzle books, cards, candy, stationary, tea bags, beef jerky, gum, wet wipes, bug wipes, personal hygiene items, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, DVD's, computer games and small U.S. flags.

At their February meeting 15 year longevity pins were presented to members. Members participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Beaverton, site of the Albacore Memorial.



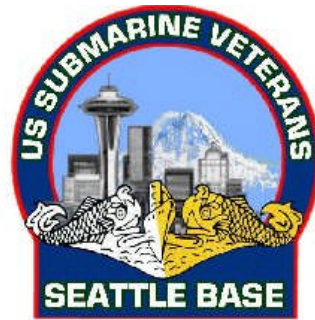
The base sells personalized bricks for \$75 each to honor the Albacore crew. There is a form on the Base website at www.bluebackbase.org.

Blueback Base held a submarine veterans luncheon on February 16th at the Hillsboro Elks.

Dinners are prepared and served by women volunteers at Base meetings with proceeds going to the annual Christmas party.

Blueback's float will appear in the 4th of July Parade in Molalla and Bald Eagle Days parade on July 16th in Cathlamet, Washington.

Base member Dan Mallory was inducted into the Holland Club at the March meeting. He qualified on the USS Cusk (SS348) in 1961 and lives in Walla Walla, Washington.



Seattle Base always has a very active schedule and great guest speakers at their meetings and special events.

Base members and their submarine float appeared in the Bremerton Armed Forces Appreciation Day parade on May 21st, had a booth at the "Cruzin' to Colby" car show on May 29th and held a Memorial Day ceremony at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent on May 30th. The National Veterans cemetery is located at 18600 SE 240th Street.

Seattle Base publishes a great bi-monthly newsletter, "The Dolphin Brotherhood" and they have a 'Blog' that you can visit by going to <http://seattlebase.blogspot.com>. It has Base news, updates with links to old issues of newsletters.

Members held their annual fundraiser at Smokey Point rest stop June 10th through 13th where they provided coffee, tea, lemonade and cookies to weary travelers for donations. Smokey Point is just north of Marysville on I-5. I was told they raised around \$1,000. Great job, Shipmates.

Seattle Base will be holding a special recognition meeting on the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in December.

In another fundraiser, Base members are selling raffle tickets for a cut-away wood plaque of a Gato, Balao or Tench class boat, or a LaFayette class SSBN of the winner's choice. The plaques are beautifully micro-carved 3-Dimensional pieces of art valued at \$295.00.

At their May meeting, member Angus McDonald gave an excellent talk on the loss of Scorpion and the book he wrote on the subject.

Don Ulmer, another Seattle Base member, is also an author and has published "Cold War Beneath", "Silent Battleground" and "Shadows of Heroes."

I read in their latest newsletter that the Muckleshoot Casino has a 'free' breakfast buffet for veterans and their spouse or guest from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily.



Central Oregon Base has a new member, Dick Pratt, brother of Jerry Pratt, a South Sound Base member. Dick qualified on USS Pickrel SS-524. I grew up, went to school and was a member of the Charles N. Curtis sea scout ship with the Pratt brothers in Tacoma.

Base members continue to hold their "Meat Raffles" as fundraisers. They offer \$50 and \$25 certificates for meat as 1st and 2nd prizes. Proceeds are used to purchase computer "Netbooks" which they present to local high school JROTC programs in La Pine, Prineville, Madras, Redmond and Bend. They are going to sell tickets this year at the Deschutes County Fair, which will also give the group some exposure and recruiting.

Their Base newsletter, "Down Bubble", published by member extraordinaire, "Rick" Brose, is filled with news from around the submarine service, main

stories that hit the news, points of interest and Base store items.

Members from the Base laid a wreath at the Redmond cemetery during Memorial Day services.

Central Oregon Base will be holding their annual Picnic on July 9th at Rick & Deb Brose's home, 16759 Gross Drive, Bend, OR 97707. Email Rick at 'etnav2ss@crestviewcable.com' to let him know if you'll be attending.



Silent Service Motorcycle Club
Internet Base
(SSMC)

WRD4 Commander John Mansfield received the charter for the new Silent Service Motorcycle Club Internet Base. At present they have 220+ members in 15 Chapters with riders in 34 states around the country, including Hawaii. Their headquarters operates out of Redmond, Washington. Bob Opplé is the President of SSMC.

Robert Opplé, 12708 Sunbreak Way NE, Redmond WA 98053, 425-968-2037, Bopple@aol.com

SSMC has a website and a Facebook page. Members are gearing up for a big ride to the USSVI convention in Norfolk, Virginia next year (2012).

Their web address is:

www.ussvi.org/base/SSMC.asp

WD4 Commander Mailing Address:

**John Mansfield
56407 383rd Ave Ct E.
Ashford, WA 98304**

Traveling Dolphins

South Sound Base Commander, Dave Richards, WRD4 Commander, John Mansfield and Jon Schoenfeld captured the “Traveling Dolphins” from Bremerton Base and took them across the Narrows Bridge back to Tacoma where they originated. They will remain there until captured by another Base.



Bremerton Base Commander, Dave Niemy begrudgingly gives up the traveling dolphins to Jon Schoenfeld and South Sound Base Commander, Dave Richards and WRD Commander John Mansfield.

USSVI National Convention

The host Base is the OZARK/RUNNER BASE. The Convention Chairman is Ron Athey TMC (SS) USN Ret (rondo_94590@yahoo.com or 1-417-763-0935).

The convention website is www.ussvispringfieldmo.com.

The host city is Springfield, Mo. The Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) can be reached at 1-800-678-8767 or www.Travel-Springfield.com. They are looking forward to helping you with information or answering any of your questions regarding this area.

Please feel free to contact them. Our “Home Port” will be the UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL and Convention Center (1-417-864-7333 or

www.upspringfield.com). Alternate “Berthing” is available at the CLARION HOTEL (1-800-756-7318; 1-714-883-6550; www.springfieldclarion.com) or at the DOUBLETREE HOTEL (A Hilton Hotel) (1-800-222-tree; 1-417-831-3131). Rooms are \$99 per night and parking is complimentary.

The USS LAPON (SSN661) Sail and Submarine Memorial and Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 Memorials are located in Springfield. The local Veterans of the American Legion, VFW and FRA are also looking forward to welcoming you. Green/Straight Board and Dry Bilges Ronald L. Athey TMC(SS) USN Ret Base Commander, Convention Chairman Ozark-Runner Base USSVI Host Base , 2011 USSVI National Convention.

WRD Coming To The Northwest



Western Region Director Jim Dunn and “Bunkmate” Jean have begun their trek north in a new RV. They will be stopping in Portland, Oregon for a month, then mosey on up to Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington, where they’ll make home base for three weeks, (approximately July 20th through August 11th), then a week up at Jim Creek. We are discussing holding a function for Jim & Jean while they are in the area. One idea was to organize a “Baseball Night” at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma; another was possibly a Saturday luncheon at the “Horse & Cow” in Bremerton. Other

suggestions from District 4 Bases are welcome.



Submarine Birthday Ball in Seattle

About 950 Submarine sailors, their wives, girlfriends, families and guests held their Annual Birthday Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on April 16th.

There were many traditional activities, awards, a banquet and dancing.

Paul Christofferson, U.S. Submarine Veteran of WWII, his wife and John Mansfield, WRD4 Commander were VIP guests.



R to L: WRD4 Commander, John Mansfield, COMSUBGRU 9 RADM Bob Hennegan, Tami Hennegan, Paul Christofferson, Aecha Christofferson

It was amazing to see the honor and respect shown us during the entire evening. Paul, the longest qualified subvet, (USS Raton SS-270 1944) was asked on stage to assist in awarding a



Seattle Base
Happy 95th Birthday "Erv" Schmidt



newly qualified 2nd class his dolphins. Paul was also asked to participate in the traditional cake cutting ceremony.

It was fun to hear shouts back and forth around the ballroom from various 'boat' crews, that got louder as the evening progressed. Command Master Chief, Rick Atkins was an excellent host and his complimentary tickets to us submarine veterans were appreciated.



CMDCM(SS) Command Master Chief, Rick Atkins, Paul & Aecha Christofferson

RM to RM's

I was honored to be guest speaker to the last graduating class of radiomen at the Trident Training Facility on March 22nd. I attended RM-A school for six months at the Naval Training Center (NTC) in San Diego in 1961. We learned and practiced copying morse code, message handling procedures and limited equipment maintenance. We studied ACP's (Allied Communications Procedure) manuals and memorized Bravo and Zulu signals.

When I asked the graduating class if they had to copy morse code; they just looked at each other and laughed.



Last graduating class of RM's at TTF
South Sound Base Commander, Dave Richards (far right).

I left the group with an old saying that was over my comcenter doorways when I was a communications officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (1966-1992); "Without Commo, You're Nothing." By the way, the fastest I could copy five-letter code groups was 34 words per minute. Anything faster than that messed my head up. I did know a few guys who could copy plain language at 50 wpm but they copied whole words; way beyond my scope.



Decklog.com

It is the goal of USSVI that every person who qualified aboard a US submarine be recognized within Decklog, and especially when our crewmember shipmates pass away, that the date of death be entered on their decklog record.

When this is done, their record automatically also appears under the ETERNAL PATROL record section at www.ussvi.org, for posterity whether they were a member of USSVI or not.

There are nearly 89,000 submariners recorded in Decklog, and approximately 19,000 are listed on eternal patrol.

You can help see these shipmates get the permanent recognition they deserve by logging into

www.decklog.com/boats/tools.asp and updating their record when they go on eternal patrol. The line to update is the first line of their record, then click save at the bottom.

The website referenced above is a special access point for specific authorized persons only. Contact Pat Householder if you are unsure about the process, at: pat_h@ussvi.org or call at 425-392-0440.

A Good Sailor Bar

A must read for all former sailors. This is no doubt one of the best descriptions of a good sailor bar that I have ever read. Whoever wrote this certainly knew what he was talking about. Talk about walking (or crawling) down memory lane.

Our favorite liberty bars were unlike no other watering holes or dens of iniquity inhabited by seagoing men. They had to meet strict standards to be in compliance with the acceptable requirement for a sailor beer-swilling dump. The first and foremost requirement was a crusty old gal serving suds. She had to be able to wrestle King Kong to parade rest. Be able to balance a tray with one hand, knock sailors out of the way with the other hand and skillfully navigate through a roomful of milling around drunks. On slow nights, she had to be the kind of gal who would give you a back scratch or put her foot on the table so you could admire her new ankle bracelet some "mook" brought her back from a Hong Kong liberty.

A good barmaid had to be able to whisper sweet nothings in your young sailor ear like, "I love you no s--t, You buy me Honda?"

"Buy a pack of Clorets and chew up the whole thing before you get within heaving

range of any gal you ever want to see again."

And, from the crusty old gal behind the bar "Hey animals, I know we have a crowd tonight, but if any of you guys find the head facilities fully occupied and start pissing down the floor drain, you're gonna find yourself scrubbing the deck with your white hats!"

The barmaids had to be able to admire great tattoos, look at pictures of ugly bucktooth kids and smile. Be able to help haul drunks to cabs and comfort 19 year-olds who had lost someone he thought loved him in a dark corner booth. They could look at your ship's identification shoulder tab and tell you the names of the Skippers back to the time you were a Cub Scout.

If you came in after a late night maintenance problem and fell asleep with a half eaten Slim-Jim in your hand, they tucked your peacoat around you, put out the cigarette you left burning in the ashtray and replaced the warm draft you left sitting on the table with a cold one when you woke up. Why?

Simply because they were one of the few people on the face of the earth that knew what you did, and appreciated what you were doing. And if you treated them like a decent human being and didn't drive 'em nuts by playing songs they hated on the juke box, they would lean over the back of the booth and park their soft, warm tits on your neck when they sat two San Miguel beers in front of you.

And the Imported table wipe down guy and glass washer, trash dumper, deck swabber and paper towel replacer. The guy had to have baggy tweed pants and a gold tooth and a grin like a 1950 Buick. And a name like "Ramon", "Juan", "Pedro" or "Tico". He had to smoke unfiltered Luckies, Camels or Raleighs. He wiped the tables down with a sour wash rag that smelled like a billy goats crotch and always said, "How are choo navee

mans tonight? He was the indispensable man. The guy with credentials that allowed him to borrow Slim-Jims, Beer Nuts and pickled hard boiled eggs from other beer joints when they ran out where he worked.

The establishment itself. The place had to have walls covered with ship and squadron plaques. The walls were adorned with enlarged unit patches and the dates of previous deployments. A dozen or more old, yellowed photographs of fellows named "Buster", "Chicago", "P-Boat Barney", "Flaming Hooker Harry", "Malone", "Honshu Harry", "Jackson", "Douche Bag Doug", and "Capt Slade Cutter" decorated any unused space. It had to have the obligatory Michelob, Pabst Blue Ribbon and "Beer Nuts sold here" neon signs. An eight-ball mystery beer tap handle and signs reading:

"Your mother does not work here, so clean away your frickin' trash."

"Keep your hands off the barmaid."

"Don't throw butts in the urinal."

"Barmaid's word is final in settling bets."

"Take your fights out in the alley behind the bar!"

"Owner reserves the right to waltz your worthless sorry ass outside."

"Shipmates are responsible for riding herd on their ship/squadron drunks."

This was typical signage found in any good liberty bar.

You had to have a juke box built along the lines of a Sherman tank loaded with Hank Williams, Mother Maybelle Carter, Johnny Horton, Johnny Cash and twenty other crooning goobers nobody ever heard of. The damn thing has to have "La Bamba", Herb Alpert's "Lonely Bull" and Johnny Cash's "Don't take your guns to town".

The furniture in a real good liberty bar had to be made from coal mine shoring lumber and was not fully acceptable until it had 600 cigarette burns and your ship's numbers or "F**k the Navy" carved into

it. The bar had to have a brass foot rail and at least six Slim-Jim containers, an oversized glass cookie jar full of Beer-Nuts, a jar of pickled hard boiled eggs that could produce rectal gas emissions that could shut down a sorority party, and big glass containers full of something called Pickled Pigs Feet and Polish Sausage. Only drunk Chiefs and starving Ethiopians ate pickled pig's feet and unless the last three feet of your colon had been manufactured by Midas, you didn't want to get anywhere near the Polish Napalm Dogs.

No liberty bar was complete without a couple of hundred faded ship or airplane pictures and a "Shut the hell up!" sign taped on the mirror behind the bar along with several rather tasteless naked lady pictures. The pool table felt had to have at least three strategic rips as a result of drunken competitors and balls that looked as if a gorilla baby had teethed on them. Liberty bars were home and it didn't matter what country, state, or city you were in. When you walked into a good liberty bar, you felt at home.

These were also establishments where 19 year-old kids received an education available nowhere else on earth. You learned how to "tell" and "listen" to sea stories.

You learned about sex at \$10.00 a pop -- from professional ladies who taught you things your high school biology teacher didn't know were anatomically possible. You learned how to make a two cushion bank shot and how to toss down a beer and shot of Sun Torry known as a "depth charge."

We were young, and a helluva long way from home. We were pulling down crappy wages for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a-week availability and loving the life we lived. We didn't know it at the time, but our association with the men we served with forged us into the men we became. And a lot of that association took

place in bars where we shared the stories accumulated in our, up to then, short lives. We learned about women and that life could be tough on a gal.

While many of our classmates were attending college, we were getting an education slicing through the green rolling seas in WestPac, experiencing the orgasmic rush of a night catapult shot, the heart pounding drama of the return to the ship with the gut wrenching arrestment to a pitching deck. The hours of tedium, boring holes in the sky late at night, experiencing the periodic discomfort of turbulence, marveling at the creation of St. Elmo's Fire, and sometimes having our reverie interrupted with stark terror.

But when we came ashore on liberty, we could rub shoulders with some of the finest men we would ever know, in bars our mothers would never have approved of, in saloons and cabarets that would live in our memories forever.

Long live those liberties in WestPac and in the Med - They were the greatest!
Qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum
(Author unknown, but he sounds like carrier or (target to us sub sailors) sailor.)

Laughlin WRD/DC Conference

Western Region Director Jim Dunn held a District Commanders Conference in Laughlin, Nevada April 13th & 14th. We had lovely rooms at the Aquarius Casino & Resort.

Jim spoke on USSVI National topics and each District Commander gave a briefing on their Bases and activities.

We covered topics on Dues & Dinks, Decklog.com, the Missing In America Project, Base visitations, Traveling Dolphins, Boat Sponsorship Program, Requests for Reimbursement and Itineraries forms, Memorials and USSVI Media Attention.



Ken Earls, President of the International Submariners Association was an observer at the conference and filled us in on upcoming conferences.

This year's ISA conference was in Turkey. If you are interested in joining ISA, please do so because Ken said that Life Membership dues are going up. Their website is www.isa.org

History of ISA

In the early sixties, two key men in the international submarine environment, the Frenchman Commander Jean Blanchard and the German Commander Adalbert Schnee had the opportunity to meet. They both had brilliantly served on submarines during the Second World War.

Schnee, a key man in the German submarine force was decorated with medals of merit. The two men shared their common experiences in submarines and became friends. The harsh reality of the war, in which they had fought on opposite sides with courage and determination was now over and they found strong ties of solidarity and understanding.

As a result of this strong understanding, they planned to arrange a meeting between the submariners from both countries. It is not known which of the two made the proposal first, but it is certain that the other one accepted immediately with such enthusiasm that perhaps he himself was about to ask the same thing. We can say that it was a

spiritual need, like a surge from the soul deeply felt by both men.

Hence, in the spring of 1962 the first meeting took place in Paris, the success was so great that the following year another was arranged in the same place.

Meanwhile the two Commanders got in touch with Admiral Parona, Commander of the Atlantic base of Italian boats in Bordeaux, who gladly decided to join the initiative. So, from 1963, the year of the second meeting in Paris there was a numerous participation of Italian Submariners. The first Italian meeting took place in Venice in 1965.

Since then these meetings have taken place every year in rotation, starting in Germany then France and then Italy, with the only exceptions of 1968 and 1996.

After a few years Austria, Great Britain and the United States decided to join. In recent years we have been joined by Russia, Poland, Chile, and the Ukraine. This year We were joined by Israel and Argentina. We are delighted to see our "family" growing.

We all feel real harmony, the brotherhood, and the solidarity that derives from us all being "sailors" and "submariners" and from our common experiences of life at sea, besides, of course, our strengthened friendship which has developed throughout the years.

This atmosphere is very much in tune with the times we are living, an era characterized by an ever growing international flow of cultural, economic, political and tourist exchanges between various European and other nations, in search of a more stable integration stability and peace.

The late Commander Schnee at NATO headquarters in Paris during the 5th meeting [1966] uttered words which are

indelible in everyone's minds and hearts, words which now seem prophetic: There is someone who wants to build Europe starting from above us submariners will build it from below, the abyss. Without doubt. the "construction" of Europe goes ahead, not lacking problems, in the belief that it should not stop. But us submariners can affirm in all modesty but with pride, that "our" Europe," our" World are already born.

James C S Blakely
President ISA Gt.Britain

48th International Submariners

Congress

Istanbul Turkey, 2011

Haifa Isreal 2010
San Diego 2009
Gdynia 2008
Cherbourg 2007
Moscow 2006
Mar del plata 2005
Odessa 2004
Chatham 2003

Fundraiser Potential is 50%

My daughter, Jadene Kearney came to South Sound Base's June meeting and gave a brief presentation on a fundraising program sponsored by the PartyLite company. It's called "Shine A Light on a Worthy Cause."

She brought sample candles, pamphlets, booklets and catalogs. They have a special offer for groups that want to raise funds, and here's how it works:

The special offer fundraising product packs are an 18 piece "Tealights" candle set for \$15.00. They have a total burn time of 108 hours; 12 "Votive" candles with glass holder for \$20.00, they burn a total of 120 hours; and, a "Jar Candle Pair" for \$20.00 that burns 70 hours total. The prices include shipping & handling but not local state taxes, which

would need to be calculated in the order, depending on which state you reside.

The Base gets 50% of the product sales (not including tax). There are 10 scents to choose from; Banana Leaf, Black Raspberry, Cedar Patchouli, Cherry Blossom, Essence of Lavender, French Vanilla, Ginger Pumpkin, Lemongrass, Mulberry and Seaside Mist.

If you know of someone that might be interested in this program, let me know. Johnss377@yahoo.com, or 253 202 6433 (cell).

You can see these and other products at their website: www.partylite.com.



Jadene Kearney

Well, that's about all the news for now. Note that I do not fill this newsletter with POC's or National notices that are sent to all members. I am always open to receiving articles from District 4 Bases, specially "Commander Bios" if you'd care to share. I hope everyone has a great summer and lots of fun at the National convention in Springfield, Missouri.

Smooth sailing, keep a steady bubble and a steady helm. Until next time; horses douvers.

John Mansfield
Western District 4 Commander