



Underway in WESTERN DISTRICT 4

VOL 3 Issue 2 December 2011



WD4 Commander's Comments

Shipmates and Friends,

Another year is behind us as we enter the Christmas Season. I'm very proud of all of You. Each Base in its own way has shown what our organization is all about; patriotism, comradeship, community service, spirit of achievement and fun. I visited all Bases in District 4 and it's been fun to watch the Traveling Dolphins make their way from Base to Base. **They are at South Sound Base waiting to be captured.**

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year in 2012.

I am open to suggestions, comments and constructive criticism when appropriate.

My phone numbers are:

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(360) 569-0507 Home (no cell coverage)

Email: johnss377@yahoo.com

Fraternally,

John Mansfield, WRD 4 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 Oppe

South Sound Base – David Richards

Yakima Base – Robert “Bobby” Rains



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 - 1830
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

December Lost Boats
2nd USS Capelin (SS 289) 1943
10th USS Sealion (SS 195) 1941
17th F-1 (SS 20) 1917
17th S-4 (SS 109) 1927
Sailors Rest Your Oars.

Western Region District 4 Activities



Olympic Peninsula Base

Olympic Peninsula Base continues their busy activities schedule and was honored with USSVI’s prestigious “Golden Anchor” Award for small bases with 50 members or less. USSVI Past National Commander, Patrick Householder and District 4 Commander, John Mansfield presented the award to Base Commander John Clear at OPB’s October meeting.



L to R: PNC Patrick Householder, OPB Base Commander, John Clear, WRD4 Commander, John Mansfield.

The Base holds quarterly “Potluck” meetings where members, their spouses and guests share delicious homemade

dishes and desserts. They also include raffles and slide shows using their large screen digital projector.

Members proudly displayed the Base 'torpedo' float in the 'Fathoms O' Fun Days', 'Port Hadlock Days', 'Whaling Days' and "Armed Forces Appreciation Day" parades and other events in the area this summer.

The Base held their 'Holiday Potluck' on December 15th.



Yakima Base

At Yakima Base's meeting on October 8th I was honored to reunite with Herb Brunkhorst, EM1(SS), a WWII hero who served on USS Darter (SS227) when they fired the first shot that started the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, on October 23, 1944. Herb related his historic tales to an awe inspired membership. He joined Yakima Base as a Life Member and is going to be inducted into the Holland Club.



**Herb with "Task Group M"
Battle Flag – Darter's 4th & Dace's 5th
War Patrol Wolpack Tallies.**

Joel Cooper, editor of Yakima's "Snorkel" newsletter, was recognized with an "Honorable Mention" in USSVI's national Newsletter of the Year award for small bases. He always puts a delicious 'recipe of the month' in the paper that adds a tasteful flare.

Their September 'Picnic Meeting' was held at the home of Don & Fran Rearden in Ellensburg. This afforded the opportunity for members in that area to attend that could not make the trip to Yakima.

Elections were held in which Sr. Vice Commander, Robert "Bobby" Rains was elected Commander. Congratulations "Bobby", the base is lucky to have you at the helm.



Yakima Base Commander Robert "Bobby" Rains

Many thanks to outgoing Commander, Mark Briggs, for your leadership, dedication and enthusiasm over the past two years. Well done !

The Base is working on designs for a float. They participate in several local parades and community events throughout the year.

A few members of Yakima Base traveled to Richland, Washington to attend the dedication of the USS Triton

sail, established as a memorial there. Several members ventured to Portland, Oregon to visit the USS Blueback at the OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science & Industry) and enjoyed revived olfactory smells of 'diesel boat' days.

Yakima has a facebook page and website which is giving them plenty of internet exposure.

The Base held their annual Christmas Party on December 10th.



South Sound Base

South Sound Base continues to be active in their veterans and community service programs.

On September 13th, Base members made their sixth semi annual visit to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital for the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program.



Greg Lee, Mike Ellis & John Mansfield with a patient (pink hat) and her sister.

Don 'Mac' Smith does a fine job in publishing the "Klaxon" newsletter, which is posted on the Base website. SSB is also on Facebook where current events and photos are posted.

Jon Cox, Base webmaster, does an awesome job of posting photos and information relating to member activities.

John Mansfield, Base Storekeeper, has raised more than \$1,300 through sales of cowboy hats, baseball caps, pins, books, T-shirts, bumper stickers, coffee mugs calendars and submarine related items. He also has the host VFW post selling cowboy and Seal Team 6 hats, adding considerably to Base coffers.

The Base is fortunate to have a top notch fisherman among its members, in Greg Lee, who offers packs of sealed smoked salmon he caught, that people rave about. He's raised more than \$100 for the Base Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program in donations through those efforts.

COMSUBGRU 9 CMDCM, Rick Atkins gave a very nice presentation at South Sound Base's September meeting. Rick was finishing up his naval career and retired on November 4th.

Base members marched in the Auburn Veterans parade on November 5th with others from Bremerton, Seattle and Silent Service Motorcycle Club Bases. It was a beautiful sunny but crisp day. The parade is the largest west of the



L to R: Bill Linn, SSMC Cascade Chapter President, Bob Opple, SSMC Commander, PNC Patrick Householder, Bremerton Base Commander, Dave Niemy, WRD4 Commander John Mansfield, Seattle Base Commander, Keith Watson.

On a cold, rainy Veterans Day, South Sound Base members raised \$607.00 in donations from customers at the South Puyallup WalMart. It's always fun to share sea stories and 'wave the submariner flag', which is very good PR for the Base and organization.

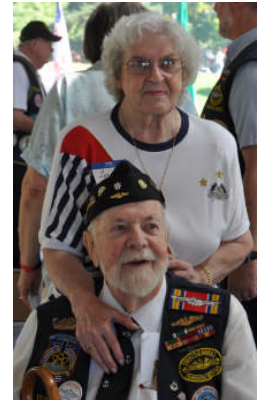


L to R: J. Mansfield, M. Robb, D. Richards, J Schoenfeld, M Ellis, Greg Lee



Seattle Base

Members of Seattle Base put on an excellent "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony, honoring local WWII submarine veterans and all lost boats at the Kirkland Marina on August 20th. I was honored to assist USSVI PNC, Patrick Householder, in reading the list of lost boats.



**"Robbie" & Terry Robertson
USSVWWII**



Base members appeared with their float in several parades and community events throughout summer and fall.



Seattle Base Float

Seattle Base held a very successful fundraising raffle of a framed submarine cutaway plaque.



Jim Harper and Balao Class Plaque

At one of their meetings seven Holland Club members were inducted. Thanks for your service, Shipmates.

The Base annual Christmas Luncheon was held December 17th at the Seattle Yacht Club.

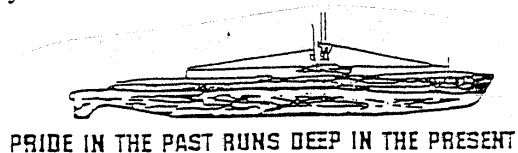
Base members had another very good fundraiser at the Smokey Point Rest Stop. They offer free cookies, lemonade, coffee and Tea to weary travelers who often make donations. This is an exceptional effort on the part of hardy members who man the station 24/7 for several days.

Seattle has had some very interesting guest speakers and power point presentations. The large screen projectors really add to Base meeting tolling of the boats. Olympic Peninsula Base also has this feature. South Sound Base is in the process of obtaining one as well.

Seattle Base's elections will be at their January meeting. Outgoing Commander, Keith Watson has done a stellar job for the past two years. BZ's to you, Keith.



The Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC) Internet Base continues to grow at a rapid pace. They have reached 300 members, doubling its size in just one year.



Although chartered as an internet Base, there are physical "Bubblehead Biker" chapters in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, Texas, Virginia and Washington with Ohio, Hawaii, Maine, Tennessee, Maryland, New Hampshire and Missouri units just about ready.

Washington's 'Cascade Chapter' went on several rides to various parts of the state, sponsoring kids programs, and social events. Chapter President, Bill Linn and wife Margie held a Breakfast Ride at their home between Chehalis and Longview, then members biked up to the Johnson Observatory on Mt St Helens.

SSMC Base president, Bob Opplé is organizing a 'Ride to USSVI's National Convention' in Norfolk next year with members from all over the country.

They have a very nice website (www.silent servicemc.com)

Six members of the Cascade chapter rode in the Auburn Veterans Parade with the other Bases.



Bubblehead Bikers ready for parade
SSMC Cascade Chapter had their Christmas Party at the Poodle Dog in Fife, Saturday, December 10th

Several Cascade members rode down to “Street Vibrations” in Reno, Nevada where 95,000 other bikers gathered.



L to R: Don Gentry, Bob Opple & John Mansfield

I presented SSMC’s Charter to Base president Bob Opple after Seattle Base’s Tolling of the Boats ceremony in Kirkland August 20th.

I introduced Seattle residents Carla Becker-Beasley and her husband Jim, who attended the Tolling of the Boats ceremony.



WRD4 John Mansfield, Carla Becker & Jim Beasley

Carla’s father, Karl Ernst Becker, was on the U-20 when it sank the Lusitania, an event that drew the U.S. into WWI.

Carla has been kind enough to let me browse through her father’s papers, letters and newspaper articles. Fascinating stuff. After WWI, Karl became a U.S. citizen and captained merchant ships during WWII.



Bremerton Base

Always busy, with many activities, Bremerton Base had their float in the ‘Bainbridge Island Grand Old Fourth of July Parade, Armed Forces Appreciation Day Parade, Auburn Veterans Parade and other events.



Bremerton’s “Bonefish” Float

They raised thousands of dollars in one week at their fireworks stand, allowing the Base to support many local activities and scholarships.

Bremerton Base held their annual picnic at Illahee State Park and did a brick laying ceremony at the Deterrent Park Memorial on base in Bangor. Info is on the Base website.

Members participated in the ‘4-man scramble’ at the 2nd Annual Patriots Day Submarine Veterans Golf Tournament.’

Sam Swenson, editor of the Base newsletter “Puget Soundings” was honored with 2nd runner up in USSVI’s national Newsletter of the Year Award for large bases. BZ’s Sam.

Bremerton celebrated their 30th Anniversary as a Base in conjunction with their annual Christmas Party and

Holland Club ceremony Saturday, December 10th at the MWR Khaki Club on NSB Bangor.

A nice feature at Bremerton meetings is to have a Base member get up and give a biography on himself as guest speaker. They are very informative and help everyone get to know more about each other's background.

Sr. Vice Commander, Jim DeMott was elected Base Commander and will be installed at their annual picnic next summer.

USSVI and Base Life Member, Scotty Fusco, CMDMC COMSUBDEV 5 was honored at his retirement ceremony on October 7th.

To promote their PR efforts in the local area, Base members have a table set up at the Trident Training Facility (TTF) every other month. They have storekeeper items and socialize with active duty sailors. They've picked up quite a few new members through those efforts.



Blueback Base

Blueback Base had their float in several parades over the summer and held their annual picnic August 13th in Oregon City.

Base members perform a monthly memorial ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery.

At their July meeting they performed a Holland Club Ceremony, inducting Herb

Loman. Western Region Director, Jim Dunn, was in attendance.

Base members also hold combined USSVWWII and USSVI luncheons.

Members participated in a 'Massing of the Colors' ceremony on October 30th.

I attended Blueback Base's meeting on November 10th and had a great time.



WRD4 Commander with Blueback Base Commander Ray Lough.

I arrived in Portland a couple of hours early, and paid a visit to Blueback at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI). She's in great shape and I got some awesome photos. Tours are given throughout the day.



Blueback Museum Boat



USS Menhaden (SS 377)



I ventured over treacherous snow-packed roads on Mt Hood to Redmond, Oregon for Central Oregon Base's meeting on November 19th.

It was very nice to see Dick Pratt, a relatively new member to the Base. He, his brother Jerry (a South Sound Base member), my brother Don and I were all in the sea scouts on the Charles N. Curtis (SES110) and in high school together. I hadn't seen Dick for 50 years. He qualified on Pickerel (SS 524) in 1964. Jerry qualified on Carbonero (SS 337). My brother Don and I qualified on Menhaden (SS 377), he in 1963 and I in 1964.

A bunch of us from high school belonged to SUBDIV 13-6 and had the USS Gurnard as our reserve boat. It was not seaworthy, so we road boats on weekends when they visited Tacoma from San Diego.

For a small Base, with just 17 members, Central Oregon Base does a lot of community service work. They've already provided four notebook computers to high school JROTC programs in the area and are getting ready to present a fifth.

They have a meat raffle drawing to raise funds for Base support programs.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Rick Brose, Base Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter editor, who underwent brain surgery to have a tumor removed. He is recovering with hospice care at

this time. Please keep Rick and his family in your prayers.



Rick Brose

I gave a small slide show to COB Base members with my 17" Panavue of activities from Bases throughout District 4. It lets others see what programs and activities are being used to recruit, raise funds and interact socially and in their local communities.

Base Commander, Johnny Corbin, talked about a new Sea Cadet program in the area that the Base is going to get involved with. I said I'd get him RADM Horton Smith's contact information because he has long been a supporter and active leader in Sea Cadet programs in the Seattle area for many years. He is a member of Seattle Base and has a weekly radio program. He's also a retired judge.



**L to R: Johnny Corbin, Dick Pratt, Lynda Corbin, Bob Peoples
WRD4 Commander John Mansfield**

I ventured over Santiam Pass to McMinnville, Oregon following the visit

to Central Oregon Base. I stayed overnight and next morning visited the Evergreen Aviation Museum. Wow !



What an awesome complex. It is the home of the 'Spruce Goose', the world's largest wooden plane, built by Howard Hughes. It has eight engines, a wingspan of 310 feet and was designed to carry 500 troops across the Atlantic in WWII. But, the war ended before its completion. Howard did manage to get her airborne for a mile or so in Long Beach Harbor.

The museum has 150 vintage aircraft from all eras, both military and civilian. There are NASA launch vehicles, capsules and a moon rover. A real Boeing 747 sits atop one of the buildings.

They also have an IMAX movie theatre which is included in the price of admission. I took 150 pictures and would like to make another visit because in the three hours I was there, not everything could be seen.

Retired aviation personnel that are docents at the museum add greatly to the historical presentations throughout the facilities. You can visit their website by googling Evergreen Aviation Museum.

**WD4 Commander Mailing Address:
John Mansfield
56407 383rd Ave Ct E.
Ashford, WA 98304**

Traveling Dolphins



J. Schoenfeld, D. Richards, J. Mansfield capturing the dolphins from Bremerton Base Commander, D. Niemy at their June meeting.

Five members of Yakima Base traveled across the Cascade Mountains to Tacoma and captured the Traveling Dolphins from South Sound Base at their July 14th meeting.



"Bobby" R., M. DeLegasse, J. Mansfield



South Sound Base Commander Dave Richards capturing the Traveling Dolphins from Yakima Base Commander Mark Briggs at their September picnic/meeting.



Thank God I'm A Sub-Vet's Wife

By Irma Goodenow

*Now as I laid me down to sleep
I tossed and turned and counted
sheep;
I prayed about the things in life.
Thanked God I'm a Sub-Vet's wife.*

*If not for him I'd not be here
To make new friends from far and
near;
This sailor man he changed my life;
Thank God I'm a Sub-Vet's wife.*

*Tis Silent Service they are known
A special bond that's all their own;
They tell their tales and sometimes
jive
Thank God I'm a Sub-Vet's wife.*

*Now when they heard the klaxon's
dive
their job was not from nine to five;*

*For each of us they gambled life
Thank God I'm a Sub-Vet's wife.*

*Let's not forget when we take roll
Those gallant men still on patrol;
And those who've since departed
life
They too once had a Sub-Vet's wife.*

*And then I turned and watch Him
sleep
"Dear Lord" I prayed "My Sub-Vet
keep";
We've been a pair through love and
strife,
Thank God I'm a Sub-Vet's wife.*

USSVI National Convention

The 2012 USSVI National Convention is schedule to be held from September 2nd through 9th in Norfolk, Virginia. The Mariott Norfolk Waterside is the primary hotel and across the street, the Sheraton Hotel Waterside is the backup.

Mariott (800) 874-0264

Mention USSVI Submarine Veterans Convention when you register.

Complimentary shuttles will run for eight hours from the airport to the Mariott and Sheraton on September 3rd and 4th and to the airport on the 9th.

POC is John Kennedy

757 787 9938 Home 757 618 5026 Cell

Email: kennedys1@cox.net

New Base Forming in District 4

A new USSVI Base in the northern part of Washington state is being formed.

Contact Roland Cave 360 387 3874 or rcave@gotsky.com for information.

