



SOUTH SOUND BASE KLAXON

VOL 1 ISSUE 2 <http://southsoundbase.subvets.com> FEB 2008



Commander's Comments

Greetings to all who take the time to read this South Sound Klaxon. I was amazed at the dozen or so e-mails recieved from members of other USSVI bases; all kind words of congratulations, well done, etc.

I have agreed with the Base PAO and Editor, that the newsletters will be published after our monthly meetings. This will accomplish several good things to which I hope all will enjoy.

1. News will be current and available to everyone in a timely manner.
2. The newsletter will contain plans for future base activities and be a continuing calendar for member scheduling.
3. We have had some great speakers, and reports of their programs may be of interest to other bases.
4. Member biographies are always of interest. Hopefully all base members will take some time and write their own profiles and send them to the editor (john@erasumner.com). As publisher, he will store them so one or two will be

available for placement in future issues of the Klaxon.

A note on e-mail, as I promised in the last issue. I maintain several different e-mail addresses. I have personal Internet domain, where my default address is personal. I purchased the domain "subvets.com" to use for all subvet web work and e-mails. For USSVI contacts I use poc@subvets.com and for Internet web pages and sites; webmaster@subvets.com is used.

I have others for special reasons. It is all done to help me keep all of my communications organized. Not easy, but it works. Thanks for all your support in my Base Commander duties.

Next month I'll report on some of my webmaster work. Pax SSBC Don "donmac" Smith

South Sound Base Officers for 2008 are:

- CDR Don "Mac" Smith
- VCDR Greg Lee
- SEC: Ken Board
- TREAS: Ray Stewart
- COB: John Schreiber
- SK/PAO/Editor John Mansfield
- Postal PO: Mike Ellis

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Member Profile



Ken Board

Secretary/Membership Chairman

Ken was born in Spokane, Washington. His father worked for the Auburn Police Department. Ken graduated from Sumner High School (Go Spartans) in 1973, and that summer he joined the Navy, leaving for Boot Camp in San Diego on July 26th. Ken attended Hospital Corps School and from there was assigned to the Dispensary at Naval Air Station Moffett Field, south of San Francisco, California. Ken wanted to ride submarines, however at that time you had to be an E-3 to apply for Sub School. As soon as he made E-3, Ken was accepted to sub school in 1974. His first assignment was to the USS George Washington Carver SSBN 656 (Blue), where he earned his dolphins in January of 1976. Ken made four "cold war" patrols on the "Carverfish." He re-enlisted in July of 1977 and was assigned to the old Puget Sound Naval Station Hospital in Bremerton where he remained until the new hospital was completed two and a half years later. Ken was assigned to the "Skimmer Navy," reporting to the USS Fort Fisher LSD-40. He was honorably discharged and went to work for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department in

1982 and continues to serve our community to this day. Ken is married to his lovely wife, Vikki, and has two daughters and three grandsons. Ken enjoys camping, astronomy, riding his Harley, "hangin' with Vikki, his daughters, their husbands and his grandson. Their extended family is made up of four "Pugs," who "rule their Spanaway home.

Ken joined USSVI Seattle Base in 1999 and became a "plank owner" with South Sound Base in Tacoma in 2002. He is the current Secretary and Membership Chairman for the Base.



Chaplain's Corner

We have several members on the Base Binnacle List.

Claude Cunningham has been ill for some time and reported not doing much better.

Ron Eggimann missed last meeting because he did not want "share the germs" he's fighting with.

Greg Lee had to leave the February meeting early as he fight's the flu bug. (personally, I think he's still recovering from Mardi Gras....editor)

Vern Linth and Bill Ingles, the WWII subvets we support at the Orting Soldiers Home & Colony suffer from advancing illnesses related to "aging." They do enjoy visits if you will take the time.

May our Creator share His blessings with our shipmates. (Chaplain "Don Mac")



February Guest Speaker



Z. F. Danes

“Frank” Danes was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1920. He studied Math and Physics at Charles Univ. in Prague. The Germans invaded in 1939 and shut down all Czechoslovakian centers of higher learning, so he did not finish his studies until 1949. Mr. Danes worked for the National Geophysical Survey in Prague and taught Physics at Charles Univ. in Pilsen, Czech.

In 1948, the Communists came to power, so in 1950, he and his wife escaped to West Germany.

They came to the United States in 1952 where he went to work for Gulf Research and Development Co. in Pittsburgh, PA, to explore for petroleum.

Frank went to work for Boeing in 1959 on exploration of interplanetary space, dynamics of crater formation, and on the magnetic signature of a “micro” submarine. In 1962 he became a professor at the Univ. of Puget Sound (Tacoma) where he taught Physics and Geophysics. Frank retired in 1984.

From 1984 - 1989 he worked as a consultant to the U.S. Government dealing with the problem of measuring the amount of water in snow pack using data from satellites.

Frank’s interests and hobbies are playing the viola; traveling; running,

biking, kayaking, skiing and mountain climbing.

Arriving in his suit & tie, donning a black beret, this smiling, pleasant man spoke to members about the time he worked at the Boeing Company on a project dealing with the development of a midget submarine that would have a hydrofoil attached. The craft was to have a crew of four, carry “two or four” torpedoes, approach a target submerged, fire its “fish,” surface, start a high-speed diesel engine, plane up on the hydrofoils and evade pursuit by ships, or evade bombing by aircraft. The midget sub was designed to reach speeds of 40 to 60 knots.

Frank also spoke on topics relating to studies of the effects of magnetic forces in the earth, how they would be affected by atomic blasts within the atmosphere, varieties of metals used in the construction of submarines during the “Rickover” days and concepts of outer space technologies relating to magnetic influences. Speaking with a heavy accent, his stories and examples delighted all members in attendance.



BC Don Smith presenting Frank with a Certificate of Appreciation



February Meeting Recap

Tolling for Lost Boats:

USS Barbel (SS-316)

USS Shark (SS-174)

USS Amberjack (SS-219)

USS Grayback (SS-208)

USS Trout (SS-202).

Sailors Rest Your Oars.

John Mansfield briefed the group on Bill Ingles, a WW II submarine veteran, now residing at the Washington Soldiers Home & Colony in Orting. He suggested we put together a program to get Bill into South Sound Base and induct him into the Holland Club. It met with unanimous approval.

John also showed Base members the dozen KAPPS4Kids hats and 30 sets of mini dolphins received from the National Storekeeper. They will be given to children suffering hair loss due to cancer treatments. Don Mansfield and Ken Board have volunteered to dress “in-clown” for the presentations.

Charleston Base has proposed a bylaw change to Holland Club requirements. SSB members unanimously approved supporting the measure.

Plans are underway to have a “Baseball Night Out” at Cheney Stadium to see a Tacoma Rainiers game. The activities committee will keep everyone informed as to their recommendations.

The search continues for a MK-XIV torpedo for our Base float project.

Pictures of new set submarine coins were presented to base members and can be ordered through member Jan Stiffey.

Photos and price lists of Base storekeeper items will be placed on our website so other bases or viewers can order them.

The next Pierce County Veterans Bureau “Homeless Veterans Stand-Down” will be March 28th from 9:30

a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for those who register to get showers, haircuts, medical claims initiated or follow-ups done, visit the portable dental lab, receive housing and employment counseling, have some fruit, beverages, sandwiches, cookies, breakfast rolls and select items from the clothing donation room. Last Fall’s attendance reached almost 140 participants. If you have good clothing, shoes, coats, belts, hats, backpacks, sleeping bags, camp stoves or other items that homeless folks can use, you may contact John Mansfield, SSB PAO.



Medal of Honor Tribute

John Rich Craig

Commander (Commanding Officer)
Born September 13, 1906, St. Petersburg, Florida. Decorations: Navy Cross, Purple Heart. Submarine: USS Grampus (SS-207), Loss Date: March 5, 1943, Blackett Strait, cause unknown.



USS Grampus (SS-207)

Item from USSVI National JVC:

“Shipmates, We have a system in place for notification when a member passes away IF the base knows about the death.

The problem is, often times the member may be inactive in the base and no one knows he is gone. In the course of trying to 'track down' members whose mail addresses are no longer valid, I've found a great number of shipmates listed as base members, but who actually have passed on, some as many as 4-5 years ago. There is no 100% solution to this, but we can chip away at the problem by working together.

You may want to include a local contact phone number as well, or you can rely on the National Office to promptly notify the base in the case of a member's death.

ETERNAL PATROL PREPARATIONS

Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice and place it with your will or important papers.

IMPORTANT

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus whom they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).

This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office office@ussvi.org.

For background, here is how the EP notification system is set to work. When a member passes away, either the base membership webmaster (or the national office) will enter the date of death into that member's record. The National Office is automatically notified and when 'accepted'

notification automatically is emailed to the base commander and chaplain, plus the national chaplain and the American Submariner magazine, plus the record is shifted to the Eternal Patrol section on the national website.

It keeps everyone with a 'need to know' in the notification loop. Of course, if the info is not made known.... the deceased member languishes in our database unrecognized, which is too bad as their passing should be noted.

2008 Base Calendar of Events:

- Mar 13 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Easter Egg Hunt (TBD)**
- Mar 27 Stand-Down for Homeless Vets**
- Apr 10 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- May 8 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Jun 12 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Jul 10 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Aug 14 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Sep 11 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Sep 25 Stand-Down for Homeless Vets**
- Oct 9 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Nov 8 Auburn Vets Parade**
- Nov 13 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Dec 11 Meeting VFW Post 969**
- Kids Christmas Party (TBD)**

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<http://southsoundbase.subvets.com/pdf/Jan08Klaxon.pdf>



O.R.I. – USS Cusk (SS-348)

Preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection is a tedious endeavor. The boat is cleaned from stem to stern, then cleaned again. Each operational procedure is rigidly practiced, time after time. Every function on a submarine is looked at under a microscope, and overseen by the captain and executive officer. Then each junior officer relays commands to the various chiefs. Each chief in his area of responsibilities grinds the crewmen under his supervision until every job, procedure and function of running a submarine is carried out flawlessly by the crewmembers.

The USS *Cusk* was ready for this ORI in early 1949. Taking on fuel was our last major chore. Saturday morning we moved from the nest and docked at Ballast Point, the Navy Fuel Depot in San Diego harbor.

Most of the crew was on liberty, with only a small contingent of men left to complete the fueling. Once we had secured from maneuvering watch, I essentially had no duties. This left me free to go topside and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Soon, I was joined by Robert Hugh McDowall and we engaged in serious philosophical debate as to the truth about “B” girls being virtuous.

Robert Hugh (a tall handsome fellow with a thick head of blonde curly hair) expressed his opinion that the girls he met on the beach were all upstanding, church going, clean, intellectual ladies. And, that suited Robert to a tee. I, being a shy, retiring young man, and totally ignorant in the ways of women, had to agree with much of what Robert said, however, since Robert always had a smile

on his face....? I did have to acquiesce to Robert, because he had emanated from a highly charged cultural center, known for its gifts of intellectualism to its natives. Akron, Ohio has an amazing ring of sophistication to it, don't you think ?

Soon we tired of the conversation and turned to more interesting things. We decided to practice throwing the heaving line. After all, it was a way to entertain ourselves, and obviously would benefit us for future line handling duties. Besides, it was fun.

Soon we challenged each other into who was the best “heavy thrower.” We obtained permission from “Swish” Saunders to tie a line to a life ring, toss it out and use it as a target. Yes, there was a small tide, and occasionally we would retrieve the ring and relocate it.

The lighthearted tossing slowly became more serious. When two or more men are engaged in this type of game it sooner or later develops into an “I can beat you” mentality. We began testing our skills at landing in the middle of the life ring. We added speed to the requirements. Speed and accuracy became the watch word. Toss the line to the target, reel it in and toss it again as rapidly as possible, maintaining accuracy as an important element to the game.

We were observed by everyone who came topside. Several times we were interrupted by another crewman who would want to show us how it was properly done. They usually slunk away when they failed miserably to beat us two highly motivated expert tossers.

After a couple of hours we grew tired, but we truly did become highly skilled in speed and accuracy. Mack, always the gentleman, agreed that he was second best in all categories (even in distance), but he didn't know I had been a Sea Scout and had trained for many hours in this art before joining the Navy. Were we betting, it would have been like taking candy from a baby.

The following week at sea was spent in working with the inspecting officer from the flotilla. The boat and crew appeared to have passed all the ORI events with ease. We

headed back to San Diego to tie up and begin Liberty; but the trials were not completely over. Our ship's handling of the docking procedure was the last of the tests to be performed.

Maneuvering Watch was set. I joined E.C. Draper in the After Engine Room, after acquiring a cup of hot black spicy coffee for his lordship, (is Tabasco sauce a spice or an herb?) Both engines were running, and being manipulated by the electricians in the Maneuvering Room. All was normal, when the word was passed that I report topside to see "Swish."

With a small amount of trepidation I found Swish forward with the number one line handling unit. Swish informed me he wanted me to get number one over, as the tide was fierce and they were having problems coming in close to the outboard boat in the nest. I didn't have time to consider the honor bestowed upon me and dutifully selected a choice heaving line from the deck locker where they were stowed.

I had time to wet the line and make a couple of practice tosses before the order to "put number one over" was given. I refrained from saluting the bridge to acknowledge the order, however I did spot the Skipper and the ORI officers up there. I sensed our Skipper was telling the Commodore I could toss the heaving line a nautical mile. Obviously he was counting on me to make a flawless pitch and cap the ORI with skilled line handling.

Quickly I surveyed our situation. The bow was swinging away, the distance was great, and fear was showing in the eyes of all the men in the party. However I was ready. It would take a championship effort, but I knew I was up to speed to handle the chore. I felt my muscles tense, my computing brain had figured the wind, the speed, the distance and the ebbing tide; yes, it could be done.

The line was wet, half of the coils were in my left hand, the remainder in my throwing hand. The line handling party on the other boat was awaiting the "Monkey Fist." All eyes were on me. I knew my chance at a commendation medal was upon me. I

wound up, resembling a tightly coiled spring; took a deep breath, and let her go.

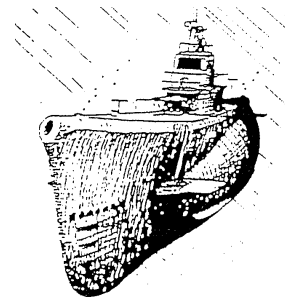
The heaving line left my hand with a flight speed that could have broken the sound barrier. It had the velocity, it had everything it would take to make the toss successful, that is, everything but a desire to obey my command. I watched as the leaded Monkey Fist left my hand and traveled about five degrees from perpendicular. It went straight up with a slight arc and wrapped itself around the antenna wire running from the shears to the Bull Nose. It didn't make a single wrap, it wound around the wire until all its forces were exhausted. It was perfectly wrapped and locked onto the wire.

I can still hear the sound of wind leaving my lungs, followed by a litany of words from my fellow crewmen; words that would make the devil blush. Words that only serve a purpose when you strike your thumb with a four-pound maul. Words that cannot be printed here.

I didn't wait to be ordered below. My instincts told me to retreat to a safer place. My safe haven, the After Engine Room, was awaiting me. Once again the benevolence of Submarine Sailors came into play. I never heard about the incident again from any of my fellow shipmates; but to this day, I remember, and through the rest of the years this incident has come back to haunt or aid me in the realities of life.

In real life, remaining humble takes an incredible amount of work.

*Norm Carkeek USS Cusk SSG-348
1949-1951*



Sea Story



Greg Lee

“USS Sea Owl was in Bermuda in 1968. Sam goes to the Naval Station Special Services Office and checks out a 20 ft. knockabout sail boat with no engine. Sam asks if any one would like to go sailing and Greg Lee volunteered. They sailed all over Hamilton Harbor with winds 12-15 knots. On the way back to the ship, they ran across a motor launch that had crapped out. Two sailors were attempting to get the engine running. It was the Captain's gig of CO Naval Station. We towed them under sail back to their berth. Nobody ever believed this sea story until Greg recently E-mailed Sam recalling the incident. That's when Sam decided to publish this account. Shown above is a photo of Greg who had just recently earned his Silver Dolphins. (Greg Lee)”



Radiation ? What radiation ?

YOUR SUBVET CHARITY NEEDS
YOU!

This foundation is the charitable arm of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. and was formed to further the creed of USSVI by assuming the responsibility of some of our USSVI activities which are charitable in nature. The foundation was approved for tax exemption under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on December 5, 2000.

Your USSVI Charitable Foundation is administered by a Board of Directors that serve without compensation, consisting of the USSVI National & Regional Officers plus others appointed by the National Commander and confirmed by the Board each year. Expenses incurred by your Charitable Foundation are normally paid for by USSVI, so virtually all of the funds received are utilized for the charitable purposes for which they were donated.

All donations made to the USSVI Charitable Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS Tax Code.

Your Charitable Foundation supports the Scholarship Program, Memorials and Submarine Museum support, the SUBLANT and SUBPAC Caring and Sharing Program, Subvet Disaster Relief, Kap(SS)4Kids(SS) and our Submarine Library.

Ways that you can help.
Send us a gift or make a pledge by completing the attached donor card and mailing it in with your check now.

Three levels of planned giving include \$100 payable at \$10 per year, \$500 payable at \$50 per year or \$1,000 payable at \$100 per year. Of course you can always opt for a one-time cash donation of any size.

Matching Gifts: Contact your Human Resources Office to see if your company

sponsors a matching gift or payroll deduction program

Planned Gifting: Planned gifts include bequests, gifts of Life Insurance or gifts of Appreciated Stock. The easiest type of planned gift is a bequest to the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation. You simply add an amendment or "codicil" to your will, naming the USSVI-CF as a beneficiary of your estate. A bequest in your will allows you to pass on any amount you wish to the Foundation free of estate tax. You can give cash or specific property, a dollar amount or percentage of your estate, with restrictions or without.

Most outright gifts to the Foundation are gifts of cash. But there are tax benefits for contributing gifts of appreciated stock or real estate, and it's just as easy as writing a check. If you have securities or properties that have grown substantially in value, you can gift them to the Foundation and not only qualify for an income tax deduction, but also avoid long-term capital gains taxes.

Other Planned Gifts. as opposed to outright planned gifts: Many donors wish to help guarantee the Foundation's future through estate-plan gifts, which have no affect on the donor's current assets. Through proper planning, you can ensure that your assets are distributed according to your wishes and that your heirs aren't hit with unexpected estate taxes. Turn surplus life insurance policies into a charitable gift, or designate the Charitable Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. Donors who want to make a lasting gift to the Charitable Foundation, but are concerned about their current financial situation, should consider a life income gift. There are various charitable trust options that pay income to a donor during his or her lifetime, with the

remaining assets transferred to charity when the trust term ends. Life-income gifts provide donors with flexibility--you can choose the trustee and investment strategy; the type, amount and timing of payments; as well as the trust beneficiaries.

Please note that the information presented here is not intended to be legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorney or other professional advisor when considering a planned gift.

Cut here

10 YR PLANNED GIVING: I wish to pledge (\$100/\$500/\$1000) _____ and enclosed is my first year's pledge for \$ _____. I understand USSVCF will invoice me annually at this rate over the next nine years.

I prefer to make a one-time donation in the amount of _____ and enclosed is my check for that amount.

NAME:

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIPCODE:

TEL NO:

EMAIL: _____

Please make your check payable to
USSVI Charitable Foundation
Mail to USSVI National Office
PO Box 3 870
Silverdale WA 98383-3870

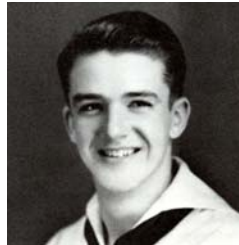
Thank you for your support of our Sub Vets Charitable Foundation.

Submarine Losses in February
Honoring A Shipmate From Each Boat



John T. Tracy

Submarine: USS Trout (SS-202)
Loss Date: February 29, 1944
Rank/Rate Electrician's Mate, 3rd Class
From: Flushing, New York
Decorations: Purple Heart
Location: Philippines Basin
Probably sunk by depth charge attack



Franklin B. Kohrs, Jr.

Submarine: USS Barbel (SS-316)
Loss Date: February 4, 1945
Rank/Rate: Chief Motor Machinist's
Mate
From: New London, Connecticut
Decorations: Purple Heart
Circumstances: Sunk by air attack



Stanley Joseph Waliszewski
Submarine: USS Grayback (SS-208)
Loss Date: February 26, 1944
Rank/Rate: Ship's Cook, 1st Class

From: Cleveland, Ohio
Decorations: Purple Heart
Location: South of Okinawa
Circumstances: Sunk by air attack



Luther Vaughter Barr

Submarine: USS Amberjack (SS-219)
Loss Date: March 23, 1943
Rank/Rate Machinist's Mate, 3rd Class
From: Searcy, Arkansas
Decorations: Purple Heart
Location: Off Rabaul
Circumstances: Probably sunk by depth
charge attack
Remarks: Luther also served on USS
Guardfish (SS-217), and was entitled to
wear the Presidential Unit Citation
awarded to that boat and her crew.



Roscoe F. Dillen, Jr.

Submarine: USS Shark (SS-174)
Loss Date: February 11, 1942
Rank/Rate Lieutenant (Executive Officer)
From: Washington, D.C.
Decorations: Purple Heart
Submarine: USS Shark (SS-174)
Loss Date: February 11, 1942
Location: East of Menado, Celebes
Circumstances: Probably sunk by depth
charge attack