



# *SOUTH SOUND BASE KLAXON*

VOL 1 ISSUE 7 <http://southsoundbase.subvets.com> SEPTEMBER 2008



## ***Commander's Comments***

Greetings SSB Klaxon Readers;

I have a problem. At our last South Sound Base meeting, we had average attendance and a good speaker. Ask me who was there in attendance and I would have to think a minute, but if you asked me who was not able to be there, I can list a few quite easily. What I am trying to say is to those not there, you are missed. I know from my own experience, that I am not able to attend every meeting. As both Base Commander and Chaplain, I feel I should put the missing members on the binnacle list. One member did let us know he was not going to be able to make the meeting, for which I was grateful. So what does this mean, besides maybe I am just an old worry wart, I hope all of you are well and OK.

Recruiting new members is something we all need to do. Some of it is as simple as wearing a ballcap with dolphins on it when you go to the mall, Costco, or out to eat. It helps if you have something to

give to the contact. Pat Householder supplied last meeting attendees with cards to carry in your wallet. Not all submarine service veterans know that USSVI even exists. Having a card ready to hand to a contact can start a conversation about as easy as it can be, the hard part is what follows in explaining who we are and why we exist.

"It is our mission to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in submarines while serving their country".

The October meeting will have USSVI National Commander presenting a review, DVD, and information from the 2008 National Convention.

November meeting is a boat tour and Bangor Base visit. You must reserve your space as number on tour is limited. (Note: All day event on Nov 13th)

At our December meeting we will have JNROTC guests and election of 2009 base officers.

We do not have many ways to help expand the bank account. Please try to reserve some time on Tuesday November 11th to spend at one of our fundraisers at Graham and Spanaway Wal-Mart stores. Those that have participated in years past know the camaraderie enjoyed, so we hope to have a few more members join us and bring your sea stories, we need to hear some new ones.

We are fortunate that most of our members have e-mail. But just because you have a computer and e-mail, does not mean we stay in constant contact. When the need arises, as in asking for information, or other off the wall questions, use the e-mail and ask. [subvet@subvets.com](mailto:subvet@subvets.com) is my e-mail for subvet use.

I wish all readers to have great weeks ahead, and I hope to see good growth in our base, just taking it all one step at a time. pax

Don "donmac" Smith Base Commander

**South Sound Base Officers for 2008**

**CDR Don "Mac" Smith**

**VCDR: Don Mansfield**

**SEC: Ken Board**

**TREAS: Ray Stewart**

**COB: John Schreiber**

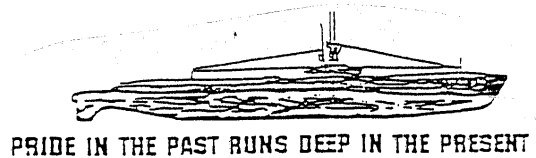
**SK/PAO/Editor John Mansfield**

**Postal PO: Mike Ellis**

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**September Lost Boats  
USS S-5 (SS-110) 1920  
USS Grayling (SS-209) 1943  
S-51 (SS-162) 1925  
USS Cisco (SS-290) 1943  
Sailors Rest Your Oars.**



**2008 Base Calendar of Events:**

**Sep 25 Stand-Down for Homeless Vets**

**0930-1400 1601 MLK Way, Tacoma**

**Oct 9 Meeting VFW Post 969 1900**

**Guest Speaker USSVI**

**National Commander Pat Householder**

**Nov 8 Auburn Vets Parade 1000**

**Nov 11 – Wal-Mart Fundraisers 0900**

**Nov 13 Meet at Keyport Undersea**

**Warfare Museum 0830**

**Dec 11 Meeting VFW Post 969 1900**

**NWYLC Students to Speak**

**Election of Officers**

**2009**

**Jan 8 Meeting VFW Post 969 1900**



Highlights of the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

South Sound Base meeting called to order at 1900 Hrs. There were twelve members and two guests present, including Newly elected USSVI National Commander, Patrick Householder. Lee Wise led the Pledge of Allegiance and Don Smith gave the opening prayer. Don also read the revised USSVI Creed.

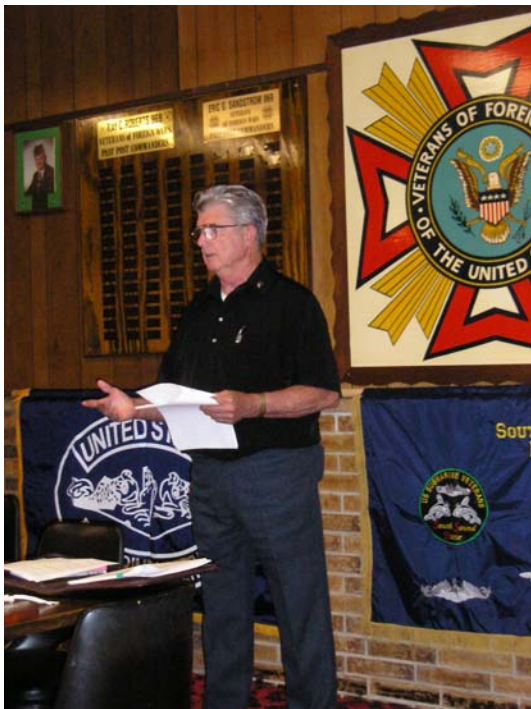
Tolling of the Boats lost in September was conducted by Commander Don

Smith and National Commander, Patrick Householder.

The August meeting minutes were accepted as posted on the internet.

Treasurer Ray Stewart was unable to make the meeting but sent a report showing \$1,550.42 in the Base general account and \$392.50 in the Storekeeper account. Another \$210.00 has been forwarded to Ray for deposit into the SK account from calendar and book sales at this meeting.

**Binnacle List:** None



Guest Speaker: Neil W. Moloney, a WW II Marine Corp veteran, and career law enforcement officer, gave a very nice presentation about statistics regarding the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York. He talked about first responders and heroic deeds performed under extremely trying conditions. He is the author of several books.

A ten-minute break was taken

Membership Chairman: No report.

SSB SK / PAO / Editor John Mansfield said Base Stores sales are doing well. Pat Householder brought ten 2009 USSVI calendars that were ordered by SSB's SK and all were sold at the meeting.

John also let everyone know about the upcoming Autumn Stand-Down For Homeless Veterans that will take place September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1601 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way in Tacoma, and the Auburn Veterans Day Parade scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Meet up at the parking garage prior to the parade.

**New Business:**

Pat Householder told a couple of stories regarding his visit to Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Kapps4Kids program. Very heart warming. He also spoke on the newly formed Public Relations Committee who's intent is to spread the word about USSVI and recruit new members. John Mansfield, Dave Gordon, Bob Ople and Mike Burcumshaw have volunteered to be on the committee. Pat handed out business cards that can be presented to perspective new members when the occasion arises.

John Mansfield, SSB PAO is coordinating a tour to Bangor on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Participants will meet in the parking lot of the Undersea Warfare Museum in Keyport and the group will be transported to the TTF for a tour; lunch, then to Delta Pier for a boat tour. Members, please contact John if you are interested in attending. We can take up to 35 participants. Should plans change at Bangor and force cancellation of the tour, it was decided to meet up for lunch at the Horse & Cow in Bremerton.

Jan Stiffey reported on the availability of custom printing services on T-shirts and other items.

Mike Robb displayed a glass mug and wall plaque with SSB's logo, dolphins and printed information that he can custom make by request from members.

John Mansfield reported on preparations for reunions at the 2009 USSVI Convention in San Diego, September 8 thru 12<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.

#### **Old Business:**

Don Mansfield was elected South Sound Base Vice Commander by unanimous vote.

John Mansfield expressed sincere appreciation to all members who supported him in his bid to become Western District 4 Commander. He was soundly defeated and has returned to the closet from whence he emerged.

National Commander Patrick Householder has accepted South Sound Base's invitation to be guest speaker at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and will show a DVD w/photos of the 2009 USSVI Convention in Ft Worth.

Chaplain Don Smith gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2100.



**USS Menhaden (SS377) 1945-1971**

#### **In History**

#### **Soviet Nuclear Submarine History:**

How the Soviet Union developed underwater missiles



These Soviet intercontinental missiles couldn't be raised on board. They were too heavy!

#### **From a KP Article by Correspondent Viktor Baranets**

September 22, 2008 "All Russian schoolchildren love playing "You Sunk My Battleship." Remember? But when NATO ships began appearing along the Georgian shore, Russians back at home started worrying -- even though Russia and the U.S. both share a strong fleet on and under the water. Not long ago, a new nuclear Virginia-class submarine made its debut in the U.S. naval forces. The submarine was built in four and a half years. Russia's analogous missile cruisers, the "Yury Dolgorukiy" and "Severodvinsk," have been stalled on the production line for 15 years, and it's still uncertain when they'll set to sea as their missiles aren't ready yet. The U.S. nuclear submarine fleet is already leaps and bounds ahead of Russia's. Can we catch up?"

In an interview with military analyst and candidate of military sciences, Colonel Mikhail Polezhaev to learn a bit about the history behind the world's two strongest nuclear submarine fleets, Baranets writes: "In 1945, the U.S. developed nuclear weapons. President Truman said: "Today, the U.S. is the most powerful country in the world, and we must use this power responsibly to safeguard peace." In answer, Joseph Stalin strengthened his grip on the Socialist block and developed nuclear weapons of his own. At the time, U.S. bombers were positioned at European military bases. But the political situation was so unstable, they could have been asked to leave at any moment. As a result, the U.S. placed its emphasis on developing their navy. In December 1945, Moscow learned the U.S. was creating submarines with nuclear capability.

How did the Soviet Union learn what the U.S. was doing? It certainly wasn't being written about in the papers. The same way information about the nuclear bomb had surfaced. Intelligence! It wasn't sensational news at all for the Soviet authorities when the world's first nuclear submarine, "Nautilus," set sail in Groton in 1954. The same goes for the submarine's parameters, about 100 meters with a 4,000-ton water displacement. Who was the first person to come up with the idea to create nuclear submarines? The U.S. counterintelligence agent, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, who was the son of a Polish tailor who emigrated to the U.S.

How did the Kremlin react to the event? Two years before the "Nautilus" set sail, on Sept. 9, 1952, Stalin signed

a secret regulation "On Designing and Building 'Object 627.'" On Aug. 9, 1957, "Object 627," a submarine tagged with strategic number "K-3," set sail! The submarine was named the "Lenin Komsomol." The submarine traveled at 23.3 knots while running at 60 percent of its capacity! "Nautilus" only hit 20 knots at full speed!

Who was the main engineer? The creator of the Soviet Union's first nuclear submarine was Vladimir Nikolaevich Peregudov. He is considered the "Tupolev" of Russian shipbuilding. Were the U.S. submarines equipped with missiles right off the bat? The summer trials of the Polaris-A1 missiles started in 1958. In November 1960, they were ready for use. Five George Washington submarines were equipped with 16 apiece. The Polaris A-1 was followed



The "Murena" nuclear submarine frightened the U.S. Its missiles could destroy any target in the U.S. from Washington D.C. to California.

by the Poseidon and later the Trident.

How did the Soviet Union arm its submarines? At the time, in the 1950s, our strategic operational officers understood that a nuclear strike could only be launched on the U.S. from the

ocean. We didn't have air bases in Canada, for example. So we chose submarines as our weapons for such a strike. And this turned out to be a wise decision. First submarines, then torpedoes!

In 1952 at Arzamas-16, nuclear warheads entered development for two different torpedoes: the T-5 at 533 millimeters and the T-15 at 1,550 millimeters. The lower-caliber torpedo was fixed on all the Soviet Union's submarines. The monstrous high-caliber torpedo with a length of 24 meters was designed for the K-3 -- the "Whale," or the "Lenin Komsomols," which had the NATO codename "November."

The navy was enthused by the "small" T-5 nuclear torpedo project. The torpedo increased the operational capabilities of the submarines by 10 kilometers and 10 kilotons. The T-5 was completed with trials at Novaya Zemlya. In 1957, the torpedo was commissioned. However, the navy was against using the T-15. Submarines armed with these missiles were designated for executing one task, striking naval bases. There were no bases with straight navigating channels and the T-15 couldn't be maneuvered. And if the torpedo hit port cities, there would undoubtedly be civilian casualties. There are documents in the Soviet archives that show even the most humane of individuals supported using the T-15 missiles like the renowned academic Sakharov!

On Oct. 30, 1961, Sakharov's super bomb underwent trials at 58 megatons. The projected capacity of the missile was in fact 100 megatons, but the

bomb was tested at half-power. The bomb's length was 8 meters and weighed 27 tons. However, it turned out the Soviet Union didn't have any planes or missiles that could actually carry the bomb. Quite a contradiction. Could they have made supertorpedoes to attack port cities based on the T-15? One of the first people with whom Sakharov spoke about the project was the counter agent and Admiral Fomin. He was shocked by the project's potential of taking so many civilian lives. Sakharov realized the navy was used to openly fighting armed opponents and the idea of such mass killings was revolting. After that, Sakharov never discussed the project with anyone else again. Read his diaries. Life isn't easy.

How did ballistic missiles get on board our nuclear submarines? In early 1959, the R-11 FM missile was commissioned. It was a single-stage missile that ran on liquid fuel, kerosene. The missile could travel about 150 kilometers with a radial probable error of 0.75 kilometers. The missiles could only be launched while on the surface of the water, with the silo hoods raised. The submarine and its crew would be doomed for 15-20 minutes while preparing to strike their opponent.

How was this problem resolved? In mid-1963, there was a revolution in the history of the Soviet Union's submarine fleet. The R-21 missiles were commissioned, which could be deployed underwater! This was one of the most important moments in the Soviet Union's nuclear history. Twenty-three submarines were built that were equipped with underwater

launching capability. Now the U.S. faced a force to be reckoned with!"

**Veterans Day Fundraisers Scheduled**



South Sound Base will be holding fundraisers at the Spanaway and South Meridian WalMarts on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. We will have tables set up with banners, lapel ribbons, candy & goodies to hand out to donors. This is one of our major annual fundraisers, so please pass the word to your families, friends, co-workers, associates and anyone else you know who might help support our programs throughout the year. We use funds to help with Youth Camps, NJROTC awards, scholarships, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas functions for those less fortunate than ourselves. So, come on out and enjoy the banter, B.S. and sea stories. See you there, especially South Sound Base members.

**From the SSB Bookshelf**

The SSB Storekeeper has some great submarine and military history books for sale. Save as much as 65% off retail prices. Titles include, A Time To Die, Unrestricted Warfare, The Terrible Hours, Red Star Under The Baltic, Red

Star Rogue, The Gallant Hours and Sub. All are new hardcover editions \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 S&H. Email: [john@erasummer.com](mailto:john@erasummer.com) to order.



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