

May 2024 USSVI Scamp Base newsletter

1. The May Scamp Base meeting will be held on Saturday, May 25th, 1000 hours at Charlie's Restaurant, 210 N. Ivy, corner Ivy and Pennsylvania in Escondido. All local area members are encouraged to attend.

April's meeting attendance was 10 members and 2 guests. CO Troy Hendrickson called the meeting to order, with Dookie Mitchell's diving klaxon. Opening and closing prayers were offered by Chaplain Roy Bannach. Troy recited our creed and asked Bob Leider to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He then conducted the April Tolling of the Lost Boats.

Secretary Andrew Klapoetke-Reese was out of town, so no minutes of the March meeting were read, and Laura Hendrickson filled in to take the minutes of the April meeting.

2. Eternal Patrol: Again, happily nothing to report.

3. May Birthdays: Mike Bircumshaw, Troy Hendrickson, Mark Hogan, Dookie Mitchell, Voller Waggoner, and Steve Williams.

4. Upcoming events: For those of you living out of state, especially on the East Coast, The 60th Anniversary of the founding of the USSVI (growing from the WW2 Subvets group) will be held Kay 29th – June 1 in Groton, Connecticut. For reservations and info, contact the anniversary committee at: Anniversary Committee@USSVI.org.

The 2024 National Convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio August 20th -24th. The USS COD memorial will be a highlight. For registration information, contact Joe Marinelli at 440-205-6089

5. USSVI Address Change: Enough misunderstanding has occurred that National Commander sent out an All Hands bulletin. Just in case you did not get the bulletin, I am resending it.

There is still apparently been some confusion as to where to send National Office mail, payments, etc. Do NOT send any mail or correspondence of any kind to our OLD National Office in Silverdale, Washington. That office is closed down. All USSVI correspondence (applications, Boat sponsorships, money payments, etc) should be sent to our NEW National Office in Groton, Connecticut. That address is:

USSVI National Office
PO Box 1063,
Groton, CT, 06340-1063

Packages (Fedex-UPS-DHK, etc) should be sent to:

USSVI National Office
100 Plaza Ct.
Unit 1063
Groton, CT. 06340-8339

Do not send any USSVI mail to the Groton Base Clubhouse at 40 School St., Groton, CT. That address is reserved for Groton Base business.

The telephone numbers have remained the same. 360-337-2978 has been transferred from Washington to Groton and remains the same. The toll free # (877)-542-DIVE (3483) stays the same.

6. Western Regional Roundup Recap: Scamp members Rocky Rockers, Harry Moak, and Owen McCoy attended the WRR in Silverdale, Washington, hosted by the Bremerton Base. Of particular note, the Bremerton Base CO is the first female qualified submariner to serve as a USSVI Base Commander.

Chief Culinary Specialist (SS)Ileene Davis was highlighted on page 13 of the recent American Sunbmariner magazine.

The roundup featured a tour of the USS Nebraska, SSBN 739 for the 35 attendees who registered early enough to fill the 35 spots for the tour. The rest of us toured the US Naval Undersea Museum, which has an extremely up to date collection, plus all the old (before WW1 &2) and even Civil war displays.

The following day, we were bussed to the SSBN 624 Memorial for the Tolling of the boats, plus the roundup class photograph. (Editor's note: It was freezing! And the wind cut thru like a bowie knife!)

Following the picture taking, we went into the base dining hall for a good luncheon and a presentation by Commanser Dick Taylor on Deep Submergence activities. During the luncheon, Base CO Davis pinned the Dolphins on the newest qualified sailor, who had just finished this week.

During the WRR, various workshops were held to pick attendees minds and improve our bases. Topics like: increasing base memberships, the USSVI Charitable Foundation, National and base awards (how to nominate and submit), Base newsletters, and the future of the WRR. Movie night featured two "OLD" submarine movies, one even in black and white!

The closing night dinner highlighted guest speaker Cdr. Amber Cowan, the XO of the USS Kentucky SSBN 737. She is currently the most senior woman in the Submarine Force. Her presentation included many interesting and humorous stories of her rise thru the Nuclear ranks.

7. Charitable Funds: Your newsletter editor is also the base's CF Ambassador. My job is to assist you in any way possible, whether it be making a donation or requesting assistance from one of the funds. However, I am not that arm-twisting, PBS money begging person. I am here to help, not bug you to death.

8> Boats Lost in May:

USS Lagarto (SS 371) May 3rd, 1945 near Gulf of Siam. On 2nd War Patrol, possibly sunk by a radar equipped minelayer, which was subsequently sunk by USS Hawkbill SS366 2 weeks later, Loss of 86 men.

USS Scorpion (SSN 589) May 22, 1968, returning from a Mediterranean deployment. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined. Loss of 99 men.

USS Squalus (SS192) May 23, 1939. Suffered catastrophic valve failure, sank to 240' bottom. Using his Diving Bell, Charles Momson rescued 33 sailors, but 26 member were lost.

USS Stickleback (SS415) May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collission with USS Silverstein (DE 524). Enrirtew crew saved.

