



2023 First Quarter

March 2023

Officers

Base Officers 2023

Commander: William "Bill" Thelen

USS NEVADA SSBN-733B

Ellensburg, WA
(509)962-3522

williamthelen@gmail.com

Vice Commander: Art Clark

USS DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626

Ellensburg, WA
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Chief of the Boat: Fred West

USS RATON SS-270

Toppenish, WA
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Chaplain: Art Clark

USS DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626

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Officers

Base Officers 2023

Secretary: Mark Briggs

USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN-618)

Yakima, WA
(509)480-8245

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Treasurer: Mark Briggs

USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN-618)

Yakima, WA 98908
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December Events:

- **Christmas Family Donations:** Christmas presents and meals were donated to a family in Kittitas County the Slomkowski's and Yakima County the Larson's. Both families were extremely appreciative for the items. A big thanks for Subvette Fran Rairdan for gathering and wrapping all of the donations and to the base members that delivered them. Kittitas County representatives were Don and Fran Rairdan and Art Clark. Yakima County representative were Rob Jacobsen, Fred West and Mark Briggs.
- **Winter Meeting Time Change:** Starting time for the Yakima Base winter meetings has changed. From October thru March the meetings will still be the second Saturday of the month but the start time will be 1400 hrs. This will allow those that are traveling some distance to get home before dark. This schedule is a trial and will be adjusted as necessary to work any bugs out.
- **Yakima Meetings Change of Location:** The meetings held in Yakima will now be held at the Sea Galley located at 25 E Valley Mall Blvd, Union Gap, WA. The American Legion has missed several meals over the last few years for various reasons i.e. forgot we were meeting, didn't have a cook, etc., when meals are served it is whatever meal they want to cook for us so everyone is limited to one choice and they have bumped our meeting room for other events. It was decided to give the Sea Galley a trial run and keep an ear to the ground for other options.
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January Events:

- **Planning of Events:**
 - March meeting was held at the Clover Island Inn. It was originally going to be a 91st birthday celebration for Bill Millard but became a memorial meeting due to his passing on eternal patrol.
 - Triton Sail and Hanford B Reactor events are planned for June 9th & 10th with a Meet & Greet at the Clover Island Inn on the afternoon of June 9th. See details below.
 - Doc Cooper's memorial will be April 22nd at his son Jason's residence on Ashue Rd. Wapato, WA.
 - Western Regional Roundup – Sacramento, CA April 27-29, 2023.
 - National Convention – Tucson, AZ August 28 – September 3, 2023.

February Events:

- **Submarine Birthday Ball:** Yakima Base will be hosting the Submarine Birthday Ball April 15, 2023 at the Yakima Holiday Inn at 802 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901. Fran Rairdan is again using her siren songs to lure donations for the auction. Meals will be \$25.00 per person and auction tickets will be \$5.00 ea.

March Events:

- **Parade Season:**
 - Float overhaul is minimal this year after the great job last year so no “work parties” are planned at this time.
 - The base will participate in the Yakima Memorial Parade this year. (Note: The Yakima Memorial Parade has been cancelled for 2023 and there is discussion on whether to try and attend a different one.)
- **Western Regional Roundup:** The Yakima Base sponsored the Western Regional Roundup (Sacramento, CA April 27-29, 2023) with a \$50.00 dollar contributions and that will get our base logo on the totes that are handed out at the event.
- **National Base Webpage:** The new National Webpage is in a holding pattern while the USSVI IT guru Tim Carlisle heals up and recovers from an unfortunate accident.
- **Triton Sail & B Reactor Tour:** Reminder to sign up for the B Reactor tour, Friday June 9th and the Triton Sail ceremony, Saturday June 10th. See flyer below. Clover Island Inn has a block of rooms set aside for this event so when you call be sure to tell them it is for the US Submarine Group.

Agenda Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1utUPSRKGOZGea0JlyEDiunZPKGCWmFrWI50y7f6owEQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Hanford B Reactor Tour Signup Link:

<https://forms.gle/hbRbrR8SM2bwPqHG7>

Eternal Patrol:

- **Joel “Doc” Cooper - 12/11/2022**
- **Ronald “Ron” Muecke - 2/2/2023**
- **William “Bill” Millard – 2/13/2023**
- **John Mansfield (prior WD4 Commander) – 4/11/2023**



SUBMARINE VETERANS

JUNE

GATHERING

9 & 10

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED IN THE
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE



SCAN ME



USS TRITON SAIL PARK

3250 PORT OF BENTON BLVD, RICHLAND, WA 99354

HOSTED BY USSVI YAKIMA BASE & PORT OF BENTON



SSN509.MY.CANVA.SITE



USSVI YAKIMA BASE
USSVI Yakima Base
January 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Commander Bill Thelen called the meeting to order at 1730 hrs.
The meeting was held at the Sea Galley Restaurant 25 E Valley Mall Blvd, Union Gap, WA.

ATTENDEES:

In attendance were: Bill Thelen, John Dominguez, Joe & Gail Tarcza, Bill & Barb Richards, Len & Debbie Anderson, Rob Jacobsen & guest Sandie White, Don Rairdan, Gary Brown & guest Stuart Baird, Don Siemen, Ron Star, Art Clark and Mark Briggs

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Chaplain Art Clark gave the prayer of invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commander Bill Thelen led the Pledge of Allegiance

- Note: Meeting was suspended at 1740 hrs for the meal and resumed at 1815 hrs.

TOLLING OF THE BOATS:

Commander Bill Thelen performed Tolling of the Boats

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Mark Briggs gave the treasurers report with a net worth of \$5,321.08 as of December 31, 2022. There was a \$100.00 donation from Powers & Therrien Law Firm (Michele Briggs' employer) and Gary Brown moved that we send a thank you to them, Rob Jacobsen seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.

MINUTES:

Secretary Mark Briggs read the minutes. Minutes were approved as read.

SUBVETTES REPORT:

Subvette Fran Rairdan – Not available

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORT:

Joe Tarcza gave an update on the National items.

- National dues are due by January 31, 2023
- End of Year (EOY) base financial reports are due. Congratulations to Yakima Base Treasurer Mark Briggs for being the first to submit the EOY report.
- Still working on getting new database up and operating. Only a couple of items work and one of those is registering for the National Convention.

OLD BUSINESS

- Christmas donations updates:
 - Don Rairdan reported the Kittitas County family (Slomkowski's) was very grateful and that a friend of Don's, Shorty Hinks, donated \$100.00 to them as well. Base representatives were Don & Fran Rairdan and Art Clark.
 - Rob Jacobsen reported the Yakima County family (Larson's) were very thankful. Base representatives,

Rob Jacobsen, Fred West and Mark Briggs, met them on a very cold day in a parking lot and transferred the meals and gifts.

- Triton Sail update:
 - John Dominguez is working with Fran Rairdan on getting food trucks for the event.
 - The Point of Contact (POC) for the port district will be back after the holidays and John will continue working with her to keep things moving forward.
 - Clover Island Inn will need to be contacted to see if Thursday night could be added for special room rate if the Friday Hanford B-reactor tour is a go.

NEW BUSINESS

- USSVI Membership Longevity Pins:
 - Commander Bill Thelen awarded Len Anderson a 10 Year pin.
 - Greg Luring will receive a 5 Year pin.
- Yakima base meeting location discussion:
 - Bill Thelen moved that we continue at the Sea Galley for now, Mark Briggs seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.
 - Ron Star brought asked if it was necessary for the minutes to be read at the meetings since they are sent to all members via email. As far as anybody knows it isn't mandatory. Ron Star moved that the minutes not be read at meetings, Joe Tarcza seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.
- Winter meeting times:
 - A discussion was held about moving base meeting start times during the winter months from 1700 hrs to earlier to help with driving in the dark and bad weather conditions. It was determined 1400 hrs would be the best for those that travel a fair distance.
 - John Dominguez moved the October through March base meetings start at 1400 hrs, Rob Jacobsen seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.
- Yakima Base Website:
 - Gary Brown contacted John Dominguez about getting the base schedule on the base website. John looked into it and the company supporting the site is getting out of the website business.
 - John will look into the 501C and Google to host the site for free. Len Anderson mentioned his son might be able to help and will check with him.
- March Meeting Location:
 - Gary Brown brought up that we have lost 3 members in a short period and with Bill Millard's medical condition it would be nice to celebrate his 91st birthday with him in Kennewick, WA. Gary motioned that the March 11th base meeting be moved to the Clover Island Inn to celebrate with Bill, Bill Richards seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS-(continued)

- Submarine Birthday Ball Discussion:
 - Commander Bill Thelen has reserved the Holiday Inn on E Yakima Ave for the birthday ball and needs to know if the location is acceptable and if we want to move the base meeting date from April 8th to April 15th which is the actual submarine force birth date.
 - Gary Brown moved that the submarine birthday ball be held at the Holiday Inn E Yakima Ave on April 15th, Bill Richards seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.
- Binnacle List:
 - Bill Millard is doing better and is close to moving back to Hawthorne Court.
 - Fred West is suffering from stones in his prostate and kidneys and is due for surgery.

SUBMARINE NEWS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Next meeting will be February 11th at the Palace Café 323 N. Main St. Ellensburg, WA at 1400 hrs.
- Mark Briggs asked for clarification on paying of Associate Members dues. He believes it stands that the base pays base dues and members pay National dues. To ensure this Rob Jacobsen moved that Associate members pay National dues and the Yakima base will pay base dues, Len Anderson seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.
- Joe & Gail Tarcza unveiled the completed Memorial Throw and it will now be displayed at meetings. Thank for the great job!
- Joe Tarcza reminded us that we need to do a base newsletter at least quarterly. John Dominguez offered to

work on it with an app he has for such things.

- Art Clark brought a few copies of the Northern Kittitas County Tribune that contains the article and photos of the Kittitas family Christmas donation event.
- Don Rairdan noticed that Sea Galley added a 15% gratuity to the dinner checks even though they told Fran Rairdan there would be no automatic gratuity added. Bill Thelen will work with Fran and look into it.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Sea Story: Joe Tarcza told about his qual boat the USS Triton SSRN-586 on sea trials with Rickover aboard and after performing angles and dangles and various tests a whistle appeared when operating at periscope depth. The crew spent days trying to determine the cause. While standing topside watch an E3 Seaman noticed that the handrail around the sail on the port side had a connection point that was bent over versus welded. The Seaman took some electrical insulation putty and stuck it in the hole and the whistle was gone.

Raffle: No raffle was held due to no items to raffle and short on time to sell tickets. Ron Star made a motion, Bill Thelen seconded, a vote was held and the motion passed.

Prayer of Benediction: Chaplain Art Clark led a prayer of benediction

Adjournment: Commander Bill Thelen adjourned the meeting at 1930 hrs.



USSVI YAKIMA BASE
USSVI Yakima Base
February 11, 2023
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Commander Bill Thelen called the meeting to order at 1420 hrs.
The meeting was held at The Palace 325 N Main St Ellensburg, WA.

ATTENDEES:

In attendance were: Bill Thelen, Fred West, John & Julia Dominguez, Gary Brown, Fran Rairdan, Bill & Barb Richards, Ron Star, Art Clark, Rob Jacobsen & guest Sandie White, Sherm Baldwin and Mark Briggs.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Chaplain Art Clark gave the prayer of invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chief of the Boat Fred West led the Pledge of Allegiance

TOLLING OF THE BOATS:

Chief of the Boat Fred West performed Tolling of the Boats

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Mark Briggs gave the treasurer report with a Yakima Base Net Worth of \$3006.24 as of January 31, 2023

MINUTES:

Secretary Mark Briggs send minutes out via email and minutes were approved with no changes

SUBVETTES REPORT:

Subvette Fran Rairdan gave a report.

- Apologized for Sea Galley automatically adding gratuities to members' checks when they told her it wouldn't happen and she is working on getting it rectified.
- Sending out letters and emails requesting donations for the Submarine Birthday Ball on April 15, 2023 and it is good to be starting earlier this year.
- Fran will order the cake for the Submarine Birthday Ball'
- Fran will pick out a plant for Doc's celebration of life on April 22, 2023.

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORT:

Joe Tarcza absent

- Note: Meeting was paused at 1440 hrs for food and resumed at 1510 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS

- Triton Sail event planning update was given by John Dominguez
 - Event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday June 9 & 10, 2023 with a potential tour of Hanford's B-Reactor.
 - Benton Port POC will work with the media to spread the word and let Hanford employees know.
 - Benton Port will provide chairs and PA system.
 - Mark Briggs will work on organizing the B Reactor tour
 - Clover Island Inn (509-586-0541) has a block of rooms set aside for Thursday – Saturday June 8, 9 & 10, 2023. You must call and mention reservations are for a USSVI member.
 - John has been talking with Bangor about passing the word there and whether to request uniforms or make it optional.
 - Will discuss if base coins should be given to certain attendees and determine criteria.
 - Fran is still working with food trucks to provide meals on Saturday June 10th for attendees to purchase.
 - Will discuss whether we will do a Tolling of the Boats and other talks and speeches
 - Will need a head count
- March Meeting in Tri-Cities was discussed.
 - It was decided to keep the Saturday March 11th 1400 hrs meeting in the Tri-Cities even if Bill Millard passes before then and won't be there to celebrate his birthday with us.
 - Bill Thelen will talk with Tarcza's about ordering and picking up a cake for the event.
 - Clover Island Inn (509-586-0541) will have a block of rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday March 10 & 11, 2023 at \$94.00 per night. Reservations will be taken up to the day of the meeting but you're encouraged to not wait that long. You must inform them you are with the USSVI group.
- Submarine Birthday Ball will be Saturday April 15, 2023 1700 hrs. at the Holiday Inn on N Yakima Ave Yakima, WA. Bill Thelen is working with them on the contract still since there has been a gap in communication due to an email change on their end.

NEW BUSINESS

- Float Overhaul – Mark Briggs will check condition of the float and make a report.
- Western Regional Roundup – Sacramento, CA April 27-29, 2023.
- National Convention – Tucson, AZ August 28 – September 3, 2023.
- Yakima Meeting Location – Yakima meetings will be held at the Sea Galley for the foreseeable future as they are working on the gratuity and members felt as long as they knew a gratuity was being added it was still a good meeting place.
- Winter Meeting Time – Bill Thelen asked for thoughts and it was decided to continue out and see how it goes next winter with the 1400 hrs start time from October through March.
- Bangor Boat Tours – Gary Brown will work on getting a tour in late July with an alternate in August.

SUBMARINE NEWS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Next meeting will be at the Clover Island Inn 435 N Clover Island Dr. #151 Kennewick, WA 99336
- Doc Cooper's Celebration of Life will be Saturday April 22, 2023 at his son's home outside of Wapato, WA – more information to follow.
 - Bill Thelen asked for a good representation by base members.
 - Fran Rairdan will select a living plant for the ceremony.
 - Art Clark will look into ceremonies listed on USSVI site.
 - Mark Briggs will follow up with Ruth Cooper for any needs.
- Gary Brown reported that Bill Millard's condition is poor and he sounds like he is ready for the end.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Sea Story:

Gary Brown told about a Petticoat Tour the Nautilus held which his parents came to town for and after dropping them off driving his buddy's car, he and his buddy came up on slow moving semi-truck going up a hill and Gary passed four of them. At the top he saw a law enforcement vehicle with lights activated and the officer standing outside of the vehicle. The officer hollered at them as they went by. Gary turned around and went back to see what the officer wanted and they ended up in jail for the night due to driving too fast for conditions. In the morning Gary made a call to the boat telling them of the incident and the CO called the jail and demanded Gary and his buddy's immediate release. Nothing more happened.

Raffle:

The raffle was held and the winners were;

- 50/50: Bill Thelen for \$27.00 which he donated \$20.00 back to the base.
- B24 Bomber story on VHS tape donated by Bill Thelen – Gary Brown winner.
- U-Boat War Book donated by Bill Richards – Art Clark winner.

Prayer of Benediction: Chaplain Art Clark led a prayer of benediction

Adjournment: Commander Bill Thelen adjourned the meeting at 1545 hrs.



USSVI YAKIMA BASE

USSVI Yakima Base

March 11, 2023

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Commander Bill Thelen called the meeting to order at 1520 hrs.

The meeting was held at the Clover Island Inn 435 Clover Island Dr. Kennewick, WA 99336.

ATTENDEES:

In attendance were: John & Julia Dominguez, Bill & Barb Richards, Rob Jacobsen, Art Clark, Bill Thelen, Joe & Gail Tarca, Don Siemens, Fred West, Rick Weiss, Hank Severin & significant other Marilyn Ottinger, Randy Nelson COB of the Inland Empire Base, special guests Margie Lange - Bill Millard's daughter, Gretchen Millard - Bill Millard's daughter-in-law, Burt Millard - Bill Millard's grandson and Mark Briggs

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Chaplain Art Clark gave the prayer of invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

COB Fred West led the Pledge of Allegiance

TOLLING OF THE BOATS:

COB Fred West performed Tolling of the Boats

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Mark Briggs gave the treasurer report with a Yakima Base Net Worth of \$3,028.24 as of February 28, 2023

MINUTES:

Minutes were approved as emailed 3/9/2023

SUBVETTES REPORT:

Fran was absent. Bill Thelen passed along for her that all Submarine Birthday Ball donation letters have been sent out and if anybody has ideas or someone they want to contact for a donation please contact Fran first to ensure we aren't double teaming the donor(s).

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORT:

Joe Tarcza welcomed us to the Tri-Cities and reported that:

- The new web site is on hold while Tim Carlisle recoups from an accident but the old web site and tools are still available for those with access.
- Western Regional Roundup is happening during April 27-29, 2023 in Sacramento, CA and information and signup is available on the new web site. There will be boat sailors from all over the west attending and should be great fun.
- USSVI National Convention is August 28 – September 3, 2023 in Tucson, AZ and information is available on the new web site. (Note: check emails from National)

OLD BUSINESS

- Triton Sail Update – John Dominguez reported that:
 - Boise base submarine float is available for display if we want. It was decided to save wear and tear on their and Yakima Base's trailers and not have the floats present.
 - Food Trucks are scheduled with two of them committing to attending. Bringing your own food is an option too.
 - A Color Guard group has been secured to attend.
 - Benton Port Dist. POC reports they will provide chairs, a PA system and water.
 - Media has been contacted.
 - Bangor POC has been notified.
 - Hanford POC has been notified.
 - Yakima Base Facebook has an attendance counter that those intending on attending can click to give us a potential headcount. Please share this post on your Facebook profile if you have one.
 - Mark Briggs has sent an email to the B-Reactor Tour scheduling group but has not heard back yet. He will follow up next week. No tours for 2023 are currently listed on their web site.
- Sub Ball Discussion – Bill Thelen
 - Saturday April 15, 2023 at 1700 hrs in the Holiday Inn at 802 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901
 - Meals are either Cordon Bleu (Hamster) or Roast Beef and sides for \$25.00 per person.
 - Raffle tickets; each person will receive one raffle ticket with their meal and extras will be \$5.00 each.
 - Advertising if any will hopefully be handled by Gary Brown.
 - Tolling of the Boats will be all boats lost and will be a video/slide show as last year.
 - Room reserved but some contract questions are still outstanding and Mark Briggs will try to stop by and try to clear things up.

NEW BUSINESS

- Float overhaul this year minimal per Mark Briggs with few paint spots needing attention.
- Yakima meeting location using the Red Rooster in Selah, WA was discussed at the request of Ron Star but Mark Briggs has been there and it does not have adequate space to support our regular meetings.
- Reminder that starting in April through the summer meeting time will be 1700 hrs. and daylight savings starts at 0200 hrs. tomorrow morning.

- Joel Cooper's celebration of life is April 22, 2023 - 1100 hrs. at his son's home on Ashue Rd. (between West Wapato Rd. and Jones Rd.) Wapato, WA.

SUBMARINE NEWS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Next meeting is April 15, 2023, 1700 hrs. at Holiday Inn 802 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Sea Story:

Bill Thelen told a story of his boat pulling into San Diego, CA and some of the crew going to a medieval style dinner show place where knights jousting, food was served on wood planks and eaten with hands and the waitresses were to be called "wenches" and treated as such. When the crew members were leaving one of them found the fairest wench, threw her over his shoulder and started walking out. She started complaining and he let her down asking "I thought we were supposed to treat you like a wench?" The other guys enjoyed it and she thought it was funny.

Raffle:

The raffle was held and the winner was;

- 50/50: Bill Thelen for \$32.00 and he donated \$30.00 back to the base.

Prayer of Benediction: Chaplain Art Clark led a prayer of benediction.

Adjournment: Commander Bill Thelen adjourned the meeting at 1610 hrs.