



April 2017
VOL MMXVII Issue 04

Clear The Baffles

GOLD COUNTRY BASE



Our purpose is "Perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



Max Schell, Base Navy JROTC Liaison, encourages the members to attend the Cadet Change of Command Ceremony at Burbank High School on April 27th.

"When Hearing Aids Are Not Enough". This month's Guest Speaker is Dick Shultz. He is qualified in submarines, but in a most unusual way, having never actually been on active duty on a submarine! He has worn his Silver Dolphins, having qualified aboard USS Menhaden SS377, with pride along with his Naval Flight Officer wings and later in his career the Special Operations Warfare insignia during his 27 year career in both the US Navy and US Naval Reserve. He retired as a Captain in 1987.

Guest speaker SGM Daniel Sebby, CSMR Curator, speaks about the future plans for the California State Military Museums.



From left to right: Base Commander Barry Wyatt, SGM Daniel Sebby, Base Historian Warren Wiederhoeft & Vice Commander Regy Bronner

Next Meeting —April 22, 2017

Potluck @ 1200 hrs Meeting Starts 1300 hrs
Folsom Veterans Hall 1300 Forrest Street Folsom, CA 95630

First Call to Morning Chow

Monday May 15 @0930

Denny's 122 North Sunrise Ave, Roseville

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Now Hear This!

22 April --Guest Speaker Dick Shultz Captain USN (SS) (Ret.)

27 April --Titan Battalion Navy JROTC Change of Command, (3 –4:30pm) Luther Burbank H.S. 3500 Florin Rd, Sacramento

30 April --Nomination period ends for USSVI National Awards. (page 7)

6 May --River Cats Salute to Armed Forces Night. Raley Field (page 8)

20 May --Land Sea Air Dinner (5-9:00pm) Folsom Veterans Hall (page 8)

26 May --Annual Navy JROTC Awards Night (5-8:30pm) Luther Burbank High School Cafeteria.

27 May --USSVI 2017 Charity Golf Tournament Brentwood Golf Club, 100 Summerset Drive, Brentwood, CA (page 8)

30 May --Memorial Day

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Shipmates,

As most of you know, we are very close to completing the building of our award-winning Submarine Float. Jerry and Harry are working on completing change order #300 and, barring any other great ideas we come up, with she will be completed soon.

Our new need was to provide permanent, safe, and secure storage for the float. After an extensive search and weighing all the options, the most viable solution for us is to construct a building on land donated by one of our members, John Kelley. The structure itself will be 700sqft (14'x50'), and will be used to store the float as well as other items used by the base for events.

John and Rick Reineman spent the day a few weeks ago poring the concrete for the stim walls. Jerry has secured the donation of the rebar and, if it ever stops raining, the slab will be next. The estimated cost of construction materials \$5000. We raised \$500 at last month's meeting and have almost matched that with our online Go-Fund-Me account but we still have a ways to go. Tim will send out a new email for the Go-Fund-Me, drive please link it to your Facebook accounts and forward it to those you think would be willing to help.

Barry Wyatt, Base Commander



Goat Locker



I know we don't all get up every morning thinking, what can I do for Gold Country Base today. I also

know though, we all care for our organization, we all want it to survive. For us to continue to survive we need everyone's effort in some way to make it happen. So what can we do you ask? First of all, attend the monthly meetings. Then, consider participating in the parades, you will be surprised how much fun it can be if you haven't already done it; Donate to the booster program, every little bit helps; Make proposals to the group on ways to increase our revenues; Keep the group in your thoughts ie wear your hat or a few patches to attract new members. Fix up a jacket with your favorite boat patch, it works wonders. I've never received a negative comment except from a jealous Marine. We can all do one more thing no matter how small. If you know of a submariner who is not a member of USSVI, pursue getting them involved. Membership of qualified submariners is one of our main goals and making them feel welcome is key to keeping them. We are all brothers. And remember any non-member is another good Sea Story yet to be heard. A good friend you have yet to meet. We're all in this boat together.



I hope your jelly beans were chewy, and your peeps were gooey, your beer brought you cheer and your wine was divine.

God Bless. **Tom Rumsey MMCS(SS) USN, Ret. Chief of the Boat**

So what is Easter all about? Very briefly, Easter is a cultural name that is so common that even many churches use it. Easter in a cultural

FROM
OUR
CHAPLAIN



sense is more about bunnies and colored eggs. From a Christian sense it about Christ's resurrection from the dead. This was a supernatural event after His death for all our sins. He was the ultimate sacrifice and also why He

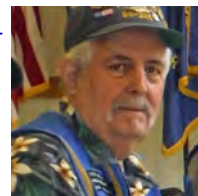
is sometimes in the bible called the Lamb of God. Because no animal could be a perfect substitute for sin. Only God could do that. Here are a few of many scriptures that talk about His resurrection: Isaiah 52:13 through chapter 53; Matthew 17:23; Acts 2:24; Romans 4:25, 6:4, 8:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. God's blessings this coming Resurrection Day and Happy Easter.

In Christ, Howard Grover,



Shipmates, Don't forget that if you need a new hat and want a specific boat name on it stop by the Storekeepers table and have me order one

for you. I can have it back within a week or so.



Also take a look at my catalogue of boat patches. There is a patch for every submarine that has been in commission. Some have more than one. I also have bunch of general type patches on display and many more than you can order.

Tim Spoon

Treasurer, Storekeeper & Membership

Lost Boats

April

USS Pickerel (SS-177)

Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off



USS Grenadier (SS-210)

Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane planted a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane. While she shot down the plane. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew



USS Gudgeon (SS-211)

Was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack.



USS Snook (SS-279)

Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number



USS Thresher (SSN-593)

Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" - then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board



April Birthdays

Charles Almgren

Ed Alves Richard Boyd

Ken Earls Harold Fisher

John Hintz Alvin Lehman

Gene Murphy Bill Vincent

Warren Wiederhoeft

John Leers



On The Lighter Side



As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here know how to pray?" One man stepped forward. "Aye, Captain, I know how to pray." "Good," said the captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets - we're one short."



Are you the Chief that is having the work party?

Gold Country Base Officers

Base Commander

Barry Wyatt (916) 485-6464
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Base Photographer

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Western Region Director

Robert J. Bissonnette (619) 644-8993



Gold Country Base would not be able to continue to operate without the generous contribution from those Members, Wives and Friends who donate to

Gold Country Base Booster's

Thank you

**Charles Almgren* Ed Alves* David Bates
Harry Beach* Anita Bronner* Regy Bronner*
Steve Buchroeder* Sam Burks Harvey Canter*
Don Carman* Dennis Cline* Jim D'orso
Winford Ellis Frank Elliott* Harold Fisher*
Janet Fisher Ernie Frost Howard Grover*
Sudsey Husaon Bill Hunt* Tony Jacobs*
Leslie Jamison* Bill Johnson Pete Juhos*
Richard Larson* Alvin Lehman* Steve Loomis*
James Maclean* Jim Mahon* Chuck McKinley*
Jerry Mitchell* George Miyao* Pat Noone*
Paul Osborn* Gene Ratto Rick Reineman*
Max Rhinehart* Robert Robinson Ron Rule*
Bernie & Evelyn Ritscher* Tom Rumsey*
Joe Ryan* Lon Schmidt* Howard Shaw
Tim Spoon* Fred Stiesberg* Warren Wiederhoeft*
Roy Wilhite* Larry Williams* Ernie Woods*
Barry Wyatt***

** Multi-year Donors*

VA Information

VA Will Allow Veterans To Select Burial Sites

A rule change at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will allow veterans to apply for burial in national cemeteries before their death, rather than requiring family members to apply on their behalf after it.

Veteran burial benefits previously were approved at the "time of need." For families, that meant waiting until after the veteran died to apply for the benefits via fax or email by sending in a copy of the veteran's DD-214 or separation documents and then following up by phone.

The rule change instead allows veterans to be approved for burial in a VA national cemetery "pre-need," or before death, through a form submitted by fax, email or mail. The form can be filled out by the veteran or by someone else on his or her behalf.

More than four million people are buried in VA cemeteries.

The change is an easy way for the VA to simplify the burial process for grieving families, officials with the Veterans of Foreign Wars said, and allow veterans to put their affairs in order.

Predetermination forms can be submitted by fax to 1-855-840-8299, email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151, according to the VA.

Gold Country Base Meeting Minutes. March 25, 2017



Bill Hunt, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 13:00 by two alarms from the diving klaxon. Base Commander Barry Wyatt read the USSVI Creed and Purpose and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Base Chaplain Howard Grover gave the Invocation.

TOLLING THE BELL: The Lost Boats for the month of March were read by the Vice Commander Regy Bronner and the Chief of the Boat tolled the bell once for each Lost Boat with an additional toll for those ship-mates on Eternal Patrol.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION: There were 29 members and no guests in attendance.

FORMAL REPORTS:

TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP/STORES: Base Treasurer Tim Spoon reported the following:

The books are in balance. Gold Country Base does not publicly release financial information in the Newsletter. Any Base member can request a report from Base Treasurer via email.

Gold Country Base membership: 108 members in good standing and 7 associate members.

Seven Base Members are eligible for induction in to the Holland Club.

2017 Calendars are available now.

PAO / NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Barry Wyatt reported the following:

The Base received recognition for our participation in the memorial services for Ken Ickes and Hal Rutter.

USSVI Award nomination submissions are due at end of month.

Barry solicited donations for the completion of the Sub Float and the storage building for the float.

Member biographies are needed for the Base Newsletter. This is a good way to become familiar with the background of the membership.

HOLLAND CLUB CHAIR: Pat Noone was not in attendance due to health issues. There are seven Base Members that are or will be eligible for induction in to the Holland Club.

EAGLE SCOUT CHAIR: Gil Miller reported that there are no upcoming events.

CHAPLAIN REPORT / BINNACLE LIST: Chaplain Howard Grover reported that Bernie Richter is battling pneumonia. Pat Noone is also dealing with health issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the January meeting and seconded. The membership voted in favor of approval. There was no February meeting due to the memorial service for Ken Ickes.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/COMMUNICATIONS:

The Annual Land Sea and Air Dinner will be held on May 20 at the Hall. Cocktails @ 1700. Dinner @ 1800. Tri-Tip and Chicken are on the menu. Tickets will be available at the next meeting. Single tickets are \$40. Table of 10 is \$35 per person.

Guest speaker SGM Daniel M. Sebby, CSMR Curator, California State Military Museums, presented an update on the moving of the Downtown Sac museum and the procurement of additional items that will be displayed at the new location.

The Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony will be held April 1 at 1300 at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Bldg. 22737 Main St, Hayward, CA.

117th Submarine Birthday Ball will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey on April 22.

USSVI Western Regional Roundup will be held April 23-28 in Las Vegas, NV at Sam's Town Hotel.

Titan Battalion Navy JROTC Change of Command will be held April 27 from 1400 to 1630 at Luther Burbank High School, 3500 Florin Rd., Sacramento.

Pete Juhos won the 50/50 raffle and donated the proceeds to the building fund.

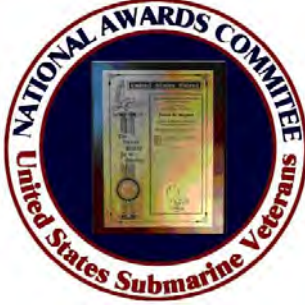
First Call to Morning Chow: 0930 April 3 @ Denny's (Howe and Hwy 50)

Next Base Meeting: April. 22, 2017

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Base Chaplin gave a closing prayer. Chief of the Boat surfaced the Boat @ 1415 hrs.

Submitted by Bill Hunt, Base Secretary

News From National



National Award Nominations

Shipmates,

We are now almost halfway through the nominations period for National Awards, and the nominations are coming in very slowly.

Please take a moment to review the Awards Manual posted on the USSVI website, and send in a nomination for your Shipmate.

There is always someone in each Base who is doing a great job, so recognize them with an Award for their service.

Remember, the nomination period ends on April 30th (except Newsletters).

John Stanford

National Awards Committee Chairman

JStan131@Comcast.net

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Orlando, Florida

September 1 – September 6, 2017

USSVI Central Florida Base

is your host for the 2017

USSVI National Convention



2017 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Florida

Rosen Shingle Creek is a 4-star hotel with tons of amenities, including:

- Rooms for \$105.00 per night
- Free parking for hotel guests
- Free valet parking for handicapped guests with handicap license/sticker
- \$2.00 beer and reduce price mixed drinks in the hospitality room
- 25% discount at various hotel restaurants for guests

Hotel and Convention Registration can be done on line "www.ussviconvention.org/2017/"

Click on the "Hotel Registration" or "Convention Registration"

IMPORTANT! In order to regain War Veteran status for USSVI, we will no longer be accepting Associate members UNLESS they have been military members from any of the services, and they served during the specified war dates that comply with IRS. Those dates are:

- December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
- June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
- August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975; and
- August 2, 1990, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential Proclamation or by law. *(As of the date of drafting of these guidelines, the date was open.)*

This is a TEMPORARY moratorium until we qualify for War Veteran status again, which is: 90% of our membership must have served during those specified periods. We will then again open membership for associates.

Regional & Local Events



SALUTE TO ARMED FORCES NIGHT
Saturday May 6 - 7:05pm
Free Tickets for Veterans & Family's
Deadline to Sign-Up April 22
Raley Field – 400 Ballpark Dr.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
rivercats.com

Free Tickets for Great Seats are available for all Sub Vet members and their families but you must sign-up for them by no later than April 22. Email me today at sacsubvet@barrywyatt.com or let me know at the meeting.

Tickets at the reduced group rate (\$35ea) will be available at the meeting (see Bill Hunt.) The menu is below:

- * Mixed Greens with Strawberries & Blueberries, Feta Cheese and walnut w/Balsamic Vinaigrette
- * Grilled Tri Tip w/chimichurri sauce
- * Grilled Chicken w/strawberry/mango salsa
- * Roasted Red Potatoes
- * Green Beans w/garlic roasted grape tomatoes
- * Bread & Butter
- * Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms for Vegetarians (by pre-order)



ANNUAL LAND~SEA~AIR DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY MAY 20, 2017
COCKTAILS 5:00 ~ DINNER 6:00
GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE
1300 VETERANS WAY FOLSOM, CA 95630
TICKETS
\$40 Each ~ Table of 10 \$350
Contact (916) 958-7911

USSVI 2017 Charity Golf Tournament





May 27th, 2017
12 pm—Tee Time
Registration 1000

\$125 Entry
Includes Lunch/
Dinner & Golf

Prizes Contest Drawings

Raffle Drawings and More

All Proceeds Benefit

USSVI Mare Island Base Charities

Bill Dornik, 751 Rollingwood Rd., Vallejo, CA 94591-5707
 Make check payable to: USSVI Mare Island Base

<p>Please register by May 13, 2017.</p> <p>USSVI 2017 Memorial Golf Tournament Saturday, May 27, 2017 Registration Begins at 10:00 am Shotgun Tee Time is 12:00 am Where: Brentwood Golf Club Cost: \$125 per player includes dinner Guest: \$30 for dinner only (6pm)</p> <p>Foursome (if applicable) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____</p> <p>This side of the ticket is to be kept by golfer</p>		<p>Name _____ Address _____ City, St, Zip _____ Phone _____ Cost: \$125, includes 18 holes with cart and dinner Guest for dinner only will be charged \$30 per person Golfer: _____ Dinner Guest: _____ Total _____ Foursome (if applicable) 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____</p> <p>This side of the ticket is held by USSVI Committee</p>
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Placer Veterans Stand down, May 23, 24, & 25, 2017

The 7th annual Veterans Stand down in Placer County will be held at the Placer County Fairgrounds, 850 All America City Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678

Volunteers Needed

WE NEED YOU – Volunteers are what make the Placer Veterans Stand Down such a successful event. Volunteers are need before, during and after the actual event to provide the many services offered to support our Veterans. Contact us at info@PlacerVeteransStandDown.org for more information.

Who We Are

Harry Beach

I was born in March of 1940 in Utica, New York. We moved to the San Diego area in 1945, then on to Reseda, CA in 1955. I moved to St. Helen, Michigan upon graduating high school in 1958. I joined the Navy in October of 1958. I went to Boot Camp in San Diego, CA then onto "A" school at Great Lakes. Upon completion I was assigned to the USS Fulton in New London, which was like a civilian job with shift work etc. Seeing the boat guys having liberty while we worked on their boats, I requested submarine school. I completed Sub school and was assigned to the USS Pomodon SS-486 to qualify for sub duty. After qualifying, I was assigned to Nuclear power school, which I disliked and told the commanding officer so, and he had me transferred to the USS Hornet CVS-12. After re-enlisting, I went back to Great Lakes for "B" school then on to the USS Pomfret SS-391. In October of 1965 mandatory shore duty had me back at Great Lakes for instructor duty, however, not having enough time on enlistment, I was assigned to base security. I left the Navy in the fall of 1966 and 13 days later I was working for 3M Company in the Bay Area. After 13 years with them I moved to Boise, Idaho to work for a 3M dealer as a service manager. After eight years I moved back to the Bay Area until I retired in 2002 as Regional Manager Pacific Northwest for Xerox. Over the years I worked for many of the office automation companies in management positions. After leaving Xerox, I worked for IGT out of Reno paying mega jackpots to lucky winners. Interesting work, I was on call one month and off the next 24/7.



Our Members in Action

Folsom Easter Egg Hunt



Thank you, Tim Spoon, Bill Hunt and Harry Beach for representing the Gold Country Base at the Folsom Parks & Recreation 23rd Annual Spring Eggstravaganza which was held last Saturday at Lembi Park in Folsom.

Rebar Ready



The new permanent home for our Submarine Float is under construction. Gold Country Base members John Kelly and Rick Reineman poured the stim walls and are waiting for some dry days to pour the slab.



April 2017 Newsletter