



***USSVI
Southern Colorado Base***

Steve McKee, Base Commander

Newsletter for March, 2011

Hello, everyone ! Well, Spring has officially "sprung" it seems and, sure enough, the trees are starting to leaf out, birds are singing and building new nests, flowers are beginning to bloom....and WEEDS are getting off to a rousing start too ! There's always a down side, right? Anyway, here's hoping your Spring is going well so far, notwithstanding the wild winds we've been having.

The St. Patrick's day parade was a success as was mentioned in the last newsletter and if you have a few good pictures of the float all dressed up in it's green finery, I'd appreciate it if you would email them to me and I'll get them in the next letter.



Minutes of the March Meeting

The following are the minutes of the March Meeting thanks to Frank "YO" Richard, YNCM(SS), Ret., our base Secretary:

Minutes of Southern Colorado Base Submarine Veterans Monthly Meeting

Date: 19 March, 2011

Meeting called to order by Steve Iskra, Base Vice Commander

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Base Vice Commander; Prayer by Chaplain Charlie Flood.

Members present: Steve Iskra, Bernie Herpin, Frank Richard, Charlie Flood, Larry Leek, Snuffy Hughes, Ken Gilman, Paul Chestnut, Jim Hughes, Kevin Simmons, Brandon Martinez, Shawn LaCroix.

Ladies present: Linda Herpin, Charlotte Hughes, Noralee Hughes

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion made to dispense with the reading of minutes; motion seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made and seconded, no corrections; accepted. Bernie commented on the note received from Sarah Doyle that they were no longer able to conduct the Ice Cream Socials at the Veterans' Home.

Old Business: Thanked Noralee and the ladies for the decorations on the float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

New Business: Base Vice Commander stated next meeting in April will be at Bambino's Restaurant in Colorado Springs. Signs for the float: Brandon Martinez will get together with Shawn LaCroix for the design work. Charlie Flood brought samples of cards that he received from the National Chaplain. Snuffy Hughes reported on bubbles appearing on the float. Snuffy further stated he will report on the necessity for a workday to take care of the bubbles and any other needed work.

Adjournment: Motion made and seconded. Motion passed. Chaplain: Closing Prayer.

Next Meeting: 16 April 2011 at Bambino's Restaurant in Colorado Springs.



Commander's Comments

Hello, all, hope to see you all at Bambino's this month on the 16th of April. For those that haven't been, it's located on the south east corner of Platte & Circle. It's "L" shaped and on the upper floor of the building. If you go in the north entrance, you have to

climb stairs, but if you go in the south west entrance there's an elevator. The meeting room is on the south end; coming off the elevator walks you right in to it. They're expecting us. They have a pretty decent menu as well as the buffet, so peruse the buffet before you decide. As usual, lunch around 1130, meeting starts at 1230.

Since I wasn't at the last meeting, we will pretty much have an open discussion on things I've been getting asked about: Sponsorship, Fundraising, etc. So, Treasurer, please be prepared to discuss. So be ready to talk about moving forward. Plus, we will discuss any old business that might be lurking out there.

Meanwhile, enjoy the weather, and see you on the 16th. Any special subjects that need research, make sure you get them to me so I can get the right person assigned for the action.

If you're coming to the meeting from the north, take the Filmore exit, follow it east and after it crosses Union it turns into Circle Drive going south. Go to Platte, make a left turn and then the first driveway on the right, in front of the muffler shop.

Here's the direction for those coming from the south: Take exit 138 for Circle Drive, turn right at S. Circle Drive, turning right at E. Platte Ave, you're on the corner. Take the first driveway on the right by the muffler shop.

***Thanks,
Steve***



Scuttlebutt and Sea Stories

Well, I haven't received any pictures or yarns from anyone for this issue, so you'll just have to put up with another one from me, but sooner or later, I'm going to run out, so gimme some help, guys.



"There we were... thousands of miles from nowhere in the vast Pacific Ocean and some bozo starts a fire and we all rush topside with no clothes on and stand around wondering what to do next."

Actually, it was a swim call and barbeque and we were having a great time just goofing off for a short while. The time was late 1963 and we were on our way to MUCH colder waters so we were soaking up rays while we could. Editor is second from the left and weighing around 165 at the time. Wow !! That was a LONG time ago !! One of the smartest men I ever met is the guy in the dungarees. His name was C. K. Johnson, QM1(SS). He was a WWII submariner and he and his entire crew were captured by the Japanese when their sub ran aground on a sand bar. They spent the rest of the war in a very brutal prison camp on the outskirts of Yokosuka, Japan. It was our major port of call for refit, repair and supplies before going on ELINT patrol up north, but C. K. refused to go ashore on liberty because of what he'd suffered there while a prisoner. He wasn't bitter, he just didn't want to be reminded of the bad times.

Good Reading

Here are a few great books about submarines that I've read and can recommend highly:

"Blind Man's Bluff" , by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew

"The Silent War" , by John Pina Craven

"Escape from the Deep" , by Alex Kershaw

"Raising the Hunley" , by Brian Hicks and Schuyler Kropf

"Typhoon" , by Robin White

"Cruisers for Breakfast" , by John G. Mansfield, Jr.

Note of interest: "Cruisers for Breakfast", a historical work about the WWII war patrols of the U.S.S. Darter SS227 and U.S.S. Dace SS247, as well as some information on the U.S.S. Menhaden SS377, was written by an old shipmate of mine on the Menhaden in the early '60s, John Mansfield. John and his brother, Don, were radiomen on the Menhaden and looked so much alike that it was sometimes hard to tell them apart, but they weren't twins.

Brandon Martinez has offered his recommendations for a couple more books which sound like they would be great:

"Of Ice and Steel" , and "Epitaph" , both by D. Clayton Meadows, former torpedoman and crewmember of USS Dallas SS(N) 700

(If you've read a good book or books recently and would like to recommend them, please let me know and I'll include them in the list. I'll need Title and Author's name. Thanks, Editor)



Float Banner

Brandon Martinez has been working on the design of a banner to be used on the float and has offered the following for the membership to approve:

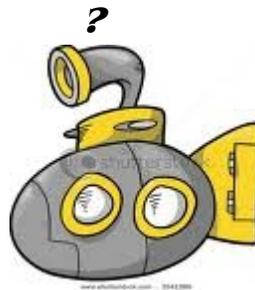


"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and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

Thanks, Brandon, for your hard work on this project. It looks great !!



**Whoa, there, little fella.
Where ya goin' in such a hurry?**



Chaplain's Corner



On behalf of our Base Chaplain, Charlie Flood, please consider the following:

We are truly saddened at the news of the passing of our shipmate and friend, John H. B. "Bryan" Minnigerode. He was a WWII submarine veteran and a great warrior and defender of freedom and a treasured and honored member of Southern Colorado Base and will be sorely missed by all. He will remain fondly in our memories.

Our sincere condolences and sympathies are extended to his family. Rest your oars, shipmate, and thanks for your service.

"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him."
Proverbs 30:5



The following page is an invitation to the Submarine Birthday Banquet to be held in Lakewood, Colorado.



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Rocky Mountain Base**

**ANNOUNCES THE
111th SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY
BANQUET**

TO BE HELD

**ON: 13 MAY 2011 - CASH BAR BEGINS AT 1800 - DINNER AT
1900**

**AT: HOLIDAY INN LAKEWOOD, 7390 W. HAMPTON AVENUE,
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO**

GUEST SPEAKER: RADM Larry Marsh, USN-Ret. (SS)

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR YOUR AFTER DINNER LISTENING
AND DANCING PLEASURE**

**HOLIDAY INN ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A SPECIAL
RATE**

-ALSO-

**USS GRAYLING (SS-209)
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

1100 ON SATURDAY 14 MAY 2011

AT SLOAN LAKE PARK, DENVER

**GUEST SPEAKER: Capt. Dan Branch, Jr. USN-Ret.
(SS)**

-Current National President Navy League-



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND BOTH

→ DETAILS AND RESERVATION INFO TO FOLLOW



Here are some convention announcements for general info:



OZARK-RUNNER BASE, USSVI 2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION

**September 5 - 11, 2011
In Springfield, Missouri**

The OZARK-RUNNER Base of the USSVI will host the 2011 National Convention of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) in Springfield, MO. September 5-11, 2011. We hope that you'll join us in showing our shipmates and their guests what Missouri hospitality and appreciation is all about.

We have contracted Your New Home Magazine & Chamber Directories Inc. They will be distributing a *Commemorative Convention Magazine* to our shipmates. We are offering all interested businesses the opportunity to place an advertisement in this magazine.

The magazine will be FULL SIZE 8.5 X 11, FULL COLOR on 70 lb GLOSS PAPER. We will print a minimum of 5,000 copies. We will distribute to all attendees before and during the week long convention.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MAIL CHECKS TO: Chamber Directories Inc
PO Box 43
Fair Grove MO 65648



417-759-1175

AD COPY:
Chamber Directories Inc is a full service advertising agency and will do as little or as much design work as you need at NO EXTRA SERVICE CHARGE.

Please send all artwork to:
Email: debi@yournewhomemag.com Chamber Directories
Phone: 417-759-1175 PO Box 43
Fax: 417-759-9302 Fair Grove MO 65648

Ozark Runner Officer Contacts

Ron Athey,
Base Commander, Convention Chairman
Ozark-Runner Base USSVI
Host Base, 2011 USSVI National Convention
Phone: 417-581-1887

George Mason,
Vice Commander, Convention Chairman
Ozark-Runner Base USSVI
Host Base, 2011 USSVI National Convention
Phone: 417-353-6853

We are now offering program
ad space for the 2011 USSVI convention
in Springfield MO.

The event this year, will be sponsored by
Ozark Ridge Runner Base in Springfield.

Below are the ad rates for the bases.
Proceedes will help pay for the printing and
distribution of the convention program.
So, give a shout out to all your USSVI brothers
with an ad for **YOUR BASE**.

\$99



\$169

An advertisement for the USS Springfield Base. On the left is a circular logo with the text 'USS SPRINGFIELD BASE' at the top, a central image of a submarine, and 'UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS St. Louis, Missouri' at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'Have a great time at the 2011 convention in Springfield MO' and 'Ozark Runner Base - Sponsor'. Below this is the contact information: 'From all of us at USS Springfield Base 8 Penacook Drive Rockester, IL 62563-9401'. On the far right is a small circular logo with 'UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS' and a small black and white photo of a submarine.



See you all at the next meeting.

***Larry Leek,
Newsletter Editor***

Notes and Reminders