



***USSVI
Southern Colorado Base***

Steve McKee, Base Commander

Newsletter for November, 2010

ALOHA, Everyone, and, as they say in the "Islands".....



Wouldn't it be great to spend Christmas in Hawaii ? !! My wife and I spent several there during our Navy years and there was always a special atmosphere during the holiday season. Of course, I spent a few Christmases at sea too, as I'm sure we all did.

Well, November was a very busy month for Southern Colorado Base. First, and foremost was the maiden voyage of "Scorpion II", as our float has been called. And it was a great debut at the Veterans' Day Parade in Colorado Springs on November 6th. It was a picture perfect day and we had a great turnout. Rocky Mountain Base was present with their Grayling float and we

enjoyed fellowshiping with those great people and joining them for lunch at Southside Johnny's after the parade. The crowd really seemed to be impressed with our parade entry and we were all proud to march alongside or ride on it and showcase our organization and our branch of the service. It was great to have our new members take part in the festivities with us and hopefully, we were successful in attracting some potential future members as well.

Then, we had our regular monthly meeting on November 20th at the PourHouse in Pueblo West. (The minutes of that meeting will appear later in the newsletter.) We had a GREAT turnout and a great time! Thanks to all for attending and taking part in the affairs of the club. Keep up the good work. At that meeting, Snuffy Hughes, Jim Hughes, Noralee Hughs ,Ken Gilman and Charlie Flood were presented awards for their hard and skillful work in doing the lion's share of the labor on the float and getting it ready on time for the Veterans' Day Parade. It was great to recognize these special people with some "tongue in cheek" awards and we all got a good chuckle out of our base Commander's clever and humorous wording of the awards. Thanks, Steve, for doing that on behalf of all of us in the club.

And, finally, we were priveleged to enter our float in the Pueblo Parade of Lights on November 27th. It was a nice, clear, albeit chilly evening in downtown Pueblo as we made our way down the parade route with many in the crowd cheering and expressing appreciation for our service as we passed by. We had a small issue with the 'electrical load' of Christmas lights and we had to shed a little load to keep some of them burning throughout the course of the parade, but we have a plan in mind to correct that. We're going to need a small generator for the float instead of the inverter we presently use in order to make everything work. So, if anyone has a generator they'd like to donate or would like to donate to a generator fund, we'd be glad to talk to you. We'll probably be discussing that at a future club meeting.

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving day and weekend. Now the Christmas season is fully upon us. This brings up the annual Christmas party, which, as most of you know, will be held again at the Flying W Ranch where we have had several previous parties and always a great time. Please help Bernie with the planning by getting your name and guest(s) name(s) in to him as well as your money so he can finalize plans with the good folks at Flying W.





Commander's Comments

Shipmates !!!

We're about to cap off another successful year for Southern Colorado Base. We can all be extremely proud that we have completed a milestone the Base has been striving for; " OUR OWN FLOAT". If you have not seen it, please let me know and we'll send you pictures, or look me up on Facebook, we have been posting there. In addition, we've attended two parades, the Veterans' Day parade which has always been a successful parade for us (walking), and the Pueblo Christmas Light Parade, in which we were well received, and was a nice closure to the season. Those that braved the cold temperatures enjoyed themselves. The COB was even smiling !!! 8-)

We look forward to many more parades this coming year, like the St. Patty's Day Parade in March, Cripple Creek has an Armed Forces Day in August, and Fountain has a parade around Labor Day, to name a few. And I would encourage the spouses and others to ride with us. You've certainly earned that right.

Our next gathering will be on the 17th for our annual Christmas Dinner, gives our ladies and opportunity to get gussied up, and to impress each other on how well we clean up. So come out and enjoy a great evening of socializing. The Flying W has always been a favorite, and the food and show are always good. Hope to see all of you there.

From Linda and I, we wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and will see you in Pueblo for our 1st meeting in January.

***Warmest Wishes,
Steve McKee, Southern Colorado Base Cdr.***

Thanks, Steve, and thanks for your leadership throughout your tenure as Base Commander. I'm sure I speak for us all that you've done a great job and we're proud to have your guidance and advice as we look forward to another great year. Well done !

One final boost for the Christmas Party/Dinner. Social hour is 1600 – 1700 hours, dinner 1700 – 1800 hours, and western show 1800 – 1900 hours; we'll be out by 1900. Rough directions are: go west on Garden of the Gods road, turn right at the "T" intersection and follow the signs to Flying W.



Minutes of Southern Colorado Base Submarine Veterans Monthly Meeting:

Date: 20 November, 2010

Meeting called to order by Steve McKee, Base Commander.

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Base Commander, Prayer by Base Chaplain

Members Present: Steve McKee, Steve Iskra, Frank Richard, Bernie Herpin, Charlie Flood, Ken Gilman, Snuffy Hughes, Ray Butters, Paul Chestnut, Woody Woods, Larry Leek, Shawn LaCroix, Kevin Simmons, Clarence Butler, Ken Andrew and Jim Hughes.

Ladie Present: Linda Herpin, Susie Butters, Charlott Hughes, Noralee Hughes and Lori Woods.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Motion made and passed to accept as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made and seconded, no corrections, Accepted.

Old Business: Base Cdr. Welcomed all and commented on the great turnout for the meeting. Bas Cdr noted the pictures and videos of the float and member in the Veterans' Day Parade with thanks to Ken Gilman for posting them via

emails. Base Cdr noted the upcoming Christmas Dinner at Flying W Ranch on Friday, December 17th. Bernie gave an update on number attending so far.

New Business: Base Cdr noted we are entered in the Parade of Lights in Pueblo on Saturday, the 28th of November. Further noted to dress warmly and plan on riding on the float as the Veterans Day Parade volunteers kept urging him to go faster. Stated we need mini-lights for the float. Entry fee was \$50.00 for the Judge and Win with a prize of \$250.00 for best Western Theme Entry. Need idea for Western Theme for our float and he said he has a mounted set of cow horns, serape and kid's saddle that could be used on the submarine or the float. Need to be in line at 4:00 pm and he would pick up the float at Snuffy's at 2:00 pm. Picking up the float early would allow travel to Pueblo at a reasonable, not-excessive rate of speed on I-25. Base Cdr would send out email on the Parade of Lights Parade and our participation. Frank thanked the Base for the flowers and card at his wife's funeral. Base Cdr touched base with the USSVI National about Holland Club eligibility as it has recently changed. Based on the new eligibility, he has sent in recommendations for three new Holland Club members: Steve Iskra, Paul Chestnut and one other. Base Cdr stated that Rocky Mountain Base had made new coins and they would have Colorado Bases on them so as all three USSVI bases can get and hand them out. Base storekeeper, based on a show of hands who wanted the new coin will order twelve of them. Base Cdr touched base with Joe Maurelli and Bryan Minnigerode and stated that they were doing well; further stated Bryan was unable to attend the Veterans' Day Parade but would attend the Christmas Dinner. Base Cdr made presentations of certificates and coins to Ken Gilman, Charlie Flood, Snuffy Hughes, Jim Hughes and Noralee Hughes for their outstanding work on the submarine float and trailer. Base Cdr talked about looking for a new meeting place in Colorado Springs, mentioning Southside Johnny's, The Retired Enlisted Association and Patty Jewett Golf Course. He asked for suggestions as to any other places for the Colorado Springs meeting place. Prior to closing, Base Cdr presented a photo of the float to the owners of ST's PourHouse, Tim and Colleen Guidry, and thanked them for their donation to the float fund and the use of their facility for our meetings.

Adjournment: Motion made and seconded. Motion passed. Base Chaplain gave the closing prayer.

Next meeting: 15 January at ST's PourHouse, Pueblo West.



Notice of Award Presentation



On November 22, 2010, John Carcioppolo, Groton Base Commander, was inducted into the Veteran's Hall of Fame in Groton, Connecticut by the Governor of Connecticut and the Connecticut Director of Veterans' Affairs. His many years of devotion to the US Navy Submarine Service, USSVI, Groton Base, submarine veterans and veterans in general were recognized in statements by dignitaries present and in his award.

Two of our Southern Colorado Base members, Shawn LaCroix and Kevin Simmons, served under Chief Carcioppolo when he was COB aboard USS Dallas, SS(N)700. John retired as Command Master Chief.

On behalf of Southern Colorado Base; Well Done, Chief, and thanks for your distinguished service in both active and retired capacities.



Well, shipmates, that about does it for this letter. See you at the party.

Larry Leek, Newsletter Editor.

Notes and Reminders