



Publication for members of USS Illinois Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



Mark Dykstra, EM2
USS Illinois Commander

Well, 2021 is officially behind us, and I hope 2022 will be much better.

First things first, Pete Buffington emailed me and said that the Warbird Weekend for 2022 will not happen. Concerns with COVID are still rampant which makes planning for an event hard, so they are going to reevaluate for 2023. This was always a fun time for us and gave us exposure.

So, that just means that we all can go up to SUBFEST!! Wayne has emailed us, and it looks as though they will try to do a better job this year. They are planning the Grant mini-reunion so if they are good for it, we should be too.

I would like to thank Tom Ramsay for stepping up into the Jr. Vice position. I want to remind everyone that in order for us to survive we all need to play an integral part, just like on the boat.

I would like everyone's input on what they would like the base to do. As of now we have an open slate.

I will not be there for our February meeting as I will be up in the Dells for the Wisconsin VFW Mid-Winter Meetings. That does not mean that you do not have to be at Base meeting. The last couple of meetings have been slacking, so I would like to have more of our members attend if you can.

Take care and stay safe out there.

For a smile . . . read this



EDITOR'S NOTE: Having lived with a sub sailor for "many" years, plus having the pleasure of working with and around marines the above made sense.

Executive Director of Wisconsin Maritime Museum replies to Base's SubFest concerns.

Read her letter on page 3.



Our Creed: "To 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 accomplishment. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

www.ussillinoisbase.org





MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Base Commander Mark Dykstra at 12:05 p.m.

13 Members present –Patrick O’Brien, Wayne Orrison, Richard Martin, Renee Martin, Don Bosetti, Joe Jones, Daryl Rorabaugh, Tom Ramsay, Kate Ramsay, Phil Owens, Jim Helsell, Terry Elmeier, Bruce Pickering, Mark Dykstra and new member Steve Jones.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Invocation was given by Chaplain Richard Martin

Member / guest introductions by all hands. New member Ret. CDR Steve Jones introduced.

Recitation of the USSVI Creed by Commander Mark Dykstra

Tolling of Bells ceremony: Phil Owens read the list of lost boats and tolled the bell.

Secretary’s Report: Secretary Pat O’Brien asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the base newsletter. Motion was made by Dick Martin; seconded by Phil Owens Motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bruce Pickering gave the monthly treasurer’s report. Tom Ramsay made a motion made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Terry Elmeier. Motion was approved

Chaplain’s Report: Chaplain Dick Martin observed several members have not been present for several meetings. He said he would make contact with them. ACTION ITEM: Secretary Pat O’Brien to provide Chaplain Dick Martin a list of attendees for the last four months.

Storekeeper’s Report: None.

Kaps(ss) 4 Kids(ss): We still need a person to take over this responsibility.

Unfinished business:

- The **holiday party** will be at Boundaries Restaurant on a Saturday afternoon in January. Phil Owens will firm up date and time. Once date and time are established, Pat O’Brien

will send an invitation to all hands. All hands are requested to RSVP Phil Owens as to whether they can attend or not.

- The Current **Senior Vice CDR** is unable to perform his office because of family matters. CDR Mark Dykstra appointed Junior Vice CDR Gregg Miller to assume this responsibility. Wayne Orrison, Dick Martin, and Tom Ramsay volunteered to accept the office of Junior Vice Commander. Commander Dykstra will select one of the candidates.

New Business:

- Dick Martin reported the previously cancelled **Gary Sinise Concert** (Lt. Dan’s Band) is going to be held. This concert is planned to provide funds for participating veterans groups. This could present a fundraising opportunity for the Base.

Good of the order:

- CDR Dykstra reported the **Janesville VFW is holding a raffle** in conjunction with the Army-Navy football Game. Prizes include frozen meat and a 65” TV. Proceeds go to “Vets Roll.”
- Wayne Orrison reported the **museum boat USS Batfish (SS310) will be moved from the Muskogee War Memorial Park to a new location** about a mile down river at Three Forks Harbor, Okla. This will become the new permanent home of the Batfish in 2024.

50-50 Raffle was won by Wayne Orrison who donated his winnings to the Base.

Closing Prayer was offered by Chaplain-Dick Martin

Next meeting: The holiday party will be held in lieu of a normal meeting. The next scheduled meeting will tentatively be on Feb. 5, 2021 at Mustangs Grill and Bar, South Beloit IL.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Base Contacts

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Letter from Executive Director Wisconsin Maritime Museum

To Our Valued Sub Veterans --

I wanted to reach out to respond to some of the concerns I have heard regarding the focus of SubFest and the museum's engagement with veterans groups. Please pass this on to your bases and any others you think appropriate.

I know some of you were disappointed with the logistics of SubFest last year, as events were condensed and the weekend coincided with the 4th of July celebrations. Please know that 2021 was driven largely by the uncertainties of Covid and that we did not know if we would be able to hold any celebration last year. As a reminder, we lost many staff members and were closed for large portions of the pandemic causing a reduction in programming throughout the year.

I was proud that our staff and our community were able to safely put on a large event that brought together so many people, submarine veterans and community members alike, to celebrate our submarine heritage, our veterans, and our country. Certainly, we did not intend to make you all feel undervalued or under represented on the weekend. If we did, I wholeheartedly apologize on behalf of myself and the museum.

While our plans for 2022 address many of the concerns I have heard, I want to make sure you all know that I am ALWAYS open to continuing the conversation to ensure we do everything we can to provide the venue you all need to gather together in remembrance and celebration.

This year:

- There WILL be a tolling of the boats ceremony on Sunday morning, July 3.
- There WILL be a Sub Vet only reception on the roof deck Sub Pub Saturday, July 2nd
- There WILL be space available for a submarine veterans forum all day July 2, July 3 and 4 in the Riverview Room to be used however you all want. Public presentations, individual reunion gatherings, separate gathering space for evening events.
- Plus, as part of the submarine veteran group, you will have free access to all of the events in and around the museum all weekend, including all of the roof deck events and concerts on July 3rd and 4th.

We will continue to hold the event on the 4th of July weekend in conjunction with the City of Manitowoc's 4th on the Shore celebration. Logistically and financially, this is the only way the museum can sustain this large public event. I have heard you, though. My goal is to make SubFest meaningful for you all, and introduce as many people as possible to our submarine heritage. This year's configuration will do both.

Again, please call me directly if you would like to talk further. My direct line is below.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility, my DBF friends. Getting to know you all has been one of the highlights of my time here at the museum. I hope to see you all here again this summer.

With Gratitude-

Cathy Green, Executive Director

920-684-0218 (x120) • www.wisconsinmaritime.org

Wisconsin Maritime Museum • 75 Maritime Drive • Manitowoc, WI 54220





*USS Illinois Base
Holiday Party Highlights*

Welcoming in the New Year
Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022



Attendees for this year's event held at Boundaries in Beloit, Wis. were: Phil & Evie Owens, Sherm & Carol Ann Buetsch, Wayne & Phyliss Orrison, Chuck & Marge Mongan, Patrick & Pamela O'Brien, Don & Pat Bosetti, Bruce Pickering, Dick & Renee Martin, and Tom & Kate Ramsay.





NEWS from NATIONAL

“Thanks” USSVI members

By Ken Earls

Executive Director & Treasurer
USSV Charitable Foundation

Every Amazon customer who has used [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to support the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc received this message last week. We are now running at an annual rate of over \$1,700 coming from [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) as donations to our Charitable Foundation. This is free money, it only takes a short amount of time for you to designate the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc. as the charitable organization that you want to support. Be careful, you have to designate exactly as highlighted in bold.

The following is the latest donor email from AmazonSmile:

Dear Donor,

This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, "US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc." in the amount of \$433.25 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected this charity.

Thanks to customers shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile on, your everyday pur-

chases make an impact. So far, AmazonSmile has donated:

- \$5,877.93 to US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Over \$306 million to US charities.
- Over \$346 million to charities worldwide.

Visit your AmazonSmile impact page to track donations generated or change your charity.

“Thank you for selecting your US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc as your charitable organization,” Ken adds. “Please do this now. It only takes a short amount of time and then every order you place with Amazon, a small amount is donated by Amazon to our organization.”

Tricare pharmacy changes

By John Dudas

USSVI Veteran Service Officer

After three years, Walmart is leaving TRICARE'S pharmacy network due to its reluctance to offer more highly competitive discounts to military health beneficiaries. At the same time, CVS Pharmacy will return to the TRICARE network after a five-year pause. Effective December 15, 2021 Walmart and Sam's Club will no longer be a part of the TRICARE network. To find more information on the network go to:

<https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy/Fill/Prescriptions/Network>

Other changes to the Pharmacy Home Delivery system for up to a (90-day supply) include the following pricing changes:

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$10 to \$12
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$29 to \$34
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68
- Changes to the Retail network pharmacies up to a (30-day supply)
- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$13 to \$14
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$33 to \$38
- Nonformulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68

The changes to the non-network pharmacies for up to a (30-day supply) are as follows:

- Generic formulary drugs and brand-name formulary drugs will increase from (\$33 to \$38), or the co-pay will be 20% of the total cost of the drug, whichever is greater, after meeting the annual deductible.
- Nonformulary drugs will increase from (\$60 to \$68), or the co-pay will be 20% of the total cost of the drug, whichever is greater, after meeting the annual deductible.

National website access

USSVI's website remains unreachable to the majority of Internet users. National reports they could not download the latest issue of the "American Submariner" magazine, but notified us "they are working on the problem."

USSVI.ORG appears on some of the older browsers, but not on all PCs. The rest of us are waiting anxiously for USSVI to correct their access problem.





NEWS from NATIONAL

(More news continued from page 2)

2022 is an Election Year. The following National Officer positions and requirements for office are available, National reports.

- **National Commander (CDR):**
Nominees for National Commander must have completed at least two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors by the time they take office as National Commander.
- **National Sr. Vice CDR:**
Nominees for Senior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors and must certify that they have or will develop a working familiarity of the USSVI bookkeeping software (QuickBooks).
- **National Jr. Vice CDR:**
Nominees for Junior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors.
- **National Treasurer:**
Must be a Regular member in good standing and Nominees for National Treasurer must have some experience in bookkeeping, certify that they have, or will develop a working knowledge of the USSVI approved bookkeeping software (QuickBooks), use the USSVI approved software as part of his/her duties as National Treasurer, and cannot change

Time to get ready for USSVI 2022 National Elections

to another software package without the Board of Director's approval.

- **National Secretary:**
Must be a Regular member in good standing.
- **Regional Director:**
Must be a member in good standing of a Base within the Region. The Nominee must be currently serving or has served as a Regional Director, District Commander or Base Officer.

Note: All nominations must be sent to the Nominations Committee Chairman on or before

March 1, 2022.

The nomination must be accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected. The Nomination Letter includes details of the nominee's qualifications in one hundred (100) words or less.

The 2022 Nominations Committee Chairman is IPNC John E. Markiewicz, e-mail is markiewiczjohn4@gmail.com.



Pack your bags for Buffalo, NY for the 2022

USSVI Convention - August 24-27, 2022

Hyatt Regency Buffalo

National has shortened the convention to four days to make it easier for members to come and enjoy the camaraderie. They urge you to book a room right away, as the room block is filling up quickly.

A few of the sites to see around Buffalo include, of course, Niagara Falls, and close to the heart of submariners, you can visit the USS Croaker (SS-246), listed on the National Register of Historic Places. National will soon be releasing full convention activities.



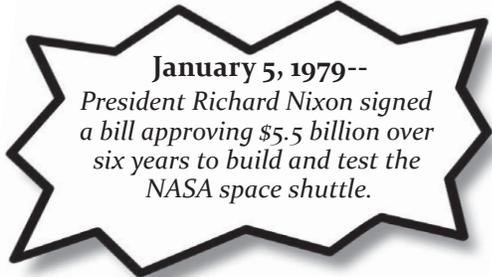
USS Croaker (SS-246)

The USS Croaker is one of 77 Gato class subs constructed as part of the most lethal submarine class of WWII. Commissioned in 1944, she celebrated her 75th birthday in 2019. Conducting six war patrols in the Pacific theater, she sank 11 Japanese vessels, four of which were capital or military vessels, and seven auxiliary or support vessels.

She is not in her original WWII Configuration, as after WWII she was converted to a "hunter-killer" submarine with added sonar, radar and quieting capabilities to combat the Russian threat during the Cold War. She was decommissioned in 1971 and brought to the Buffalo Naval Park in 1988.

Length: 311 feet • Beam: 27 feet • Draft: 17 feet • Displacement: 1,525 tons
Armament: Eight MK-44 torpedo tubes • Complement: 81 Sailors





Navy christens USS New Jersey

USNI News – On Nov. 13, 2021, the nuclear attack boat “New Jersey (SSN-796)” was christened at Newport News.

Due to the impact on the workforce during the pandemic the shipyards made some prioritization decisions to focus on those “vessels that were closest to delivery,” Jason Ward,

Hunting Ingalls Industries VP of Virginia-class submarine construction,” told *USNI News*.

Builders Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat each build components of the Virginia-class submarines and barge the sections to each other’s yard for final assembly.

Ghost ships appear

Stars and Strips — Recent volcanic activity beneath Iwo Jima, site of a defining World War II battle between American and Japanese forces, is pushing up sunken naval vessels to the surface.

“Two dozen World War II-era ships in the waters just off the island’s black-sand beaches were photographed from above last month,” according to the All-Nippon News Network. “Although ships have resurfaced before, these new photos has

brought “fresh attention to the ghost fleet.”

There are questions as to the ownership of the ships. The U.S. Navy sank some ships off shore to create a breakwater to shield an artificial harbor for other vessels to unload troops and supplies.

Other reports noted the Imperial Japan sank vessels for the same purpose “prior to the cataclysmic battle in February-March 1945.”

China now has largest Navy

USNI.ORG -- A new US Defense Department report noted that China now has the world’s largest Navy “with 355 ships and counting.” In the next few years this number is expected to reach 460 ships.

The 355 estimation accounts for “major surface combatants, submarines, aircraft carriers, ocean-going amphibious ships, mine warfare ships, and fleet auxiliaries,” according to the report.

The report, which is mandated by Congress each year, describes China’s navy as having growing ambi-

tions to operate with more versatile platforms beyond the Indo-Pacific region.

The People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) throughout 2020, “continued to pursue its ambitious modernization objectives, refine major organizational reforms, and improve its combat readiness in line with those goals,” the report reads. “This includes developing capabilities to conduct joint long-range precision strikes, increasingly sophisticated space, counterspace, and cyber capabilities, and accelerating the large-scale expansion of its nuclear forces.”



Tolling of the Bells for Lost Boats

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in pursuit of their duties while serving their country."



Go to a National Convention--you would be surprised at some of the giveaways. Here is a unique one from the 2004 USSVI Sarataga Springs Convention. Send me a photo or tell me about something you received from a reunion or convention. Send to kateram@jcwifi.com



December

USS F-1 [ex-CARP] (SS-20) lost on December 17, 1917 when it was sunk after a collision with USS F-3 off San Clemente, Calif. Loss of 19 crew.

USS S-4 (SS-109) lost on December 17, 1927 when sunk after ramming by USCG Paulding off Provincetown, Mass. Loss of 40 crew. All but 4 men died within hours in the engine room and motor room due to asphyxiation. Four trapped in torpedo room survived for possibly 60 hours. Hull raised and used for study in submarine escape. Scuttled off Hawaii.

USS Sealion (SS-195) lost on December 10, 1941 when it was scuttled in Manila Bay after damage at Cavite Navy Yard during bombing. Damage was sufficient to preclude removal to home waters when Philippines surrendered. Scuttled on December 25. Loss of 4 crew.

USS Capelin (SS-289) lost on or after December 3, 1943 on her 1st war patrol, sunk in the Celebes Sea in western Pacific. Cause of loss unknown. Loss of 76 crew.

January

USS S-36 (SS-141) lost Jan. 20, 1942 when destroyed after grounding on Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City. Before abandoning she was flooded and destroyed. All 11 crew rescued.



An oil painting by Peter Bull of the moment that the submarine F-3 (SS-22) rammed into her class mate F-1 (SS-20), off La Jolla, California, on 17 December 1917.

USS S-26 (SS-131) lost Jan. 24, 1942 when it was sunk after ramming by USS PC-460 in the Gulf of Panama. Loss of 46 crew. The CO, XO and one lookout, who had been on the bridge, were the only survivors.

USS Argonaut (SS-166) lost on Jan. 10, 1943 when sunk off Rabaul in the Java Sea on her 3rd war patrol. Loss of 102 crew. Attacking a convoy, she was downed by two other destroyers with depth charges and shelling.

USS Scorpion (SS-278) lost Jan. 5, 1944 on 4th war patrol when sunk in the Yellow Sea off China. Loss of 76 crew. Exact fate unknown, but assumed she was lost to a mine.

USS Swordfish (SS-193) was lost on 13th war patrol on or after Jan. 12, 1945 when sunk near Yaku Island off Okinawa probably by a mine while conducting photo reconnaissance in preparation for Okinawa invasion. Loss of 89 crew.

Mark your calendar for the next USS Illinois Base, USSVI, meeting. We meet monthly on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Next USSVI Illinois Base Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2022
Time: Noon
Location: Mustang Bar & Grill
 482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

www.ussillinoisbase.org



Share this application with a fellow submariner!



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

OUR CREED: "To 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 & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

Nat'l Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 115.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 70.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 25.00;
 (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 30.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Consult the local base for those figures.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____ / ____ / ____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

- Check if your Military Service falls within any of these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from August 2, 1990 to date.
- Check if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____
2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____
3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____
4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____
5. _____ **Hull#** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____ **From Yr.** ____ **to Yr.** ____

Next of Kin: **Name:** _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____
 (Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, please deliver to: Your Base Chapter Secretary, or if you do not know of a base location near you,
 Mail to: USSVI National Office, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

Questions: Call 1-877-542-DIVE or email office@ussvi.org

