



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

## USS Illinois Base has resurfaced -- full speed ahead!



Richard Martin, EN3(SS)  
USS Illinois Base Commander



**'Stay safe and  
may  
God bless  
you all.'**

Wow, what a year this has been! Thank you Covid 19 for interrupting our entire existence and keeping us cooped up for a year. I for one have had both Moderna shots and hope that protects me until the end, and I hope and pray you all have gotten yours as well.

I have not let this get me down and have spent the past year representing US Submarine Veterans, Inc. at over 170 funerals as part of the Loves Park, IL. VFW Honor Guard. I have also spent a lot of time taking care of my wife, who has had three foot surgeries since last July.

The business of the Base, after being shut down for the past year, is beginning to flourish once again. We know we still need to be very cautious, but activities are starting up again. We had a full membership meeting in March at the VFW in Loves Park IL., and a Board meeting at the Mustang Bar and Grill in April.

We returned to the Mustang Bar & Grill on May 1st for a general membership meeting, and all went well.

For the near future, we have a couple of parades lined up for Memorial Day in Rockford and Pecatonica. Plus, we cannot forget SubFest at the Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wis. over the 4th of July weekend.

We're not done, though, later that month (July 23-25) we are volunteer sponsors at this year's WWII Warbirds event at the Southern Wisconsin Airport in Janesville. We will be manning the ticket counters, as well as our own information/sales booth.

We also will have a booth at WWII Days at the Midway Village Museum in Rockford on September 17-19.

So, as you see, it is starting to get busy. Your participation in local community events is how we can gain and maintain exposure throughout our two-state region.

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](http://www.ussillinoisbase.org)





**Base Secretary**  
**Patrick O'Brien**  
 MM2(SS)

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 1205 hours at Mustang's Bar South Beloit IL by Commander Dick Martin

**17 members present** – Kate Ramsay, Tom Ramsay, Greg Miller, Jim Hill, Terry Elmeier, Bob Bates, Patrick O'Brien, Renee Martin, Dick Martin, Daryl Rora-baugh, Don Bosetti, Chuck Mongan, Wayne Orrison, Bruce Pickering, Gary Walters, Victor Buchholtz.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag**

**Invocation** given by Bruce Pickering

**Recitation of the USSVI Creed** read by Chuck Mongan

**Member / guest introductions.**

**Tolling of Bells ceremony** -- Phil Owens recited the roll of lost boats and Pat O'Brien rang the bell

**Secretary's Report** -- no report given.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Treasurer Bruce Pickering gave a report for January thru April 2021.

**Chaplain's Report** -- The position of Base Chaplain is still open.

**Storekeeper's Report** – Storekeeper Terry Elmeier reported he has a new catalog from the National Headquarters.

**Kaps(ss) 4 Kids** – Jr. VCDR Mark Dykstra had nothing new at this time.

**Unfinished business:**

- The base will participate in **Fourth of July parades** in Rockford and Pectonica. The base will also participate in the Belvidere Heritage Days parade on 27 June.
- The **Janesville War Birds show** will be held 23 through 25 July. The first mandatory meeting for volunteers will be on 19 May from 1900 to 2100 hours at the Janesville Airport. A "Zoom" meeting will also be made available. Attendance at these meetings is required to obtain free entrance to the show. The base has been invited to man the ticketing table. This will require 4 to 5 volunteers.

**New Business:**

- Bruce Pickering asked to use the base mailing list. He would like to send base members a link to an **online petitioning group**. This group is building an online petition seeking to advise the Wisconsin Parole Commission to block parole for Charles Sheppard. Sheppard is the convicted murderer of Bruce Pickering's son Aaron.
- Commander Dick Martin asked for **volunteers to run for Base officers**. Election of new officers will be held during the July Base meeting.

Treasurer Bruce Pickering stated his willingness to remain Treasurer; however current base Bylaws limit officers from serving more than two consecutive terms. CDR Martin proposed a change to the Bylaws to allow officers to serve three consecutive two-year terms. The new term limits apply to the current panel of base officers. Motion was seconded by Tom Ramsay and approved by the membership.

The following members agreed to stand for election these Base Offices thus far:

- Bruce Pickering for Treasurer
- Pat O'Brien for Secretary
- Gregg Miller for Jr. VCDR
- Jim Hill for Sr. VCDR

The membership approved of the above nominees. Nominations still being accepted. Elections will be in July.

- Gary Walters asked if he could bring his submarine to the Janesville War Birds Show. Discussions held. Also explored bringing sub to the Grand Opening of Jim Helsell's shop. Gary provided insight into effective fundraising strategies.
- Bruce Pickering offered he has placards and stickers of USS Illinois Base logo available for members wanting to distribute them.

**50-50 Raffle** – was won By Greg Miller

**Closing Prayer** – by Bruce Pickering

**Meeting adjourned** at 1330 hours.

**Next meeting** - at Mustang's Bar & Grill at 1200 hours on June 5, 2021.

**Base Contacts**

**Commander**  
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**Treasurer / Chaplain**  
**Bruce Pickering**  
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**Secretary**  
**Patrick O'Brien**  
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**Kate Ramsay**  
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# NEWS Flash!

by Greg Miller  
MM2(SS)  
USS Illinois Base



'USS Cobia is the best preserved submarine in the country.'  
(Photo by Wisconsin Maritime Museum)



AirPower History Tour hosted by  
Tri-State CAF Wing. USS Illinois  
Base helps sponsor this event.



Seems like it's been ages since we have been able to get together, but it looks like we are finally turning the corner with Covid. If you are anything like me, I can't wait to get back to the real world. This is the most time I have spent at home without an ankle monitor!

## Celebration Idea #1

**Perhaps we should celebrate with another working party at the USS Cobia.**

I must commend the Wisconsin Maritime Museum staff for using the museum's downtime to address many projects that aren't feasible to do when the boat is open to tours.

I've never seen her look better. The pump room has been a bit of a step-child as it's not generally visited, but could stand a bit of TLC. It's a tight space, and we will probably be using a needle gun and air compressor (not the h.p. compressors) so protective masking and hearing protection would probably be a good idea. In addition, we can give her a general sprucing up for SubFest.

Planned dates are to arrive Sunday, June 13, prior to 5 p.m. with Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday planned as work days. Should you be unable to participate for all 3 days, but wish to join us anyway, please feel free to do what you can. You can sleep on board or in the museum. Any questions or comments, please give me a shout, and I will do my best to clarify.

## Celebration Idea #2

**SubFest is going forward on July 2, 3, and 4 in Manitowoc, Wis.**

According to the program, there will be plenty of entertainment, good food and drink, bargains galore and it seems that the Baymont will be participating in a big way. Be there or be square!

## Celebration Idea #3

Last but not least, thanks to the efforts of USS Illinois Base, we are being given a vendor's table in a prime location at the **Air Power History Tour at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport in Janesville, Wis.** on July 23, 24, and 25.

This is a warbirds' convention, which will include B29 "Fifi", B24 "Diamond Lill", CA47 "Spooky", P51 Mustangs, and more.

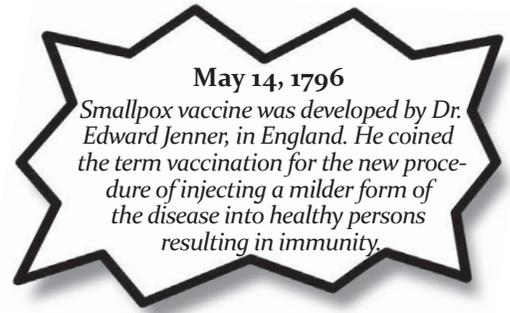
It's a golden opportunity to do some serious fundraising for Cobia's much-needed dry docking. We have items for sale, such as ball caps, chocolate bars, hat pins, patriotic bracelets, and historically these have been good sellers, in addition to taking in donations.

Volunteers are needed to man the table and take in money. It's a pretty easy job. All you really need to do is tell people how wonderful Cobia is and that she deserves preservation. The event runs 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. each day, and it's a great opportunity to make some new friends, see some cool planes from World War II, and continue the submariner's history of looking after the flyboys. After all, Cobia did rescue 7 members of a downed B24 crew in the Pacific during the war. If you can't do all 3 days or can only do part of one day, your help is valuable and greatly appreciated. R.S.V.P. please.

I know that I have probably forgotten to mention a lot of details as my senior moments seem to be increasing in frequency. **Questions - my number is 630-543-7855.**

Please call so that I can get the needed information out to everyone. Many thanks to all. Stay well and hope to see you soon.





## USS Rickover (SSN-795) build update



USS RICKOVER (Groton, CT.) -- CDR T. J. Niebel, skipper of the soon to be commissioned USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN-795) announced that this new Virginia Class submarine (the second sub to be named after the father of the Nuclear Navy) is nearing the end of its 70-month scheduled construction.

On Sept. 8, 2020, the pressure hall was completed. "It is expected that the ship will end up with an over 77-month construction period, with delivery to the fleet in the first quar-

ter of calendar year 2022," he said.

The Christening date is slated for July 31, 2021, in Groton, CT, barring no unexpected delays. A delay could push the commissioning back to early 2022.

The Command, for the second year in a row, has earned the Navy's Retention Excellence Award for achieving full manning during the build, which means approximately 20% of the crew are helping with construction and gaining at-sea experience.

## Navy research reports sent to Congress

USNI NEWS (Alexandria, VA) – This month, several Congressional Research Service Reports were released. Here are some highlights:

- **New SSBN class:** The Navy's Columbia (SSBN-826) class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) program is designed to build a class of 12 new SSBNs to replace the Navy's current force of aging Ohio-class SSBNs. The Navy lists this is a top priority. Budgets were submitted by both the

Navy and the Dept. of Energy to support this project.

- **Next generation SSN class:** The Navy wants to procure a new class of nuclear-powered subs, called the Next-Generation Attack Submarine or SSN(X) in FY 2031. These subs would be the "successor" to the Virginia-class SSN design). Congress has approved \$1 million in initial research and development funding for the SSN(X) program in FY2021.

## Large Navy exercise to cover 17 time zones

MILITARY.COM (McClean, Va.) -- "Tens of thousands of sailors and Marines will participate in the biggest U.S. naval exercise in a generation to test how the services will fight across vast distances as they prepare for possible conflict with China or Russia," states reporter Gina Harkins.

Aircraft carriers, submarines, planes, unmanned vessels, and

about 25,000 personnel will participate in Large Scale Exercise 2021, which will begin in late summer. The massive exercise will span 17 time zones with Sailors and Marines in the U.S., Africa, Europe and the Pacific participating.

Harkins explains the Dept. of the Navy is shifting its focus from a largely land-based fight against terrorist groups to deterring aggression.





by Patrick  
O'Brien  
MM2(SS)

If you have a fun Sea Story you would like to share, contact Kate Ramsay, Base Editor/Webmaster at kateram@jcwifi.com.

After the March meeting Kate Ramsay, Mark Dykstra and I were chatting. The subject of collateral duties came up.

Aboard the boats there were lots of permanent collateral duties; think spare parts PO or fuel king. Also aboard ship every one has a lot of situational collateral duties and these are defined in the "WATCH, QUARTERS AND STATION BILL".

The WATCH, QUARTERS AND STATION BILL defines where every crew member will be posted for any situation aboard the ship, for example fire, collision, battle stations and on and on. The number of situations described in the WATCH, QUAR-

TERS AND STATION BILL is quite extensive.

One morning I was passing through the After Battery and saw the COB at the Chiefs' Table. He was working on updating the WATCH, QUARTERS AND STATION BILL. In passing I asked that I be assigned to the "Rape and Pillage Party". The COB just gave one of those COB looks that says, "Get the hell out of here."

Two days later the COB found me and took me to see the latest revision to the WATCH, QUARTERS AND STATION BILL. He said "It's the best I can do for you". And there it was-- I was named "Leading Petty officer in charge of belligerent search."

## The ultimate sea story: Popeye the Sailor man really existed!

*(Editor's Note: It takes a sailor to know and sailor! Just one sailor is Karl Dye a retired Master Chief who retired to Honolulu, Hi. after 31 years in the Navy. He sent this tidbit to MS1 Tom Ramsay, who served with him on the USS Omaha, in the late 70's-early 80's. Thanks Karl for this story.)*

His real name was Frank "Rocky" Fiegel -- born in 1868 in Poland.

He was a retired sailor contracted by Wiebusch's tavern in the city of Chester, Ill., to clean and maintain order. He had a reputation to be always involved in fighting, so he had a deformed eye ("Pop-eye").

He always smoked his pipe, so he spoke only with one side of his mouth. He loved to be around children. There is no accounting of his imaginary adventures which boasts about the exploits of his physical strength, ensuring he never lost a fight.

The author of Popeye, Elzie Crisler Segar, born in Chester, met Frank and listened to his stories and years later honored him with the character Popeye the Sailor Man.

Olive Oil also existed, she was Dora Paskel, owner of a grocery store in Chester. She is also described to dress just like Olive Oil.

Segar kept in touch with Frank and had always helped him with money. Frank and Popeye also carried some inherent features like courage, chivalry and virility.





# NEWS from NATIONAL

## 2021 Convention a Go!

By Jay Jack  
2021 Convention Chair

On Wednesday, May 19, at 1200 hours, the USSVI National Board of Director's held an Emergency Board Meeting to discuss the status of the 2021 USSVI National Convention. Following a presentation by Convention Chairman Jay Mack, and discussion, a vote was taken by the Board. The decision of the board was to hold the convention as planned.

The 2021 USSVI National Convention is a GO! If you are

planning to attend, and have not sent your registration form, please do so now.

**Reminder:** The 2021 USSVI National Convention is again being held at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fl. from Aug. 30, 2021 to Sept. 4, 2021. Go to USSVI's website and look for full convention details, including event schedules and special tour offerings.

We sincerely hope you will plan to attend. Rosen Shingle Creek is a beautiful four-star hotel with every imaginary amenity.

### Special letter to all USS Illinois Base sub sailors

#### Fun Pandemic moment



Guess which USS Illinois Base member let it all hang out this past year?

#### Hello everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well! I just wanted to give you a heads-up that we are doing SubFest this summer! It will be a low-key event this year, and we are still partnering with the city during their 4th on the Shore Celebration.

We will offer \$4 admission on July 3rd & 4th, but the main events will all be on the 4th. We will have a tent set up on the Riverwalk for Sub Vets this year so that you can all hang out and chat with each other and the public. You don't have to be on the sub this year, but you are welcome to hang out in the boat if you'd like to, but there will be stricter guidelines this year. We won't make the final decision on what that will look like until closer to the event.

There will be music, food, and craft vendor all along the water front and a band and fireworks in the evening. There is also a big band across the river on Saturday night. Everything will be outdoors. We don't plan on having anything inside this year.

Hope to see you all this summer!

*Karen (Cobette) Duwalle*  
Submarine Curator  
Wisconsin Maritime Museum  
920-374-4004



## 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."



**USS Squalus (SS-192)** lost on May 23, 1939 when it flooded and sank off Portsmouth, NH. Loss of 26 crew with 33 rescued. Boat was raised, overhauled and refitted, then recommissioned as Sailfish.

**USS Gudgeon (SS 211)** lost on May 12, 1944 when sunk off Saipan near Maug Island in the northern Marianas on her 12th war patrol. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Hawaii following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and was the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship. Loss of 79 crew.

**USS Lagarto (SS-371)** lost on or shortly after May 3, 1945 when sunk on her 2nd war patrol off the Gulf of Thailand by a Japanese radar-equipped minelayer. Loss of 85 crew.

**USS Stickleback (SS-415)** lost on May 28, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while being towed after a collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). All crew rescued.

**USS Scorpion (SSN-589)** lost on May 22, 1968 due to undetermined cause while in transit from the Mediterranean to Norfolk. She was located five months later 400 miles southwest of the Azores at a depth of 10,000 ft. Loss of 99 crew.



*Thoughtful words to remember this Memorial Day.*

**"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."**

**\* Franklin D. Roosevelt**

**USSVI can grow only if we all reach out to fellow submariners.**



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 Event

**Date:** June 5, 2019  
**Time:** Noon (lunch available during or after meeting)  
**Location:** Mustang Bar & Grill  
482 Gardner St. • South Beloit, Illinois

[www.ussillinoisbase.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. 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

