

Minutes of the meeting conducted 02/17/09.

The Bremerton Base Commander, Don Bassler, called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

- Opening observances were conducted.
- Over 32 members were present. Bob Walker from San Diego Base was introduced along with new attendees Lee Romero, Art Gnepper, and Ken Shonhauer. Possible new member in attendance was Gerry Morse who was given an application by the Base Commander. COMSUBGRU9 Command Master Chief Rick Atkins and the COB of USS Connecticut (SSN22), Rob Enquist, were introduced.
- Master Chief Atkins announced that the 2009 Enlisted Submarine Birthday Ball will be brought back to Bangor this year on April 18. The Ball Committee invites the USSVI membership to attend. They will provide 10 tickets to our members. All others will attend at their own expense and as tickets are available.
- Master Chief Enquist talked of his career, the sub's change of command at the end of the week and of an open house the following week. Bremerton Base USSVI members are invited to go aboard USS Connecticut (SSN22) for tours on the weekend of 28 February-1 March. The COB then told of his experiences as a crewmember riding the USS San Francisco (SSN 711) during the disastrous collision with an underwater seamount in January 2005. A brief question and answer period followed the COB's remarks.
- The minutes of the January meeting were summarized and approved.
- Base Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Dutch Kaiser gave his report. The Base has \$72,406 in assets and has 290 paid up members. There were 15 names removed from the membership for lack of paying 2009 membership dues.
- Base Storekeeper, Ralph Harris, announces that he has a new supply of Holland Club Challenge coins. He also has new patches, hats, and other items in his inventory.
- Puget Soundings Editor-in-Chief, Sam Swenson, is sticking to his deadline of 18 February for any new pictures or articles in the next issue. As the USS Bonfish Float Manager, he reported on some weather damage that he is attempting to repair. The float otherwise will be ready for this year's parades and functions.
- Scholarship Committee Chairman, Bob Webster, has received \$5,069 from raffle ticket sales and donations. He has gotten returns from 113 letters sent out to the membership. He has scholarship applications and letters of introduction with him and anyone can swing by the National Office for extra raffle tickets to sell and other letters.
- National Office Manager, Fred Borgmann, announces that he and his volunteer staff are tracking 13,470 members and will purge the files of non-paying members in a couple of months. He also reminds the membership those dependents of USSVI members are eligible to apply for National Scholarships of \$750 - \$1,250 in addition to the Base scholarships.
- Base Chaplain, Fred Borgmann, listed the members recently deceased. Jim Foote's wife, Joann; Raymond Binns; Louis Bunte; and Al Packard. Shipmate Don Pennington and his wife Pearleta are reported to be on the road to recovery.

The Chaplain asks for input from the membership if anyone hears of sickness or distress.

- Fireworks Chairman, Krystal Swenson, has signed contract with the company and is having problems communicating with them via e-mail. She hopes to have the problems worked out soon.
- John Gardner reports that the next TTF class graduation is the USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN617) on March 11. All members are invited to participate in the ceremonies and those who have served on the named subs are welcome to say a few words about their experiences. The April class will be the USS James Monroe (SSBN622).
- Shipmate Bud Berg has resigned as the Western District 4 Commander due to health reasons. South Sound Base member, John Mansfield has been selected to serve in Bud's place until the next elections.
- Bremerton Base will host the WD 4 district and USSVI regional conference May 20 through May 22. Bud Berg has made the bulk of the arrangements including rooms at the Silverdale Hotel on the Beach at \$89 and a banquet at \$35. Shipmate John Clear has offered to set up a tour of the Keyport Undersea Museum for attendees.
- Shipmate John Gardner reminds the membership that he will be needing volunteers to assist in the Submarine Birthday Dolphin Dash at Bangor on April 11. The Base uses the proceeds for the Scholarship Fund. He needs help with registration about 0830, race starts from about 1030, and race finishes. Everything is usually packed up and gone before noon.
- There will be Trident 1000th Patrol Ceremony on February 26 at 1300 hours in the Trident Ballroom. USSVI members are welcomed to attend. Contact Pam Love at 396-5489.
- The Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade is slated for May 16 at 1000 hours.
- COB, Hank Hollis, has reserved the picnic area at Illahee State Park for July 18. Attendees are asked to bring a salad or desert to share and to provide their own drinks. There may be a Holland Club induction about noon.
- The Base Treasurer, Dutch Kaiser, reports that the Base is sponsoring copies of the American Submariner magazine to the three Seawolf class boats at Bangor and Bremerton plus copies to the Keyport Museum and to TTF. The Base has committed \$175 toward the project.
- The membership is asked to participate in the base officer nominating process. Members are needed to man the various base officer positions and are needed for the Nominating Committee.
- There is a proposal to have the Holiday Party in January so that Holland Club members can be inducted early in the qualifying year instead of late in the year.
- The 50/50 drawing was won by Mike Young (\$43) a FRA member.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.