



# USS Virginia Base Deep Water Gazette

Third Quarter 2015

The Little Base That can Does



**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 and its Constitution.**

## Base Commander

**Greetings fellow undersea**

**warriors and welcome to the seventh edition of our quarterly newsletter.** As I am wont to do with my opening paragraph, I continue to thank John Mosticone for volunteering to produce these, which are very much appreciated. We have had several new members join us these past few months including one (Greg Mason) who saw the poster I made and put up in the foyer at Anna's. Let's continue to do our best to recruit other submariners and also join your shipmates at meetings as often as you can.



## JIM LENCALIS RECEIVES REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD

At our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting I was pleased to present an award to Jim Lencalis from our Regional Director, Dick Kanning, citing his superior performance as our



Treasurer and Membership Chair. Member Doug Blaha attended the 2015 Regional

Conference held at Cape Canaveral Florida April 20-23 where this award was presented and he accepted on behalf of Jim and our Base. WELL DONE JIM!

## DOUG BLAHA CONTINUES TO SHINE AS OUR "PRESENTER IN CHIEF"

I recognized member Doug Blaha in our last newsletter for the presentations he has been providing at our monthly meetings and he has continued to provide us with more very interesting slide shows and briefings. I may have to come up with a special award for Doug, but in the meantime, I can at least recognize him in this column. Thanks Doug – and WELL DONE!

## SUB VET FLAG PRESENTED TO THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This project that was initially suggested by Nominating Committee Chair Thurman Register and pursued by Storekeeper Bob Kutzenberger



reached another milestone with the presentation of our customized USSVI flag to the War Memorial Board of Directors at their April 14<sup>th</sup>

meeting. Attending the presentation were: Bob & Meg Kutzenberger; Pete & Jan Fortier and Kenn & Della McDermott. Once the War Memorial curator has our flag treated to be fire retardant and hangs it in the memorial flag room, we will schedule a special meeting at the memorial to formally recognize and celebrate this project. A big thanks to Bob for doing the heavy lifting on this project!

### MEETING SCHEDULE IN FLUX

We gave a good old college try to adjusting our meeting schedule in an attempt to accommodate everyone – and like all similar efforts we learned once again that you can't please everyone all of the time. I recently asked all members via e-mail for your thoughts about meeting days and times and I got a mixed bag of responses. However, the majority favor Saturday meetings including during the summer months. The bottom line is that meeting attendance is not mandatory and members don't plan their life around our Base activities. I appreciate the support everyone has given me these past eight years as your commander and I know you will all continue to support the Base regardless of who holds this position. Having said that, I am announcing a new meeting schedule change shifting back to Saturday monthly meetings beginning with the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. I'll send around an e-mail with more specifics along with web page changes as soon as possible so you may get the word sooner than this newsletter – but at least you'll know my intentions.

**THE BASE ANNUAL PICNIC WILL BE HELD AT AL & MARY ANN PTASZNIK'S HOME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>!**

Greenboard/Straightboard and all the best!

Mac



LT, USN (Ret)

## Boats Lost This Quarter



JULY --

[USS Runner \(SS-275\)](#) was declared lost 1-Jul-1943 with the loss of 78 crew when it was sunk somewhere between Midway and Hokkaido.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: Location not known, cause not known, date of loss not known. Declared lost date used. WDR gives date spread as 5-28 to 7-4-43

[USS S-28 \(SS-133\)](#) was lost on 4-Jul-1944 with the loss of 50 crew when it foundered off Hawaii, while operating with USCGC Reliance

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

[USS Robalo \(SS-273\)](#) was lost on 26-Jul-1944 with the loss of 84 crew when it was sunk 2 miles off west coast of Palawan.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: Possibly diveable water.

AUGUST --

[USS Grunion \(SS-216\)](#) was lost on 1-Aug-1942 with the loss of 70 crew when it was sunk near entrance to Kiska (Alaska) Harbor

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM

Remarks: Possibly diveable water. WDR states 7-30-42 to 8-6-42

[USS S-39 \(SS-144\)](#) was lost on 14-Aug-1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on reef south of

Rossel Island Louisande Archipelago. All the crew were rescued.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: Hulk reported sighted in 1978

[USS Harder \(SS-257\)](#) was lost on 24-Aug-1944 with the loss of 80 crew when it was sunk off Caiman Point, Luzon, RPI

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: Possibly diveable water.

[USS Flier \(SS-250\)](#) was lost on 13-Aug-1944 with the loss of 80 crew when it was sunk in Balabac Strait near Mantangule Island.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: One secondary source stated 8 men survived and were taken prisoner. Ros and SFLM state correctly that eight men survived and were rescued by USS Redfin on 30 August 1944.

[USS Bullhead \(SS-332\)](#) was lost on 6-Aug-1945 with the loss of 84 crew when it was sunk in West end of Lombok Strait.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

[USS Cochino \(SS-345\)](#) was lost on 26-Aug-1949 when it was sunk in Norwegian Sea after fire, one man from Cochino and 6 men from USS Tusk were lost in the rescue operation.

Sources: R, D, SFLM

SEPTEMBER --

[USS S-5 \(SS-110\)](#) was lost on 1-Sep-1920 when it foundered off Delaware Capes 1Sept20 40 miles offshore. All the crew escaped through a hole cut in hull in the tiller room.

Sources: R, D, SFLM

Remarks: Hull towed by US Battleship Ohio until it foundered about 5 miles from sinking point. Dived. Metal from hole in Navy Memorial Museum.

[USS S-51 \(SS-162\)](#) was lost on 25-Sep-1925 with the loss of 32 crew when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

Sources: R, D, SFLM

Remarks: Hull raised, studied and scrapped.

[USS Pompano \(SS-181\)](#) was lost on 1-Sep-1943 with the loss of 76 crew when it was sunk off the northeast coast of Honshu

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: WDR gives date spread as 8-20 to 9-27-43

[USS Grayling \(SS-209\)](#) was lost on 9-Sep-1943 with the loss of 76 crew when it was sunk in or near Tablas Strait, PI.

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR

Remarks: WDR gives date spread as 9-9 to 9-12-43

[USS Cisco \(SS-290\)](#) was lost on 28-Sep-1943 with the loss of 76 crew when it was sunk in Sulu Sea west of Mindinao, 9° 47N; 12° 144E

Sources: R, D, Ros, SFLM, WDR



**District  
Commander  
Steve Bell**



Summer is here. Myself, I prefer spring and fall and don't care too much for winter. But as the summer season grows, I trust that many of you will be on the road to someplace. Please be careful out there, some of those drivers are just not the best. We want and need all of you to remain healthy.

This will be my last input to your newsletter as your District Commander. I will be relieved officially at the Annual Business Meeting in Pittsburgh at our National Convention (if you are going, it is time to make all necessary arrangements for it). I have to tell you that it has been my honor and privilege to have been the District One Commander for the last three years. I do ask that you continue your support for my relief just as you have for me. I cannot tell how much I have appreciated that during my tour as the DC.

I would also like to thank each of you for the wonderful hospitality you have given both myself and my wife when we have visited your base. You make us feel as if we were a regular member such as yourself or one of your shipmates. Who knows...since we have family and many friends just to the north of you (we lived in Woodbridge for 20 years while I worked as a defense contractor), we just might stop in when on a visit up that way.

I am not sure that I am done just yet. I am taking a little break from all positions held within USSVI just to see what that is like (who knows, I might like that). However, I might get a little too bored and jump back into something. Should I do that, I do hope that I can get the support of your base as I have in the past. I am sure that should I make that decision, you will be informed of that.

You folks keep up the good work that you are doing. I know I always enjoy the camaraderie that we submariners seem to always have, no matter where or why we all get together. It is just something special. I am also happy that we have the folks around that organize these events for us so that we may meet and greet occasionally. If you feel the urge, don't hesitate to step up and take a position within our organization to help that continue.

And my final challenge to all of you is to try to find a way (or ways) to get the younger submariners into our organization. We need them to keep our ship sailing. Nothing wrong with having the older folks keep pushing as they have been, but we need the youth to just keep it going.

I hope to see each one of you at some event down the road. And again, thank you all very much for what you have done for me and for USSVI.

Steve Bell  
District One Commander Southeast Region

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 2015**

Meeting was held at Anna's Restaurant & Pizzeria. Lasagna, pizza and salad were on the buffet menu

10 members and 6 guests were present

Ladies were excused

Base Commander Kenn McDermott called the meeting to order with the traditional sounding of two blasts from the Diving Alarm and a good hearty "DIVE, DIVE" from all those in attendance. We were honored to have Pete & Jan's Granddaughter sound the diving alarm. Kenn gave word of prayer.

7 Boats were lost during the month of June with the loss of 469 crewmen

Birthdays for the Month of June  
Mickey Loses

Kenn discussed getting a Challenge Coin  
The October picnic has been scheduled for Saturday 10/17 - make plans accordingly.  
John Mosticone has an opportunity for work in Connecticut but he will maintain the newsletter.  
The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.  
Bob Kutzenberger gave a plug about what's in the Ship's Store.

The Secretary's Report was read and approved.  
Jim Lencalis Informed us of a worthy non-profit organization "K-9 for Warriors" that helps returning vets with a Comfort Pet. A motion was made and approved to donate \$100.

Doug Blaha gave a good presentation of international Submarine operations throughout the world.

Kenn gave the benediction.

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting - Approved, and again - to conclude the meeting three blasts from Diving Alarm and a hearty "SURFACE, SURFACE, SURFACE" from all in good spirit

Respectfully  
Bill Anderson  
Base Secretary

## TREASURERS REPORT

TREASURER REPORT FOR May 2015 to June 2015

Balance as of 14 May: \$2889.97

### DEPOSITS:

Store keeper sales \$ 36.00  
5-14 50/50 \$ 38.00  
TOTAL: \$ 74.00

### EXPENDITURES:

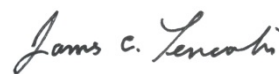
Store Keeper cash on hand \$ 20.00  
Field Day of the Past \$ 238.00  
New base ball caps \$ 250.00  
Base challenge coin deposit \$ 407.98  
Domain name payment (3yr) \$ 91.18  
TOTAL: \$1,007.16

### PAYMENTS PENDING

Challenge Coins final payment \$ 495.97  
TOTAL: \$ 495.97

Decrease for period:  
\$933.16

Decrease from 1-1-15 to 6-11-15:  
\$1422.55



James C Lencalis  
Treasurer

## COB's Locker

"Field days will continue until moral improves"

***Our Base COB position is presently open*** and we are

looking for an able body submariner to fill the position. Please contact the Base Commander if you feel you have a few minutes to contribute at the meetings.



## Chaplin's Corner



Subvets have habits!  
Some good and some not so good. If you have a bad one you have probably found it difficult if not impossible to quit. You have probably discovered that willpower alone doesn't usually work. Jesus told a story that illustrates the most important single principle in breaking a sinful (bad) habit. Besides, no one wants to break a GOOD one! Jesus tells about a man who was inhabited by an evil spirit. When the demon was expelled, the evil spirit passed through waterless (dry) places, seeking rest. Finding none, it decided to return to the man. To the demon's satisfaction, he saw that his original living space was unoccupied. The demon then found seven other spirits even more evil than itself to go and live also. Sadly, the man, who just a short time earlier had been dancing with joy, was now worse off than he had been before (Luke 11:24-26).  
The man failed in his quest for freedom because he didn't understand the principle of replacement. None of us can overcome evil by simply renouncing it. We must substitute that which was evil and replace it with that which is good. Sinful habits cannot be broken without replacing them with righteous (good) ones.  
Try this simple experiment. Think of the number eight. Have you visualized it? If yes, then use your willpower to stop thinking about the number eight right now!

You will find that you can't do it because we cannot by sheer willpower stop thinking about the number eight. When you try to push it out of our mind it actually causes us to focus our attention on it.

We can, however, push it out of our minds by thinking about something else. Something like remembering things about your mother while growing up or some other person who was significant in your early years. Reminisce about your family, whether you are still connected with them or disconnected. When you concentrate on the new information, you will stop thinking about the number eight. The Apostle Paul in writing to the Christians in Philippi shares what will cause us to experience the peace that only God can give.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brethren (brothers and sisters), whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praise worthy meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Grace and peace and freedom from hurtful habits,  
Chaplain Carolina Piedmont Base, USSVI

*Ray Fritz, Base Chaplain*  
*Raysabode@bellsouth.net*  
*Phone 803-619-1121 - Cell 803-487-2965*

**Welcome Aboard**  
**Greg Mason**

## Holland Club



## Welcome to the Holland Club

### Holland Club Members

Pat Rodgers	1951 SS-482
Warren Rucker	1951 SS-523
"Doc" Smith	1956 SS-476
John Leonard	1957 SS-339
Mickey Martin	1957 SS-352
Bill Hiesley	1957 SS-403
Paul Benton	1958 SSR-269
Dick Brown	1959 SS-424
Ron Irons	1959 SS-394
Dave Kratch	1959 SS-405
Richard Moore	1960 SS-269
Thurman Register	1961 SS-523
Bill Wellner	1961 SS-422
Dick Kanning	1962 SS-240
Kenn McDermott	1962 SS-385
Bob Stolarz	1962 SS-395
Tom Chaffee	1963 SS-331
Bill Lewis	1963 SS-272
Ron Randolph	1963 SSBN-617
Al Ptasznik	1964 SSBN-610
Sanford Harvey	1964 SS-488
Doug Blaha	1964 SSN-584
Bob Kutzenberger	1964 SS-214
Bill Besley	1965 SS-423
Steve DuBosky	1965 SSBN-641

### Base Eternal Patrol

Jack Winn (founding Commander)  
Sid Padgett (WWII sub vet)  
Bob Mitchell FTC (SS), USN (Ret)

### Crew Birthdays this quarter



Maurice Baughn	54/07/22
William Hiesley	38/07/08
James Lassiter	46/07/27
Todd Steadman	69/07/24
Paul Webb	56/07/07
John Williams	49/08/21
James Wilson	62/08/29
Paul Benton	38/09/04
Ronald Irons	39/09/17
James Lencalis	45/09/29
Kenneth McDermott	41/09/19

## Upcoming Events

08/08/15 Base monthly meeting

09/07-12 National Convention

09/12/15 Base monthly meeting

10/17/15 Base picnic

## Ships Store



Be sure to visit our Ships Store at:

<http://ussviriniabase.org/ship-s-store.html>

## Elected Officers:

Commander – Kenn McDermott

[kennmcd@pewterguy.com](mailto:kennmcd@pewterguy.com) 434-286-2529

Vice Commander – Pete Fortier

[pe4tier@gmail.com](mailto:pe4tier@gmail.com)

Secretary – Bill Anderson

[ftb1ss@comcast.net](mailto:ftb1ss@comcast.net)

Treasurer – Jim Lencalis

[j.lencalis@comcast.net](mailto:j.lencalis@comcast.net)

## Appointed Officers:

Newsletter Editor - John Mosticone

[jmosticone@gmail.com](mailto:jmosticone@gmail.com) 434-242-9747

Ways & Means - John Lamsens

[jlamsens@verizon.net](mailto:jlamsens@verizon.net)

Nominating Committee - Thurman Register

[thurman@tbrinc.com](mailto:thurman@tbrinc.com)

Storekeeper - Bob Kutzenberger

[kutzb@comcast.net](mailto:kutzb@comcast.net) 804-556-6932

## Base Bulletin Board





and submarines built in England in 1729 and France in 1863 conformed with his idea exactly.

## Reading Locker



## Did you know?

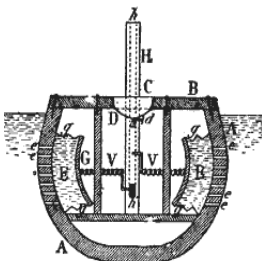
1580

The first published prescription for a submarine came from the pen of WILLIAM BOURNE, an English innkeeper and scientific dilettante. Bourne first offered a lucid description of why a ship floats – by displacing its weight of water -- and then described a mechanism by which:

"It is possible to make a Ship or Boate that may go under the water unto the bottom, and so to come up again at your pleasure. [If] Any magnitude of body that is in the water . . . having always but one weight, may be made bigger or lesser, then it Shall swimme when you would, and sinke when you list . . ."

In other words, decrease the volume to make the boat heavier than the weight of the water it displaces, and it will sink. Make it lighter, by increasing the volume, and it will rise. He wrote of watertight joints of leather, and a screw mechanism to wind the volume-changing "thing" in and out. Bourne was describing a principle, not a plan for a submarine, and offered no illustration.

Some years later, this drawing purported to be Bourne's scheme: leather-wrapped pads



which can be screwed in toward the centerline to create a flooded chamber, and screwed out to expel the water and seal the opening.

However, Bourne wrote of expanding and contracting structures, not flooding chambers –

USSVI link to Amazon Smiles Program:

<https://www.facebook.com/USSVCF>

<https://smile.amazon.com/about>

General Links:

<http://www.ussvirginiabase.org/naming-of-uss-virginia.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Virginia)

USSVI Facebook address:

<https://www.facebook.com/USSVI.NATOFFICE>

<https://www.facebook.com/USSVI.Submarine.Museum.online>

USSVI

<https://www.ussvi.org/home.asp>

USS Virginia Base:

<http://www.ussvirginiabase.org/>

**John Mesticone**  
**USS Virginia Base**  
**Newsletter Editor**