

# The Straight Skinny



Ken Tupman Editor

USS Chicago Base Newsletter

Winter 2011

## Our Creed

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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."

## Editor's Notes

I am continuing with the "Straight Skinny" because we won the runner up award for intermediate bases for the newsletter. I still need inputs from base members. The newsletter will be far more interesting with a variety of ideas as opposed to my single mindedness. I need sea stories, book reports, biographies, and any thing of interest to the base. Send them to me or the assistant editor Lenny Kleinmark.

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## Commander's Corner

This has been a pretty good year for USS Chicago Base. Recruiting was slow as we gained only four new base members through the year and are now at 78 members. We need to improve our recruiting. Retention of current members has been slow as well. At this writing we have three members who owe both National and Base dues, two who owe base dues only

and one who owes National dues only. If dues are not received by January 31<sup>st</sup> members are dropped from all rosters with the exception of those who owe base dues only revert to Members at Large (MAL). We have never had 100% retention, which is our goal. I would like ideas to improve retention from base members. How can we make the base more interesting? A reminder, this is an election year for USS Chicago Base so start thinking if you want to be a candidate for base officer or you want to nominate someone. The election will be in November. The election committee will be formed in October. I am proud of the members of USS Chicago Base. Commander Ken.

## Humor of the Deep

You might be a Redneck if you....

1. Take your dog out for a walk and you both use the same tree.
2. You can entertain yourself for more than 15 minutes with a fly swatter.
3. Your boat has not left the driveway for 15 years.
4. Burn your yard rather than mow it.

## USSVI Conventions

The Central District 2 convention is April 14-17 in Muskegon Michigan hosted by Escolar Base. Commander Ken is signed up and has found a roommate, Jim Daniels. Let Commander Ken know if you plan to attend, as Escolar Base would like a rough

head count. We have Jud, myself, Jim D. and Vic going so far.

2011 National Convention is September 5<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, MO. Commander Ken has a room reserved and will take on a roommate as well, but he won't get there until Thursday the 8th. Let Commander Ken know if you plan to attend the convention as they too would like a rough head count.

### **Base Officers**

**Base Commander**, Ken Tupman

**Vice Commander**, Len Kleinmark

**Treasurer**, Tom Sasgen

**Secretary**, Pat Kerrigan

**Historian**, Jim Wilkins

**Web Master**, Ken Tupman

**Chaplain**, Jim Daniels

**Chaplain**, Jim Weber

**Chief Cook**, Bill Hoffman

### **Barnacle Bill's Galley**

With this year's holiday season growing closer, menus and recipes are a concern for many of us. In this fall edition I would like to give you the "Straight Skinny" on a couple of my favorite vegetable recipes along with their nutritional value. Starting out with Brussels Sprouts, they were first cultivated as a food in Belgium as early as the 13th. century. Brussels sprouts are in the same brassica family of cabbage, collard greens, broccoli and kale. Almost zero in saturated fat and cholesterol, they are high in dietary fiber. They include vitamins A, B6, C and are very high in vitamin K (great for bone strength). Brussels sprouts are very versatile in many recipes. Across Europe, they are used in fresh salads, soups and even stews. They can be simmered in water, steamed, broiled and oven roasted. Although not traditionally served here in the USA for a Thanksgiving and or Christmas dinner, I would like to share with you one of my favorite recipes for this vegetable. My second vegetable of choice is the Sweet potato. Distantly related to the white potato, it's origin is recorded to the native tropical parts of south America as

far back as 5000 years ago. Popular throughout the world the Sweet potato is also recognized as a "Yam" here in the USA. It also ranks high in dietary fiber, rich in carbohydrates and beta carotene. Vitamins included are A, B1 2 3 5 and 6, are just a few. Compared in nutritional value to almost all other vegetables, the sweet potato ranks highest. Guess that must be why it is a true favorite during our holiday season menu. So without further ado, here are two of my recipes that can be prepared in advance, placed in the oven after you remove that Ham or Turkey to rest be for carving. Each recipe only takes about 30 minutes.

Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Carrots and Parsnips:

1 and 1/2 cups of Brussels sprouts ( cut in half)

3 medium Carrots ( skins peeled and thinly sliced, about the thickness of a quarter)

3 medium Parsnips ( prepared same as Carrots)

1/3 cup of extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon dried oregano

1 table spoon of dried rosemary

1 teaspoon dried basil

1/4 teaspoon sea salt (table salt can be used for substitute)

2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper

Grease an 11 by 17- inch baking sheet pan with extra-virgin olive oil. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and toss well, evenly coating all the vegetables with the seasoning and oil. Place vegetables evenly on sheet pan and roast on middle shelf of oven at 400 degrees for 15 minute, with a metal or high temperature spatula toss again and roast another 15 minutes or

until vegetables are tender to the touch. Serve immediately. Yields about six servings.

#### Mashed Sweet Potato with Orange Marmalade:

2 to 3 large sweet potatoes'

1/2 cup chicken stock

2 tablespoons butter

1/2 cup orange marmalade

Peeled, sliced or cubed, cover potatoes with water in a 5 quart stove top pot and bring water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 12 to 15 minutes until tender. Drain potatoes in a colander. Return pot to stove and warm chicken stock to a light simmer. Whisk in butter and marmalade, add potatoes and mash till smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot. Yields about six servings.

My best to you and yours for this  
Holiday Season,

Barnacle Bill

#### Up Coming Events

February 5<sup>th</sup> regular base meeting at Tinley Park VFW 1300 hours.

March 5<sup>th</sup> regular base meeting and 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USS Chicago Base, food will be on the base treasury.

March 13<sup>th</sup> is the Tinley Park Irish Parade.

April 14-17 is the C2 District Convention Muskegon MI.

#### Patrol Report

December brought another successful Christmas Party thanks to Barnacle Bill Hoffman who set up the catering and DJ. Also to Pat and Marcella Hoffman for the gorgeous table settings and to all who contributed prizes for the raffles. Pat Kerrigan was presented with a jacket with the name of his submarine USS Jack and the USSVI logo as the Board of Director's

Award for his contributions to USS Chicago Base and USSVI.

Several USS Chicago Base members attended the SVWWII Christmas party.

Three base members distributed items that were collected through the year by SVWWII and USS Chicago Base to Manteno Veterans Home.

Several wet and cold base members participated as flag holders at the ALNC Wreaths Across America Ceremony.

#### Ship's Store

**A**s expected, there have been price increases from the National Storekeeper.

A new price list should be available at the January meeting.

The large supply of patches and pins on the SK table will remain at the old prices (for now).

There are still some 2011 calendars available. Get one while they last.

USS Chicago Base currently has 23 BSP sponsorships; we would like to have even more.

There is one VA hospital that needs a sponsor and several active boats that do not have enough sponsors. See Lenny for details.

#### Newbies

**J**ohn Connon qualified in 1973 in USS William Bates SSN 680. He left the Navy as EM1 (SS).

Gary Greicar joins as an Associate Member. Although never qualified on submarines he was aboard the USS Gato (SSN 615) during new construction and was an MM2.

Please welcome these guys to USS Chicago Base.

#### Travels of Frank

**F**rank Indoe likes traveling and is making the rounds of ships and Submarine Memorials throughout the USA. Here he shares his itinerary with us.

#### Submarines

USS Ling	Hackensack, NJ
USS Becuna	Philadelphia, PA
USS Requin	Pittsburgh, PA
USS Croaker	Buffalo, NY
USS Cod	Cleveland, OH

USS Drum	Mobile, AL
USS Silversides	Muskegon, MI
USS Cobia	Manitowoc, WI
USS Marlin	Omaha, NE
USS Batfish	Muskogee, OK
USS Razorback	N. Littlerock, AR
U 505	Chicago, IL
Holland #1 (Fenian Ram)	Patterson, NJ

### **Battleships**

USS North Carolina	Wilmington, NC
USS Alabama	Mobile, AL
USS Wisconsin	Norfolk, VA
USS New Jersey	Camden, NJ

### **Cruisers**

USS Littlerock	Buffalo, NY
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### **Naval Memorials Submarines**

Manitowoc Submarine Memorial, Peoria, IL  
 USS S-44 (SS 155) WW2, Elwood, IL  
 Captain John P. Cromwell, Henry IL  
 Manitowoc Boats Memorial, Manitowoc, WI  
 USS Lagarto (SS 371) WW2, Manitowoc, WI  
 USS Snook (SS 279) WW2, N.Littlerock, AR  
 Submarine Lookout Memorial, Mobile, AL  
 CDR Howard Gilmore Memorial, Mobile, AL  
 USS Herring (SS 233) WW2, Mobile, AL  
 USS Grenadier (SS 210) WW2, Buffalo, NY  
 USS S-28 (SS 133) WW2, Wilmington, NC  
 USS Trigger (SS 237) WW2, Philadelphia PA  
 USS Thresher (SSN 593, Philadelphia, PA  
 USS Scorpion (SSN 589), Philadelphia, PA  
 USS Gudgeon, (SS 211) WW2,  
 Hackensack, NJ  
 USS Shark (SS 174) WW2, Muskogee, OK  
 USS Pintado (SS 387), Fredericksburg, TX

Feel free to ask Frank about his travel adventures and his plan to visit other sites in the future.

### **Book Report**

#### **IRON COFFINS**

Commander Herbert A. Werner, German Navy, U-boat Officer

Forward by Captain Edward Beach USN (ret)

Commander Werner served the German Navy in the U-Boat service all of the time of World War II. He entered the service after Officer Training and was assigned to the U-551 a Type VII boat as an Ensign and made patrols during the "Years of Glory" easy

picking by the U-Boats in the North Atlantic and United States East Coast.

The author was promoted and served on U-230, U-557, U-415 and U-953 (a Snorkel boat); He was CO on the last two U-Boats. Werner's commentary is based on personal notes and logs of the U-Boats he served on. His words on each page brings home the hard ships the U-Boat sailor experienced each day at sea.

One examples is they did not take shaving gear to sea. NO water available for personal use. Water was for batteries and drinking only. The still was in the Control Area.

On a patrol that took them to the East Coast to mine the harbor at Norfolk Navy base.

They topped off the fuel oil tanks and stored more fuel in the bilges. The boats fuel capacity was inadequate for a round trip and was forced to run the boat to empty while waiting for U-Boat milch-cows to meet.

Several supply boats where sunk before getting to his boat.

He talks of having hams in the control, and fresh food in crews' bunks. You'll read of bread molding, water running down the hull, charts rotting from the high humidity. He is very graphic about the North Atlantic cold and wet watch standing, having to hang all his cloths in the aft torpedo room to drip out before the next watch and of course walking through the boat naked to get to and from the torpedo room.

Tactics are discussed that where used to get to the convoys both as wolf packs and individual boats. The Germans had a strong information network in the USA and Canada. A long discussion of the blockage at the end of the war of the French coast U-Boat bases, the air cover from England combined with small torpedo boats forced the U-Boats to submerge in very shallow bay. High losses where experienced entering and leaving the safe boat pen bunkers.

His talk of testing the T-4 acoustical torpedo leaves you with the feeling that if the war had gone on longer the German U-Boats under construction. The new weapons in development may have turned the sea battle back. But, the anti submarine effort of the USA and Brits did destroy the U-Boat Navy long before this could occur.

Read the book for a look at hell afloat, and how easy us nuke's have it now.

Thanks Richard J. Allen.