



Issue 5, Winter 2015



EDITOR GEO JOHNSON DBF

Ramblings from the AFTER BATTERY:

Thanks for everyone's patience. Your newsletter editor's miss-use of his body, slipping on ice, hunting and fishing, and failure to acknowledge birthdays resulted in Rotator Cuff Surgery. I could have used my left hand to hunt and peck the keys on my computer but the COMPUTER died. Still trying to get used to the new one. The result is that Volume 4 winter 2014 has turned into Vol 5 2015.



TERRY MOORE AND STACIA have sent out a neat postcard type notice of the next meeting and are requesting that you send in by email or semaphore flags your attendance.



VICE CDR/TREAS/MEETING COORDINATOR

## REPORT FROM BACK AFT IN NUKE LAND

Stats from fall meeting: Record attendance with 34 members, not including the 6 new base members and 3 dual members, and 5 associate members. Including spouses we had 57. A record attendance





New Members

Visor auction brought in \$30,



Don, the winner of the visor auction!

1/3 drawing was \$95 Base stores \$785 Silent auction \$852



**NEXT MEETING: GREAT FALLS MT. @ VFW POST 1087**

**FRIDAY NIGHT Events** (usually starts in the afternoon)

**Drinks at 5 PM** General sub story sessions and adult beverages

**Dinner at 6 PM** \$23.00

### **Guest Speaker**

**KARL HECKMAN** is former nuke ET1/SS REACTOR OPERATOR Bring your exposure badges just in case. Karl served on the USS SEAWOLF SSN 575 and USS PARCHE SSN 683. Karl is author of "Watertight..... How I survived the Submarine Service Without Losing My Mind"

### **Saturday Events**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, at 11:00**

**Lunch served \$8.00 each prior at Noon.**

CONTACT TERRY MOORE to RSVP.

**General meeting at 1 pm.**

Bring your spouse. Should prevent shopping overdose while we are meeting.



## FROM AL SINGLEMAN SENIOR MEMBERS OF USSVI

At this time I would like to recognize some of our longest qualified members and the oldest members of USSVI.

Our Oldest members are:

**Clarence R. Mackey MSC (SS)**, DOB Nov/1913 - 101 years old, qualified in 1960 on (SS-404), qualified 54 years. A MAL member.

**George W. Wien EM3 (SS)**, DOB Dec/1914 - 100 years old. Qualified in 1945 on (SS-372), qualified 69 years. A MAL member.

**Gerald G. Stangl LCDR**, DOB May/1914 - 100 years old, qualified in 1941 on R-1, qualified 73 years. Member of Mare Island base.

Our Longest Qualified members are:

**Dale A. Danielson EM1 (SS)**, DOB Jan/1916 - 99 years old, qualified in 1936 on S-10 (SS-115), qualified 78 years. Member of Sturgeon Base.

**Raymond Marshall ENC (SS)**, DOB Aug/1920 - 94 years old, qualified in 1941 on (SS-172), qualified 73 years. Member of New Jersey North Base.

**James J. Early LCDR**, DOB Apr/1915 - 99 years old, qualified in 1944 on (SS-414), qualified 70 years. A MAL Member.

**Maury E. Wortham CAPT**, DOB Nov/1915 - 99 years old, qualified in 1944 on (SS-255), qualified 70 years. Member of Mare Island Base.

Pride Runs Deep,

Al Singleman, Jr. NC



## **“A GOOD BOAT”**

By ROD NEILSON, CHAPLAIN USS SEA FOX SS 402 ASSOCIATION, CHAPLAIN

MONTANA BASE.

Have you ever heard a shipmate refer to a “good boat”? Did you ever comment that the SEA FOX WAS A GOOD BOAT? Probably, the answer is yes to both questions; and for a number of reasons. Most likely a sailor who thought he was on a good boat would justify it if asked.

A boat might be considered good because she pulled good duty: or was going on a to “to die for” cruise: or was a good “feeder”; or, perhaps provided good liberty; or had a good skipper and wardroom: or had a good crew, and sailors who you considered good shipmates. Etc....

But..... what does “good” mean? If as Jesus tells us, “The Father only is good”- what does that say about good? How can an inanimate object or abstract condition be considered good? We know that the book of Genesis refers to all of God’s creation as good.....even us poor, simple humans at the moment of creation were good. Of course, we sort of complicated the good concept when we started doing things that do not meet the definition of good.

It seems to me that if God is good and all His creation is good and we refer to the boat as good---there must be something of The Creator God the Father within the boat. Hmmmmmm...I wonder what that could possibly be?

Is it possible that God’s goodness could manifest itself through the inspired actions of the crew? I do! I believe there is no question that the good we see or come to believe in, is the direct result of God’s goodness working through His creation and specifically, our shipmates.

Make no mistake....we human created, sub sailors were involved in our share of “non good”

activity, but in the final analysis, the good overshadowed the non good. It had to or we could not have had a good boat.

Lets face it....when you take a young, hormone infested, self indulgent, immature, arrogant male and put him into a steel tube 300' long and 16' wide with numerous others of the same; then go deep for days or weeks at a time--- and then survive to rise and see the light of day again. Then, something good must have occurred.

I submit to you, that the good was the mystery of God's holy presence among and within us: and, as I see my shipmates today after more than a half century in time later. I know I am right. God Bless you.

ROD NEILSON SFO , CHAPLAIN SEA FOX AND USSVI MT BASE



## Base Commander Report

BY PROXY By GEO JOHNSON

Due to Carl's Schedule his report is done by proxy this issue by your EDITOR.

Item 1. LIBRARY. Library is getting large and will be discussed at next meeting . It will be spread out about the state to some volunteers. It has grown to 6 large heavy containers. A total list of its contents will be compiled and it is requested that if you read a book from the library that when you return it, you write a summary of minor details, dates covered, etc on a 3x5 card.

Item 1 If everyone has a list they can order items to be brought to next meeting or located at closest individual location of those items. Then return at next meeting or get back to where they came from.

Item 2: Meeting schedules have been changed back to original Friday Night, Sat format due to its success. If you cant attend both please attend one. REMEMBER Its a good road tip and always bring the spouse or significant other.

Item 3. EXEC BD 11:00, LUNCH NOON, MEETING 1300 SEA STORIES ALL DAY, SILENT AUCTIONS 1100 HRS TIL Halftime of meeting. 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 drawing till half time. 1/3 to winner, 1/3 to BASE and 1/3 to CHARITY VOTED ON BY MEMBERS



#### USS Alaska SSBN 732 Reunion Special Report by Steve Hoover

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the first USS Alaska SSBN 732 Reunion in early February. This was a little more than 30 years from the christening of the Alaska. (12 January 1985) and approximately 25 years since I left last stepped off her to a tug in the Straits of Juan DE Fuca on my way to check out of the Navy for terminal leave. I arrived on board the Alaska in the Fall of 85 before commissioning and sea trials. My first time at sea was on Bravo trials when we had both crews and contractors on board. There were over 400 people on board. I got a mattress in upper level missile compartment between the tubes. I think we even hot racked those bunks although as a non-qual I didn't get much rack time.

The reunion was held in Kings Bay, Georgia at the Naval Submarine Base. The reunion was organized by my fellow shipmate Waino Salo. When I reported aboard Waino was in Deck Div and struck for Yeoman. As any good Yeoman can do, he organized a great event. He arranged with the base command staff for us to have access to the base and certain amenities. We stayed at the Navy Gateway Inn and were allowed to eat at the base mess and shop at the specialty store. Also the base golf course was open to us.



Blue and Gold Crew

For the last three years we have been searching for shipmates while Waino was setting up the event from his home in Anchorage Alaska. Of the 300 plus plank owners and first patrollees about 50 were able to attend along with wives, girlfriends, and kids. Both the PCO CO and XO were able to attend. Many of my shipmates both officers and enlisted made careers of the navy while others like me did either single or multiple tours but did not retire. Several of my enlisted brothers went on to become officers and Master Chiefs. Bravo Zulu!





During our visit we had a banquet with the “old crew” and the command staff of the base and the USS Alaska. We also got a tour of the USS Alaska and then we gave a BBQ for the crew/s not on watch. About 30 showed and leftovers were sent down to the boat for the on watch crew. As of 2015 the Alaska has completed over 90 patrols. I left after patrol 12 or 14.

It was scheduled for two days but most spent at least 4 days, some more.

The highlight was definitely the tour of the Alaska. At 30 years young, some areas of the ship had changed a lot and others not at all. New Nav/Weps systems to support the D5 missiles now on board. Some systems were “retired” in place. If they didn't need the space they just left the old equipment there. They also team up as the green crew while in refit and were on 4 section duty. One night out of 4 on the boat at night is not bad duty!

The logistic escape trunks were removed and there was a spiral ladder down to AMR II upper level. That made it much easier for the kids and dependents to get into the boat.

They have a listing of the non-quals next to the chief table called the fish bowl. They kept the dolphins of the non-quals there. How many do you think were in the bowl? Seven. As Assistant Qual PO, I can remember 50 or more in the early patrols as many of the plank owners rotated off.



Life aboard the sub was different. Didn't seem like the crews were as close as we were still after 25 years or more.. Maybe because if you wanted to watch a movie you could on your laptop? Crew's lounge had a couple flat screen TV's along with crew's mess. Security was much more than when I was aboard. Now have multiple small arms lockers when we had one. All roving watches were armed with magazines inserted both above and below decks. M-16 verse M-14's. Locked and Loaded.

Fire suits, SCBA verse OBA's. New uniforms.. Plastics were collected for disposal in port. No TDU'ing of plastics.

We were not allowed phones or cameras so no shots from on board. I was surprised with the amount of weapons carried on board. Ask me about that at our semi-annual meeting in May.



Well I will wrap it up. It was a great reunion and our crew will be meeting again in 2020 in Bremerton this time open to all members that served on the Alaska. Hopefully will have a couple more before the decommissioning party in 2028 to 2030.



# **UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC**

**MONTANA BASE CDR/POC Carl Bartman-VCDR Terry Moore**  
**Chaplain Rod Nielson- Secretary Jim Booth-Treasurer Terry Moore**

Minutes of Montana Base Meeting October 4, 2014, American Legion Post #23, Livingston, Mt

1300: Call to order by Cdr Bartman, invocation by Chaplain Rod Nielsen

1302: Pledge of allegiance led by Terry Moore

1305: Ron Martini intro and talk about last National Convention. Gave the names of the new National USSVI Officers and a short description of each.

1320: Minutes of last meeting read by Secretary Jim Booth. Had one correction to the minutes. Missed Charlene Johnson for her 1 year membership. Seconded and approved with correction.

1325: Treasure report by Terry Moore, was seconded and approved as read

1337: Chaplains report by Chaplain Nielson. Sent out several get well/condolence cards since the last meeting. Get well to Phil Lyons, Ronn Larsen, and condolence to Robert "Dex" Armstrong.

1340: Terry Moore introduced 9 new members that joined at the meeting, Welcome aboard!  
Chris Nygren, Don Bernard, Don Hix, Ed Brooks, Jim Ferguson, Tom Wollenzien, Wyatt Burr and Fred Weilminster.

1343: Longevity awards:  
5 year: Ed Janca  
10 year: Jim Hogg  
15 year: Chris Nielson  
25: year: Lenny Gregory

1345: Held The Three Thirds Raffle. This year's suggestion as a recipient for the funds was the Montana Hope Project. Geo Johnson won a third of the pot, \$95 and \$95 will go to the Montana Hope Project for the terminally ill children here in Montana.

1350: Break for pictures and sea stories.

1410: Call to order by Cdr Bartman

1411: Old Business:  
Geo Johnson is working on the newsletter and would like to start putting our members Bio info and picture in it. If possible, old and new picture would be nice. Geo pointed out how valuable the bio can be when the time to go on eternal patrol arrives. Most survivors that he has given them to, never really understood what went on in the person's life. Geo keeps a file of all our members that have given him the info.

Cdr Bartman gave a description of what the Holland Club membership was and how to achieve it. 50 years or more since initial submarine qualification and current member in good standing with the USSVI.

1415: New Business:

The Montana USSVI Base has received our base banner and we had it on display. Cost was \$89. First time out for it was the Veterans Day Parade in Missoula.

Was some discussion on the National Convention in San Francisco this year. Was very expensive, but was great hooking up with old friends and ship mates. Next National Convention will be in Pittsburg.

1418: Thank you to Don Hix from Wyoming. He brought his USS Thresher submarine float up to our meeting and had it on display outside the American legion Hall.

1419: Cdr Bartman introduced a new award he would like to give out at the meetings. He calls it the Public Embarrassment Award. This is for the folks that give intelligence, are observed, the “lube oil” folks that keep thing moving, are usually in the “ah Shucks” mode. He would like to implement a public showing of our appreciation for what they do and accomplish behind the scenes. This meetings winner was Terry and Stacia Moore. Cdr Bartman also read his nomination he sent in to National USSVI for the Silver Anchor award for Terry and Stacia.

Stacia also added that she has general business card available for any one that wants them.

1426: There was discussion about one of our members that is legally blind that requested a ride to the meeting. If anyone needs to share a ride for any reason, notify us and we will contact the local folks to make ride arrangements. Let make sure everyone can make a meeting!

1428: The Logo contest was held and voted on after the nominations were passed around for all to see. Ron Martini, Jim Booth, Geo Johnson, Merle Parise and Dave Palmer all had submissions. Jim Booth was the winner and will get it to Steve Hoover and Geo Johnson for incorporation into the newsletter.

1435: The Executive Committee had recommended a proposal to purchase Ron Martini’s submarine library and incorporate it in to our own. The cost would be \$700. Plans are to split it into 4 areas to make it more accessible to members. Our current library list is 5 pages long, this will expand it significantly. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is to accept it, was voted on and approved with no one opposed.

Cdr Bartman and Ron Martini gave some discussion on our insurance for national. There are still a few questions, but looks like the cost will be somewhere between \$30-\$60 a year per base. Insurance is required for meetings, events and parades.

The Montana USSVI Base was offered custody of a MK 14 Torpedo from Oregon. The owner is about to pass on and want to give it to a USSVI Base. We voted on and accepted to take custody of the torpedo. We will make arrangements to transport it to Helena when the time comes where it will be put on display at the museum at Fort Harrison. We will have a plaque made up to go with the torpedo. Ron Star from Spokane offered to transport it part way, and Jim Booth offered to take it the rest of the way.

Discussion of the Cob Duties. Will take care of the membership list and track prospective new members to make sure they do not fall through the cracks. Ronn Larson is the new Montana Base Cob.

Stacia Moore gave notice that the Silent auction would close at 1445.

1450: Auctioned off the “Traveling Hat”. Last “owner” was Dave Palmer. Have to add something to the hat before passing it on. Don LaRoque had the winning bid of \$30. Will be auctioned off again at the next meeting.

1454: Was some discussion on using “Bcc” when forwarding email to help eliminate the possibility of getting hacked. All base email from the secretary from now on will be in that format.

1455: Silent auction results, thank you to all that donated items for auction and especially those that had winning bids.

1505: New Business:

The Executive Committee proposed changing the way we hold meetings. Currently we hold two meetings a year and in different locations around the state. It is held on a Friday (dinner) and Meeting on Saturday. The proposal was to change one of the meetings to Saturday only and to meet at 1pm for the folks that have to travel long distances to get there. Keep the other meeting as in the past. Was pointed out that we need larger space for our meetings and locations were limited. We need to keep the meetings at a VFW or American Legion Hall to help keep expenses down. There were 4 cities proposed for meeting places. They were Great Falls, Kalispell, Big Timber and Livingston. The Saturday only meeting would be held at Great Falls and the other meeting and dinner would move around to the other locations. Next meeting will be 9 May at VFW Post 1087 4123 10th Ave. South, Great Falls (406) 454-1166

There was a motion to accept and was approved with no one opposed.

1515: Meeting adjourned.

Members in attendance:

Significant others in attendance:

Bill “Andy” Anderson	Cliff Baird	Jeannette Baird	Sue Brugge
Cliff Baird	Carl Bartman	Barb Carson	Lisa Clizbe
Suzanne Bartman	Jim Booth	JoAnn Chiechi	Jan Fulbright
Edward Brooks	Wyatt Burr	Mollie Glenndenning	Annette Henderson
Newell “Kit” Carson	Nick Chiechi	Dorothy “Dot” Hogg	Tammy Jordan
Jim Davis	Jerry Dressler	Dee Loveland	Jeannie Nelson
Arne Fulbright	Glenn Glenndenning	Joanne Nielson	Lorraine Nielsen
Lenny Gregory	William “Bill” Henderson	Julie Nygren	Dorene Parise
Don Hix	James Hogg		
Steve Hoover	Ed Janca		
George “Geo Johnson	Darlene Johnson		
Roger Knoell	Jeanette Knoell		
Ronn Larsen	Don LaRoque		
Bob Loveland	Phil Lyons		
Ron Martini	Deborah Maquire		
Terry Moore	Stacia Moore		
Don Nelson	Chris Nielsen		
Rod Nielsen	Chris Nygren		
Dave Palmer	Merle Parise		
Ron Star	Tom Wollenzien		

Silent Auction Income---\$852   Ships Stores Sales-----\$785   1/3 drawing----- \$95

Visor Auction-----\$30

The portion of the raffle tickets going to charity is \$ 95 (Montana Hope Project).