

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2006



## THE GREEN BOARD



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

### Columbus Base Newsletter

#### *Let the Work Party Commence!*

Weather kept the attendance low but the enthusiasm of those present was very high. Following the regular meeting on Saturday, February 4th we grabbed canvas bags two or more at a time and walked the room of tables filled with donated items for the patients at the Chillicothe VA Hospital. Some of the items I saw were socks, calendars, toothpaste,



toothbrushes, floss, mouth rinse, books, bath soap, postage stamps, packs of tissues and several bags of pens and note pads. There was even 50 pairs of sweat pants going to the hospitals' clothes closet.

Bernie held a contest of who could guess the closest count of pens in the bags that had been donated. Gene Horton was the closest with a guess of 1506, the actual count was 1512. Gene donated his prize winnings to the Base treasury.



Thanks to all who donated, helped gather the supplies and your efforts in packing the tote bags.

## Commander's Corner

By Jim "Clutch" Koogler



When I submitted my column for January, our newsletter co-editor Jan Creekmore asked if I'd been sick... because the column was much shorter than my usual ramblings. The answer? No, just very busy. I thought things might slow down after all of my year-end reporting and processing was finished, but I was wrong. If anything, I have even more to do now than in early January... and still very little free time. And to be perfectly honest, I'm either suffering from a touch of "writer's block" or I have too much else on my mind. Therefore, this will be another short column (I hear you all applauding and cheering out there!). I apologize, and hope you'll bear with me for a little longer.

I do have a few items of note. You've probably heard something about them in the past few days or weeks... but I think they're important enough to bring up again... as reminders, if nothing else.

Our **Columbus Base Submarine Birthday Dinner** is scheduled for Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion Don Gentile Post #532. More information will be distributed later, but I wanted to make sure you're all aware so you can mark your calendars now. This will be our first dinner at Post #532, and an opportunity to support the "host location" of our monthly base meetings.

It's nearing the time to nominate and elect our **Columbus Base Shipmate of the Year** for this year. Galin Brady and David Johnson are coordinating this year's program and will be providing all necessary information in the near future. We have many base members who deserve to be nominated and elected to this honor, and this is your opportunity to recognize them. I urge you all to send your nominations to Galin and David as quickly as possible *AFTER* they ask for them. You might remember that Bernie Kenyon was elected by the membership as our Columbus Base Shipmate of the Year last year, and went on to also be selected as Central District 2 **and** Central Region Shipmate of the Year.

Ron Martini's 5<sup>th</sup> **Submarine On-Line Auction** runs from Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> until Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> (ends at 10:00 AM sharp, EST). You can visit [www.rontini.com/auction.htm](http://www.rontini.com/auction.htm) to view the 214 items currently on the block, and for information on how to bid. No bids will be accepted until February 18<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds benefit the USSVI Foundation/Brotherhood Fund.

The Hoosier Base (Indianapolis) is hosting the **Central District 2 Convention and Submarine Birthday Dinner/Dance** over the weekend of May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Quality Inn and Suites in Lebanon, Indiana. The guest speaker is VADM Albert H. Koentzni, Jr. USN (Ret), perhaps better known affectionately as "Big Al, the submariner's pal". I've never met him or heard him speak, but I'm told he's an excellent speaker and it will be well worth the trip to Indiana. This event promises to be a great time, and an opportunity to meet many of our other CD2 shipmates... not to mention the opportunity to get out of town for a weekend of fun. Bonnie and I are planning to attend... how about you? If you're interested, our editors have included the announcement flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

One more item... I'll be in Seattle in early March. While there, I'll be visiting our namesake boat and crew at PSNS. I'm very excited about the opportunity to meet with the crew... and doubly so because it also affords me, as a representative of Columbus Base USSVI, the honor and privilege of *personally* presenting our Columbus Base *Certificate of Recognition* to the USS Columbus "Sailor of the Quarter", "Senior Sailor of the Quarter", "Sailor of the Year" and "Senior Sailor of the Year" awardees. Can it get any better?

## Vice Commander's Corner

By Dave Creekmore

I'm in the "50" something age bracket, so I missed the big Naval conflicts. But as I've stated before on occasion, I have a great deal of respect for "Senior" veterans of all branches.

But I also worry about the future. Who's going to be there for us "50" something veterans when we move up to the senior billet?

We need to start now and work on this. When I joined the Columbus Base I was impressed there were men around much younger than I am, some were even helping in the base start up. I hear their names on occasion but haven't seen much of them lately. I know life is busy during those family growing years and that is important, very important. It just seems to be the way we all live. When 9/11 occurred we all rallied behind the fire and police departments around the country. When we went to war in Iraq we attended homecoming parades and thought about our troops a lot. I guess it's just how we look at our priorities.

I look at our efforts in our group as important also. A spouse told me once about a member "if he wants to go play sailor, it's okay by me". I also heard that one of the children of another member referred to our group as "Sub Scouts". Veterans do come in many ages, not just the senior ones. And I think we are the best recruiting tool out there.

We should wear our hats and jackets, or put window decals in our cars and trucks. Put a small ad in your company newsletter or local school sports program. Going to the doctor? Print out a copy of the newsletter and drop it in the waiting room. There are a lot of ways, but we are the ones that need to "Git-r-done!"

### New Members

**John R. Palmer**  
**Gahanna, OH**  
**Franklin county**  
**Wife: Gerri**

**Yancey D. Downey**  
**Marysville, OH**  
**Union County**

**Richard L. Martin**  
**Westerville, OH**  
**Franklin county**  
**Wife: Pat**

**Welcome Aboard !**

### 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 Government"

Minutes of the Columbus Base of USSVI  
February 4, 2006  
American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532

A regular meeting of the Columbus Base of USSVI was held February 4, 2006 at the American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532. All elected officers were present. The meeting was called to order by Commander Jim Koogler at 1310. Twenty one members and guests were present. Chaplin David Johnson led the invocation and the tolling for lost boats. A moment of silence was observed for lost shipmates. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Commander David Creekmore.

Chaplin David Johnson administered the "Oath of Office" to the newly elected officers.

Secretary Kenyon noted that the January meeting's minutes were previously published in "The Green Board". Hearing no request for a reading, a motion by Dave O'Carroll to accept the minutes as published was seconded by John Leers. The members' present voice voted and the motion was carried.

Correspondence from the Chalmers P. Wylie Outpatient Clinic thanking us for our coffee donations; a letter of appreciation from the Central Ohio Diabetes Association regarding the Columbus' base contribution to Camp Hamwi in memory of Associate Member, Cheryl Morton and a Thank You card from David, Tracy, & Elijah Johnson was read by the secretary.

John Leers gave the treasurer's report. David Creekmore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by David Johnson, the members voiced voted and the motion was carried

David Johnson gave the Chaplain's report which was followed by an announcement from Bernie Kenyon that Paul Darland had knee replacement surgery in Dayton and would be released Sunday. Mr. Kenyon apologized to Chaplain Johnson for not keeping him informed.

Bernie Kenyon, Membership Chairman, introduced new members John Palmer and Brian Pierson and extended his compliments to Brian and wife, Janet for driving to Columbus from their home in Kenton on a very stormy day.

#### Unfinished Business

Reports on locations for the Birthday Dinner, Tolling of the Bells and August awards dinner were given by John Leers, Elizabeth Kenyon, Phil Philipps and Jim Koogler for Eric Dreiseidel. A copy of the reports is on record with the secretary but is not attached to the minutes as an Addendum due to length.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the location reports which resulted in the membership voting on whether a birthday dinner should be held. A hands vote was taken and seventeen (17) members voted for the dinner and four (4) members against. A motion was made by Cliff Dodson to have the birthday dinner, April 1 and awards dinner, August 5, at American Legion Post #532. This motion was seconded by Galin Brady and the membership voice voted to accept. A motion regarding holding The Tolling of the Bells as scheduled at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, Cedar Ridge Lodge was made by Sam Templeton. Galin Brady seconded the motion. The members' present voice voted 20 for and 1 against to have the event as scheduled.

A short discussion regarding speakers at these events was held. A motion to have speakers was made by David Johnson, seconded by John Leers and accepted on voice vote by the membership.

A short discussion regarding who to have as speakers was continued to an Executive Board Meeting by motion from Bill Anderson, seconded by Sam Templeton and accepted on voice vote by the membership.

#### New Business

Joe Testa volunteered to be Chairman of the Committee auditing the Treasury, as mandated by the By-Laws. Joe asked for two volunteers. Bernie Kenyon and David Creekmore stepped up to complete that committee.

Galin Brady and David Johnson volunteered to form the 2006 Shipmate of the Year Committee.

Benevolence Fund expenditure cap for funeral donations, memorial gifts, flowers, etc. will be discussed at the Executive Board Meeting. The Executive Board's recommendation will be returned to the membership for concurrence.

The Executive Board Meeting date will be announced to the membership and the decisions will be presented in total to the membership (in writing) at the next scheduled business meeting as an "Advise and Consent" notification.

## For the Good of the Order

Dave Creekmore gave a report of Red Star Rogue sales. Said report is available upon request to any member. There are audio books available for \$26.00 and a hard copy auto-graphed book for \$22.00. Dave Creekmore made a motion to contribute 10% of the net profit to USSVI National Charities and 10% to the Columbus Base Benevolence Fund. Rick Larson seconded and the motion was voice voted and accepted by the membership.

David Creekmore advised that Columbus Base jackets are still available at \$85.00. Adding your name and dolphins (gold or silver) is an additional \$15.00 for a total of \$100.00.

David Johnson will call the Chillicothe VA Hospital Monday to plan the distribution of donated items to patients at the hospital. He will advise of a definite date.

Cliff Dodson won the 50/50 raffle. Cliff donated the \$57.50 he won back to the base. Maple Syrup donated by Galin and Paige was won by Gene Horton. Barbara McCorkel won the Citrus Botanicals donated by Jim and Bonnie Koogler.

Bernie Kenyon's, "guess the number of donated ball-point pens", contest was won by Gene Horton. Gene donated the \$20 that his prize, an Ohio lottery ticket, produced back to the base.

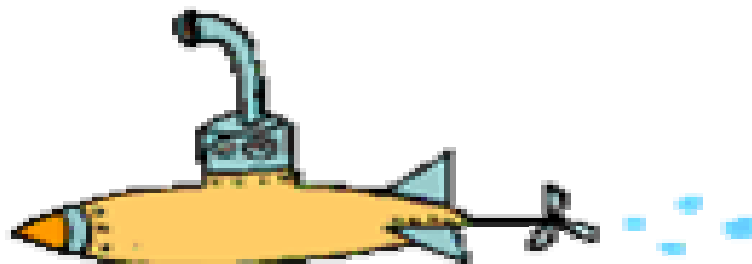
All members were asked to stay after the meeting to help pack the 300 bags of donated items.

The closing prayer was given by David Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned by Commander Koogler at 1450.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Kenyon  
Secretary



**Don't forget to bring your donations of coffee, tea or hot cocoa for the Veterans Clinic, to the meeting on Saturday.**

#### Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail  
[creek636@earthlink.net](mailto:creek636@earthlink.net)

# Lost Boats

## February

USS Barbel (SS 316)	02-04-1945
USS Shark (SS 174)	02-11-1942
USS Amberjack (SS 219)	02-16-1943
USS Grayback (SS 208)	02-27-1944
USS Trout (SS 202)	02-28-1944



## Navy Blue

Blue has not always been “navy blue.” In fact it wasn’t until 1745 that the expression navy blue meant anything at all.

In that year several British officers petitioned the Admiralty for adoption of new uniforms for its officers. The first lord requested several officers to model various uniforms under consideration so he could select the best. He then selected several uniforms of various styles and colors to present to George II for the final decision.

King George, unable to decide on either style or color, finally chose a blue and white uniform because they were the favorite color combinations of the first lord’s wife, Duchess of Bedford.

## February Birthdays

Jack Sutherin	02-03
Tony Miller	02-04
Gary Spang	02-21

The following are spouses whose birthdays are also in February.

Dianne Snyder	02-01
Amber Teter	02-04
Dawn Leonard	02-05
Lorraine Holly	02-07
Reba Ryan	02-11
Donna France	02-13
Cindy Lee	02-21

Happy Birthday to All!

## Upcoming events

March 4, 2006	Noon	Don Gentile American Legion Hall Demorest Rd. Grove City, OH
April 1, 2006	TBA	Submarine Birthday Dinner Don Gentile American Legion Hall



## In the Spirit By David Johnson, Base Chaplain

**David and Galin will be delivering the items that the Base collected and bagged up on Saturday February 4th to the VA hospital in Chillicothe on Monday February 13th. If anyone would like to go with them or meet them there please e-mail David.**

**His address is [dejohnson02@yahoo.com](mailto:dejohnson02@yahoo.com)**

### The Conn

**Base commander**

Jim Koogler

**Vice Commander**

Dave Creekmore

**Treasurer**

John Leers

**Secretary**

Elizabeth Kenyon

**Chaplain**

David Johnson

**COB**

James Williams

**Membership Chairman**

Bernie Kenyon

**Storekeeper**

Phil Philipps

**Editor**

Jan Creekmore

### **Wardroom**

Aboard 18th century British ships there was a compartment called the wardrobe and used for storing booty taken at sea. The officers' mess and staterooms were situated nearby, so when the wardrobe was empty they congregated there to take their meals and pass the time

when the days of swashbuckling and pirating had ended, the wardrobe was used exclusively as an officers' mess and lounge. Having been elevated from a closet to a room, it was called the wardroom.

Our Holland Club profile this month is Edward "Ed" Ellsworth. He was inducted into the Holland Club in August 2005. He shared some of his experiences and thoughts with Marv Pastor, our Holland Club reporter.



Ed enlisted in the Navy in the year 1943. After his enlistment he attended electricians school at the University of Purdue. From there Ed reported to New London, Ct. where he went through sub school in 1944.

Ed qualified in January or February of 1944 aboard the USS Blackfin SS 322 while in Perth, Australia. He worked on the main motors. Although he qualified on the Blackfin he was never attached to the crew. Ed was a crew member of the USS Requin SS 481. He served there until 1948 and was promoted to EM1/C while on the Requin.

In 1947 Ed and Mildred were married on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They had one daughter, Rosemary. After their marriage Ed remained in the Navy for one more year in Key West, Fla. aboard the Requin.

When asked what motivated him to try submarine duty, I guess maybe he didn't need much motivation, Ed said he always wanted to go on submarines.

His favorite port and duty station, Brisbane, Australia.

Ed commented he didn't like sleeping in the after battery, and with good reason, too hot and too many smelly feet. He would rather sleep with the torpedoes in the forward room. Was a little tough sleeping though when the water got rough.

Some other memories Ed had was a lot of time in the battery wells, watering and gravity readings and the acid eaten dungarees. I can echo his sentiments.

Ed also remembers the train ride across Australia from Brisbane to Perth. The train would stop in the middle of the desert. While they ate, and on the ground no less, Emus and Kangaroos were all around. Australian food smelled bad and was lousy. While in Perth they serviced other boats. This is where he was qualified by an officer on the Blackfin. They returned to Brisbane on the same train where he boarded the Gilmore headed for the Philippine Islands. All of this time he should have been Attached to the Requin, they just couldn't make connections. Finally in 1945 they caught up with each other. He served aboard the Requin from 1945 through 1948. After the war he returned to the United States aboard the Gilmore. After his return Ed traveled from New London, Portsmouth, NH. to Key West, Fla. on the Requin. Ed said all this happened while he was on relief crew five.

Sounds like Ed was well traveled. Thanks Ed for your service to your country.