



Newsletter Date February 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

# 1MC February Newsletter USSVI Marblehead Base

USSVI (781) 631-1324

## Lost Boats February:

USS Shark	(SS-174)	2-11-42
USS Amberjack	(SS-219)	2-16-43
USS Grayback	(SS-208)	2-26-44
USS Trout	(SS-202)	2-29-44
USS Barbel	(SS-316)	2-04-45

"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."



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## Base Officers 2004

Commander *Don Femino*  
USS Pickrel (SS-524) 1960  
46 Pierson Street  
Beverly, MA 01915  
(978) 922-5439  
Femino@rcn.com

Vice Commander *Stan Dixon*  
USS Grenadier (SS-525) 1958  
16 South Pond Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
(978) 465-3948  
NESVFL@aol.com

Secretary *Tom Shannon*  
USS TREPANG (SSN-674) 1983  
15 Jackson Road  
Burlington, MA 01803  
(781) 229-2254  
trshannon674@hotmail.com

Treasurer *George LeBlanc*  
USS BANG (SS-385) 1968  
17 Mello Parkway  
Danvers, MA 01923  
(978) 774-4027

COB *Dave Campbell*  
USS Sam Houston (SSBN609) 1975  
8 Bradford Court  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
(781) 631-1324  
sandavc@comcast.net

Store Keeper *Dana Sweeter*  
USS Thomas Edison (SSBN610)  
60 Burley Street  
Danvers, MA 01923  
dana610skss@aol.com

## Secretary's Report January 2004

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS  
INC.

MARBLEHEAD BASE  
SECRETARY'S REPORT  
January, 5, 2004

## For The Good of The Order

Shipmate Brad Seidel has offered to schedule a meeting with the state Disabled American Veterans to explain what rights and services are available to Sub vets. There was a mention to include the Marblehead VFW post. Brad said he would try to get the DAV to come in the spring.

Shipmate Mike Hogan reported he received a book on lost submarines as a gift. He mentioned that the Hunley may have had one sailor absent from its last patrol. Any ideas who it may have been? Commander Femino reported that Shipmate Charlie LaScola recently lost both in-law parents on consecutive days. The base will send a plant to Charlie as a condolence.

There was a drawing held for members who paid their dues prior to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. The two winners of \$25 were Bill Newton and Tom Shannon.

## Adjourn

Corning Pevear gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 2030. Close the Hatch Award to Rob Whitten courtesy of Jeff Howlett.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Shannon  
Base Secretary

## Call to Order

Commander Don Femino called the regular monthly meeting to order at 1951 hrs. He began the meeting with the reading of the Creed. The ship's bell was tolled for the lost boats in January. The 24 shipmates present sounded off with their names and their qual boats. Special guests - Ray Manley and Peter Koester, who is stationed on the USS Providence currently in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

## Reports

The Secretary's and Base Financial reports were read and accepted.

## Old Business

Update on shipmate Lou Eddlestein - A get well note and calendar was sent to Lou who is doing well according to his grandson.

### New Business

Subvets WWII Bay State North Christmas Party - Scheduled for January 18 at the Marblehead VFW. There will be a pot luck dinner and a Yankee swap.

2004 Birthday Ball planning is underway. Date is April 24.

Regional Meeting for Subvets WWII to be held in Nantucket the weekend of March 19 and 20.



## Buy at Sears

Hey everybody, I checked this on urban legends...it's for real!!

I assume you have all seen the reports about how Sears is treating its reservist employees who are called up for military duty...

By law, they are required to hold their jobs open and available, but nothing more. Usually, people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up. Sears is voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called up reservist employees for up to two years. I submit that Sears is an exemplary corporate citizen and should be recognized for its contribution.

I suggest we all shop at Sears and be sure to find a manager to tell them why we are there, so the company gets the positive reinforcement it well deserves.

### Pass it on.

I decided to check it out before I sent it forward. I sent the following email to the Sears Customer Service Department:

I received this email and I would like to know if it is true. If it is, the Internet may have just become one very good source of advertisement for your store. I know I would go out of my way to buy products from Sears instead of another store for a like item even if it was cheaper at the other store.

Here is their answer to my email.....

Dear Customer:  
Thank you for contacting Sears.

The information is factual. We appreciate your positive feedback. Sears regards service to our country as one of the greatest sacrifices our young men and women can make. We are happy to do our part to lessen the burden they bear at this time.

Bill Thorn  
Sears Customer Care  
webcenter@sears.com  
<mailto:webcenter@sears.com>  
1-800-349-4358

Please pass this on to all your friends. Sears needs to be recognized for this outstanding contribution and we need to show them, as Americans, we do appreciate what they are doing for our military.

## Secretary's Report Annual Meeting

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE  
VETERANS INC.

MARBLEHEAD BASE  
SECRETARY'S REPORT

Annual Meeting  
January 5, 2004

### Call to Order

Commander Don Femino called the annual meeting to order at 1932 hrs. A moment of silence was observed for our departed shipmates on eternal patrol. After an invocation by shipmate Corning Pevear, the members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Commander's Annual Report

Commander Femino started the report by giving general data about the base. The current membership is 81, which is a large base by USSVI standards (over 75). There has been a steady increase of membership over the past three years. Also, meeting attendance and base participation has been excellent. The report covered four specific areas. The first was district and national activities. Several USSVI and Sub Vets WWII activities were attended through the year. The highlight of the year was the National Convention in Reno, NV. The second area covered by the commander was Memorial and Ceremonial Activities and Community Services. Marblehead Base marched in three parades and attended in five memorial services. We also took part in

two new Memorial dedications. Marblehead Base had one Holland Club inductee this year - shipmate Bill Howell. The third area covered was Recreational Activities. Marblehead Base had many "base only" functions in 2003. The highlight of the year was the Birthday Ball at the Gerry 5 Clubhouse. Members with invited guests were treated to the experience of getting underway from the Sub Base in Groton on a diesel submarine. District 1 Commander Paul Orstad and his wife were special guests for the evening. The keynote speaker was CWO Mike Wobler from NSSF Groton, CT.

The last area covered was Base Contributions. Marblehead Base donated over \$1600 to at least nine different USSVI and other charitable causes.

### Treasurer's Annual Report

The treasurer's report was read and accepted by the members.

### 2004 Base Officers

The Marblehead Base Officers for 2004 were introduced:

Commander - Don Femino  
Vice Commander - Stan Dixon  
Secretary - Tom Shannon  
Treasurer - George LeBlanc  
The officers were sworn in by Corning Pevear.  
The meeting adjourned at 1950 HRS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Shannon  
Base Secretary

### *From the Desk of the Treasurer....*

The due date for paying your dues has come and gone. The next date you will have to meet will be the dues cutoff date, I believe it is April 1, after which national will automatically remove you from the rolls of the membership. I will send out one more reminder with the next

newsletter, to those who are on the "delinquent list", almost like going through quails again!

## View From the Bridge



I would like to say thank you to all of you for giving me another opportunity to serve as Commander of the Marblehead Base. As I think I said last year, I have no agenda except to help us proceed through our normal activities throughout the year. I think as you can see from my Annual Report, that our members do a great many things to live up to our creed, and I am proud to be a member of USSVI. The other officers, Stan Dixon, Tom Shannon, and George LeBlanc are truly tremendous guys to work with. They jump in and do the things that need to be done to keep us on an even keel. This also can be said of many, many members of the Marblehead Base. So it is a pleasure for me to continue at this job for another year. (Although I am looking forward to next January when I will become a PAST Commander.)

I would like to restate that nominations are open for anyone interested in running for National or Regional Office. Paul Orstad has said that he will not be the District 1 Commander after this term and therefore, we need candidates for this position. I will be glad to nominate anyone from our Base for this position. Also, if anyone has a desire to change the By-Laws of USSVI, now is the time to do it. I have the format that these proposals need to be in, so let

me know if you have something in mind.

Dick Josephson gave us the dates for the annual regional meeting on Nantucket of the Bay State East Chapter, SubVets WWII. I think that there is a change from previous years in that they are planning to take the ferry from Hyannis on Saturday morning, March 20 and return on the ferry on Sunday, March 21. Members can stay at the Hyannis Hotel on route 132 on Friday, March 19 to make it a little easier to get to the ferry on Saturday morning.

I would like to welcome two new members who attended our meeting on January 5 (obviously, they weren't aware that I was going to present my 4 page Annual Report). They are Ray Manley and Peter Koester. Ray lives in Hingham and has a long distance to travel to get to our meetings, so we appreciate your efforts Ray. Peter is still on active duty and is a crewmember of the USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719). The PROVIDENCE is currently at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He brought us a photo of a missile, prior to its launch, with a greeting to Sadaam Hussien from SubVets written on its side.

## Forward Deployment Basing

APRA HARBOR, GUAM (NNS) -- With family and local Navy officials waving pierside, USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) returned to Guam Dec. 23 after completing its first deployment since being homeported here last year.

The submarine was the first of three Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines to be homeported in Guam as part of Submarine Squadron 15 and the first to deploy to the western Pacific from Guam.

"Corpus Christi's success is a milestone achievement marking the first U.S. Navy SSN [fast-attack submarine] operations conducted from a forward based homeport," said Rear Adm. Paul Sullivan, commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

City of Corpus Christi left for deployment to the western Pacific Nov. 22. Submarines homeported in Guam can expect shorter, more frequent deployments because of shorter transit times.

"Although it's a short deployment, it's going to be a repetitive process," said Capt. Joseph Mulloy, commander of Submarine Squadron 15. "They [Guam-based submarines] end up with

more time doing 7th Fleet and national operations than the average in San Diego or Pearl Harbor."

Guam's location in the western Pacific significantly reduces distance and transit times, and increases time to perform missions in forward deployment areas, effectively doubling the days they are available for operations, compared to submarines homeported in Hawaii or California.

In a message sent to the submarine's crew, Sullivan wrote, "You have blazed the way for our Guam-based SSNs, completing the first of many operations to be generated from that strategic salient at the leading edge of our Pacific submarine force."

City of Corpus Christi arrived on island Oct. 17, 2002, followed by USS San Francisco (SSN 711) Dec. 18, 2002. USS Houston (SSN 713) is expected to arrive in 2004.



## Commander's Annual Report

### UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERAN'S INC MARBLEHEAD BASE ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 5, 2004

#### Commander's Annual Report

**BASE** - The Marblehead Base membership lists 81 members. This number places us in the category of a "Large" base by USSVI National (Base membership over 75). We have seen a steady increase in membership over the years; 4 new members in 2001; 5 in 2002, and 6 in 2003. I believe that by wearing our hats and jackets and other submarine identifications in public, as well as our group participation in memorial services and patriotic events, draws the attention of other submarine sailors to the existence of the USSVI. There are over 50 individual members who regularly attend our meetings, with an average of between 35-40 at each month's meeting. The attendance of the Executive Board at E-Board meetings is outstanding. I believe that all officers have attended each meeting during the past year.

- Numerous members from the Marblehead Base attended the WWII SubVets Eastern Mass Chapter annual meeting on March 23 on Nantucket Island.
- The District 1 meeting was held on April 5 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. George Leblanc, Tom Shannon, and I represented the Marblehead Base. Pertinent information was noted and reported to base members at the next meeting.
- The Marblehead Base was represented by Tom Shannon at the 39<sup>th</sup> USSVI Anniversary Ball in Groton on May 10.
- USSV of WWII Bay State East Chapter Convention was held June 2-6 in Plymouth. Dick Josephson and Ed Costa and other of our joint members attended this event.
- USSVI & USSVWWII held a joint convention in Reno, NV Sept 1-5. Marblehead Base was well represented with the following members in attendance: Don Femino and wife Pat, Jim Hanson & Janet, Ray Comeau & Queenie, Dick Teas & Lena, Doug Bryant & Virginia, Rob Whitten & Ann, Ed Lynch & Barbara, Carl Hall & Connie, Dana Sweeter, Gus Merzullo, and Ed Costa. Many of us attended a dinner of Marblehead Base members, attended various USSVI committee meetings and social activities, the annual business meeting and banquet. In addition to all the meetings attended, many members could be found at various locations throughout the casino at any given time. The big event of the Convention for the Marblehead Base was the winning of the Outstanding Newsletter of the year Award for our IMC in the large base category. Past Commander Dave Campbell's work and efforts were recognized as the best that USSVI has to offer. Norman LeBlanc was also presented with a

certificate for his contribution to USSVI Charitable Foundation.

#### MEMORIAL AND CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES –

- The Thresher Memorial Ceremony was held on April 5, in Portsmouth, NH (The same day as our Birthday Ball and the District 1 annual meeting.) Secretary Tom Shannon represented the Marblehead Base.
- 13 of our members marched in the annual Patriots Day Parade in Lexington, MA on April 21.
- On May 3, the Marblehead Base was represented by Stan Dixon, Tom Shannon, and Ray Brooks at the Thresher Memorial dedication at Salisbury Beach, MA in memory of Salisbury resident Robert Steinel, who was a crew member who went down with the Thresher.
- Memorial Day activities on May 26 in Marblehead - 22 members assembled at 0730 and marched down to the town landing to hold our own memorial service for submarine sailors who are on eternal patrol and tossed a wreath into the harbor in their memory. We then marched back to the landing with the Marblehead VFW and other veteran organizations for additional memorial services. At 0930 the main parade stepped off toward Veteran's Park and then to Seaside Cemetery for additional Memorial Day observances. At the collation held at the VFW hall, I presented a mounted pair of dolphins with an inscription expressing our gratitude for the VFW's contribution to the Fredrickson Fund.
- On June 14, Saturday morning at 1000 hrs. 21 members of our base arrived in Newburyport, MA to memorialize the name of George Melvin, the only submarine sailor from Newburyport on eternal patrol from WWII. Vice Commander Stan Dixon, after many years of effort, was able to get a new street in that city named for our fallen shipmate. Stan mounted a pair of oversized dolphins on the street sign and we held a memorial service in Melvin's honor.
- The USS TROUT memorial ceremony was held on Oct. 5 in Bourne, MA. Vice Commander Stan Dixon ably ran this joint event, held in conjunction with SubVets of WWII Bay State East Chapter. Approximately 15 of our members as well as about 15 members of WWII SubVets participated in the conduct of this memorial ceremony and wreath tossing in memory of Massachusetts submarine sailors on eternal patrol.
- A Veteran's Day parade & memorial service in Topsfield, MA was held on Nov. 8 and was attended by 14 of our members who marched in that parade and participated in the memorial service at the Topsfield Common.

## Commander's Annual Report

- The S-4 memorial service was conducted on December 7 in Provincetown, MA. Unfortunately, we were hit with a raging 2-3' snowstorm at that time and none of the approximately dozen members who planned to attend, were able to drive to the Cape

### RECREATION ACTIVITIES -

- SubVets of WWII Christmas Party and Yankee Swap and potluck dinner were held on Jan. 12 at the Marblehead VFW. All who attended had a great time.
- The Annual Submarine Birthday Ball was held on the evening of Apr 5. Many members and wives of this group participated in the preparation and execution of this wonderful event. Our invited guests, (wives, relatives, and friends) enjoyed our ceremony: Getting underway from Groton in a diesel submarine, (with all the sound affects) proceeding to area alpha, rigging the boat for dive, diving to 200 feet, conducting the tolling of the boats ceremony and surfacing the boat. Bill Howell was our lone inductee into the Holland Club during the evening. District 1 Commander, Paul Orstad and wife were special guests for the event. CWO Mike Wobler from the SubBase was the guest speaker and was a great crowd pleaser for his remarks on the submarine service and was given a standing ovation.
- A summer outing at Mark & Karen Ames' home in Pembroke was held on Aug. 17. Everyone who attended had a great deal of fun and thank Mark and Karen for their gracious hospitality. Karen and Mark also were hosts on Oct 5 following the USS TROUT memorial ceremony to a dozen or so of our members who made the trip to Bourne.
- Memorabilia Night was held on June 2 which presented a great opportunity for all to view many interesting and precious mementoes of our submarine experiences.
- The September meeting, with a lobster or steak dinner, was well

attended by members, wives, and friends. Jeff & Joan Howlett, Sandy Ingram, Dave Zeno and others have developed this event into a major happening for our Base.

### BASE CONTRIBUTIONS -

- \$175 for a Cover Advertisement in the USSVWWII Convention Program Book.
- Memorial Donation of \$25 to the Animal Rescue League of Boston in memory of shipmate Charlie Tedoli.
- \$100 donation for a full-page ad in the USSVI/WWII SubVet joint convention in Reno.
- \$100 donation to the Submarine Museum WWII Battle Flag restoration program.
- \$100 donation to Ben Bastura of Middletown CT for his library on submarine history. He has since passed on and his library has been transferred to the USSVI library.
- Fredrickson Fund - MMC(SS) Daniel Fredrickson and wife Tracy died in the tragic fire in Warwick RI. \$125 from the base Treasury and \$375 collected from individual base members was augmented by and incredible donation of \$5,000 from the Marblehead VFW which was sent to a memorial fund for their children. Hooper Cutler was instrumental in providing the information to the VFW for this cause.
- A \$350 donation for ALS research (Lou Gehrig disease) was made in the name of Marblehead Base member Dick Maitland.
- A \$100 donation to St. Mary of the Harbor church in Provincetown for the upkeep of the S-4 memorial
- \$240 collected at the Dec. 1 regular meeting to be sent to the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Other donations may have been sent directly from members to the national office.

This concludes the Annual Report of the Marblehead Base of USSVI for the year 2003. Are there any corrections, additions, deletions, or comments?



### Scholarship for Military Children Program.

"Applications are now being accepted for the 2004 Scholarship for Military Children Program. The \$1500.00 scholarships, sponsored by Fisher House Foundation, are available to unmarried children (under age 23) of active duty, Reserve/Guard and retired military personnel. Applicants, including survivors of deceased service members, must be enrolled, or planning to enroll, as full-time students in the fall of 2004 in an undergraduate program of study leading to a Bachelor's Degree at an accredited college or university. Other information and downloadable applications are available at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), which is accessible through a link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). Applications must be submitted at a military commissary before 18 February 2004."

**Next Meeting  
Feb 2, 2004  
1930 Hrs  
Gerry 5 Hall  
Marblehead**

### SOUP DOWN

Soup down for the monthly meetings are by sign up the following is the list through May

Feb.	Jim Hanson
March	Ed Lynch
April	Jim Hanson
May	Vinny Messina & Rob Whitten

If you are interested I'm sure the Feb, Mar and Apr guys would not mind if you wanted to assist one of them. If I'm wrong they will let me know. **Still Looking for June meeting**

*Reminder personnel conducting the soupdown are required to supply all essentials paper plates, dinner ware, etc.*



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*"To perpetuate the  
memory...."*

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

[www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase](http://www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase)

## Tomahawk® Cruise Missile

**Description:** The *Tomahawk*® Land Attack Missile (TLAM) is a long range, subsonic cruise missile used for land attack warfare, launched from U. S. Navy surface ships and U.S. Navy and Royal Navy submarines.

**Background:** *Tomahawk*® cruise missiles are designed to fly at extremely low altitudes at high subsonic speeds, and are piloted over an evasive route by several mission tailored guidance systems. The first operational use was in *Operation Desert Storm*, 1991, with immense success. The missile has since been used successfully in several other conflicts. In 1995 the governments of the United States and United Kingdom signed a Foreign Military Sales Agreement for the acquisition of 65 missiles, marking the first sale of *Tomahawk*® to a foreign country. After a November 1998 launch and live warhead test, the U.K. declared operational capability.

**Features:** The *Tomahawk*® Block II Nuclear variant (TLAM-N) uses an Inertial Navigation System (INS) aided by Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM) for missile navigation. TLAM-N contains the W80 nuclear warhead. *Tomahawk*® Block III adds Digital Scene Matching Area Correlation (DSMAC) and Global Positioning Satellite System guidance capability which is highly coupled to the existing Block II guidance systems for

precision navigation. The *Tomahawk*® Block III Conventional variant (TLAM-C) contains a 1,000-lb class blast/fragmentary unitary warhead while the Submunition variant (TLAM-D) includes a submunitions dispenser with combined effect bomblets. Because of its long range, lethality, and extreme accuracy *Tomahawk*® has become the weapon of choice for the U.S. Department of Defense.

*Tomahawk*® Block IV (*Tactical Tomahawk*™, TLAM-E), the next generation *Tomahawk*® cruise missile adds the capability to reprogram the missile while in-flight to strike any of 15 pre-programmed alternate targets or redirect the missile to any Global Positioning System (GPS) target coordinates. It also will be able to loiter over a target area, and with its on-board camera, will allow the warfighting commanders to assess target battle damage. The first launch of the Block IV *Tomahawk*® from an operational surface ship equipped with the *Tactical Tomahawk*™ Weapon Control System took place on 5 April 2003 from *USS Stethem* (DDG 63) off southern California. Launched from the Navy's forward-deployed ships and submarines, *Tomahawk*® Block IV, will provide a greater flexibility to the on-scene commander. *Tomahawk*® Block IV will become operational in mid 2004.

## February 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	Membership Mtg 930	3	4 USS Barbel (SS316) 45	5	6	7
8	9 E-Board Mtg	10	11 USS Shark (SS174) 42	12	13	14
15	16 USS Amberjack (SS219) 43	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 USS Grayback (SS208) 44	27	28
29 USS Trout (SS202) 44						

### Upcoming events 2004

- \*March 19-21 - USSVWWII Annual March Meeting in Nantucket
- \*Apr 3 - Thresher Memorial Ceremony
- \*Apr 19 - Lexington Patriots Day Parade
- \*Apr 24 - Marblehead Base Submarine Birthday Ball
- \*Apr 30-May1 - USSVI 40th Anniversary, Return to Sub School, 50th Anniversary of Nuclear Power, Groton
- \*May 14-15 - District 1 Meeting, Augusta, ME
- \*May 31 - Memorial Day Parade, Marblehead
- \*June 7 - Memorabilia Night
- \*July ? - Summer meeting
- \*Sept 13 - Monthly meeting, Lobster/steak night
- \*Sept 14-19 - USSVI Annual Convention, Saratoga Springs, NY