



USSVI Thresher Base News

Thresher Base Officer Election Results

Thresher Base Officer elections were held at the November meeting. Your Base Officers are:

Base Officers

Commander: Kevin Galeaz
Vice Commander: Rick Ceccetti
Treasurer: Dennis O’Keeffe
Secretary: Bob McAlpine

Appointees/Volunteer Contributors

Chaplain: Peter Joy
COB: Bob Flannery
Storekeeper: Tom Young
Kaps 4 Kids: Bob McAlpine
Eagle Scouts: Al Page
Newsletter Designer: Robin Galeaz
Newsletter Editor: Kevin Galeaz
WebMaster: Kevin Galeaz

Margaret Fisher, spouse of Thresher Base Life Member Harry T. Fisher, Passed Away

KITTERY, Maine - Margaret Edna Fisher, 80, of Woodlawn Ave in Kittery, died on December 14, 2011 at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

Born in Kittery Point on February 21, 1931, she was a daughter of Ezra Willard and H. Edna (Spring) Sawyer. Margaret was a graduate of R.W. Traip Academy with the class of 1948.

She married her loving husband Harry T. “Bud” Fisher on April 22, 1950. Together they enjoyed sixty one years of happiness together in the homes at his many duty stations while he served a career in the U.S. Navy.

A talented home maker, she enjoyed their home on Woodlawn Ave for



many years, always with an open door for family and friends. Offering a comfortable place for folks to gather and just enjoy company or sample her wonderful cooking.

She is survived by her loving husband Bud, a brother John Henry Sawyer of Plainwell Michigan and her loving nephews.

A private funeral service was held. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her memory to Wentworth Hospice, 121 Broadway Suite 117, Dover, NH 03826. Arrangements were entrusted to the J.S. Pelkey Funeral Home.

Groton Boat Tour

The Marblehead Base is coordinating a special tour of the Lower Base and submarine tour with SubGroup 2 Admiral Breckenridge. Tom Shannon has extended an invitation to all Thresher Base members to attend this event. They are in the process of selecting a date from the following 3 Saturdays: April 28, May 19 and June 9. We need to give Tom Shannon our date selection by Monday, January 23. If you are interested in attending this event, and you will not be at Saturday’s base meeting, please contact Kevin Galeaz, thresherbase@comcast.net or 603.785.6464 with your date preference. We will submit the date that has the most interest.

Note from the Treasurer

To all members,

Dues where due on or before January 1st. Annual members dues are \$20.00 National plus \$15.00 Base, total amount \$35.00. Holland Club and Life members dues are \$15.00 Base. Dues can be paid one year at a time or for longer terms if you wish.

Please submit a check to the; Thresher Base Treasurer
1 Eureka Ave.
York, ME 03909-1403

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Base Happenings



Base Commander's Message



Shipmates,

First, I want to thank former Base Commander Tom Young for his service. Tom enlarged the scope of Thresher Base

activities with joint USS Maine Base & Thresher Base activities and with his support for our implementation of the Kaps 4 Kids program.

Thanks as well to all the Thresher Base Officers along with the volunteer contributors listed in the Base Appointees who give their time for the good of our Base. A special thanks to former Base Commander Gary Hildreth. His expertise and liaison with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has been instrumental in the success of the Annual USS Thresher Memorial Services.

We are 3 months away from the 49th USS Thresher Memorial Service and only 15 months away from the 50th, an event that will garner National media attention. The 50th will

be complex enough to require additional planning assistance. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Committee, please contact me.

I just received a Base Commanders Qualification Card created by National Commander Michael Bircumshaw intended to ensure all USSVI Base Commanders have the minimum knowledge level required to properly conduct Base operations including interfacing with the USSVI National Office. I will be making copies to bring to the meeting on Saturday for those interested. Email me at ThresherBase@comcast.net if you are would like an electronic copy.

If you have any Base related questions or issues that you would like my assistance with please call me at 603.785.6464 or email me at ThresherBase@comcast.net. Please leave a message on my phone if you call during working hours.

At your service,
Kevin Galeaz
Thresher Base Commander

Treasurer's Report

1. \$3548.11 balance at September meeting
2. \$3518.40 balance as of November meeting
3. \$30 spent on boat sponsorship USSVI
4. Memorial fund balance: \$4099.11
5. We do not have \$10K to donate to the Town of Kittery for the USS Thresher Memorial flag pole project as requested by the former Kittery Town Manager.

Member Birthdays

January

- 1 - Howard Dmytro
- 3 - John McArdle
- 4 - Harry Fisher
- 5 - Michael Gigliotti
- 7 - Tom Gillen
- 9 - Robert Flannery
- 14 - Gary Hildreth
- 16 - Stan Feinberg
- 17 - Larry Beekler
- 18 - Sam Hill
- 30 - Dennis O'Keeffe

February

- 9 - Ralph Devoid
- 15 - Ed Storer
- 20 - Herm Stolzenburg

New Features

Over the next year, the Base News will be getting a much overdue facelift. Keep on the lookout for a new layout and new features.

Thresher Base Charter

USSVI Thresher Base was chartered on 15 November 1989 in the memory of those 129 gallant men who at 9:17 AM on 10 April 1963 lost their lives in the performance of their duties aboard USS THRESHER (SSN 593).

Our mission is "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."

Newsletter Information

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, is published 6 times a year to inform the membership and community about meeting happenings and upcoming events. All members are welcome to submit non-political articles for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Send submissions to Kevin Galeaz, Editor, 1465 Hooksett Road #239, Hooksett, NH 03106 or thresherbase@comcast.net.



November 2011 Meeting Minutes



•Tom Young called the meeting to order

•Opening prayer led by Chaplain Peter Joy

•Pledge of Allegiance led by Thresher Base Chief of the Boat Bob Flannery.

•A Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost during the months of October and November.

•Tom Young introduces Ed Lyons as a new member.

•Member Sound-off

Harlan Brown, Dave Dickey, Al Page, John McCarthy, Ian Johnston, Carl Weber, Bill Seaward, Carl Weber, Bill Tebo, Peter Joy, Larry Oiler, Bob Flannery, Bill Niland, Ed Lyons, Ed Storer, Ralph Devold, Bob McAlpine, Dennis O'Keefe, Tom Young & Kevin Galeaz

•Secretary Kevin Galeaz read the Minutes from the September 2011 Thresher Base Meeting. A motion to accept was requested, made, seconded and passed unanimously.

•Treasurer Dennis O'Keefe read Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was requested, made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Committees

• Kaps for Kids

- i. Bob McAlpine showed two Kaps for Kids videos from National
- ii. Approved 501C
- iii. Bob McAlpine looking for others to attend with him.

- iv. Video online Kaps for Kids
- v. Bob will leave videos with local hospitals to "get our foot in the door".

•Tom Young: Asks if base wants to make a donation to Groton Base's Thanksgiving meal. A motion to donate \$25 was requested, made, seconded and passed unanimously.

•Tom Young discusses other requests for donations that the Base has received. Tom states our Base needs to focus on raising money for the Annual USS Thresher Memorial Services and that we limit donations to those we have made in the past. Treasurer Dennis O'Keefe agrees.

•Tom: National Navy Memorial: USSVI National is putting a submarine plaque at the Navy Memorial. Cost will be \$10K. Tom recommends we do not donate as a Base. Instead, personal donations can be made online.

•Tom: Holland Club is requesting funds (no amount specified)

•Larry Oiler supports the donations we have made in the past that have helped Veterans, such as the donations to the Veterans Home, rather than donating for a plaque.

•Tom Young: SubVet Scholarship Committee

- Children and Grandchildren of SubVets may apply.
- Window for application closes 15 March.
- Application is located on USSVI National's website

- Tom Young: DD214's are now online. May use this form to get additional social security benefits.
- Tom Young: discusses planning for joint meeting with USS Maine Base in March.

Harlan Brown: Dual member Harlan Brown is in attendance representing USS Maine Base:

- The idea was brought up at the USS Maine Base's Veteran's Day Base meeting.
- A member from USS Maine Base has recommended holding the joint meeting at Mulligan's At Mill Side Live , 23 Lincoln St. Biddeford , ME 04005 (Menu)
- Harlan states the Mulligan's location is not firm, and they are open to suggestions.
- Date will be either the 3 rd Saturday or Sunday in March.
- Maine Base will discuss at their next meeting in December and is looking for our feedback.
- Larry Oiler likes the idea, recommends Saturday, recommends a meeting location near the highway and offers to provide rides to members who do not wish to drive – if he is here in March.
- Tom Young & Bob Flannery offer to take riders
- A motion to attend the joint meeting in March with USS Maine Base is requested, made, seconded and passed unanimously.

• Peter Joy thanks Harlan Brown and the USS Maine Base for the invitation to march with USS Maine Base at

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November 2011 Meeting Minutes



the Bath parade. The Thresher Base members who attended had a great time.

- Chaplain Peter Joy:
 - Asks to be contacted if any member is on the binnacle list.
 - Also asks to be contacted if you are going in for an overnight stay at the hospital: he will send a card.
- Tom Young Storekeeper: He has been holding three shirts for the past year and offers to give them to anyone wishing to make a donation to the USS Thresher Memorial Fund.



- Gary Hildreth: Asks Kevin to send electronic copy of CNO speaker invitation to him and he will forward to Vice Admiral McCoy. Vice Admiral McCoy sees Admiral Greenert on a regular basis.

Vice Admiral McCoy will be extended one additional year in his position as Commander, NAVSEA and will continue to work with Admiral Greenert during his tenure.



- Tom Young informs members of current ballot for Base Officers, stating he will not be running for Commander.
 - Tom asks if there are any other nominees.
 - The nominees are:
 1. Commander: Kevin Galeaz
 2. Vice Commander: Rick Cecchetti
 3. Treasurer: Dennis O'Keeffe
 4. Secretary: Robert McAlpine
 - Tom requests we vote as a block. A motion to vote as a block is made, seconded and passed unanimously.

- Gary Hildreth asks Kevin Galeaz if he is aware that PNS was contacted by a relative of a crew member lost aboard USS Thresher named Victoria. Victoria was asking PNS to sell USS Thresher Challenge Coins for \$20 each with the profits used to help defer the cost of the post memorial service USS Thresher Family and Former Crew meal.
- Kevin informs that Victoria is the granddaughter of USS Thresher Crew Member FTG1(SS) Charles Wiggins

and that he has been in contact with her. Victoria has stepped up to take the position of USS Thresher Family Member Coordinator previously held by former USS Thresher Crew Member John Cook. Victoria has setup a Facebook page to locate additional family members that will be sent invitations to the Annual USS Thresher Memorial Services. Victoria has organized a post service meal for the family and former crew

after the 49th at the Roundabout Diner in Portsmouth .

- Gary indicates that PNS will offer the coins for sale at the annual PNS Holiday Fair
- Kevin informs the members that this is a nice coin and offers to provide the contact information to anyone looking to purchase one.
- The 50/50 prize of \$30 was won by Ed Storer. Ed donated his winnings to the Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service Fund.

USS Thresher Memorial Service Planning Committee

- Kevin Galeaz: Invitations will be sent to the following memorial service keynote speakers:
 - 49th : NAVSEA Vice Admiral McCoy
 - 50th : CNO Admiral Greenert



- Closing Prayer by Chaplain Peter Joy
- Meeting Adjourned.



To Perpetuate the Memory



Napoleon Tomas Garcia, the son of Mrs. Rufina Garcia and the late Leonides Garcia, was born on May 22, 1927, in Paranaque Rizal, Philippine Islands. He attended St. Andrew's Academy in Paranaque.

At the age of 15, during World War II, Napoleon was captured by the Japanese, but was rescued by guerillas, a short time later. He enlisted in the Navy in Manila, on November 21, 1945.

During his 18 years of naval



Napoleon Tomas Garcia
Chief Steward
United States Navy

service, Napoleon had duty in several ships and at shore stations, including the escort aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Badoeng Strait (CVE 116), U.S.S. Siboney (CVE 112), U.S.S. Sicily (CVA 118) and in the hospital ship, U.S.S. Consolation (AH 15). During his service, Napoleon had earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the U.S.S. Diablo (SS 479), and a letter of commendation from the commanding officer of the

4 U.S. Naval Air Station at Anacostia.

He volunteered for submarine duty and was accepted for training at the Submarine School, U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Successfully completing the course of instruction, he was assigned to his first submarine, U.S.S. Diablo (SS 479). It was while serving in Diablo that Napoleon earned his silver dolphins when he became qualified as a submariner.

On March 27, 1961, Napoleon was assigned to the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

He is survived by his widow, the former Charlotte Lee Edison of Beckley, Va.; a daughter, Deborah Lynn, both residing in Washington, D.C. He also leaves his other, seven brothers, and two sisters in Paranaque Rizal, Philippine Islands.

Donald T. Stadtmuller was born on February 10, 1937, in Bronx, N.Y. In his early years he attended Anne Beer's School in Washington, D.C.; Trinity Lutheran School, Bronx, N.Y.; and was graduated with honors, in 1954, from Roslyn High School, Roslyn, Long Island, N.Y.

During his high school years, Donald was a member of the yearbook staff, Forum, Latin, and Mathematics Clubs. Active in sports, he was a member of the bowling and rifle teams. He was graduated, highest in his class, with an average of 96.8 out of a possible 100, and received a 4-year scholarship from the State of New York, and the Board of Education Award.

In September 1954, Donald entered

Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., and was a member of the dean's list throughout his college years. During his junior year he was elected president of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Donald was graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1958, and accepted a position with the Sperry Gyroscope Co., Great Neck, N.Y., as an assistant engineer. He later transferred to the

field engineering division, as a field engineer. Donald had made a number of trips aboard Thresher. He had been involved in a sonar program and was highly rated as a field engineer.

Donald is survived by his mother, Mrs. Ethel Stadtmuller of Flower Hill, Roslyn, N.Y.



Donald T. Stadtmuller
Field Engineer
Sperry Gyroscope Company



National Officer Nominations

In accordance with the requirement of our Constitution & Bylaws, this is a call for 2012 National Election nominations for the following offices:

National Commander, National Senior Vice Commander, National Junior Vice Commander, National Secretary, National Treasurer, NE Region Director, SE Region Director, Central Region Director, Western Region Director.

Any member in good standing may nominate any other member in good standing for any elected National Office, provided that the Nominee's qualification for National Office shall be in accordance with Constitution Article XI Section 1 paragraph (b) and the nomination is accompanied by a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected.

The prerequisite for National Office is that a Nominee must be a Regular Member in good standing a minimum of thirty consecutive months.

USSVI Scholarship Program

2012 Scholarship Selectee Sponsors - Take note! by Paul Orstad

USSVI Sponsors, for the winners of this past year scholarships there a lot of Students who have not sent the Scholarship committee an "thank you" for their scholarships.

Also, a reminder that the winners need to send to the scholarship chairman a copy of their fall semester transcript which are due by 15 February 2012. If not, I will ask you, as sponsor, to send them a letter asking them to see that you send me their transcript. The transcript verifies that they attended the fall semester.

a. Nominees for Senior and Junior Vice-Commander must have completed at least two years as a Member of the Board of Directors. (This includes all District Commanders, past and present, who have met the two years in office requirement.)

b. Nominees for National Commander must have completed at least two years as a voting member of the Board of Directors by the time they take office as National Commander (NC). (This includes all National Officers and the District Commander of the Year, past and present, who have met the two years as a voting member of the board requirement.)

The term of office for all National officers will be two years or until a successor is elected.

Your nomination must be received by Patrick Householder, Nomination Committee Chair on or by April 30, 2012 by email at householderp@comcast.net or by mail at 25003 SE 146th St, Issaquah WA 98027.

Please tell them if they are planning to apply for a scholarship again this year you must have requested by 15 March 2012 and must be in the scholarship chairman hands by 16 April 2012.

Remember the US Post Office is going through some rough times and plan to send your application ahead of time instead of being a last minute things as you may not get it here in time and will find it being sent back.

Any question do not hesitate to call the scholarship chairman at 1-860-334-6457. He will help you.

2012 Subvets Anniversary Celebration - Groton Base

May 3

- 9:00 Scholarship Golf Tournament
- 11:30 Anniversary Luncheon
- 6:00 USS Trout Reunion Event

May 4

- 8:30 Return To Submarine School
- 6:00 Welcome Aboard Reception

May 5

- 9:00 Boat Tour
- 1:00 Memorial Service
- 5:30 Grand Banquet

Complete details are available at www.subvetsgroton.org/anniversary/default.aspx

Submariners Keep Vet Organization Numbers High

While veterans associations are shuttering doors because of low membership rates and aging members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans numbers are stable and its members are actually getting younger.

As the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor passed Wednesday, it was marked by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association announcement that it was closing shop due to low membership.

In addition, the Submarine Veterans of World War II, from which the U.S. Submarine Veterans later sprang, announced that it will disband in Sept. 2012 for similar reasons.

Veterans' association groups across the nation struggle with retention rates and inevitable aging of members, according to Fred Borgmann, national office Manager for U.S. Submarine Veterans.

Read the article at the link below <http://www.centrankitsapreporter.com/news/135296943.html>



Thresher Base Bylaws - Part I



At the July 2003 Lobsterbake, an ammended Constitution and By Laws was approved. The following is part 1 of a condensed version of the highlights of this document. Part 2 will be in the next issue. The full document is available on the Thresher Base website.

Article III - Membership Eligibility

- Membership is restricted to all United States personnel having been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by the United States Navy and discharged under "Honorable" conditions.
- All applications of new members shall be accompanied by proof, when requested, of eligibility under Section 1 of this article. Form DD214, letter from Commanding Officer, or the signature of a member in good standing attesting the application to be true to the best of his knowledge, shall be accepted.
- Associate Membership - Any person that meets the requirements of USSVI associate membership rules and has a sincere wish to become an associate member, "with intentions toward the betterment of the organization," may join upon the recommendation of a regular member in good standing.... Associate Members can vote, and can hold elected office. Associate members may hold appointed office.

Article IV - Meetings

- The general procedure of meetings of Thresher Base shall be in keeping with the normal parliamentary procedures as set down by "Roberts Rules of Order-Revised".
- Regular meetings shall be held at least Bi-monthly at a time and place as designated by the Commander.
- Special meetings or Executive Board meetings may be called and held,

when warranted, by the Commander or the Executive Board.

- The Executive Board must meet at least twice per year at a time and place as designated by the Commander.
- Agenda for regular Base meetings:
 1. Call to Order; 2. Prayer; 3. Moment of Silence for Departed Shipmates;
 4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; 5. Introduction of Guests; 6. Sound-Off (introduce yourself and first boat qualified on); 7. Read Minutes of Previous Meeting; 8. Treasurer's Report
 9. Executive Board Report; 10. Appointed Officers Report; 11. Old Business; 12. New Business; 13. Good of the Order; 14. Closing Prayer; 15. Adjournment

Article V - Quorum

- A quorum shall consist of at least five (5) duly paid members in good standing, of which at least two (2) shall be elected officers. Once a quorum is met it is to be considered met for the entire meeting.

Article VI - Voting

- Each member present who is duly paid and in good standing shall be eligible to vote at regular meetings and a simple majority of voting members present shall determine the outcome of the vote.
- Each elected or appointed member of the Executive Board shall be eligible to vote and a majority shall rule except in the case of a continuous tie vote at which time the chairman shall call the board deadlocked. In the case of a deadlocked Executive Board, the question shall go to the membership for a simple majority vote at the next scheduled base meeting.

Article VII - Officers

- The officers of Thresher Base shall be

- the Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. All officers must be members in "good standing" to be nominated and must remain members in "good standing" through the duration of their office.
- The appointed officers of Thresher Base shall be the Chaplin, Chief of the Boat, and the Ways and Means Officer. They shall be nominated by the Commander and approved by the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board shall consist of: Base Commander, Vice Commander, Chief of the Boat, Secretary, Ways and Means Officer, and two (2) Trustees. The Trustees shall be the immediate Past Base Commander and his predecessor. Term of office for Trustees will coincide with the term of office of the Base Commander.
- The Commander may hold his office for two consecutive terms; additional consecutive terms may be approved subject to the concurrence of the general membership. In the advent of a vacancy in the Commander's position the Vice Commander shall assume the duties of the Commander. Any other vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board and any member so appointed shall serve out the remainder of the term and then shall be eligible for election to a full term at that time.
- The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall, at the meeting prior to the September meeting, call for nominations for office from all attending members in good standing. He shall receive each nominee's consent to accept the nomination. Elections will be held at the September meeting and the Officers elect shall be installed at this time.
- Election of officers shall be done by secret ballot vote of all attending members in good standing. Page 7

THRESHER Base
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
c/o Kevin Galeaz
1465 Hooksett Road #239
Hooksett, NH 03106

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, January 21 @ 1200
Newick's Restaurant • Dover Point Road • Dover, NH

Calendar of Events

January	28 - 1000 - Memorial Day Service at Albacore Park
21 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks	
March	July
TBD - TBD - Joint Base Meeting with Maine Base (location to be determined)	21 - 1200 - Base Meeting/Lobster-bake at Seabrook Legion
April	September
14 - 1300 - Thresher Memorial Service at Traip Academy, Kittery, Maine	2 to 9 - USSVI Convention, Norfolk, VA
	15 - 1200 - Base Meeting at Newicks
May	November
19 - 1200 - Base Meeting - TBD	17 - 1200 - Base Meeting - TBD

USSVI Conventions

2012

September 2 to 9
Norfolk, VA

2013

August 25 to September 2
Rochester, MN