



# USSVI Thresher Base News



March 2006

## January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. The tolling of the bell was conducted for boats lost in January and February. We had a number of special guests at the meeting: P.W. Louthain, D1 commander, John Carcioppo, Groton Base, Eileen Foley, former mayor of Portsmouth and John Brazil, Past President of Subvet Inc. This was followed by the of roll call of those present.

- Kevin Galeaz read the Secretary's Report.
- Roy Pierce gave the Treasurer's Report.

Nov. 2005 balance	\$4781.12
Donations	-300.00
Boat sponsorship	-25.00
Postage	-37.00
Dues	-520.00
Interest credit	+ .82
Donations received	+240.00
Dues	+1130.00
50/50	+29.00
Jan. 2006 balance	5312.94

- No Old Business
- An Observation was made by Fred Pietrowski that more members attend when there are social events and suggested we have less business at the meetings and more social time. Some discussion was held with PW Louthain suggesting that if there is a function then the wives will want to attend and the members will not feel the need to rush home. It was suggested and approved that the next meeting would be a potluck.

- 43rd Thresher Service will be held on April 8, 2006. The shipyard will host the event and Gary will check into programs and invitations. John Carcioppo informed everyone that Groton is holding its ceremony on Sunday, April 9 and PW said he would notify the other bases about the date. Kevin Galeaz will make piper and trumpet arrangements; Gary will locate speakers and Kevin and Herm will be the readers.

### Good of the Order

- PW is meeting with all the bases and wants to work

together with all bases to remember those on final patrol.

Tom Young, storekeeper, informed everyone of the available items and

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*Bill Tebo receives his Senior Submariner award from PW Louthain, D1 Commander.*



*Members share stories before the meeting.*



*Fred Pietrowski meets with our Groton Base guests.*



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## Commander's Message

January's meeting was a huge success! It was great to have P.W. Louthain, District One Commander, present to see how we do business and offer us some suggestions for improvement. I believe that if we take on board his recommendations we will better serve our shipmates needs. It was also very nice to see that some of our shipmates from Groton made the journey to Portsmouth and joined us as we celebrated those being inducted in the Holland Club and those being recognized with Senior Submariner certificates. Congratulations to all of you!

The potluck lunch after the meeting provided us a keen opportunity to share in some fellowship, especially with our visiting guests and award-ees. Thanks again to our spouses who prepared all the chow. They really know how to take care of us. To

top the afternoon off Dick Seedner's generous donation of \$100.00 to the bar provided us a reasonable excuse to move the gathering to the lounge and continue to swap the never-ending supply of sea stories. All in all, I believe it was one of our most memorable meetings.

Unfortunately, Larry Oiler, Vice Commander, was on travel and missed the event, but nevertheless I would like to recognize his hard work in the preparation. Due to Larry's administrative diligence all the Holland Club and Senior Submariner packages were ready and available. I know we all appreciate the extra effort that Larry puts into this organization. Thanks Larry.

Well, April is right around the corner and we are preparing for the upcoming Thresher Memorial Service. I am sure that you'll see this

advertised in many venues, but I will also mention it here. It is Saturday, April 8 at 1pm at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. We are still working on some of the logistics, but the date and time are set. Since the service is on the Shipyard it is not open to the general public, so if you plan on attending, please let me or one of the other Thresher Base officers know that you are coming. I will have a sign up sheet at our next meeting to aid in this effort.

So enjoy the upcoming warm weather and we'll see you at the March meeting. Don't forget, we voted to have a potluck lunch again after the meeting, so if you remember bring a dish to share.

Till then,  
Gary Hildreth

## Thresher Base Inventory

The following items are available for sale. Please contact Tom Young, base storekeeper, to purchase any of these items or to place any special orders

Qty	Description	Cost
16	Hats	\$ 15
3	Dolphin ties	\$ 22
7	Large 10" Submarine Vets Patches	\$ 12.50
71	Small 4/1/2 inch Thresher Base patches	\$ 5
8	Silent Service bumper stickers	\$ 3
240	Thresher Base inside window decals	\$ 2

The base also has a number of first day covers issued in 1960 for the launching of the USS Thresher and in 1990 for the Thresher Memorial Dedication.

## January Meeting continued from page 1

encouraged members to let him know what itmes they want.

- John C. informed the base of the upcoming Groton Base Anniversary weekend, May 4 to 6, 2006. A registration form is included in the newsletter.
- Nick Calderiso from RI brought a submarine model made by his brother-in-law. He can make any ship and left contact information if anyone is interested.
- Carl Weber mentioned that the WWII NE Convention will be held in Atlantic City from May 9 to 12, 2006
- Bill Tebo urged everyone to call their

state representative to show support for the WWII Memorial Bridge bill HB1313.

- Fred Pietrowski had photos from the Angler Reunion in Texas
- Chris Smith won the 50/50 Raffle of \$49.00
- Closing prayer was said
- Lunch was served - there was plenty of excellent choices.
- Following lunch, the new Holland Club members were inducted with the assistance of PW Loutain. Then a new Senior Submariner award was given to those members who qualified prior to 1949.

### Potluck Lunch

There will be a potluck lunch on Saturday, March 18, 2006 after the meeting. Please bring an entree, salad or dessert to share.

**On January 21, 2006,  
Thresher Base honored its  
newest Holland Club mem-  
bers with the help of D1  
Commander P.W. Louthain.  
Congratulations to John  
A. Broderick, Jr; Bruce W.  
Haushel; Charles H. Horne;  
and Richard W. Seedner**



**D1 Commander P.W.  
Louthain then helped  
recognize those members  
who qualified prior to  
1949 with a new Senior  
Submariner Award.  
Congratulations to Mike  
Geletka, Bob Bryant, Don  
McIssac; Armand Minutelli;  
Bill Seaward; Carl Weber  
and Bill Tebo.**



**Mark your calendars**

**43rd Anniversary  
Memorial Service for  
USS Thresher (SSN 593)**

**Saturday, April 8, 2006  
1300**

**Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**

**Due to security issues attendance is limited to  
USS Thresher family members and  
USSVI Thresher Base members and guests.**

**If you plan on attending you must RSVP to  
Gary Hildreth at [HildrethGR@mail.ports.navy.mil](mailto:HildrethGR@mail.ports.navy.mil)  
or (207) 438-4100**



## To Perpetuate the Memory



Ronald Clare Babcock was born on March 6, 1938, in Fullerton, Nebraska. In 1942, the family moved to a farm in Valley County, NE, and it was in this community that he spent his early boyhood. He attended district 42 school, a one-room schoolhouse, for 8 years. Ronald attended Ord High School at Ord, NE, where he participated in sports, was a member of the school band, and on the staff of the yearbook. Ronald received statewide recognition for his football



**Ronald Clare Babcock**  
**Lieutenant Junior Grade**  
**United States Navy**

ability, and was captain of the team during his senior year. He was president of his junior class and a member of the National Honor Society, of which he was president, during his senior year. In 1956, Ronald was

valedictorian of his graduating class, and received a scholarship from the University of Nebraska.

Entering the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, in June 1956, he was graduated with the class of June, 1960. Ronald volunteered for submarine duty, and was enrolled in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, CT. Successfully completing the basic course, he was then selected for advance training in nuclear power and after completing the one-year course, he was assigned to the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), in March 1962.

Ronald was married to the former Martha Elizabeth Robertson of Rockville, MD. He is also survived by his parents, Gilvert Scott and Arduce Leone Babcock of Lincoln, NE; a sister, Barbara Gail; and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Pearle Stevens of Fullerton, NE.

John Edward Bell was born in Toccoa, Georgia, on March 5, 1936. He attended elementary schools in that area and was later graduated from the Stephens County High School in 1954. He was employed by a local automobile supply company, worked as a patrolman for the Georgia Forestry Commission, and was a member of the Georgia National Guard, before enlisting in the naval service on June 11, 1958.

After his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, California, John was transferred to the Great Lakes, IL naval installation, where he was enrolled in the Navy's Machinist's Mate School. Completing the course, he started his first sea duty assignment in the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Essex (CVA 9) and served aboard until March 1961. He attended the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration School at Norfolk, VA

while a member of the Essex. He received several commendations from the commanding officer of the Essex for his contributions to the excellent performance of the ship. He had also earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal.

John volunteered for submarine duty in April 1961, and attended the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, CT. In October, he was selected for advance training in nuclear power and studied at the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls, ID. He was then assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593) at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, where he served as a reactor technician.

He is survived by his widow, the former Carrier A. Saunders of Old Mystic, CT, and a daughter, Pamela Annette. He also leaves his parents,



**John Edward Bell**  
**Machinist's Mate First Class**  
**United States Navy**

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Bell; sisters, Mrs. Roy Kelling and Mrs. Elizabeth Dorsey; and his grandfather, Mr. C. Garland.



## Subvets WWII



The Squalus Chapter of Subvets World War II was chartered to perpetuate the memory of those shipmates who gave their lives in submarine warfare; to further promote and keep alive the spirit and unity that existed among United States Navy submarine crewmen during World War II; to promote sociability, general welfare and good fellowship among its members; and pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States government.

State Commander, Maine & New Hampshire - William Tebo

Deputy State Commander Maine  
Real Cyr

### Officers

Deputy State Commander New Hampshire - David Dickey

Chapter Officers

President - David Cahill

Vice-President - Michael Geletka

Secretary/Treasurer - Carl Weber

Chaplain - Gordon Wentzell



## USSVI News



### New CTO

Don Gentry is stepping down as USSVI CTO and Tim VeArd is taking his place. Tim is CEO of VeArd Computer Research, Inc, located in Melbourne, FL. VeArd Computer Research, Inc. (VCR) is a family-owned software and technology firm established in 1988. Tim is also a subvet, having served on USS Robert E Lee (SSBN 601), qualifying in 1967. Tim shares many of the objectives that Don had as regards automating and improving many repetitive aspects of the USSVI webpages. Don will be helping out with the transition to keep everything smooth and seamless as well.

### New Boat Sponsorship Chair

by Tom Conlon

Bill Lee is the new Boat Sponsorship Committee Chair. His contact information is:

Bill Lee

5034 W. Nighthawk Way

Tucson, Az. 85742-9302

520-260-1522

sub\_ssn589@yahoo.com

### New Green Mountain Base Officers

by Steven Lee

Base Commander:

Larry Roberts, 210 Braintree Hill Rd.

Randolf, VT. 05060-9518

802-728-5626

Vice Commander, Acting Treasurer and Acting Secretary:

Bill Livendale, 1113 Cabot Rd.

Marshfield, Vt 05658-8007

802-426-3572

### Excerpts from District One Activity Report

PW Louthain, ED1 CDR

There is a lot of area to cover in District One and I have begun the journey. But I also remain active at my Primary Base attending meetings and events and assisting as needed on request....It was a real pleasure to attend the January Thresher Base Meeting which included a Holland Club Ceremony. Base Commander Gary Hildreth was gracious enough to allow me to participate in the ceremony.... I had to travel alone to attend the Boston Base meeting in Randolph MA. It was a real privilege to discuss USSVI business with Base Commander Herb Saunders and Secretary Steve Russo; two very familiar names in our ranks.

### USSVI History Book Status Report

W.T. "Doc" McCance, USSVI National Historian

The USSVI History Book is in process. The type setting will be completed by the end of this week. The book should be out in late May or early June 2006.

Boston Base is making a push to grow their Base and get younger members involved in filling leadership positions. We all know how tough a job that is... One theme that we are developing is to work together as team. This includes Base Commanders at one Base working with other Bases to achieve more. As you know, Rhode Island is hosting the next District One Meeting on Saturday May 6th. This coincides with the USSVI Anniversary Weekend event at Groton Base and I hope that Base Commander and other Officers will be able to attend. (We will hold the meeting in the daylight so you can find the place.)

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

**Next Thresher Base Meeting  
Saturday, March 18, 2006 @ 1300  
Portsmouth VFW, Deer Street**



### USSVI Thresher Base

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."

The base newsletter, *Thresher Base News*, and base website, [www.thresherbase.org](http://www.thresherbase.org), are used to inform the membership and community about meeting happenings and upcoming events. Any member who has information to share with the membership is encouraged to submit articles to the editor for publishing. Send submissions to Kevin Galeaz, Editor, 1465 Hooksett Road #239, Hooksett, NH 03106 or [webmaster@thresherbase.org](mailto:webmaster@thresherbase.org).

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### Upcoming USSVI Conventions

Here is a list of next five USSVI Conventions so you can start making plans to attend.

**2006 - Little Rock**  
**2007 - Alaska**  
**2008 - Dallas**  
**2009 - San Diego**

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