



USSVI Thresher Base News



November 2006

September Meeting Minutes

The September 2006 meeting of Thresher Base was held at the VFW in Portsmouth. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance.

The tolling of the bell was sounded for those boats lost in September and October followed by a silent prayer for all those shipmates on final patrol. A sound off of all those present was conducted. We welcomed new member Ken Cowan and his wife Meg.

Thresher Base minutes of July's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. There was no treasurer's report because Roy Pierce was unable to attend.

Thresher Memorial Committee - no report yet. Need to contact Jack McNally and get started. Kevin Galeaz will get back to the group soon.

Old Business - Gary Hildreth was contacted by Anne Metcalf regarding the Thresher Memorial Service. Anne was dating James Phillippi when the Thresher was lost. Due to the time period, girlfriends were not as welcomed into the family units unlike today's Navy. She grieved for 43 years privately and finally purchased a computer which allowed her to find USSVI Thresher Base. She contacted Gary regarding the service, but while traveling from Hartford, CT she was late and missed the service. She felt bad, but Gary was able to make arrangements for her to participate in the Memorial Day Service at Albacore Park.

With the help of Larry Oiler, Gary was able to contact the family of James Phillippi which resulted in Anne getting in contact with his family. She says that this contact has been very theraputic and would like to thank Thresher Base. She has also vol-

unteered to help with any upcoming Memorial Services and the Thresher Memorial in Washington. The Phillippi family was also very pleased with making this contact.

New Business -

1) Database update - 600 entries, but only 111 members. The rest are former members, family, crew, other bases.

2) National Database is now online - our database matches their database.

Members have the ability to make changes to the database. Members must log into the database and "unlock" their information if they want other members to see their information. There is a link on our website to USSVI's website. Due to privacy laws, National can not post your personal information - the member must approve posting of phone, address , etc.

3) New member joined through national and Larry is in the process of contacting him - Bruce McKenna of Goffstown.

4) Memorial Bridge Dedication on October 14.

5) Ken Cowan, our new member, is planning a reunion for the Augusta. If you have planned a reunion, please share this information with him.

6) Dues will be coming due soon.

7) Tentative date for Sculpin dedication is November 11. As soon as Gary has more information he will forward it to Kevin Galeaz for publication. It will be located near the Squalus.

8) Roy Pierce is no longer able to continue as the base treasurer. He has been the treasurer for 16 years. The base must have a treasurer and Roy is willing to train anyone who is interested in taking on this important

job. His last day as treasurer will be December 31. Please let Gary know if you are interested.

9) Base Nominations - this is the meeting were nominations are accepted for officer positions. There was a very low turn out, but there were enough to hold a quorum. Comments were made regarding holding it over to the November meeting. No decision was made.

continued on page 2

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Saturday, November 18 at 1300 at the VFW in Porstmouth. There will be a potluck meal following the meeting. All spouses and guests are welcome to attend.



Table of Contents

September Meeting Minutes.....	1
New Members.....	2
Eastern D1 Commander.....	2
Treasurer Needed.....	2
Member Profile.....	3
To Perpetuate the Memory.....	4
National Database/Website.....	5
USS Wahoo.....	6
Admiral Nimitz Foundation.....	7
Next Meeting.....	Back Page
Upcoming Conventions ...	Back Page



New Members

Welcome aboard Kenneth L. Cowan. Ken reside in New London, New Hampshire and joined USSVI and THRESHER Base Chapter



on 16 September. He qualified in submarines in 1985 on USS AUGUSTA (SSN 710). Ken was an YN2(SS) and is putting his Yoeman skills to good use in planning the first reunion for the AUGUSTA. Planning a submarine reunion requires a significant amount of work, but some of us old timers who have planned reunions

September Minutes

continued from page 2

- 10) Senior Vice Commander - Larry will continue in this roll as long as possible. He is needing to provide medical care to his sister which has prevented him from attending some meetings. He apologizes for missing these meetings.
- 11) National Elections - Very low vote return - 14% of 11,000 members voted. 15 Bases did not send in any votes. Voting was done via paper ballot this year rather than electronically as last year. It appears that the national has the same issues as local bases do in terms of finding volunteers to run. Tom Young brought up the lack of progressing through the ranks in the USSVI organization like other organizations.
- 12) National Convention - Tom

have assured Ken that it is well worth the effort. The Cowan's reside in New London, New Hampshire

Welcome aboard Bruce R. McKenna. Bruce joined USSVI and THRESHER Base Chapter on 20 July. He qualified in submarines in 1964 on USS CLAMAGORE (SSN 343). Bruce was an FTB1(SS) and also served on USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN 630). Bruce and his wife Mary Anne reside in Goffstown, New Hampshire.

Welcome aboard Thomas "Doc" Clayton. Doc joined USSVI and THRESHER Base Chapter in September 2006. He qualified in submarines in 1971 on USS HENRY L. STIMSON (SSBN 655). Bruce was an CWO4 and also served on USS NATHANAEL GREENE (SSBN 636). Doc and his wife Peg reside in Eliot, Maine.

Young attended and commended the Razorback Base on a great job. The big thing was the push for the Alaska cruise - they need to sell 150 more suites to have "control" of the ship. 13) Tom Young discussed his trip to the Russian Sub Club in St. Petersburg. He received a great welcome and they were willing to help him in any way. It is a beautiful city. He keeps in contact with them. He has received some great pictures via email - Christmas tree on the periscope riding through the water. He will share the website with Kevin Galeaz. Meeting was adjourned.

New Eastern District 1 Commander

by PW Louthain

It appears that I will continue to serve you as ED1 for the next two years. Prior to this time I have been filling in for Gib Hanley who had asked for relief due to health concerns. I hope that he is well and that he is happy with my service in his stead. As this is now my watch I will provide you with my goals for the term.

- (1) Provide support as needed to assist Bases and Base Officers in ED 1.
- (2) Attend at least one meeting per Base each year (per USSVI C&B).
- (3) Increase communications between Bases and promote teamwork for the District.
 - A. Promote cross attendance of meetings and events.
 - B. Promote District buying power and raising of needed funding for Base business.
 - C. Promote shared knowledge for solving problems and developing ideas.
- (4) Help develop new Bases, regular or satellite, as needed.
- (5) Remember and honor our Creed.

Base Treasurer Needed

Due the upcoming resignation of Roy Pierce, Thresher Base is in need of a Treasurer. Roy is willing to train anyone who is interested in this position. Due to the National and IRS regulations, the base must have a treasurer. Please contact Gary Hildreth if you are interested in this position.



Member Profile



CDR John J. McCarthy, USN, Retired

John was in the Merchant Marines prior to enlisting in the US Navy in May 1947, where he served for over 30 years. Synopsis of John's career follows:



* Boot Camp, Great Lakes, IL, May 1947.

* Naval Prison, Portsmouth, NH (duty personnel), 1948 – 1950. While station at Portsmouth he did a temporary assignment of duty (TAD) tour on the ex-U505.

* Attended Submarine School.

* Served on USS HALFBEAK (SS 352), 1951 – 1953.

* Qualified in Submarines on HALFBEAK in April 1952, rating when he qualified was YN2.

* Served on USS ENTEMEDOR (SS 340), 1953 – 1958.

* Served on USS ALBACORE (AGSS569), 1958 – 1961.

* Transferred to MAAG Netherlands and joined with ex-ICEFISH and ex-HAWKBILL, which we had given to Royal Dutch Navy. 1961 to 1964.

* Served on USS CORPORAL (SS 346), 1964 - 1965.

* Served on USS SEA DOG (SS 401) until December 1965; promoted to E-8 and WO1 while onboard.

* Served on USS HOLLAND (AS 32) in Rota, Spain, 1965 – 1968; promoted to CWO-2 and Ensign while onboard.

* Transferred to HI MAF, Northern I Corps in Vietnam, 1968 – 1969. Served with 1st Marine Division and later with

* 101st Airborne; promoted

to LTJG.

* Served at Nuclear Power Training Unit, Windsor, CT, 1969 – 1972; promoted to LT.

* Served on Commander Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN Staff in Holy Loch, Scotland, 1972 - 1974.

* Served on Commander Submarine Squadron TWO Staff in New London, CT, 1974 – 1974; promoted to LCDR in 1974.

* Transferred back to Commander Submarine Squadron FOURTEEN Staff in Holy Loch, Scotland, 1976

– 1978, where he retired from the Navy on 31 January 1978.

EDUCATION: BS, MPA, JD

CIVILIAN Employment: Technical Representative with VITRO Labs and ESSEX, both jobs were at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

OTHER: Served on Volunteer Fire Department, Budget Committee, and Board of Selectmen at New Castle, NH. He was a State Representative for the towns of New Castle, Rye, and North Hampton, NH. John also served 8-years on various state committees at Concord, NH such as Vice Chair of State Institutions Committee,



tee, Chairman of Judiciary Committee, Chairman of Committee Overseeing Operations of Rockingham County Attorney's Office, Member of NH Judicial Council, and a Member of NH Court Accreditation Commission. Post Commander for Veterans of Foreign War (VFW)

in Portsmouth, NH for two terms.



To Perpetuate the Memory



Thomas Edward Clements was born on July 17, 1937, in Bronx, N.Y. He was active in scouting while attending Roosevelt Junior High School in Westfield, N.J. Thomas was graduated from Westfield High School, where active in sports, he earned letters in football and track. He also was a member of the choir and the Westfield Boy's Glee Club. After high school he attended Montana State College, prior to enlist-



**Thomas Edward Clements
Electronics Technician Third Class
United States Navy**

ing in the naval service on April 28, 1959.

He received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and attended the Navy's electronics technician School. He volunteered for submarine duty and successfully completed the course of instruction at the Submarine School located

at the U.S. Naval submarine base, New London, Conn.

His first duty in a submarine was in

the U.S.S. Tunny (SS 282), a unit of the Pacific Fleet. It was while serving in Tunny that Thomas became qualified as a submariner and earned his silver dolphins.

On November 30, 1961, Thomas received his orders and reported for duty as a member of the crew of the nuclear-powered submarine U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593). Thomas had earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal during his naval service.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Elaine Rowland Clements; his mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Ball; sisters, Mrs. Joan Neely; Mrs. Marilyn Sanger; Mrs. Kathleen Van Lenten, and his paternal grandfather, Mr. Thomas Edward Clements, Sr., all of New Jersey.

Kenneth James Critchley was born in Saco, Maine, on December 15, 1918. He attended public schools in Saco, and was a graduate of Thornton Academy, Saco, Maine.

A veteran of more than 20 years of service with the U. S. Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H., Kenneth first started as a machinist on August 19, 1940. He was subsequently advanced to his last position of ship progressman machinist in the Progress Branch of the Production Department.

During World War II, Kenneth was called into the service, and served for 2 years with the Supply Corps, U.S. Army, as a technician, fourth class.

After his discharge from the Army, he returned to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Kenneth's homelife centered around his family, and his hobbies. He was an avid photographer, and liked boating, hunting, and repairing anything mechanical. Kenneth was constantly repairing



**Kenneth James Critchley
Ship Progressman Machinist
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**

children's bikes, go-carts, and cars. He was also an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, the former Dorothy Jane Hood of Dayton, Maine; and a son, Terry James. He also leaves three sisters, and a brother.



USSVI NATIONAL WEBPAGE/DATABASE UPDATES

USSVI National Web page (<http://ussvi.org>)

There are features for you to elect on-line voting in future elections, instead of paper ballot voting. There are links to the current American Submariner Magazine if you haven't received it, and there is the ability for you to update your information in the National Database for address changes, high rate, boats served on, etc. etc.

When you get to the USSVI Web page to do all of this you must log on, and select member profile.

One of the things the members pushed for was to not have your addresses and emails open to the membership of U.S. SUBVETS unless you specifically went in and selected it to be opened. That way in the interests of your privacy if you didn't want your information released, it would not be released unless you specifically decided to have it released.

When you log onto the USSVI.ORG homepage and visit the MEMBER PROFILE button, under the PASSWORD tab you have the following options."

Vote Online vs. paper ballots in these elections National, Region, District.

The same section under Privacy Options allows you to choose whether to permit your Address/Phone number and/or email to appear in the "members only" online membership directory.

This section is also available to you from the membership database under the member's WEBPAGE tab.

If you have any comments or question? Please contact Pat Householder NJVC, telephone (425) 392-0440, e-mail householderp@comcast.net

National Database

When the USSVI secure member database was put online, every member's contact information (Address, Phone Number, Email) was automatically locked from viewing until and unless the member either (1) changed his privacy status in the database (how to do that below) or (2) asked his base membership chairman to do that for him.

When member 'unlocks' his information, it is only accessible to other registered USSVI members and is NOT accessible to the general public. The database uses a secure password/login method to prevent unauthorized access to membership information, in much the same way as does the NSL, USNA and many other organizations with an online membership directory system.

One of the primary reasons we all joined USSVI is to seek out and maintain contact with our submariner shipmates, and keeping your information locked prevents that from happening.

Please visit <http://ussvi.org> and go to the upper left corner to click on [MEMBER LOGIN]. If you are a current member and don't already know your password, click on the line that says If you don't know or remember your password? (click here) You'll be asked a few questions to confirm your identity and your access information will be immediately presented to you on screen.

By clicking on the [MY PROFILE] button, you can then review and update your own member profile. The privacy options are under the PASSWORD tab. You can change

your password and logon information, designate if you wish to vote online in future elections, and determine if you wish to block or unblock your Address, Phone Number or Email.

You can look up other members by clicking on the [USSVI MEMBERS] button.

Warning: if a member has opted to not have their information displayed, you will not see it. In this case, do not contact us asking for it. If it is locked, we will not release a member's information, no matter what the reason.

It is particularly important that the Base Officers and POCs all unblock their information as they are the conduit through which potential new members can contact the base. As this notice is written, there are a large number of this group of officers who still have their information blocked.

Questions? Call or email me.

Pat Householder
(425) 392-0440
householderp@comcast.net



USS Wahoo found

by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet declared Oct. 31 that the sunken submarine recently discovered by divers in the Western Pacific is, indeed, the World War II submarine USS Wahoo (SS 238).

"After reviewing the records and information, we are certain USS Wahoo has been located," said Adm. Gary Roughead, the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander. We are grateful for the support of the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, and appreciate greatly the underwater video footage of the submarine provided by our Russian navy colleagues, which allowed us to make this determination. This brings closure to the families of the men of Wahoo - one of the greatest fighting submarines in the history of the U.S. Navy."

In July, the Russian dive team photographed wreckage lying in about 213 feet (65 meters) of water in the La Perouse (Soya) Strait between the Japanese island of Hokkaido and the Russian island of Sakhalin. The divers were working with The Wahoo Project Group, an international team of experts coordinated by Bryan MacKinnon, a relative of Wahoo's famed skipper, Cmdr. Dudley W. Morton.

I am very pleased to be part of an effort where old adversaries have joined together as friends to find the Wahoo, said MacKinnon.

Wahoo was last heard from Sept. 13, 1943, as the Gato-class submarine departed the island of Midway en route to the dangerous, yet important, Sea of Japan. Under strict radio silence, Morton and his crew proceeded as ordered. Radio contact was expected to be regained with Midway in late

October upon Wahoo's departure from the Sea of Japan through the Kurile Island chain. No such contact was made. Following an aerial search of the area, Wahoo was officially reported missing Nov. 9, 1943.

At the time, the loss of Wahoo was believed due to mines or a faulty torpedo. But Japanese reports later stated that one of its planes had spotted an American submarine in the La Perouse Strait Oct. 11, 1943. These reports indicate a multi-hour combined sea and air attack involving depth charges and aerial bombs finally sunk Wahoo.

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force retired Vice Adm. Kazuo Ueda assisted the group with providing historical records from the Imperial Japanese Navy that identified the location where Wahoo was sunk.

We, the families of Wahoo, recognize the historical scholarship and support provided by the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force. We would also like to send our thanks to the U.S. Navy for their diligence in finding and identifying the USS Wahoo, said Doug Morton, son of Dudley Walker Morton.

The Morton family is thrilled that there will be closure to the loss of our father, added Morton, who also spoke on behalf of his sister, Edwina Thirsher and her family. The loss of a famous submariner who was loved by his family and crew has been very difficult.

During Wahoo's rare foray in the Sea of Japan, Morton reportedly sunk at least four Japanese ships. For the patrol, Morton was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross his fourth.

Morton is credited with sinking 19 ships totaling nearly 55,000 tons during his four patrols in command of

Wahoo; his total was second only to his own executive officer, Richard H. Kane. Retired Rear Adm. Kane went on to command USS Tang (SS 306) and to receive the Medal of Honor.

Noted naval historian Theodore Roscoe described Morton as an undersea ace in his book *Submarine Operations in World War II*

Few skippers equaled Morton's initiative, and none had a larger reserve of nerve, Roscoe wrote. Combining capability with dynamic aggressiveness, Morton feared nothing on or under the sea.

The discovery of Wahoo is the culmination of more than a decade of work by an international team dedicated to finding the ill-fated submarine. In 2004, electronic surveys sponsored by a major international energy company (The Sakhalin Energy Investment Corporation) identified the likely site.

The Bowfin Museum in Hawaii worked with the team as an independent scrutineer to ensure the project was done correctly and will serve as a central repository for all the Wahoo Project's findings, according to museum executive director, submariner, and retired Navy Capt. Jerry Hofwolt.

This is the right thing to do for the families, Hofwolt said. We want to be able to tell people that this is where your loved ones are and to be a clearinghouse for all of the information about this and other lost submarines.

Hofwolt said the museum is making plans to host a memorial ceremony to honor the crew members, most likely in October 2007.

Officials with the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force reviewed

continued on page 7



USS Wahoo *continued vfromv page 6*

analysis and photos provided by the Bowfin Museum and agreed the wreck is Wahoo. The wreck had several characteristics consistent with Wahoo, and the submarine was found very near those reported in Imperial Japanese Navy records. Photographs are available at warfish.com and one-ternalpatrol.com. General information about the USS Wahoo Project is available at usswahoo.org.

Wahoo is believed to be near the site of the Russian submarine L-19, possibly sunk by mines in late August 1945 after Japan had surrendered. Based on the information made available to them by The Wahoo Project Group, the Russian team wished to confirm the site was Wahoo and not the L-19. According to The Wahoo Project Group Web site, the group has offered continued assistance to the Russian government in finding that submarine as well.

In addition to the ceremony to be held in Pearl Harbor, U.S. Navy officials are planning an at-sea, wreath-laying service sometime next year to pay tribute to Wahoo. If it can be arranged, a combined service with the Russians and Japanese to honor Wahoo and the Russian submarine L-19, as well as the respective Japanese losses, is also a possibility.

The Navy has no plans to salvage or enter the Wahoo wreck. Naval tradition has long held that the sea is a fitting final resting place for Sailors lost at sea. The Sunken Military Craft Act protects military wrecks, such as Wahoo, from unauthorized disturbance.

Wahoo's discovery comes on the heels of a similar discovery of USS Lagarto (SS 371), which the Navy confirmed was found in the Gulf of Thailand in June.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave men on Wahoo and to all of our WWII submariners who performed so magnificently during the war. Much of our submarine force heritage, and many of our traditions, can be traced back to their legacy, said Rear Adm. Jay Donnelly, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. One of my favorite quotes is from Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz who, after the war, said: We salute those gallant officers and men of our submarines who lost their lives in that long struggle. We shall never forget our submariners that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.

According to Pacific Fleet submarine history, the submarine force remained intact following the attack on Pearl Harbor. It became clear at that time the submarine fleet would take the fight to the enemy. By war's end, submarines had supported all major fleet operations and made more than 1,600 war patrols. Pacific Fleet submarines, like Wahoo, accounted for 54 percent of all enemy shipping sunk during the war. Success was costly. Fifty-two submarines were lost, and nearly 3,600 submariners remain on Eternal Patrol.

National Museum of the Pacific War

The Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas (home of ADM Chester W. Nimitz) is now the National Museum of the Pacific War. It will undergo a nine million dollar expansion financed with government funds. Purpose of the Nimitz Foundation, tax-deductible 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization, is use of private funds to create a Submarine Memorial. The Memorial will provide a tribute to submarine officers and sailors who served in WWII, those who have served, are currently serving and future generations in our Navy. Of course, we know Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz was a Five Star Admiral, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet, co-equal to General McArthur, but first, last and always a Submariner. To paraphrase ADM Nimitz: "Our gallant submarine personnel filled the breach after Pearl Harbor, and can claim credit, not only for holding the line, but also for carrying the war to the enemy while our shattered forces repaired damages."

Approximately \$250,000 is the goal to help build this privately funded memorial. Bids will be sent to several museum designers and architects shortly to determine the final design, which will be configured around the conning tower (fairwater) of the USS PINTADO. Donations can be mailed to:

Admiral Nimitz Foundation
WWII Submarine Memorial
328 Main Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

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

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 2006 @ 1300
Portsmouth VFW • Deer Street, Portsmouth



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, 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.

Upcoming USSVI Conventions

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

2007 - Alaska
2008 - Dallas
2009 - San Diego
