



USSVI Thresher Base News



September 2006

July Lobsterbake Joint Meeting Minutes

The July meeting of Thresher Base was a joint meeting with the WWII Subvets at the Seabrook American Legion. 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 July and August followed by a silent prayer for all those shipmates on final patrol. A sound off of all those present was conducted. A special welcome was extended to PW Louthain, D1 commander, his wife and daughter.

WWII Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read. Thresher Base minutes of May's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. There was not treasurer's report because Roy Pierce was not in attendance.

Mike Geletka stated that the Sculpin monument will be placed at the PNSY in late July. The PNSY was able to purchase a wooden practice commissioning bottle from the Thresher and it is on display at the museum.

The Department of Transportation is working on signage for the WWII Memorial Bridge on Rt 108.

Albacore reunion at Albacore Park from September 21-24.

Angler reunion in Mrytle Beach, September 30 to October 3, 2007.

WWII nominated National Convention Delegates.

Some late comers were introduced including Paul Chouinard, San Antonio, Texas. Paul is a former diesel boat sailor who qualified this year for the Holland Club.

Don Simpson had a stroke and will

be back to our meetings as soon as possible. Bill Severn has had some heart problems and has recently been going through rehab.

Thank you by Gary to Kevin and Robin for the help with the lobsterbake.



Everyone gathered for this photo after lunch.

Squalus Memorial Chapter will have its next meeting on October 7 in Winslow, Maine.

As the last order of business, Gordon Winslow was inducted into the Holland Club by PW Louthain. Paul Chouinard was presented with the special Holland Club coin by PW Louthain and will receive his certificate at a future Striker Base (San Antonio) meeting.

Closing prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on March 18	5675.07
Paid out	2054.67
(Thresher service and lobster bake)	
Received	252.88
(Dues, interest, 50/50)	
Balance on July 27	3873.28

Memorial Bridge Dedication

The U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII Memorial Bridge over the Squamscott River on Rt 108 between Newfields and Stratham, NH will be dedicated on Saturday, October 14 at 1:00 p.m. It will be held at Chapman's Landing on the Stratham side of the bridge.



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May Meeting Minutes

The May meeting of Thresher Base was held at the Portsmouth VFW on May 20, 2006. The meeting was called to order followed by a prayer and pledge of allegiance. The Tolling of the Bells was conducted for those boats lost in May and June. A sound off of all those present was conducted.

The minutes of March's meeting were read by Kevin Galeaz. There was no Treasurer's Report.

Old Business –

Future Thresher Memorial Discussion

- Bill Tebo mentioned using Al-bacore Park for service – there is a church across the street with an auditorium.
- If it is moved off base it could be advertised.
- Form a committee – recommendations – “Anyone want to chair” – Kevin Galeaz volunteers. Gary still looking for someone else since Kevin takes everything – get others to support the chairman.
- Come up with new ideas – freshen up the service
- Show tape of boat

- John Cook was neither a yeah or nay about changing the service.
- Editorial comment to paper from California visitor re: not forgetting after 43 years.
- Elks Club – on water – hold 400
- Wreath is important part of ceremony.
- Kevin Galeaz is voted as chairman HB1313 was signed by Gov. Lynch – Goes into effect in 60 days – July 5th. They received a standing ovation from the Senate. Bill will send photo to Kevin and Larry. Check into American Submariner to submit photo.

Monument may not be ready for Memorial Service – 1 month behind.

Memorial Day Service – base is setting up chairs. Base is printing programs.

Holland Club – Keeping up to date. Gordan Wentzell qualified in June 1956 and is eligible for Holland Club this year.

The base has a new member – Larry Hart. Database – email addresses are a big issue – constantly changing

Tom Young will be attending the Little Rock Convention.

New Items-

- Kevin Galeaz has been asked to work on the National Database.
- Lobsterbake will be July 22 in Sea-brook. Kevin is the contact person and Carl will notify WW II members.
- Kevin apologized for the multiply emails that were sent out due to an issue with his internet provider.
- Anniversary weekend at Groton – well done – Boat tours were excellent.
- Email has been received regarding the purchase of a USS Thresher christening bottle.
- Larry Oiler discussed the decommissioning of the Dolphin – ceremony in San Diego in September and shut down in December.
- Carl Weber brought up the NH Vet Council and the need to contact them about our status (USSVI).
- Reminder that food will be downstairs after the meeting.

The ship store is open. 50/50 raffle winner was Tom Young and he returned the \$13 back to the base.

A closing prayer was held and the meeting was adjourned.

Holland Club Ceremony

Holland Club Certificate, Patch and Membership Card were presented to Gordon Wentzell at the Combined WWII SUBVETS and THRESHER Base Meeting and Lobster Fest on 22 July 2006. Gordon was inducted

into the Holland Club by USSVI Eastern District One Commander PW Louthain. Gordon qualified in submarines in 1956 on USS DOGFISH (SS 350).

Paul Chouinard, USSVI member of Stryker Base and friend of Kevin Galeaz, who is spending the summer in New Hampshire, qualified for admission into the Holland Club this year. Paul was able to attend the



Combined WWII SUBVETS and THRESHER Base Meeting and Lobster Fest and received a special Holland Club coin from



Eastern District One Commander PW Louthain. He will receive his certificate, patch and membership card at a future Stryker Base meeting.



2006 Lobsterbake Photos





To Perpetuate the Memory



Edward Christiansen was born on January 28, 1943, in Bronx, N.Y. He attended St. Gabriel's Elementary School and Cardinal Hayes High School. He enlisted in the Navy on his 17th birthday, fulfilling a life-long ambition.



Edward Christiansen
Quartermaster Third Class
United States Navy

Edward received his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes Ill., and volunteered for submarine duty. He was accepted for training and entered the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn.

In February 1961, Edward was assigned to his first submarine, The U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), and on August 10 1962, he became qualified as a submariner and was awarded his silver dolphins.

Edward is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Christiansen; brother, John; and a sister, Claudia, all of Bronx, N.Y.

Larry William Claussen was born on November 30, 1941, in Toronto, Kans. He attended schools in Topeka, and was graduated from Topeka High School in May 1959, near the top of his class.

Larry had received an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, but chose to enlist in the Navy. After recruit training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., he attended the Navy's Class "A" Electrician's Mate School. He volunteered for submarine duty and upon being accepted he was enrolled in the Submarine School at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. Successfully completing the course in late 1960, he was selected for advance

training in nuclear power and entered the nuclear-powered schools at New London, and later at West Milton, N.Y.

On November 10, 1961, Larry was assigned to the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593), and later became qualified as a submariner and received his silver dolphins. He had also received a letter of

commendation from the commanding officer of Thresher, for his outstanding performance of duty during sea trials in June 1962.

Larry is survived by his widowed mother, Mrs. Helen Mae Claussen; a sister, Mrs. Mary Helen Cannon of Topeka, Kans., a brother, John, of Lincoln, Nebr., another sister, Mrs. Glenda L. Smith of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and his grandmother, Mrs. Minne Ferguson of Cret, Nebr.



Larry William Claussen
Electrician's Mate Second Class
United States Navy



EASTERN DISTRICT ONE – by PW Louthain ED1 Cdr

It has been my privilege to attend meetings and events throughout the district. I want to thank the Bases that have invited me to participate in their events including the Installation of Officers and the Induction of Holland Club members as well as regular business meetings parades and picnics. My wife has enjoyed the meetings and events as well. My daughter, who teaches in Ohio, was even able to attend two events during her visit to Connecticut. Thank you all for being so warm and gracious to me and my family.

Westport CT has started a Groton Base Satellite group. We have not really settled on a name, my suggestion was Westport POD. While considering starting an independent Base they are going to get their feet wet by meeting under the Groton Base flag. This will allow them to meet and experience the submarine veteran camaraderie without the need of extra volunteers to be Base Officers. Gro-

ton will also maintain the administrative duties for the members and support the group as needed. A second group of members in the Hartford area are considering starting another POD there. The important thing to remember is that we are about remembering those that served their country in submarines and those that still serve. As District Commander it is my job to help people in the district do that in what ever manner they could most enjoy. If you live far from your Primary Base and would like to consider starting a Satellite (POD) group, please contact your Base Commander or me to find out more or to get some help.

Honor Services – Base on ideas generated by talking to members throughout the District, I am establishing Honor Services. The concept is that we can hold small services in our local towns to pay tribute to submarine veterans and further honor our Creed. This does not need to be sanctioned

for you to hold a service, just get out on your Town Green or some other public place and do it. However, we are going to do a coordinated service on Saturday October 14, 2006. This will be a Tolling of the Lost Boats. You would need to have at least two people, one to read the Lost Boats and one to Toll the Bell. So far we have three groups that will participate. If you would like to do this in your town, please contact your Base Commander or me to get a list of the Lost Boats. I would like to know of each place that we will be doing this so we can coordinate with our PAOs and get the word out.

Promoting USSVI Membership

The USSVI is a unique group for many reasons:

- Its composite membership of civilians and active duty personnel benefits not only the members themselves but the United States Navy as well.
- It enables veterans, no longer on active duty, to maintain an active interest in the Navy and Submarines.
- It provides the younger men with the fellowship, active encouragement and moral support of older, more experienced submariners.
- It provides the Navy with a pool of staunch, knowledgeable supporters

interested in furthering the interests of the Navy in general and submarines in particular.

Since membership includes persons with first-hand knowledge of practically every phase of submarine development, the United States Submarine Veterans is an unsurpassed repository of submarine history and tradition. Its self-perpetuating nature ensures that this priceless heritage will be handed down intact through future generations of submariners.

Membership application to join SUBVET's – Thresher Base can be

obtained by contacting Larry Oiler, telephone (207) 656-5864, or by accessing the Thresher Base Web Site at <http://www.thresherbase.org/>. Only qualified submariners are eligible for regular membership, but our base has provisions for Associate Membership. We strongly encourage those that are not qualified submariners, but who are related to the Submarine Service by their deeds or actions (i.e., shipyard employees, support contractors, etc.), to join as an Associate Member.

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

Next Thresher Base Meeting
Saturday, September 16, 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
