

“SIGNAL EJECTOR”



MOBILE BAY BASE

NEWSLETTER JULY 2009



USSVI CREED: “To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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 of America and its Constitution.”

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Commander's Report

June has also been a very busy month. Carol and I traveled to Jacksonville, FL, to a USS Jallao (SS 368) Reunion. It is always great to get together with past shipmates and see how they all have continued in life following service to their nation. The Jallao was the last of the Manitowoc submarines in commission, being turned over to the Spanish Navy in 1974. I made my typical pitch for Historic Submarines, mentioning what Tom and Lesley are accomplishing on board Drum. I was informed that the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, which has the USS Cobia (SS 245) is doing well also, and being in the water yet, has running engines. Our next Jallao reunion is scheduled to take place in April 2011 in Manitowoc.

Speaking of reunions, we have once again been fortunate enough to host the USS Drum (SS 228) crew down in the Mobile area. They started arriving on Thursday. A number of us gathered for dinner on Friday evening at Roussos in Daphne. A Memorial Service was held at the USS Alabama Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday morning. I would like to thank not only the Drum crew, but all of the people who were able to meet with them during their stay down here. They all seemed to have a good time, and were very impressed with the continuing effort being done by Tom and Lesley since last year.

For information, the latest order of Memorial Bricks has arrived. We are attempting to organize their installation behind the USS Herring Memorial at the USS Alabama Battleship Veterans Memorial Park. Once coordinated with the Park Staff, we will need volunteers to help in the installation effort. Once we have the bricks installed, we will conduct a memorial service to dedicate them.

The Fourth of July is the first Saturday of the month. Let's go down to the USS Drum (SS 228) and conduct some tours for the visitors. I think that this is the best way that we can meet with the people and give them a little taste of the life that those who served aboard submarines were exposed to.

Let us continue to pray that the 2009 Hurricane Season, which began June 1st, is quiet and that there are no major storms affecting the United States this year.

Al Ferdinandsen
Mobile Bay Base – USSVI
Base Commander

From The Chaplain's Cubby

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen.

This month, I will continue to highlight a decorated Navy Chaplain. Also on July 4th we have our Nations Birthday.

Chaplain John Francis “Jake” Laboon, Captain, USN (1921-1988) was proud to be one of us. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944.



Ensign Laboon was assigned to the submarine USS PETO (SS 265).

As a Lieutenant Junior Grade he was awarded the Silver Star for bravery for diving from his moving submarine to rescue a downed aviator under heavy enemy fire.

After the war, in October 1946, he entered the Jesuits and was ordained in 1956 at Woodstock, Maryland.

Chaplain Laboon reentered the Navy two years later and over the next 21 years, served in virtually every branch of the Navy and Marine Corps. His assignments included tours in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan and Vietnam. As Chaplain with the Marines in Vietnam, Father Laboon earned a Legion of Merit with Combat "V".

Father Laboon became the first chaplain for the Polaris Submarine Program and later became the Senior Catholic Chaplain at the Naval Academy. The Naval Academy has honored Father Laboon by renaming the Chaplain's Center in his honor.

When he retired in 1979, Captain Laboon was the Fleet Chaplain, Atlantic Fleet. Father Laboon returned to Annapolis as the house manager for the Jesuit retreat facility, Manresa-on-Severn. His final tour of duty was as pastor of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church in Woodstock, Maryland. He passed away in 1988.



Known simply as Father Jake, he left behind countless service members and their families whose lives he had touched with his compassion and understanding. His courage and genuine concern for all his shipmates will forever remain an extraordinary example for young sailors and marines everywhere.



March 18, 1995, the U. S. Navy commissioned the USS Laboon [DDG 58], a guided missile destroyer [DDG], in Chaplain Laboon's honor.

(A side note: The USS Laboon [DDG 58] was commanded by a Pensacola, Florida native, Commander Robert D. Randall, USN).

Father Jake Laboon was a U. S. Navy Chaplain that all Submarine Sailors can be proud of.

The following information comes from Wikipedia, an internet info center, about our Nation's birthday.

“During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a committee but with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams' prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

One of the most enduring myths about Independence Day is that Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The myth had become so firmly established that, decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, even the elderly Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had come to believe that they and the other delegates had signed the Declaration on the fourth. Most delegates actually signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776. In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831, but he was not a signatory to the Declaration of Independence.

Observance

- In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated**

the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

- In 1778, General George Washington marked July 4 with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, Ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.
- In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.
- In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.
- In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, held a celebration of July 4 with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled "The Psalm of Joy".
- In 1791 the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day" occurred.
- In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.
- In 1941, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday."

Let's all fly our American Flag on our nation's Birthday...May God Bless our great nation.

I have not received any notification of personnel on the Binnacle list for the past month.

Please notify me of any shipmates you know who are sick or who are in the hospital for any reason.

We will keep praying that ill health will not visit us and that we will always enjoy happiness as we celebrate God's gracious gifts. Amen.

Blessings to all...Deacon James...

James W. Neiswonger
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Hello Shipmates: News from the Drum

We worked on sand blasting the hull and were going as low as we could until we decided to just do the top half while we had the lift. The lower half will mostly be replaced anyhow, and the deep pits there really slowed us down. We were able to get it completed and painted Tuesday before the reunion, and it sure is looking good. We got a little bit more done on the stern and are going to go back to it while we try to get the equipment again. If I can get a man lift donated we will start on the port side. It is very hard getting equipment and supplies now. With the recession we have to pay full price for sand and cost for paint. I sure am glad it finally warmed up a bit. I was beginning to think summer would never get here.

The reunion went real good but only six crew members and several families showed up. Several had to cancel at the last minute for various reasons. We still got to hear a lot of good sea stories. Thanks to everyone that came to the memorial on Saturday.



US SUBMARINE VETERANS' CHARITABLE FOUNDATION MUSEUM SUBMARINE FUND USS DRUM (SS 228) RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM		
DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL & MAY		
MONTH	CONTRIBUTION	CONTRIBUTOR
FEB	\$50.00	TARHEEL BASE, USSVI
FEB	\$100.00	CENTRAL FLORIDA BASE, USSVI
MAR	\$50.00	OSCEOLA CLOUD
MAR	\$40.00	CHARLES DAVID
JAN	\$25.00	MICHAEL J. D'AMICO
APR	\$20.00	ROBERT WANG
JUN	\$1000.00	DRUM BASE, USSVI
MAY	\$200.00	TIMOTHY LARGE
MAY	\$35.00	Eileen Reid

**THE MOBILE BAY BASE USSVI, MOBILE, ALABAMA
WALKWAY ENGRAVED DONOR BRICK ORDER FORM**

Please install an engraved paving brick with location numbered at the Submarine Memorial Monuments located at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

Engrave the 4 X 8 Brick as follows

Maximum of 20 small letter spaces per line with 1st letter capitalized

Maximum of 17 spaces if all letters are capitalized

If you wish to order more than 1 brick, please copy and fill out this form for each brick you wish to order

YOU MAY DONATE ANY AMOUNT YOU WISH OVER THE COST OF EACH BRICK. COST OF EACH BRICK IS \$30.00

Your name	
Your address	
Your city	
Your state and zip code	
Your phone number W/area code	

Enclose your check or money order with this form and send to:

Mobile Bay Base USSVI
5319 Highway 90
#102, PMB #322
Mobile, AL 36619

ALL FUNDS IN EXCESS OF THOSE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN AND INSTALL THE DONOR BRICK WALKWAY WILL BE USED FOR THE ON GOING PROJECT OF RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE USS DRUM (SS 228) LOCATED AT THE USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

SUBMARINES LOST DURING THE MONTH OF JULY

USS GRUNION (SS-216)	30 JULY 1942	LOST ON FIRST WAR PATROL NEAR KISKA HARBOR WITH ALL HANDS. (70 MEN)
USS S-28 (SS 133)	4 JULY 1944	LOST WITH ALL HANDS WHILE CONDUCTING TRAINING EXERCISES OFF HAWAII WITH US COAST GUARD CUTTER RELIANCE. (50 MEN)
USS ROBALO (SS-273)	26 JULY 1944	LOST ON THIRD WAR PATROL OFF THE COAST OF PALAWAN. THREE MEN SURVIVED AND SWAM ASHORE. THEY WERE IMPRISONED BY THE JAPANESE AND TRANSFERRED TO A JAPANESE DESTROYER WHICH WAS SUNK WHILE IN TRANSIT. (84 MEN)

MOBILE BAY BASE, SERD3, AND SERD OFFICERS 2009

	NAME	TELEPHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS	HOME ADDRESS
COMMANDER	Al Ferdinandsen	251-971-1084	alferd@gulftel.com	15633 Daugherty RD, Foley, AL 36535-8952
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SERD THREE, COMMANDER	George Boyle	850-492-3781	xsubnuke@bellsouth.net	2541 Tarkiln Oaks Drive Pensacola, FL 32506-8133
SERD DIRECTOR	George Boyle	850-492-3781	xsubnuke@bellsouth.net	2541 Tarkiln Oaks Drive Pensacola, FL 32506-8133

CALENDER OF EVENTS

July 4 – Visit ship on board USS Drum (SS 228) at the USS Alabama Battleship Veterans Memorial Park. Volunteers are being solicited to conduct tours for visitors.

July 18 – Mobile Bay Base monthly meeting will be conducted in conjunction with the USS Drum (SS 228) Memorial Service at the Aviation Pavilion at the USS Alabama Battleship Veterans Memorial Park.

July 25 – Tullibee Base monthly meeting will be conducted at the Biloxi Yacht Club.

CALANDER FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 *Lowell Smith	3	4
5	6	7 *Harv Harvey	8	9	10	11
12 *Moe Mollenbernd	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 *Willie Williamson	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 *John Campbell	30 *Sam Hines	31	

Submarine Veterans' Gulf Coast 2009 Annual Christmas Party

Thursday Dec 10th thru Sunday Dec 13th 2009

Holiday Inn SunSpree

(Fourth year at this great Hotel) **11127 Front Beach Rd, Panama City Beach,
FL 32407**

1-850-234-1111 or 1-800-633-0266 (toll-free)

Rooms \$59.00 plus tax (10.57%) – **Includes Morning Coffee & Donuts**

Hospitality Room \$17.50 - Banquet \$27.50

Hospitality Room **and** Banquet **\$40.00** -- if received by Nov 21st, 2009

(Hospitality Room includes Free Libations & Assorted Snacks)

Hosted by John Duncan, Seawolf Base (narwhalssn@yahoo.com)

This is a Christmas Party – Gifts Optional (to receive a gift, you must bring a gift)

Everyone Bring a Present (\$10 to \$15) - Men bring a Guy's gift and Ladies bring a gal's gift

Banquet Christmas Party Saturday Night

Banquet will have a **Cash Bar** starting at 5 P.M. followed by Dinner and Party at 6:30 P.M.

MENU – SANTA'S FAVORITE BUFFET

Garden Fresh Salad

Tender Roasted Tom Turkey with Giblet Gravy - Spiral Honey Glazed Ham

Country Style Sausage Cornbread Stuffing - Whipped Potatoes - Candied Yams

Green Bean Almandine - Fresh Whole Kernel Corn - Freshly Baked Rolls

Dessert Selections - Freshly Baked Pumpkin, Apple Pie or Cobbler - Iced Tea or Coffee

Memorial Service 11 A.M. Saturday December 12th

Nightly Bar 50/50 Raffles (w/extra prizes) - 6 for \$5.00

Large Split the Pot 50/50 Saturday Night Raffle (w/extra prizes) - 6 for \$5.00

(This is not a profit maker - Any Residual Funds will go to a Submarine Related Project)

Mail Reservations for Banquet and Hospitality Room to

Jim Hunnicutt - 11114 Little Creek Ln, Pensacola FL 32506-8261

Make check payable to Submarine Christmas Party

Reservations have to be in hand NLT December 4th to guarantee you banquette seating

(No refunds for Banquet after December 6th, 2009)

Problems or Questions? Contact Jim Hunnicutt @ 1-850-457-3584 or mcpo.ss@peoplepc.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Spouse /Guest: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(Tel) (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address _____

No. Banquet & Hospitality Room (Rec'd by 21 Nov 2009):	__ x	\$40.00	\$ _____.
No. Banquet & Hospitality Room (Rec'd after Nov 21 st):	__ x	\$45.00	\$ _____.
No. for Hospitality Room <u>Only</u> (Not Attending Banquet):	__ x	\$17.50	\$ _____.
No. for Banquet <u>Only</u> (Not Attending Hospitality Room):	__ x	\$27.50	\$ _____.
Saturday Night 50/50 Raffle (6 tickets for \$5) How Many:	__ x	\$5.00	\$ _____.

Local Chapter/Base _____ Total Remitted: \$ _____.