

THE DEEP DIVE NEWS

MAY THRU AUGUST 2022



Our USSVI Creed

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 towards greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates, we shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie.



Rules for Submariners

When we wear these, we need to remember:

We say Port and Starboard (not left or right)

We are conservative with our water and liberal with our liberty
We respect our fellow Submariners fore and aft; they have earned
that with their hard work, sacrifice and devotion.

The only colors we see are Silver, Gold , Red, White and Blue.

We all submerge together and we all surface the same way.
Submarines are meant to be in the sea but the sea is not meant to
be in the submarine.

Politics are for surface dwellers with too much time on their hands.

www.theleansubmariner.com

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Base Documents, Addresses & links

MSP Base Calendar and Flyers	Base Calendar and Flyers
Base Website.....	www.MspUSSVI.com
National Website (their new database).....	www.ussvi.org
Email Address (new)	MSPUSSVI@gmail.com
Mailing Address (new)	MSP USSVI , PO Box 23154, Richfield, Mn 55423
USSVI and MSP Base Docs	USSVI/Base Documents
Recent Base Pictures.....	Recent Base Pix

Commanders Corner

Chippewa Valley Air Show

June started out with a weekend in Wisconsin at the Chippewa Valley Air Show. John and Ann Selleck, Bill and Linda Benzick, Steve Marquis, John Barnes, David and Kay Harms, Dale and Deb Steinke, Ken Tibesar, Joel Bergstrom, and Marcus Benjamin worked the booth, and Ken Tupper and Ron Fuller helped with the transporting and the setup and takedown of the SSN-708 to and back from the show. Click for [Air Show Pictures](#)

The Air Show was a great event, and we were able to reach possible new members and raise funds for the base. We received \$10.00 donations for 167 Medallions (and 2 members bought 10 each) and we took donations for a few Challenge coins. We also got \$90.00 in cash donations without any compensation. The final tally came out to be \$1970. We met with 3 sub sailors that live in the area and Dale is working on getting them signed up. We talked to a Navy recruiter from Minneapolis that works with a reserve unit once a month that has 22 submariners in it. Bill Benzick has stepped into the recruiting position and will work on getting a meeting with them. Each night ended at a local restaurant for rest and refreshments. A big THANK YOU to Dale and Deb for setting this very successful outing up for the base.

Kaposia Days Parade

The Friday night parade went off without a hitch. We had a very energetic crew with David Andersen, Mark Quinlan, Bill and Linda Benzick, Ken Tibesar, Tom Wilcox, Ron Fuller, Marcus Benjamin, Ken Tupper, and John Barnes. We have done this parade for many years but because of the new float, they announced that we were a new unit.

Lake City Parade

Lake City was as great as ever. The crew consisted of George St. Martin, Ken Tibesar, Ken Tupper, Steve Marquis, Ron Fuller, David Anderson, Marcus Benjamin, John Barnes, Dale & Deb Steinke, Bill & Linda Benzick, David & Kay Harms. David Harms set us up at the VFW for a static display where we signed up 2 new members and moved some more medallions and challenge coins. And PIZZA was had by all. Thank you, David H, and whoever paid for the pizza. Click for [Lake City Pictures](#)

New Base Email

Ken Tibesar has set up a new base email address that will tell you that it is official base information. Watch for MSPUSSVI@gmail.com. We are taking this step so members can find the emails that we send out.

Response is required for all events

For every event, we ask you to contact the organizers if you plan to attend. The importance of letting the planners of the events know is twofold. If weather forces the event to cancel or we don't get enough responses to crew the boats, we will cancel and if we don't know that you are coming, we can't contact you about the cancelation. Some of the events charge admission and/or parking to enter and if we know that you are coming, we can arrange for vendor passes if the events allow them.

Regional Scuttlebutt (RS) is back.

Our first Regional Scuttlebutt was a great outing considering it was the start of the Pandemic. In September we will have our second RS. It will be a gathering outside the metro area which will be billed as an all-boat and class reunion in the local press in that area in advance. The purpose of the RS's is to bring old and new members together. There will be eating and maybe some cribbage or sharing of photos and a lot of sea stories or whatever the group decides to do. We did the reunion thing after the Lake City Parade and signed 2 new members.

Please reach out to our new members

The Annual Picnic is on the first Saturday in August see the article below. We met many sub sailors this past month and they were invited to attend. So, if you see a new face make them feel welcomed. Also in attendance, we may have David Farran Central Region 3 Commander.

NOTE: Bloomington Fong's will be closing at the end of Summer 2022. We need your recommendations for a location for our Christmas Party, 1st Saturday in December.

I hope to see more of you out at future events before the picnic.

John Barnes
Base Commander
612-251-2260

Chaplains Corner

Greetings to All,

I hope everyone is safe and doing well. As usual, the August meeting/picnic will be at the Vet's Camp by Big Marine Lake. I hope to see everyone there. I am including the Tolling of the Boats list for July/August in this article for everyone to read. Please begin with the Prayer.

Eternal God, our Alpha, and Omega, we are gathered to remember those who have gone before us and paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is a yearning within us that has pulled us to express our admiration for our fallen comrades in arms. Take these moments, O Lord of time and space, and help us to comprehend the sacrifices that these men have made and the anguish that their loved ones suffered. In your name, we pray. Amen

The Two Bell Ceremony is our testimony to the promise of our creed. "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country."

Lost Boats – May and June

USS Squalus (SS-192)	05/23/1939 – 26	USS Gudgeon (SS-211)	05/12/1944 - 78
USS Lagarto (SS-371)	05/03/1945 – 85	USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	05/22/1968 - 99
USS O-9 (SS-70)	06/20/1941 - 34	USS R-12 (SS-89)	06/12/1943 - 42
USS Herring (SS-233)	06/01/1944 - 84	USS Golet (SS-361)	06/14/1944 - 89
USS Bonefish (SS-223)	06/18/1945 - 85	USS Bonefish (SS-582)	05/01/1988 - 3

In closing, I would like to include a verse that some of you might have seen.

Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit. The sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy but much better when others are happy because of you.

Pope Francis

Joel Bergstrom
Base Chaplain



Minneapolis/St. Paul USSVI

2022 Schedule-of-Events Details

Thanks to all that have assisted with our Base Events

For the most up to date, click [Events Calendar and Flyers](#)

Please let the Event Coordinator
(names of flyer) if you are volunteering for events.

Meetings

- December 1st – location TBD

Special Events

- August 6th, MSP Base **Picnic** at Big Marine, Marine on St. Croix – [click for flyer](#)
- August 24-27, **National Convention**, Buffalo, NY, www.UssviConvention.org/2022/
- **Christmas Party** – Location TDB - Fong's closing at end of Summer 2022.

Parades

- July 23 **Shoreview Parade**, 9A setup at Deluxe Corp parking lot., 3680 Victoria St N, 10A parade starts at Cty Rd. D and Victoria St. N, Shoreview, Mn. [click for flyer](#)
- Oct 29th, 1P start – 3:30P, **Grande Day Parade**, Anoka Halloween Event – **not final**
- Nov 11th, Noon start, **St. Cloud on Veterans Day**, more details coming – **not final**

Static Events

- July 23 & 24, **Wings of the North Air Expo 2022**, 8a to 5p, over 20,000 attendees, Flying Cloud Airport, 11800 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347, 30 World War II, vintage and modern airplanes both flying and on display [click for flyer](#)
- July 29th-31st, 8a-5p, **Little Log Cabin**, 21889 Michael Ave, S. of Hastings on Hwy 61, over 60,000 in attendance, participation in daily parade [click for flyer](#)
- August 8th – 14th **Dakota County Fair**, Military Appreciation Day, 4008 220th St. W. Farmington, Mn. Talked to 45 submariners in 2019. [click for flyer](#)
- September 11th – **Shakopee** – information pending
- Sept 17, Saturday 10a-4p, **Otsego Prairie Festival**, 3355 90th St. NE, Otsego, Mn 55330, Submarine on their Fair Map with our location, this is the 5th year.

Base E-Board Meeting Minutes

July 9th, 2022, Perkins, Bloomington

Attending: Bill Benzick, Joel Bergstrom, John Barnes, Ken Tibesar, Ken Tupper

1. Past MSP Base Events
 - a. Eau Claire event sale of 187 Medallions and Challenge Coins (left to USSVI from the Submarine League) sales netted a total of \$2,000.
 - b. Lake City – A “Submarine Reunion” following the parade added 3 new members
 - c. Lakeville Parade for July 9th starting at 5:30p was canceled.
2. Upcoming MSP Base Picnic on August 6th [check flyer](#) for details. www.vetscampmn.org.
3. **Future Parades – John Barnes and Tupper announced** condition for 2023 parades...
 - a. There must be a Static event planned for after the parade for recruiting.
 - b. Person planning the parade, will also plan the static event.
4. Recruiting for MSP Base

Bill Benzick has volunteered to be the new recruit’s coordinator.

 - a. New Recruits – Help welcome our new recruits. Need a Welcome Aboard Pkg.
 - b. Recruiting –Lake City after parade event worked well with 3 members added. **THANKS TO DAVE HARMS for setting up the Submariners Reunion, Advertising, VFW, etc.**
 - c. Member Retention –suggestions in the [USSVI Docs](#) the [PR doc on retention](#).
 - d. Calling Members – A stay-in-touch call is suggested for 1x per quarter.
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CALL MEMBERS – script will be created
5. Survey will be submitted to MSP Base Members. Ken Tibesar will coordinate
6. Future Planning for MSP Base
 - a. **We need base members’ suggestions for FUN events.** The survey asks what members suggest for future activities. Suggestions:
 - i. Regional Scuttlebutt–John Barnes. Cribbage Tournament
 - ii. Submarine Reunion Cruise –details coming. Ken Tupper
 - iii. Fall Bonfire, beer, brats, snacks, etc. and sea stories
 - b. Formal Navy League Birthday Ball – We are invited to attend the Ball.
7. MAA and COB - **Need to find an MSP Base MAA and COB. Looking for volunteers.**
8. USSVI Annual Convention - Buffalo
 - a. Base attending? Bill & Linda Benzick, Dale & Deb Steinke, Jim & Deb Olson.
 - b. Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Rooms at \$119 per room, price held until July 31st.
<https://ussviconvention.org/2022/>
 - c. Medallion sales requested at the National Convention.
9. Miscellaneous/New Business for the MSP Base
 - a. Winter storage of the Billfish Float – Bill Benzick
 - b. The Website will include all the links listed in the DDN. Marc Anderson (Florida website master) and Ken Tibesar will work on changes and updates.

Happy Birthday, Bubbleheads !!!!!

MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
4	Joel Bergstrom	2	Dave Byrne	3	Jim Marshall	1	James Thoreson
5	John Selleck	4	Gary Needham	8	Mike Maliniak	7	Dan Monson
6	Jeffrey Lundgren	4	Richard Kowarsch	8	Stephen Christenson	9	Thomas McGuffin II
8	Mark Cavaleri	7	Arnold Johnson	21	Dennis Tester	10	Alvin Hanson, Jr
11	James Jasper	10	Bob Bidon	30	George Thoma	11	Robert Kosmalski
21	David Harms	10	Don Mittelstadt			17	G Traxler
		12	Dan Ludwig			27	Steven Dahlstrom
		13	Bob Watson			29	Robert Hallman
		15	Alton Larson				
		21	John Buchanan				
		23	David Anderson				
		27	Edward Mattox				
		30	Ken Schultz				

Bringing Back the Magic

Original by Dex Armstrong, Revision by Ken Tibesar

For years I had my old Silver Dolphins in my cufflink box. When I opened the box and saw my dolphins, I'd smile remembering the pride I had as a sub-sailor. I had no one to share my submarine memories with, no one that could understand or appreciate the unique enclosed environment we endured for months at a time. I seldom told my stories since there was no one that had the insight into a life locked up in a steel tube underwater. Geography and many long years separated me from both my boat and shipmates. I thought I had lost my grip on the magic that I once felt, the wonderful feeling to be a part of the Submarine community.

As I aged, I thought about my life experiences, and my appreciation grew stronger for my years as a sub-sailor. I felt a strong need to reminisce before my road met its end; before the lid on my box closed forever. There were boat reunions, but they took place once every two or three years, at a remote location with minimal time to listen and share stories. I had so much to discuss and longed for more time. The reunions were a start to bringing back the magic but once back home, the magic fizzled.

Then I became aware of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. This is a group that was created explicitly for submariners. It is the efforts of both the national and local groups, that keep the fires burning to give us that magic back. The USSVI groups provide us with the opportunity to meet submarine sailors and share stories with someone that speaks the lingo. I have a chance to talk with colleagues who rode piston-powered boats and drain a few beers with those that rode the Nukes. USSVI provides us with access to sub-sailors that understand our language, ask in-depth questions, and provide access to those that have shared the unique environment of submarine duty. The stories we humbly refer to as *sea stories* are a big part of our history and a very important part of remembering the magic. As you listen to the endless stories, you are always reminded of "just one more story" you would like to share. We can now have those conversations with someone that understands... someone that knows what "it" was like.

We are an elite service; and that's not bragging, it's a fact. When you take the totality of American service submarine veterans, there isn't a *helluva* lot of us. If you rode the boats, stowed your entire inventory of earthly belongings inside a steel tube, qualified to wear the dolphins, and you want to share your experiences with those that understand, join our group. It's a priceless way to remember your life as a Bubblehead, a life very few Americans have or will ever experience.

To those that had the vision to start the USSVI organization and devoted your time to keep it "full speed ahead", you deserve our sincere thanks. A big HANDSHAKE from all of us who have benefited from the return of our wonderful boat service memories.

USSVI lets us old *coots* run barefoot over the main induction, tap dance with the devil and howl at the moon....
and gentlemen, that is an awesome gift.

So, pull out a few dollars, and for that small fee to join our USSVI. When compared to a lot of stuff we buy, stuff we really don't need, it is a small investment in your memories, pride, and happiness.

This is a long-overdue "Thank you" to the great guys who run the "Bubblehead Clubhouse". To you guys that served our country poking invisible holes in the sea in the middle of nowhere.

**TO ALL OF YOU BUBBLEHEADS,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

This time in history

MAY/JUNE 2019

This is the second installment of a new feature we are introducing to the Deep Dive News E-edition. "This Time in History". This year, May 22nd, 2019, will be our 26th anniversary of the charter of our base. So, let's look back to the early days of not only our base but District Seven, which is now "Central Region District Three" and the Central Region.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul Base received its charter on May 22, 1993, with Constitution and By-laws approved in December 1993. The base was formed with a minimum five members and the roster quickly grew to eleven members by month's end and twenty members by the end of the year.

On December 31, 1993, those members enrolled were considered Charter Members: Burton Block, Houston Jackman, Harley Johnson, Peter Koegel, Pat Lyon, Mike Milano, Wendell Rausch, Ron Reimann, Jack Trossen, Ernie Van Deventer, Toby Warson, Joe O'Brien, Robert Pulis, Bernie Steinhauer, Jerome Anderson, David Ferguson, Bryon Schultz, Max Bassett, Russell Schmidt, and Dan Wannamaker. Of these charter members, we believe Mike Milano is the only one left. Mike Milano by the way is also a charter member of the Western Lake Superior Base.

The first thing we would like to mention to some of our new members is the name of our base, according to the base charter and the Minneapolis/St. Paul base Constitution: Article One Section One, shall be "Minneapolis/St. Paul Base United States Submarine Veterans INC", not the USS Minneapolis/St. Paul SSN-708 base. The confusion comes from our base patch. The base patch that we enjoy today is the third base patch in our history. The first patch was designed by Minneapolis/St. Paul was base Chief of the Boat Chuck Lundby in 1998. The patch was an outline of the state of Minnesota. There was a submarine with a steep-angle of the bow. The bow was positioned in the arrowhead region of the state and the stern was by the Iowa/South Dakota border. There were some pine trees and a walleye in the patch. For some reason, it was never produced. The next patch that was produced came from Minneapolis/St. Paul base Vice Commander Mike Kodluboy in 1999. The patch that Mike produced was a take-off of the official patch for the 100th anniversary of the submarine service. What Mike did was to put a rocker on the bottom of the patch that said Minneapolis/St. Paul base. If you look around at some of our member's vests you will still see that patch today. Our current base patch was designed by Central Region Director Art Randall under the direction of then base Commander Rolly Conklin. Art is the same person that designed our Commodore's certificate and Ancient Submariner's patch. Art did a lot of work for our base, and we will always be grateful for his generosity. Subsequently, Steve Marquis added the silver and gold dolphin watermarks to the Commodore certificates: circa 2015.

In 1993 Wendell Rausch was the Central Region Director. At that time the Central Region included the States of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. Out of that vast territory, there were six bases in the entire region. In District 5: Triton Base in Texas, Batfish Base in Oklahoma, and Woodrow Wilson Base in Missouri. In District 6: Escolar Base in Michigan, Wisconsin Base in Wisconsin. In District 7: The newly formed Minneapolis/St. Paul Base and that was it.

In May 1993 Wendell Rausch started the Minneapolis/St. Paul base. The Minneapolis/St. Paul base is the first base in district seven; district seven encompasses the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. In the early days of the base we had, and in some cases still do have, members from Iowa, North, and South Dakota. These members would drive in from Iowa, the Dakotas, and the entire state of Minnesota would enjoy a weekend of shopping and entertainment in the Metropolitan area of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Wives of our members that drove in thought this was a great perk coming to Minneapolis/St. Paul for the shopping and entertainment. There is a larger selection of goods, more competition-which means lower prices on all goods, no tax on clothes, and a weekend away from the kids. Doesn't get much better than that. Later, that networking with our members from Iowa and the Dakotas helped grow our district as you will see in further articles.

Base Leaders Contact List

Central Region Director

Tom Williams III
512-632-9439
[texasubvet@yahoo.com](mailto:texsubvet@yahoo.com)

CR/D3 Commander

Glenn Harris
712-221-0142
geharris611@yahoo.com

Commander

John Barnes
7544 Bryant Ave S
Richfield, MN 55423-3918
612-251-2260
jbbblastit@gmail.com

Vice Commander

Ken Tibesar
8780 Oakgreen Ave S
Hastings, MN 55033-9471
651-263-0522
KenTibesar@msn.com

Secretary/K4K

David Harms
1247 N. 10th Street
Lake City, MN 55041-2015
dmh538@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jack Fay
2536 Cottage Grove Cr
Woodbury, MN 55129-9752
jedwardfay@gmail.com

MAA/COB/K4K Chair

John Barnes

Chaplain/Librarian

Joel

Past Commander

Andy Anderson

DDN Editor

Steve Marquis
Ken Tibesar