

# THE DEEP DIVE NEWS

Sep/Oct 2023



## 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 toward 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.*

## USSVI Minneapolis Board Member Contact List

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\* NOTE, from David Farran:

Any base member can contact me with requests or questions about USSVI at any time.  
I am your link to the USSVI National Board of Directors.

# *Happy Birthday, Members!!*

## September

Al Einberger	September 1
Lawrence Marolt	September 1
Jim Chenvert	September 6
Keith Larson	September 14
Jim Olsen	September 26
Eric Higgins	September 27

## October

Ken Dallman	October 2
William J Koenig	October 2
Ken Beadell	October 9
Robert Sellers	October 9
John Barnes	October 16
John Hagen	October 20
Bill Crozier	October 23
Robert G Sharpe	October 23
Dave Ratte	October 29

*Happy Birthday Guys and Gals!!!!*

# Commander's Corner

Summer is just about gone. The 708 and the Billfish will have completed their last missions of the season by the time you see this. It was a very productive summer for recruiting and educating the public both young and old about our unique experiences as Bubbleheads. I want to thank all of you who helped promote our base and make these events possible. We did a variety of static and parade events. Two Car Shows, an Air Show, an Antique Show, two visits to Camp Ripley, three veteran memorial programs, three parades (one of them on 3 days' notice), and an overnight to Manitowoc, WI. We also had a Regional Scuttlebutt in St. Cloud that had 26 Sub sailors in attendance.

We need your help for the base to survive. You can make this base better. We need a treasurer, Chaplin, and Kaps 4 Kids coordinator. Please get involved and make a difference. It's not that hard.

The October meeting is at the 5555 VFW in Richfield, MN on 67th and Lyndale starting at 1100. Taco Bar served \$15/each. Contact Tim Martinson, as we NEED a headcount for the cook to prepare.

Bring something for the 50/50 raffle.

John Barnes  
Base Commander

## USSVI MSP Treasurers Report 9/\_\_\_/2023

### **Base VENMO account for Dues @USSVIMSP**

For those unfamiliar or not interested in Venmo, cash and check also work just as well.

Please leave a note on what the deposit is intended for. (Example: 1 year Base Dues \$15)

### **Note that National Dues have changed effective April 1 2023:**

National 5 year term: \$140.00  
National 3 year term: \$85.00  
National 1 year term: \$30.00 (Jan-Sept)  
National 1 year term: \$35.00 (Oct-Dec)  
National Life (Ages 76+) \$120.00  
National Life (Ages 66-75) \$240.00  
National Life (Ages 56-65) \$360.00  
National Life (Ages 46-55) \$500.00  
National Life (Ages 45 and under) \$600.00  
Associate Member

**MSP Base Dues remain at \$15.00 per year**

# **Armed Forces Service Center**

The Armed Forces Service Center has 53 years of service to traveling military at the MSP airport. We are similar to a USO with the same mission: however, we are an independent organization started by a mom who lost her son in Vietnam.

We are always looking for volunteers to work a 4-hour shift of their choice at least once a month. The board has approved a donation of \$500. Members are still encouraged to volunteer at the center. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, go to our website, and complete the volunteer sign-up at the website; navigate the menu selection to 'volunteer'.

<https://www.mnafsc.org/>

## **K4K KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html>

## **The US Submarine Veterans' Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund**

<https://www.ussvcf.org/kapss-4-kidss-fund.html>

**A hearty welcome aboard to our newest members.**

**No new members reported, however, there has been a lot of recent interest and a lot of information handed out. There may be more on this in a later DDN.**

## **USSVI Msp/Stp Base E-board Meeting Minutes**

The September E-Board meeting was cancelled due to the event schedule. No reports were submitted by the standing Committees or Officers.

**Check out our website at: [WWW.MSPUSSVI.COM](http://WWW.MSPUSSVI.COM)**

# After Action Report

MSP USSVI was approached by Jennifer Jensen at the Dakota County Fair and asked if we could bring the floats and display to their Farm Event in a few weeks. It turned out to be a wonderful event called *Sutton Ridge Farm Military Appreciation Day* and this was the Fourth Annual Event. This event is growing by leaps and bounds, up significantly from last year. We had many patriotic vendors, exhibitors, a pumpkin cannon which shot frozen watermelons on the hour, and a parachute jump and landing, by a local group of parachuters, consisting of one Navy Seal and an Air Force member. My drone Video of the jump, descent, and landing here. → <https://youtu.be/oQWgXzvdZzM>

Between the Dakota County Fair and the Sutton Ridge Farm Military Appreciation Day, we were invited on very short notice to attend the Lonsdale Community Day in Lonsdale, MN. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064266986381>

It was a great event, with both submarine floats in the parade, and we got to set down displays at two locations, including American Legion Post 586.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064861170592>

Otsego Prairie Fall Festival, as always, had MANY interested people, large dogs, and many passersby with their wide eyes and jaw hanging out. A member had a good time shopping the vendors for local raw honey, coffee beans, and pickled goods.

A great reception was had at Camp Ripley on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, we arrived just after the Otsego Prairie Festival was wrapped up, and docked both floats by the salvaged SSN 708. At about 1530, we drove the float alongside the Groundbreaking Ceremony grounds for the new Minnesota Military and Veteran Museum (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-Military-Museum/162214610498281>), where everyone attending could just look port(left) and see the Minny 708.

<https://mnmilitarymuseum.org>

We still are looking for support in any way to help restore the USS Minneapolis/St Paul. Locating and fitting the plates is a good place to start, which we could have done while we were sitting 20 feet away, but that's a missed opportunity we can avoid by just asking the Museum staff when we are there next time.

## Binnacle List

**Andy Anderson**  
**David E. Anderson**  
**David Harms**  
**Jeff Lundgren**  
**Phylliss Thomton**  
**Kevin Rosing-Clapp**

## Chaplains Corner

Greeting Shipmates,

As the summer is winding down, I realize that the SubVets floats season will soon be over too. The main objective of displaying the floats is to sign up new members. To help us sign up new members please wear something that says you're a SubVet when you're out and about. Also, carry our SubVets business cards to hand out whenever you can.

Another subject. I recently finished reading a biography about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran Theologian in Germany when Hitler was in power. He led a group of Lutheran followers who opposed Hitler, was put in prison, and was assassinated about a week before Hitler committed suicide. Attached is a quote that I thought fit for today.

"In a world where success is the measure and justification of all things, the figure of Him who was sentenced and crucified remains a stranger and is at best the object of pity. The world will allow itself to be subdued only by success. It is not ideas or opinions which decide, but deeds. Success alone justifies wrongs done. . . with a frankness and offhandedness which no other earthly power could permit itself, history appeals in its own cause to the dictum that the end justifies the means. . . The figure of the Crucified invalidates all thought which takes success as a standard." Bonhoeffer's writing is a little hard to understand but he makes a point.

I am posting the lost boats list for September/October. Take a moment of silence for our departed shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

October Meeting Boats lost during September and October

Ships Name	Date Lost	Crew Lost	
1 USS O-5 (SS-66)	10/29/23	3	Lost 29 October 1923 with three men when sunk after collision with SS Ababarez off the Panama Canal. Torpedoman's Mate 2d Class (SS) Henry Barault received the Medal of Honor.
2 USS S-51 (SS-162)	09/26/25	33	Lost on 26 September 1925 with the loss of thirty three men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island, Rhode Island
3 USS Pompano (SS-181)	09/01/43	76	Lost with all hands (seventy six men) by possible Japanese mine off Honshu, Japan in September 1943.
4 USS Grayling (SS-209)	09/09/43	76	Lost with all hands (seventy six men) to unknown causes on 9 September 1943 when it was sunk in or near Tablas Strait, Republic of the Philippines
5 USS Cisco (SS-290)	09/26/43	76	Lost with all hands (seventy six men) on 28 September 1943 during a Japanese Air and Surface attack in the Sulu Sea.
6 USS Flier (SS-250)	09/13/44	78	Lost with seventy eight men on 13 September 1944 when sunk by Japanese mine in the Balabac Strait near Mantangul Island. Eight men survived and were later rescued by USS REDFIN (SS 272)
7 USS S-44 (SS-155)	10/07/43	55	Lost on 7 October 1943 with the loss of fifty five men when it was sunk by surface craft off Paramushiru, Kuriles. 2 men survived and were taken prisoner
8 USS Wahoo (SS-238)	10/11/43	80	Lost with all hands (eighty men) during a Japanese air and surface attack on 11 October 1943 in La Perouse Strait off Japan
9 USS Dorado (SS-248)	10/12/43	76	Lost with all hands (seventy six men) by an air attack in SW Atlantic 12 October 1943
10 USS Escolar (SS-294)	10/17/44	82	Lost with all hands (eighty two men) by possible Japanese Mine in the Yellow Sea off China on 17 October 1944
11 USS Shark (SS-314)	10/24/44	90	Lost with all hands (ninety men) 24 October 1944 when it was sunk by Japanese surface craft in the channel midway between Hainan and Bashi Channel.
12 USS Tang (SS-306)	10/25/44	83	Lost with eight three men on 25 October 1944 when it was sunk by her own torpedo in the north end of the Formosa Strait. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner and survived the war. Her commanding officer received the Medal of Honor
13 USS Seewolf (SS-197)	10/30/44	102	Lost with all hands (one hundred and two men) on 30 October 1944 when it was mistaken for a Japanese submarine and sunk by friendly destroyers just north of Morotal, Republic of the Philippines
A total of 910 men were lost on 13 boats			Finally, and in addition to these, we remember all the brave men who died in the course of their duties aboard submarines where the submarine itself was not lost.

Closing Prayer

We pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will flow through all Submariners, and that the grace of God will renew them.

Joel Bergstrom  
Base Chaplain

Quote:

Tell a lie loud enough and long enough and people will believe it.  
Adolf Hitler

## SSN 708 Restoration Project – Camp Ripley

It was excellent to see the SubVets in action at the Camp Ripley Open House on 17Sep2023. The tours given of the former SSN708 sail and rudder components were well received by Open House visitors. Attendees were inspired by the plans for the SSN708 memorial and what it will represent for the state of Minnesota.

The past several months of the SSN708 restoration program has been active in the area of seeking



the approval process for the Army National Guard (ARNG) at Camp Ripley to work on the SSN708 components. At issue is the requirements needed to be in place for federal workers to perform work on non-federal property. The approach has been to work the way up the protocol ladder such that leaders, groups or individuals which may assist in the work are not surprised when work direction happens to join in the 708 restoration. The red tape involved has been pumped up by positional rotations and lack of understanding what we are seeking to do.

The good news is after conducting an extensive state-wide search for capable steel fabrication and welding companies, a Sauk Rapids firm was interviewed and selected to assist in the SSN708 restoration work. C4 Welding leadership has provided tours and demonstrated their steel processing proficiency by sand blasting and painting one of the SSN708 sail plates. They have reviewed our project with Museum Executive Director Randal Dietrich, Museum Curator Doug Thompson, and myself, are excited about diving in with us to make this happen.

Next steps involve working with the Navy League and our Minnesota government leaders to break the ice on how to get the federal go ahead to get going. This includes continued pressure in Washington DC at the Navy History and Heritage Command and contacting our federal level senators. Additionally, The Navy League wants to assist us in further fundraising efforts to help defray the cost of using private firms in the restoration effort. Going this route will mitigate any liability concerns should a volunteer become injured at the work site. Having said that, we will still need volunteer assistance in the area of cataloging the myriad sail plates to their proper location on the SSN708 sail.

Brooks Berg

### SSN708 Fun Facts

<b>Ordered</b>	31 October 1973
<b>Laid down</b>	20 January 1981
<b>Launched</b>	19 March 1983
<b>Commissioned</b>	10 March 1984
<b>Decommissioned</b>	28 August 2008
<b>Out of service</b>	22 June 2007
<b>Stricken</b>	28 August 2008
<b>Homeport</b>	<u>Pearl Harbor, HI</u>
<b>Status</b>	Stricken, to be disposed of by submarine recycling

### General characteristics

<b>Class and type</b>	<u>Los Angeles-class submarine</u>
<b>Displacement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•5,695 tons light</li> <li>•6,068 tons full</li> <li>•373 tons dead</li> </ul>
<b>Length</b>	110.3 m (361 ft 11 in)
<b>Beam</b>	10.0 m (32 ft 10 in)
<b>Draft</b>	9.7 m (31 ft 10 in)
<b>Propulsion</b>	1 × <u>S6G reactor</u>

<b>Range</b>	Unlimited distance; 20–25 years
<b>Complement</b>	12 officers, 98 enlisted

## **Regional Scuttlebutt**

We would like a member from the West Metro or Northwest Minnesota to volunteer to set up a Regional Gathering somewhere where our western Minnesota Members can join us for an afternoon of camaraderie.

There are a few cities that celebrate “Town Ball”. These are ripe for an outing of Regional Scuttlebutt for our Group. We need a member in a “Town Ball” area to set up a Group Event. Most of the Games are on Sunday & Wednesday. I would think that a Sunday Event Would be ideal.

I know Miesville has a Team. We are friends with both the Fire Department and the Local Burger Joint. This could be a Possibility. If this can be set-up it would be an eastern event. We are looking for a western event.

Will members please look at what Town Ball teams are available to visit. This would be a Fun Event. Contact John Barnes or Ken Tupper if you can coordinate this event near your city.

## **Skippy the Yeoman**

The 708 Minny and Billfish had another very busy weekend for their last deployment of the year. First Port of Call Otsego MN Prairie Festival. This is a great community event that takes care of our fleet with a great placement between the car show and the vendors and they put a silhouette of a fast attack sub on their event handout flier. This year they had a five-dollar pancake breakfast and many food trucks. We had 10 members and families attend to help educate the public and scout for new members. This event goes into the night with live music, dancing, and fireworks, But our hardy crew didn't stick around for any of the nightlife because the boats needed to rendezvous at Camp Ripley before sundown. After taking part in an ALL YOU CAN EAT meal at the Pizza Ranch the 3 amegos went to their berthing compartment next door. Believe it or not, the advance crew members had lights out at 2137.

At daybreak, the crew was at it again convoying back to Camp Ripley. Without anyone from the camp to instruct them on where to set up our gallant crew laid anchor right in front of the top half of the sail of the real 708. Six more members and family arrived and spent the day talking to hundreds of people from the very young to old eager to learn about the world of Submarines. In the middle of all of this Commander Barnes awarded the Holland Club certificate and patch to base member John D. McVay who stopped by. At about 1330 the 708 sailed over to the Groundbreaking Ceremony (GBC) near the highway with 6 members in tow. At one point the National Guard tried setting up a line of flags to the right of the podium but out of nowhere a big gust of wind made it a

losing battle. David E. Anderson was spotted in his dress blues. Five prominent guests were issued gold shovels for the GBC and a WWII vintage bulldozer with a SeaBee at the controls made some very impressive progress on the earth.

Meanwhile, back at the 708-parts storage area, one member was witness to the following event. Everything was calm and no one was around because of the GBC when a micro-burst out of wind ripped the HMS Canopy from its mooring just as the Billfish was surfacing from one of the many dives that it made during the day. See photo. They had to get the National Guard to help get the HMS Canopy back in its mooring. The good thing was the timing of the accident that nobody was injured and lessons were learned to double up the lines so it won't happen again,

The Billfish was scheduled to be in drydock at the MNFX Ship Yard so it was put right in and the chief engineer said that it is nothing that they can't handle and they have until first-lasting snowfall to get it done.



Commander Barnes asked me to thank everyone who came out to the missions to help build up the Base and see you next year.

Yeoman Skippy

# Shipmates

No content was supplied this period.

## Float and Static Display Opportunities

Float Events - ALL Information is listed under "EVENTS" on the Base Website ([MSPUSSVI.com](http://MSPUSSVI.com))

### July -September events:

A total of 17 event days occurred during this period. Several 14–16-hour days. And 3-6 Participants working each event.

Summer events: 1 Wisconsin / 5 Metro / 12 Non-Metro

Season is Over. Retirees event at Treasure Island October 21, 2023

## Expanding Brotherhood

We need to ask ourselves What can I do to ensure the success of our Base. As our membership ages, the long-term viability of the organization fades. Just last year we had several members depart on Eternal Patrol".

Each of our members are "**Qualified in Submarines**". A designation that required Hard Work and most likely more than the minimum time. Hopefully each of you are Proud of that accomplishment.

Membership does not require much. Just \$15 per year. The base is required to hold 6 meetings. (Every 58 days). What are you doing to support the group during these off" days?

In your travels, have you met a Qualified Submariner who is not part of our group? Did you try to offer information about our group and possibly recruit him?

Have you chosen to support the base at events that are planned for the membership? Have you shown the camaraderie that you enjoyed on the boats? Can you?

Would you offer your time to do the simple things that keep our base alive by becoming involved?

There are a few things that we do not do because of our lack of member involvement. Promoting our Base and Floats in the American Submariner magazine. Setting up regional scuttlebutt get-togethers in "off" months. Reaching out to the community to promulgate the organization. Minnesota has an inordinate number of former Bubbleheads that we need to connect with.

# Member Submissions

No content was supplied this period.

## Submariners on the Internet

Ye Old Diver Training Tower Pearl Harbor.

Built in 1932, the 30 m tall Pearl Harbor Submarine Diver Training Tower was used for over 50 years to instruct sailors in submarine escape techniques. Essentially the tower was a vertical tube filled with water and used to simulate a Sailor's ascent from a disabled submarine. Sailors would don the Steinke Hood in an airlock beneath the water-filled chamber, a flood valve would be opened and the chamber would fill with water until the pressure equaled the pressure at the bottom of the chamber. Once the Sailors exited the airlock chamber, the buoyant air pressure in their Steinke hoods allowed them to slowly rise to the surface. In 1983, the tower was drained and converted into a crow's nest conference room by Rear Admiral Jack Darby. The room atop the tower is called "The House that Jack Built."

From a post on a tin can site.

~ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thesubvet/permalink/1354741658772990/>



## Photo of the Day



### **Otsego Prairie Festival Photo Request 2022**

The lovely ladies to the right and left of Ken Tupper, and between me and Steve Marquis, requested they get a photo of the group because I think the daughter was going off to school and into the big world we all live in. We wish them luck and happy travels.

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Check out the USSVI FaceBook Groups and Website.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/744253000664354/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163661667303793/>  
<https://minneapolisubvets.com>

## ***United States Submarine Veterans***

***Minneapolis/St Paul Base***



***Pride Runs Deep***



***U.S. Submarine Force***