

The Deep Dive News

July/August 2024



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.

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Note: Follow the instruction to go to an article by placing the cursor on the subject or page number.
You can access (back to 2019) to MSP DDN's on our Website. Click on the following link:
<https://minneapolisubvets.com/news-header/newsletter/>

Commander's Corner

Many thanks to those that helped organize the Base annual picnic. In the past, John Selleck has always been very active in planning and organizing the picnic. This year prior to the picnic, John was hospitalized with pacemaker problems. Deb and Dale Steinke with assistance from George St. Martin stepped up to ensure everything was in place for a successful event.

I'm looking forward to our guest speaker for our October Membership meeting. Go to **Base Events - Coming** to read about Dr. Lansing and his dedication to our veterans suffering from PTSD.

When recruiting for MSP we've always discussed the need to add younger members. When we find young *Bubbleheads* and ask them to join, we often get the response, "I'm too busy with my family and full-time job to take on any new activities." In the past the conversation ended and the potential member was forgotten. We now have a solution to add these "future members" to a mailing list having them join (what is referred to) as EClub (email) members. They will receive our DDN and be invited to attend our Christmas party. The goal is of course, to have them become full members in the future when their schedule allows more time.

MSP Membership forms are now available online at <https://minneapolisubvets.com/join/>
Read more about it in this DDN under [Our MSP Website](#). We are in need of a Website support person. All you need is experience using the Microsoft Office tools such as Word and Excel.

Besides the duties as your Base Commander, there are those home chores that never seem to end. This wet summer has provided a fast growing lawn requiring lots of increased time on the mower. To add to the work, the Dutch Elm disease has finally taken its toll resulting in lots of dead trees to cut down. John Barnes is helping Ken Tupper with his dead trees; more than a full time job for John.

Mentorship Program – We are looking for MSP Base members that will join us in assisting with the management of our Base. The mentorship program provides members with the experience necessary to take on a Base leadership position. If you are interested in a lead position, you will shadow a Base member to learn about the position versus being taking the position without a lot of information on what the position includes. Currently, we have mentors for all lead except Secretary. If you have any interest in assisting on the MSP Base leadership, please contact Dave Harms.

As always, emails with your suggestions and concerns are continually welcome.

Ken Tibesar email: KenTibesar@msn.com cell: 651-263-0522

Chaplains Corner

Chaplains Corner July/August 2024

Greetings to All,

After the August meeting, I am resigning as the Chaplain of the base. It's time for someone else to step up. If you're interested, send me an email and we can get together and look at the details of the job.

Some time ago a friend sent me an email with this attachment. Read it if you like, it's a little long but it has a lot of meaning.

“Why did God create evil”

A professor at the University asked his students the following question. Is everything that exists created by God? One student bravely answered Yes, created by God. Did God create everything, the professor asked? Yes sir, replied the student. The professor asked, if God created everything, then God created evil, since it exists. And according to the principle that our deeds define ourselves, then God is evil. The student became silent after hearing such an answer. The professor was very pleased with himself. He boasted to the students for proving once again that faith in God is a myth. Another student raised his hand and said, Can I ask a question sir. Of course, replied the professor. The student asked: is cold a thing? Of course, it exists. Have you ever been cold? The students laughed at the young man's question. The young man answered: actually, Sir cold doesn't exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is actually the absence of heat. A person or object can be studied on whether it has or transmits energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) is a complete absence of heat. All matter becomes inert and unable to react at this temperature. Cold does not exist. We created this word to describe what we feel in the absence of heat. The student continued, professor does darkness exist? Of course, it exists. You're wrong again sir. Darkness also does not exist. Darkness is actually the absence of light. We can study the light but not the darkness. We can use Newton's prism to spread white light across multiple colors and explore the different wavelengths of each color. You can't measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into the world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you tell how dark a certain space is? You measure how much light is present. Isn't it so? Darkness is a term man uses to describe what happens in the absence of light. In the end the young man asked the professor, Sir does evil exist? This time it was uncertain, the professor answered, of course as I said before, we see him every day. Cruelty, numerous crimes and violence throughout the world. These examples are nothing but a manifestation of evil. To this the student answered: Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist for itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is like darkness and cold—a man-made word to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not faith or love, which exists as light and warmth. Evil is the result of the absence of Divine love in the human heart. It's the kind of cold that comes when there is no heat or the kind of darkness that comes when there's no light.

The student's name was Albert Einstein.

Joel Bergstrom
Base Chaplain

Contact List USSVI District and MSP Board

NAME	Title	email	Phone
Tom Williams III	Central Regional Director	texsubvet@yahoo.com	(512) 632-9439
David Farran*	CR-D3 Commander	dlfarran@gmail.com	(319) 269-7389
Ken Tibesar	Commander	KenTibesar@msn.com	(651) 263-0522
Tim Martinson	Vice Commander	martinsonti@gmail.com	(860) 734-6957
David Harms	Secretary/K4K	dmh538@gmail.com	(651) 246-1661
Jack Fay	Treasurer	jedwardfay@gmail.com	(651) 491-9476
George St. Martin	MAA	stmarting@centurylink.net	(952) 446-6249
Open	Chaplain / Librarian		
Joel Bergstrom	COB	bergieja@usfamily.net	(651) 631-0091
William Benzick	Recruiting Officer	kcizneb@gmail.com	(651) 503-6495
John Barnes	Past Commander	jbblastit@gmail.com	(612) 251-2260
Ken Tibesar	MSP Website	www.MSPUssvi.com	651-263-0522

* 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, Bubbleheads!!

July

James Marshall, Jr	3-Jul
Stephen Christenson	8-Jul
Michael Maliniak	8-Jul
Dennis Tester	21-Jul
George Thoma	30-Jul

August

James Thoreson	1-Aug
Thomas Pepin	2-Aug
Dan Monson	7-Aug
Thomas McGuffin, II	9-Aug
Alvin Hanson, Jr.	10-Aug
Timothy Martinson	10-Aug
Robert Kosmalski	11-Aug
Mark Quinlan	16-Aug
Theodore Tapanila	23-Aug
Kenneth Tupper	23-Aug
Steven Dahlstrom	27-Aug
Robert Hallman	29-Aug

Lost Boats



Submitted by Joel Bergstrom

The "Tolling the Boats" ceremony was originally established by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. The tolling of the ship's bell reminds us of the debt of gratitude we owe to both our departed shipmates and to those in active service. We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice they made so we all, and especially our families and loved ones, enjoy the fruits of freedom.

Lost Boats - July and August

August Meeting boats lost in July and August			
Ships Name	Date Lost	Crew Lost	
1 USS S-28 (SS-133)	07/04/44	50	Lost with all hands (fifty men) when she foundered off the Hawaiian Islands on 4 June 1944
2 USS G-2 TUNA SS-27	07/30/19	3	Lost 30 July 1919 with three men when she foundered in the Long Island Sound
3 USS Grunion (SS-216)	07/30/42	70	Lost with all hands (seventy men) on 30 July 1942 off Kiska Island, Aleutians (Alaska) to unknown causes.
4 USS Bass (SS-164)	8/12/1942	26	Twenty six men lost their lives during flooding off the Panama Canal in 1942, Boat survived.
5 USS Runner (SS-275)	07/01/43	78	Lost with all hands (seventy eight men) by possible Japanese mine between Midway Island and Japan in June 1943
6 USS Robalo (SS-273)	07/26/44	77	Lost with seventy seven men by possible Japanese Mine off Palawan on 26 July 1944. Four men are believed to have survived as POWs
7 USS Harder (SS-257)	08/24/44	79	Lost with all hands (seventy nine men) during a Japanese depth charge attack off Luzon, Republic of the Philippines, on 24 August 1944
8 USS Bullhead (SS-332)	08/06/45	84	Lost with all hands (eighty four men) off the Bali Coast by a Japanese air attack on 6 August 1945
9 USS Cochino (SS-345)	08/26/49	1 with 6 from Tusk	Lost on 26 August 1949 off the coast of Norway due to a battery explosion and fire. One crew member was lost along with six men from the USS Tusk (SS-426) during the rescue operation.
A total of 480 men were lost in 9 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.

Helping Others



USSVI and our MSP Base, have programs designed to help others. If there is someone you know that needs assistance or there is an organization you would like to pay tribute to, please contact:

Tim Martinson, Base Vice, 860-734-6957 (Phone & Text), martinsonti@gmail.com

Armed Forces Service Center

The Armed Forces Service Center has 53 years of service for traveling military at the Minneapolis Airport. It is 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. 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'.

Mail Buoy

There was no email from you for this DDN. It seems that it has been a busy summer for everyone and/or no complaints and stories to share.

If there is anything on your mind you would like to share, send your, stories, suggestion, requests, etc. to Tim Martinson, Base Vice, 860-734-6957 (call or send a or text msg), martinsoni@gmail.com



Welcome to our MSP Base

At this time, we have Full Time Members in the pipeline but none that have completed entire process to become full members.



We do have new members that have signed up for our new EClub Membership. Read more about this new membership type in the paragraph "[New-EClub Membership](#)".

Welcome aboard to the following EClub Members:

Dayton Nelson	Joel Cruvant
Michael Thompson	Paul Dooley
Donald Redding	Craig Hanson
Taylor Johnson	Patrick Dooley
Ludwig Zachary	

Sick List and Eternal Patrol

WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP in letting us know anyone who is on **our membership sick list or joined the Eternal Patrol**. We do not have anyone to report for this DDN. If there is anyone we missed, please let us know.



Meeting Minutes

USSVI Minneapolis-St Paul Base E-board Mtg Minutes

Held: July 13th, 2024, at the VFW in Richfield

Attendees: Ken Tibesar, Jack Fay, Tim Martinson, Bill Benzick, Dave Harms, Joel Bergstrom, Greg Nadeau

Absent: George St. Martin, John Barnes

Topics	Description
Finance Discussion	The <u>Kaps for Kids</u> account with \$2639, reallocate a general charitable. Proposed by Jack Fay, 2nd by Joel Bergstrom , and the board unanimously approved that.
Access to MSP Bank Account	Secretary Jack Fay currently the only one with access to our MSP base. Greg Nadeau and Ken Tibesar to be added to acct.
Dues Notification	Notify members in October of upcoming year's dues to ensure continuous uninterrupted membership.
MSP Survey Results	Received good responses from the survey. Details to be provided in the July/August DDN. See Survey Says for details.
Meeting with USSVI District Commander	Met with Dave Farren. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Associate members required to have a sponsor. If sponsor no longer available, Base not obligated to continue their membership. • Legal help available from USSVI if needed. • Mentorship program is a great idea. Dave has tried to get other Bases to institute the same type of program. • There is a Rickover patch that can be worn on a member's vest. It is for Base members who are 25 years+ qualified Tim Martinson will follow-up to get patches.
MSP Open Positions	Open Positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base Storekeeper • Charitable Evens Chair • Chaplain Joel Berstrom approved as COB
MSP E-board voting members	The voting board consists of the Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, COB and MAA. Bill Benzick , Recruiting Officer, approved this position as a voting member.
Sick List status	Difficult in keeping up with members. ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE LET Board members know of anyone with a medical issue.
Lake City Parade	Good Base membership turnout at the Lake City Parade. There were 4 members on the Billfish pulled by Ken Tibesar . A special thanks to John Hlavac for from St. Cloud to Participate

Topics	Description
New Membership Type	Email membership now available. This is to get the name of those too busy to join with work/family commitments but keep their name for a future Base member. SEE New-ECIclub Member in THIS DDN.
Billfish Float Introduction	Need to create an introduction to the Billfish to be used by parade announcers. SEE Announcing the Billfish in THIS DDN

Base Fund Raisers



MSP Base Booster and Super Booster Club

To raise funds for our Base, the E-board approved the implementation of a Booster and Super Booster Club. If a Base member donates to MSP, their name will be listed in the DDN with the month/year of the donation. Since USSVI is a 501c13 organization, donating is tax deductible. You will need a receipt from our Base Treasure for you tax records. Thanks to all members for your financial support!!

A donation of less than \$50 will be considered a Booster donor and a donation of \$50+ is considered a Super Booster. The names of the Booster and Super Booster donors will be listed in the DDN for 1 year (booster) and 2 years (Super Booster). Super Booster will have the boats they served on also listed.

Please note that donor information was NOT AVAILABLE for this DDN. We apologize for the update delay. Updates will be available for the next DDN.

There following are Super Booster within the past 2 years.

Super Booster Donors

Donor	Donation	Boat(s)	Date
Bill Benzick	Paid for Holland Breakfast food	SS-373 Lizardfish, SS-282 Tunny, SS480 Medregal	May 2024
Mike Maliniak	Cash donation	SSN-685 Glenard Lipscomb, SSN-702 Phoenix, SSN-693 Cincinnati, SSN-708 Mpls/Stp	Dec 2023
Dale Steinke	Picnic food donation	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Aug 2023
Dale Steinke	50/50 proceeds donated to MSP	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Oct 2023
Mike Maliniak	Cach donation	SSN-685 Glenard Lipscomb, SSN-702 Phoenix, SSN-693 Cincinnati, SSN-708 Mpls/Stp	Dec 2022
Dave Ratte	Cash donation	SSBN-634 Stonewall Jackson, SSBN-728 Florida, SSN-753 Albany, SSN-686 L Mendel Rivers	Dec 2022
Bill Benzick	50/50 proceeds donated to MSP	SS-373 Lizardfish, SS-282 Tunny, SS480 Medregal	Dec 2022
Dale Steinke	Float trailer donated to Base	SSBN- 598 USS George Washington	Aug 2022

THANK YOU very much for your generous donations!

Base Dues



Our MSP E-board discussed the need for an increase in our Base dues. Base operating costs have increased resulting in a **vote to increase the Base dues starting in 2025.**

There is now available a Base Lifetime membership fee. As with the USSVI Lifetime membership, our Base Lifetime fee is based on the Submariners current age. There was a concern discussed that the steady income from annual base dues may cause future funding shortages. Our Base budget will have to be carefully managed to avoid the impact of the loss of income in the future.

Base dues will be increased from \$15 to \$20 per year starting in 2025.

1. Anyone at or over 75 pays no base dues. These members must continue to pay USSVI dues.
2. We will initiate the use of a Base Lifetime membership. The below chart defines the costs for each age group. Prices were calculated based on the increased percentages per age group used by USSVI.

Age	/Year	75+	66-75	56--65	46-55	<46
USSVI Life dues	\$30-35	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$500	\$600
MSP Base dues	\$20	\$0	\$137	\$206	\$286	\$343

Information for Base Members

Our MSP Website

If you have not visited our www.MSPUSSVI.COM website recently, be sure to check out the information on our site. Here is a sample of what you will find.

- SubLinks – You will find a number of links to websites all related to Submarines and the Navy.
- Sub-Stuff – Some interesting stories and poems. Check out the “Sea Stories Directory” for a brief statement of all of the sea stories.
- About Us – Our Bylaws, Executive Boards Members, and our Base History
- Base Events – A list of our Base events although most listed now have already occurred.
- Join Us – Online membership forms. New is the EClub membership.
- News – All of the past DDN’s back to 2019 plus some news articles.

Notes on our website:

- If you see any MSP Website errors or suggestion for changes, please contact the webmaster –[Ken Tibesar](#)
- **We are in need of a Website support person.** It is a good opportunity for anyone to help as their time permits and learn about the tools used for website management. All you need is experience using the Microsoft Office tools such as Word and Excel. Please consider the current website master.

New – Online Membership Forms

A Online Form is now available for FULL TIME Membership. There is also a new type of membership known as EClub supported by an online form. See below for details.

Full Membership Form Online – Before this online form was available, Full Membership application required a paper copy of the form, filling out the form, and filling out a check for the dues fees. You then had to stuff an envelope, find a stamp and deliver the letter to a mailbox. With the online form, all you have to do is fill the form online and hit the “submit” button. For payments, you can send in a check or use an online method of payment. Venmo is the only current choice for online payment available but soon more choices will be available.

For our current MSP members, we want you use this form for 1) testing and 2) your familiarity. We would encourage your comments with the use of the form and make any improvement suggestions. You can add your comments to the available space on the form. We would like to know your name for any questions on your comments. [Enter “TESTING” in the Street Address entry.](#)

EClub Members – This is a new type of membership to assist in recruiting younger participants. Our MPS Leaders often discuss the need to reduce the average age of our current membership. The



problem is getting younger members to commit to joining. When they are asked about membership, their response is often “With my job and family, I don’t have the time for anything else.” So the reply is “here is our MSP business card. Call us when you are ready to join.” The chances of getting a future call is very limited, loss of the card, forget about joining, etc. Now we have a better reply, “Great, sign up for our EClub and you will receive our DDN Newsletter and join when you are ready.” They now can learn more about USSVI and our MSPBase and be consistently reminded that they can become a full time member and they know the contacts.

We will invite EClub members to our annual Christmas Party. This will be a good chance for them to get to know our MSP members and enjoy limited activities with our organization. We already have nine EClub members; active duty members at a local USN unit. The form to sign up is online.

New - Online MSP Survey

Early in 2024, the below MSP Base survey distributed to determine what changes the MSP E-board should make to satisfy user complaints and suggested changes. Now the same survey is on our Website and you simply answer the questions and hit “submit”; no printing of a hard copy, making mistakes and starting over or the need to put the survey in an envelope to send it in. **If you have not taken the MSP Survey, please take the time to let your MSP Leaders Team know what you like/dislike, your comments and suggestions. Go to www.MSPUSSVE.COM/survey for access to the survey and simply click “SUBMIT” when complete.** The system will let you know if there are any errors with your entry. Simply make the corrections and look for the GREEN BAR letting you know your survey has been accepted.

Survey Says



Thank you to those that participated in our Survey. It is not too late to provide your input. It is now easier than ever to complete because it is on line. See the paragraph above for details and the address.

National USSVI recommends that each Base survey their members on a regular basis to learn what the base leadership is doing well and where it can improve. The Survey response from our membership was only 10%. Be assured that your input in very important to our Base for us to ensure that we are and we hope we are meeting or exceeding your expectations. If not, please let us know.

Questions

Summary of the Responses

1. Do you prefer the present meeting location? VFW at Richfield or list your location preference(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to have storage, and a private room w/o noise • Suggest Spring Lk Park, Red Wing, Monticello, Fridley VFW • OK, fits our need for • It's FREE
2. Number of meetings you attended in the past year?	Average of responses was 2.2 meetings
3. A. What do you like most about the meetings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • getting together with members • comradery, seeing friends
4. What do you like least about the meetings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure saying you must support parades static events. • need more room meeting space • not enough parking space
5. What topics would you like to see covered in meetings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subjects to help/assist base members • Someone to share their expertise on a given subject • Senior Veteran discounts available • Updates happening with other military services • upcoming base events and activities • members sharing experiences, national conv
6. What are your suggestions for Guest Speaker topics? Category: Submarine, general military, medical, history, burial planning, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topics of submarine history, veterans spt., honor flight • VA medical director, services from VA • sub tech updates, Navy, weapons, photo-mast, future • upbeat speakers, nothing depressing • Fort Snelling history • Armed force readiness, training, new technologies, • speaker from the USS Minnesota SSN783 • VA Benefits/updates, PTSD, Navy League events, Humor guests, magic, singer, story teller
7. What are the Base parades and static events value? Are you willing to participate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of parades/events, 5-6 per summer • get into schools to share sub history, events, stories • events help for membership, parades do not help • chance to recruit and get together – snowbird • recruit new members, get medallion donations, • public exposure
8. What are your suggestions for Base events?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must include spouses for MSP events • dinner cruise, enjoyed Vets Park picnic • 3 lunch cruise, bonfire if women invited • Xmas party at a restaurant • twins baseball game • murder/mystery, cruise
9. Would you be interested in a “Murder Mystery”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes, sounds like fun

<p>dinner party? https://www.thedinnerdetective.com/st-paul/murder-mystery-private-events-private-shows/</p> <p>10.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not as a replacement for the traditional Xmas party • someplace other than the VFW • should be in June • interested in murder/mystery, not December • loves the idea of a Murder/Mystery
<p>11. Do you read our DDN? What changes, additions and/or deletions would you suggest to our DDN?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes, enjoy reading it, always read the DDN • May/June 2024 too much on meeting min • DDN is good, May/June 2024 very informative • Read DDN with great interest, great read • need an activities calendar in the DDN • I read it. Like the new format with the index. • likes regular sections especially humor, would like more on MSP Base members
<p>12. Any overall suggestions for Base improvements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • follow-up w/ new mbrs, give certificates yr qualified • more time to visit at group meetings • nice time at picnic last year, do that always • 50/50, have cup in front prizes, place ticket in cup you want • media coverage to find young bubbleheads • Am Legion and VFW newsletter about USSVI • E-board decisions to membership mtgs. Before final approval • make new members feel important, sit and talk to them • enticement to attend, participation & volunteering awards

Billfish Introduction

There are three versions to introduce the Billfish depending on the setting. The following used on a display is used at events such as the recent Antique Car Show. All of the versions contain the following information.

Display Sign at a Static Display

A 1/15th scale model of A Balao Class WWII Submarine, the USS Billfish, SS-286

- 263 US Subs , a decisive factor in winning WWII
- US Subs sunk 55% of Axis Warship, 1,200+ merchant ships
- WWII US Naval Sub Forces=12,000 men, less than 2% of Navy
- A Sub & 80 men doing major damage to the enemy
- WWII Loss of 52 US Subs with 3,502 men
- Navy Subs had highest loss percentage of all WWII US Allied Forces

The submarine veterans of the Minneapolis/St. Paul US Submarine Base are members of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. We are dedicated to the memory of those submariners who served and

Gave their lives to preserve our Freedom

Navy League Information



During this summer, we have participated in two Navy League Events. We showed the Billfish in the Minneapolis Torchlight parade and attended a Navy League meeting. We look for more interaction to come.

The Navy League is a large organization members that can help us find new Submariners that would be interested in joining our Base. We would like to work with them to plan some future events. We will be contacting to discuss combined events and activities. Take a look at their calendar of activities they have listed on their website:

<https://navyleaguemn.org/event-calendar>

Navy League Meeting

By Ken Tibesar

I attended a Navy League meeting on August 17th. There were some ideas that our Base could use but the meeting focused on brainstorming ideas from the participants not providing any real actionable items.

We have been involved with the Navy League in the past but MSP has not had a lot of joint activities in the past 2 years. We are open to ideas on how to work with the League. We were invited by the Navy League to attend the TorchLight parade. This meeting is a follow-up on our continuing efforts to coordinate activities with them. The Navy League has a Chair for a lot of positions such as Communications Manager, Community Engagement, Entertainment, Fund Raising. Does MSP have that kind of organization?

Topics	Description
Upcoming Activities	Navy Museum - Funds have been allocated to build a Navy museum. The building is to be completed in 2026. 250 th Anniversary – Does this provide us with an opportunity for some type of celebration event?
Raising Funds	A brain storming session on ideas to raise funds for the Navy League. Partnership with businesses Have a “Hook” – a business advantage to join forces with us. Selling trinkets – golf towels, medallions
Getting Members Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This subject is something MSP struggles with. • Members beyond TC area have travel issues • More ZOOM meetings • Move meetings to multiple locations

Base Events - Recent

Base Annual Picnic

The base picnic at the Veterans rest camp located at the Marine on the St. Croix went off without a hitch thanks to the fast actions of one of Dale and Debbie Steinke. Also thanks to George St. Martin, Tim Martinson, John Barnes and everyone that brought food to share. There was plenty of very good food and no one left hungry.

John Selleck, *grill master extraordinaire*, who has been doing the base picnic for years, suffered a medical emergency days before the picnic. John's daughter called and informed Dale and Deb that John was in the hospital and probably won't be able to do the picnic. Dale and Debbie quickly coordinated preparation activities picking up the hot dogs, hamburgers, and bratwurst that John already purchased along with everything else John bought in advance of the event. Then Dale and Debbie made a couple of phone calls to base members to enlist them in some extra help. The Steinkes' then picked up the rest of the perishables along with the sweet corn on the day of the picnic and transported the goods to the Marine on the St. Croix. With everyone's help, the picnic was a success. Bravo Zulu to everyone involved, and a great big thank you from the base.

John is at home resting and doing well. John, get well soon, and we will see you at the base meeting on October 5th. We had 555 members and guests attend our annual picnic. The food was outstanding. Thanks to everyone that brought something to share. Congratulations to John Hlavac who won the 50/50 drawing. A total of \$293 was collected by the Base from the 50/50, and the sale of shirts and miscellaneous items from our Base Ships Store.

Antique Car Show

Thanks to John Hlavac for organizing the display of the Billfish at a car show at Benton County, St. Cloud, Mn. Bill Benzick (along with his wife Linda) and John worked the Billfish display answering questions. Below are a newspaper article and a note from John.



Photo by MaryAnne Block
This is the model submarine that will be displayed at the car show Aug. 18 in Sauk Rapids.

Submarine to be displayed at antique car show

Visitors to the one-day St. Cloud Antique Auto Club (Pantowners) car show and swap meet can enjoy a special attraction from 7a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday Aug. 18 at the Benton County Fairgrounds, 1420 Third Ave. S. in Sauk Rapids.

A 20-foot scale model replica of a Balao Class US WWII diesel submarine will be on a 21-foot trailer. This model is named the USS Billfish, after the real USS Billfish which has been retired.

During World War II, submarines were diesel powered. Now, the US submarines (known as "boats" to the Navy) are nuclear-powered. The diesel-powered boats held about 80 to 90 sailors, while the modern nuclear boats/subs have a crew of 165 to 170 sailors.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul Base of Submariners currently has more than 100 members who have earned the distinction of being "qualified" in submarines. To be "qualified," an individual must

successfully pass rigorous training and a thorough practical evaluation. The sailor must identify and demonstrate how to operate every valve, switch and system (whether air or hydraulic or electrically operated) on board the submarines they are serving. If there is an emergency or injury or illness, anyone in the crew is then able to fill in with the proper skills.

There will be several submariners on hand to answer questions the public may have. If a young person is interested in becoming a sailor or a submariner, they are welcome to talk with and learn from the real submariners.

The website Pantowners.org provides more information on registration, admission, classes and more.



We also had fun at the show with almost non-stop traffic at our **'Billfish'** display all day (*from before 7am until almost 3pm*). Bill (Benzick) is so open, engaging and a natural salesperson. He had people passing by our display who instantly became interested in what we were all about and curious to learn more about our WWII Boat and life on a submarine. Having personal experiences on hand from both our diesel fleet (Bill) and our nuclear boats (me) was a definite plus. Bill and I made a good tag-team with the people who stopped by.

We sold out of the 50 club medallions we had with us (\$521 in donations received for the Base), and I even sold 6 more that I had personally purchased previously. We also identified 5 or 6

potential submariner prospects as members, three of which gave us their contact information on the spot to follow-up with them. One of them came by our display yesterday after reading the article about our WWII display in the local St. Joseph newspaper article published earlier in the week.

Although we didn't see anyone else from the Base to support this event, it was a really good day. The *'sea stories'* from both Bill and I were flowing with the tide!

I still plan to create a promotional piece about the SS-286 and our model of this WWII *"Fleet"* Boat. We could keep this documentation with the display in case anyone wanted to see relevant facts, pictures, drawings, etc. about either the actual boat or our model. As Bill and I discussed, this could possibly turn into an article for the **"Deep Dive News (DDN)"** and the **"American Submariner"** magazine. Bill indicated that he may have some of those details from the planning and build process at his Arizona home. He'll send those to me when he and Linda go back there in October. Bill also suggested we investigate the possibility of discussing the extensive research done by Todd at MFX during construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about yesterday or anything else I mentioned in this email regarding the Billfish display and MSP Base promotional materials. I truly enjoyed this rewarding opportunity to spend time with Bill and Linda.

Sincerely,
John Hlavac

Torch Light Parade

The Navy League asked our MSP Base to join them in the Minneapolis Torch Light Parade. This traditional annual parade takes place in the evening thru the streets of Minneapolis downtown. On Wednesday, July 24th with a 7:30p start time, we met in Rosedale (since parking downtown is limited) and traveled to the Convention Center. Parade entries had to be in place before 6p. The assemble area was beneath the Minneapolis Convention Center in a large garage. We had a generator and lights across the top of the Billfish but the generator started but did not produce any voltage. The

Navy League parade group was just ahead of the Billfish. Attending were Bill Benzick, Joel Bergstrom, David Harms (and his wife Kay), Tim Martinson, and Ken Tibesar.



The assembly area beneath the Mpls Convention Center, with a group of young and attractive recruits.



Our parade unit in downtown Minneapolis

Base Events - Coming

October Base Meeting

Our MSP Base meeting will be on Saturday October 5th, 2024 at THE Fred Babcock VFW Post 5555 located at 6715 Lake Shore Drive South, Richfield, MN 55423 Telephone number 612.869.5555.

Doors open at 1000, meeting at 1100, lunch at 1300.



Plan to stay for lunch, order one of the following by September 27th:

All meals are \$27.00 per entree. That includes food, taxes, service charges, and gratuity. All dinners include: Dinner salad, Baked Potato, Vegetables, Rolls and butter, and coffee, soda

- Liver and onions
- 8oz Top sirloin
- Broiled Walleye
- 1/2 baked chicken
- Shrimp Dinner 6pc
- Vegetable stir fry
- Chicken Stir Fry

Please place food your order with George St. Martin. Email: stmarting@ centurylink. net
Phone number 952.446.5551.

Please place YOUR FOOD order no later than, September 27th

PTSD Guest Speaker

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Lansing as our Guest Speaker for the October Membership Meeting. Dr. Steve Lansing is a psychologist specializing in the treatment of PTSD. As an Air Force Veteran, he suffered with this disorder as a result of his two year tour in Vietnam. When he was discharged from the Air Force, he decided to finish his schooling he started before his enlistment. As a result of

his suffering from PTSD, he fully understood the suffering of this mental disorder. When he graduated as a psychologist, Dr. Lansing was inspired to help his fellow veterans recover from their disabling trauma. He is well known as an interesting and informed speaker by local Veteran Service Organizations. He has graciously accepted our invitation to attend our MSP October meeting.

Most of us know someone that has suffered from PTSD. This speech is certain to provide us with an understanding about this terrible disorder and realize the tremendous sacrifice our veterans have endured in support of our freedom.

Minn.'s PTSD doctor

Not just anyone can have PTSD; there must be certain stressors

By Tim Engstrom

APPLÉ VALLEY — Rarely mentioned by historians is that Socrates was an I1 Bravo.

The great founder of Western philosophy served as a hoplite in the Athenian army in the Peloponnesian War — at the siege of Potidaea in 432 BC, assault on Delium in 424 BC and the defense of Amphipolis BC in 422 BC. Hoplites were foot soldiers armed with spears and shields, commonly fighting in close formation. They were the infantry.

When he came home, Socrates walked the streets asking questions, noted Steve Lansing, a Rochester-based psychologist with Empower Treatment Center and a Vietnam veteran. He is a member of Minnesota Post 1982, the at-large post.

A man likely experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder questioned the world around him — and eventually attracted youthful followers eager for his knowledge. This led to what today is called the Socratic Method, a means of learning where the teacher asks probing questions to explore a student's views and opinions. Ironically, Socratic dialogue can serve as



Dr. Steve Lansing speaks at the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference at Apple Valley Post 1776 on Jan. 27. He shared several slides about post-traumatic stress disorder and the way it affects the mind.

cognitive therapy for PTSD.

Lansing gives a compelling presentation on PTSD. He gave one at the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference in Apple Valley.

Lansing said he struggled with college and joined the Air Force. He spent two years in Vietnam with the 7th Air Force doing intelligence analysis.

On the domestic flight home, a flight attendant dumped a drink on him after learning he served in Vietnam. She called him a "baby killer."

After, Lansing decided to go back to college, finished in three years, then went to grad school. In 1986, he moved to Rochester from Iowa to run a suicide hotline. He found one in three of the

callers were veterans. He learned that many Vietnam veterans were dealing with untreated PTSD.

"Seventy percent of the people in prison in the 1970s were Vietnam vets," he said.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington was dedicated in 1982.

Continued on Page 8

Full Article: <https://veteransincrisis.squarespace.com/s/Steve-Lansing-News-Article-March.pdf>

Future Activities Planning



Paddle Boat on the St. Croix

A paddle boat ride requires advanced planning and our new MAA, George St. Clair with assistance from John Selleck are already planning for 2025 ride on the St. Croix. A paddle boat company located in Stillwater has been contacted for



details. The plan is to ride the paddle boat in June on a weekend with a noon ride with brunch.

Fall Bonfire

Do you want to sit around a bonfire in a crisp Autumn evening telling Sea Stories and having a few beers? We are looking forward to this type of event in October. The spouses are certainly invited even though it has been mentioned by members that spouses don't care for our Submariners Sea Stories. We will have additional activities for all our guests. We are thinking of a potluck in the evening hours, but we **NEED YOUR INPUT** on what you think.



Murder Mystery In 2025



Our Members have asked for the traditional Christmas Party in December versus combining it with the Murder

Mystery event. We will still have the Murder Mystery but we will wait until the *Snow Birds* return in late spring of 2025. A theater group will help us with the fun event and involving us with clues in solving the question on *who did it*. More details will be provided as we get closer to the event date. It is assured to be a lot of fun for the evening, one that won't be forgotten.



Our MAA George St. Martin is already making plans for this event. He has found a theater company that provides this service at a good price. We now have to find an event center.

Sea Stories and More

[Thank you to those that submitted stories for this DDN.](#)

**Please SHARE your Submarine Related Story.
We would love to have it in our next DDN.**

A 727-day tour - USS Florida, SSN 728

Submitted by: Tom Pepin ET1 (SS)
USS George Washington Carver SSBN656

My son is a Navy Commander in the submarine command pipeline. One of his boats was the USS Florida SSN 728 where he was NavOps. While he was not onboard Florida during the time period discussed in the attached link, it is a most impressive run for the USS Florida.

The USS Florida SSN 728 recently completed a historic 727-day 'at sea' tour. She started her life as a SSBN Trident nuclear deterrent submarine being one of 18 commissioned to replace the '41

For Freedom' submarines, most of which were decommissioned in the early 1990s with the signing of START I in 1991. Many of the remaining 41 for freedom boats, at that time, were showing their age and would likely have only gone an additional ~5-10 years as most were approaching 30 years. Several had been previously decommissioned for a range of reasons. Fortunately, the Ohio Class of SSBN's (41 for freedom replacement) build was near complete and the START impact on our deterrent force, although not zero, was minimal.

The Navy converted first 4 of the Ohio SSBNs to SSGNs with Florida's conversion completed in 2006. Her 24 tubes were converted from Trident to 154 Tomahawks, a SEAL Toy garage, and SEAL team access on the forward 2 tubes; there was ample space for hosting special guest on board. This along with enhanced 'everything you can imagine' created a universal platform that became one of the Navy's primary tools for getting things done, that never happened, with the Navy with submarines.

The Ohio boats are showing their age and replacements are in process with enhanced Virginia Class Boats for doing those things we never did and Columbia to replace the aging deterrence fleet.

The following link tells the story with Florida's recent 727-day deployment.

[727 Days at Sea: Navy Ohio-Class Guided-Missile Sub 'Broke All the Rules' \(msn.com\)](#)

Line Handling Accident by Tim Martinson

It was in the mid-1970s. The Patrick Henry (SSBN 599), along with her squadron mates, was operating out of Guam, the land of snail and frog migrations, Tweed's cave, heat and humidity that set the bar for discomfort and, at the time, the world's largest McDonalds and Ben Franklin dime store.....

We were ready to head out to sea. With all maintenance complete. Provisioned with the reactor critical and making steam. Maneuvering watch was set.

I was one of four on the aft line. This position was aft of the end of the turtleback. The hull a bit rounded and diminishing above the engineering spaces below. We didn't wear harnesses but did sport life preservers. One of the guys was on the sound powered phone.

We were tied-up to the pier on our starboard side. We lashed onto a tug on our port side. It was secured to our roll-out davit and the one farther forward for the aft most spring line.

The spring lines were cast off and the forward line was let out. Then the tug got working. We were all watching the tug strain on her line pulling us out. That's when I happened to look over to the pier. The men tending our line on shore were running from the mooring point. We had not cast off our line to the pier! The rope looked to be about the same diameter as a pencil!

When it parted it looked like fog. It was, as later explained to me, from the polypropylene strands casting out into a huge fan shape. Almost at the same moment, we were smacked by the fanned rope, and all 4 of us were cast into the water right behind the roaring tugboat. Stunned, I and one other gob were swept aft on the tug's wash. We were then taken up by the Sub's slowly turning screw and drawn over it to toward the pier. We managed to swim back to the boat and, using the

parted line, climb back onto the starboard side of the hull. The other two guys were not rocketed off in the tug's wash as the phone talker was tethered by the phone cable. The other guy held onto him. They re-boarded from the port side. The entire episode lasted just a few minutes.

Ultimately, we had to cut what remained of our mooring line free as it was set so tight on the davit, almost welded to itself!

The 4 of us ended up really sore for days and were black and blue from head to foot for quite a while. And, according to the Corpsman, with no other injuries to speak of.....

The Buffalo Joke by Ken Tibesar, ET1 Navigation

As a new recruit, we all have experienced the light hearted indoctrination into the Submarine World as the center of laid-back pranks. There was that assigned task to go to engineering for some "relative bearing grease" or having the new recruit waiting at the bottom of the ladder with his bag to collect the mail from the mail buoy. The following is a story about a joke on the new recruits before they even reported to a boat. It was a good indoctrination to their future of being careful of those on-board assignments.

During my last Navy duty station before I was discharged, I was at Dam Neck, Virginia (Norfolk, Va. area), assigned to teach new recruits about SINS (Ships Inertial Navigation System) on the Polaris Missile Submarines. It was a 4-month intensive training course on the theory, maintenance and operation of the computerized inertial navigation system. A number of instructors would take a part in the development and delivery of the course material. As an instructor, I was assigned a 2-week segment of the course.

After a lesson with some time remaining, instructors would use the time to relax by sharing sea stories and jokes then ask students if they had anything to share. In the first segment of the training, the instructor would ask students if they had heard the BUFFALO Joke. The instructor would build up this fantastic joke and how funny it was, but then instead of telling the joke, he would make up an excuse on why it was best to let the next instructor tell the joke. During each segment of the course, instructors would bring up this fantastic joke then offer an excuse on why they couldn't tell it. The routine was repeated until the graduation celebration.

When the training was complete, students and instructors were assembled to congratulate the students for their hard work and success in completing the course. The event included short speeches with one of the most important agenda topics, the Buffalo Joke. Students were very anxious to finally hear this joke which had to be one of the best ever. When it was announced that the speaker would be telling the joke, there was complete silence. Here is the Buffalo Joke:

Two buffalo were running down wide-open prairie enjoying their freedom, when one buffalo slides to a stop. The second buffalo notices his buddy is no longer with him, stops and goes back and asks, "What is wrong, why did you stop?" The first buffalo says, "Quiet, I thought I heard a discouraging word."

While the joke was being told, instructors had cameras taking pictures of the students' reaction to the Buffalo Joke since the joke was on the students. Those that got the joke were groaning and making disappointment sounds, while the other half had bewildered looks. Someone always said, "we waited all that time for that stupid joke." The instructors were laughing and simply said "yes",

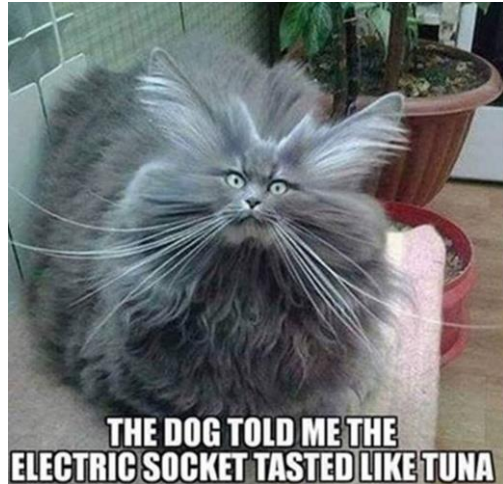
or “gotcha”. For those that were still lost, someone would have to sing the beginning words of the song, “Home, home on the range....” The students’ reaction was priceless and it was well worth the time and effort to set it up a joke on the students. All of us including the students had a good laugh and we made the students promise they would not break the secret to the other students still in the course. Those that did not complete the course must be still wondering about the joke.

Patrol Anxiety

Reactions from Submariners when...



or
When
the
Captain
tells
you to
report
to him
via the
1MC
NOW!



You can't
be
serious

BOTH
of the
Scubber/
Burner's
are down!

United States Submarine Veterans

Minneapolis/St Paul Base



Pride Runs Deep



U.S. Submarine Force