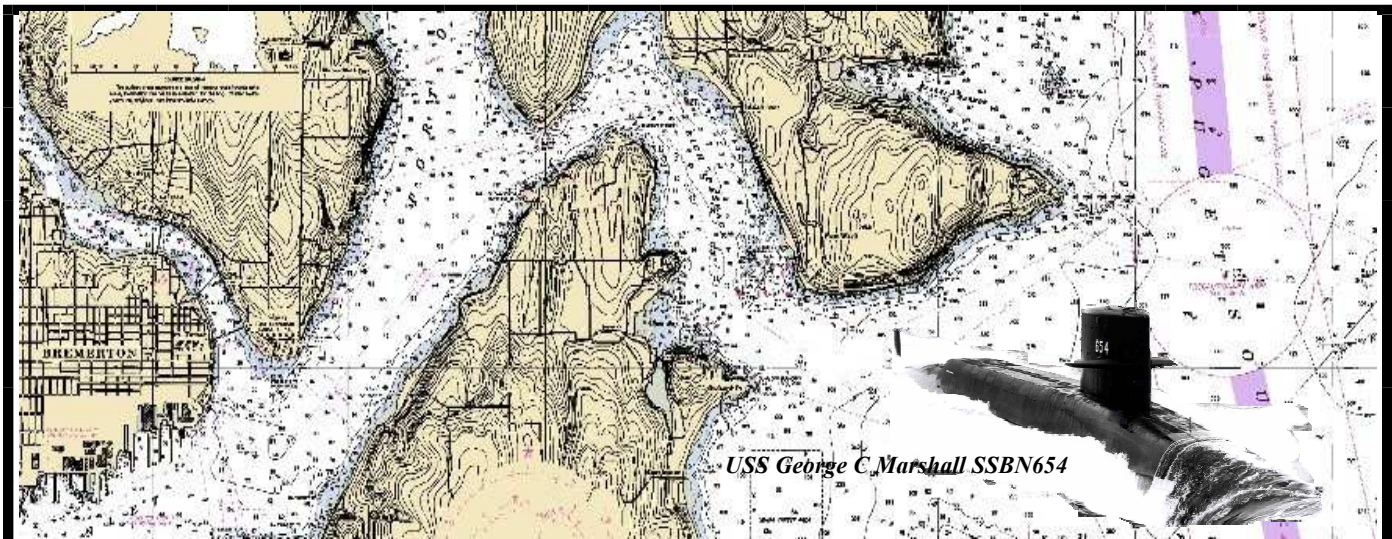




# Puget Soundings

The Bremerton Subvets Bi-monthly Newsletter  
USSVI—Newsletter of the Year



Vol VIII Issue 4

USSVI Bremerton Base, P. O. Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465

Jul/Aug

USSVI & Bremerton  
Base Life Member

## FTCS(SS) Gary “Dutch” Kaiser, USN, Ret. *An Autobiography*

Meet your newly elected Bremerton Base Treasurer. Dutch, like many of us, had a ‘taste’ of the skimmer Navy before coming to our senses and requesting submarine duty. We believe this some-way results in a greater appreciation for ‘das boots.’ In retirement, Dutch volunteers for various subvets projects and teaches a weekly computer class at the Kitsap library.



The Navy was almost always fun and it was an enjoyable way to make a living while doing something worthwhile. I sure enjoyed it right up to my last job. You communication types will appreciate that statement when I get to it.

I quit school as soon as I was 16. That was ok in Illinois where I was born and raised. I hated school from the first day when a teacher stopped me from whistling. I skipped school every chance I got and I was lucky to learn to read, write, and perform basic arithmetic.

After I quit school, I worked in a printing plant, the only industry in my hometown. Most of the employees were WWII U.S. Army veterans. They told me that four years in the Navy couldn't be twice as bad as two years in the Army, so I joined the Navy just before I was drafted. That was in February 1957.

The Navy recruiter didn't promise me a damn thing except three square meals a day and a dry place to sleep, if I was lucky. That sounded pretty good to me. I went to boot camp at Great Lakes. I wanted to be a machinery repairman but I scored one point above minimum for electronics schools and the Navy was desperate for electronics personnel so off I went to Aviation Electronics school to become an AT.

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## Our 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 Government.

### IMPORTANT DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Jul 06—1200 E-Board (FRA#29)
- Jul 12—1500 CPOA Meets, Subbase Bangor
- Jul 16—1100 Annual Base Picnic & Install New Officers at Illahee State Park, Bremerton, WA
- Jul 27—1400 Storekeeper Dene Rogers “Final” Retirement Celebration at TRIDENT Lakes, Subbase Bangor
- Jul 29—1600 South Sound Base hosts Rainiers Baseball game, Tacoma
- Jul 30—0815 Whaling Days Parade, Silverdale
- Aug 03—1200 E-Board (FRA#29)
- Aug 09—1500 CPOA Meets (Subbase Bangor)
- Aug 14—Crosby Day Parade, Crosby
- Aug 16—1900 Base Meeting (FRA#29)

Lt. ‘Willie’ Spoon’s Friday ‘Soup down’ Schedule is on page 16.

### Past Commander’s Report

Shipmates;



Our Lt. William “Willie” Spoon Memorial Scholarship drive this year culminated with another eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships to local High School graduates of active duty & retired Submariners. In addition the Base was able to again give \$1,000 toward USSVI’S National Scholarship program of which we received a personal thank you letter from our National Commander, Tom Conlon. This achievement was due in no small measure to the efforts of our membership, local business’s and the efforts, under constrained conditions, of The Navy Federal Credit Union of Silverdale. Jim Thompson, Credit Union Manager, considers this to be a very worthwhile fund raising endeavor for the Navy Federal Credit Union to be involved in.

Our fireworks stand will be up and running at the Oyster Bay Shopping Center on Kitsap Way in Bremerton from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> to generate funds for next year’s scholarship fund drive. My personal thanks to all the base members involved in making this happen with minimal problems.

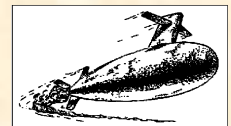
New Base officers have been elected for the 2005-2006 year and will be sworn in at the annual Base picnic, July 16<sup>th</sup>, at Illihee State Park in Bremerton.

The new slate of Base Officers are as follows:

- Commander.....John Gardner
- Vice Commander.....Don “Red” Bassler
- Secretary.....Dick Litscher
- Treasurer.....Gary “Dutch” Kaiser
- COB.....Hank Hollis

Once again my personal thanks to all who have supported me during my tenure as Base Commander and please continue that support and enthusiasm for the new officers.

V/R  
Bob Webster  
Past Commander, Bremerton Base



Commander  
**John Gardner**  
360-692-8994  
jgardner@donobi.net

Vice Commander/  
Membership Chairman/  
Scholarship Chairman/  
Publicity Chairman  
**Don “Red” Bassler**  
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down-scope@comcast.net

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**Dick Litscher**  
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Storekeeper  
**Dene Rogers**  
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gphysics@tscnet

**Vice Commander/Past Treasurer/  
Membership Chairman Comments**



**Treasury:** You can be proud of your work at the fireworks stand or buying fireworks from us last Jun/Jul 2004 for it supplied half the funds that went to our well deserving local submariners' children attending or getting ready to attend college in the form of 8, \$1K checks. Another \$1K was provided to the USSVI Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Fund. Base Commander **Bob Webster** needs to be praised for going through "Hell Week" (leading and busting butt) the past 2 years and taking it on for a 3rd year now.

The other half of the funding and more were acquired by our annual raffle and direct donations to the **Lt. William "Willie" Spoon Memorial Scholarship**. Our supporters in the business community have a great deal to do with this as they supplied most of the raffle prizes and a few made large direct donations as did some of our members. The grand total net was in excess of \$7,000. Our new Base Commander, **John Gardner**, can be proud of leading this effort.

Below is a summary of the treasury, by category, as of June 25, 2005.

General Fund: 18,927.14  
Scholarship Fund: 7,757.44  
Base Life Membership Fund: 19,990.00  
Total \$46,674.58

**Membership:** We took our normal attrition in April as several annual members did not continue their association. **Most will, in the long term.** We dropped from 284 members to 269, and are now at 272.

**For those with National Life Membership and annual base membership (\$10/yr),** I suggest you take base life before the end of September as your annual dues will be applied to your base life membership. Our base bylaws were amended to return to pre 2005 rates: over 65, \$50; 55-64; \$100; 45-54, \$150; <45, \$250.

On 31 July, I turn over Base Treasurer duties to **Dutch Kaiser**. I will give him a thorough turn over and will be always available to advise. Dutch is computer literate and will have no problem keeping our finances in order.

I will then take over Vice Commander duties. As you know, the Vice has nothing to do, but substitute...but if you look at the bylaws he does have something to do....if he wants too. However, I will also assume the **Willie Spoon Scholarship** drive next year. I owe this not only to **Willie**, but **Bev Rogers** and base founder, **Tudor Davis**, for their persistence to making that endeavor the focus of the base's annual charitable contribution to our local submariners' children and grandchildren.



*Sincerely/ Red*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Bremerton Base  
United States Submarine Veterans**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Submarine Qualified  U.S.  Foreign

First SS Qualification Sub and date  
\_\_\_\_\_

Not Sub Qualified  Sub Support Force

If non-US Navy SS, Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

USN  USNR  Retired  Non-career Military

Other Military \_\_\_\_\_

High Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Years of service: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**(ATTACH LIST OF OTHER SUBS SERVED ON)**

I choose **BREMERTON** Chapter.

Advise me of the closest Chapter(s) (Bases)

Assign me to a local Chapter (Base)

**USSVI CREED:**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the performance of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation towards greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the US Government.

I subscribe to the creed and agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the USSVI.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES**

Five Year: \$90.00  Three Year: \$55.00  One Year: \$20.00

**LIFE DUES**

76+ Years: \$100.00  66 to 75 Years: \$200.00

56 to 65 Years: \$300.00  46 to 55 Years: \$400.00

to 45 Years: \$500.00

**BREMERTON BASE DUES**

Annual: \$10.00  Life: Same as National

## The Past, Present and Future ... Pride Runs Deep

"Dutch" < page 1

While in school someone decided I should be an AQ, Aviation Fire Control. I spent 36 weeks in a 24 week school because I kept flunking the weekly tests. Each week I would go before a board. My instructors told the board that I was trying real hard and I cried a lot so the board kept repeating me until I learned the material.

I finally graduated and went to Fighter Squadron 64 at Alameda, CA. They had just got F3H airplanes with the AERO 19G fire control system. I was the oldest of three AQAN's and the most senior so I was in charge. The AERO 19G was called the most sophisticated fire control system in the world by Aviation and Space Weekly magazine. It had fire control and doppler radars and a primitive computer that the Sparrow 3 missile used for guidance information. The test equipment we used to tune that system weighed over 500 pounds and we had to haul the equipment back and forth from the flight deck to the hanger deck.

The compliment of senior AQ's began arriving. They had converted to AQ in hope of making rate and were ex-Ships Servicemen, Ordnancemen, Boatswain Mates, Cooks, Seabees, Cannon Cockers and you name it. They were Chiefs, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class POs and they relied on us Airmen to teach them the technical maintenance of the system. In turn they showed us the ropes of the way the Navy worked! Interesting to say the least. I made three nine month cruises aboard the *USS Midway CVA-41* in the next 3 years.

I married my neighbor, Katie Fitzsimmons, in our hometown while on Christmas leave from "A" school. We are still married. I count that the luckiest thing that ever happened to me. We did not see much of each other in my first four years in the Navy.

One time in Yokosuka, I had shore patrol, assigned to the riot squad. We were called to a bar to break up a fight. There were about a dozen sailors fighting. Four, as I remember, were Submariners and we took them back to the boat. The SP Officer told the topside watch to get the Duty Officer. The DO came out of that fleet boat hatch greasy and disheveled. The SP Officer demanded the Submariners be punished for their transgressions and the DO said he would see to it the very next day. I don't think anything ever happened to them do you? Submariners also had overnight liberty in Japan whereas we had Cinderella liberty. That convinced me the Submarine Navy was pretty good.

During the second cruise one of the Quemoy Matsu incidents occurred. We spent much time in the Taiwan straights and received a Expeditionary Medal. I never saw any bullets but some of our airplanes returned with holes in them.

When my four years were up, I had enough, got out of the Navy and we went back to our hometown. I went back to work at the printing plant making lead "pigs" for linotype machines, and was lucky to get the work. Later, my Navy training helped me land a job with the telephone company in the big city, (30,000 souls), 35 miles away. It paid a whopping \$1.25 an hour. I worked the "frame" changing telephone numbers by soldering wires to different lugs. A co-worker had been with the company 40 years and I remember thinking, is this all there is?

One day I looked out the window and saw a Navy Chief

going into a bar across the street. At lunch time I went over and joined him. After a bunch of drinks he re-enlisted me in the Navy. The wife was happy when I told her although she thought I should have talked it over with her before signing. She was glad to see a steady wage as we had our oldest son by then.

I went to AQ "B" school in Memphis, TN and then ordered to instructor duty at AQ "A" school, also in Memphis. Our next son was born there. During lunch one day I was reading an article in *All Hands* that described the two crew concept of FBM's. Whoa! This sounded real good to me. Three months on and three months off. I ask the Personnel Office to write a letter requesting a transfer to the FT rate and Submarines. After much pleading I finally got the letter written but much to my surprise it was sent to the Bureau without any recommendation either way. Several months went by and I did not hear anything so I thought my request had fell on deaf ears.

Low and behold, one day a Captain wearing both Dolphins and Wings (I suppose that is the only way he could get on an Airdale base), showed up and announced that those desiring conversion to ET and FT should meet with him. I told him my story and said I would like to volunteer. He said, "You are accepted and will get orders." I've often wondered if my letter gave someone the idea of converting Airdales to Submariners. The Submarine Force was expanding rapidly and there was not enough qualified people to man all the boats.

Sure enough, three weeks later I received orders to Sub School. After Sub School I went to Damn Neck, VA for "C" school then on to the *USS George C. Marshall SSBN-654* in new construction at Newport News. I was one of the first crew members to get there. Most of the crew was former Fleet Boat sailors including both Captains. I sure learned a lot from them. It was a lot of work but a fine experience. We commissioned the *Marshall* and was stationed at New London. I made seven patrols.

Early into one patrol a mess cook dropped a garbage container on the ball valve on the GDU. It opened but could not be shut. The "A" ganger's tried everything but could not get it shut. The GDU was broken for the rest of patrol. We

stored dry garbage in the torpedo and engine rooms. Wet garbage or "garbage sickles", as we called them, went into the freeze box. Upon surfacing for approach to Rota we started dumping the garbage over board. The "garbage sickles" began thawing as we hauled them up the ladder to throw them out the sail hatch. Oh boy, did we smell pretty! We set the

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Dutch in the Missile Control Center (MCC)  
*USS George C. Marshall (SSBN654)*

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record for a smelly boat entering port. The tender sailors were holding their noses as we came alongside.

Someone, it must have been a nuke, got an idea to collect and save all belly button lint in a jar to raffle away at the off crew party. Mission accomplished! A lucky wife won the raffle. Boy was she happy—a gallon jar of belly button lint.

The *Marshall* was involved in an incident described in *Blind Man's Bluff*. When it occurred we were forcefully warned to keep it a secret so I was surprised to see it described in the book. Most thought repairs necessary to make the boat seaworthy again could not be accomplished by the tender in Rota. Everyone was amazed when the Repair Officer said it could be done. He and his crew of Divers and Shipfitters did the impossible. That repair job was the most amazing thing I saw while in the Navy. They fabricated a giant cofferdam on the tender helo deck while "the Russian fishing fleet" watched. It was November so someone painted "BOB HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOW" on the fabrication.

I made Chief at New London and was initiated the "old way" at the Chiefs Club. You, who have been there, may remember some of the characters who hung around. The initiation started at noon and at 1600 we "new" Chiefs were thrown into Rock Lake. The water was sure cold in May. That may have been the last time new Chiefs were tossed into the lake. After the ceremony we had a hell of a party.

I got orders to Damn Neck for instructor duty after my tour on *Marshall*. Except for some pretty wild parties the tour was rather mild compared to duty aboard a Submarine. When my rotation time came I went to *USS Francis Scott Key SSBN 657* in overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Yard.

I arrived at the beginning of the overhaul. The yard period was uneventful except for a steam valve that was under test on a barge. It came loose and hit our van broadside. The yard safety crew said that the trajectory was such that if our van had not been there the valve would have gone into the machine shop and may have killed someone. The yard paid for restoration of the van, but it was never the same.

*Key* left Bremerton and went to Charleston where we made several patrols. During an off-crew I happened to mention to the wives that their family grams were boring. We always got the same old messages. You know, "Everything alright", "I love you", etc. Boy that was a mistake. Katie and some of the other wives took my statement as a challenge and I received no more boring family grams albeit some were rather strange. One of them read:

"BOY AND GIRL. BORN 14 JUN, FLAG DAY. TIME. 12 STRAIGHT UP. PLACE, IN THE CLOSET WITH THE MARINE. LOCATION, AT KATHY HANSON'S. CONDITION, WELL. MOTHER, SQUIRRELLY. NAMES: PETER OUT. JOY IN. SANTA'S GIFT ARRIVED EARLY. LOVE, KATIE"

I was puzzled by this. I even accused the Radiomen of making it up but the CO assured me it was a "real" family gram. Subsequent family grams were just as mysterious. The entire crew looked forward to my family grams so they could guess at what was going on. I figured they were some kind of

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## On Eternal Patrol

### July

*USS Runner*  
(SS-275)

*USS S-28*  
(SS-133)



*USS Robalo*  
(SS-273)

### August

*USS Grunion*  
(SS-216)

*USS Harder*  
(SS-257)

*USS Flier*  
(SS-250)

*USS Bullhead*  
(SS-332)

*USS S-39*  
(SS-144)

*USS Cochino*  
(SS-345)



dp. 1475 tons (surf.), 2370 tons (subm.); l. 307'; b. 27'; s. 20k (surf.), 8.75k (subm.); td. 300'; a. 1-3"/50, 6-21" tt. fwd., 4-21" tt. aft; cpl. 6 officers - 54 enlisted men; cl. "GATO"

Keel laid down by Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, Manitowoc, WI 24OCT42;

Launched: 9MAR43; Sponsored by Mrs. Edmund S. Root; Commissioned: 28SEP43 with Cdr Stephen H. Armbruster in command.

*ROBALO* was sunk 26 July 1944, two miles off the western coast of Palawan Island as a result of an explosion of her After Battery. Four men swam ashore, an officer and three enlisted men: Samuel L. Tucker, ENS; Floyd G. Laughlin, QM1; Wallace K. Martin, SM3; and Mason C. Poston, EM2. They made their way through the jungles to a small barrio northwest of the Puerto Princesa camp. They were captured there by Japanese Military Police, and confined in the jail. They were held for guerilla activities rather than as prisoners of war, it is said. On 15 August 1944, they were evacuated by a Japanese destroyer, and nothing further is known of their destination or whereabouts. They may have been executed by the Japanese or the destroyer may have been sunk. At any rate, they were never recovered and their note stated that there were no other survivors.

It is doubted that a battery explosion could be sufficiently violent to cause the sinking of the boat; more likely *ROBALO* struck an enemy mine.

*ROBALO* earned two battle stars for World War II service.

Source: [www.subnet.com](http://www.subnet.com)

## These Establishments Support Bremerton Subvets

The establishments or people listed below provided prizes for the 2005 William "Willie" Spoon Memorial Scholarship Raffle, or in some cases donated money directly to the scholarship fund. If appropriate, please consider using their products and/or services when the need arises. They are truly community oriented and support the efforts of the Bremerton Subvets in helping young people fulfill their dreams.

### Ohio's (SSBN 726) \$500+

Navy Federal Credit Union  
Silverdale

Bremerton Subvets  
Bremerton

### Virginia's (SSN 774) \$100-\$499.99

Dr. Tim Verharen, DDS  
Silverdale

AMI International  
Bremerton

Red Lion Hotel  
Silverdale

*Direct Private Donors:*

G. Drumm

B. Frederick

R. Anderson

### Seawolf's (SSN 21) \$50 + \$99.99

PIP Printing  
Bremerton

Azteca  
Poulsbo

Skateland  
East Bremerton

Centering Massage  
Silverdale

Tony's Italian Restaurant  
Bremerton

Floataion Device Pub & Grill  
Gig Harbor

Creative Edge  
Silverdale

Narrow's Landing  
Gig Harbor

Fleet Reserve Assoc # 29  
Bremerton

Yacht Club Broiler  
Silverdale

Silver City Brewing Co.  
Silverdale

Boat Shed  
Bremerton

*Direct Private Donors:*

N. Wollam, A. Durkee, A. McColl, D. Bassler, Barbel Base, J. Spoon, G. Baer, L. Sweeney, B. Atkins, J. Van Doran

### Los Angeles' (SSN 688) \$5 - 49.99

Whiskey Creek Steakhouse  
Keyport

Mucky Duck Restaurant  
Poulsbo

Tony Roma's  
Silverdale

Bremerton Symphony  
Bremerton

Sizzler  
East Bremerton

Pats Restaurant & Bakery  
East Bremerton

Don Pancho's  
Silverdale

Mitzel's American Kitchen  
Poulsbo

Mandarin Chinese Restaurant  
Silverdale

Inside Out Café  
Bangor

Red Robin  
Silverdale

Bay Street Grill & Bar  
Port Orchard

*Direct Private Donors and thanks to others that can't be identified:*

S. Foraker, J. Foote, R. Baker, L. Carreti, W. Winans, H. Baker, C. Berg, E. Foskett, W. Woodman, S. Slaton, T. Davis, P. Christopherson, T. Russell, R. Chwasczewski, A. Reibolt, R. Gollen, V. Targett, D. Simmons, V. Peters, R. Paulsen, G. Hooper, G. Brown, R. Becker

## ***Bremerton Subvets 2005 Lt. William "Willie" Spoon Memorial Scholarship Awards***



Megan Walker-Richards   Heather McColl   Katherine Sweet   Jessica Sincich   Mathilde Colborn   Maghan Granito   Janna Matthews   Shayna Worthen

Girls rule! Eight young ladies, outstanding students and daughters of local submarine veterans were rewarded the evening of Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch #29 facility, each with a \$1000 check from the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Bremerton Base through their annual Lt William "Willie" Spoon Memorial Scholarship program. All students were not present as two were out-of-town in college.

After the meeting opening proceedings, the scholarship presentation commenced. Presenting the awards for the Bremerton Subvets was Scholarship Chairman John Gardner.

Megan Walker-Richards, received her fourth scholarship from Bremerton Base. She is enrolled at Washington State and majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of Bruce Richards and Peggy Walker.

Still at college and not present at the awards presentation, Heather McColl has been attending Asbury College and the AROTC at the University of Kentucky. This is her third award. Heather is the daughter of USSVI Bremerton Base member Angus McColl and his wife Sinah Denise.

Katherine "Katie" Sweet received her second award at the meeting. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Sweet of Bremerton. Katie is attending Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL and majoring in mechanical engineering and a minor in Spanish. Her ultimate goal is to obtain a master's degree in civil engineering.

Jessica Sincich, not present, also received her second award and is attending the University of Alaska and majoring in public relations. Jessica's parents are Bremerton Base member Mike and Mrs. Sincich of Bremerton.

Four graduating high school students received awards. Mathilde "Mattie" Colborn, a 2005 South Kitsap High graduating senior, has been accepted at Loyola College in Maryland and at this time has not decided on her major. Mattie is eager to learn and has been involved in many school activities and a volunteer in many community activities. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Colborn of Port Orchard.

Meghan Granito graduated from Central Kitsap High in early June and has been accepted at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA and will major in biology. She was also active in many school, as well as outside activities. Meghan is the daughter Bremerton Base member and Mrs. Stephen Granito of Silverdale.

Another 2005 Central Kitsap High graduate, Janna Matthews will attend Western Washington University in Bellingham and major in business management. She was a leader in school and community activities. Her parents are Bremerton Base member James and Mrs. Matthews of Silverdale.

And last but not least is North Kitsap High graduate Shayna Worthen who plans on majoring in education and has been accepted at Seattle University. She is very enthusiastic about becoming a teacher because of a teacher that helped her in early elementary years. Shayna's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ken Worthen of Silverdale.



The Present

"Dutch" < page 5

joke, but I wasn't prepared for what greeted me when we returned from patrol. My wife and her partners in crime rigged up a full size dummy that looked pretty realistic. They put it in the back of our pickup truck and named him Freddie. I was assured that he was the father of our twins and I was the brunt of many a joke over that incident. It was a small price to pay to see the wives have so much fun teasing me and in a way I was honored.

After my tour on the Key I transferred to Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) at Bangor. I arrived before Trident. What great duty that was. They didn't have much use for an FT in missile production so I was assigned to security—7000 acres and a truck to drive. That meant for some wonderful days in the woods. The fun stopped when someone got a brilliant idea that I was a perfect candidate for Classified Material Systems (CMS) Officer. That job involves total responsibility and control for classified materials. As I mentioned earlier you communication types know what I am talking about. I survived thanks to a great RMI John Crist who taught me a lot and helped me to keep out of trouble. Trident was announced while I was at Bangor which changed the base quite a bit. My tour was up before Trident construction got serious and I retired from the Navy.

I worked for a Defense contractor and for Civil Service and felt I was a misfit in both jobs. Then I landed a job teaching maintenance of an Automatic Fingerprint System for a French company. They sold systems all over the world so I traveled a lot and worked with police in many cities and states and some overseas. I spent a lot of time with New York State and New York City police agencies. That was an education! I can honestly say there isn't enough money anywhere for me to be a policeman.

The Navy was great! I had a lot of fun at each duty station while completing the mission. One of the things that I enjoy now is assembling and disassembling the USSVI fireworks stand with fellow shipmates. No one needs to be "in charge"



Katie and Dutch enjoying a 'Cup-of-Joe' in their kitchen.

because everyone does their share and seems to know what needs to be done. To me this says it all about Submariners. "See what needs to be done and do it!" It's great to share comradeship with other Submarine Veterans. Thank you all.

Gary "Dutch" Kaiser

# National News

## Life Member Personalized Membership Card Program

This program offers all USSVI Life Members the opportunity to have a personalized membership card while helping our SubVet Charitable Foundation. The card will include a picture of the submarine of your choice (most choose their qual boat) in return for a minimum \$50.00 donation to the USSVCF.

Visit <http://www.ussvcf.org/genccard.htm> or contact Fred Borgmann at [ussvi@telebyte.net](mailto:ussvi@telebyte.net) or call 877-542-3483 for more details. Mail your request along with your check to USSVCF to:

US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation  
PO Box 3879  
Silverdale WA 98383-3870

**Be sure and specify which boat.**

### Help Wanted!

USSVI needs some volunteer grant writers to assist in going after grant money for our SubVets charitable foundation. Because there is a 'learning curve' in this process, having prior experience in grant writing is a definite plus. If you are interested and have experience in this area, please contact: Pat Householder, NJVC at [householderp@comcast.net](mailto:householderp@comcast.net) or phone 425 392-0440.

Shipmates,

It is with great pleasure I announce the appointment of T. Michael Bircumshaw of SCAMP Base as our new National Editor of the *American Submariner*. Mike succeeds Jim Terrell. Mike comes to us from a journalist background. He has a vision for the magazine and I believe that he will take our magazine to the next level. We expect great things from Mike.

Running HSN, Tom Conlon, NC

### Subvets & Baseball—Fun in the Sun

South Sound Base invites you to attend a Tacoma Rainier's baseball game on Friday, July 29th at Cheney Stadium. The tail gate party starts at 4 PM, game time is 7:05 PM as the Rainier's take on the Iowa Cubs. Dual Base Member Jan "Bear" Stiffey ([bearussvi@aeroembroidery](mailto:bearussvi@aeroembroidery) or 360-895-3195) is leading this event. Get in touch with Bear to buy a ticket which will include an event T-shirt, (let him know your size), food and drink ...all for 15 bucks, what a deal! You will also have a reserved seat with your shipmates and better halves



## Washington State Legislative Report

Greetings Shipmates, Veterans, and friends all,



The list of 2005 Veteran bills passed and signed by the Governor can be viewed at <http://donmac.org/VLC%20Files/bills.htm>.

I attended the bill signing ceremony yesterday, May 3rd outside in beautiful weather. The Governor signed the last 11 of the bills. She made comment that this was the most Veteran bills ever signed in a single year.

About 150 people attended. And afterwards, the Governor had a reception for Veterans and others there, in the Executive Mansion. Governor's spouse, Mr. Mike, is a Vietnam era Veteran. The Governor mentioned that she had assigned him lots of work on Veterans affairs.

And .....last year there was some discussion about the Silver dining set that was originally from the *USS Olympia C-6* (more info at: <http://www.spanamwar.com/olympia.htm>) The *USS Olympia SSN-717* had to refuse the set as it was too big for a Submarine. Then the question was raised, "Where is the set?" I saw it yesterday. It is a big setting of Silver dining serving pieces. I think the lady said 32 pieces total. (she was one of the staff that keeps the set polished) It is beautiful and on nice display in the public reception area of the Washington State Executive Mansion.

Your Subvets VLC Appointed Representative,

Donmac Smith

## In Memoriam



Captain **James J. Coleman**, USN, Ret., went on eternal patrol on April 30th in Vancouver, WA. He enjoyed a 29 year career and qualified as a Submarine operations officer. At the time of his passing, he was Vice President & General Manager of Pacific Ship Repair and Fabrication's Puget Sound operation in Port Orchard.

Submarine legend, Captain **Slade D. Cutter**, USN, Ret., went on eternal patrol on June 9th in Annapolis, MD. He was one of the Navy's most highly decorated submarine captains of World War II and a star athlete at the U.S. Naval Academy in the '30's. The *Seahorse*, under his command, sank 19 Japanese ships in '43 and '44. He was a four-time recipient of the Navy Cross, and also received two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star.

Electronic Technician **Matthew T. Moore**, USN, 23, of Bremerton went on eternal patrol on June 12th in Klamath Falls, OR. He served on the *USS Henry M Jackson* and was serving aboard the *USS Kentucky* at the time of his death.

*Although these departed submariners were not members of Bremerton Base they still remain brothers of the pin.*

**Sailors, Rest Your Oars!**

**USSVI National Conventions for the next four years are scheduled as follows:**

- 2005 Kansas City, MO 29 Aug - 4 Sep**
- 2006 North Little Rock, AR 5-10 Sep**
- 2007 Seattle, WA - Alaska Cruise 15-22 Sep**
- 2008 Dallas-Ft Worth, TX (TBA)**



Red's Car Pool—He took photos.

## District Nine News

Farragut Base CDR Jim Dunn and his crew did an outstanding job of hosting the District 9 Conference in Post Falls, ID. We car pooled to the Naval Acoustic Research Center on scenic Lake Pend Oreille for a briefing by the OIC and a personal tour of the facility that included an up close look at *LSV 2 Cutthroat*.

The conference was attended by 25 members from several Bases. D9 CDR Ted Hunt discussed National Semi-annual meeting topics that

included the potential purchase of a building to house the National Headquarters and Library and recent redistricting of the Western Region. Ted also discussed recruiting and retention, proposed frequency of Region and District meetings, and National Awards nominations.

A wonderful dinner, followed by a submarine birthday ball, concluded the weekend agenda. **BZ Farragut Base!**



Resplendent as ever in Dinner Dress—Nice Skirt Robbie!



These are the men who lead the way, the men we learned from and who trained and taught us to be the best Submariners in the greatest Submarine Navy the world has ever seen. In Wartime or in Peacetime. They are the men who showed us the way. Instilled us with Pride. Helped us to earn our Dolphins and set the high standards for all US Navy Submariners to achieve.

Submarine pioneers, ancient submariners, legends of the Submarine Navy or just the "Old Guys". Call them what you will, this is a salute to our senior shipmates.

Bill Britt, USSVI-Holland Club Commander

### BREMERTON BASE HOLLAND CLUB SAILING LIST

#### Name—Qual Boat—Year

Claude Cunningham, *Tautog* (SS199), '43  
 Kenneth Martinson, *Puffer* (SS268), '44  
 Isaac Peterson, *Snapper* (SS185), '44  
 Robert "Robbie" Robertson, *Tirante* (SS420), '44  
 Henry Baker, *Finback* (SS230), '48  
 Bert Bates, *Bang* (SS385), '43  
 C.T. "Skip" Benefiel, *Bluegill* (SSK242), '52  
 Carl "Bud" Berg, *Charr* (SS328), '50  
 Raymond "Ray" Binns, *Sea Poacher* (SS406), '53  
 Richard Breckenridge, *Pollock* (SS180), '41  
 Louis Bunte, *Remora* (SS487), '49  
 Norman Carkeek, *Cusk* (SS348), '49  
 Paul Christofferson, *Raton* (SS270), '44  
 Tudor Davis, *Halibut* (SS232), '45  
 Gerald "Jerry" Drumm, *Segundo* (SS398), '52  
 "Crazy" Carl Edensword, *Sennet* (SS408), '54  
 Lowell Everett, *Volador* (SS490), '51  
 Ed Ferris, *Drum* (SS228), '44  
 Lester "Ray" Franks, *Tilefish* (SS307), '49  
 Russell Gollen, *Blower* (SS325), '48  
 Robert "Snake" Greenawalt, *Aspro* (SS309), '45  
 Rodney Hansen, *Bergall* (SS320), '45  
 Michael Heberling, *Stingray* (SS186), '44  
 Caspar Hiatt, *Gunnel* (SS253), '46  
 Bill Hipp, *Flounder* (SS251), '44  
 George Hooper, *Blackfin* (SS322), '51  
 William Hutterman, *Blower* (SS325), '49  
 E.T. "Johnny" Johnson, *Bumper* (SS333), '44  
 Edward "Ed" Jones, *Sterlet* (SS392), '51  
 John Kidder, *Caiman* (SS323), '44  
 Edward "Mike" Lovejoy, *Caiman* (SS323), '49  
 Edward Lyons, *Pickerel* (SS524), '53

James Mason, *Bugara* (SS331), '49  
**Mancel May, *Spearfish* (SS190), '40**  
 William McKenzie, *Caiman* (SS323), '50  
 William Mulvenna, *Sea Leopard* (SS483), '54  
 Albert Packard, *Caiman* (SS323), '52  
 Merle Parise, *Volador* (SS490), '54  
 James Parker, *Tilefish* (SS307), '52  
 Donald "Don" Pennington, *Cobia* (SS245), '52  
 Bruce Pierson, *Sea Devil* (SS400), '47  
 Albert Rieboldt, *Pickerel* (SS524), '52  
 Robert Rowley, *Segundo* (SS398), '53  
 Theodore Russell, *Pampanito* (SS383), '44  
 Raymond Scheffer, *Gurnard* (SS254), '43  
 Edward Schulze, *Cusk* (SS348), '52  
 Richard Shelton, *Besugo* (SS321), '53  
 Thomas Simonson, *Bergall* (SS320), '49  
 Ronald Stroud, *Hardhead* (SS365), '53  
 Leo Sweeney, *Redfin* (SS272), '44  
 Jack Webb, *Sea Dog* (SS401), '50  
 Kenneth Wilkins, *Skate* (SS305), '45  
 Wayne Winans, *Remora* (SS487), '46  
 William Woodman, *Dogfish* (SS350), '53

#### Members eligible to be inducted this year

Robert Liland, *Sirago* (SS485), '54  
 Robert "Bobby" Baker, *Carbonero* (SS337), '55  
 Oliver "Dave" Davenport, *Carp* (SS338), '55  
 Ralph Harris, *Crevalle* (SS291), '55  
 Henry "Hank" Hollis, *Torsk* (SS423), '55  
 Harry Marenbach, *Raton* (SS270), '55  
 Stan Marks, *Pomfret* (SS391), '55  
 Lawrence Moore, *Diablo* (SS479), '55  
 Victor Peters, *Rock* (SS274), '55

### Bremerton Base Annual Picnic

Come join the fun on Saturday July 16th at Illahee State Park. Festivities began at 1100. Change of Command for newly elected Base officers is 1200—B-B-Que follows. You bring a side dish to share and your drinks—the Base furnishes sodas, Burgers & Dogs. All submarine veterans & families, including our Canadian brother's are invited. Come on out, say "howdy", tell a sea story, eat a dog, and toss a horseshoe.

#### A Bit O' Bilge Humor

A old retired submarine sailor moved into a retirement community where eligible men were at a premium. After he had been there for a week, he went to confession and said . . .

"Bless me Father for I have sinned. Last week I was with seven different loose-morale women."

The priest replied, "Take seven lemons, squeeze them into a glass and drink the juice without pausing."

"Will that cleanse me of my sins, Father?"

"No," said the priest . . ."but it will wipe that shit-eatin' grin off your face."

## Here is Where You Find Out What Went On!

### Minutes of the meeting conducted 05/17/05.

Commander **Bob Webster** called the meeting to order at 1900.

- Forty-one members were in attendance. Guest **Bob Urie** and potential members **Dave Neemy** and **Don Cassidy** were introduced.
- **Bob Urie** of the Kitsap Veterans Coalition asked that Bremerton Base assist by helping get pledges at the Mall on June 5<sup>th</sup> for local area residents to fly their flag on Flag Day. There will also be a Flag Day presentation at 1300 at the Mall on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Opening observances were conducted.
- Members are reminded that nominations for base officers are still open.
- The National Districts have been reformed. Bremerton Base is now in Western District 4. Nominations are open for District Commander. Summit nominations to our Base Commander.
- Members are invited to participate in the Bangor Memorial Day program on May 27 and the Armed Forces Day Parade on May 21. The parade position will be Section C, space 70.
- We are also reminded that the annual picnic will be at Illahee State Park on July 16. See the COB for details.
- Minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.
- Treasurer **Don Bassler** reports assets of over \$54,000.
- Membership Chairman **Don Bassler** noted a drop of 14 members who have not paid 2005 dues. If the dues by-law changes pass as expected, local members may apply their membership fee to a base life membership.
- *Puget Soundings* Editor **Tommy Robinson** announced the deadline for the next issue is June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Scholarship Chairman **John Gardner** has received 17 applications. The selection committee will meet May 19<sup>th</sup> at the National Office. **Steve Corcoran** and **Ken Hicks** volunteered to be on the selection committee.
- Holland Club Chairman **Ed Foskett** announced that letters have been sent to eight eligible members to this select club. Nominees include: **Robert Baker, Oliver Davenport, Ralph Harris, Henry Hollis, Robert Liland, Harry Marenbach, Stan Marks, and Victor Peters.**
- National Office Manager **Fred Borgmann** reports that he is tracking 10,937 members. 959 have not paid 2005 dues and have been dropped from the active roster. He expects over 250 of those may decide to pick up their memberships.
- Webmaster **Don Mac** hasn't heard of anything wrong on the website.
- 2007 National Convention Cruise Coordinator **Bud Berg** reports he got a warm reception at the District IX convention but a fairly cool reception at the USSVI WWII the following week. 600 people have signed on so far.
- The third reading of the proposed changes to the Bremerton Base By-laws was conducted. Article II. DUES is the subject of change. Currently Section 1 states that our dues are at least \$10 plus the National dues but no more than twice the National dues. The proposed change will allow the E-Board to establish annual dues. Section 4 currently sets Base Life Membership eligibility and dues to coincide with National. The proposed change will allow the Base to continue National eligibility requirements but set its own dues structure which reverts back to the same dues as 2004. A motion was made to accept the proposed changes to the Base By-laws as read and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Veterans Legislative Coalition Rep **Don Mac** reports a successful state legislative session in Olympia this year. He summarized the measures passed and noted that veterans are now eligible for personalized license plates. He also reminded us that the Russian Foxtrot submarine has left Seattle and is now a part of the maritime museum



Secretary **Dick Litscher**

in San Diego.

- Members are reminded that the committee is still looking for ideas for a 2007 convention cruise logo.
- Iraqi Field Hospital Coordinator, **Bob Paulsen**, reports a \$203 package is on its way. He is working with Army Major **Nadal**. Master Chief **Bofinger** has a \$250 check from the Northwest CPO association for another shipment.
- The raffle winner for both raffles was **Lloyd Willette**. The Base received \$40 for the 50/50 and \$29 for the hat.

The meeting was adjourned at 1958 hours.

### Minutes of the meeting conducted 06/21/05.

- Commander, **Bob Webster**, called the meeting to order at 1900. Thirty members were in attendance. **Dene Rogers'** brother **Will** was present as a guest. Master Chief **Steve Granito**, COB, *USS Alaska (SSBN732)* Gold reported as a new member. National Senior Vice Commander **Jim Foote** also attended and reminded the membership to vote for the new Western District 4 Commander. Six of the eight scholarship winners with some of the family members were present and introduced themselves.
  - Opening observances were conducted.
  - Nominations for Bremerton Base Officers were closed. There were no contested positions. A motion was passed unanimously to accept the officers as nominated.

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Base Commander:      | <b>John Gardner</b>  |
| Base Vice Commander: | <b>Don Bassler</b>   |
| Base Secretary:      | <b>Dick Litscher</b> |
| Base Treasurer:      | <b>Gary Kaiser</b>   |
| Chief-of-the-Boat:   | <b>Hank Hollis</b>   |
  - Dene Rogers announced his retirement party will be July 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The business meeting was adjourned at 1907 hours.
- The scholarships were presented to the winners. (See page 7)**
- The \$500 First Prize of the Bremerton 2005 Scholarship Raffle was won by Doug Smith.
  - The meeting raffle winners were: **George Schaefer** won the 50/50 (\$26.50) which he donated to the Iraq Project. **Lloyd Willette** won the Hat (\$32).

Refreshments were served at 1925 hours.

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**Dene Rogers is Retiring**  
**(FINALLY)**

**TRIDENT LAKES SUBMARINE BASE BANGOR**  
**JULY 27, 2005 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM**  
**Shipmates, Co-workers, Friends, Acquaintances**  
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**Join Bev & me for a refreshment and a sea story**  
**NO GIFTS PLEASE**

**If you do not have base access**  
**Call (360) 396-4111 and ask to be added**  
**to the temporary access list**

## Memorial Day—Tolling The Boats at Bangor

USSVI-Bremerton Base, again participated in the CSG-9 Memorial Day Observance held at Deterrent Park on Bangor. Adm Mell Williams gave a fine address praising all veterans, especially those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. We had a good turn out and four members participated in the Tolling of the Boats ceremony. They are:

**Tudor F. Davis, TMC(SS), USN(ret.)** Tudor represented WWII era Subvets. He founded USSVI Bremerton Base in 1981. He has been a leader in both WWII Subvets and USSVI and served as their National President and Commander, respectively, in the past. Tudor served in several diesel boats, made patrols in WWII, and commissioned and went on patrol in *USS George Washington (SSBN-598)* prior to retirement in 1960.

**Gerald E. Peeling, TMC(SS), USN(ret.)** Jerry represented the Cold War era Subvets. He served in diesel boats from 1964 to 1979, and also served in *USS George Washington (SSBN-598)* from 1980-84 before retirement.

**ETCM(SS) Brian "Bo" Bofinger, USN, CMC, CSS-19** represented the Post Cold War era and active duty Subvets.

He has served on several SSN 688's and SSBN 726's from 1984 to 2003.

**CMDCM(SS) Ron Johnson, USN, CSG-9**, also an active duty subvet, read the scroll of lost Boats.



Bremerton Base bell ringers, L-R, Gerry Peeling, Tudor Davis, and ETCM(SS) Brian Bofinger

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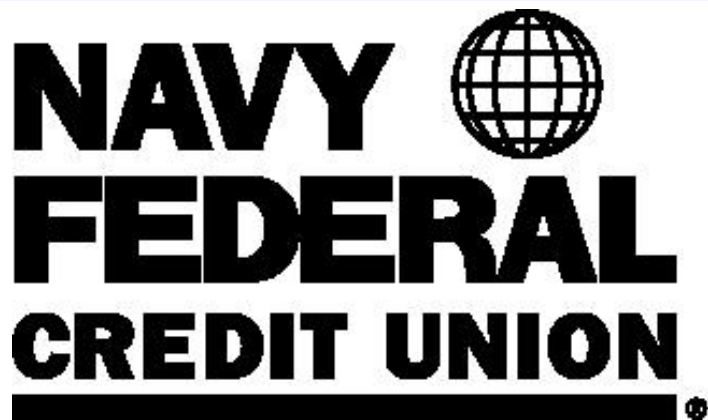
**USSVI 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE  
SEPT. 15 - 22, 2007

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For more details and to book, visit [www.aaawin.com/submarine](http://www.aaawin.com/submarine)

- As part of our 2007 cruise planning effort, cruise parking coordinator, Ed Foskett, is asking for names and addresses of members living in the Puget Sound area that have space available to accommodate RV's and are willing to host parking for subvets who arrive by RV to attend the convention cruise. If you can help a fellow subvet save some money on Port of Seattle parking fees by allowing him to park in your yard during the cruise, please contact Ed at 360 830-4187 or by email at [joedfoskett@earthlink.net](mailto:joedfoskett@earthlink.net).
- New rules being implemented by the federal government will require each person going on the 2007 convention cruise to have a valid passport.



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Expires 6/30/05

**Welcome Aboard  
USSVI-Bremerton Base**



**Don Jassek** (*Stonewall Jackson, Bonefish, Patrick Henry, Kamehameha, George Washington, Tunny*), recruited by life member **Jerry Peeling**

**Dave Niemy** (*Mario G. Vallejo, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington Carver, Ohio*) recruited by life member **Jim Smith**

**Chuck Meeker** (*James Madison, Triton, James K. Polk, Daniel Webster*).

**Steve Granito** (*Florida, Nevada, Honolulu, Georgia, Alaska*), recruited by **John Gardner**

**Mike Noster** (*Theodore Roosevelt, Ohio, Alabama, Trepang*), recruited by **John Gardner**.

***Hope to see you at our meetings!***



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Expires 4/30/06

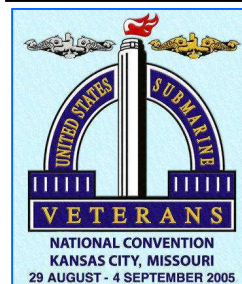
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Please contact *Puget Soundings* Editor  
Tommy Robinson for details at 360 871-6899  
or [ss\\_ssn\\_ssbn@wavecable.com](mailto:ss_ssn_ssbn@wavecable.com)



**USSVI—National Convention**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
**29 Aug-4 Sep 2006**

**Make your reservations!**  
Visit [www.tjcssubbase.org](http://www.tjcssubbase.org)  
for the convention home  
page, event schedule and  
boat reunions.

Expires 4/30/06



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*Puget Soundings—July/August 2005 Issue*

*USSVI Bremerton Subvets Bi-monthly Newsletter*

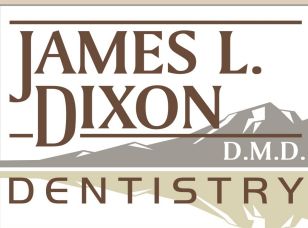


To make informed decisions about anything that is important we need access to current information. I offer a wide range of educational services to organizations and businesses that focus on employers and employees making informed decisions about their retirement programs, managing money, preventing identity theft, investing and a variety of insurance programs.

I have also teamed with the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) to offer a no cost 10 hour course which is specifically geared toward High School students and young couples. This course provides the basic concepts necessary to make good decisions about finances. Balancing your checkbook, paying yourself first, investing 101, Roth and Traditional IRA's etc.... if you are working with a youth group or have many young people in your organization this program is ideal for you. I do need at least 3 weeks lead time on this particular program, NEFE drop ships all the materials directly to you at no cost.

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## Submarine Cuisine

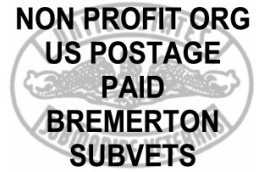
SRC announces its most recent publication. Over 180 pages, over 50 authentic submarine recipes with pictures of galleys and crews' mess, original menus and forms and many salty stories of the good old days in the after battery, eating the best chow in the Navy. Learn how the cooks overcame foul weather, snorkeling, and lack of space to produce meals fit for kings.

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UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS  
BREMERTON BASE  
PO BOX 465  
SILVERDALE WA 98383-0465  
Issue Date, July 1, 2005

We Meet Monthly at 1900 (7 PM) at  
FRA29, 521 National Ave., Bremerton:  
—Sat, Jul 16th, *Annual Base Picnic at Illahee State Park*  
—Tue, Aug 16th, *Guest Speaker is TBD*

The Present

### Lt William "Willie" Spoon Official Friday Lunch Schedule



Friday 1145

- Jul 08 Horse & Cow, North Lake Way, Chico
- Jul 15 Don Pancho's Family Mexican, 10600 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale
- Jul 22 Sizzler, 3558 Wheaton Way, Bremerton
- Jul 29 FRA #29, National Ave., Bremerton
- Aug 05 Whiskey Creek, 1918 Washington Street, Keyport
- Aug 12 Floation Device Pub & Grill, 14511 Sherman Drive NW, Gig Harbor
- Aug 19 Mucky Duck Restaurant, 19559 Viking Ave NW, Poulsbo
- Aug 26 Boat Shed, under Manette Bridge, East Bremerton
- Sep 02 Red Lion Inn, Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale

### Take a break—come to lunch!

These establishments support the  
Lt. William "Willie" Spoon  
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<http://gertrude-check.up-scope.org>

## Armed Forces Day Parade

The city of Bremerton paid tribute to the men and women of the armed forces, both active duty and retired, with the nation's largest and longest running Armed Forces parade.



Subvets-Bremerton Base had an excellent turn out for the 57th annual Armed Forces parade on May 21st and won the Mayor's Award for Best Towed Display.



Dene Rogers "command car" lead the Bremerton submarine veterans.



We sincerely appreciate the help of our active duty members and a special "Thanks" to ETCM (SS) Brian "Bo" Bofinger for towing the Bonefish Float with his shiny new white truck.

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