



Underway in WESTERN DISTRICT 4

VOL 4 Issue 1 April 2013



WD4 Commander's Comments

Shipmates and Friends,

Spring is here and time for outdoor functions and events. Each Base in its own way has shown what our organization is all about; patriotism, comradeship, community service, spirit of achievement and fun. I'm very proud of all of you. I hope to visit all Bases in District 4 over the next year. The Traveling Dolphins have been making their way from Base to Base. **They are at Bremerton Base waiting to be captured.**

I hope you had a nice Easter and the rabbit left goodies to enjoy.

I am open to suggestions, comments and constructive criticism when appropriate. My phone numbers are:
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Fraternally,
John Mansfield, WRD 4 Commander

WD 4 Base Commanders 2011

- Blueback Base - Ray Lough
- Bremerton Base – Jim DeMott
- Central Oregon Base – Johnny Corbin
- Olympic Peninsula Base – John Clear
- Seattle Base – Doug Abramson
- Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC)
Joe Towner
- South Sound Base – Al Smith
- Yakima Base – Rob Jacobsen



**113 Years of Silent Service
and Going Strong**



WD4 – Base Meeting Schedules

Blueback Base – 2nd Thu 1900
VFW Post #4248, 7118 SE Fern,
Portland, OR 97206

Bremerton Base – 3rd Tue 1900
Fleet Reserve Association 521 S.
National Ave., Bremerton, WA 98312

Central Oregon Base – 3rd Sat 1400
VFW Post #4108, 1836 SW Veteran's
Way, Redmond, OR 97756

Olympic Peninsula Base
2nd Thu – 1900
Tri Area Comm. Center
10 West Valley Road
Chimacum, WA 98325

Seattle Base – 3rd Wed 1900
VFW Post 2995 4330 148th Ave NE,
Redmond, WA 98052

Silent Service Motorcycle Club
(Internet Base)
Joseph Towner
Westerly, RI

South Sound Base – 2nd Thu 1900
VFW Post #969
3510 E. McKinley Ave
Tacoma, WA 98404

Yakima Base – 2nd Sat 1830
American Legion Post 36
1120 N 34th Ave
Yakima, WA 98902

April Lost Boats
2rd USS Pickerel (SS-177)
8th USS Snook (SS-279)
10th USS Thresher (SSN-593)
18th USS Gudgeon (SS-211)
22nd USS Grenadier (SS-210)
Sailors Rest Your Oars.

Western Region District 4 Activities



Olympic Peninsula Base

Olympic Peninsula Base continues their busy activities schedule.

The Base holds quarterly “Potluck” meetings where members, their spouses and guests share delicious homemade dishes and desserts. They also include raffles and slide shows using their large screen digital projector.

Members of the Base are getting their ‘torpedo’ float ready for the ‘Fathoms O’ Fun Days’, ‘Port Hadlock Days’, ‘Whaling Days’ and “Armed Forces Appreciation Day’ parades and other events in the area this summer.

The Base held their ‘Holiday Potluck’ on March 14th. The Western District 4 Commander will make an official visit at their April 11th meeting, which is also the 113th Birthday of the submarine service.



Yakima Base presented their newsletter editor, Joel Cooper with the '2012 Shipmate Award'. Their February meeting was held in Ellensburg. Members have had work parties to get the USS Yakima (SSN509) float parade ready with a new paint job and banners. Their Submarine Service Birthday Ball is scheduled for April 13th at the Howard Johnson Inn. They also plan to present Eagle Scout Awards in April. They presented donations to the Veteran Center Food Bank. Base members will hold their May meeting in Wenatchee and appear in the "Apple Blossom Festival Parade". John Dominguez started the "Bonefish" Chapter of the Silent Service Motorcycle Club in Yakima.



South Sound Base

South Sound Base had a successful fundraiser on Veterans Day in front of a local Walmart. Base elections were held at their February meeting. Aubry "Al" Smith is their Commander, Dave Richards, Vice CDR, Ken Board Secretary and Mike Ellis Treasurer.

The Base donated \$200 to VFW Post 969 for their Relief Fund as a thank you for allowing them to hold their meetings in the post's facilities.

Members traveled to Bremerton and captured the Traveling Dolphins in January but Bremerton captured them back a week later. What fun! Members held a 'Soup Down' at The Dock Bar & Grill in Tacoma. Good food and lots of sea stories. Since it was a beautiful day outside, Mike Ellis showed up in his bright red BMW convertible with the top down.



Seattle Base

Seattle Base held a very nice Holiday Luncheon at the Seattle Yacht Club in December. Everyone had a great time. Commander, Doug Abramson, presented the Base's "2012 Shipmate of the Year" award to Karl "Dutch" Krompholz at their January meeting.

Base members made more than \$2,000 in donations to the USSVI Charitable Fund in 2012.

A fundraiser is planned in front of Cabelas in the town of Marysville on April 12th.

Their fundraiser at the Smokey Point rest stop is scheduled for June 28th thru July 1st.

Commander Doug plans to put his classic Chevy in the 'Cruzin to Colby' car show in May.

The base continues to have awesome guest speakers; their most recent was ADM Horton Smith.



The Silent Service Motorcycle Club (SSMC) Internet Base continues to grow at a rapid pace. They have reached 315 members. Elections were held and a new slate of officers is taking over from the original founders.



SSMC Base Commander
Joe Towner

CDR: Joe Towner from the Sub City Chapter in Connecticut.

Vice CDR: Ted Vorce from the Old Dominion Chapter in Virginia.

SEC: John Dale, from Lewis & Clark Chapter in Missouri.

Treas: Mark Wiggins from Sub City Chapter in Connecticut.

Congratulations shipmates.

SSMC's Western Region Bubblehead Bikers are planning a 'ride' to the Reno, Nevada area early this summer. Many riders will appear in local parades and events, as well as accompanying Patriot Guard groups to memorial services. The Thresher Chapter in Washington state plans to ride in the Armed Forces

Appreciation Day parade in May, Kirkland's 4th of July Parade, and the Auburn Veterans Parade on the 9th of November.



SSMC is a unique group in that the primary base is a cyber group, while there are more than 20 physical chapters with members from nearly 40 states. The group recently divided their chapters into regions, as shown below.

USSVI / SSMC Regions

WESTERN REGION (Ross Myrehn) NM, AZ, CA, NV, UT, CO, WY, MT, ID, WA, OR, AK, HI Western SD, Western NE, Western ND	EASTERN REGION NORTH (TBD) ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, MD, DE, Northern VA
EASTERN REGION SOUTH (TBD) VA, WV, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL MS, LA, FL	CENTRAL REGION (TBD) AR, KS, MO, OK, WI, IL, IN, IA, MI, TX, OH, MN, MD, KY, Eastern ,ND and NE

2014, USSVI is planning their annual convention in San Francisco.

BZ's to Bob Oppe and all of the 'plankowners' in SSMC who have done amazing things over the past five years. The Base has been a tremendous recruiting tool for younger USSVI members, many who are still on active duty..



Bremerton Base

Always busy, with many activities, Bremerton Base has 277 members who participate in activities such as:

April 13 (9:00) Annual Dolphin Dash

NBK Bangor Gym

May 18 (0900) Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade

May 23 (10:00) Tolling of the Boats, Keyport Undersea Museum

May 27 (9:30) Memorial Day Service Evergreen Cemetery, Bremerton.

They have raffles, weekly 'Soup Downs' at local restaurants who sponsor their award winning newsletter "Puget Soundings." Members have captured the Traveling Dolphins twice this winter from South Sound Base in Tacoma.

They tried an experiment at their February meeting where they moved it to Saturday morning, with a free breakfast and guest speakers at the Fleet Reserve Association. An awesome turnout with 70 members and guests listened to officers from USS Maine's (SSBN741) Blue crew, including Jennifer Noonan, one of the first three women to earn their dolphins, as the submarine force goes 'co-ed.'

The have a multi-tiered 'Booster Club', sell and install memorial bricks on the deck of the USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN 624) at Deterrent Park on the base in Bangor.



Blueback Base

Blueback Base held elections; Ray Lough is Commander and Bob Jackson Vice CDR. Members continue to send care packages to troops, mostly in Afghanistan. Their parade float appeared in the Vancouver, Washington Veterans Day Parade and they held a base Christmas Luncheon.

On February 14th members held a Valentines Day luncheon with subvets of WWII and families at the Elks lodge in Hillsboro.

On April 14th, the Base is having a Submarine Birthday lunch in the Clackamas Spaghetti Factory. Their annual picnic is going to be on August 10th.

Blueback members continue to sell bricks to be placed on the Albacore Memorial in Beaverton, Oregon. They've held Holland Club inductions for several members at several meetings. The ladies provide food prior to meetings to raise funds for the group. Their 'Venting Sanitary Inboard' newsletters are always filled with great information both local and submarine force oriented.





Central Oregon Base, the smallest in District 4, with 14 members, continues to be active with their meat raffle fundraisers, and scouting activities. They are sponsoring Sea Cadet programs in local high schools. Base Commander, Johnny Corbin and his wife Lynda maintain the helm at meetings held in the Redmond, Oregon VFW post.

I plan to visit Central Oregon Base, in May if the snow on the mountains is gone by then. Keep up the good work.

USSVI National Convention

The 2013 USSVI National Convention is schedule to be held from August 25th through September 2nd in Rochester, Minnesota. All registration forms, plans of the day, hotels information and special activities schedules are on www.ussvi.org. Click the 'Conventions' button. The 2014 convention is planned for San Francisco.

WRD4 Commander Needs a Relief

Most of you know that I have been WD4 Commander since February of 2009. It's been an honor serving everyone and I've had lots of fun. This district has had very few problematic issues because everyone is doing a fantastic job. Now that I am also Western Region Director, overseeing seven districts in 13 states, I need a relief as district commander. Nominations are open for the position. The one main qualifier is

that the nominee is or has been a Base Commander or District Commander. There are many members who qualify for the position, so don't be bashful. Any member can make a nomination, but the nominee needs to submit his biography and a letter of intent accepting. Get involved.

Photo Ops in District 4



South Sound Base Members



WRD with SECNAV Ray Mabus at the naming ceremony for USS Washington (SSN-787) February 7, 2013.



WRD with Washington Governor, Jay Inslee at USS Washington ceremony.



Ltjg. John Schaeffer, Ltjg. Jennifer Noonan, Executive Officer William (Bill) Johansson, Commanding Officer William (Bill) Johnson. Guest speakers at Bremerton Base meeting.



Proud WRD with Great Grandson Noah Kearney, 4 months old. Their first meeting. March 24, 2013.

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South Sound Base members capturing the Traveling Dolphins from Bremerton.



USS Menhaden (SS 377)



Traveling Dolphins