



Underway in
WESTERN DISTRICT 4
VOL 2 Issue 1 February 2010



WRD4 Commander's Comments

Shipmates and Friends,

I hope everyone is dealing with winter in good form. A few changes have taken place within our District; and one of the first things I'd like to do is give a hearty Welcome to Olympic Peninsula Base. John Clear is Commander with 21 members including seven from Bremerton, Seattle and South Sound Bases as 'dual members.'

Their 7 p.m. meetings are on the 3rd Thursdays of each month in VFW Post 7498, 31 Matheson St, Port Hadlock, Washington. If you know any submariners in the Upper Peninsula area,

please contact John Clear 360-471-5386, or Email: webmaster@ussealion.com.

WRD Jim Dunn orchestrated an administrative move of Inland Empire Base from District 4 to District 3, which makes good sense because it will allow easier access and more visibility for Jerry Parker, District 3 Commander, than myself. Jerry is also forming a new base in the Spokane area. If you know of other submariners in the area, contact Jerry Parker, WRD3 Commander, US Submarine Veterans, Inc., Email: dbf487@msn.com Phone: 208-665-7805.

Elections have taken place in all WRD4 Bases and I extend my Congratulations to each of you new officers who have accepted the call. Many of you continue in the positions as Base Commanders and other leadership rolls, and for that I Thank You.

We look forward to a great year and I hope to have the opportunity to visit each base again soon.

My phone numbers are: Cell (253) 202-6433, Home (360) 569-0507, Fax (866) 765-5893, Email: john@erasumner.com
Fraternally,
John Mansfield
2009 WRD4 Commander

2010 WD 4 Base Commanders
Blueback Base – Chuck Nelson
Bremerton Base – David Niemy
Central Oregon Base – Johnny Corbin
Olympic Peninsula Base – John Clear
Seattle Base – Keith Watson
South Sound Base – David Richards
Yakima Base – Mark Briggs

Base Commander Profiles Needed

As we move into the new year, I'm asking for base commanders to send me a biography for inclusion in future newsletters, so everyone can get to know you. Please include a photo. Thank you.

WD4 Base Commander Profile



**Olympic Peninsula Base Commander
 John Clear EMC (SS) USN Ret.**

"Burdened by the effort of trying to hold down three part-time jobs paying for the joy of carrying a full time college curriculum, I joined the Navy in the spring of 1960.

After the rigors of boot camp, Electrician's Mate "A" School, and Submarine School, I was assigned to the USS Diodon(SS-349), San Diego, for duty during which time I was to earn my dolphins. By 1962, orders sent me to Mare Island for Basic Nuclear Power School and hence to Idaho Falls for Advanced (A1W) nuclear plant training. Upon completion of this year of nuclear

training I was sent back to San Diego to the USS Scamp (SSN-588). More than a year later, after a WestPac cruise, I was ordered to the 6-month Course V Welding School, and then sent to the Westinghouse Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory training in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, prior to reporting in to the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN-640), at Electric Boat, Groton, Connecticut.

In 1965, after being given the opportunity to leave the nuclear program, (which a number of us did), I was to hop a plane to the Mediterranean to catch up with my new home, the USS Forrestal (CVA-59).

Next came 6 months of Electrician's Mate "B" School, then orders to the USS Threadfin (SS410) in Key West.

About a year later I was to carry my sea bag across the pier and join my newest home the USS Sea Lion (LPSS315). In late 1969, upon decommissioning the Sea Lion in the Philadelphia Shipyard, I received further orders to Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility, Norfolk,(yes, the mothball fleet). By the time I was to leave the mothball fleet almost all of the diesel subs were already mothballed, leaving me with orders to the USS Ranger (CVA-61), on the West Coast. There I met my Millie and the two of us married and combined families (I had been a bachelor father of two sons - brave woman, my Millie).

Several WestPacs and a war later, I was transferred to Harbor Clearance Unit One (HCU-1) in sunny Hawaii. A year or so later, upon making chief, I was transferred to the Submarine Base as CPO in charge of the Outside Electrical Shop (51B).

Retirement in 1980 was an easy step away. We remained in Hawaii for another 16 years and finally "pond hopped" to settle in the great northwest, living and enjoying life in Port Ludlow, Washington.

By 2006 after some 45 years working in and around submarines, and having completed the USS Ohio and Michigan conversions as an employee of Electric Boat, I once again retired. Retirement, however, does not become me and the "honey do" lists seem to go too fast..."



Sailor Rest Your Oars



James Haskell USSVWWII

Erwin Schmidt, Paul Kristofferson and I attended funeral services for Jim Haskell, former submariner of WWII in the Garden Chapel at Mountain View Funeral Home in Lakewood, Washington on January 27th. Military honors were provided by the United States Honor Guard. Jim was also a marine during the Korean War era and a U.S. Army veteran.

He was a life member of the VFW, a Red Cross volunteer, ham radio operator, a Nostalgia Car Club member, Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion.

Jim was proud of his American Indian heritage as a Lakota Oglala Sioux. He owned a jewelry store and enjoyed retired life with wife Helen in their 65-year marriage.

WD4 Commander Mailing Address:

**John Mansfield
56407 383rd Ave Ct E.
Ashford, WA 98304
(253) 202-6433
john@erasumner.com**



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 – 3rd Thu
VFW Post 7498 31 Matheson St.
Port Hadlock, WA 98365**

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

**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**

Everyone should be able to keep up on each Base's happenings by logging on to their websites, thus I am not going to repeat them here. I would be happy to include special events, ceremonies and other topics if you submit them.

There is no set publishing schedule, so when I have enough articles to put out an issue I will. Thank you. (Editor)

WRD 4 Base Newsletters

**Blueback Base
“Venting Sanitary Inboard”**

**Bremerton Base
“Puget Soundings”**

**Central Oregon Base
“Down Bubble”**

**Olympic Peninsula Base
“The Mail Buoy”**

**Seattle Base
“The Brotherhood”**

**South Sound Base
“Klaxon”**

**Yakima Base
“The Snorkel”**

Western Region Election Results

Gentlemen; Election results are in with the following results;

Western District Commanders for 2010 and 2011

WR District 1: Jack Messersmith

WR District 2: Dave Linker

WR District 3: Jerry Parker

WR District 4: John Mansfield

WR District 5: George Petershagen

WR District 6: Robert Miller

I want to thank all of you for stepping up and either continuing to do the fine job you have been doing or making a commitment to do the job. Please Join me in thanking Chuck Riley for the job he has done this past 2 years, it is much appreciated. Also please join me in congratulating Jerry Parker in his being elected to WD3. Jerry will do a fine job.

For the incumbents, my gratitude for all of your work and the fine job you have done these past two years.

As a last comment I would like to thank all of the Base Commanders and your members for your help in making this election happen. The members and Base Officers are where everything starts and when we forget this we have lost this great organization.

Fraternally,

Jim Dunn Western Region Director

Northern Washington Base

I am in the process of organizing a new USSVI Base in northern Washington. Eleven prospective members have responded to ads, queries and letters indicating their willingness to participate. It will be located south of Bellingham and north of Seattle, to be determined by the group at their initial meeting(s). So, if you want to ‘beat the bushes’ and roust out other ‘bubbleheads’ in the area, please let me know of your results until a POC is named. john@erasumner.com 253 202 6433.

Olympic Peninsula Base Chartered

In a short ceremony during Olympic Peninsula Base’s February 18th meeting, WRD 4 Commander, John Mansfield presented Base Commander John Clear with their National charter.



Nelson Elementary School Dedication

The Bethel School District (BSD) formally dedicated its newest school, Nelson Elementary in Graham, in ceremonies on Saturday, January 9th.

More than 1,000 students, family members and community supporters filled the gym for the occasion.

Several governmental leaders were in attendance, including Senator Randi Becker (R-Eatonville), Jim McCune (R-Graham) and Pierce County Council representative Roger Bush.

"Bethel has formed a partnership with the community that is committed to a premium education," said Nelson principal Kelly Boynton in his opening remarks.

In addition to voicing frequent praise for the building itself, especially its extensive use of technology, Boynton stressed that the staff, parents and students who comprise the Nelson family "will distinguish Nelson Elementary as a world-class school."

Reflecting Nelson's nickname, "The Navigators," BSD chose a Navy submarine veteran, John Mansfield, Jr., to deliver the keynote address.



"Nelson Elementary is like a ship on land," Mansfield said, "and Principal Boynton is the captain." Mansfield further developed that theme by declaring: "Thank you, teachers and parents - those of you who are navigators of young minds."

A highlight of the event was a special presentation of a naval helm's wheel by Coast Guard Petty Officer Brandon Hoke, a former Graham Elementary and Frontier Jr. High student.

The festivities had other notable moments, especially the entrance music provided by the Frontier Jr. High Jazz Band.

Additional delights were provided by the 4th grade vocal ensemble in their rousing rendition of "Nelson Rocks." They were preceded by the Nelson Choir, who delivered a superb, although a tad muted, presentation of "Seize the Day."

Cupcakes, drinks and visits to classrooms rounded out the festivities.



Members of South Sound Base looked on as new Base Officers were sworn in at their February 11th meeting.



Dave Richards & Don Mansfield

Incoming Base Commander, Dave Richards, accepts the gavel from Past Commander, Don Mansfield following a brief induction ceremony.

**News From USSVI National
Commander, Patrick Householder,**
Shipmates,

Recently USSVI endorsed a project called HONOR AND REMEMBER. Here is an internet link to view this important video about that Flag project now officially endorsed by USSVI.

The mission of this project is to create, establish and promote a nationally recognized flag (Similar to the POW Flag) that would fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms.

All Military lives lost not only in action but also in service, from our nation's inception.

Perhaps your Boat Association will be interested in supporting it as well.

Take a look at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2QY4N_3Fvk

From Rontini's BBS:



**"THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
by Bob 'Flapper' Parker
(With apologies to Clement Clarke
Moore)**

"Twas the night before Christmas, when
all through the sub
Not a swabbie was stirring, not even a
nub;
The stockings were hung by the manifold
with care,

In hopes that St. Rickover soon would be
there;

The non-quals were nestled all snug in
their bunks,
While dreams filled their gourds with gals
and gedunks;
And the COB in his skivvies and I in my
blues,
Had just settled down for a long winter's
snooze.

When outside the hull there arose such a
clatter,
I sprang from my skid to see what was the
matter.

Away to Control I stumbled like a dope,
Turned the control ring and raised up the
'scope.

The moon glinted off the iced-over
Thames River,
Giving rise to some goose-bumps and a
sudden shiver,
What I saw in the eye-piece made me
almost go bonkers

T'was a miniature boat and eight tiny ring-
knockers.

With a little old driver, not at all grimy,
I knew in a moment it must be St.Hymie.

Faster than torpedoes, his khakis they
came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called
them by name:

"Now, X.O.! Now Engineer! Now Weaps
and Ops!
On, Sonar! On, Nav! On, MPA and you
Chops!

To the top of the dock! To the top of the
pier!
Now dash away! Dash away! Get out of
here!"

As sea foam that before the wild hurricane
flies,
When it meets a wave-front lifts to the
skies,
So up to our topsides, the khakis they
flew,
With a boat full of ORSE guys, and St.
Rickover too.

And then, in an instant I heard up on deck
Brown shoes scraping from ORSE board
dreck.

As I ran down the 'scope and was
thinking "Aw, crud!"

Down the bridge access St. Rickover slid,
with a thud.

He was dressed all in khaki, from his head
to his foot,

And his pants were all creased and ironed,
to Boot;

A bunch of unknown material filled his
valise,

Thoughts of what's coming nearly
buckled my knees.

His eyes -- how they glinted, his gaze was
not weak!

His cheeks were like granite, his nose was
a beak!

His tight-lipped mouth meant there might
be trouble,

And his five o'clock shadow appeared as
white stubble;

The stump of a pencil was stuck behind
one ear,

His visage gave me reason the future to
fear;

He had a gaunt face and a thin little waist,
His flesh had no color -- like library paste.

He was scrawny and thin, a right nasty old
elf,

And I cringed when I saw him, in spite of
myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to
dread!

He spoke not a word, but went straight to
his work,

And filled all the stockings; then turned
with a jerk,

And laying his finger along side of his
nose,

And giving a nod, up bridge access he
rose;

He sprang to his boat, to his team gave a
scream,

And away they all flew like the remains of
a dream.

But I heard him exclaim, as he dove out
of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all; there's no ORSE
board tonight!"

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Let it never be said, that we don't
remember.

What Submariners have done, since that
day in December.

The sun shown bright, on that Pearl
Harbor morning.

When the enemy attacked, with little or no
warning.

The Tautog was there, with no time to
think.

And splashed one Japanese plane, right
down in the drink.

She sent twenty-six ships, to the depths of
the sea.

And came to be known, as the "Terrible
'T."

The Sealion at Cavite, was the first to be
caught.

She was moored to a pier, but bravely she
fought.

Two bombs exploded, through the hull
they did rip.

And many brave submariners, died in
their ship.

There were many proud boats, like the
Perch and the Finback.

The Kraken, the Haddock, the Scamp and
the Skipjack.

We remember the Halibut, Blenny and
Darter.

And never forget, Sam Dealey in Harder.
Cutter and Seahorse's, torpedoes ran true.

She targeted the enemy, and sank many
Marus.

And although the enemy, was quite filled
with hate.

"Red" Ramage and Parche, showed many
their fate.

"Mush" Morton and Wahoo, never
backed down from a fight.

Fluckey and Barb, entered Namkwan
Harbor one night.

Many airman were saved, by O'Kane and
the Tang.
Some owe their lives, to Seafox, Tigrone
and Trepang.
We remember the honorable, boat called
Barbel.
Before she was lost, she gave the enemy
hell.
The Sturgeon, the Trigger, the Pollack had
heart.
The Torsk, made the last two frigates
depart.
Nowadays the cold war, seems to be a big
factor.
And submarines are powered, by nuclear
reactors.
The proud names are still there, the
Tautog did shine.
But her hull number by then, was Six
Thirty Nine.
Many boats gave their all, with heroic
namesakes.
Like Thresher, Scorpion, Nautilus and
Skate.
The Seadragon, Swordfish, Richard B.
Russell and Dace.
Have all stood out to sea, and heard the
enemies trace.
We remember "Forty-One For Freedom,"
whose patrols couldn't fail.
The George Washington, Andrew Jackson
and Nathan Hale.
Now the Alaska and Nebraska, and other
Tridents are here.
They patrol the deep oceans, so aggressive
nations have fear.
There are new boats on the line, called
Cheyenne and Wyoming.
They will all do us proud, like the old
Gudgeon and Grayling.
So take time each day, and think of the
past.
Then toast the new Seawolf, for she's
quiet and fast.
Let it never be said, that we don't
remember.
What submariners have done, since that
day in December.

The sun still shines bright, every Pearl
Harbor Morning.
But never forget, the enemy attacks
without warning.

**Author (c) By John Chaffey, Powell,
WY SSN639, SSN687, SSBN619**

Scholarship Info

http://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Scholarship_Application_2010_USSVI_Application_Part_I_A.PDF

http://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Scholarship_Application_2010_USSVI_Application_Part_II_B.pdf

The links above will take you to USSVI Scholarship information. If you are a submarine veteran; have sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters, and they would like to compete for extra funds for college, check out this program.



L to R: WRD4 Commander, John Mansfield, Olympic Peninsula Base Commander, John Clear, National Commander Patrick Householder (Who says meetings can't be fun?)

