

United Submarine Veterans, Inc.

USSVI

United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) is a nationwide organization started in 1964 that has 10,000 members and over 100 Bases.

The USSVI Creed and the purpose of Nautilus Base is:

“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.”

USSVI is governed by a Constitution and a set of Bylaws and led by a set of elected officers: National Commander; Senior Vice Commander; Junior Vice Commander; Secretary and Treasurer.

The organization is divided geographically into three regions; Eastern, Central and Western, with each region having an elected Regional Director. The regions are further divided into Districts with an elected District Commander for each district.

The USSVI magazine *“American Submariner”* is published four times a year and sent to each member. The USSVI web site contains documents, forms, announcements and information on officers, committees, bases, etc. and can be accessed at ussvi.org

There is a National Office in Silverdale, WA that can be contacted by phone at (360)337-2978 or e-mail at USSVI@telebyte.net

USSVI has a convention every year, usually in September. Locations vary throughout the country depending on the host Base. The 2005 convention was in Kansas City, MO and was attended by over 1,000. There are also numerous boat reunions associated with each convention. Future sites already set are: 2006 - Little Rock AR; 2007 - Alaskan Cruise from Seattle; 2008 - Dallas/ Ft Worth TX.

There is a **USSVI Ladies Auxiliary** named **“Subvettes”** that has its own constitution, bylaws, and elected officers.

USSVI National Commander

Tom Conlon

Eastern Regional Director

George Boyle

District 6 Commander

Frank Holland

Nautilus Base

Nautilus Base is an official base of USSVI and part of District 6 in the Eastern Region. There are approximately 60 members, residing mainly in Marion, Lake, and Citrus counties.

Nautilus Base is run by a set of four elected officers and appointed volunteers. The Base has its own set of bylaws. Base business is conducted at monthly meetings, usually the 3rd Saturday of the month, and Base elections are held each January.

The Base newsletter *“The Ships Bell”* is published every month and sent to all members.

Nautilus Base also maintains a web site that can be accessed at: <http://www.nautilusbase.us>

2006 Elected Base Officers

Base Commander: Don Krust

Vice Commander: Ken Cole

Treasurer: Steve Chordas

Secretary: Position Open

Appointed Volunteers

COB: Ed Schuele

Chaplain: Margaret Sexton

Storekeeper: Bill Haskins

Membership Chairman: Mark Gibbs

Newsletter Editor: Dan O Dwyer

Webmaster: Dan O Dwyer

Photographers: Ray Aten & Dan O Dwyer

Committees

Audit

Veterans

Funeral/pall bearer

Ship s Picnic

Submarine Anniversary

Bylaws

Nominations

Publicity

Christmas Party

Property

Nautilus Base is an active base with an interesting and diverse membership. Members served in Fleet Boats, Guppys, Fast Attacks, and Boomers spanning all eras from WWII to the 90 s. A wide variety of rates and ranks are represented since some members only served in one boat while others made a career of the Navy and submarines.

Nautilus Base encourages all members to participate in Base, USSVI, and community events.

Nautilus Base History

Nautilus Base was organized in March 1998 through the combined efforts of Jim Rolle, USSVI, District 4 Commander, Eastern Region; John E. Baker, Raymond Aten, and Dale Danielsen, of Ocala, FL.

An organizational meeting was held on March 21, 1998 in the Marion County Sheriff Sub-Station, Routes 441 and 27, Ocala, Florida.

In accordance with the National By-Laws, the first order of business was to elect Officers and submit the application. Charter Officers elected were: Base Commander, Dale Danielsen; Vice Commander and Chaplain, Raymond L. Aten; Secretary, George Parker; and Treasurer, John E. Baker.

The charter was approved and was formally presented to the Nautilus Base Officers present during the District 4 meeting, Tampa, Florida, May 1, 1998 by National Senior Vice Commander, Jack Ensminger. The Charter was presented to the Crew Members at the 16 May 1998 monthly meeting in Maggie s Restaurant, Ocala, Florida.

The Nautilus Base was named in honor of the three submarines named Nautilus, including the first nuclear powered submarine developed by the Navy. And, of course, all those gallant men who sailed in all submarines.

Nautilus Base Project

The USSVI Nautilus Base, and its members, have completed a very ambitious project; a submarine memorial section within the Ocala - Marion County Veterans Memorial Park in coordination with the Ocala Historical Society.

The Park is located in the center of Ocala at the junction of 25th Street and Purple Heart Blvd. One block from the County Complex and a short drive from the famous Silver Springs Preserve; it is expected to become the largest Veterans Park in the State of Florida. Highlights are the Medal of Honor Plaza and the Walk Of History. In all, more than nine acres will be a lasting educational center for the future. Management and upkeep will be provided by Marion County and the City of Ocala.

Nautilus Base has funded a place of honor within the park to record the accomplishment of submarines and their place in the history of our country.

Nautilus Base Activities

January - The beginning of the New Year means election of officers for the coming year which includes the Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer.

April - April 11 is the United States Submarine Service's birthday. Those boats lost and on eternal patrol with their crews are honored with a Tolling of the Boats at the Ocala Veterans Memorial Park. This is also the month for our annual picnic with members, families and guests.

May - Memorial Day is celebrated by all Veterans Organizations in the Ocala area at the Veterans Memorial Park. There is the Posting of Colors with many Veterans Units displaying their flags, guest speakers and excellent band music for the occasion. This event usually draws a large crowd to the Park.

July - Independence Day on July 4th is an occasion for all to celebrate and the Veterans Memorial Park always has activities and parades.

November - Veterans Day is the time we show off our Submarine memorabilia either at the local malls or at the Veterans Memorial Park. We always draw a good crowd and many times we have more items than we have room to display. These unique displays gives us time to talk to future sailors and answer questions about the Submarine Service.

December - The Base has a Christmas Luncheon at one of the local restaurants with members, spouses, friends and guests. It is also a time for the Toys for Tots gift giving. Members bring new unwrapped gifts for children which are then turned over to the Marine Corps League for distribution through their Toys for Tots Program.

Nautilus Base has a Funeral Honor Guard for our members that is second to none. Organized by our Chief-of-the Boat Soupy Campbell in 2001, it honors our shipmates who have departed on Eternal Patrol. Featured in an article in the "American Submariner" it has drawn requests for information from other Bases and organizations who desire to set up their own version.

Meeting Location

Nautilus Base generally meets at 10:00am on the third Saturday of each month for business. However, if other activities are planned, the meeting may be held at another location, so it is best to check prior to attending.

Regular meetings are held at the Marion County Sheriff's Multi-District Office, located about 2 miles north of Belleview on Highway 27/301/441. The physical address is: **3000 SE 80th Street, Ocala FL**



Phone & Email Contacts

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Contact any of these for an application to join and a current Base Newsletter.



Welcome Aboard!
Submarine Veterans
Nautilus Base
Ocala, FL

