

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 1, Issue 12

January 2006



## THE GREEN BOARD



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

### Columbus Base Newsletter

January 2006—First month of the year—well maybe so, but its also the last month of the first year of publication of your “**Green Board**” newsletter.

As we looked through the cover pages it was easy to feel as a base of mixed ages and naval backgrounds, diesel and nuke, that we should all be proud of where we are to date.

In the past year we have honored our history, paid respect to our lost shipmates, we’ve acknowledged our well deserved national awards.



We’ve celebrated several of our members joining the prestigious Holland



Club and we have looked into the future with the NJROTC.

But who could forget marching in the Columbus Veterans Day Parade with a few crew members from the USS Columbus.



2006 brings new challenges that need the support and involvement of all. The editors would like to thank you for your continued support and input.

Jan & Dave

## Commander's Corner

By Jim "Clutch" Koogler



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COLUMBUS BASE!!! January is our birthday month, having received our charter in January 2004. So this month marks our second birthday... the end of two great years, and the start of what we all hope will be a third. It is you, the Columbus Base members, who have helped to make the past two years so memorable. And it will be you, the Columbus Base members, who will make it possible for us to continue our successes.

This is my first column as newly elected Columbus Base Commander... and it will be a short one. But I would certainly be remiss if I started my term of office without expressing my appreciation to those who served in elected and appointed positions during the prior two years. So... to Bill Anderson, Jim Morton, Eric Dreiseidel, Russ Moody, Bernie Kenyon, David Johnson, James Williams, and Phil Philipps I say thank you for helping to lay the groundwork for our success. And I would be remiss if I failed to offer my thanks and congratulations to the other newly elected and appointed/re-appointed officers. We have a tremendous challenge to continue the successes of the past two years. But I'm confident that by working together as a team and working with our Columbus Base shipmates, we can meet that challenge.

Believe it or not, that's really all I want to say this month. Besides, I'm under a deadline and need to get this submitted to our newsletter editors... like now!! But have no fear... next month will be different. Hopefully I'll be able to write a meaningful column worthy of your time.

Oh... and one more thing. Did you notice that NOT ONCE in this column did I say "Happy New Year"?

### 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"

## Vice Commander's Corner

By Dave Creekmore

As I was helping piece the newsletter together, I was reminded I have a column to fill. Looks like I might be the last to have their article in. I guess its okay, I have some "connections" with the editor. This seems like a good time to point out Jan is the editor now. She fired me. I just get to proof read. In all fairness she has been doing a solo performance for several issues now.

I would like to thank Ken Sewell for what he has done for our base. Even a small non profit group like ours needs funds to operate with and without Ken's allowing us to sell a few copies of his book we would most likely not do some of the supporting efforts we can do. Ken has signed a contract with the publisher for his second book, hopefully to be out around the 2007 Convention. Sounds like we might need a table set up there.

I'm excited and nervous with this new position, but I will do my best to serve you all. Thanks to those who supported me, and those who did not I hope I can meet your needs as time goes along.

### January Birthdays

Butch Leffin	01-03
Linda Dobson	01-05
John Alexander	01-07
Chuck Carter	01-10
Rick Larson	01-11
James Williams	01-12
Paul Vawter	01-16
Woody Woodmansee	01-20
Joe Testa	01-24
Tim Rich	01-25
Angelo Naso	01-27
Gene Horton	01-28
Mike Repko	01-30

We missed 2 members' birthdays in December.

Sorry gentlemen!

Eric Dreiseidel	12-27
William Dumbauld	12-30

### *Chit*

*One tradition carried on in the Navy is the use of the "chit." It is a carry over from the days when Hindu traders used slips of paper called "citthi" for money, so they wouldn't have to carry heavy bags of gold and silver.*

*British sailors shortened the word to chit and applied it to their mess vouchers. Its most outstanding use in the Navy today is for drawing pay and a form used for requesting leave and liberty. But the term is currently applied to almost any piece of paper from a pass to and official letter requesting some privilege.*

Minutes of the Columbus Base of USSVI  
January 7, 2006  
American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532

A regular meeting of the Columbus Base of USSVI was held January 7, 2006 at the American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532. All elected officers were present. The meeting was called to order by Commander Jim Koogler at 1310. Twenty-five members and guests were in attendance. Chaplain David Johnson led the invocation and reading of lost boats. A moment of silence was observed for departed Submariner Lloyd Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Commander David Creekmore.

Commander Koogler gave a welcoming statement and introduced the newly elected and appointed officers. An Installation of Officers is scheduled for the February 4 meeting.

Bernie Kenyon introduced guest Ken Kuehl. Ken served on the Sam Rayburn.

The minutes from the December meeting, published in "The Green Board", were not read. A motion by Rick Larson to approve the minutes as published was seconded by David O'Carroll and approved by the members present.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Chaplain David Johnson attended the memorial service on January 2, 2006 for Lloyd Berger. Chaplain Johnson advised that the Columbus Base was well represented and floral arrangement was sent.

#### Unfinished Business

A report on book sales of "*Red Star Rogue*" was given by Dave Creekmore. There have been 259 copies sold with a gross income of \$5426.10. Shipping, handling and sales tax have to be deducted from this amount and those were not available at the time of the meeting. An audio set is available for \$26.00 which includes sales tax, shipping and handling.

A report on "Pens for Patients" was presented by Bernie Kenyon. During the February meeting the members and guests present will put the pens, note pads and other sundry items in bags for distribution to the Veterans Hospital at Chillicothe. Galin Brady will have his Suburban at this meeting to load the bags for storage until they are delivered to Chillicothe the week of February 13, 2006.

#### New Business

The discussion scheduled regarding on where to hold various Base celebration events was tabled until more information was available to the membership.

#### For the Good of the Order

Thanks to Ken Sewell for the donation of \$741. Ken Sewell announced he has a contract for a second book.

Commander Koogler announced that the Base has a member and family in need. Chaplain David Johnson's wife, Tracy has been seriously ill. A collection was taken and given to David.

Dave Creekmore gave a report for jacket orders.

The 50/50 raffle total was \$124.00. Bill Anderson won \$62.00 and donated it back to the Base.

Three loaves of chocolate chip bread were donated by Sharon Lloyd. A loaf of bread was won by Bill Anderson, Bernie Kenyon and John Leers.

Dave Creekmore donated two (2) Columbus Base Tumblers which were won by Sharon Lloyd.

The benediction was given by Chaplain David Johnson.

Commander Jim Koogler closed the meeting in due form at 1445.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth (Liz) Kenyon  
Secretary

## **In the Spirit** By David Johnson, Base Chaplain

I just want to say "Thank you" to the base. I am extremely grateful. Your sacrifice wasn't the most amazing thing for me to see at our last meeting. It was your **willingness** to sacrifice that was breathtaking. I have never seen a need met so quickly and effortlessly. It reminded me of why we are a brotherhood. The story below (reprinted from Submarinesailor.com) titled "The Dream" sums up some of the words I am unable to express due to the lump in my throat.

I had a dream last night, about the past, my present, and our future.

I am a submariner. As I grew up, mechanical things fascinated me. I was raised as many a future sailor, not rich, and an uncertain life of hard knocks. I was always drawn to space and subs, growing up during the race for the moon, and the cold war. I read all I could on these subjects, absorbing the numbers and information like a sponge.

I had a good Mom, a drunk Dad and started working early to help support my Mom and siblings. When I hit eighteen, I joined the Navy and volunteered for subs right off. Didn't figure NASA would let me ride the rockets, but still saw my dream in a great metal tube packed with technology.

I rode the U.S.S. Sandlance, SSN660, for four years. In all my time, I have never felt a brotherhood as close as the boats. I have ridden with truckers, bikers, ex-cons, construction gangs. All fail to have the closeness of our submarine family. We fought together, partied hard and lived like to a fullness. We cried together in the bad, shouldered up during the rough and stuck together during the toughest of times. And I learned then, never back down, never give up[. Lessons from the Dolphin School of Wisdom.

I got to live at least a part of my dream. I rode the future. Where else can a poor boy from the hills of nowhere ride and drive a \$200 million dollar nuclear hot rod and live in what just as well be outer space? Hell, I even tried skimmers on a second tour as a comparison. The difference was day and night! We banded together, and no disrespect, but they just didn't have it together. No closeness, no brotherhood, just a job.

I never made it far, as I got our. It was the end of Vietnam, the space race we had won, and my life was moving on to other things, I raised a family, and tried for the other dreams in my soul. Now many years have passed on by, and life has many a twist. Two wives and three kids later, in my heart is still on a sub, ling the long, lonely hours of a patrol.

For myself, I never saw my dreams bloom. But now my oldest son rides the latest of the finest. He asked to join as soon as he graduated, at seventeen. He rides the USS Alaska, 732 Blue. He's an XM-11 Nav ET2. And I'm a very proud man.

Because now our future and my dream live on. They live as a second generation Bubblehead, also known as "the General", Sn(SS) Jim "The General" Patton

Columbus Base, you are the best. God bless

**Don't forget to bring your donations of coffee, tea or hot cocoa for the Veterans Hospital to the meeting on Saturday. We are also collecting "Pens for Patients". You can bring those to the meeting too.**

### Editor's Note

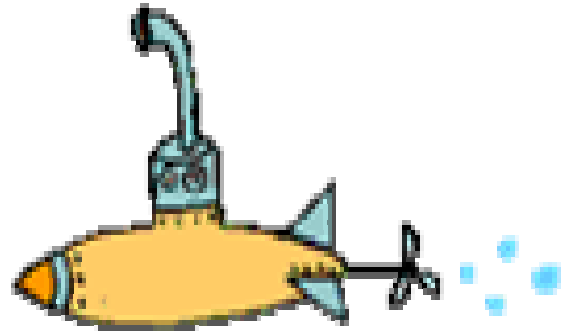
If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail  
creek636@earthlink.net

## Lost Boats

### January

USS Scorpion (SS 278)	01-05-1944
USS Argonaut (SS 166)	01-10-1943
USS Swordfish (SS 193)	01-12-1945
USS S-36 (SS 141)	01-20-1942
USS S-26 (SS 131)	01-24-1942



### I am the American Sailor

I am the American Sailor and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle and I am a torpedo man in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine-infested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke-filled compartments of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am white, black, yellow, red, and brown. I am Christian, Jew, Muslim and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world, on land, in air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again. Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

Author unknown

## Upcoming events

February 4, 2006          Noon          Don Gentile American Legion Hall  
Demorest Rd.  
Grove City, OH.

This will also be a work party on filling the donation bags for the VA hospital.

March 4, 2006          Noon          Don Gentile American Legion Hall



### The Conn

**Base commander**

Jim Koogler

**Vice Commander**

Dave Creekmore

**Treasurer**

John Leers

**Secretary**

Elizabeth Kenyon

**Chaplain**

David Johnson

**COB**

James Williams

**Membership Chairman**

Bernie Kenyon

**Storekeeper**

Phil Philipps

**Editor**

Jan Creekmore

## **New Members**

Lewis M. "Lew" Kennedy  
Summerville, SC  
Dorchester County  
USSVI Life member  
Columbus Base

Brian L. Pierson  
Kenton, OH  
Hardin County  
Wife: Janet

Our Holland Club profile this month is Ben Grimes. He was inducted into the Holland Club in August 2005. He shared some of his experiences and thoughts with Marv Pastor, our Holland Club reporter.



Ben enlisted in the Navy in 1943. In fact quite a few things took place that year for Ben. He actually graduated from high school while home on boot leave. Ben attended torpedo school in Norfolk, Virginia then later that same year finished sub school in New London, Conn. He trained on the "O" boats.

Following graduation from sub school Ben was assigned duty on the U.S.S. Raton SS 270. It was on the Raton he qualified in 1944. Ben also served on relief crews of the U.S.S. Rasher SS 269 and the U.S.S. Blue Fish SS 222. He was assigned to Rasher when she was awarded the Navy Citation.

Ben reached the rank of TM/ 3 SS.

Ben was discharged in 1946; he informed me he spent three years, six months and 14 days in the Navy. That sounds like a man eager to get out.

After his discharge in 1946 Ben was married in June of 1947. He and his wife had three children, two girls and a boy. Their son served in the United States Coast Guard.

When asked what was the motivating factor to go into submarines Ben simply stated you can't shoot at something you can't see.

Ben said he favored Perth in Western Australia as his favorite port and duty station. He said he also enjoyed watching movies in the "buddy bunks" in the forward torpedo room.

Ben recalled being bombed by a "Japanese Betty" while they were making their way back to the war zone from Mare Island. He also remembers Raton taking a torpedo hit from the Lapon while they were operating against Japanese shipping. Fortunately for Raton it was a dud. All this took place in 1944 or 45 he wasn't real sure

Thanks Ben, we appreciate your service during the WW II years.



## Grandson of Columbus Base Sub Vet is Honored

Pictured is Adam K Harper receiving the coveted “dolphins” insignia from Commander J M Cottingham, U S Navy, USS Wyoming (SSBN742) (Blue)



Adam Harper, son of Mark and Randi Harper of Washington CH entered the Navy two and a half years ago.

After graduating from Nuclear Power School at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC and completing training at the Nuclear Prototype Training Facility at Ballston Spa NY, he received orders to the USS Wyoming, a ballistic missile submarine stationed at Kings Bay GA.

Shortly after reporting for duty, Adam received a Commendation, in part, which reads, “for professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as a member of Deck Division....Petty Officer Harper consistently performed his demanding duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. Petty Officer Harper demonstrated exceptional team work abilities preparing and executing an extraordinary complex yet successful extended dry-docking Refit.....Petty Officer Harper’s exceptional professional abilities, initiative and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself, the Submarine Force, and the United States Naval Service.” (Signed) J. M. Cottingham, Commander, U S Navy, USS Wyoming.”

Adam has also received the National Defense Ribbon and the silver Polaris Patrol Pin, which is worn by SSBN crews, both officer and enlisted. It recognizes their sacrifice and hard work in completing strategic patrols. Having completed two patrols, Adam has two gold stars on this pin. He is also rated as a Machinist’s Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SS).

The Naval “Dolphin” tradition: further training and qualification at sea are required before submariners are awarded the coveted “dolphins” – the submarine insignia worn by officers (gold) and enlisted personnel (silver) to demonstrate their achievement. This insignia is a submarine flanked by two dolphins. Dolphins, the traditional attendants to Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea and patron deity of sailors, are symbolic of a calm sea.

Upon Adam’s decision to enter the submarine service, his grandfather, John W Woodmansee of Sabina, gave Adam the dolphins he had earned while serving first on a diesel then nuclear submarine in the 1950’s, to be used when Adam completed his qualifications. In December, Adam was honored to receive these dolphins in a “pinning” ceremony held while the submarine was on patrol somewhere in the Atlantic.

Along with the dolphins come added responsibilities. He has been moved to senior watch station, and is in charge of making water for the boat, vital reactor plant systems and AC. Other collateral duties are as Repair Parts Petty Officer which includes ordering, receiving and organizing all the parts for repairs and routine maintenance as well as ensuring the boat has the proper amounts of diesel fuel, water and oil before going to sea. Now he is also much more actively involved in casualty response.

About 30 other members of the Wyoming crew were also awarded their “dolphins” during this same patrol.

Grandparents are John and Sandy Woodmansee of Sabina and Norman and Jean Harper of Washington CH.

The preceding story was previously published in Wilmington, NC and Washington Court House, OH newspapers.

The diesel boat referenced was the USS HARDHEAD SS-365 and the year that Grandpa Woodmansee was pinned with the "dolphins" originally was 1956.

The tall sailor standing on the left-hand side of the photo above is Adam Harper's Grandfather as he appeared in this picture taken on the deck of the Hardhead 49 years ago!



## "Toys for Tots"

Our Columbus Sub Vets Base and the Cleveland Avenue Home Depot Store employees joined together in contributing in a major way to the U.S. Marine's Lima Company's "Toys for Tot's" drive.

Associate Liz Kenyon, Chair Person, overseeing the combined solicitation didn't get a chance to count the collection. However, the entire accumulation amounted to many carry-out bags full of toys turned over to Lima Company Representative, Dunny Todl on Friday, Dec.16, 2005. Whatever the amount was, it kept us quite busy for a while as Dunny loaded them into the front and rear seats of his full-size extended cab pick-up truck. Besides the presents, Liz presented the Marines with \$180 in checks made payable to Toys for Tots that morning!

The following pictures are of Dunny hauling the toys away from where I was staging them at our front door landing:



Perhaps some of our "sharing" was involved in the generosity featured in the following newspaper article:

## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AMID HUMBLE SURROUNDINGS

**From a few good men comes Santa**

**Lima Company saves the holiday for housing complex**

*Thursday, December 22, 2005*

**Jeb Phillips**

*THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH*

It wasn't exactly the North Pole or, for that matter, anything that looked like the mall version of the North Pole.

The fake beard didn't fit the guy in the red costume, and he was too skinny and wearing hiking boots. He sat in a broken rocking chair between the washers and dryers; as hard as the snowman-design wrapping paper tried to hide it, this was the 12-by-13 laundry room for Sunbury Heights, low-income housing.

Then the first little girl walked in: Jeannette Price, who just turned 3, and who really wants a Princess Barbie.

"Hi, Santa!" she screamed.

And somehow, just like that, everything seemed perfect.

Lord knows they'd tried. The company that owns the apartment complex, about 25 miles north of Columbus in Delaware County, gave manager Ann Bell \$150 for a holiday party. Since Sunbury Heights hadn't had a manager for a while, it hadn't seen holiday money in a while, either.

But the money brought up a problem. The complex doesn't have a room for a party. It has an office and a place to do the wash, and that's all.

The laundry room had space for a chair, though, which meant to Bell a space for Santa to sit. Bell could spend the money on little presents for the children, which Santa could give them after they sat on his lap.

It fell to a few of the complex's women to handle the details. Jeanne Coad needed to find a Santa, and she did — a maintenance man from another complex who promptly developed a stomach infection. He ended up in the hospital, and the first scheduled Santa visit had to be canceled.

They canceled the second visit, too, because Coad couldn't find anyone. She called churches, government offices. No one wanted to do it.

"Sometimes people get nervous about coming here," Bell said. "They shouldn't. I've always felt safe here."

Sunbury Heights is Section 8 housing, which means the federal government helps tenants with their rents. Some of the tenants couldn't pay for pictures with Santa somewhere else. So Bell and Coad really needed to find someone who wouldn't be nervous.

Coad was telling this on the phone to her son, a former Marine, when it hit her: Marines don't get nervous. She called around and ended up talking to members of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines, who came back from Iraq in October. They'd give her a Santa.

"You saw all the support the community gave us when we were gone," said Maj. Kirk Greiner. "This is the least we can do."

And yesterday about 1 p.m., Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Todl arrived to put on the Santa suit that Bell had rented. Todl stayed home during the latest deployment, but he had served in Somalia and the first Gulf War. He'd never been a Santa, though. And even though Marines don't get nervous, he was.



SHARI LEWIS | DISPATCH

**Kaitlyn Anderson, 2, visits Santa with her mother, Malissa Crawford, center, and great aunt Lois Smith, in the complex's laundry.**

"A little bit," he said.

But Jeannette came in screaming "Hi Santa," and Todl said "Ho, Ho, Ho," like he was born to say it. She told him what she wanted; and her brother, Lincoln, 4, said he wanted a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle with spinning weapons. Before Jeannette left, she gave Todl a hug and a kiss.

Then Kaitlyn Anderson, 2, walked in with her big white coat and hat. She shied for a minute, but at the end thanked Todl for a candy cane.

Some others weren't so easy. Kristina Lockhart, 12, sat on Todl's lap because her mother wanted her to. She rolled her eyes the whole time. Tiernan Santos, 2, kept backing away when Santa held his hands out. When Desiree King's mother tried to hand her to Todl, the 2-year-old cried for five minutes.

But mostly Todl sat there and the kids came to him. For a few hours, Santa was in the Sunbury Heights laundry room. [jeb.phillips@dispatch.com](mailto:jeb.phillips@dispatch.com)

Respectfully submitted by,

Bernie Kenyon

### Storekeepers Corner

Phil now has window stickers with the Columbus Base logo for sale. Looking for suggestions for items for the storekeeper to market at the meetings. Let Phil know if there is something you would like to see or have seen that he can get his hands on for sale thru the base.

You can e-mail him at:

[lcdr402@aol.com](mailto:lcdr402@aol.com)

### Work Party Detail

It's time to help veterans from all branches. At the February meeting we will be assembling goody bags for the patients currently at the VA hospital in Chillicothe. If you would like to donate, contact our Chairperson, Chaplain Dave Johnson at:

[dejohnson02@yahoo.com](mailto:dejohnson02@yahoo.com) for a list of the needed items.

### Jacob's Ladder

A Jacob's ladder is a portable ladder made of rope or metal and used primarily as an aid in boarding ship. Originally, the Jacob's ladder was a network of line leading to the skysail on wooden ships. The name alludes to the biblical Jacob reputed to have dreamed that he climbed a ladder to the sky.

Anyone who has ever tried climbing a Jacob's ladder while carrying a sea bag can appreciate the allusion. It does seem that the climb is long enough to take one into the next world.