

# COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2006



## THE GREEN BOARD



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

### Columbus Base Newsletter

## Columbus Base of USSVI CELEBRATION

The Columbus Sub Vets Base celebrated the **106<sup>th</sup> Birthday** of our Submarine Service in grand style Saturday 1 April 2006.

"Grand" in the sense that the event was comprised of a wonderful bunch of shipmates, many with their best mates, enjoying themselves in a very comfortable setting, the Don Gentile American Legion Post 532 Banquet Room.



A portion of the "style" aspect was a good down home type meal like we all hungered for when we came off those long patrols that Submariners often reminisce about. A really good dinner topped off with a good ole piece of cake. But the real "Style" of the evening was having the opportunity to be with and to share in some of our guest speaker's life experiences.

Our speaker was LCDR Philip Philipps, USN retired. A Submarine Man for sure. One who currently raises the colors on a submarine each day and lowers the colors each evening. He is a man known throughout our submarine world prior to and perhaps more so since becoming a member of USSVI. It is because of USSVI that we wanted to hear Phil and get to know him better.



Phil upheld his end of the bargain when he told us of his interest in studying the history of the exploration of the Northwest Passage and men he knows now about what he was about wanted to proceed. Ignorance is bliss, aboard the *USS Seadragon* (SSN-584) transit of the Northwest Passage, on 21 Sea, it headed for the North demogust 25th. Phil related that sometime allowed out onto the ice and participated in a softball game.



tioned that if he knew back in 1960 what to become involved in, he would not have however, and Phil became one of the crew and the first submarine that completed the August 1960. Upon entering the Beaufort graphic Pole, which she reached on Au- after surfacing at the Pole the crew was



Phil described some of the equipment that was installed aboard the *Seadragon* that aided them in detecting where the ice was and about how thick it might be so they could surface through it. Plus, he related a few very harrowing instances they were involved in, but he didn't tell us about the situation that George Steele described as the most terrifying instance in his book... that being that they had found a polynya (an area of open water) where he left some personnel off onto the ice with the expectation of returning and finding them easily. Getting back to that same spot and finding them wasn't easy. All ended well, however, and the *Seadragon* was awarded the [Navy Unit Commendation](#) for her transit of the [Northwest Passage](#) via [Parry Channel](#).



During Phil's address he alluded to a tour of duty, or two, other than the *Seadragon*, but considering the number of submarines that Phil was attached to might make one wonder if there ever was a boat Phil didn't like. Look at this list: USS *Segundo* (SS-398), USS *Bream* (SS-243), USS *Bashaw* (SS-241), USS *K-3* (eventually renamed USS *Bonita* (SS-552), USS *Greenfish* (SS-351), USS *Sunfish* (SS-281) ResTraSub, *Vallejo*, USS *Pomfret* (SS-391), USS *Swordfish* (SSN-579), USS *Seadragon* (SSN-584), USS *Bushnell* (AS-15) (MPA), COMSUBLANT STAFF, USS *Grouper* (AGSS-214), COMSUBDIV 21 (ENG), USS *Sperry* (AS-12) (ENG), USS *Sea Fox* (SS-402), O in C MTT (Razorback & Sea Fox), COMSUBGRU SFRAN (Ops Officer) and Mare Island Shipyard (Ship Supt). For a couple of years he attended Nuke Schools in New London/Idaho/Bettis.

Phil's dedication to our service didn't end with his separation from active duty. He immersed himself in USSVI and can count as one of his greatest accomplishments the hosting of the 2001 United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. National Convention in Peoria, Illinois. Phil is a Life Member of USSVI, and holds similar membership in the San Diego Base, Blueback Base and Peoria Base of which he is a past Base Commander. Columbus Base is now his Primary Base. The Base Parade Sub which is 1/16<sup>th</sup> the size of our sponsor, the USS *Columbus* SSN-762, is parked in Phil's drive-way out along Beaver Run Road in Hebron, Ohio and Phil tends to the raising and lowering of colors aboard it everyday.



He was USSVI Commander District 6 for almost 3 years while living in Illinois and Chartered the COD Base and the Crash Dive Base in addition to providing guidance for the development of the Hoosier Base.



At the end of Phil's address he presented our Event Chairperson, Joe Testa, with a commemorative envelope marking the *Seadragon* (SSN-584) and the Navy's first submerged Northwest Passage, in 1960.

Respectfully submitted by Bernie Kenyon

## Commander's Corner

By Jim "Clutch" Koogler



One of the benefits of having a column in [The Green Board](#) is that I can write about almost anything I want, Oh, there are downsides too... like deadlines, and writer's block, and repeating myself. But the positives far outweigh the negatives. For me, one of the greatest benefits is having a forum where I can publicly express my gratitude to a wider audience than just those attending a base meeting or event. And that's what I'm going to do this month. Let me preface by first apologizing for not having done so sooner. My only excuse is that I've been so busy that I haven't had (or taken) the opportunity until now. Let me also say that any omissions on my part are totally unintentional. There are undoubtedly others whom I should thank. I have a multitude of kudos swimming in my head and will inevitably forget someone. I'll blame it on dead brain cells, because I truly appreciate everything that is done for Columbus Base and its members.

So with that all said, and in no particular order, "THANK YOU" to:

- Our Treasury Audit Committee... chairman Joe Testa, Dave Creekmore, and Bernie Kenyon. With the help of former treasurer Eric Dreiseidel and current treasurer John Leers, the committee did a tremendous job auditing our treasury... fast, efficient, and accurate. There was no doubt before the audit that we had a solid treasury... and the audit served to reinforce that fact.
- Eric Dreiseidel for volunteering to be our contact point for parade and public service opportunities. Eric has an extensive background in veteran service and is "in the loop" with many organizations... often hearing about opportunities that others of us don't.
- Our Shipmate of the Year committee, David Johnson and Galin Brady. Recognizing our shipmates is one of the more pleasant and important opportunities we have. I appreciate David and Galin stepping up to lead this effort.
- Galin Brady and Paige Ogle for accepting the very important role of coordinating our Awards and Recognitions Dinner in August. I have no doubt that it will be another premier Columbus Base event.
- Sharon Lloyd. As you all know, Sharon crocheted (or knitted?) a beautiful afghan and has donated it to the base. It is being raffled to benefit the benevolence and NJROTC scholarship funds.
- Liz Kenyon for volunteering to coordinate the raffle. She's taking care of it all... seeing to the design of the raffle tickets, distributing them, collecting the money, everything. I suppose Bernie is involved somehow (thanks Bernie), but Liz is spearheading the effort.
- Rick Larson for his presentation about guided missile submarines. I didn't have the pleasure of hearing it since I was in Seattle at the time. But from what I've heard, it was excellent... and very educational. I hope there are more to come in the future.
- Joe and Mary Testa for the terrific job of planning and coordinating our Columbus Base Submarine Birthday dinner. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all who attended... which, by the way, was one of the larger turnouts we've had for a base event.
- Phil Philipps for speaking at the birthday dinner. His presentation about the Northwest Passage was very interesting and educational. I appreciate his time and effort.
- American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 for welcoming Columbus Base and providing a venue for our meetings and events. Special thanks to Post Commander Dale Wood for the accommodations made for Columbus Base... such as opening the post kitchen for our base meetings, posting our "Submariner Parking" sign on the wall, and displaying our base plaque. Take a look around the next time you're at the post. They have a lot of interesting memorabilia.

Last, but certainly no least, I want to thank those who have contributed items to our 50/50 raffles. As I said in the beginning, I'll inevitably forget someone... and for that I truly apologize. I'm working from memory here, a memory that's definitely NOT what it used to be. My thanks to Frank and Sharon Lloyd, Galin Brady and Paige Ogle, Marv and Joan Pastor, Dave and Jan Creekmore, James and Elaine Williams, Sam and Dorothy Templeton, Joe and Mary Testa, Bill and Barb McCorkle, Ben Grimes, and my wife Bonnie. Having extra raffle items for our 50/50 is great. Everyone likes to win something. Hopefully some day I can win a loaf of Sharon Lloyd's homemade bread, a jug of Galin and Paige's homemade maple syrup, and one of Joan Pastor's home baked creations. What a feast I'll have!!

## Lost Boats

### April

- |                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| USS Pickerel (SS 177)  | 04-03-1943 |
| USS Snook (SS 279)     | 04-08-1945 |
| USS Thresher (SSN 593) | 04-10-1963 |
| USS Gungeon (SS 211)   | 04-18-1944 |
| USS Grenadier (SS 210) | 04-22-1943 |



**Mark your calendar!!!**  
**Tolling of the Bells**  
**Cedar Ridge Lodge**  
**Battelle Darby Metro Park**  
**Saturday, May 20th**

Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.  
 Jan Creekmore at e-mail  
[creek636@earthlink.net](mailto:creek636@earthlink.net)

**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”

## In the Spirit by David Johnson, Base Chap-

### *Peace, be still”: The Power of a Crisis*

*And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

*-Mark 4:37-41*

“Crisis” can be added with the words “death” and “taxes” as an inevitability of life. Jobs, school, relationships, health, finances and virtually any other issue one can fathom are able to take a turn for the worse at a moment’s notice and place an individual in a state of panic, leaving them desperate for a solution. Even the weather can cause chaos. In the above scripture reference, the disciples became fearful when the wind and waves began to howl, and they didn’t see any way out of their situation. It was crunch time and they had to make one of three decisions:

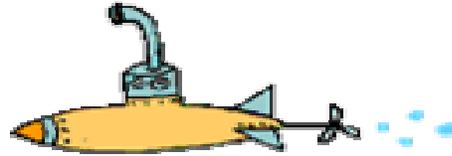
- 1) Use the faith Jesus had taught them.
- 2) Wake up Jesus to help them.
- 3) Drown.

They were in crisis. Webster defines ‘crisis’ as: *A turning point in the course of anything; decisive or crucial time, stage, or event. A time of great danger or trouble, whose outcome decides whether possible bad consequences will follow.* When one is rooted in the truth of our Lord Jesus, a crisis becomes an opportunity for greatness. God demands that His people step up and lead in times of desperation. This is how our Father gets the glory out of our lives. A crisis will force us into action. Unfortunately, many times we are so afraid of making the wrong decision we make none at all. Beloved, please hear this: God will honor your commitment to Him and His work. Of the three choices the disciples had, the correct answer, per Jesus, was “1”. They were to use the faith that had been instilled in them from their time walking with Jesus to calm the storm themselves. Instead of that answer, they chose “2” and decided that they needed God to do something He had already given them the authority for. Obviously, they were attempting to avoid “3”, since drowning was not an option. Jesus corrected them but still rebuked the situation and saved his disciples. Isn’t it nice to know that our Savior is there when we are working for Him, even when we don’t make the wisest of decisions?

When we ask God to use us, we can be certain that a storm is looming. But we are able to face it with the assurance that if we listen to His leading and step out on the faith that he has instilled in us, the crisis which always accompanies the rain will provide us with the opportunity to bring glory to Jesus and make us a vessel worthy to be exalted.

## Vice Commander's Corner

By Dave Creekmore



Not that the past months haven't been productive, I just want to remind all of you the next few months we will be looking forward to a lot of support and your attendance. We have the "Tolling of the Bells", graveside flag placement, Memorial Day parade, the JNROC awards, July 4th parade and not to forget our monthly business meetings. These events are all important in their own way, and can be a lot of fun and productive with a good turn out of our membership. When you support these type of occasions, you support your fellow veterans and your country.

Dave

### New Members

Joe C. Combs II  
 Bellefontaine, OH  
 Logan County  
 Wife: Marina

### Tonnage

Today tonnage refers to a ship's displacement in the water or the gross pounds of cargo it is capable of carrying. In the days of sail this was no so. Tonnage was spelled 'tunnage' and referred to the number of 'tuns' a ship could carry. A 'tun' was a barrel normally used for transporting wine and tunnage specified the number of barrels that would fit into the ship's hold.

### April Birthdays

George Snyder 04-01  
 Marcia Dreiseidel 04-02  
 John T. Leers, Jr. 04-04  
 Dave Creekmore 04-05  
 Gary Dinnell 04-05  
 Denver Smith 04-07

Bob Frier 04-12  
 Paige Ogle 04-19  
 Bernie Kenyon 04-28

### Spouses

Judy Rinehart 04-16  
 Angela Pendleton 04-27

Minutes of the Columbus Base of USSVI  
April 1, 2006  
American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532

The 106<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Dinner was held April 1, 2006 at the American Legion, Don Gentile Post 532. Fifty six members and guests attended the dinner.

Joe Testa, Chairperson, thanked everyone for attending and gave some opening remarks. Commander Koogler thanked Mary and Joe Testa for serving as Chairpersons and the Don Gentile Post for allowing us to have our meetings there and for the dinner. Jim also advised that the Post Commander will be posting our sign: SUBMARINE PARKING ONLY - ALL OTHERS WILL BE TORPEDOED!

The Tolling of the Bells and reading of the lost boats for April was led by Commander Koogler and COB James Williams. Sharon Lloyd gave the prayer.

A delicious buffet dinner of roast beef, chicken, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls and butter plus the 106<sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Cake was served.

After the dinner Commander Koogler recognized the World War II veterans, John Alexander, Joe Murphy, Denver Smith, John Leers and Gus Hoehl. Bernie Kenyon, Membership Chairman, introduced new members Joe Combs and wife, Marina, Denver Smith, and Ron Rossington.

The 50/50 raffle winners were:

Jayne Anderson's winning portion of the 50/50 raffle was \$95.00.

Marv and Joan Pastor donated a bottle of wine won by Galin Brady.

Galin and Page donated a bottle of maple syrup, which was won by Sharon Lloyd.

Paige Ogle donated a spring wreath won by Bill Anderson and a cinnamon candle won by Marv Pastor.

A box of scented candles were donated by Dorothy Templeton and the winner was Denver Smith.

Navy golf balls donated by Frank Lloyd were won by Bonnie Koogler.

A surprise gift bag donated by Sam and Dorothy Templeton was won by Galin Brady.

Mary and Joe Testa donated a Navy Scrapbook/Photo Album and the winner was Paul Darland.

Phil Philipps was the speaker and spoke about the USS Seadragon's voyage under the artic ice plus the Northwest Passage.

A wonderful evening was had by all attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

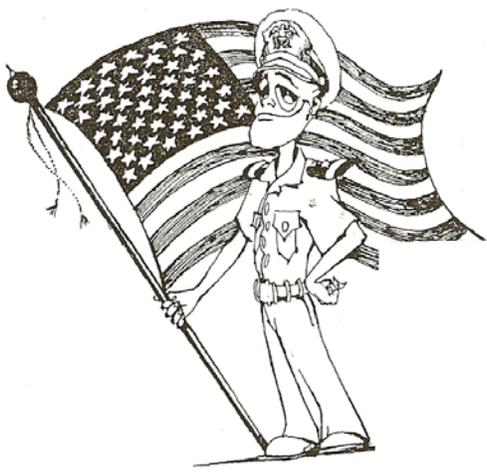
Elizabeth Kenyon

**Upcoming events**

May 06,2006	1200	Monthly meeting at Don Gentile American Legion Hall
May 20,2006	1100	Battelle Darby Metro Park Cedar Ridge Lodge
May 29,2006	0930	Worthington, OH Memorial Day parade



- 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



## *ENSIGN*

The name given the Navy's junior most officer dates to medieval times. Lords honored their squires by allowing them to carry the ensign (banner) into battle. Later these squires became known by the name of the banner itself.

In the U.S. Army the lowest ranking officer was originally called "ensign" because he, like the squire of old, would one day lead troops into battle and was training to that end. It is still the lowest commissioned rank in the British army today.

When the U.S. Navy was established, the Americans carried on the tradition and adapted the rank of ensign as the title for its junior commissioned officers.

Our Holland Club profile this month is Russ Ferguson. 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.



Russ enlisted in the Navy on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1943. He went through boot camp at Great Lakes and upon completion of boot camp he attended electrical school there.

After graduation from electrical school Russ was headed for New London and what else but sub school, he also attended battery and compass school in New London.

In Russ's own words " now for that great train ride in the cattle cars to the West Coast" .

In June 1944 he boarded the sub tender Fulton for as Russ put it an unforgettable first night out. He was on look out on the first deck, showered with cold salt water, then moved to the second deck. He showered again then was moved to the top boat deck, then finally below decks.

They were in Pearl Harbor for almost a month. Russ joined the crew of the USS Haddo SS 255. The Haddo was bound for Japan by way of Midway and Saipan. It was to be the tenth and final patrol for Haddo, life guard duty. After her final patrol she was directed to Tokyo Bay for the surrendering ceremony on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945.

In October of 1945 Haddo was headed back to Pearl. From Pearl through the Panama Canal, north up the East Coast and back to New London on the sixth of Oct. Russ said it was a sight to see.

He qualified in 1946 aboard the Haddo. On April 13<sup>th</sup> 1946 Russ was discharged.

Russ and Winifred were married on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1948. They have four children and have been married for 57 years.

Congratulations Russ and thank for your time and service.

**Don't forget to bring your donations of coffee, tea or hot cocoa for the Veterans Clinic, to the meeting on Saturday.**

2006 Columbus Base Operations Plan

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>
April <b>18</b> (Tuesday)	1800 - 2030	Columbus Base Officers' Meeting	Bernie/Liz Kenyon 1835 Brimfield Road Columbus, Ohio 43229	Base Cdr Jim Koogler/ Base VCdr Dave Creek- more
May <b>6</b> (Saturday)	1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500	Columbus Base Monthly Meet- ing Social Hour Business Meeting Social	American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748	Base VCdr Dave Creek- more
<b>May</b> <b>6</b> (Saturday)	1400 - 1530 1700 - 1800 1800 - ????	Central District 2 Convention All Hands District Meeting Cocktail Hour, Cash Bar 106 <sup>th</sup> Submarine Birthday Ball dinner, dance, Holland Club inductions, etc.	Quality Inns & Suites 505 South State Route 39 Lebanon, IN 46052 (765) 482-0500	District Cdr. Tom Barnes Speaker: VADM Albert Koentzni
<b>May</b> <b>7</b> (Sunday)	0800 - ????	Base Commanders Breakfast and farewell	Quality Inns & Suites 505 South State Route 39 Lebanon, IN 46052 (765) 482-0500	District Cdr. Tom Barnes
<b>May</b> <b>20</b> (Saturday)	1200 - 1600 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1500	Columbus Base Tolling of the Bells Ceremony Tolling Ceremony Cook-out/picnic	Darby Park	Liz Kenyon/ Tracy Johnson Speaker: Franklin County Com- missioner Dewey Stokes
May <b>27</b> (Saturday)	1200-end about 2 hours	Place flags on veteran's graves	Resurrection Cemetery (Rte 23 North near Highbanks metro park). Others???	Eric Dreiseidel Jim Koogler (Cris Damo - Battelle)
<b>May</b> <b>29</b> (Monday)	0930-1200	Memorial Day Parade	Worthington, Ohio Line up at Rte 161 and Plymouth Street (East of High Street) at 0930.	Eric Dreiseidel

<p>June <b><u>3</u></b> (Saturday)</p>	<p>1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500</p>	<p>Columbus Base Monthly Meeting Social Hour Business Meeting Social</p>	<p>American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748</p>	<p>Base VCdr Dave Creek- more</p>
<p>June <b><u>20</u></b> (Tuesday)</p>	<p>1800 - 2030</p>	<p>Columbus Base Officers' Meeting</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>July <b><u>??</u></b> (???????)</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>July 4<sup>th</sup> parade</p>	<p>Granville, Ohio</p>	<p>Phil Philipps?</p>
<p>July <b><u>8</u></b> (Saturday)</p>	<p>1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500</p>	<p>Columbus Base Monthly Meeting Social Hour Business Meeting Social</p>	<p>American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748</p>	<p>Base VCdr Dave Creek- more</p>
<p>July <b><u>18</u></b> (Tuesday)</p>	<p>1800 - 2030</p>	<p>Columbus Base Officers' Meeting</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p><b>August</b> <b><u>5</u></b> (Saturday)</p>	<p>???? - ???? ???? - ???? ???? - ???? ???? - ????</p>	<p>Columbus Base Awards Dinner Social Hour Dinner Ceremony/Speaker</p>	<p>American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748</p>	<p>Galin Brady Paige Ogle Speaker: TBD</p>
<p>August <b><u>15</u></b> (Tuesday)</p>	<p>1800 - 2030</p>	<p>Columbus Base Officers' Meeting</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>September <b><u>5-10</u></b></p>		<p>USSVI National Convention</p>	<p>Little Rock, Arkansas</p>	

September <b><u>16 (?)</u></b> (Saturday)	1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500	Columbus Base Monthly Meeting Social Hour Business Meeting Social	American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748	Base VCdr Dave Creek- more
September <b><u>19</u></b> (Tuesday)	1800 - 2030	Columbus Base Officers' Meeting	TBD	TBD
October <b><u>7</u></b> (Saturday)	1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500	Columbus Base Monthly Meeting Social Hour Business Meeting Social	American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748	Base VCdr Dave Creek- more
October <b><u>17</u></b> (Tuesday)	1800 - 2030	Columbus Base Officers' Meeting	TBD	TBD
November <b><u>4</u></b> (Saturday)	1200 - 1500 1200 - 1300 1300 - 1400 1400 - 1500	Columbus Base Monthly Meeting Social Hour Business Meeting Social	American Legion Don Gentile Post #532 1571 Demorest Road Columbus, Ohio 43228 (614) 539-4748	Base VCdr Dave Creek- more
November <b><u>9??</u></b> (Thursday? )	TBD	Veterans' Day Parade	Columbus, Ohio (?)	Eric Dreiseidel?
November <b><u>21</u></b> (Tuesday)	1800 - 2030	Columbus Base Officers' Meeting <b>Thanksgiving week... do we need to have an officers' meeting?</b>	TBD	TBD
December <b><u>2 (?)</u></b> (Saturday)	???? - ???? ???? - ???? ???? - ????	Columbus Base Holiday Dinner and Toys collection Social Hour Dinner	TBD	TBD
December <b><u>19</u></b> (Tuesday)	1800 - 2030	Columbus Base Officers' Meeting <b>Do we need to have an officers' meeting?</b>	TBD	TBD