

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2007



THE GREEN BOARD

ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE



Columbus Base Newsletter

In The Beginning! A long long time ago.

The following is a condensed version of the presentation that was part of our Submarine Birthday Dinner on April 7th. If anyone wishes to have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please contact Joe Testa.

The submarine can be traced back to Leonardo da Vinci, who in 1500 sketched a submarine design in response to a request from the Council of Venice, in response to the Turks having the city surrounded. Da Vinci left Venice before any progress was made, and his idea was never used. While working for the British in 1624, the Dutch inventor Cornelius van Drebbel built the first functional submarine. Drebbel's vessel was actually a leather-covered rowboat, which used oars that protruded through water-tight openings, and could remain submerged for a couple of hours at a maximum depth of 15 feet.

In 1775, David Bushnell built the Turtle, a submersible sphere that was only slightly positively buoyant. With only the very top of the Turtle and air intake tubes above the waterline, the operator would flood water into the sphere up to about his knees, causing the Turtle to sink. The turtle was designed to dive below a surface ship and bore a hole into the hull, leaving behind a 150 pound explosive charge with a delayed fuse. The Turtle had a compass, a hand pump to remove water, and a hand-cranked screw. There are many conflicting reports as to how many missions the Turtle had, or whether it actually existed at all. The most commonly held belief is that there was at least one mission, on September 7, 1776. The Turtle sailed out from Manhattan to attack the British warship HMS Eagle, but was not able to attach the explosive device because it was not able to bore into the Eagle's hull. Either low on air or having been spotted, the Turtle moved away from the Eagle. The explosive device was jettisoned, and when it exploded, the British halted their pursuit. The Turtle may have made a couple more attempts, but this action did result in the British Navy moving their ships out to a safer place in New York Harbor.

In April 1861, a submersible salvage boat was spotted near the Philadelphia Naval Yard and impounded. With the Civil War having started only a few weeks before, the Lincoln administration was interested in any technology that might give the Union a military advantage. The "Alligator", named such by a newspaperman because it was painted green and powered by oars, looked like a gator as it moved through the water. The Alligator was the first submarine purchased by the US Navy, but was never commissioned or named. It was also the first submarine sent into a war zone, having been tasked with bringing down a railroad bridge in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. The attack was unsuccessful because the water level was not deep enough for safe operation, and risked being captured. The Alligator returned to Washington to be fitted with a hand-cranked screw, and then sent to help with the capture of Charleston, SC in 1863. While being towed off North Carolina, a storm caused the Alligator to be lost. The Alligator had significant technological advances including an air purification system, but the method of attack was to allow divers to exit and attach explosives through a lock-out area in the bow. During the Civil War, the confederate H.L. Hunley produced the first successful underwater attack.

In 1870, the US Navy purchased the Intelligent Whale, which had an air purification system and a system to pressurize ballast tanks. The Intelligent Whale was never commissioned because it failed sea trials, but did provide the inspiration to John Holland.

John Holland read of the Intelligent Whale while living in Ireland, immigrating to the US in 1873. With the support of the Fenian Brotherhood, an Irish independence group, Holland built the Holland I, II and III. In 1883, Holland met Rear Admiral William Kimball, who became very interested in Holland's work. Kimball pushed the idea of submarines to the Naval Department and Congress, knowing many influential people in Washington.

In 1888, the US Navy conducted a Torpedo Boat contest, won by John Holland. Although Holland won the contest, the Navy never purchased his boat. In 1893, the Navy held another competition, with Holland being challenge by Simon Lake. Many theories believe that Lake's design was superior, but by now Holland had very influential monetary and political supporter, and the Holland VI was chosen. Holland worked for several more years, launching the Holland VI in 1897. After sea trials in 1898, Holland submitted final specifications in late 1899. On April 11, 1900 the US Navy purchased the Holland VI for \$150,000. Commissioned and named the USS Holland (SS-1), the US Submarine Service war born.

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"

Commander's Corner

By Jim "Clutch" Koogler



Let me start this month by welcoming aboard our newest Columbus Base member, Walter Fleak. Walt qualified in April 1974, while serving as a ping jockey aboard USS Grayling (SSN-646). Walt and wife Susie currently reside in Centerburg, Ohio. Welcome Aboard, Walt.

By now, most (or all) of you know that Marv Pastor has been appointed Columbus Base COB. My thanks to Marv for volunteering and accepting the appointment. Please congratulate and thank Marv when you have the chance.

We held our 4th Columbus Base Submarine Birthday Dinner last Saturday, in honor of the submarine service's 107th birthday. 42 Columbus Base members and guests signed up... not bad for Easter holiday weekend. Joe and Mary Testa did their usual fantastic job of planning and coordinating the event, and the Gentile post provided a very good Italian buffet dinner... followed by a combination chocolate/white birthday cake. The featured speaker was (who else) Joe Testa, who chronicled submarine history from Leonardo DaVinci through John Holland and Simon Lake. Thanks to Joe and Mary, the American Legion Don Gentile post, and to all who were able to attend.

With the advent of warmer weather come many outside activities for Columbus Base. There are several events planned in May, including: the Franklin Heights NJROTC Sunset Ceremony, where we award the Columbus Base Award for Military Excellence and a \$500 savings bond; Columbus Base Tolling of the Bells ceremony; placing flags on veterans' graves, and the Worthington Memorial Day Parade. June will bring a possible "clean up day" at the Gentile post, and the Hilltop Bean Dinner (being coordinated by Bernie Kenyon). July will have the Independence Day parade, possibly in Westerville. There are currently 3 events pending for August: The Pro Football Hall of Fame parade in Canton, the Columbus Base Awards and Recognitions Dinner, and the Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival Parade(s). More information about each of these events will be forthcoming.

Here's my final reminder for the Central District 2 Convention and Submarine Birthday Ball at Illinois Beach Resort April 27-29. But frankly, as late as it is... if you haven't already made reservations, it's probably too late.

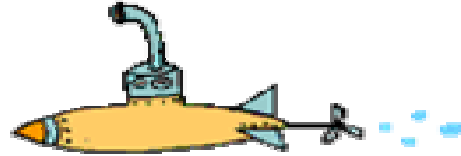
And last... if you aren't planning to attend the Central District 2 Convention and Submarine Birthday Ball, perhaps you might consider driving up to Cleveland on Saturday April 28th to help field day the USS Cod? It's a fun time, and I'm sure our Cod Base brothers would welcome the help. More will be out about this subject as well, so watch for it.

A male Kangaroo is called a "Boomer"
Also a buck, jacks and old men.

Panama is the only place in the world
where you can see the sun rise on the
Pacific and set on the Atlantic.

Vice Commander's Corner

By Dave Creekmore



In the past several months we have had a showing of some very kind, big hearted, generous, “for the cause” persons that have at that climatic moment of becoming the winners of the base 50/50 drawing, in a not at all selfish decision, gives the winnings back to the base funds.

You silly people!!! ----- Personal opinion of this author.

It should be noted that the Columbus Base of the USSVI, base officers and staff personal are not suggesting or requesting that this is a norm of practice. But, bless all those that have been so kind.

However if you should choose to do so, there are some tips that will benefit you as the donor.

We are working on a clarification of what is and what is not a charitable donation within the USSVI and Ohio Tax Code of laws governing any donation. At this point if you offered that winning back or for that matter any donation and simply gave the money to the base with no direction as to what the money was to be used for, there so, the money goes to the base general fund of said base and is **NOT** a charitable donation. If however you made a donation and stated to use that for either the Scholarship, Memorial or Benevolence (brotherhood) funds of said base then **YES**, that would be a charitable donation and can be used for your tax reporting. Got that?

In the future when someone makes a donation, you may be asked what you wish this donation to be used for and if you choose a charitable fund you will be offered a receipt of sorts for your record keeping.

I hope this clears up the discussion held at the past dinner, and I'm sure there will be more corrections, directions and clarification in the future reports.

This statement is an in-progress view of the charitable donation and does not reflect anything other than what we so far understand from the USSVI and Ohio Tax Code; which isn't much, I just needed to write something for my article.

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 Gudgeon (SS 211)	04-18-1944
USS Grenadier (SS-210)	04-22-1943





107th Submarine Birthday Dinner Celebration

Judging by what this writer saw and heard our latest Columbus Base Event was a smashing success. Because the event fell on Easter Weekend we had expected a lighter turnout from what we had in the past and that proved to be the case, but having 41 reservations only put us about a dozen less than last year. However, the enthusiasm and gaiety displayed by those who were able to attend made it seem like we had a much larger crowd. Maybe it's because we are becoming better acquainted with one another.



Much credited for the camaraderie has to go to our Activities Chairperson Joe Testa and his wife Mary for their suburb organization, decorations and set-up of the venue. Here we see Joe on the left and Mary on the right!

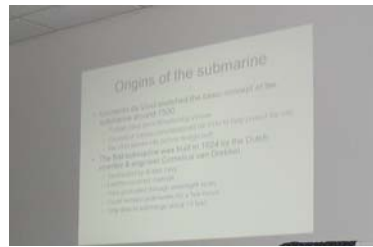


Having good food always helps and our new Chef at the Don Gentile American Legion Post #532 lived up to her billing. Her Italian Buffet was excellently prepared and was very much complimented by our group. The following photos will give you some idea of what our dining experience was like... ending with a piece of the celebratory cake, pictured at the right!



Following dinner the 50/50 raffle was held and Mary Testa's winning share was \$95.00 which she donated to the Base. Other raffle winners were featured in an e-mail broadcast prior to the issuance of this newsletter.

Joe Testa was our guest speaker and presented a short slide show depicting what our real early submarine history was like beginning with a Leonardo Da Vinci development in the 1500's. Following is what a couple of Joe's slides looked like:



Chaplain Sharon Lloyd's closing prayer ended the meeting by 8:30 which was followed by some socializing as we broke up and many of us were home by 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bernie Kenyon

Hey Nuc... Ever wonder what happened to your boat's reactor compartment?

A former Alexander Hamilton shipmate sent me a link to <http://home.flash.net/~tomj/tunny/chop/chop.htm>

This is part of the USS Tunny website that explains what happened to most of the reactor compartments from salvaged nuc boats. I'm trying to keep this short, and the information from the website is about 11 pages long... so it wouldn't fit here. But I think it might be worth your time to go there and read about it.

It also includes the following information and picture. The list and picture are probably 10 years old or so. I tried to find something more current, but couldn't. Other boat reactors were probably buried there after the picture was taken. Anyway... find your boat's hull number in the list, and then look in the picture for the section number. For example: Alexander Hamilton is 617 SSBN, number 34 in the picture. I recognize a lot of Columbus Base member boat names here. I know this won't bring any closure, but I hope you find it interesting.

"Clutch"

Hull# / Type / Name / Section#

575 SSN Seawolf	63	625 SSBN Henry Clay	67
578 SSN Skate	44	627 SSBN James Madison	68
579 SSN Swordfish	49	628 SSBN Tecumseh	36
583 SSN Sargo	45	629 SSBN Daniel Boone	40
584 SSN Seadragon	50	630 SSBN John C Calhoun	42
585 SSN Skipjack	17	631 SSBN Ulysses S Grant	29
587 SSN Halibut	37	633 SSBN Casimir Pulaski	43
588 SSN Scamp	4	634 SSBN Stonewall Jackson	51
591 SSN Shark	20	637 SSN Sturgeon	47
592 SSN Snook	2	638 SSN Whale	66
594 SSN Permit	27	640 SSBN Benjamin Franklin	48
595 SSN Plunger	19	641 SSBN Simon Bolivar	52
596 SSN Barb	11	643 SSBN George Bancroft	72
597 SSN Tullibee	55	644 SSBN Lewis & Clark	56
598 SSBN George Washington	3	646 SSN Grayling	73
599 SSBN Patrick Henry	1	649 SSN Sunfish	71
600 SSBN Theodore Roosevelt	7	650 SSN Pargo	57
601 SSBN Robert E Lee	5	651 SSN Queenfish	28
602 SSBN Abraham Lincoln	10	652 SSN Puffer	62
603 SSN Pollack	14	654 SSBN George C Marshall	31
604 SSN Haddo	24	655 SSBN Henry L Stimson	39
605 SSN Jack	23	656 SSBN Geo Wash Carver	35
606 SSN Tinosa	25	657 SSBN Francis Scott Key	46
607 SSN Dace	8	658 SSBN Mariano G Vallejo	54
608 SSBN Ethan Allen	12	659 SSBN Will Rogers	38
609 SSBN Sam Houston	22	662 SSN Gurnard	59
610 SSBN Thomas A Edison	13	663 SSN Hammerhead	53
611 SSBN John Marshall	30	665 SSN Guitarro	33
612 SSN Guardfish	26	667 SSN Bergall	65
613 SSN Flasher	32	668 SSN Spadefish	70
614 SSN Greenling	41	669 SSN Seahorse	58
615 SSN Gato	61	670 SSN Finback	69
616 SSBN Lafayette	21	672 SSN Pintado	74
617 SSBN Alexander Hamilton	34	673 SSN Flying Fish	60
618 SSBN Thomas Jefferson	6	678 SSN Archerfish	76
620 SSBN John Adams	9		



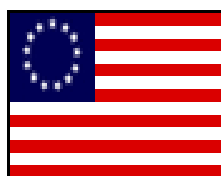
It is with great caution that I begin my column, since our Tolling of the Bells Ceremony is our next event. I mention caution because for those who attended our Submarine Birthday Dinner last month know, I mentioned I had tentatively received confirmation that Governor Ted Strickland would join us as our speaker. As you can imagine, the Governor’s scheduler has to work around many things, some of them are more important when you consider the overall good for the state of Ohio. Because the possibility exists that events will cause the Governor’s schedule to change, while we are on the tentative schedule for him to appear, his office is unable to confirm his appearance until a couple of weeks before the event.

My first choice for the Tolling speaker was former President Jimmy Carter, but I received a letter from the Carter Foundation that although he appreciated the request, his schedule would not allow him to join us. Imagine the logistical complications the visit of a former submariner, that happened to be President, would have caused. The event chairperson Liz Kenyon will provide you on updates through her very capable husband and his usual broadcasts. The Tolling of the Bells, honoring the memory of our fellow submariners who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, is scheduled for May 19th. Specifics of the event will be covered by Bernie’s broadcasts, so there is no need to cover them here.

Finally, I would like to thank those that were able to attend the Submarine Birthday Dinner. It was my short-sightedness that caused the dinner to be scheduled during a holiday weekend. I didn’t think Easter would impact attendance as much as it did, and for those that were not able to attend, I apologize for my error. For those that did attend, the feedback I received on the quality of the food was very positive. We will take this as a sign that we should continue to have our events at the Don Gentile Post. We are also working on what to do in case there is a conflict with other events at the Gentile Post, so pay attention to Bernie’s monthly meeting broadcasts, in case we move to another location.

Respectfully,

Joe Testa
 Activities Chairman



NEW MEMBERS

Walter E. “Walt” Fleak
 Centerburg, OH
 Knox county
 Spouse—Susie

Work on the base directory has begun with photos being taken at the January meeting. If you were not present and would like your photo added try and make the May meeting. For our members out of town, you could, if you wish send a photo to:
 Jim Koogler
 8417 Seabright
 Powell, OH

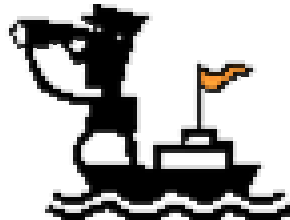


April

Marcia Dreiseidel	04-01
John Leers	04-04
Dave Creekmore	04-05
Gary Dinnell	04-05
Denver "Smitty" Smith	04-07
Bob Frier	04-12
Walt Fleak	04-15
Paige Ogle	04-19
Dick Estell	04-25
Bernie Kenyon	04-28

Spouses

Judy Rinehart	04-16
Angela Pendleton	04-27



Editor's Note

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

Jan Creekmore at e-mail
creek636@earthlink.net

Remember to bring your coffee, tea or hot chocolate donations for the VA Hospital to the monthly meetings! We are also accepting copies of the American Submariner that you may be done reading or get two in your household. They do appreciate our members donations for the veterans.

The Conn

Base commander

Jim Koogler

Vice Commander

Dave Creekmore

Treasurer

John Leers

Secretary

Elizabeth Kenyon

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd

COB

Marv Pastor

Membership Chairman

Bernie Kenyon

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Activities Chairperson

Joe Testa

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Our Holland Club profile this month is John Woodmansee. He was inducted into the Holland Club in August 2006. Here he shares some of his experiences with us.



John enlisted in the Navy in May 1955 at Columbus, Ohio then headed off to boot camp at Bainbridge Maryland. On completion of boot camp, John attended "A" school for Electronics Technician at Great Lakes. John's next stop was New London, Ct. for submarine school, out of sub school in July of 1956 he reported aboard the USS Hardhead SS 365. It was Nov. 1956 aboard Hardhead that John qualified to pin on his Dolphins.

In 1958 John was promoted to ET2 SS and also reenlisted aboard SS 365.

In June of 1958 John and Sandy were Married while he was on leave en route to Nuke school. John attended Nuclear Power School in New London in July of 1958. He graduated 4th in a class of 126. He was on the prototype at Windsor Locks, Ct. John was also an instructor at the prototype from Jan. 1959 to Feb. 1961. In March of 1961 John was a member of the pre commissioning crew for the USS Permit SSN 594 as an ET1 SS in Vallejo, California.

John was discharged in May of 1964 at San Diego.

A visit to the U505 in the museum in Chicago was all the motivation John needed to try the boats. He attained the rank of ET1 SS and qualified as engineering officer of the watch on Permit.

San Diego was his favorite port his favorite duty, smoke boat, USS Hardhead.

John and Sandy have two daughters both born in Ca. Randi in 1962 at Vallejo and Kelli in 1967 at San Diego. They also have four grand children, two step grand children and 3 step great grand children.

A few of John's recollection's are on the real serious side, John had orders to the Thresher, his buddy wanted duty in New Hampshire John wanted to go West, they swapped duty . Every one knows what happened to the Thresher. John says he feels very lucky. I would think everyone shares his sentiments.

Another finds John aboard Permit ,while on sea trials, Permit collided with the freighter Hawaiian Citizen off san Francisco. The exercise was a flank speed dive to periscope, they lost depth control and while coming back to periscope depth they bounced off the bottom of the freighter, cutting a six foot gash in their bottom. A bit shaken up on the Permit but no injuries reported on either vessel.

On the humorous side John recalls Bernie Kenyon and another sailor enjoying swim call while in the Med aboard the Hardhead. As the two dove off the bridge someone yelled SHARK. They literally ran on the water up the tank tops and on deck. The shark turned out to be a whale and a good laugh for the rest of the crew.

Another story from John involves his grandson, Adam Harper. Adam is a MM2 SS. Adam has been serving for three years currently aboard the USS Wyoming SSBN 742 stationed at Kings Bay, Ga. "We attended his nuke school graduation and the keynote speaker was a retired Rear Admiral who happened to be one of my instructors at nuke school in 1958. We had a nice talk afterwards. When Adam qualified the Captain pinned him with my dolphins that I had given him when he went into submarines. He stands senior watch stations now and is a designated rescue swimmer for the boat. He also received two commendations, the last being an Admirals Letter."

Thank John for all your time and service.

MEET A DEDICATED UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN

COLUMBUS BASE SHIPMATE

Project Good Neighbor is a collaborative effort with public and private organizations to encourage Navy people, both military and civilian, to share their gifts and abilities. Our Columbus Base, in general, fits that objective and within our membership are a few who should be especially recognized for their contribution. For this issue of our newsletter, we have chosen a crewmember that enlisted and served in the Navy in the "sixties".

Stating that our honoree is a United States Navy Veteran and was a Petty Officer Third Class is but a small part of our introduction. The development of our candidate's quality of being able to do something with her talent and how it has transformed into her putting it all too good use upon becoming an Associate Member of USSVI began with her completion of high school.

In Sharon Lloyd's words, "I had an aunt who was a Wave during WWII. It kind of fascinated me and being the oldest of five children we did not have the money for college. Like a lot of young people I wanted to get away from home and try my wings. The Navy was a way for me to experience a different kind of life without putting a burden on my family for school.

I was 17 when I graduated from high school so I had to wait until November when I turned 18. On my birthday on the 6th, my mother took me to the Navy recruiter's office in Dayton. They had me take the aptitude test and told me to come back when the Wave recruiter was there. My intention had been to leave for boot camp after Christmas. My mom needed me to take care of my little sister for awhile but the recruiter talked me into going in on the 5th of December. This was in 1963 just after President Kennedy was shot."



GETTING to BOOT CAMP -

"They sent me by plane from Cincinnati to Washington D.C. This was my first ever plane ride and the first time ever away from home. I was very scared but determined to succeed. I had many people tell me I would not be able to handle it and I was out to prove them wrong. It was dark when I arrived in D.C. and I had to make my own way from the airport to the Naval Base in Bainbridge, Maryland. I had been given a voucher for a taxi, which took me to the bus depot and then I had to find the right bus. Quite a lot for a southern Ohio farm girl. There were a couple of other recruits on the bus but we didn't know about each other until we got off the bus at Bainbridge. We arrived late, after everyone was in bed and had to very quietly get in our bunks without disturbing anyone. When they woke us the next day I felt as if I had not slept at all." Two and one-half months later, she appeared as a Seaman Apprentice when the above photo was taken while on boot leave.

BOOT CAMP INDOCTRINATION -

Sharon's response to the question regarding what her first day at Bainbridge was like, "We did some marching, were given our work uniforms which consisted of dungarees and chambray shirts and work shoes which we wore except when we were having personal inspection. Our dress uniforms came a little later as they had to be tailored for fit. We also got our shots a couple of weeks later. They used a gun to administer the shots. I remember one of the women moved and got a nasty cut from the gun. As for our civilian clothing, it was packed in trunks and stored until we were shipped to our new duty station after boot graduation."

BOOT CAMP TRAINING -

"Discipline was very, very strict. Even though we ate in the same chow hall as the male sailors on base we were NOT allowed to speak to them at any time. We were told that "men were trees" and of course no one talked to trees. We were awakened with a whistle at 0500 and had to line up at attention in our PJs in front of our cubicles until everyone was in line. A couple of times someone would be so tired that they did not hear the whistle and then there would be heck to pay. We had to wait at attention while that person was berated for being lazy. We had 15 minutes to dress, make our bunks, and muster to go to the chow hall for breakfast.

It was a daily grind of waking up at 5:00 am, marching to morning chow, marching to class, doing our studies, marching to evening chow, back to the barracks for a little down time (very little) and in bed by 9:30 pm. It was kind of hard at first but got easier the longer we did it.

We attended classes in Naval Orientation, learning to recognize planes and ships by their silhouettes, understanding the UCMJ, the chain of command and recognizing ranks of officers. Physical training and swimming was something else. I had never been in water over my head so this was a challenge for me. I was put in the Guppies class until I could get from one end of the pool to the other without putting my feet down. I think the hardest thing I had to do was jump off the 12 foot platform into 12 feet of water and get to the other end. I had to do this or I would fail and be sent home. When I graduated I was classified as a third class swimmer. We were taught to use our dungarees as a flotation device.

There was lots of marching but the only ones who marched to music was the drill team, which I was a part of for the last 4 weeks of boot camp. I was the mustering petty officer for the drill team and carried a rank of 1st class for the last 3 weeks of training."

BOOT CAMP HOUSEKEEPING -

The Wave's rooms had to be maintained in spotless condition. Neatness requirements of clothing in their closets were extreme. All coats, jackets and blouses had to be completely buttoned on hangers. Boots had to be buckled, and shoes had to be laced and tied with all spaced evenly with toes pointing forward. Underwear had to be folded with all folds facing out and piled neatly. Cots had to be made perfect without a wrinkle, and no dust was allowed.

Sharon remembers, "Housekeeping was very much a part of the discipline we received. Things had to be done a certain way or it was wrong and we had to do it over. Our lockers were to be just so with shirts and jackets facing the same direction, slacks folded over hangers with the creases nice and sharp. Even our underwear had to be folded the Navy way (I still fold all underwear the same way). We slept in bunk beds. Mine was on top and I remember falling out once. We had little privacy but did have shower curtains. There were 8 women to a cubicle so we did not have much privacy as we dressed each day. You soon got over any modesty that you had in our rush to be dressed and in formation each morning. Our hair had to be short, off the collar or tucked up in such a way that it stayed off the collar. I had to have a waiver to get into boot camp because I was about 10 pounds over weight. Because of this I was put in the Pudgy Platoon, which meant I had to watch what I ate. If I did not lose a little weight every week they would take 2 points off my personal inspection. The regular hours, exercise, and eating only at regular meals helped me to lose the extra weight by the end of boot training."

MEMORABLE BOOT CAMP EXPERIENCES -

Sharon's Company was the first to graduate after the period of mourning for President Kennedy had ended. She remembers their being called, "The Sweetheart Company of 1964, graduating on Feb. 14th!"

She says, "Boot camp was fairly uneventful except that a friend of mine had fallen and broke her leg. Once I was called before my CO because she had found cigarettes in my locker. She had the wrong locker. I was 1 of 5 or 6 women who did not smoke when we started boot camp, at the end of 10 weeks I was the only one. I also met Frank Lloyd while I was in Boot Camp. He was there for Nuclear Power School (but that is another story).

Women were discharged if they were pregnant and were not allowed to have any dependants. One of my friends was making the Navy her career and had already been in for over 10 years when her mother became ill and there was no one to care for her. She had to become a dependant of her daughter. The Navy gave the Wave a waiver so she could stay in the Navy, but they took about 6 months to decide to give her that waiver.

Sharon was reluctant to mention this next part, but between this writer and her husband, Frank, we felt that the prank, that Sharon and some of her Company pulled on a sister recruit, would make a diesel boat rat proud. Sharon states, "In our 5th week of training we got to go Lancaster, Pa (this is where I met Frank) to purchase some of the things we needed for our sea bags that we could not get at the Base Exchange. The week after we got back, we were scheduled to have our mid-training pelvic exams. I do not know why they felt they had to put us through these exams again, but they did. Now you have to understand that we were shown movies as part of our training about sexually transmitted diseases. The films were from WWII. Some of us convinced one of our very naive mates that the Navy was going to make new VD films using some of us when we had our exams. The poor girl was so scared that when the doctor walked into the examining room she screamed. I don't remember if she ever forgave us for embarrassing her this way or not. She was the only one out of the whole company that was still modest about dressing and undressing in front of her bunk mates even after her 10 weeks in Boot Camp were over."

FOLLOWING BOOT CAMP -

Our future Chaplain lived on the base, "But this time we had only two to a cubicle, some times three. Our lockers were lined up across the opening of each cubicle with a walkway into the room covered by a curtain for a door. We were allowed to use our own bed spreads and have decorations in the room as long as they were tasteful (according to Navy standards). I had a black and white stuffed cat on my bed that my grandmother had given me for my 18th birthday. We stood security duty from 1600 to 0800 but there were enough of us that we only had to do it once every 2 weeks. I had the duty one night from 0200 to 0400 and fell asleep on duty for about 20 minutes and was late with a security report. We had to phone the front gate every hour to report all was well. I did not get caught but I still shudder to think what would have happened had someone come in while I was sleeping. I never did it again."

Sharon elected to stay at Bainbridge and was selected to work on the Briefing Board. A position where, "We took officers service records and condensed them down to 2 or 3 pages and sent them to the Pentagon to the Promotions Board. If the Board then needed more information they would ask for the officer's complete record. One time they took us to Washington D.C. so we could tour the Pentagon and see where our work was going. It was very interesting and impressive and also a little scary with all that brass walking around.

I went from the Briefing Board to Machine Accountant School at Bainbridge. Graduated 4th in a class of 16 and was ranked 1st of the women in the class. After school they put me to work as a receptionist in an office in the Pami Conus division. It wasn't until my Lieutenant went to bat for me that I got to use the training I had received. I was transferred to Quonset Point, RI in 1965. I studied for the E-4 exam and was promoted to that rank in the summer of '65. I worked on a lot of IBM machines that are now totally extinct. The computers that we used filled large rooms and were very sensitive to temperature. If I had not gotten married and pregnant I was next in line for training on the BIG computers. I received an honorable discharge in January 1965; shortly after enlistments for all Naval personnel were extended because of Viet Nam. From Jan. 14, 1966 until Aug. 29, 1969 I served as a submariner's wife."



Since that time Sharon moved back to Ohio with husband Frank. Their mailing address is the city of Marengo which is located in Morrow County, slightly northeast of Columbus. Their family consists of two sons Robert and Steven. A daughter named Meely, and 3 grandchildren. Sharon is a renowned cook and baker. Bringing her delicious baked goods to Columbus Base meetings where they are favorite treats when added to our base raffle.

She is an active member of her church and holds the position of Church Treasurer!

"All in all I felt that my time in service was a very positive experience. I enjoyed my time in the Navy & feel it helped me to grow as a responsible citizen of this country and gave me a greater love for my country. I would still recommend it to any young lady and have even encouraged my granddaughter to join the NJROTC at her school next year when she starts her freshman year."



The signal flags you see at the top this article are used by Navy Ships to communicate with other ships in the fleet. Our hoisted collection spells BASE CHAPLAIN, honoring a Columbus Base [Project Good Neighbor](#) of the highest rank!

Respectfully submitted by Bernie Kenyon

Upcoming Events

May 5, 2007	1200 hrs	Meeting at the Don Gentile American Legion Post
May 19, 2007	1200 hrs	Tolling of the Bells Battelle Darby Metro Park
May ??, 2007	????	Memorial Day Parade in Worthington

Brass Monkey

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannonballs near the cannon on war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on the top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen in a small area right next to the cannon.

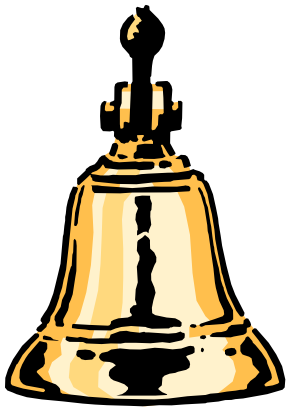
There was only one problem— how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a “Monkey”. But if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make “Brass Monkeys”. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

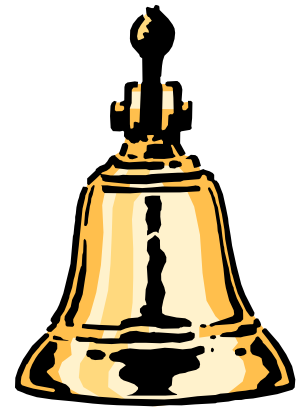
Thus it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.

And all this time, you thought that was a vulgar expression, didn't you?

Submitted by Rick Larson



**Columbus Base USSVI
Tolling of the Bells
May 19, 2007**



**Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park
Cedar Ridge Lodge**

You, your family and friends are invited to attend the 2007 Tolling of the Bells.

Time: 1100 - Muster

1200 - Tolling of the Bells

1:30 - 4:00 - Picnic, raffles, auctions and fun for all

The Columbus Base will furnish all tableware, hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, buns, coffee and water.

Bring a dish to pass and/or dessert plus your non-alcoholic beverages.

Please RSVP by May 15

RSVP: bkenyon@insight.rr.com

Or

Elizabeth Kenyon
1835 Brimfield Road
Columbus, OH 43229
614/395-4591

Cedar Creek Lodge has a complete kitchen, heat, air conditioning, outdoor deck with seating, and parking.