



UNITED STATES  
SUBMARINE VETERANS INC

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# STRYKER SIGNALS

## 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. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States government.”

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## Special Dedication

This edition of the Stryker Signals Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Billy Davidson, Still on Patrol on the USS Wahoo, and Phil Stryker, on Eternal Patrol. Note: I am in total awe of the men who went to war to keep us free. I am not ashamed to say that when I see the Flag in a parade or at a ceremony I get a lump in my throat. When I see men and women in uniform, or with a World War II ball cap, I wonder how they do it? I would hope that I could be as brave as all of you. To all of you who have “gone in harm’s way” in a boat like Billy and Phil my family and I give you our humble Thank You!

## Social

Our last social was at the home of James and Betty Lou Mooring. It was a looooooong drive, but well worth the effort. They are blessed with a beautiful home, a beautiful setting, and great hospitality.

## Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the VFW in Schertz (1000 FM 78) at 1400 hours with a pot luck lunch at 1300 hours on 20 January 2008.

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## Minutes From the Meeting of November 18, 2007

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1300 hours.

### Invocation

John Buchanan gave the invocation.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### USSVI Creed

Frank Lister read the USSVI Creed.

### Tolling of the Boats Ceremony

### New Member Introduction

No new members.

## **Secretary's Report**

There was no Secretary's Report.

## **Reading the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the May 20, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report was given and accepted.

Eight members have not paid dues to date.

Raffle netted \$37.00

## **Old Business**

Frank Lister recommended Officers Slate; voted on and passed.

Christmas Party – To be held December 15 at 1200 hours at the home of James and Betty Lou Mooring. Pot Luck Lunch. Bring a gift (gag or otherwise) not to exceed \$20.

Submarine catalog passed to the group.

Barry Martin – Veteran's Day at Fort Sam National Cemetery had three members present (Barry, Dave, and Dallas). RADM J. W. Goodwin, Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic, was the keynote speaker. Memorial Day planning to start in March.

## **New Business**

Frank Lister – Robert E. Lee reunion to be in San Antonio, May 2009. Requested we participate.

Submarine 698 class plaque will be approved shortly.

Lone Sailor induction in Washington, DC. May be placed in San Antonio at the River Walk.

Barry Martin – Frank Tejada Middle School History Faire to be held April 5, 2008, from 1000 to 1600 hours.

Volunteers needed.

Letter was read from the "Returning Heroes Home" committee thanking Base for contribution.

International Submariner's Association and USSVI Convention to be held September 9-12, 2009, in San Diego. For more information: [www.isa-usa-2009.org](http://www.isa-usa-2009.org) and [www.isausa.org](http://www.isausa.org).

Next meeting will be January 20, 2008 at the VFW in Schertz.

## **Benediction**

Given at 1449 hours.

## **Meeting adjourned.**

## **FROM THE HUMOR BILGE**

### **The Bathtub Test**

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the Director, "we fill a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," said the visitor, "a normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon

or the teacup.” “No,” said the Director, “a normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed by the window?”

## **Senility Prayer**

Lord, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

## **Men Are Just Happier People**

What do you expect from such simple creatures?

Your last name stays the same.

The garage is all yours.

Wedding plans take care of themselves.

Chocolate is just another snack.

You can be President.

You can never be pregnant.

You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.

You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth.

The world is your urinal.

You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.

You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.

Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character.

Graying hair adds attraction.

Wedding dress-\$5,000. Tux rental- \$100.

People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected.

New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.

One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

You know stuff about tanks.

A five day vacation requires only one suitcase.

You can open all your own jars.

You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.

If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.

Your underwear is \$8.95 for the three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

You never have strap problems in public.

You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color.

The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.

You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can play with toys all your life.

Your belly hides your big hips.

One wallet and one pair of shoes, one color for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.

You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife.

You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache.

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24<sup>th</sup> in 25 minutes

No wonder men are happier!



## Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

### Dudley "Mush" Morton, the Submarine force's Rising Star

By the summer of 1943, everybody in the Pacific Submarine Force had heard of Dudley "Mush" Morton and *Wahoo*. They had become an overnight sensation after *Wahoo's* third patrol conducted off New Guinea earlier that same year. As part of his tasking for his first patrol as commanding officer of *Wahoo*, Morton's patrol orders included the directive: "Adjust speed, if possible, to permit daylight reconnaissance vicinity Wewak Harbor, New Guinea." After consulting with his officers for their interpretation of "reconnaissance," Morton made his intentions clear. He decided it meant enter the harbor, submerged, and sink as many enemy ships as possible. Upon conducting a periscope survey of an inlet for which he had no official charts, he detected a Japanese *Shiratsuyu*-class destroyer apparently at anchor. He commenced firing a salvo of bow torpedoes only to discover that the destroyer was actually underway and his torpedoes would miss astern. He fired his last bow torpedo at 800 yards using a "down the throat" shot as the now fully alerted destroyer charged *Wahoo's* periscope with intent to ram. Morton obligingly kept the periscope raised to lure the destroyer into the path of his final torpedo. Morton later reported that this torpedo had "blown off the bow" of the destroyer. After snapping some photographs through the periscope, *Wahoo* commenced a 3-knot, 7 miles egress using dead reckoning and passive sonar alone. On the same patrol—two days later—Morton attacked and believed he had sunk an entire convoy composed of two freighters, a troop transport, and a tanker during an all day pursuit with multiple torpedo and gun attacks. Mush Morton, who had a flair for the terse message writing required of all submarine communication, composed the following for Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet:

SANK DESTROYER IN WEWAK SUNDAY AND IN FOURTEEN HOUR RUNNING GUN AND TORPEDO BATTLE TODAY SANK CONVOY OF ONE TANKER TWO FREIGHTERS AND ONE TRANSPORT DESTROYING HER BOATS TORPEDOES EXPENDED PROCEEDING PEARL HARBOR VIA FAIS ISLAND

Morton had relieved the first CO of *Wahoo* [Kennedy] on New Year's Eve 1942 and Morton and O'Kane implemented a new twist to the traditional fire control party. In a remarkable display of leadership and faith in his subordinates, Morton promoted his XO's to the role of "co-approach officer," assigning them to the periscope to perform all observations and fire all torpedoes. Morton wisely believed that a commanding officer should always dispassionately retain the big picture, especially during approach and attack. *Wahoo's* fourth and fifth patrols were successful, but the sixth patrol was a different story. Firing ten torpedoes, all of which were defective, *Wahoo* returned to port with the remaining fish.

After a quick turn around, with a load of the new MK 18s, and someone with him that knew this new torpedo [Bobby Logue, TM1] *Wahoo* headed for the Sea of Japan, Fall 1943. *Wahoo's* secret operations order called for her to enter the Sea of Japan on or about September 20, 1943, and conduct unrestricted submarine operations south of the 43<sup>rd</sup> parallel. *USS Sawfish* (SS 276), under the command of Lt. Cmdr. E. T. Sands, was to enter three days later and patrol north of the 43<sup>rd</sup>. *Wahoo's* orders called for her to return by the same route no later than sunset October 21, 1943, and radio back once clear of the Kuril chain circa October 23<sup>rd</sup>. But Mush Morton and *Wahoo* were never to be heard from again.

During this last patrol *Wahoo* sank the Konron Maru with 544 fatalities, as well as three other vessels. *Wahoo* was lost to anti-submarine action in the La Perouse Strait on October 11, 1943.

*Sailors, rest your oars.*