

International Submariner-USA

The International Submariners Association/USA is the United States chapter of an international organization dedicated to promoting brotherhood among submarine veterans of all nations.

OFFICERS

President

Fred Wagner
9778 Prairie Road
Boise, Idaho 83714
(208) 939-6495
fwagner77@cableone.net

Vice President

John North
1779 Elm Road
Concord, CA 94519
(925) 676-5784
jcnorth@astound.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Ken Earls
7178 Prairie Ridge Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
(928) 772-0275
Ken_earls@msn.com

Recorder

Gil Miller
gemcap646@ranchomurieta.org

Member at Large

Ron Gibson
ron-gibson-ss484@att.net

Newsletter Editor

Liz Clark
lizzybc@frontiernet.net



Our Creed

The Purpose of the ISA-USA will be: To Perpetuate the memory of those who have lost their lives in submarines and to further promote and keep alive the spirit and unity that exists among all submarine crewmen, to foster friendship and goodwill internationally, remembering always our belief in the freedom of thoughts, words and deeds. Every Member shall remain loyal to his country at all times.



Farewell, Friend

Robert D. "Ben" Benites, LCDR, USN (Ret)
February 21, 1923 – January 10, 2008



Ben Benites quietly departed on Eternal Patrol at approximately 1700 on 10 January 2008 while at home with his wife, Beryl.

For several decades, Ben has been a driving force in the Submariner and Diver's communities. He was an active member of the Submarine Veterans of WW II, seldom missing a meeting in his hometown of Sacramento, California. He was the National Scholarship Chairman for the WW II organization for more than 20 years until it was transferred to the USSVI two years ago. He was a key member of the leadership in the ISA-USA for many years, having held every position in the organization over the past 20 years.

Ben qualified on submarines while serving as a Quartermaster. After making chief, he earned his commission and ultimately served as Commanding Officer on the USS Coucal, ASR 8.



Ben enjoying a refreshment
in Laughlin, NV April 2007



December 7, 2007 in Discovery Park, Sacramento, CA Ben on
the left, with Bob Foerst and Warren Sasser



Ben attending the joint
WW II & USSVI Caucus in
Laughlin, NV April 2007

Cherbourg, France September 2007

We had 31 members with spouses attend the annual convention held in Cherbourg, France this past September. The convention had over 650 members from 21 different countries. The U.S. may have had more attend, but the timing of the French convention was very close to the annual USSVI convention, which was an Alaskan cruise and many ISA-USA members decided to attend the cruise instead of going to France. We did have a few who made both conventions: Evelyn & Fred Wagner and Barbara & John Stanford attended both conventions.



Fred Wagner presenting a gift from ISA-USA to Admiral Jacques Blanc

ISA-USA Annual Business Meeting

The 2007 Annual Business Meeting was held aboard the HMS Oosterdam during the Alaskan cruise in September, 2007. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual USSVI convention. There were over 1,600 who enjoyed the cruise from Seattle to three points of call in Alaska. The cruise also included a lengthy time while the captain "parked" the ship alongside the



Mendenhall Glacier on a sunny afternoon. On the second day at sea, ISA-USA held an Open House in the Crow's Nest Lounge. This location on one of the highest decks and is at the bow of the ship, with 180 degrees of view. We offered one free beer to everyone who wanted to attend

and we were swamped with attendees.

During the cruise, we had a table in the vendor room set up to inform USSVI members about ISA-USA and as a result, we recruited 80 new members. It is important to acknowledge the very strong support offered by our member Dick Fyten who was at the table virtually the entire cruise. His efforts were absolutely remarkable and are truly appreciated. Also, Don Shoemaker assisted for a full day and his assistance is appreciated. A very loud THANK YOU to Jo Miller, who worked during the entire Open House, logging in every visitor and



Jo Miller and Ken Earls at Open House

assuring that each person received a beer ticket and a door prize ticket. She jumped in and did a fabulous job. I don't want to forget to mention that Gil Miller, your Recording Secretary, also worked the entire Open House.



A busy table, recruiting new members

Door Prize Winner

We had a very nice bronze, quartz maritime clock for the Grand Door prize. The winner was Mort Williams, from Sturbridge, MA. Mort joined ISA-USA as a Life Member during the cruise.



Report of Annual Business Meeting September 16, 2007

Our organization's 2007 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was called to order by Fred Wagner, President, ISA-USA, at 1600 hours at sea aboard the Holland America Lines Cruise Ship Oosterdam.

ISA-USA Members present (11): Fred Wagner, Ken Earls, Gil Miller, Ron Gibson, Dick Fyten, John Stanford, Bill Andrea, Don Shoemaker, Gerald Bliss, Howard Shaw, Lon Schmidt.

Fred gave a summation of the 44th Congress just completed in Cherbourg, France. France hosted 600 ISA participants representing 20 nations. It was announced the following countries will host the upcoming annual gala events as follows; Poland-2008, United States of America-2009, Israel-2010. Greece may not host the event for 2011 and possible alternate host nations are Peru, Turkey or the Ukraine. It was decided that the month of May will replace September for the annual congresses. The 2009 46th Congress to be held in San Diego will be the last September event; with future congresses to be held during the month of May. Event scheduling will be reduced to three years in advance, departing from the tra-

ditional five year projection. The host country and city for 2011 will be decided in Poland in 2008.

Fred received a selection of event brochures and booklets from the Polish delegation. The event will be held in Gdynia, which is a seaport city and part of the "Tri-Cities" area of Poland. A number of tours will be conducted throughout the area. Ken Earls proposed posting the available information and map of the area on the ISA-USA website. Fred also exhibited table placards and menu listings from various events for examples to be used for the ISA-USA event. Once the official information for The Heads of Delegations is received via Email it will be published on the ISA-USA website.

It is noted that a number of ISA members have expressed an interest in attending the Gdynia event. Poland is expected in the near future to develop a website defining event costs, lodging availability and necessary travel information.

It was stated that entry visas are not currently required of American and European visitors to Poland. Fred ad-

vised follow-up would be completed with John Ulmen to determine the specific visa requirements for Poland. Fred will maintain Email contact with the head of the Polish delegation to ensure they forward a specific event "Invitation" to clear the way for ISA-USA members to travel to Poland.

Ken gave a membership report, noting that new ISA-USA membership has grown nicely during 2007. As of the close of our onboard ISA-USA Open House today (9/16), 41 Life Members and 2 Annual Members had joined our organization during the Alaskan Cruise. Additional new members are anticipated during the remainder of the cruise. Since April, it is noted that most new members have elected to be Life Members. Postscript – upon completion of the cruise we recruited a total of 80 new members, 3 of which were Annual Members and 77 were Life Members.

Dick Fyten inquired regarding participant interest at the congress in France in the scheduled 2009 ISA-USA 46th Congress. Fred reported the participants like the event

(Continued on page 5)

Report of Annual Business Meeting September 16, 2007

website and brochure. He also commented that here is one European country in which there is some contention between members. The head of that delegation did request that we make a change in how we are staffing our convention planning. Should the ISA-USA not make the change, then, their delegation has indicated they will boycott the 2009 San Diego event.

Arrangements are pending with Ken Johnson ISA-USA webmaster to link the 46th Congress website to the or-

ganization website.

Fred completed a reading of the acceptance letter dated 23 August 2007 by Admiral Thomas Fargo regarding our invitation to him to serve as the Honorary Chairman and spokesman of the 46th Congress. A meeting with Admiral Fargo is pending.

Dick also reported that contact with Admiral B. DeMars, via the Naval Submarine League (NSL), led to contact with Admiral Fargo. Dick requests that our membership support the NSL, their quarterly review periodical and en-

deavors of that organization.

Ken reported the ISA-USA vendor table had been successful in selling various items, including pins, patches and hats, as well as a number of new memberships. The vendor table is manned essentially during daylight hours, except when the ship is in port.

A motion was made and accepted at 1625 to adjourn the 2007 ISA-USA ABM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gil Miller, Recorder
ISA-USA.

2009 Convention in San Diego

As Chairman of the 2009 convention, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those involved in the planning for the San Diego Convention. Two people who stand out for having done substantial work on the planning: Shirley Hamm, Boise, ID and Dick Fyten, Redding, CA have spent literally hundreds of hours in planning for this convention. Much has been done, there is still much to do. We have had substantial support from the Naval Submarine League (NSL). Both VADM J. Guy Reynolds, USN (Ret) and CAPT C. Michael Garverick, USN (Ret) have been very helpful. Many

thanks go to Adm. Thomas Fargo who has agreed to serve as Honorary Chairman and Host for our convention. We have held meetings with Capt. William C. Hughes, Jr., USN (Ret), who is the President of the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the NSL. The Southwest Chapter is headquartered in San Diego and they have many contacts within the area.

My wife, Phyllis and I spent five days in San Diego in December and found it to be a thriving and exciting city. It seems different from my last visit there in 1964. While in San Diego, I met with Mike

Hacking and Michael Bircumshaw, the USSVI planning committee and I am extremely pleased with the cooperation that is being displayed. We expect to have an event that will be unprecedented in submarine history and perhaps in military history: We have the opportunity to have submarine veterans from virtually every organization and from every free country in attendance in one location at the same time. Block out September 7th through the 12th on your 2009 calendar. You will not want to miss this convention.

Ken Earls

Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.)
President, Trex Enterprises Corp.
Chairman and CEO, Loea Corp.
Chairman, Sago Systems, Inc.



Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.), former Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, serves as President of Trex Enterprises Corporation, a privately-held high-technology company. Admiral Fargo also serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Loea Corporation, a high-bandwidth wireless communications company, and as Chairman of Sago Systems, Inc, a defense and homeland security company developing state-of-the-art technologies; both are subsidiaries of Trex Enterprises.

Admiral Fargo joined Trex Enterprises on March 28, 2005, after a distinguished career serving the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense. He was the twentieth officer to hold the position of Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. As the senior U.S. military commander in East

Asia, the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, he led the largest unified command while directing the joint operations of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force across 100 million miles. He was responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense, and was the U.S. military representative for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific.

Admiral Fargo also served as the 29th Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet from October 1999 to May 2002. His service as a leader in the Pacific was preceded by his command of the U.S. Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces of the Central Command during two years of Iraqi contingency operations from July 1996 to July 1998. His 35 years of service included six assignments in Washington, DC, in addition to five commands in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and

Middle East.

Born in San Diego, CA, he attended high school in Coronado, CA, and Sasebo, Japan. Admiral Fargo graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1970. He is a 1989 recipient of the Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership.

Admiral Fargo is based out of Trex's Honolulu, Hawaii, office. In addition to his work at Trex, he serves on the Boards of Directors for Hawaiian Electric Industries, Hawaiian Airlines, and USAA. He is active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, the Iolani School Board of Governors, and the Hawaii Pacific University Board of Trustees. He is the National Vice Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund.

A Note From Your Secretary/Treasurer

As discussed in previous sections, our membership is growing nicely. We have increased our membership by over 60% in the past fourteen months. It is far more efficient and effective to communicate via the internet. We have approximately 150 members who do not have e-mail. We do send these newsletters to them, but other communication is sent to those with e-mail addresses. If you don't have an e-mail address, perhaps you have a friend or relative who does and we can use that address to communicate with you. In all cases, we need a current address for you. If you move or change your address, please let me know.



International Submariner-USA
c/o Ken Earls
7178 Prairie Ridge Road
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

