HISTORY OF THE MARE ISLAND BASE

The first meeting of the Mare Island Base was held at the home of Bill Woods in Vallejo, California on the night of 26 July 1990. Elections were held with the following results:

Base Commander	**Bill Woods**
Vice Commander	**Robert Dwinell**
Secretary	**Cliff Smith**
Treasurer	**Jan Dyer**

It was decided that the monthly meeting of the Mare Island Base would be held on the last Thursday of the month at 1930 in the evening. The meeting place would continue to be at Bill Woods house in Vallejo. The following members would be designated as charter members or plankowners:

Clifford A. Smith	**Joseph A. Averi**
William L. Woods	**Charles A. Foskett Jr.**
Jan H. Dyer	**Albert J. Meteney**
Lionel B. Schmidt	**William G. Looby**
Robert E. Dwinell	**Robert W. Molleck**
Daniel R. Simmons Jr.	**Cris G. Field**
Phillip P. Phillips Jr.	**Virgil J. Mason**
Laurence M Curtiss	**Chester C. Bienkowski**
Jimmy A. Nagle	**William L. Campbell**
John F. Hanley	**Clarence Benefiel**
Dick M. Kountz	**John S. Mailho**
Gary W. Clinefelter	**Robert E. Sims**
Dennis S. Clinefelter	**Robert S. Northrop**

The Mare Island Base continued to meet at Bill Woods home until January 1991 when they held the meeting at the VFW Hall in Crockett, California which is right across the Carquinez Straits from Vallejo. One of the members of the Mare Island Base, Jimmy Nagle, authored a book called "The Unholy Three" in which he chronicled six decades of his life spent in the single minded pursuit of one overwhelming passion and that was of having fun and adventure on the high seas. Jimmy was a pre World War II submarine sailor, got out and then returned to serve his country through World War II and afterward and retired as a Chief Engineman, qualified in submarines.

Elections took place again in 1991 and with the same results as in 1990, with all the incumbents retaining their positions in the Mare Island Base. It was decided in 1991 that the Mare Island Base would host the 1993 USSVI National Convention in Vallejo, California.

In 1992 elections were once again held with new officers installed in the positions below:

Base Commander	**Jan Dyer**
Vice Commander	**Clifford Smith**
Secretary	**Dana Gage**
Treasurer	**Roy Armstrong**

As host of the 1993 National Convention, much work and planning took place during 1992 including reserving rooms at the Holiday Inn, with the Ramada Inn being utilized as a back up to the Holiday Inn. Two members of the Mare Island Base and their wives (Lionel and Carole Schmidt and Jan and Lisa Dyer) provided public relations about the upcoming convention in Vallejo at the National Convention held in Norfolk, Virginia.

At the September 1992 meeting it was decided to move the monthly meeting from Crockett, California back to Vallejo at the Veterans Memorial Building . Meetings would still be held on the last Thursday at 1930 in the evening.

In July 1993 base elections were held with the following results:

Base Commander	**Jan Dyer**
Vice Commander	**Clifford Smith**
Secretary	**Bill Dornik**
Treasurer	**Bill Woods**

So in September 1993 the National Convention was indeed held at the Holiday Inn in Vallejo, California. It was a huge success with over 400 attendees. Events included an arrival barbecue, a tour of the wine country, a memorial was held at the USS Pampanito (SS 383) tied up at Pier 45 in the Fishermans Wharf area in downtown San Francisco. After the memorial attendees were invited to tour the Pampanito. Several boat reunions were held in various locations in Vallejo and while the business meeting was going on several of the wives went to the outlet stores in nearby Vacaville and helped out the economy there.

In 1996 at the National USSVI convention held in Portland, Oregon the Mare Island Base once again put a bid in to host a national convention in Reno, Nevada in the year 1999. It was approved unanimously by those in attendance. During the years 1995, 1996, and 1997 the monthly meeting was moved around to different venues in the bay area, including Vets buildings, restaurants, the USS Pampanito in San Francisco all in hopes of improving attendance. The recurring problem for the Mare Island Base is that members are spread out geographically throughout the Northern California area so naturally for some attendance at the monthly meeting results in lengthy trips.

Mare Island Base started an annual tradition in 1998 wherein, the base in conjunction with the San Francisco chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans of World War II sponsored a picnic that was held at the Coast Guard Base in Alameda, California. A tradition which continues to this day. 1998 also saw a change in the monthly meeting time from the last Thursday of the month to the third Saturday of the month starting at 1230. The meeting would include a "potluck lunch", with wives attending. This routine has also continued to this day and is believed that it has helped in the attendance of members at the meeting. In addition to the above, Mare Island Base also joined with the San Francisco Chapter of WWII subvets in hosting an annual Crab Feed at the Veterans Building in Hayward, California. Another tradition which has continued to this day.

August 1999 brought more changes to the Mare Island Base including new officers and more significantly a new "editor" to the Mare Island Base Newsletter as it had been known since the inception of the base. Bill Vincent took on the job as editor and immediately chose the name "Pump Room" for our monthly newsletter. Bill continued in this role until February 2013 when because of health issues he was forced to retire, and then our current editor John North took over the task. Mare Island Base finished out 1999 by hosting a successful convention which was held in Reno, Nevada.

Now as the National Convention approaches next year in 2014, Mare Island Base once again finds itself in preparing to be the host for another USSVI convention. This time it will be held in Burlingame, California with quick access to San Francisco and the entire Bay Area of Northern California.

ADDENDA

BASE OFFICERS

1990-1991

Base Commander:	**William Woods**
Vice Commander:	**Bob Dwinell**
Secretary:	**Cliff Smith**
Treasurer:	**Jan Dyer**

1992

Base Commander:	**Jan Dyer**
Vice Commander:	**Cliff Smith**
Secretary:	**Dana Gage**
Treasurer:	**Roy Armstrong**

1993

Base Commander:	**Jan Dyer**
Vice Commander:	**Cliff Smith**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**Roy Armstrong**

1994

Base Commander:	**Tim Chupinski**
Vice Commander:	**Cliff Smith**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Woods**

1995

Base Commander:	**Tim Chupinski**
Vice Commander:	**Lon Schmidt**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**Ron Gibson**

1996

Base Commander:	**William Dornik**
Vice Commander:	**Lon Schmidt**
Secretary:	**Dave Peebles**
Treasurer:	**Ron Gibson**

1997-1998

Base Commander:	**William Dornik**
Vice Commander:	**Lon Schmidt**
Secretary:	**Vacant**
Treasurer:	**Ron Gibson**

1999

Base Commander:	**Ron Gibson**
Vice Commander:	**Dom Boncore**
Secretary:	**Bill Vincent**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2000

Base Commander:	**Ron Gibson**
Vice Commander:	**Dom Boncore**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2001-2002

Base Commander:	**Dom Boncore**
Vice Commander:	**Pat Barron**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2003

Base Commander:	**William Campbell**
Vice Commander:	**Pat Barron**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2004-2008

Base Commander:	**Pat Barron**
Vice Commander:	**Mike Rehmus**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2009-2011

Base Commander:	**Steve Paganelli**
Vice Commander:	**Mike Rehmus**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2012- 2014

Base Commander:	**Steve Paganelli**
Vice Commander:	**Allen Cole**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**William Dornik**

2015- Present

Base Commander:	**Allen Cole**
Vice Commander:	**Steve Paganelli**
Secretary:	**William Dornik**
Treasurer:	**Tim Carlisle**

Mare Island Base local involvement includes the activities listed below:

Sponsored a tree for the Lost Boat Tree Memorial at the San Juaquin National Cemetary
Performed the Lost Boat Ceremony at the Lost Boat Tree Memorial Dedication
Annual "Let Freedom Ring" at the Lost Boat Memorial in San Leandro, California
Annual joint USSVWWII/USSVI Crab Feed
Annual Christmas Party
Annual Picnic
Annual Sleepover on USS Pampanito
Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at USS Pampanito
Annual Toys for Tots program
Annual Veterans Day parade
Veterans Day services on Mare Island and Vallejo
Member of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce
Working with Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to build a museum to display 142 years of History of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard.