



"To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future"

November 2014

Volume 15, Issue 11

**Lest We Forget —
"The USSVI Submariner's 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 of America and its Constitution.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1100, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman's Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. NOVEMBER 15
 - b. DECEMBER 20
 - c. JANUARY 17, 2015
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. NOVEMBER – FRANK WALTER FISH FRY
 - b. DECEMBER – CLAY HILL OR CHRIS GAINES
 - c. JANUARY – FIFTH ANNUAL CHILI DUMP
3. **November Birthdays:** Gary Walters 7th; Len Wass 10th; Bill Stannard 15th; Pete Almeroth 18th; Thomas Steinman 21st; and David Fitzgerald 23rd. Happy Birthday to All!
4. Crash Dive Commander Clay Hill asks each Base member to **commit to donating \$100** by December 31, 2014 to the Submarine Memorial Project. Each shipmate who donates strengthens and demonstrates our commitment to the project. Do your part. Make your commitment today.
5. Watch your mailbox for your **2015 dues statement**. Help Crash Dive achieve a 100% renewal rate by sending yours in as soon as you receive the letter. Send to Membership Chair Tom Polzin; contact info on page 9.

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes October 18, 2014

- 1) Attendees:
 - a) Clay Hill
 - b) Terry Elmeier
 - c) Rich Behnke
 - d) Ray Ratliff
 - e) Herman Mueller
 - f) Martin Salvador
 - g) Dick Anderson
 - h) Larry Warnke
 - i) Ron Spooner
 - j) Chris Gaines
 - k) Gus Yakes
- 2) Meeting was called to order by Clay Hill at 1115 followed by the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and a round of introductions.
- 3) Secretary's Report given by Chris Gaines. Ray Ratliff moved to accept; Dick Anderson seconded; vote was unanimous.
- 4) Treasurer's Report given by Clay Hill. Savings \$1173.69; Checking \$4,730.01; Memorial Checking \$15,854.62; Memorial Savings \$5.00; Held by National \$5,240.00. Herman Mueller moved to accept; Terry Elmeier seconded; vote was unanimous.
- 5) Committee Reports
 - a) Newsletter – No news.
 - b) Membership – Dues coming due.
 - c) Charitable Service – Bring toiletries to each meeting

- for the USO. More pillowcases to deliver.
- d) Community Outreach – Made contacts at Welcome Home All Veterans; no new recruits to CD. Cobia working party in planning stage, maybe November.
 - e) Hospitality – Game feast coming in January.
 - f) Webmaster – Shipmates are reminded to check the Website periodically.
 - g) Storekeeper – No news.
 - h) Procedures – Review process is time-consuming. Coming up with new approach to expedite.
 - i) Eagle Scout – No news.
 - j) Memorial – Held meeting with Chicago Base; Clay highlighted the meeting discussion. Need to define how to distribute the funds received; likely refund that would interfere with the charitable donation that a donor may have claimed. Consider allocating untraceable cash donations toward expenses first IF we dissolve the fund. Herman reported that the school used pavers and experienced fading of the engraving due to environmental conditions and ice removal. Herman will check with the school and City of Waukegan for their experiences with bricks

for initial cost and maintenance.

- 6) Old Business
 - a) None.
- 7) New Business
 - a) Ball survey – results were inconclusive. Could repackage as a fundraising event instead of a Ball. Might need some sort of promoter for a fundraiser.
 - b) Ball vote – Dick Anderson moved that we take a secret ballot for or against a Ball in 2015. Martin Salvador seconded. Nine yes with one NO; motion carries. Staff will make a proposal at the November meeting, including enumerating tasks for volunteers.
- 8) Good of the Order item:
 - a) Ron Spooner noted that Tom Polzin has the first Silent Service TV series on some media.
 - b) Duty Cook
 - i) November – Frank Walter Fish Fry.
 - ii) December – Clay or Chris.
 - iii) January – Chili Dump.
 - c) “The government takes care of sea gulls, pelicans, and sub sailors.” Quote from Ron Spooner.
- 9) Benediction
- 10) Terry Elmeier moved to adjourn; Ray Ratliff seconded; vote was unanimous. Adjourned at 1305.

Lost Boats

USS CORVINA	(SS 226)16 NOV 43
USS SCULPIN	(SS 191)19 NOV 43
USS ALBACORE	(SS 218) 7 NOV 44
USS GROWLER	(SS 215) 8 NOV 44
USS SCAMP	(SS277) 16 NOV 44

Navy sailors distrust commanders, fear crippling political correctness

Complain of zero-tolerance disciplinary environment, excessive political correctness

By [Rowan Scarborough](#) - The Washington Times - Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014

Navy sailors harbor "widespread mistrust" in the admirals who command them, complaining of poor leadership and a disciplinary environment that tolerates absolutely no mistakes, says a survey of the fleet.

The disgruntlement runs deepest in the officer corps, where scores of commanders have been relieved of duty in recent years.

"Senior leadership should stop proactively highlighting the reliefs for cause of commanding officers, command master chiefs, and other senior enlisted advisors," said the report "2014 Navy Retention Study." "What was originally intended to demonstrate accountability to the public has, instead, resulted in a significant breach of trust with our sailors and resulting in an almost 'reality TV' mentality."

The independent survey was released amid complaints by some aviators about excessive political correctness as the military seeks to stamp out sexual harassment and misconduct in an increasingly gender-integrated Navy.

"Most troubling is the perception sailors hold of senior leadership," the

report says under the heading "Widespread Distrust of Senior Leadership."

"Sailors feel strongly about their distrust of senior leadership, and believe the Navy has a significant risk-averse culture and zero-defect mentality," the report says. "Officers in particular hold an incredibly negative view of the current state of affairs, with vast majorities decrying the overwhelming perception of a risk averse and zero-defect mentality culture."

When asked whether they agreed that the Navy operates a risk-averse culture, nearly 90 percent of officers answered "yes."

Sailors also do not like wartime at sea deployments that stretch from six months up to nine months.

The report, based on an Internet survey that garnered responses from more than 5,000 sailors, was compiled by a group of active-duty Navy sailors and civilian researchers, with the Navy's support.

It was led by Cmdr. Guy Snodgrass, a "Top Gun" F-18 Hornet pilot who was a speechwriter for the Navy's top admiral and now is executive officer of a carrier strike fighter squadron. Cmdr. Snodgrass has argued that the work climate will lead to a retention crisis if not addressed.

Cmdr. Christopher Servello, a spokesman for the chief of naval personnel, said: "Not sure we agree with all of the conclusions that were drawn, but we are grateful for the effort done by this group. ... Much of the raw data collected matches what we have seen in our own surveys."

Cmdr. Servello said actions being taken include "pushing decision-making down to the lowest levels of command and empowering units' leaders to train and focus on war fighting first."

He said retention is above average for officers and enlisted, but there are "pockets that have leadership's attention." These include the nuclear Navy, junior flight officers and special warfare, which includes the SEALs.

Cmdr. Snodgrass' report language is tamer than an article he wrote last winter on the U.S. Naval Institute website.

"Unfortunately," Cmdr. Snodgrass wrote, "the fact that a growing number of quality officers have already left the service or are planning to head for the doors seems to be going undetected by senior leadership."

He wrote of "a recent shift within the Navy to eradicate behavior that is, by its very nature, ineradicable."

"Put simply, there is no dollar amount that can be spent, or amount of training that can be conducted, that will completely eradicate complex issues such as suicide, sexual assault, or commanding officer reliefs for cause — yet we continue to expend immense resources in this pursuit," he said. "Sailors are bombarded with annual online training, general military training, and safety stand-downs — all in an effort to combat problems that will never be defeated."

Eternal Patrol Notice

Crash Dive Shipmate Walter Murray, Waddell, AZ, went on Eternal Patrol on October 9, 2014.

Walter joined the Navy in 1937. He qualified in submarines on the USS Seal (SS-183) in 1940 and was a MOMM1(SS) when he left the Navy in 1945.

Sailor, rest your oar.

Christmas Dinner Invitation

You're Invited !!

SUNDAY - DEC. 14th. - SILVER STALLION RESTAURANT, LEE & ALGONQUIN, Des Plaines, IL

1:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR
2:00 PM FAMILY STYLE - BEEF & CHICKEN plus all the TRIMMINGS
3:00 PM Door Prize Raffle

Cost \$10.00 Pre Reserve or \$20.00 at the Door.
Send Reservation & Check to Gene Weisbecker, 8181 Hess Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525-5217

Bring a gift for Manteno and/or Fisher House.
Check made out to: Greater Chicago Chapter USSUBVETSWWII.

Seats Limited. Sign up EARLY.

Bob K.

Toys for Tots

Crash Dive is again collecting new, unwrapped items for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program at our November meeting. Help our kids.

Veterans Day Free Meals and Other Freebies



By [Stacy Fisher](#), [freebies.About.com](#) [Freebies Expert](#)

Updated November 6, 2014

The Veterans Day Free Meals 2014 list you'll find below includes all the popular restaurants and other retailers that are giving away free meals and other discounts to veterans on Veterans Day (Tuesday, November 11, 2014).

Important: Please read through my [Veterans Day Free Meals FAQ](#) (see <http://freebies.about.com/od/food->

Page 5

[freebie-days/fl/Veterans-Day-Free-Meals-FAQ.htm](#) Ed.) for important information you *need to know* before getting your free meal, like military qualifications, restaurant participation details, and lots more.

This list is 9 pages long! Look through all the free meals with the *Next* button at the bottom of the page so you don't miss out. Page 9 has a long list of non-food freebies, discounted meals, and more.

Read the article and list here:

<http://freebies.about.com/od/freefood/tp/veterans-day-free-meals.htm>

All Veterans Day free meals on my list are valid for 2014! If you know of a restaurant offering a Veterans Day free meal this year, please [send me an e-mail](#) so I can get it on the list.

San Diego says goodbye to La Jolla

By Gary Robbins *San Diego Union-Tribune*
Oct. 21, 2014



The USS La Jolla, a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, comes into dock at Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego for a welcoming ceremony on Tuesday. This is the La Jolla's final visit to San Diego before decommissioning later this year. *Hayne Palmour IV*

Crash Dive Base
Rondout - Lake Bluff, IL

A submarine famous for doing things first was celebrated Tuesday for what it chose to do last -- visit San Diego on a farewell trip that made some Navy veterans cry.

The fast-attack boat La Jolla quietly docked at Naval Base Point Loma, which it called home during the Cold War and through most of the 1990s, as the Persian Gulf emerged as a global hot spot.

The coal-black "hunter-killer" is moving from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to Norfolk, Virginia, where it will be decommissioned. The La Jolla will then transfer to Charleston, S.C. and become a moored training ship.

This sentimental journey by the Navy will wrap up a 33 year service career in which the La Jolla became the first Los Angeles-class nuclear submarine to operate out of San Diego. The La Jolla was part of a new generation of faster, quieter submarines designed to protect aircraft carriers from the Soviets.

The La Jolla also was the first submarine to successfully fire Tomahawk cruise missiles while submerged, helping develop a weapon that has been widely used against Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan.

And the La Jolla was the first sub to become the "mothership" for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, which is meant to save imperiled submariners and to deploy special forces, such as Navy SEALs.

The La Jolla also represented the first look many young men got at the world at large, including Albert Chase of Ft. Worth, Texas, who travelled to San Diego for Tuesday's farewell ceremony.

As his eyes welled up with tears, Chase turned to the 360-foot La Jolla and said, "In my early years, that's where I learned a lot about being a man. It was a special experience. I made a lot of good

friends, people that I'm still close with. (The ceremony) brought me back."

Chase joined the La Jolla's crew in January 1981, before it was commissioned, and remained until February 1984, before the sub made its first major deployment. It was a challenging, and sometimes odd, period.

The Navy originally named the boat San Diego, apparently forgetting that it already had an auxiliary ship with that name. The sub was renamed La Jolla, which is part of San Diego.

The boat also would generate headlines for an incident that occurred in July 1981, while the La Jolla was undergoing sea trials in the Atlantic. Admiral Hyman Rickover, the "father of the nuclear Navy," was aboard and ordered a dramatic change in the boat's speed that historians say led the crew to temporarily lose control of the 6,900-ton La Jolla.

The man who was in charge that day -- Commander James "Rich" Lang -- also was present at Tuesday's farewell. He downplayed the matter, saying the sub was never in danger. But he urged people to read a newspaper column he wrote that "presented my side of what happened."

Rickover was forced to retire not long after the incident.

The La Jolla's early years also were marred by a minor collision with another submarine. But the sub became widely known as a top ship, especially for its role in developing the Tomahawk missile. Jeffrey Fischbeck of Point Loma, who commanded the La Jolla in the late 1980s, spoke Tuesday about the impact of such trials.

"The day I left La Jolla (as commander) was the day that the first President Bush drew the line in the sand for Saddam Hussein for leaving Kuwait. A sister ship, USS Louisville, had just left (San Diego) a few weeks earlier, and the Tomahawk was

the weapon of choice for that initial strike. The Louisville was the first submarine in our Navy to launch a weapon in anger since World War II. The Tomahawk has played a very significant role since that point on.”

Such moments are rare on a submarine. Veterans like Chase are more likely to point to the seemingly routine nature of being part of the so-called silent service.

“You’re locked up in a tube and the weather is 72 degrees and fluorescent,” Chase said, smiling at the memory. “Your job is 200 feet under the water, who knows where, protecting our interests.”

Fischbeck expressed the same sort of pride as crew members filed off the La Jolla, saying, “I am very proud of her and what people have done -- and the fact that she still looks so good. But I’m sorry to see her go.”

U.S. Navy Impressed with New Russian Attack Boat

By: [Dave Majumdar](#), news.usni.org
Published: October 28, 2014



Russian Project 885 submarine during sea trials.

One of the U.S. Navy’s top submarine officers was so impressed with Russia’s new Project 885 nuclear attack boats that he had a model of K-329 *Severodvinsk* built for his office.

Rear Adm. Dave Johnson, Naval Sea Systems Command’s (NAVSEA)

program executive officer (PEO) submarines said he had the model of *Severodvinsk* placed outside his office in a common area so that he could look at it every day on his way to his office.

“We’ll be facing tough potential opponents. One only has to look at the *Severodvinsk*, Russia’s version of a [nuclear guided missile submarine] (SSGN). I am so impressed with this ship that I had Carderock build a model from unclassified data.” Johnson said last week during the Naval Submarine League’s symposium in Falls Church, Va.

“The rest of the world’s undersea capability never stands still.”

The Russian attack boat had been in construction since 1993 and only entered sea trials late in 2011. The boat finally became operational earlier this year. A cash-strapped Russian Federation had to repeatedly delay completion of the submarine in the chaos that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Severodvinsk is the most capable Russian attack submarine ever built and leverages many of the technologies the Soviet Union invested in during the 1970s and 1980s.



Model of Russian submarine Severodvinsk built for NAVSEA. US Naval Institute Photo

The 13,800-ton, 390-foot long, submarine is highly automated vessel with a crew of only 32 officers and 58 enlisted submariners.

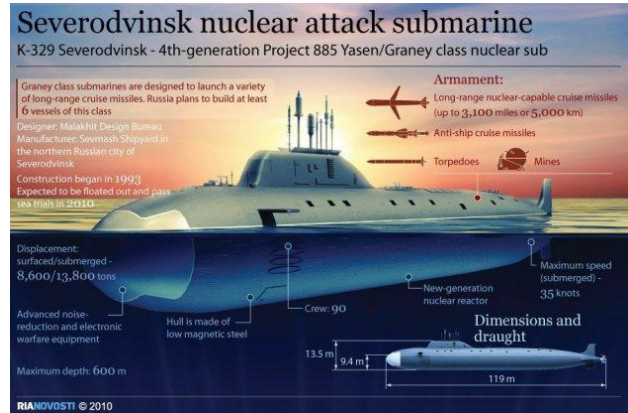
It is far quieter than previous Russian submarines and has a maximum “silent” speed of about 20 knots.

The U.S. Naval Institute’s Combat Fleets of the World said some reports suggest the vessel might have a maximum speed of between 35 and 40 knots. However, most Russian reports state a maximum speed of 35 knots. Like most new nuclear submarine designs, Severodvinsk’s reactor is designed to last for the life of the boat.

According the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), while the new Russian submarine is quieter than the Improved Los Angeles-class boats, the new vessel is not quite as silent as the Seawolf or Virginia-class. However, the Soviets were always only lagging slightly behind U.S. in quieting technology according to Navy sources. The Russians are already building improved versions of the Yasen design.

Unlike most Soviet submarine designs, the Yasen-class boats do not make use of a double-hull—instead it has hybrid design with a lighter structure over the vessel’s pressure hull according to Russia media reports.

Another unique feature for a Russian vessel is that it incorporates a spherical bow sonar called the Irtysh-Amfora for the first time. As a result, Severodvinsk has its torpedo tubes located at about mid-ship like U.S. submarines. The vessel has eight torpedo tubes, four of which are 650mm tubes while the rest are 533mm tubes. Combat Fleets of the World estimates that the Yasen-class might carry as many as 30 torpedoes.



Infographic of Project 885 submarine via RIA Novosti

Like most Russian attack submarines, the vessel’s primary weapons are in the form of heavy anti-ship missiles. The boat has 24 missile tubes which can carry the supersonic NPO Mashinostroyeniya P-800 Oniks anti-ship missile which can hit targets roughly 200 nautical miles away. Severodvinsk can also carry Novator RK-55 Granat nuclear-capable 1,600 nautical mile-range subsonic land attack cruise missiles. Additionally, the Yasen-class boats can also launch the 3M14 Kalibr and 3M54 Biryuza land attack and anti-ship missiles, which have a roughly 300-mile range, though its torpedo tubes.

It also carries 91R anti-submarine missiles and has the capability to lay mines along with its normal complement of torpedoes.

Some Russian sources such as Russia Beyond the Headlines suggest that Severodvinsk is equipped with active anti-torpedo defenses and some sort of anti-air capability. The later would not be unprecedented, the Project 941 Akula—known better as the Typhoon-class ballistic missile submarine—was equipped with a 9K38 Iгла surface-to-air missile system for ship self-defense.

Russia is expected to build eight Yasen-class boats. Since Severodvinsk took almost two decades to finish, the

subsequent boats have many technological refinements to improve on the original Project 885 design. The next two Yasen-class boats are already under construction at the Sev Mash shipyards in Severodvinsk, Russia. Kazan was laid down in July of 2009 while Novosibirsk was laid down July of 2013.

China Says Docking of Submarines in Sri Lanka Not Unusual

[news.lk, Nov. 4](#)

China has said that the docking of its submarines in Sri Lanka was common practice and not unusual, following concerns voiced in Indian strategic circles over two recent visits of People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) submarines.

The Defence Ministry in Beijing said on Monday that it "is an international common practice for navy submarine(s) to stop for refuelling and crew refreshment at an overseas port," the State-run Xinhua news agency quoted an official as saying.

The official said Chinese submarines docked "during its escort missions in the Gulf of Aden" and off Somalia, where the PLAN is engaged in anti-piracy escort missions.

The Xinhua report noted that the two visits by Chinese submarines - the first in mid-September coinciding with the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India, and the second on Friday - had worried India. It quoted the Defence Ministry as saying the visits were nothing unusual "despite concerns raised by India".

On Friday, the submarine Changzheng-2 and warship Chang Xing Dao arrived at Colombo. In mid-September, another submarine stopped in Sri Lanka, which was nuclear-powered and did not surface according to reports.

The Sri Lankan Navy also said the visit was not unusual, pointing out that 230 warships had called on Colombo since 2010.

Sources told 'India Today' that Chinese officials conveyed to their Indian counterparts that the submarine visits were mainly refuelling stops for anti-piracy escort missions in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden. But some Indian officials and analysts have not entirely accepted that explanation, pointing that submarines, to begin with, had little role to play in such missions. (KH)

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

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Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines

Base Historian – Frank Voznak, Jr.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

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 of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

- I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)
- I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ / _____ / _____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
 Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
 Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
 Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** _____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ **YR left Mil Service** _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7,1975; and Aug 2, 1990 to date.

Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

2. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

3. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

4. _____ **Hull#** _____ **From Yr.** _____ **to Yr.** _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer, or mail to: Crash Dive Membership Chairman Tom Polzin, 12463 Foxtail Ln, Huntley, IL 60142; Cell 847/867-8668 Fax 847/669-2444