

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1000 on May 11, 2013 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Amos, Dex Armstrong, Art Bivens, Marcie Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Doc Compton, Katie Compton, Abigale Compton, Bob Glover, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Willie Petruy, Tim Poole, Art Rosen, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (25 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Chuck Martin, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of May. These were:

USS Squalus (SS-192)	May 23, 1939
USS Lagarto (SS-371)	May 3, 1945
USS Stickleback (SS-415)	May 30, 1958
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, then read the history of the loss of the USS F-4 (the first U. S. submarine ever lost) and the successful campaign to erect a monument in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of those who lost their lives in that disaster.

### MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed by e-mail and a motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept them as promulgated.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented his monthly report:

Starting balance: \$ 4,824.61

Ending balance: \$ 4,989.82

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

The **Base Commander** presented a summary of the topics of discussion at the most recent **Executive Board** Meeting: membership; plans for the Holland Club initiation; the recent K4K visit, a change to the base By-Laws (see Old Business); updates being worked on for the base website courtesy of Alan Brodie; the Eagle Scout recognition program; receipt of the DVD of the PAO brief from CSL; and consideration of a NOVA base challenge coin (see New Business).

The **Vice Commander**, Paul Nelson, reported that he has confirmed the dates for the Holland Club event with P. J. Skidoos and the restaurant has waived the requirement for a deposit.

The **COB** reported that we have participated in three Courts of Honor for Eagle Scouts, have contacted the National Capitol Area Council of the BSA to make them aware of the Eagle and Quartermaster recognition program, attended a local Scouting Roundtable to further publicize the program, and read a Thank You card from one of the Eagle Scouts.

In the absence of the **K4K Program** leader, he also discussed the recent visit to the Fairfax Inova Children's Oncology unit noting that it was well received by the patients and their families. In addition to the letters of appreciation we sent to the hospital, a cap and honorary submariner certificate were given to the ward nurse, Holly Senn, who was ecstatic about receiving them. Penny Wallace, who also participated in this visit, noted that there were some older children in the unit this time (ages 17 and 19). It was suggested that the Base consider setting up a submarine reading library for the K4K children. The CDR said that the Executive Board would look into this. Alan Amos recommended that we contact American Legion Post 162 regarding funding support for this effort as they and the 40 and 8 have children's and youth programs for just this sort of thing.

We are preparing articles for the American Submariner on both the Eagle Scout and K4K events.

And finally, the COB, presented roses in honor of the upcoming Mother's Day to all the ladies in attendance.

Steve Jaeger presented the **Membership Report**. We currently have 85 members including five that will be inducted into the Holland Club later this year. He then reported on the loss of one of our long time members, Peggy Williams, and read her obituary. Peggy was laid to rest on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. A card noting our condolences was sent to her husband, Ron Williams and a donation of \$50 has been sent to the American Cancer Society in her honor.

Mike Varone had nothing to report regarding **Public Relations / Veterans Affairs**.

Tim Oliver, the new **NSL** Executive Director announced that the Fall NSL Symposium will be held 10/23-24 at the Fairview Park Marriott and his predecessor, Mickey Garverick, will be honored at that event. The next NSL Capitol chapter luncheon will be scheduled for some time in September or October.

**Regional Director**, Mike Naughton, reported that several SubVets bases supported the visit last Saturday of a number of New England veterans to DC. Local participants were Paul Nelson, Chuck Martin, Mickey Garverick, and Mike himself. Mike has also visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home in DC and reported that there several submarine veterans living there. He is hoping to coordinate more visits to the home by members of the area bases. We all thought that this would be an excellent idea. Alan Amos said that the Post brings residents of Home to the Post for activities quarterly. Mike, as the Capitol Base CDR noted that they will be holding a Tolling of the Boats ceremony at the F-4 memorial next Saturday, May 18th. Their base is also conducting a raffle with the prize being a paid registration for this year's USSVI convention. And finally, he announced that plans for an Eastern Region North Combined Districts meeting will be held in Gettysburg PA on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; all members of the districts are welcome to attend. (**Post Meeting Note**: the website for information on this event and registration is <http://ussvi-erdn3.org/index.cfm>.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The CDR noted that several years ago USSVI changed their By-Laws eliminating the clause that said Holland Club members were not required to pay annual dues. Our base never picked up on that and only recently ran a CBA on the impact to our base. Over the coming years as our membership ages and reaches Holland Club eligibility the revenue from dues will significantly diminish. E.g., within ten years if no new (young) members join our dues revenue will be cut in half and ultimately end up only coming from annual Associate members. The Executive Board has come up with some possible suggestions including increasing non-Life membership dues from \$15 to \$20/year, having future Holland Club members pay dues at half the normal rate, conduct more fund raising activities, and of course recruiting new members. Other suggestions were requested from the floor and Dex Armstrong noted that the Groton base leaves it up to the Holland Club members whether or not they want to pay dues or not. More recommendations will be requested from the full base membership.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Post 162 Activities:** The Post Adjutant, Alan Amos, said that they have several Memorial Day weekend activities planned. One of these that we are welcome to join in is placing of American flags on the graves of veterans in cemeteries near the Post. This will take place on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and start out with a car caravan from the Post at 1000. Alan noted that the graves that will be visited are for veterans not only from WW I and WW II but the Revolutionary War and the Indian Wars. He also reported that the Legion Ladies recently completed the 39.3 mile Avon Walk to support finding a cure for breast cancer. They raised around \$80,000.

**Scorpion Memorial Service:** The CDR reported that there will be a memorial service in Norfolk for the USS Scorpion also on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The base has sent the Memorial Committee a donation to support the ceremony and received a letter stating that our gift was designated to “sponsor” RMCS Robert Johnson who was the RM LPO at the time of the sinking. The CDR read Senior Chief Johnson’s biography provided by the Memorial Committee.

**International Submarine Association:** The CDR passed along the news that the ISA USA organization is looking for someone to be a candidate for Treasurer.

**Website:** Part of the current website is a Sailing List/POC List the includes names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, qual boat, year qualified, and rank when qualified. The CDR stated that while portions of that information are password protected (albeit not a very secure one), this is really what is now considered Privacy and Personal Information (PPI). As all that information can be obtained by logging into the USSVI website (which has a much more secure password requirement) the CDR suggested that we eliminate that information on the new website. There was no disagreement with that suggestion.

**Fleet News:** SECNAV and the CNO have announced the following submarine flag officer assignments: RDML Michael Jabaley as Deputy Command for Undersea Warfare, SEA-07; RDML Stuart Munsch as COMSUBGRU 7; RDML Charles Richard as COMSUBGRU 10; RDML (sel) Robert Burke as COMSUBGRU 8; RDML Frederick Roegge as Director Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division CNO N13; and RDML Phillip Sawyer as COMSUBPAC.

Base Challenge Coin: It has been suggested that we should consider getting a challenge coin made for our base. The CDR reported that he has contacted three vendors (only two of which responded) and the costs would be a \$300 set up fee, \$5/coin, and a minimum purchase of 100 coins. This totals up to a minimum of \$800. There was no outright interest one way or the other from the members attending so the CDR will e-mail the full membership to see if it would be worthwhile pursuing this effort.

Dex Armstrong announced that a library in Clinton SC will be named in honor of our late shipmate Art Smith. At the dedication they will be using the picture of Art when he was awarded his Silver Star. Dex will try to get us pictures from the ceremony. Dex also reported that Rod Puffer is not doing well and that he and his wife would appreciate any cards that members might send him. Dex will be the speaker for the reunions for the USS Sterlet and Chivo later this year. They will both be held in the DC area. Dex also noted that Curt Haggard has re-started the “Mess Deck Gang” which meets at the Springfield Legion Post on Thursday evenings, he can get copies of the speech that CAPT Ned Beach gave at the dedication of the F-4 Memorial if any of our members are interested in it, and his USSVI vest grew legs at the September convention and walked off – if any one sees it wandering around he would appreciate knowing about it.

“Sub-ma-rin-er” or “Sub-mariner”: The CDR read from a SubVet News bulletin that the USSVI Executive Board has officially adopted the former pronunciation of “submariner” noting that our boats are “submarines” and using the British term (**sub** (as in below par) mariner) was inappropriate. There were a lot of other words in the missive about why this was done but in essence it boils down to “Pride Runs Deep”.

**The Binnacle List** includes: Wayne Baldwin, Don Basham, Ralph Chatham, and Rod Puffer.

**For the Good of the Order**, the CDR read the list of birthdays for May: Wayne Baldwin, Bill Clement, Make Harmody, Robert Miller (the elder), Mark Riethmeier, Sue Shannon, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, and Ron Williams.

**The 50/50 raffle** was won by Steve Jaeger, who donated his winnings back to the Base.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR announced that the next meeting will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> (at the normal time) and we will show a video on submarine operations in WW II including interviews with Art Smith and Al Anceravage. He then adjourned the official meeting at 1100.

Next Richard Lowry, George Wallace, and Art Bivens discussed the books they had authored and how they came about writing them. It was a most interesting and educational program and we thank them for sharing their stories.

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Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted for  
Stephen C Bishop  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base