

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Nov 9, 2013**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1120 on Nov 9, 2013 at P J Skidoos restaurant in Fairfax, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Al Anceravage, Dex Armstrong, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Dan Burke, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Delbert Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Frick, Susan Frick, (plus the Frick's two sons and daughter, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren), Bob Glover, Gary Griesmyer, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Mike Harmody, Barbara Harmody, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Ginger Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Lorraine Sargent, Ross Sargent, Verna Sattler, Lee Turner, Anita Varone, Mike Varone, Reb Wooten, Ruri Wooten, and our guest speaker, Rear Admiral (ret) Dave Oliver and his wife Linda. (51 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of November. These were:

USS Albacore (SS-218)	Nov 7, 1944
USS Growler (SS-215)	Nov 8, 1944
USS Scamp (SS-277)	Nov 9, 1944
USS Corvina (SS-226)	Nov 16, 1943
USS Sculpin (SS-191)	Nov 19, 1943

**MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the October meeting were distributed by e-mail.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Base CDR reported for the Treasurer that the Base bank account balance was \$5,866.15. He passed on the Treasurer's reminder that both 2013 Base and National dues are due by December 31, 2013.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Because this meeting is dedicated to honoring our 2013 Holland Club inductees and members, the usual monthly reports were not presented. However, the Base CDR made these few announcements:

- American Legion Post 162 will be holding a Veterans' Day Ceremony Monday at 1100.
- The funeral for Rod Puffer will be at 1300 on the 22nd of Nov; the funeral for Ralph Chatham will be at 1300 on the 5th of Dec. Both ceremonies will be held at the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer.

The Base Commander announced the nominations for our slate of elected 2013 officers as:

Base Commander: Howard Chatham  
Vice Commander: Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, and George Wallace  
Treasurer: Steve Jaeger  
Secretary: Steve Bishop

The Base Commander called for additional nominations from the floor and none were made. Ballots were sent out to all members by e-mail (plus snail mail to three members) after the meeting. Directions for filling in and submitting your ballot are on the ballot. Ballots or portions of ballots that don't comply will not be counted. Ballots are due to the Base Secretary by the start of the next meeting at 1100, Saturday, December 14th at the American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA. Results of the election will be announced at the December meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** The Base CDR introduced Dave Oliver, a 1963 graduate of the Naval Academy who served on USS Trumpetfish (SS 425), USS George Washington Carver (SSBN 656), USS Nautilus (SSN 571), USS Haddo (SSN 604), and commanded the USS Plunger SSN 595. Ashore, among other assignments, he commanded two submarine squadrons, was chief of staff for seventh fleet, and the principal deputy to the Navy Acquisition Executive. His awards include both the Defense and Navy Distinguished Service Medals and six Legions of Merit. Since retiring as a Rear Admiral in 1995, Dave has worked for EADS, Northrop Grumman, and Westinghouse and served in a number of U.S. government positions.

The Admiral is writing a book on the transition period from diesel boats to nuclear boats. President Eisenhower, he said, was "all in on submarines." The Admiral addressed us all when he spoke about:

1. **No one fully understands the dangers we faced** and the losses we suffered.
2. **No one fully knows the difficulties we encountered.**
  - Completely dependent on our fellow crewmen
  - Sometimes building our own parts or wiring our own circuits
  - Operating under the ice when the bottom was so close
3. **No one fully appreciates the accomplishments and triumphs to which we contributed.**
  - We had no embedded reporters and a limited use of cameras
4. **We have always been a small force that answered the call of our country at a level unexpected.**

**The world does not appreciate us; we are appreciated only by our fellow submariners.**

The Base CDR thanked Dave and presented him with a USSVI challenge coin.

#### **HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTION:**

The Base CDR conducted the induction ceremony noting that this was an opportunity to show our appreciation, to recognize, and to thank our shipmates for their fifty years of service to the submarine force. As living memory of our rich submarine heritage we are proud to induct them into the prestigious Holland Club. The Base's present Holland Club members in attendance then stood and were recognized as a group:

Al Anceravage; Dex Armstrong; Dan Burke; Ed Ettner; Paul Nelson; Ross Sargent; Lee Turner, and Reb Wooten.

The Base curmudgeon, TMSN, and Holland Club Member, Dex Armstrong, spoke to the class of 2013 Holland Club Inductees. He reflected that upon graduation from submarine school in Groton, CT, many decades ago, RADM Red Ramage spoke to his graduation class. "He welcomed us all into the Submarine Family." In that same spirit, Dex voiced his "welcome to today's inductees into the Holland Club Family." Nicely done, Dex!!

### **2013 HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTEES:**

**Dan Arquette** is residing in Thailand so his award materials were sent to him there. Dan joined the Navy in 1961 and followed the non-torpedo weapons path qualifying on the USS Rasher (AGSS-269) in 1963 as an FTG3. He also served on USS Caiman and USS Flasher, retiring from the service in 1981 as a CWO-4. Since then he earned a BS in Communications Information Systems and worked as a field engineer and QA manager in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Greece, Philippines, and Thailand. In fact he liked Thailand so much that he retired there in 1998 and is just enjoying life day by day in the "land of smiles".

**Don Basham** recently went on Eternal Patrol this summer, but we provided him with his award materials before his death.

Don joined the Navy in 1962 and for once the service aligned his career with his interests – electronics and ham radio, making him into a radioman. He qualified on the USS Salmon (SSR-573) in 1963 as an RM3 and then went on to serve on the USS Stonewall Jackson, USS Bergal, and completed his service as an RMCS on the USS McKee (AS-41) in 1982. He then spent over 30 years working for the Department of Justice. He died in August this year and was buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, aka the Punchbowl, last month.

**Delbert Ennis** joined the Navy in 1950 and as you can tell from his vest he didn't see the light originally. It wasn't for another ten years before he joined the submarine service. He qualified on the USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609) in 1963 as an EN1 (some of us are old enough and privileged enough to remember having enginemen on board nukes). The following year he transferred to the USS Nathaniel Greene serving on board for five years. He retired from the Navy in 1972 as a MMC. After naval service he changed hats and joined the National Park Service for another 20 years. He now seems quite satisfied in full retirement.

**Mike Harmody** joined the Navy in 1958 and qualified on the USS Nautilus (SSN-571) in 1959 as a EN3 (yep, another one). And yes, qualifying in 1959 means he should have been awarded Holland Club status four years ago but he didn't join USSVI until last year so you can forgive us being a little late with this award. He left active duty in 1964 and joined the reserves in Cleveland OH as an instructor on the USS Cod. Since then he's been a truck mechanic, done construction work, and was even a cattle farmer. But he retired from all that in 2000 and doesn't miss it a bit.

**Bob Frick** enlisted in 1961, that's right – enlisted. He qualified as a leading SN on the USS Sabalo (SS-302) in 1963. From 1964 to 1969 he went through the NESEP program/OCS and was commissioned in June of that year. He qualified for gold dolphins in 1970 on the USS Will Rodgers, served as ENG on the USS Haddock, XO on the USS Drum and the USS Kamehameha and then as CO of the USS Birmingham. In between times he started his program management career as the Program Director for the shutdown of Bainbridge and Mare Island

nuke schools. After all the sea duty he served as the Deputy CDR for Readiness and Training for Squadron One in PH, senior member of the Pacific NPEB, then came to DC as the Deputy PM for the Los Angeles class program (PMS393), next as Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, promoted to RDML he served as the Deputy Commander for Submarines (SEA92), and finally as the PEO for the Seawolf and Virginia class submarines, “retiring” in 1997. Since then he’s worked for Raytheon, Lockheed Martin Marine Systems, ADI/Perot Systems, Steel Cloud Inc. and then gave it all up in 2009. Besides enjoying life now with his family, he is engaged in support for the Wounded Warriors program.

The Base CDR then led a round of applause for the newest members of the Holland Club.

The next USSVI NOVA Base meeting will be on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00 AM at the American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, and will be followed by lunch at Madigan's Restaurant in Occoquan, VA (on the waterfront).

The Base Chaplain gave the benediction and the Base CDR adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.

PJ Skidoos then served all attendees an excellent luncheon meal.

Congratulations and BZ again to Dan Arquette, Donald Basham, Delbert Ennis, Mike Harmody, and Robert Frick, our 2013 inductees to the USSVI Holland Club!!!!

**Final word from Steve B and Steve J: Please bring your ballots and dues to the next meeting, if not already cast or paid.**

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