

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1116 on Oct 12, 2013 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. (Our landlord was slightly delayed in opening the facility that morning.)

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Dex Armstrong, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Doc Compton, Abigale Compton, Katie Compton, Delbert Ennis, Doris Faber, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton (Regional Director), Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (22 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

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

USS Seawolf (SS-197)	Oct 3, 1944
USS S-44 (SS-155)	Oct 7, 1943
USS Wahoo (SS-238)	Oct 11, 1943
USS Dorado (SS-248)	Oct 12, 1943
USS Escolar (SS-294)	Oct 17, 1944
USS Shark II (SS-314)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Darter (SS-227)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Tang (SS-306)	Oct 25, 1944
USS O-5 (SS-66)	Oct 29, 1923

HISTORIAN

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, regaled us with the heroics of the USS Wahoo (SS-238) and her famed skipper, "Mush" Morton. The Wahoo operated as a one boat wolf pack and went on multi-patrol rampages. Her wartime totals were 19 enemy ships sunk during 7 war patrols. Mush Morton was awarded the Navy Cross. Alas, Wahoo didn't return from her seventh war patrol.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2013 meeting were distributed by e-mail and were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the base bank account balance was \$5,020.24 at the start of Sep, and \$5,137.75 at the end of Sep, 2013 . A reminder was made that 2014 dues are

due by December 31, 2013 for both the base and national dues. The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Base Commander summarized the discussion at the recent **Executive Board** meeting, including:

1. Vice Commander Paul Nelson is coordinating the induction of four base members into the Holland Club at our ceremony at PJ Skidoo's restaurant in Fairfax, VA on November 9, 2012 at 11 AM (invitations and menu choices were sent out by e-mail).
2. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) is developing the 2014 budget.
3. The 2014 nominating committee results to date were reviewed.
4. Plans to get the submarine briefing materials from the NJVC Al Singleman for future NJROTC briefings were discussed.
5. Donation of a USSVI NOVA Base patch to the Dixie Bones restaurant for display was discussed and approved, and
6. Completing work on the program schedule for 2014 - there is still time for suggestions from the membership for speakers / activities.

The next EXCOM meeting will be held on Oct 30th.

Membership Report: 84 members.

COB: Mrs. Celia Blalock contacted our base through the USSVI NOVA website and inquired where she might donate her recently-deceased, submarine-qualified husband's collection of submarine emblems . The COB coordinated with the USSVI National office and the NJVC. The Navy Museum in Saratoga Springs, NY, will gladly accept and display this collection of submarine materials. Mrs. Blalock is pleased with that outcome as her late husband, Senior Chief James I. Blalock, enjoyed his shore tour at the Nuclear Power Training Unit near Saratoga Springs, NY. This collaboration has become a Win-Win-Win situation.

Public Relations / Veterans: We now have the pictures from the Sea Scout Bridge of Honor held this summer for three brothers. The PAO, Mike Varone, and the CDR are preparing the first draft of an article for the American Submariner. However, the editor of the American Submariner has stepped down for health reasons, and no volunteer / substitute has been named. Mike also recommended downloading and watching the "Silent Service" episodes from Ray Stone's web site. In addition he noted that the spook community is starting up an internet USSVI base.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop announced the date for our next visit to Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward as November 12, 2013. Anyone wanting to contribute to this cause can write a tax deductible check to "USSVI-NOVA Base" to help defray the costs of the pink and blue "honorary submariner" ball caps we provide to these special kids. We are one of about 89 USSVI bases that participate in this national program to visit local area hospitals. We will meet at 2:15 PM in the first floor lobby near the hospital blue parking lot off Gallows Road in Falls Church, VA. During this, our tenth trip to visit our special friends, we intend to make the Director of the Child Life Services at Inova, Ms. Jamie Gentile, an honorary submariner too. She and her staff have willingly supported our visits, as our Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) goals are perfectly aligned with her goals - making children feel better about themselves and their situations.

Naval Submarine League Tim Oliver discussed the Fall Symposium to be held on October 23rd and 24th at the Fairview Marriott in Falls Church, VA. This year's activities will include panels with SSBN and SSN Commanding Officers; a Junior Officers' Round Table; and the Fleet Award Winners. This is the unclassified symposium.

Regional Director Mike Naughton: The NE Region USSVI Business Meeting was held in Gettysburg, PA and was very successful. Mike discussed the creation of a new patch for the region. He also emphasized that going forward, he will be requiring the District Commanders to prepare a quarterly newsletter on the activities planned and conducted by all USSVI bases in each district. Our Base Commander added that an interview with Mike Naughton on USSVI has been taped and is being shown on the Montgomery County news channel. It can be seen www.MMCTV.org on the program Inside Out.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The American Submariner magazine logo vote:
94% still in favor of keeping the logo as is (with only 3.26% of membership voting).
2. The Base received a second certificate from the National Holland Club for being a 2013 benefactor.
3. We have been in contact with Joe Phoenix and he will be having leg surgery soon.
4. The funeral service for Rod Puffer will be held at the Ft. Myer Chapel on Nov 22 at 1 PM. Please RSVP by November 4th to the Base Commander if you will be attending.
5. The funeral service for Ralph Chatham will be held at the Ft. Myer Chapel on Dec 5th at 1 PM.
6. Dex Armstrong had his Holland Club and USSVI membership cards stolen when he was in the hospital. The base CDR will take action to contact USSVI to get him a replacement card.

NEW BUSINESS

1. COMSUBLANT has suspended the production of the Undersea Warfare Newsletter due to the lapse of appropriations.
2. The USSVI Capitol Base now can tout that it has an author within its membership. Shipmate Rick Campbell has a book coming out in March titled Trident Deception.
3. USSVI has been invited back to the New York City Veterans' Day parade on 11/11/2013.
4. For the 2014 Memorial Day Weekend Activities in DC to celebrate 50 years of USSVI:
 - a. There will be a Friday May 23rd ceremony at the Navy Memorial where the Capitol and NOVA bases will conduct a Tolling of the Boats ceremony.
 - b. There will be a Monday May 26th parade. We need participants to sign up in advance. The uniform will be white shirt, dark tie, submarine vest, cap, and dark pants.
5. USSVI has now started a job opportunities forum. The link is at: <http://bod.subvets.net>.
6. An editor is needed for the American Submariner.
7. Fleet News:
 - a. VADM Giardina was relieved for cause as Deputy US STRATCOM.
 - b. Submarine Flag Officer reductions have been announced: N97B will become an O-6 billet; CSG2 will be eliminated; VCDR NAVSEA will become an O-6 billet; SEA-07 will be merged with PEO Subs and remain as an O-7 billet; and Naval Surface Warfare Center will be merged with Naval Undersea Warfare Center and will remain as an O-7 billet.

The Binnacle List currently includes:

Wayne Baldwin, Ray Coe, Joe Phoenix, Gary Smith, Reb Wooten, and the families of RADM Sam Packer, ADM David Jeremiah, and those who died in the Navy Yard tragedy.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for October: Al Anceravage, James Bryant, Mike Kwiecien, Lou Maruzo, Ed Mattran, Tim Poole, George Wallace, and the United States Navy.

The 50/50 raffle was won by George Wallace, who donated his winnings back to the base treasury, THANK YOU, GEORGE!!

The Benediction was delivered by the Base Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM .

The Base Commander and COB changed into their black pirate outfits and did one heck of a job raising \$236.00 as our proceeds from the pirate auction. Thank all of you for your donations and your purchases!! A good time was had by all, and Howard Chatham and Chuck Martin did a super job as our Pirates In Charge of loot and bootie. Arrrrrgh and BZ!!!

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