

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Aug 9, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1103 on Aug 9, 2014 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Amos, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Lenny Bonivento (Medicare and TRICARE for Life speaker), James Brado, Nicky Burrell (Virginia Department of Veteran Services speaker), Howard Chatham, Cathy Chatham, William Clement, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Mickey Garverick, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton (NE Regional Director), Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Willie Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (24 total) Three members of American Legion Post 162 sat in on the two guest speaker presentations following today's meeting.

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, was caring for his wife, Darlene, who is now at home post-surgery, so the CDR delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, The CDR read the list of boats lost in the months of July and August. These were:

USS S-28 (SS-133)	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo (SS-273)	July 26, 1944
USS Grunion (SS-216)	July 30, 1942
USS Bullhead (SS-332)	Aug 6, 1945
USS Flier (SS-250)	Aug 13, 1944
USS S-39 (SS-144)	Aug 14, 1942
USS Harder (SS-257)	Aug 24, 1944
USS Cochino (SS-345)	Aug 26, 1949

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Richard Lowry, presented a short synopsis of the demise of the USS Harder (SS-257). She was commissioned in December, 1942 and was commanded on all six war patrols by LCDR Samuel D. Dealey. On several of her War Patrols she formed and led a deadly and coordinated attack group (Wolf Pack) with other US submarines. Her fifth War Patrol was one of the most brilliant of the war. She sank four Japanese destroyers and heavily damaged another in four days near Tawi-Tawi, contributing to the stunning defeat of Admiral Ozawa in the Philippine Sea in the ensuing battle.

The sixth War Patrol saw USS Harder leading a Wolf Pack near Palawan Bay, Mindoro. During this final War Patrol, she and the other US Wolf Pack submarines wrecked havoc on Japanese shipping. "Hit 'Em Again, Harder" became her legendary nickname. Alas, a vigorous depth charge attack from a Japanese minesweeper ended the career of USS Harder, with all hands lost on August 24, 1944 near Bataan.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the June meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no formal base meeting in July. Instead, we marched in the Lorton July 4th parade and had a informal "dining out" at Neighbor's restaurant in Vienna, VA, with videos from the TV show "The Silent Service" shown as the entertainment. Minutes of the June meeting were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The CDR presented the following, from our Treasurer, Steve Jaeger:

Starting balance: \$ 6,143.22

Ending balance: \$ 5,575.21 as of August 09, 2014.

Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT from Steve Jaeger, presented by the CDR: 81 members, including 32 Holland Club, 38 Regular, and 11 Associate Members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR: Board Of Directors meeting was held last week:

- We will need to make a slight change to the Base By-Laws regarding Holland Club members not being exempt from National dues; we will put that on the ballot for 2015 base officers.
- We agreed to order 100 base challenge coins (however, more on that later).
- We are still working on the guest speaker for the November meeting.
- We plan on going to Dixie Bones restaurant again for a BBQ lunch after the September meeting.
- We will be establishing a nominations committee for 2015 officers.
- We are looking for suggestions on what events or speakers the membership would like at next year's meetings.

VCDR: Nothing to report.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT: The COB, PAO, and CDR attended one Eagle Scout Court of Honor (COH) at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA on June 21st. One more COH is planned near term, but a date hasn't been set by the family, as marching band season has started.

PAO/VETERANS AFFAIRS: Mike Varone reported that two articles on the NOVA base participation in recent Eagle Scout COHs have been published in both the Northern Virginia Sun Gazette and the Fredericksburg Freelance Star newspapers. Also, the COB and Base Secretary can be seen in the newest edition of your American Submariner (page 9) carrying the American and USSVI flags for the USSVI contingent participating in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC.

K4K: Steve Bishop reported that our twelfth and next visit to Fairfax Inova Hospital will be in mid-October. Steve presented Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) Team Member patches to both Richard Lowry and Joe Phoenix. Cathy Chatham, our base liaison to the Fairfax Inova nursing staff, presented a Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) pin to Vickye Lowry. The patches and pins were in recognition of their initial K4K visits.

CHAPLAIN: In the absence of the chaplain, the CDR reported that Darlene Jaeger's surgery went well. He also reported that there will be a burial service with full military honors for submariner CAPT Raymond Coe and Mrs. Dorothy Coe (Bruce Miller's parents-in-law) at Arlington National Cemetery on September 9th. The family will be holding a memorial reception at the Key Bridge Marriott following the burial. After this meeting, the CDR sent all base members burial ceremony instructions by e-mail.

SK: The 2015 USSVI calendars are available for \$9.95 each, plus \$2.25 S&H. The theme is Fast Attack Subs. You can order directly from National USSVI at www.ussvi.org, or contact the base CDR who is also our base Storekeeper (SK).

SUBLEAGUE: In the absence of Tim Oliver, Mickey Garverick reported that the Fall Symposium will be held on Oct 22 and 23, 2014 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA; and the Capitol Chapter's Fall luncheon will be held on Friday, Sep 12, 2014 with guest speaker Rear Admiral Joe Tofalo, Director of Undersea Warfare Division (N97).

DISTRICT CDR/REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT: Ron Olson/Mike Naughton

- Mike Naughton reported that the NE Region Business meeting will be in conjunction with the USSVI Pittsburg meeting on Oct 10 and 11, 2014, at the site of the next annual convention.
- He also reminded ALCON that voting is still open for USSVI National officers and for several By-Laws amendments. The CDR noted that only 10 members of the Base have voted so far.
- Sunday August 10th is the last day to get reduced hotel rates for this year's convention.

OLD BUSINESS

- **PARTICIPATED WITH THE LEGION IN THE LORTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE**
 - Participants were: George and Penny Wallace, Paul and Terry Nelson, Steve Bishop, Mike Varone, Mike Naughton, Ray Stone, and Howard Chatham
- **HELD OUR "ANNUAL" DINING OUT LAST MONTH**
 - Attendees were: Brian and Pat Haller, Bill and Linda Clement, George and Penny Wallace, Mike and Mary Lou Naughton, Paul and Terry Nelson, Chuck Martin, and Howard and Cathy Chatham
- Mike Naughton, Chuck Martin, and Steve Bishop participated in the burial service for James Callanan, a WW II submarine veteran and past CDR of the Submarine Veterans of WW II.
- The Challenge coin - The vendor could not come up with adequate details in the design so we will look for other vendors at next month's national convention and elsewhere.

NEW BUSINESS

- The submarine crew history project at USSVI National has over 105,000 living and dead submariners listed - all tied to boats upon which they served
- USSVI National is looking for a Web Master
- The Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in NYC has a new submarine interactive exhibit "Submerged". It is truly hands on and worth a visit.

- A search is underway to find a Japanese submarine off the Oregon coast. The sub was reportedly sunk in May of 1943 by an American patrol boat under the command of L Ron Hubbard (more recently of Scientology fame). (See the attached news article sent with these minutes for details on this and the following news items.)
- NAVFAC will be demolishing buildings 152 and 427 at Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT.
- Enlisted women will be assigned to Tridents in 2016, and to the Block IV Virginia Class subs in 2020.
- The USS Bremerton will be decommissioned in 2017.
- The USS Dallas is being retained in service, while the USS Norfolk is to be decommissioned next year (swapping places).
- The USS Vallejo's sail is to be added to the Mare Island Historic Park.
- The Commanding Officer of the USS San Juan was detached for cause.
- Counterfeit integrated circuits were sold into the submarine service supply chain network. None of them made it to submarines. They came from a foreign manufacturer via a Massachusetts vendor.
- Old, but scary news recently released: HMS Turbulent, a British sub, suffered a total loss of air conditioning plants emergency while operating in the Indian Ocean where seawater injection temp is over 85 degrees F. Temperatures inside the ship were over 140 degrees F, and 100% humidity. Coming to the surface only made matters and temperatures worse. The incident resulted in 26 casualties but no fatalities.

BINNACLE LIST

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Family and friends of Dex Armstrong, ADM Charles Larson, RADM Brad Money, Darlene Jaeger, Resi Steeg, and Richard and Vickye Lowry (who seem to be on the mend).

It should be noted that base member Bud Cunnally has organized a Mass for Dex in Mount Dora, FL on August 21st.

When the family of Dex Armstrong lets us know of final arrangements at Arlington National Cemetery, we will let all base members know ASAP by e-mail.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST WERE / ARE: Steve Bishop, Frances Burke, Cathy Chatham, William Decker, Christine Gault, Robert Gilmore, Sue Maruzo, Frank Pasquinel, Joe Phoenix, Lorraine Sargent, Jeanie Truslow, Mike Varone, and Bill Waylett.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Steve Bishop, who donated all of his winnings back to the Base.

The Benediction was delivered by the CDR.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 12:52 PM.

 At 13:00, we reconvened for two guest speakers. American Legion Post 162 members had been invited to attend, and some did sit in for both briefings.

1. The first topic was a PowerPoint presentation on Medicare 101 and TRICARE for Life, presented by Lenny Bonivento. A few key take-aways from this presentation were:
 - There is no TRICARE for Life membership card - you use your Military ID card, which should say on the back: "direct YES and civilian YES"
 - The TRICARE for Life contractor who handles all claims is Wisconsin Provision Services (WPS) at 1 866 773 0404 and www.tricare4u.com
 - TRICARE is always the last payer by law - all others pay on your claim before it goes to TRICARE.
 - The military on-line address for TRICARE for Life is www.tricare.mil.tfl.

If anyone would like the electronic version of the TRICARE for Life PowerPoint presentation, please contact the Base Commander.

2. The second topic was how the Virginia Department of Veterans Services could help veterans like us apply for, and file claims for, veterans' benefits from the federal government. It was presented by Nicky Burrell.

Every year \$ 5.8 Billion is paid to disabled veterans and their survivors. (Other benefits could include paying no state taxes). Do you have hearing loss? Did you serve on a nuclear powered ship? Did you get cancer or some other illness later in life? (SERVICE RELATED INJURIES could mean benefits are due to you and your survivors.)

All you need to get started with your application for benefits process is your DD 214 and Nicky's phone number, which is: 703 359-1210. She can also be reached at adria.burrell@dvs.virginia.gov. It is her job as a state of Virginia employee to assist us to apply for benefits and then to work within the system on our behalf.

After these very informative briefings and question and answer periods, the Base Commander presented both Lenny and Nicky with a USSVI challenge coin and thanked them each for their time and these briefings.

A special thank you to Chuck Martin and George Wallace for arranging for these two speakers.

The next base meeting will be on Saturday, September 13th, at 1100, at the Legion Post 162's facility in Lorton. After that meeting we will have a barbeque luncheon paid for by the base. It will be at the Dixie Bones Restaurant, a few miles south of the Legion Post's facility.

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