

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, DEC 13, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1102 on Dec 13, 2014 at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Daniel Miller, Regional Director Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Pete Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace (23 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.

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

USS Capelin (SS-289)	Dec 2, 1943
USS Sealion (SS-195)	Dec 10, 1941
USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	Dec 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS-109)	Dec 17, 1927

BALLOTS

The Base CDR called for any additional ballots to be submitted to the Secretary. Paper ballots were collected and tallied with the previously received paper and electronic ballots.

HISTORIAN

In the absence of the Base Historian, Richard Lowry, the Vice Commander, George Wallace, read a piece of submarine history prepared by the Historian on the USS Growler (SS-215). She was commissioned on 20 March 1942 at EB in Groton, CT, with LCDR Howard Gilmore in command and then operated out of Pearl Harbor. On the fourth patrol, Growler attacked a gunboat in a night surface attack and in the ensuing battle she rammed the ship, bent her own hull, and the bridge was raked by machine gun fire. Gilmore was grievously wounded and, in order to save the boat, ordered "Take her down!" By saving his command at the expense of his own life, LCDR Gilmore was one of seven WW II submariners to earn the Medal of Honor. After repairs, the Growler operated out of Brisbane, Australia for six more patrols. On her eleventh patrol, while Growler led a wolfpack, the boat was lost due to either her own torpedoes or enemy depth charges

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were distributed by e-mail and approved by the membership at this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the Base bank account balance was \$ 5,272.37. The report was approved by the members in attendance. Steve also reminded ALCON that 2015 dues

are due now. All members who had paid by now were eligible for the Early Bird drawing for free Base dues next year. A drawing was held (Bruce Miller's grandson Daniel did the honors) to pick one member and one associate member. The free dues winners for next year were: Regular member: John Lindstedt of Sullivan WI and Associate member: Vickye Lowry.

The Treasurer then presented the recommended NOVA Base budget for 2015. Paper copies were available for review on each table during the meeting. The 2015 budget was approved by the membership as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Executive Committee met earlier this week and discussed:

- Holland Club preparations for next year
- 2015 dues receipts and finalization of the budget for 2015
- Orders to be placed by the SK to support 2015 programs
- Voting for 2015 Base officers
- Eagle Court of Honor plans
- Revisions needed for the proposed Base coin
- Finalization of the 2015 calendar, and
- Plans for the holiday luncheon at Madigan's restaurant.

Vice Commander: VADM Dan Cooper has agreed to be the speaker for our Holland Club ceremony on May 9, 2015. The 2015 NOVA Base inductees will be Hank Chiles and Earl Griggs.

COB: Last Sunday, Howard Chatham, Chuck Martin, Mike Varone, and Steve Bishop participated in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eagle Scouts Orlando Rivera and Chris Touhill of Troop 869 in McLean, VA. These were 100th and 101st Eagle Scouts to be nurtured by this troop.



Membership Report: There are 83 members of the USSVI NOVA Base.

- 32 are Holland Club Members and of those, 2 are WW II submariners
- 40 are regular members
- 11 are associate members.

PAO: He will be sending photos from the recent Eagle COH to the Sun Gazette newspaper.

Chaplain: A reminder that the Dex Armstrong funeral service and inurnment will be on January 9, 2015 at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer at 1500. Base member attendees should wear our submarine vests (and probably a warm outer coat). **Post Meeting Note:** there will also be reception/visitation with friends and family at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery starting at 1100 that morning.

Store Keeper: We still have two USSVI 2015 calendars for sale at \$10 each.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported that our next visit to the Fairfax Inova's pediatric oncology ward will be after the flu season abates, probably in the March/April timeframe.

NSL: Tim Oliver reported that:

- The next NSL Capitol Chapter luncheon is scheduled for January 16, 2015
- The Spring Submarine Social will be at the USNA on a date TBA.
- The History Seminar will be held on April 15, 2015, and
- He has copies of his brother Dave's new book, Against the Tide, for sale and that one copy had been donated to the NOVA Base to be a part of today's 50/50 raffle. The book describes Hyman Rickover's management style, with examples we can relate to.

Regional Director Mike Naughton:

- Mike noted that the next USSVI National convention will be in Pittsburgh 9/7 – 9/13 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

- For those who missed it on Maryland Public Television this past Tuesday, the Rickover documentary will be on WETA on Dec 17th at 2100, and on Dec 18th at 1530.
- The Falls Church Veterans Day ceremony leadership has asked Howard Chatham to be a regular participant. He invited others in the Base to join him next year.
- Regarding the Base coin, we have decided on the vendor, but we will need some rewording to keep the size down.

NEW BUSINESS:

- All Base members have been invited to become dual members of the Lockwood Internet Base, where the monthly meetings are conducted serially online over several days.
- The 2015 schedule of events for the Base was read by the CDR. The schedule will be distributed electronically with these minutes.
- **VOTE on Amendments to update the Base By-Laws:**

1. Change Article V Section 6.b to read:

“Holland Club members are exempt from Northern Virginia Base dues and their National dues will be paid for by the Base.”

Motion made, seconded, oral vote taken, and the amendment passed unanimously.

2. Change Appendix A Regarding Annual Dues to read:

“Base Dues are \$15.00 per year.

Members joining in October thru December will pay \$5.00 for the current year and \$15.00 for the dues for the following year.”

Motion made, seconded, oral vote taken, and the amendment passed unanimously.

- **News from the fleet:**

- 12 sailors have been implicated in the submarine shower scandal
- There is a promising technology under development to take the stink out of a submarine's air (remember the amine smell?)
- The new coveralls for sailors passed the “hot seat” test when, unbeknownst to him, a Hull Technician grinding metal caused hot slag to catch his coveralls on fire
- The keel was laid for the new submarine USS Washington
- The USS Norfolk has been decommissioned
- The USS Jefferson City “completed” a strange WESTPAC deployment where it spent the entire time tied up in Guam searching for a leak in the primary coolant system.
- The USS La Jolla has changed homeport to Norfolk en-route to becoming a Moored Training Ship for the Nuclear Power pipeline of students
- Author David J Kaplan recently rode aboard the USS Hampton and saluted in the press the silent heroes serving in today's Submarine Force.

ELECTIONS: The Secretary presented the election results to the current elected base officers. 33 votes were recorded from the 83 members. He then announced the results of the base elections for 2015 officers as:

Base Commander: Howard Chatham
Vice Commander: George Wallace
Treasurer: Steve Jaeger
Secretary: Steve Bishop

The induction of these 2015 Base officers will occur during the January meeting.

The Binnacle List currently includes:

Debbie Bishop, Linda Clement, Richard Lowry, Terry Nelson, Resi Steeg, and Ruri Wootten.

For the Good of the Order:

Birthdays for the Month are:

Rich Carpel, Mimi Cooper, Bud Cunnally, Carol Fannan, Frank Fannan, Susan Frick, Mickey Garverick, Sheila Gilmore, Pat Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Barbara Miller, Mary Lou Naughton, Mike Naughton, Tin Shannon, George Steeg, Ray Stone, and Mike White.

50/50 Raffle: Joe Phoenix was the winner and he donated his winnings back to the Base treasury. THANK YOU, Shipmate!! Steve Bishop won the drawing for Dave Oliver's new book.

There will be an open house at the CDR's home on January 4th and ALCON were reminded of the ceremony for Dex at Arlington on January 9th. Our next meeting will be on January 10th. RDML Lorin Selby, Commander Naval Surface Warfare Center, will be our Guest Speaker. And, of course, Go Navy – Beat Army.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53.

Seventeen of us then met at Madigan's Restaurant on the waterfront in Occoquan, VA for a holiday lunch.

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