

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 8, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on March 8, 2014 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

George Billy, Steve Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, William Clement, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, **Mary Lou Naughton**, **Paul Nelson**, **Ron Olson**, **Marlyn Olson**, **Willie Petruy**, Tim Poole, **Alexander Poole**, **Clyde Smith (Guest Speaker)**, Gary Smith, and Mike Varone (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.

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

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The historian, Richard Lowry, prepared a vignette on the loss of the USS Perch (SS 176) during her fatal second war patrol in 1942. Rich was not able to attend today's meeting, so Brian Haller graciously agreed to read Richard's prepared remarks. Commanding Officer LCDR Hurt and the USS Perch were depth charged near Java by Japanese destroyers. She hit bottom at 147 feet and damaged her port screw. She later surfaced, cleared datum, and waited in silence while submerged. However, when she surfaced, it was in the middle of a Japanese group of warships who pummeled her mercilessly. The CO ordered the ship scuttled and the crew to abandon ship. He was the last to leave the ship. All of the crew were captured, six died in POW camps.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail and hard copies were available on each table. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

Starting balance: \$ 5,680.74

Ending balance: \$ 5,752.97

The USSVI NOVA Base End of Year financial report was submitted on time to USSVI on 3 February 2014. Copies were sent to the District Commander and Regional Director. USSVI National Treasurer has confirmed receipt.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Base Commander presented a summary of the most recent Executive Board Meeting. Discussions included: dues; recruiting efforts; plans for this year's Holland Club initiation; K4K status; reviewing possible new finials for our flag poles; recent Eagle Scout Courts of Honor; receipt of various submarine videos/presentations from the USSVI National Junior Vice CDR; consideration of a NOVA Base challenge coin; Memorial Day events celebrating the USSVI 50th anniversary; planning for next month's Tolling of the Boats; and the possibility of setting up a submarine display at a local library.

VCDR: AWOL this month, some Mickey Mouse excuse about having to take his grandchild to Disneyland. PMN: the VCDR responded with "You try keeping up with a four year old in the Magic Kingdom".

Chief of the Boat: 1. The Base CDR and COB attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in McLean, VA for four scouts, including two brothers. They presented each new Eagle Scout with the USSVI certificate and patch as part of the ceremony. 2. Author Rick Campbell, a submariner and member of the USSVI Capitol Base, has his book Trident Deception coming out on March 11, 2014. 3. Admitting he is not a design artist, the COB took an initial stab at a design for the USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin. The VCDR has found a reputable vendor who can produce the challenge coins at a great price in four colors. Paper copies of the four-color design were distributed.

Membership Report: by Steve Jaeger: 83 members, including:

25 Holland Club members

2 World War II members

47 Regular members

11 Associate members, with Vickye Lowry as our newest associate member

Public Relations / Veterans Affairs: none

Storekeeper: The CDR distributed the USSVI 50th anniversary coins and patches that were ordered by members at last month's meeting. Additional orders for patches for \$7.50, and coins for \$15.00, or both for \$20.00 can be purchased by contacting the base storekeeper (Howard Chatham).

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): The date for our next visit to Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward is Wednesday, April 9, 2012. Please meet at the Blue Women and Children wing visitors lounge on the ground level, across from the Blue parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and bring in your Blue parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate our parking. If you want to join us for this our tenth USSVI NOVA base visit to the Fairfax Hospital pediatric oncology ward, please contact Steve Bishop at (703) 293 6344.

In the absence of a **Naval Submarine League** official, the Base CDR announced that:

1. The next luncheon would be held on March 26th and the guest speaker would be RADM (Ret) Dave Oliver. His topic will be "WWRD: What Would Rickover Do?"
2. There will be a Submarine History Seminar on April 3 entitled "A Century of Torpedo Development".
3. The Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on April 11.
4. The Navy League Sea / Air / Space Expo will be held April 7-9 and NSL is looking for volunteers to help man their booth at the Expo.

District Commander Ronny Olson spoke:

1. Our new District Commander introduced his wife Marlyn and spoke on the State of the Northeast Region District Four.
2. He is from Dover, DE and is Commander of the Atlantic Base.
3. The Farragut base is selling a cookbook "Solid Food to Die For" for \$15 each, plus shipping.
4. The 51st Thresher Base Memorial Service will be held in Kittery, ME on April 12, 2014 at 1300.
5. He acknowledged that the USSVI NOVA Base End of Year financial report was submitted on time and thanked us for that. (Good job, Tightwad!!)
6. The first District Commander's newsletter has been published and it was sent to Base Commanders.
7. He also announced the candidates for USSVI National offices and that Mike Naughton was the only one running for Northeast Regional Director.

Regional Director Mike Naughton spoke:

1. The 50th anniversary of the USSVI will be celebrated here in Washington DC over Memorial Day weekend at the Navy Memorial. The Capitol base and the NOVA base have been asked to assist the USSVI national office holders with both the Tolling of the Boats ceremony and the parade.
2. The Tolling of the Boats Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 24th where both reader and usher volunteers will be needed.
3. The parade will be held on Monday, May 26th.
4. The Capitol Base will conduct its annual Tolling of the Boats Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's F-4 memorial on May 17th at 11 AM.

Any USSVI NOVA Base member who would like to participate in either of the 50th anniversary events (TOB or parade) should contact Howard Chatham directly.

OLD BUSINESS

Both the Base PAO and the Base CDR have sent letters to the Governor of South Carolina asking that the former USS Clamagore be preserved rather than sunk to create a coastal reef. The governor replied to Mike Varone that lack of funding will probably cause the creation of the Clamagore reef out at sea in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

- DFAS has issued a warning that its only authorized web site is: smartdocs@dfas.mil. Be alert for scams seeking your personal info and access to your retired pay.

- The USSVI Hampton Roads base is spearheading a to create a Virginia USSVI license plate. They need 450 to sign up for this vanity plate before the state will create it.
- The USS Trout reunion will be held on March 24-27 in Charleston, SC.
- Tim Oliver has a video of our recent Holland Club induction. He needs someone to make copies for the participants.
- News from the Fleet:
 - More uniform changes are coming, including woodland cammies for deployed sailors
 - Expeditionary Supply Corps Officer pin authorized
 - Navy Security Forces / MAA badges authorized
 - A retired CT was sentenced to 30 years for attempted espionage
 - Navy study is underway to determine interest of female sailors to serve on subs, with the goal of female sailors serving on subs in 2016
 - USS Topeka is now the fourth boat homeported in Guam
 - Congress / President have approved the repeal of the retired pay cap except for personnel joining the services starting this year. However, there are other proposed DOD budget cuts to BAH, Commissary, and TRICARE benefits
 - Two VA class subs/year are funded
 - Both Australia and India reported serious fires onboard submarines this month
 - Groton-based ISCM (SS) Okrasinski is a life saver, rescuing a man whose car landed upside down in a frigid pond
 - NOTU's CO and MCPO were relieved for requesting funds from strip clubs
 - The Australian Submarine Centennial celebration will be held down under in November
 - And their display submarine, the HMAS Olway, is to be "bombed" with yellow wool

The Binnacle List currently includes: Reb Wooten, Richard Lowry, Dex Armstrong, Ray Coe, and the families of CAPT Bigley and CAPT Frank Andrews.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Art Dunn, Ruth Garverick, Dave Gault, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Mary Kay Parker, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Gary Smith.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 12TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE, NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1153.

 After a break to get liquid refreshments and popcorn, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker, Clyde Paul Smith. Clyde has served with Clive Cussler (famous author) on the Board of Directors for the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA) since 1980. Clyde spent 25 years as a commercial banker and was an international financial consultant with the late Admiral Elmo Zumwalt.

Clyde showed us a PowerPoint presentation on, and discussed with us, the search for the CSS Hunley. Some of the highlights and unique factoids include:

- The three crews of the CSS Hunley were all Confederate soldiers, not sailors.
- The first crew died on the initial dive - they were heavy forward, and heavy overall.
- Five of the 8 in the second crew died when she sunk at the pier.
- LT Dixon fixed the ship and led the third crew as its CO at Charleston, SC.
- The CSS Hunley sank the USS Housatonic that was part of the fleet of Union ships that were blocking Charleston's harbor when she attacked from the seaward side by surprise at night. (those submariners are a sneaky lot)
- LT Dixon's girlfriend Queenie, had given him a \$20 gold piece for luck. He carried it always in his front pants pocket. That gold piece stopped a bullet in an earlier land-based firefight, so it was dented, but it had protected his femoral artery and saved his life. After NUMA's discovery of what was believed to be the CSS Hunley, that dented gold piece was found in the wreckage and helped the Charleston-based marine archeologists, led by Dr. Marie Jacobson, to confirm that the hulk of the submarine found by NUMA off of Charleston's coast was indeed that of the CSS Hunley.

After the presentation, many questions were posed by the members and guests, and responded to by Clyde. More information on NUMA and its adventures in search of historical ships wrecked at sea can be found at www.NUMA.net.

The Base Commander then presented a USSVI challenge coin to Mr. Smith in appreciation for the wonderful presentation on NUMA and the search for the CSS Hunley.

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