

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

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1107 on Nov 08, 2014 at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Nate (Doc) Compton, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Ron Hill, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Paul Milde (presenter), Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Willie Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Lorraine Sargent, Ross Sargent, Cheryl Smith, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, David Weddel, and Jon Williams. (29 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 16, 1944
USS Corvina (SS-226)	Nov 16, 1943
USS Sculpin (SS-191)	Nov 19, 1943

ROUND OF INTRODUCTIONS

With several guests in attendance, we all introduced ourselves, including the boats upon which we qualified and served.

BASE HISTORIAN

With the Base Historian, Rich Lowry, on travel as the USMC's guest speaker for the Camp Lejeune, NC USMC Birthday Ball tonight, the Base CDR regaled us with a reading of the Naval Reactors "Crew Quiz". It was a two-page written test to be completed in four hours. Several laughs and much head scratching by all a (copy will be provided with the minutes).

HISTORY OF THE BASE AND ITS MEMBERS

From the Base Archives, the Base Secretary read official Navy archival information about TM3(SS) Arthur G Smith's heroism during World War II while serving on the USS Skate (SS-305). "Smitty," as we knew him, deployed on the first, second, third, and seventh war patrols of Skate. He was transferred to the USS Tinoso (SS-283) and deployed on some of her war patrols before rejoining the USS Skate for the seventh War Patrol.

The SILVER STAR MEDAL was presented to "Smitty" by Fleet Admiral Chester W Nimitz. As a member of the rescue party on deck of a submarine while that vessel, under concentrated enemy fire, was attempting to recover two aviators who had been forced down near the enemy base, having assisted in the rescue of one and seeing that another was swimming in the water and

appeared to be near a state of exhaustion, “Smitty” distinguished himself conspicuously in action by voluntarily swimming to the rescue of this aviator.

Alas, “Smitty” is now on Eternal Patrol. Both Brian Haller and Bruce Miller spoke of their friend, each describing his self-effacing humor and wonderful zest for life. They both remember that “Smitty” never thought of himself as a hero, but rather he always just tried to be a good shipmate.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the October, 2014 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. The minutes, amended to note that Senator Rubio’s first name is Marco, were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Base Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the Base bank account balance was \$5,211.42 at the beginning of October, 2014. After paying expenses and receiving funds, the base bank account balance was \$5,421.67 at the end of October, 2014. The Treasurer reminded all that both 2015 Base and National dues are due by December 31, 2014.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD The Board of Directors met Wednesday, October 29th and discussed plans for future base activities, including:

- Results of the recruiting effort at the recent Navy Submarine League Symposium;
- Plans for next year’s Holland Club event including the addition of Earl Griggs to the list of Honorees; the event will be held in May, 2015 at P J Skidoos Restaurant in Fairfax, VA;
- Draft 2015 budget;
- Plans for future Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) visits;
- Revision to the Base By-Laws regarding Holland Club member dues and partial year dues for members joining late in the calendar year;
- Letter of introduction to local NJROTC units;
- Base challenge coin effort;
- 2015 meeting and event schedule; and
- Veterans Day activities.

VCDR

Off selling his books aboard the USS Midway in San Diego harbor.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT

Chuck Martin reported that he has identified six schools in the area that sponsor NJROTC units. He will be forwarding a formal letter of introduction to Herndon High School, Osborne Park High School, Potomac Senior High School, Brooke Point High School, Stafford High School, and Loudon County High School. We are seeking relationships with these NJROTC units to spend time with them and to encourage them to join us in our parades and events going forward.

MEMBERSHIP

Steve Jaeger reported that the Base has 83 members, consisting of: 32 Holland Club members, 40 regular members, and 11 Associate members.

PAO / VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mike Varone reported that his recruiting trip to a “Spook” reunion in Florida resulted in 5 or 6 CTs considering joining USSVI.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss)

Steve Bishop reported that our next visit to the Fairfax Inova Pediatric Oncology ward will probably be in March, 2015. The nursing staff will contact us when we can come visit them again – after the flu season embargo has passed.

CHAPLAIN

Nothing to report

STOREKEEPER

Howard Chatham reported that we have two USSVI 2015 calendars for sale at \$10 each.

SUBLEAGUE

In the absence of both Tim Oliver and Brad Kratovil, the Base CDR reported that:

- The Capitol Chapter Winter luncheon will be held on January 16th
- The DC area Fall Submarine Social will be held Friday at the Washington Navy Yard
- The Spring Submarine Social will be held at the US Naval Academy, date is TBD

DISTRICT CDR and/or REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

In the absence of both Ron Olson and Mike Naughton, the Base CDR reported:

- The Veterans’ Day Parade will be held in NYC and submariners will be marching as a unit
- The 2015 USSVI National Convention will be held in Pittsburgh, PA and the convention’s link is now on the USSVI website
- The USSVI Scholarship Program is now accepting applications
- USSVI National has found an Investigative Committee Chair/Judge Advocate General – congratulations to our own Ross Sargent!!

OLD BUSINESS

- The USSVI Southeast Regional Conference at Cape Canaveral agenda has been published. The conference will be held April 20-23, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Keep 9 January 2015 on your calendar for the service for Dex Armstrong at Arlington National Cemetery*
- Veterans Day Opportunities and events
 - o Falls Church ceremony at 1100 Tuesday
 - o La Quinta Hotels has a “Hotels for Heroes” program to provide free rooms to family members when visiting their loved ones who are undergoing treatment for illness or injuries. They will match donations from your La Quinta Returns Points up to \$1,000,000. Please consider giving up some of your points.
 - o Deals and meals at www.themilitarywallet.com and www.military.com/veterans-day/veterans-day-military-discounts.html
- National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes are available for an annual pass fee of \$80, and \$10 for seniors (a senior pass gets you and three guests into any

- National park for free.) Brian Haller and Terry Nelson both showed their passes and praised their good value. Thanks to Mark Riethmeier for identifying this benefit. The web address for pass information is <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passess.htm>.
- The Strategic Systems Programs 60th anniversary celebration will be held October 2, 2015. Information on this event can be found at www.ssphero.org.
 - News from the Fleet (see more details from the Undersea Warfare News published along with these minutes):
 - o EB awarded a contract modification to build the new US/UK Missile tubes
 - o The USS North Dakota (SSN-784) was commissioned on October 25, 2014
 - o The Commander Submarine Force spoke at the recent NSL Symposium about an 8-hour watch cycle on submarines saying that it is being well received
 - o The US Navy senior leadership is quite impressed with the new Russian attack boat
 - o Investigation into the 3rd party Virginia class submarine's suspect components is still ongoing. The name of vendor has not yet been released. Extensive extra oversight is in place.
 - o Japan and Australia have started talks on a new submarine deal (or have they??)
 - o The South Korean Navy is pushing to allow women on its submarines in 2020
 - o The wreck of the German submarine (U-576) has been found off the North Carolina coast
 - o China has a new submarine – built by a farmer
 - **BY-LAWS:** To redefine our position that Holland Club members should not have to pay Base dues or National Dues, we need to update the By-Laws **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.”

In addition, to accommodate members who join late in the year the dues structure in **Appendix A** to the By-Laws needs to be amended to read:

**“Base Annual 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.”**

Both these proposals will be sent out to the membership and voted on at the December meeting.

The Base Commander announced the nominations for our slate of elected 2015 officers as:

Base Commander: Howard Chatham
 Vice Commander: Chuck Martin and George Wallace
 Treasurer: Steve Jaeger
 Secretary: Steve Bishop and Bill Clement

The Base Commander called for additional nominations from the floor and none were made. Thank you to our nominations committee (Bob Glover and Paul Nelson) for their efforts to fill the above slate of candidates.

Ballots will be sent out to all members by e-mail (plus snail mail to two members) after the meeting. Directions for filling in and submitting your ballot are on the ballot. Ballots are due to

the base secretary by the start of the next meeting at 1100, Saturday, December 13th at the American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA. Results of the election will be announced at the December meeting.

BINNACLE LIST

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BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

Rod Batiza, Art Bivens, Richard Lowry, Francis McNamara, Dennis Mohr, Carla Petruy, Eva Waylett, and the United States Marine Corps.

50/50 RAFFLE

Gary Smith won the raffle and donated all of his winnings back to the Base treasury. THANK YOU, SHIPMATE!!!

The next USSVI NOVA Base meeting will be on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 AM at the American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, and will be followed by lunch at a restaurant in Occoquan, VA (on the waterfront).

The Base Chaplain gave the benediction and the Base CDR adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.

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

Our Guest presenter was introduced by Mike Varone. **Paul Milde** is an elected County Supervisor in Stafford County. Mike, Chuck Martin, and Howard Chatham met Paul at a recent Eagle Scout ceremony at the USMC museum in Quantico. Paul's grandfather, Robert O. Morse, served in the US Navy and in submarines in the 1930's including serving in the Far East. Paul brought in memorabilia of his grandfather's naval service history including an album, assorted other photos, a bayonet, a cribbage board, etc. for all of us to experience and share. Robert Morse rose through the ranks, completing his service as a Chief Torpedoman. Some of the China/Japan wartime pictures shown by Paul were truly gruesome and they brought home what the notches on the bayonet were documenting.

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