

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Oct 11, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1108 on Oct 11, 2014 at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Doc Compton, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Mike Varone, and George Wallace. (14 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 October. 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 (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 is still on the Binnacle List, but the VCDR read the October Remembrance which Richard provided us on the fate of the USS Shark (SS-314). Launched in 1944 at EB, with LCDR Edward Blakely in command, USS Shark (SS-314) conducted her first war patrol as a member of a wolf pack with USS Pintado (SS-387) and USS Pilotfish (SS-386) in the waters west of the Mariana Islands. There she sank four Japanese cargo ships. Her second patrol was as a lifeguard on station in support of carrier airstrikes on Iwo Jima. On her third and final patrol, she operated with USS Seadragon (SS-194) and USS Blackfish (SS-221) in the Luzon Strait. There she sank the unmarked freighter *Arisan Maru*, never knowing that she was carrying 1,800 American Prisoners of War, only eight of which survived the attack. After the disastrous sinking, Japanese destroyers closed in and sank USS Shark with all 87 hands lost.

NOVA BASE HISTORY

The Base Secretary, Steve Bishop, presented the following, gleaned from the base archives:
1996 The first Base Commander was RON WILLIAMS. The first base meeting was held on 28 Sep 1996 with three members attending. Base plank owners are those who joined in calendar year 1996.

1997 The Base began to use formal meeting agendas and meeting minutes were recorded.
1998 The first Base Vice Commander was TIM SHANNON.
2001 The Base had grown to 47 members, but only 5 to 10 regularly attended the meetings.
2002 The second Base Commander was TIM SHANNON when RON WILLIAMS became the Commander of USSVI's District 3. The new Base Vice Commander was RAY STONE.
2004 RAY STONE became the third Base Commander and CURT HAGGARD was elected as Vice Commander. TOM PERRAULT took over as Vice Commander later in the year.
2008 TOM PERRAULT became the fourth Base Commander with JOE PHOENIX as the Vice Commander.
2009 RAY STONE again became the Base Commander and ROB SMALLBROCK was elected Vice Commander.
2010 TIM SHANNON again became the Base Commander with TOM PERRAULT as the Vice Commander.
2011 TOM PERRAULT again became the Base Commander and MIKE MURPHY was elected Vice Commander.
2012 HOWARD CHATHAM became the eight (or fifth different person to be elected as) Base Commander and PAUL NELSON was elected as Vice Commander.
2014 GEORGE WALLACE was elected Vice Commander.
The monthly base meetings have been held at: Booz Allen Hamilton office spaces, Navy Submarine League office spaces, the Springfield American Legion Post, and our present location – American Legion Post 162.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2014 meeting were distributed by e-mail. Minutes of the September 2014 meeting were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the base bank account balance was \$5,611.35 at the start of Sep, and \$5,211.42 at the end of Sep, 2014. A reminder was made that both National and Base 2015 dues are due by December 31, 2014. 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. Recruiting efforts
2. Plans for next year's Holland Club event
3. Plans for the next Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) event
4. USSVI 2015 calendar sales
5. Draft letter of introduction to local NJROTC units
6. Previous Base Storekeeper identified two possible vendors for the base coin
7. Ongoing PAO efforts
8. Draft program schedule for the 2015 – there is still time for requests/recommendations
9. Renewal of our contract with Post 162 for the use of their facilities
10. Start the work up of the Base budget for the next year.

The next EXCOM meeting will be held on Oct 29th.

VCDR: The 2015 Holland Club induction will be held in May, probably on May 9th. The date may change depending on ADM Chiles and the speaker's schedules.

COB: Nothing to report.

Membership Report: 82 members.

Public Relations / Veterans Affairs: Mike Varone will be attending a Navy "Spook" convention event in Florida around the Halloween time frame where he will be recruiting for attendees to join USSVI. He also noted that there is still a chance to save the Clamagore and Friends Of The Clamagore are selling T-shirts to raise funds for the effort.



Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop announced the date for our next visit to Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward as Thursday, October 16, 2014.

Storekeeper: Howard Chatham announced that we have five USSVI 2015 calendars for sale at \$10 each; more can be obtained.



Submarine League: The Base Commander reported that the Fall Symposium will be held Oct 22 and 23, 2014. Registration forms are available on line and have been mailed to members. The Capitol Chapter Winter luncheon date has been moved to January 16, 2015 and the guest speaker will be CAPT Paul "Chip" Jaenichen, U.S. Maritime Administrator.

District CDR and Regional Director (Howard Chatham for Ron Olson and Mike Naughton):

- 1 The NE Region USSVI Business Meeting is being held this weekend in Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh will be the host city for next year's USSVI convention, which will start on Labor Day. The USSVI leadership, including Ron and Mike, is becoming familiar with the host city's offerings.
- 2 The Veteran's Day parade in New York City will include a USSVI presence.
- 3 The WW II Memorial Ceremony Week will be held in Kings Bay, GA Nov 5th to Nov 9th.
- 4 Waves of Honor gives discounts to veterans and active duty members and their guests at Sea World, Busch Gardens, and Sesame Street
- 5 The 2015 convention will be in Pittsburgh and the 2016 convention will be in Reno NV.
- 6 USSVI (National Office) is looking to fill the following positions:
 - a. Chaplain
 - b. Binnacle List Manager
 - c. Corporate Lawyer
 - d. Investigative Committee Chair / Judge Advocate General, and
 - e. Parliamentarian.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1 The USSVI SE regional conference will be held at Cape Canaveral April 20 to 23, 2015
- 2 The Silent Service Food to Dive For cookbook is available for sale from the Farragut Base; the CDR has the order form.
- 3 The base challenge coin is still a possibility. The Base Commander will be corresponding with potential vendors Dale Punch, Shelly Saxton, Coinablecom, and emilitarycoins.com.
- 4 Bruce Miller spoke of his recent visit to the Virginia Department of Veteran Services. He reports that it was a very rewarding visit. Nicky Burrell of this office was one of our guest speakers in August, 2014. She is a state of Virginia employee who is paid to be your advocate in gaining VA federal benefits from service-related injuries. Bruce reports that one anonymous NOVA USSVI member has donated and delivered to her office a new coffee maker and she is thrilled!! If you have any suspected hearing loss, radiation-related health issue, or some other medical problem you could trace back to your service days, then take your records and you to her office, 11198 Lee Highway Suite D-4 Fairfax VA 22030 (703-359-1210).

NEW BUSINESS

1. A champion has come forward in the US Senate to fight to oppose the proposed active duty pay cap. It is Senator Mark Rubio of Florida.
2. News from the Fleet:
 - a. RADM James Foggo was nominated for Sixth Fleet and a 3rd star (VADM).
 - b. SECNAV announced the names of the next two VA class submarines - USS Vermont (SSN-792) and USS Oregon (SSN-793)
 - c. The Navy has halted all nuclear work at Norfolk Naval Shipyard after discovering that civilian workers were handling equipment improperly and finding irregularities in the continuing training program
 - d. The Navy has stood up a new Type Commander – The Navy Information Dominance Forces (combining Cyber, Meteorological, and Intelligence commands)
 - e. The Mystic joins Trieste II and Deep Quest at Keyport museum

- f. A new submarine movie, Black Sea, is coming out in January, 2015. It is about a sunken Hitler era U-boat full of gold and a greedy submarine crew that finds it.
- g. USS La Jolla will be decommissioned later this year and will be converted to a Moored Training Ship for use at the NPTU in Charleston, SC
- h. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is using an ex-ASDS for training
- i. Canada is scrambling to find money to operate its submarines
- j. Japan says the Australians have NOT approached them about purchasing some Soryu class submarines

The Binnacle List currently includes: Debbie Bishop, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, and Resi Steeg

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

The 50/50 raffle was won by the COB, Chuck Martin, who donated his winnings back to the base treasury. THANK YOU, CHUCK!!

The Benediction was delivered by the Base Chaplain.

The next meeting will be held on November 8, 2014. Our guest will be Prince William County Aquia District Supervisor Paul Milde who will be sharing with us his family submarine memorabilia including a cruise book of his grandfather, who was a US submariner in the 1930's.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.

After a short break, we reconvened to hear and see a presentation given by our own member, Nate Compton (Doc) who spoke of his Navy Reserve activities. Doc served in submarines on the USS Maine (SSBN-741). Then he joined the Navy Reserves and has traveled considerably as a Dental Technician and now a Medical Corpsman, (The rates were merged by the NAVY). Doc showed us very interesting pictures detailing two of his recent active duty assignments. The first was to Thailand/Myanmar where he served in a unit working with the indigenous military medical units in a setup very much akin to the TV show MASH. There, in the mud they drilled with "injured" patients in a tent environment while trying to get them stabilized and then airlifted to a hospital facility in less than one hour from time the injury (the "golden hour"). The second tour was to northern Alaska to treat American citizens who are normally out of reach of good health care. That was quite the adventure up north, with adverse weather driving many decisions.

During his monthly Navy Reserve drill weekends, Doc travels to seven reserve units and ensures their members' health records, exams, shots, screenings, and dental records are in good shape to support short notice deployments. He seems to like working with the Marine Corps Reserve units the best. Thank you, Doc for the colorful presentation and pictures!!

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