

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Aug 8, 2015**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on Aug 8, 2015 in the Ready Room of the Cold War Gallery (building 70) on the Navy Yard, Washington, DC, and welcomed all members and guests.



MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Peter Boyne, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Tom Denton, Mickey Garverick, Daniel Glogg, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Willie Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Tony Poblete, James Tucker, Betty Tucker, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (24 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Base 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 13, 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 Cochino (SS-345) in the Barents Sea during a training exercise with other ships in August 1949. A violent gale and high seas made submerging very difficult for the submarines. The Cochino suffered a fire in the after battery while submerging. This emergency was just the beginning of the end. All crew not on watch were sent topside so they could breathe fresh air. The XO was badly burned while disconnecting the battery. The nearby USS Tusk came as near as possible in the high seas and repeatedly sent a raft to get survivors on the Cochino's topside to safety aboard the Tusk. However, a civilian engineer and six Tusk crew were lost during the rescue operation. The CO of the Cochino, CDR Rafael Benitez, was the last man to leave the ship before the USS Cochino went to the bottom after a second battery explosion sealed the ship's fate.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the June meeting were distributed by e-mail and were approved by the membership in attendance at this meeting. There was no base meeting in July. Instead we held our annual informal Dining Out/submarine movie review at Neighbor's Restaurant in Vienna.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, forwarded his monthly report and the Base CDR presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 5,186.56

Ending balance: \$ 5,256.76, as of August 8, 2015.

Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR: Board of Directors meeting was held last week and discussed:

- Potential new members
- 2016 Holland Club induction
- K4K status and plans
- Sales of Base challenge coin
- Plans and projects for the upcoming year

VCDR: Nothing to report

CHIEF OF THE BOAT: Chuck Martin reported:

- Eagle Scout Andrew Schlicht of Arlington VA has requested to receive USSVI Eagle Scout certificate of accomplishment and patch at one of USSVI NOVA meetings. His father served in submarines (Bancroft and Finback). **(NOTE: Andrew will be presented these items during our November meeting.)**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by the Base CDR: 85 Members

- 36 Holland Club Members with 2 WW II Members
- 38 Regular Members
- 11 Associate Members

PAO: Mike Varone had nothing to report.

VETERANS AFFAIRS: The Base CDR reported for Bill Clement that the President has signed the Veterans ID Card Act. Once the VA implements the Act all veterans will be able to receive an ID card, not just those that are retired or being treated by the VA. (NOTE: Virginia's DMV offers a Veteran ID card for \$10, see http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#id/vet_id.html.)

K4K: Steve Bishop reported that he, Penny Wallace, Vickye and Richard Lowry, and Mike Varone visited the pediatric oncology ward of Inova Children's Hospital last month. The group presented five submarine books to the hospital's pediatric activity coordinator, Holly Senn. Each submarine book has an *Ex Libris* label from the NOVA Base inside its front cover and the picture-filled books should appeal to all of our special young friends there. Jamie Gentile and Holly Senn are shown accepting the books in the photo below.



Holly Senn has sent an e-mail to the staff of the UVA hospital in an effort to explain the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program and how it benefits their in-patient oncology children. This communication peer to peer has seemingly opened the door for us with the staff at UVA because Ross Sargent, after many months of trying, has now been invited to set up an initial K4K visit at the UVA Hospital in late October. Our next visit to Inova should be in early October.

SK: Howard Chatham reported that there are still a number of Base challenge coins for sale at \$10 each. The new USSVI 2016 calendars are now available for \$10.95 plus \$ 2.95 shipping. If you order any from Howard (for a total of only \$12.00) before August 20th, he will pick them up at the Pittsburgh convention and have them ready for you at the October meeting.

SUBLEAGUE: In the absence of Tim Oliver, the Base CDR reported that a lunch with the CNO will be held August 25th; the Capitol Chapter Fall luncheon will be held on Sep 10th (during the USSVI annual convention); and the Fall Symposium will be held on Oct 21st and 22nd.

DISTRICT CDR/REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT: In their absence, the Base CDR reported that:

- Voting for the District CDR is over (results not released yet).
- Our annual Base Activities Report has been submitted to the District CDR.
- There is still time to sign up for the 2015 Convention. Tim Oliver has volunteered to drive some attendees up and back on Wednesday and Sunday for the convention. **(Post Meeting Note: the hotel convention rate has been extend to August 21st.)**
- USSVI Annual dues will be increasing by \$5 starting next year. (To avoid the increase for now, make sure you pay our Treasurer in time for him to submit payment to National before the end of the year.)
- Microsoft 10 software and its Edge browser are not compatible with the USSVI website. You can still use Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Mozilla to access the site.

OLD BUSINESS

- Held our third “annual” dining out last month and showed some vintage video of a WW II Silent Service tribute on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8DxhS8wpol>
Attendees (22) were: Debbie and Steve Bishop, Cathy and Howard Chatham, Linda and Bill Clement, Bruce Miller, Mary Lou and Mike Naughton, Terry and Paul Nelson, Marybeth and Mike Niblack, Ginger and Tim Oliver, Marie and Joe Phoenix, Lorraine and Ross Sargent, Penny and George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth.
- FBM Program 60th Anniversary Dinner will be held Friday, October 2nd at the Fairview Park Marriott. Reservations must be made by Sept 1st at <http://ssphero.eventbrite.com>

NEW BUSINESS

- The Base CDR requested suggestions for events and programs for next year’s meetings. Please send any ideas to him or any other member of the BOD.
- We will also be looking for nominations for Base officers for next year. A nominations committee will be set up to canvas the membership.
- A USSVI member is looking for two submarine breast insignia pins to complete his collection: the old Engineering Officer pin with an “E” between the dolphins and a WWII Combat pin in the deep wave configuration. Contact Bill Larime at blarime@cablone.net if you can help him out.
- The Arizona Silent Service memorial is being built in Phoenix AZ. Pavers are being sold for \$150 for a 4’x8” paver and \$250 for an 8’x8” paver. If that is too costly for you, the Base will accept individual donations in the hopes that we could accumulate enough funds to buy a paver in the name of the Base.



- There is a potential service project to assist a 94-year old Navy veteran living in the Fairfax area. He needs leaf raking this fall at his home. His only family lives in

California and she has reached out to our POC at the VA Department of Veteran Services. As this is probably more of an undertaking than we could commit to, we will be contacting the Post and suggesting they contact other Posts in the Fairfax area (maybe one with a scout troop that would like to put in some service time).

- Mike Varone reported on his efforts so far to support the USSVI Highway Recognition project. He has asked for an interview with his State Delegate as his Congressman's office said that to get bridges and highways across the US named "The United States Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway" is more likely to get traction on the state level.

FLEET NEWS: (see the file attached to the e-mail forwarding the minutes for details)

- Female enlisted sailors selected for submarine service- 4 chiefs and 36 enlisted for the USS Michigan first
- Plea deal for Newport News spy
- One sailor found Not Guilty in video scandal aboard the USS Wyoming
- Another sailor sentenced to reduction in rate, 10 months in the brig, and a BCD
- Pentagon investigators determine Admirals' remarks were not illegal lobbying at the fall 2014 Navy Submarine League symposium
- Senate confirms ADM Richardson for CNO and ADM Caldwell for Director of Naval Reactors
- Rear Admiral Richards to serve as Director Undersea Warfare
- Rear Admiral Jabaley to serve as PEO Submarines
- Rear Admiral (sel) DeToro takes command of NUWC
- Rear Admiral (sel) Trussler to assume command of newly created Undersea Warfare Development Center in Groton, CT
- USSVI Groton base 'in good condition' according to the Base CDR
- NR-1 exhibit opens at Submarine Force Museum in Groton, CT
- USS John Warner commissioned on August 1st. Then the Navy restricted operations of it and two others (USS North Dakota and USS Minnesota) due to faulty steam system elbow piping materials/repairs
- Sailor accused of taking classified photos aboard the USS Alexandria
- Two UK workers accidentally sealed inside a ballast tank. They escaped by crawling to the top of the ballast tank where they finally got a cell phone signal.
- Soviet sub found off Sweden – but it's a tad bit old as it was from the Tsarist era
- More stuff to be auctioned off at the November Pirate Auction



BINNACLE LIST

“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”

Debbie Bishop, John Gluck, Tony Poblete, Reb Wooten, and the family of LCDR John Holdorf, Jr.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

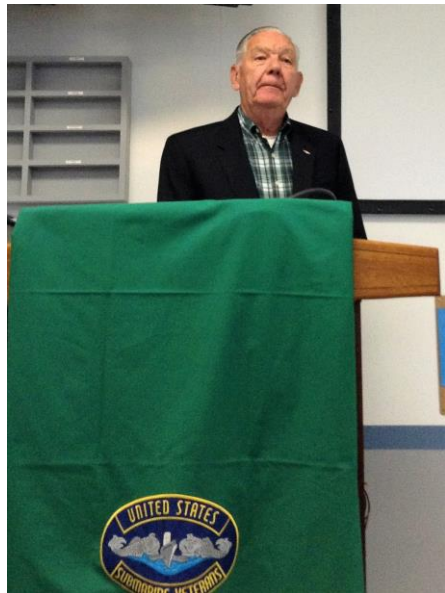
The Benediction was delivered by the Base CDR.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM .

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING SEPTEMBER 12TH AS MOST OF THE EXCOM WILL BE ATTENDING THE SUBVETS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 10TH AT 1100 AND THE BASE WILL BE HOSTING A BBQ LUNCH AFTERWARDS AT DIXIE BONES IN WOODBRIDGE

The Base CDR introduced our guest speaker **CAPT Peter Boyne, USN (Ret.)**



A 1957 graduate of the Naval Academy, CAPT Boyne spent a year in the destroyer force prior to his selection for Submarine School in 1958. His first tour in subs was onboard the USS Cavalla (SSK-246). The remainder of his 30 year career was spent in submarines or submarine support billets where he served on six submarines including commissioning Navigator of James K Polk, XO on the USS Sailfish, command of USS Clamagore and as Chief of Staff for Submarine Squadron 14 in Holy Loch.

Ashore, he was a staff officer at Naval Postgraduate School, Project Manager for submarine electronics and ISR equipment at NAVELEX, CO of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, and Deputy Director of Strategic Systems Programs, program office for the FBM weapons system.

After his Naval service, he was employed by TASC, The Analytic Science Corporation, as a Division Director supporting SSP and the intelligence community. In 1998, he left the business community and volunteered as a technical director for the Submarine Centennial exhibit “Fast Attacks and Boomers, Submarines in the Cold War” at the Smithsonian’s American History Museum. He has continued his volunteer service as a docent at the Smithsonian as well as assisting the Naval Historical Foundation design the Navy Museum’s Cold War Gallery including the reinstallation of the Smithsonian’s Sub exhibit.

CAPT Boyne spoke to us today about the Cold War Museum’s submarine exhibit and how it all came together. Back in 1998 the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum didn’t want an underwater exhibit, so the emphasis was on getting into the Smithsonian American History

Museum. Admiral Frank Kelso and others briefed the Director of the American History Museum, who accepted their offer and money for a three year loan to the museum. CAPT Boyne's wife was on the staff of the Museum Director and she immediately stepped in as the Museum's program manager for the project, with her husband and John Shilling acting as the free program technical directors. Between John, Peter, Frank Thompson, USSVI members, Naval Submarine League members, the active submarine force, submarine shipyards that were dismantling decommissioned subs, and industry, for \$2.5 Million and in two year's time, the exhibits were created on a diet. The third floor of the American History Museum could not take large weight loads. The display ran from 2000-2003.

Submarine systems, displays, major pieces and entire populated spaces were obtained from USS Trepang (being recycled at Bremerton), USS James K Polk (Norfolk Shipyard), USS Sand Lance (Bremerton), and USS Thomas Edison (Steinway showroom piano in NYC). The leaders also got both Naval Reactors and Strategic Systems Program Office involved so they received a modified Maneuvering Room and the tip of a Trident I (C4) missile test shape from Lockheed Sunnyvale (no reactor and no warheads, obviously). The sail of the 637 class on display is a ¾ scale mockup in steel.

After the three year contract was up with the American History Museum, the exhibit sent to the Navy Museum and was put in storage. It took seven years (2003-2010) to raise all of the money to create and move the present exhibit. Admiral Shapiro of OP-009 provided the unclassified operating area charts for where we thought the Cold War era Soviet missile submarines may have operated. CAPT Boyne told the story of when three Soviet Admirals visited the current exhibit and saw these charts on display. They looked at them very carefully, turned to CAPT Boyne, and said, "Vell, Captain, you don't have them all."

The Navy Museum website has more on the Cold War Exhibit for your enjoyment (<http://usnavymuseum.org/>).

The Base CDR presented CAPT Boyne our new USSVI NOVA Base Challenge coin and thanked him for both arranging this meeting today (via Admiral Bruce DeMars) and for speaking to us. The meeting concluded at 11:58 AM and all attendees then toured the submarine displays with CAPT Boyne answering all of our questions.



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