

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on December 12, 2015 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, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ginger Haskell, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Vickye Lowry, Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Regional Director Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, Pete Petruy, Mark Riethmeier, Anita Varone, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (26 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 all ballots to be collected by the Secretary. Paper ballots were collected and tallied with the previously received paper and electronic ballots.

HISTORIAN



The Base Historian Richard Lowry read a piece of submarine history on the USS Gudgeon (SS-221). She had been commissioned on 21 April, 1941, and arrived in Pearl Harbor on 10 Oct. On 7 Dec, 1941 she was conducting training at sea. She returned to port, loaded out, and got underway on Dec 11th for the first submarine patrol of WW II with orders to “carry out unrestricted submarine warfare.” She damaged several cargo ships near the Japanese coastline and when returning to Pearl, she scuffled with and sank a Japanese submarine – the first sub-to-sub victory of the war. She completed eleven war patrols over the next three years. She scored 14 confirmed kills for 71,000 tons, ranking 15th among US submarines. USS Gudgeon and her crew left Johnston Island on 7 April, 1944 on her 12th war patrol and they were never seen or heard from again.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were distributed by e-mail. No comments or corrections were noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that last month's Base bank account balance was \$5,645.44. The current balance is \$5,177.24. He reminded us that 2016 National and Base dues are due now. A drawing was held for the Early Bird free dues winners for next year and they are: Regular member Michael Kwiecien and Associate member Cathy Chatham.

The Base Treasurer presented the recommended NOVA Base budget for 2016. Paper copies were available on each table during the meeting. The yearly revenue and expense format is in accordance with USSVI National guidelines. **The 2016 budget was approved by the membership as presented.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Membership
- 2016 Holland Club preparations
- 2016 dues receipts and finalization of the budget for 2016
- K4K outreach plans for USS Virginia and Hampton Roads bases
- Eagle Scout Court of Honor plans
- Navy veteran service project
- Finalization of the 2016 events calendar, and
- Plans for the holiday luncheon at Madigan's restaurant.

Vice Commander: Our planned speaker for the Holland Club induction on May 14th at P. J. Skidoo's has a schedule conflict and will not be able to attend. If you have a recommendation for a speaker, please contact George Wallace. The 2016 NOVA Base Holland Club inductees will be Tony Poblete and Mickey Garverick.

COB: On Saturday, December 19th, Chuck Martin and Steve Bishop will participate in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for two scouts in Lusby, MD. These two scouts are college freshman who are both enrolled in engineering programs. We have the new USSVI National Scouting Recognition patch (minus any reference to BSA) and the USSVI certificates to present to these fine young men. (Base CDR displays the patch in the picture to the right.) There are also two separate Courts of Honor planned for January 16th and the COB is trying to get the Capitol Base to cover one of them for us.



The COB then thanked all those that participated in the Base service project last month at the



home of a WW II Navy veteran in Fairfax. The event was highly successful and greatly appreciated. At least 50 bags of leaves were accumulated curbside by members of the Naval Submarine League and USSVI (Capitol Base and NOVA base).

Membership Report: There are 85 members of the USSVI NOVA Base.

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

PAO: Nothing to report

Store Keeper: We have sold all of our USSVI 2016 calendars. We have sold enough Base challenge coins to break even and we still have 30 coins on hand for future sales and award presentations (i.e. guest speakers).

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported that our next visit to the Fairfax Children's Hospital pediatric oncology ward will be after the flu season abates, ~ the March/April timeframe. That visit will be followed by a joint visit with the USS Virginia Base of Midlothian, VA to the University of Virginia hospital in Charlottesville in the April/May timeframe. Steve is also planning to liaison with the Hampton Roads Base to help them get started with the K4K program. He then noted that the National leader of the USSVI K4K program has had wonderful success raising grant money for K4K from several Wal-Mart stores in CT. We intend to try to follow suit here in VA.

NSL: Tim Oliver reported that:

- He and Ginger had just spent the morning in Arlington National Cemetery participating in "Wreaths Across America". Every headstone was honored.
- The next NSL Capitol Chapter luncheon is scheduled for February 5, 2016
- The Corporate Member Recognition Days are March 9 and 10, 2016
- The 2016 History Seminar is "41 for Freedom" on April 6, 2016
- The spring Submarine Technology Symposium is on May 3-6, 2016, and
- The 34th Annual Symposium is on October 26-27, 2016 at a new venue – the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

Regional Director Mike Naughton:

- Mike announced that the 2016 USSVI National convention will be in Reno, NV from August 15-20, 2016. The speaker will be NOVA base member RADM Dave Oliver (Tim's brother).
- The site for the 2017 annual convention is still up in the air, but it is likely to be in Florida.
- Please update your personal information on the USSVI National website. He also noted that the entire website and database are being converted and upgraded.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Thank you again to all who brought items to, and/or bought items at, last month's pirate auction. The proceeds were \$745.00 – our best auction results ever!

NEW BUSINESS:

The Base CDR read the schedule of events for the base for 2016. The schedule will be distributed electronically with these minutes.

We wish “Fair winds and following seas” to Richard Laulor who has moved to Mt. Pleasant SC.

News from the fleet (details of these stories will be distributed with the meeting minutes):

- The Virginia class payload module design is being finalized
- A CAPT relieved a CDR as the CO of USS La Jolla. It’s a good thing in this case as the ship will be converted into a Moored Training Ship for the Nuclear Power Training Unit at Charleston SC – the first 688 to be so assigned
- The newest Soviet mystery submarine could have giant nuclear torpedoes. They are called “Status-6” and are 80-ft long, powered by a nuclear reactor, and capable of delivering up to 100 megatons thousands of miles downrange. A new class of Soviet submarine is being built to carry six of these. (Does anyone still think Vladimir Putin is just a former KGB “nice guy”?)
- North Korea’s first submarine capable of firing missiles underwater suffered serious damage to the submarine and the sail when a test missile failed to eject properly from its firing tube. “U.S. satellites and other technical intelligence means” enabled the U.S. assessment of the damage and debris.

ELECTIONS: The Secretary presented the election results to the current elected base officers. 26 votes were recorded from the 85 members. He then announced the results of the base elections for 2016 officers as:

Base Commander: Chuck Martin
Vice Commander: George Wallace
Treasurer: Steve Jaeger
Secretary: Steve Bishop

Howard Chatham will induct the new Base CDR at the January meeting.

The Binnacle List currently includes:

Joe Phoenix and Tony Poblete who are under the weather; Art Bivens had a knee replaced; Howard Chatham is undergoing chemotherapy; Richard Lowry is finally recovering from internal ailment; Carla Petruy has a broken leg; and keep the families of CAPT Arthur Rawson and VADM Ken Carr, both of whom passed away last month, in your prayers.

For the Good of the Order:

Birthdays for the Month are:

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

50/50 Raffle: Richard Lowry was the winner.

The Chaplain delivered the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43.

Go Navy – Beat Army.

Our next meeting will be on January 9th, 2016. CAPT Stephen Debus, NAVSEA PMS 435, will be our guest speaker.

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



Special thank you to Mark Riethmeier and Penny Wallace for the photos.

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