

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on February 14, 2015 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Barham, Dee Barham, Steve Bishop, Debbie Bishop, Cindy Boyko, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Nate Compton, Delbert Ennis, Linda Eveic, Bob Glover, Sue Glover, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, Ginger Oliver, Pete Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Ross Sargent, Lorraine Sargent, Mike van der Biezen, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, George Wallace and Penny Wallace. (34 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 February. These were:

USS Barbel (SS-316)	Feb 4, 1945
USS Shark (SS-174)	Feb 11, 1942
USS Amberjack (SS-219)	Feb 16, 1943
USS Grayback (SS-208)	Feb 27, 1944
USS Trout (SS-202)	Feb 29, 1944

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, provided a passage on Submarine History: The USS Grayback (SS-208). Richard is still on the binnacle list, so the Vice Commander, George Wallace, recounted Richard's prepared submarine history lesson. The USS Grayback (SS-208) was launched at EB on January 31, 1941. She began her first war patrol in late February, 1942. After sinking one ship on that first patrol, she continued on eight more war patrols sinking enemy ships, submarines, and rescuing downed B-26 airmen from an enemy island. In September 1943, Grayback set sail to form the first American submarine wolfpack in the Pacific. She sailed for the last time on January 28, 1944 for her 10th war patrol. She sank four freighters and damaged three others before running out of torpedoes. As she headed home on the surface, she was spotted, bombed and sunk by an enemy aircraft. All told, during her 10 war patrols, she had sunk 14 enemy vessels amounting to 63,835 tons. BZ Grayback!!



The Base CDR asked that our **Legion Post 162** liaison, Commander Patty Veld, come forward for a presentation. The base then donated two checks: one for \$100 as a donation to the Post 162

for their support of the base and use of their facility for our meetings; the second for \$50 as a donation to the Carville Star, a non-profit organization in Louisiana, targeted to assist those afflicted with Hanson's Disease (formerly called Leprosy) in the Philippines. The Post Commander thanked us for both of these contributions.

Steve Bishop was not able to attend last month's meeting when the 2015 elected officers were sworn into office so the Base Commander swore Steve in as the Base Secretary.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the January 2015 meeting were e-mailed to the membership. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as amended correcting the misspelling in Noland Smith's name.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Starting balance: \$ 5,454.60

Ending balance: \$ 5,409.81

Two boats (USS Alexandria (SSN 757), and PCU John Warner (SSN 785)) have been sponsored by the base and will therefore receive several copies of each edition of the American Submariner. The treasurer spoke of his liaison with the XO of the PCU John Warner, who thanked us for this contribution. Perhaps a deepened relationship between our organizations could be worked out in the future, including USSVI NOVA members attending the commissioning ceremony and members of the ship's crew attending our base functions.

The annual financial report for 2014 to USSVI National has been sent to, and received by, the USSVI National treasurer. Copies of the report were forwarded to the Regional Director and District Commander.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Base Commander presented a summary of the most recent **Executive Board Meeting**, including: potential new recruits; plans for this year's Sweetheart luncheon and the Holland Club initiation; End of Year (EOY) Financial Report to USSVI National; boat sponsorships; K4K; updates to the website; Eagle Scout program; Base challenge coin; and an article on base activities for the American Submariner.

Vice Commander: George Wallace spoke of the Holland Club arrangements for May 9th at PJ Skidoos restaurant in Fairfax, VA. Vice Admiral Dan Cooper is confirmed as our guest speaker. Our guest speaker for next month's regular meeting is going to be Chip Jaenichen, the Administrator of Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation.

On a personal note, George mentioned that he had drafted a letter that people could send to their local law enforcement and first responders personnel thanking them for their service to the community. This is a personal effort as USSVI National has determined that it might be deemed

a political statement and therefore isn't something that USSVI should get involved with. George has copies of the letter for anyone that wishes to have them.

COB: Chuck Martin reported that the next Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony will be conducted in McLean, Virginia on Feb 21st. [Post Meeting Note: due to inclement weather the COH has been rescheduled to March 21st.] The second Court of Honor scheduled will be in Ruther Glen, VA on March 15th. At each ceremony we will present a certificate and USSVI patch to new Eagle Scouts. Chuck also noted that there will be a book signing by the submarine author Rick Campbell at the Barnes & Nobles in Rockville and Fairfax on February 28th. Rick's latest book is titled *Empire Rising*.

Membership: The Base now has 80 members, with 33 Holland Club members including 2 WW II members; 36 regular members; and 11 associate members. Four members were dropped due to failure to pay the 2015 dues; two of them have indicated they will rectify that lapse.

PAO: Mike Varone has submitted an article with pictures to the *American Submariner*. The article shows the breadth of civic outreach activities undertaken by the base during the past year.

Veterans Affairs: Bill Clement spoke of three items: 1. The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission has met and has recommended some draconian legislative cuts be made by Congress. (Bill's opinion: most of the recommendations will be dead on arrival.) 2. Space Available travel to Europe is a very good deal. He and his wife have recently flown to and from Germany. Bill has some lessons learned for you if you want to try this. 3. The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities at some military bases have very inexpensive hotel accommodations on base. Bill and his wife have recently stayed in New York City at a Holiday Inn for \$158 per night. Contact Bill for details on some MWR good deals.

Store Keeper: The Base Commander asked for volunteers to fill this position. Hearing no takers, he volunteered himself to assume the position again. He was approved by the members. He reminded us that there was one 2015 USSVI calendar left for sale at \$10.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported our next visit to the Fairfax Hospital pediatric oncology ward is on hold due to flu season and the hospital's policy of not allowing any non-family visitors into any patients' rooms until further notice. When the flu season abates and our hospital staff POC contacts Cathy Chatham, we will notify the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) team by e-mail about our next visit date and time. Ross Sargent would like to initiate the same kind of K4K service we provide to Inova in Fairfax to the Charlottesville, VA hospital for its pediatric oncology ward. Ross will contact the hospital to determine the Charlottesville staff's receptiveness to our visits and Steve and Cathy will call on our INOVA POCs for assistance as needed.

Naval Submarine League: Tim Oliver announced that the Submarine Base Industrial Council will meet on March 3rd. The Council will then speak to the elected members of Congress while the Sub League meets with its sponsors on March 4th and 5th. Al Singleman, our USSVI National Commander, will attend. The next monthly luncheon would be held on Friday, April 24th. The Submarine birthday ball will be held on April 10th and the NSL Historical Seminar will be held on April 15th and will cover the US/UK cooperation and missile developments.

North East Regional Director Mike Naughton spoke:

1. The National Convention is only 7 months away and will be held in Pittsburgh.
2. The team putting on the convention this year is dedicated to not making the mistakes which were so evident at last year's convention in San Francisco.

The Base CDR added that National has sent out a USSVI long range planning questionnaire but there are problems with completing the form and the CDR has identified those to the originator.

OLD BUSINESS

Terry Nelson addressed the final details for the **Sweetheart's luncheon** after the meeting, reminding ALCON to pay the Treasurer before leaving for the restaurant.

The Base CDR spoke of the **Wreaths Across America** project at Arlington National Cemetery, where he and hundreds of other volunteers braved the cold, wet weather and slopes to collect the many wreaths with red ribbons that were displayed on all of the grave markers.

The Base is working with Shelly Saxton on the final design details for the base Challenge Coin.

The next issue of the *American Submariner* will include a listing of the boats that are sponsored by USSVI bases and members. The Base discovered that National just sends the magazine to the recipients but doesn't tell them who is the sponsor or why they are getting it. It is incumbent on the sponsor to contact the boat or unit to let them know that they are indeed the source for the monthly magazine.

The CDR asked if anyone had seen the movie "Black Sea" yet. A few said they saw a screening at the Navy Memorial. After only two weeks there are only two theaters in the Northern Virginia and Maryland environs that are still showing it. Catch it now or wait for the DVD.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Base website has been updated. The sailing list has been revised to reflect current membership. Contact information (other than for the base officers) has been deleted but is available by logging into the USSVI website.

NEWS FROM THE FLEET

- Naval Reactors celebrated the 60th anniversary recently of underway on nuclear power and is unveiling a new 40-year reactor core for the SSBN replacements. The current core lasts 33 years for the VA class.
- The SSN-795 will be named the Hyman G Rickover.
- In 2016, the integration of enlisted female sailors will begin with phase 1 on those SSBNs and SSGNs already detailed with female officers. Phase 2 will be in 2020 on the VA class.
- The Navy is starting the new design of the VA class follow-on sub.
- The Navy is creating a new "tough image" recruiting campaign.
- The developers of the virtual schoolhouse for training of submariners at NUWC was cited for its contributions to the submarine force. The CO of the Submarine Learning Center, Commander of NUWC, and NUWC's technical director were named but not any of the development team. Did that frost the cookies of our Base Commander, who worked with some of that team before he retired.

- Stupidity lives on – this time on a carrier when an officer was allegedly caught filming women in the head through a ventilation duct.
- Sweden suspects they recently had between 2 and 4 foreign submarines in their coastal waters.
- Japan and the Koreans (Hyundai) are joining the competition for Indian submarines.
- While we in the US are struggling to fund the build of two submarines per year, Russia and Vladimir Putin will now add 5 this year and at least 16 more by 2020. And they plan on selling a Kilo to Thailand.
- The Chinese are following in the footsteps of the USSR of 20 years ago when the Soviet’s copied the Revell model of the GW for the design of the Yankee submarine. China says the plans for the Type 091 Han nuclear submarine were developed from two toys in the United States.
- And British scientists are developing an ultra-fast, underwater vehicle which would propel itself similar to the way an octopus moves through the water.

The Binnacle List currently includes: Bob Frick, John Gluck, Brian Haller, Richard Lowry, Ray Stone, and the family of CAPT Harold Glovier Jr.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for February: Doc Compton and both of his daughters, Don Hall, Charlie Mills, Stephania Nielson, Ross Sargent, and Gary Smith.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Mike Barham.

As noted above the speaker at next month's NOVA Base meeting on March 14th will be retired submarine CAPT Paul “Chip” Jaenichen.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1150.

 28 of the members and guests attended the annual Sweethearts luncheon at the Fireside Grill in downtown Lorton. Guests also included Brad and Paige Kratovil (Brad is the President of the NSL Capitol Chapter). The Base provided each lady with a red rose and all attendees received two chocolate kisses. Thank you, Terry and Paul Nelson, for arranging this luncheon.

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