

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

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

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Steve Bishop, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, **Delbert Ennis**, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Linda Eveie**, **Frank Fannan III**, **Bob Glover**, **Darlene Jaeger**, Steve Jaeger, **Vickye Lowry**, Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton, **Paul Nelson**, **Terry Nelson**, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, Mark Riethmeier, **Eagle Scout Andrew Schlicht**, **Raymond Schlicht**, Mike Varone, **Penny Wallace**, George Wallace, and **Woody Woodworth** (28 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

**BASE HISTORIAN**

Richard Lowry read his historical summary of the loss of the USS Sculpin (SS-191). She was commissioned in January 1939 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. She departed from Pearl Harbor on her ninth patrol under command of Commander Fred Connaway. USS Sculpin was patrolling north of Truk to intercept and destroy Japanese Forces leaving Truk to oppose the forthcoming invasion of Tarawa. CAPT John Cromwell was aboard USS Sculpin to coordinate a wolfpack with three other submarines.

On November 16, USS Sculpin detected a large high-speed convoy and made a fast end run to attack. When in firing position she was forced to dive when the convoy and its escorts zigged towards. During the next approach on November 19<sup>th</sup>, she was discovered by a Japanese destroyer who pursued her and depth charged her mercilessly. USS Sculpin was seriously wounded and unable to maintain her depth due to flooding. The CO decided to surface to give the doomed ship and crew a chance for survival. The destroyer's guns destroyed the conning tower and killed the CO and XO. The surviving senior ships officer gave the order to abandon and scuttle the ship. 42 shipmates went to the bottom and died. CAPT Cromwell elected to remain on board to preclude his capture by the Japanese as he was privy to ULTRA intelligence and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The 41 surviving crew members were captured however 20 of them died when the ship transporting them to Japan was sunk by the USS Sailfish. The remaining 21 survivors spent the rest of the war working in Japanese copper mines.

## **EAGLE SCOUT AWARD**

Eagle Scout Andrew Schlicht was called forward and presented with the USSVI Eagle Scout recognition certificate by the Base CDR and then awarded a base challenge coin by the COB, who is also an Eagle Scout. (The coin was presented in lieu of a USSVI Eagle patch as BSA has recently prohibited USSVI from using the current patch with the BSA Eagle logo.) Andrew's father Ray, who was in attendance, served on three submarines.



## **MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 2014 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. There were no comments or corrections.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Base Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that last month the Base bank account balance was \$5,397.23. After paying expenses and receiving funds, the account balance was \$5,645.44 as of November 14, 2015. The Treasurer reminded all that both 2016 Base and National dues are due by December 31, 2015. There will be a National dues increase effective in 2016, so your dues need to be in by the December meeting to save you some money. Base dues are \$15 per year, and National dues are now \$20 per year, rising to \$25 next year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD** The Board of Directors met last week and discussed:

- Membership
- 2016 Holland Club induction
- Finances and year 2016 budget planning
- K4K visits and future plans
- Eagle Scout awards and BSA issues
- Event planning for the remainder of 2015: today's pirate auction; service project for a local WW II veteran; and lunch at Madigan's restaurant in Occoquan after the December meeting
- Plans and projects for the upcoming year.

## **VCDR**

George Wallace reminded all of the 2016 Holland Club induction ceremony, which will be held at PJ Skidoo's restaurant in Fairfax, on May 14, 2016.

## **CHIEF OF THE BOAT**

Chuck Martin spoke of the next planned Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held on December 6 in La Plata, MD. The scout's grandfather is a retired submariner.

He also gave details on the work party for this Saturday to assist a World War II Navy veteran living in Fairfax. The workday is a joint venture between USSVI NOVA base, Naval Submarine League, and American Legion. Mr. Carter is 94 years old and was a Yeoman who served tours on board an aircraft carrier and a destroyer during his time in the US Navy.

## MEMBERSHIP

Steve Jaeger reported that the Base has 85 members, consisting of: 36 Holland Club members, 38 regular members, and 11 Associate members.

## PAO / VETERANS AFFAIRS

Nothing to report

### Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss)

Steve Bishop reported on a very successful month of October for Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss). Ross Sargent, Terry Nelson, Paul Nelson, Mike Naughton, and Steve Bishop visited 31 children at the University of Virginia's Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This was our first visit there. The Child Life Specialist staff there loved us and wants us to return soon and often. Our next visit should be in ~ April 2016 in conjunction with the USS Virginia Base from Midlothian, VA. That base had been trying to make its initial K4K visit to UVA for over 18 months. The UVA children's ward is huge new facility with 56 beds, so we hope to share K4K visits with the USS Virginia Base going forward.



On October 22nd, we visited the Fairfax Inova children's oncology ward and visited the special Kid(ss) there. That visit was our 16th visit since August 2010, and we have now seen 194 children and their support groups bedside in the past 6 years. We also presented the staff with base challenge coins and a 2016 USSVI calendar. We will return after the flu season in March/April 2016 timeframe, and after their move into new facilities scheduled for January.

On October 22nd, we visited the Fairfax Inova



At today's meeting we presented new K4K team members Terry and Paul Nelson with their patches and pins and took a group photo of all K4K participants to date. Steve presented red carnation flower bouquets to Cathy Chatham and Penny Wallace thanking them for their long-term support and calligraphy expertise to our K4K program.

At the recent Naval Submarine League Fall Symposium, Penny Wallace was promoting George's books and USSVI, as well as our K4K program, at a small booth near the registration desk. A Raytheon executive from Massachusetts was attracted by the children's pink and blue beanies on display and he was enthralled by the K4K program as Penny described it to him. He wanted to help to fund the K4K program with Raytheon employee charitable donations (he chairs the committee that determines distribution) and he wanted to help to start a K4K program in Boston's children's hospitals. Penny passed the information on to Steve Bishop who called John Riley, the National K4K chairman. John Riley, his wife, and the CDR of the USSVI Boston Base will soon be visiting this Raytheon executive with the purpose of establishing a yearly funding source for K4K and starting visits to Boston Kid(ss), in facilities where none are being made today.



The Hampton Roads Base has also asked for our help in getting their K4K program up and running, so Steve has volunteered to assist this 285-member USSVI base in southeastern VA.

#### **CHAPLAIN**

Nothing to report

#### **STOREKEEPER**

Howard Chatham reported that we have one USSVI 2016 calendar left and a number of Base challenge coins for sale.

#### **SUBLEAGUE**

The Base CDR thanked Penny and George Wallace for sharing their author's booth with NOVA Base so Penny could display our K4K program beanies and troll for new members.

#### **DISTRICT CDR and/or REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mike Naughton had nothing to report so the Base CDR reminded ALCON of the recent POCs from national HQ:

- Submit proposed amendments to USSVI Constitution/Bylaws NLT 3/1/16
- Submit nominations for 2016 USSVI National officer positions NLT 3/1/16
- USSVI is looking for a Social Media Specialist/Manager
- USSVCF scholarship applications for 2016-2017 college school year are now being accepted – go online to find the application
- Next convention will be in Reno August 15-20, the 2017 site is still TBD

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Base CDR made a final call for any recommendations for speakers and events for 2016. None were offered from the floor.

The service project for the WW II Navy veteran will be held Saturday, November 21 at 4508 Libbey Dr Fairfax at 10 AM (just east of George Mason University campus and north of Braddock Rd.)

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Base CDR announced the nominations for our slate of elected 2016 officers as:

- Base Commander: Chuck Martin
- Vice Commander: Richard Lowry and George Wallace
- Treasurer: Steve Jaeger
- Secretary: Steve Bishop and Bill Clement

The Base CDR called for additional nominations from the floor and none were made. Thank you to our nominations committee 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 12th at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, VA. Results of the election will be announced at the December meeting.

**BINNACLE LIST**

Howard Chatham is undergoing treatment for bladder cancer.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:**

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

**50/50 RAFFLE**

Mark Riethmeier won the raffle.

The next USSVI NOVA Base meeting will be on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, and will be followed by lunch at Madigan's Restaurant in Occoquan, VA (on the waterfront).

The Base Chaplain gave the benediction and the Base CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:43 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.**

We took a few minutes break, then we commenced the 2015 Pirate Auction. A great time was had by all as George Wallace and Chuck Martin led the auction and the fun. **A total of \$745.00 was raised for the Base.** Thank you to all who donated and/or purchased items!

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