

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Oct 10, 2015

The Base VCDR, George Wallace, called the meeting to order at 1100 on Oct 10, 2015 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Dan Burke, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Vickye Lowry, Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mary Lou Naughton, Mike Naughton, Terry Nelson, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (22 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 VCDR 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, read his prepared Remembrance of the USS Darter (SS-227). When American troops invaded the island of Leyte on 20 October the Imperial Navy struck back with everything they had. USS *Dace* (SS-247) and USS *Darter* were on station off Palawan Island on the 21st, waiting for an enemy response. Just after midnight on the 23rd, *Darter* and *Dace* found the Japanese main body consisting of five battleships, ten heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and 15 destroyers. *Darter* radioed the contact report to Pacific Fleet Command and both subs positioned themselves to attack at first light on the 24th, placing the Japanese ships in a crossfire. *Darter* fired all six of her bow torpedoes at sunrise. Four of her shots hit the heavy cruiser *Atago*, sinking the 15,000 ton ship and two torpedoes hit the heavy cruiser *Takao*, damaging her screws. *Dace* torpedoed and sank the heavy cruiser *Maya* on the other side of the formation. The second sinking threw the Japanese force into disarray, allowing both submarines to evade detection by going deep and silent. The boats then turned their attention to the crippled *Takao* and her two escorts shadowing the cruiser all day and then surfaced after sunset to race ahead again. Unfortunately



Darter sprinted headlong into the largely uncharted Bombay Shoal and ran herself firmly aground. The crew had to abandon ship and moved to the *Dace*. However, the sighting of the Japanese main body had allowed the American Navy to respond with relentless air attacks until the Japanese were forced to withdraw. For her actions in the Battle of Palawan Passage, *Darter* received the Navy Unit Commendation and her fourth Battle Star. Today *Darter's* hulk remains where she grounded on Bombay Shoal, though time and weather have reduced her to little more than scattered wreckage.

MEETING MINUTES

There was no Base meeting in September due to the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. The minutes of the August 2015 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. According to the USSVI National Parliamentarian, citing Robert's Rules of Order, no vote is needed to approve meeting minutes as they are only a report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the base bank account balance was \$5,256.76 in August and \$5,397.23 as of Oct 10, 2015. **A reminder was made that 2015 dues are due by December 31, 2015 for both the base and National dues.** The Treasurer's report also need not be approved or voted on for the same reason cited for the meeting minutes above.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The VCDR summarized the discussion at the recent **Executive Board** meeting, including:

- Membership
- 2016 Holland Club induction
- Finances and the need to develop the 2016 budget
- K4K plans for Charlottesville and Fairfax visits this month
- Longevity plans for the base website
- Eagle Scout Awards
- Event planning for the remainder of 2015, including today's BBQ lunch, November's Pirate Auction, and December's lunch at Madigan's
- Plans and Projects for the upcoming year – it's not too late to request specific programs and events.

The next EXCOM meeting will be held on Nov 4th.

VCDR: Howard Chatham, our Base CDR, is not here today as he is facing tumor issues in, and has had surgery on, his bladder. The date for next year's Holland Club induction will be May 14th. It will again be held at P J Skidoos Restaurant in Fairfax, VA.

COB: A recognition ceremony for an Eagle Scout will be held as a part of our November meeting. We will participate in a Court of Honor in La Plata, MD at a date and time TBD.

Membership Report: 85 members.

Public Relations: Mike Varone will be submitting an article to the [American Submariner](#) for our two K4K visits in October.

Veterans Affairs: There is a bogus TRICARE Beneficiaries Secret Shopper scam in progress – HEADS UP!! TRICARE does not use secret shoppers. Be very careful with your own personal information.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop announced the date for our next visit to the Fairfax Children's Hospital pediatric oncology ward as Thursday, October 22, 2015. Our first K4K visit to the University of Virginia's Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA will take place on Friday, October 16th. If the UVA staff likes our community outreach program and invites us back, then we intend to offer to "share" this medical facility with the USS Virginia Base of Midlothian, VA. Additionally, the very large Hampton Roads Base (285 members) has asked for our assistance in getting their K4K program started. They have the financial resources, but no hospital contacts, and no experience. Steve Bishop has volunteered to assist our shipmates at the Hampton Roads Base to get their program up and running.

Storekeeper: The VCDR announced that we have a few USSVI 2016 calendars for sale at \$11 each and Base Challenge coins for sale at \$10 each; more can be obtained.

Submarine League: Tim Oliver reported that the Fall Symposium will be held Oct 21st and 22nd, 2015. USSVI NOVA Base will have a recruiting booth there in conjunction with the author's table. Thank you Penny and George!!

Regional Director (Mike Naughton) :

- Comments on the National Convention : Our base CDR, Howard Chatham, was awarded the Link Award for sustained superior performance as Base CDR
- USSVI is looking into a one year free membership for newly qualified submariners
- USSVI is also looking into one year free associate memberships for Sub School grads
- The USSVI website is being updated/upgraded; ECD is early next year
- USSVI may be setting up a Facebook site
- USSVI National POC e-mails are to be sent by each base to all of their members
- The Scouting Recognition Program is adding a Venture Crew Award (Venture Crew is a co-ed program of the BSA)
- The national staff is editing the Bylaws and Constitution, and these changes will be voted upon by the membership next year
- The Silent Service Motorcycle Club and the Lockwood Internet bases have been dissolved. The first one had non-compliant Bylaws and the base declined to change them. None of the thousands of members of the Internet Base volunteered to be an elected base officer so they also were disbanded.
- The next National Convention will be in Reno, NV August 15-20, 2016. The 2017 site is still TBD (perhaps Orlando, FL)
- USSVI will not be participating in the NYC Veterans' Day parade this year.

OLD BUSINESS

- The FBM 60th Anniversary Dinner was held on Friday, Oct 2nd. Our base was represented by the Chatham, Cooper, Garverick, Tim Oliver, and Wallace families.
- The service project to assist a WW II veteran living in Fairfax/Burke was discussed. Tim Oliver suggested that we should just announce a working party at his house for some future date(s) and coordinate with NSL, American Legion, and other veteran organizations in the area. The COB and Tim Oliver are to coordinate this.

- We are still looking for nominations for 2016 Base Officers. Please contact any one of the Nominating Committee members (Brian Haller / Richard Lowry / Base CDR) if you are interested in serving as an officer next year.

NEW BUSINESS

- At the Convention, the Base CDR presented the USS Requin Memorial staff with several photos of Dex Armstrong.
- There is a DFAS e-mail scam in progress. Just like the TRICARE scam mentioned above, don't give away your personal info.
- **VERIZON SUPPORT FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES** - Verizon's employment opportunities, resources, and benefits for veterans are at this website:
<http://www.verizon.com/about/areers/we-salute-you>

SOME OF THE FLEET NEWS IN THE LAST 2 MONTHS

- SECNAV names SSN 794 USS Montana, SSN 797 USS Iowa, SSN 799 USS Idaho, and SSN 801 USS Utah
- Submarine arsonist (USS Miami) loses one appeal and files another
- RADM Frederick J. Roegge relieves as COMSUBPAC
- VADM Joseph E. Tofalo relieves as COMSUBFOR
- ADM Richardson relieves as CNO
- RADM David Johnson will pin on his third star and become the top uniformed acquisition official in the DON
- USS Springfield's CO was fired for poor job performance
- TRF Kings Bay XO was relieved for having an affair with a married civilian employee
- 14 uniform changes are coming, more in the works
- A French filmmaker is developing an English language movie on the Kursk disaster

MORE ITEMS UP FOR SALE AT THE PIRATE AUCTION (at the conclusion of the November base meeting)

- Penny Wallace displayed a submarine sweetheart blouse that will be up for sale at the auction

The **Binnacle List** currently includes:

Debbie Bishop, Cathy and Howard Chatham, Tony Poblete, and the families of CDR John Gluck, CDR Douglas Kirk, CAPT Craig Bathgate, CAPT Lewis Sykes, CAPT Andrew Cotterman, CAPT John Porter, CAPT Hal Glovier, RADM Stanley Bump, and Mr. Don Ross.

For the Good of the Order, the VCDR read the list of birthdays for September and October: Alan Amos, Howard Chatham, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, Woody Woodworth, Al Anceravage, Louise Decker, Mike Kwiecien, Helen Laulor, Lou Maruzo, Ed Mattran, Tim Poole, George Wallace, and the US Navy.

We say a fond farewell to Reb and Ruri Wootten who have moved to Fort Mill, SC to be close to their son. We wish them "Fair Winds and Following Seas".

The **50/50 raffle** was won by the COB, Chuck Martin.

The Benediction was delivered by the Base Chaplain.

The next meeting will be held on November 14th, 2015. Please bring some of your treasures to donate to the cause, and equally important, a thick wallet / healthy checkbook to buy what is up for auction.

The VCDR adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

We then went to Dixie Bones restaurant in Woodbridge for a BBQ lunch. The Base paid for everyone's lunch.

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