

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, Aug 13, 2016

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1106 on Aug 13, 2016, in the main (reserved) dining room of the PJ Skidoo's Restaurant in Fairfax, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. This was the meeting and luncheon to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the USSVI NOVA Base. During the entire meeting and luncheon, a PowerPoint presentation stepped through and displayed on the screen at the podium over 350 pictures from the 20 years of NOVA Base Archives. Thank you to Mark Riethmeier and Howard Chatham for making this presentation!

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

WW II vet Al Anceravage, Steve Bishop, Debbie Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Delbert Ennis, Linda Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Patricia Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Mike Kwiecien (Plank Owner), Chris Kwiecien, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Eastern Region (North) Director Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Northeast District 4 Commander Ron Olson, Marlyn Olson, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mark Riethmeier, Ray Stone, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, and Woody Woodworth. (32 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, 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 August. These were:

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

The Ship's Bell was rung twice for the nineteen USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

### HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Richard Lowry, was not able to attend today's meeting and luncheon, so the Base CDR read Richard's presentation on the USS Flier (SS-250).

USS *Flier's* (SS-250) keel was laid down 30 October 1942 by Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. She set sail on her first war patrol 21 May 1944 and encountered her first enemy shipping west of Luzon on 4 June. *Flier* had a successful patrol, sinking four ships totaling 9,500 tons and damaging a fifth ship of 13,500 tons.



Enroute to *Flier's* second war patrol *Flier* had been ordered to follow previous submarine's tracks through a Japanese minefield and the narrow channels into the South China Sea. Commander John Crowley was following the track on the surface, unaware that the Japanese had recently replenished the minefield. Suddenly a massive explosion shook the boat. The concussion threw men around on deck and ejected several through the hatch. *Flier* kept driving ahead at 15 knots as she sank in less than thirty seconds. Seventy-one souls went down with the boat, leaving 13 men struggling in the water.

Crowley gathered the survivors together and they set out toward land. Seventeen and a half hours after their boat sank beneath their feet, Commander Crowley and four others reached the shore. Three more crewmembers had made it too. They survived in the jungle with the help of local tribesmen and they were rescued by USS *Redfin* on the night of August 30. Seventy-eight officers and men were lost in the sinking of *Flier*, but eight managed to survive against all odds.



### **MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the June meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no base meeting in July as we held the informal Dining Out/submarine movie review at Neighbor's Restaurant in Vienna.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 8,790.50

Ending balance: \$ 8,780.51, as of August 13, 2016. Some of these funds (\$2750.00) were specifically funded by, and are restricted for use by our Base's Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program, as a result of our Walmart stores' Community Fund Donations.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**CDR:** Board of Directors meeting was held August 3rd and discussed:

- Committee reports
- Meeting related items
- K4K status and plans
- Old and new business
- Preparations for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon
- Plans and projects for the upcoming year

**VCDR:** Not present (On site filming location in the UK)

**CHIEF OF THE BOAT:** Nothing to Report

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** by the Steve Jaeger: 83 Members

- 37 Holland Club Members with 2 WW II Members
- 37 Regular Members
- 9 Associate Members

**PAO:** Mike Varone had nothing to report.

**YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM :** Mark Riethmeier reported he is updating a PowerPoint presentation for outside organizations.

**K4K:** Steve Bishop reported that he and Penny Wallace visited in-patient Kid(SS) at Fairfax Inova last month. The next K4K team hospital visit will be to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. We can all take pride in the two NOVA Base K4K articles published in this quarter's American Submariner (2016 Vol 3). Howard Chatham wrote the full-page article on page 33, and Mike Varone wrote the half-page article on page 36. Well done, team !!! Read the letter from the mother (and Navy CAPT Doctor) of a cancer patient we visited so you can fully understand why we participate in this K4K program. If you want to join us on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, call Steve at 703 293-6344 (leave a message).

**SK:** Pre-convention orders can be made for 2017 USSVI calendars at the Base membership price of \$10. Please let Howard know so he can put in a combined order at the Convention next week. Also Base challenge coins are still available at \$10 each.

**SUBLEAGUE:** In the absence of Tim Oliver, the Base CDR reported:

- Annual Fall Symposium will be October 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.
- NSL's Distinguished Submariners are ADM Bruce DeMars, USN, (Ret) and ADM Bill Smith USN, (Ret)
- NSL's 2016 Distinguished Civilian is Dr. Ed Liszka, of Penn State ARL

**DISTRICT 4 CDR:** Ron Olson reported that he and his wife Marlyn were happy to be attending this meeting and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the NOVA Base. He particularly likes that:

1. NOVA Base a very active base,
2. NOVA Base always submits the required USSVI Annual Reports before any other bases, and
3. The meals are provided free to him and Marlyn. He thanked us on all three counts.

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT:** Mike Naughton acknowledged the loud applause to recognize his announced re-election as the Eastern Region (North) Director for USSVI.

## **OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

- USSVI National Convention will be held next week.
- The EXCOM has identified these topics to raise at the business meetings:
  - The 2015 Archive Procedure Manual.
  - Inquire as to why Associate members are not allowed to vote in national elections.
  - Establishing a USSVI National JROTC Recognition program.
  - Highways/Bridges naming for USSVI
  - K4Ks baseball cap color change
- Smithsonian Channel Submarine Series "Hell Below"
- USS Houston Decommissioning 26 Aug 2016
- First Enlisted Woman to earn Dolphins - Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra's became the first woman to don the enlisted submarine qualification insignia during a ceremony at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on Tuesday August 2, 2016.

- American Legion Post 162 held a Grounds Clean Up on August 6<sup>th</sup> and a USSVI NOVA representative attended leaning a helping hand.
- American Legion Post 162 conducting a Patriots Day Observance Ceremony on September 11, 2016 (details pending)
- ALSO LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BASE OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

#### 2016 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

- National Commander - John F. Markiewicz
- National Senior Vice-Commander - Wayne Standerfer
- National Junior Vice-Commander - William Andrea
- National Treasurer - Paul Hiser
- National Secretary - Raymond Paul Wewers
- Northeast Region - Michael J. Naughton
- PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
  - o PA 2016 01 Board of Directors Meetings - Approved
  - o PA 201602 Duties of Audit Committee Members - Approved
  - o PA 201603 Deletion of Base Constitution references in the Constitution - Approved
  - o PA 201604 Deletion of Base Constitution references in the Constitution - Approved
  - o PA 201605 Board meetings required at National convention and Mid-Term - Approved

USSVI NOVA had an Online Voting participation rate of 21%. Thanks for all who took the time to vote during this election.

#### FLAG OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the President has made the following nominations:

CAPT Blake L. Converse promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half)

CAPT David A. Goggins promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half)

CAPT Jeffrey T. Jablon promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half)

CAPT James E. Pitts promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half)

Other nominations were for RADM Charles Richard to VADM as Deputy at STRATCOM and RDML William Merz to RADM as CNO N97.

NEWS FROM THE FLEET AND PREVIOUS INFORMATION EMAILED THIS MONTH WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES.

#### IN MEMORIUM:

CAPT Avery Kenneth Loposer, USN, Ret

CAPT Claude M Pearson USNR, Ret

CAPT Ira Eugene Livingston, USN, Ret, and

CAPT Lou Peoples, USNR, Ret

#### BINNACLE LIST

**“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”**

Al Anceravage, Richard Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger for Darlene’s mom, Delbert Ennis, Art Bivens, Tony Poblete, Mike Naughton, and David Cooper.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**DRAWINGS FOR AUTOGRAPHED SETS OF BOOKS BY GEORGE WALLACE, RICHARD LOWRY, AND MARK RIETHMEIER WERE HELD:**

The winners were: Ray Stone, Mark Reithmeier, and Mike Varone, respectively.

**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.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> BACK AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 162. OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS VADM WILLIAM “BILL” D. FRENCH USN (Ret.), WHO WILL PRESENT THE ARMED SERVICES YMCA PROGRAM.

FINALLY, A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HOWARD, CATHY, STEVE B, AND MARK R FOR COORDINATING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT SO WE COULD ALL ENJOY THIS EVENT.”

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:38 AM .

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**The Base CDR turned the Podium over to the Immediate Past Base Commander, Howard Chatham, our Master of Ceremony for the USSVI Northern Virginia Base 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

**“AT THIS TIME ALLOW ME TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.**

**STARTING A USSVI BASE IS NOT FOR THE WEAK. IT IS FOR IRON MEN WHO KNOW HOW TO WORK HARD. OUR PLANKOWNERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES THEY FACED AND FORGED FULL STEAM AHEAD! OUR SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO OUR PLANKOWNERS WHO ARE: RON WILLIAMS, BILL DECKER, TOM PERRAULT, TIM SHANNON, MIKE KWIECIEN, DAVID GONZALEZ, AND ROB CAREY.**

**USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE WAS CHARTERED BY USSVI ON AUGUST 26, 1996. THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING AS A CHARTER BASE OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1996, WITH ONLY THREE MEMBERS ATTENDING.**

**THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF OUR BASE MEMBERS AND THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR BASE OFFICERS OUR BASE HAS GROWN FROM THIS SMALL GROUP OF SEVEN TO 47 MEMBERS BY 2001 AND BY 2016 HAS GROWN TO 83 MEMBERS. OUR BASE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:**

- 5 PLANKOWNERS (one (Mike Kwiecien, represented here today)**
- 2 WW II VETERANS (one (Al Anceravage, represented here today)**

- 70 WAR VETERANS
- 37 HOLLAND CLUB MEMBERS (eight who are here today)

**DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS THE BASE HAS HELD MEETINGS AT BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON OFFICE SPACES, NAVY SUBMARINE LEAGUE OFFICE SPACES, AMERICAN LEGION POST 176 (SPRINGFIELD, VA), AND AMERICAN LEGION POST 162 (LORTON, VA) [CURRENT LOCATION]**

**WE CAN BE PROUD THAT OUR BASE IS AN ACTIVE BASE, SOME OF THE BASE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- PROVIDING SUPPORT TO FISHER HOUSE
- PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS PARADES
- COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT FOR WW II VETERAN
- KAPS FOR KIDS PROGRAM (3 HOSPITALS)
- SCOUTING RECOGNATION PROGRAM
- SERVICE PROJECTS WITH AMERICAN LEGION POST
- ATTENDING ITERNMENTS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
- PARTICIPATION IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM
- GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

**BASE STATISTICS:**

**BASE COMMANDERS AND VICE COMMANDERS**

USSVI Northern Virginia Base Commanders and Vice Commanders	
Ron Williams – 1996 – 2001	Tim Shannon – 1996 –2001
Tim Shannon – 2002 –2003	Ray Stone – 2002-2003
Ray Stone – 2004 - 2007	Curt Haggard 2004/06 Tom Perrault – 2004/07 - 2007
Tom Perrault -2008	Joe Phoenix – 2008
Ray Stone – 2009	Rob Smallbrock – 2009/03
Tim Shannon – 2010	Tom Perrault – 2010
Tom Perrault -2011	Mike Murphy 2011
Howard Chatham - 2012 - 2015	Paul Nelson – 2012-2014 George Wallace – 2014 - 2015
Chuck Martin – 2016 - Present	George Wallace – 2016 – Present

**OTHER OFFICES/POSITIONS**

USSVI Northern Virginia Base Members National, Regional, and District Offices
Ron Williams – District Commander EN 3 (2002- 2005)
Tim Shannon – District Commander EN 4 (2008 – 2009)
Tom Perrault –District Commander EN 4 (2012 – 2013)
Ross Sargent – Board of Inquiry Committee Chair and JAG (2014 – Present)
Mike Naughton – District Commander EN 4 (2010 – 2011)
Mike Naughton – Eastern (North) Regional Director (2012 – Present)

## AWARDS

USSVI Northern Virginia Base/ Members Awards	
<b>Robert “Bob” Link Award</b> - Robert 'Bob' Link was the first National Commander of USSVI. This is the USSVI version of a 'Letter of Commendation,' The Nomination can be for a member, a group, or a Base. The selection and presentation of this award is solely at the discretion of the National Commander.	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
2006	Robert “Dex” Armstrong
2015	Howard Chatham
The Meritorious Award is presented to the Member or Base that exemplifies the Motto, “Pride Runs Deep “, who, by the efforts and involvement of an individual Base Member, or if a Base Award, by a group of Members within a base, promote a positive image of the United States Navy Submarine Force and/or the United States Submarine Veterans through participation in local veteran affairs, parades, school activities, and presentations to civic, legislative, veterans, patriotic, and other local area organizations.	
<b>Meritorious Award - Base</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
2007	Northern Virginia Base – First Runner-Up
<b>Meritorious Award - Individual</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
2006	Ron and Peggy Williams
<b>Newsletter Of The Year Awards</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
2006	Northern Virginia Base – Class III 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up
2007	Northern Virginia Base – Class III Winner (Alan Brodie was the Base Secretary and Newsletter Editor)

The Past CDR then asked Mike Kwiecien as the longest member of the Base present, Woody Woodworth as the most recent member of the Base present, and the Base CDR to cut the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake.



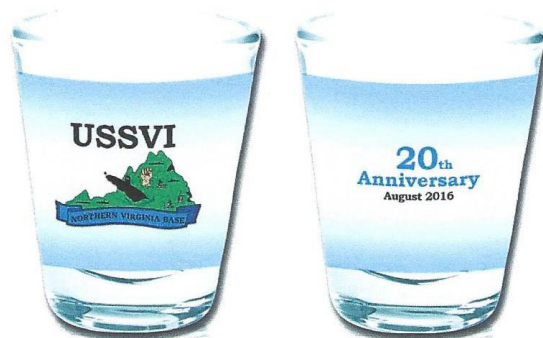
(CAKE/CAKE CUTTING PICTURES PROVIDED BY STEVE JAEGER)



**Mike Kwiecien, Woody Woodworth, and Chuck Martin cut the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake using the Chatham family Sword.**

The formal meeting ended at 1146.

We all enjoyed a reduced-price, delicious luncheon, followed by 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. All attendees were given a ceremonial shot glass commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Base.



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