

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, February 11, 2017**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1105 on February 11, 2017 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, **Debbie Bishop**, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Barbie Ettner**, **Ruth Garverick**, **Mickey Garverick**, **Bob Glover**, Brian Haller, **Pat Haller**, **Darlene Jaeger**, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton, **Mary Lou Naughton**, **Paul Nelson**, **Terry Nelson**, Michael Niblack, **Willie Petruy**, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, Mike Varone, **Anita Varone**, George Wallace, **Penny Wallace** and **Woody Woodworth**. (29 total)

 Holland Club Member

 Associate Member

 Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, 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 ship's bell was tolled twice in remembrance of the 21 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

INDUCTION OF THE BASE OFFICERS FOR 2017

The Immediate Past Base CDR, Howard Chatham, swore in this year's Base CDR Chuck Martin.

Then the Base CDR swore in the other Base officers:

Vice CDR George Wallace
Secretary Steve Bishop
Treasurer Steve Jaeger

The Base CDR then nominated the following appointments for membership approval:

Chief of the Boat	Mike Varone
Membership	Steve Jaeger
Public Affairs Officer	Mike Varone
Chaplain	Steve Jaeger
Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS)	Steve Bishop
Submarine Historian	Richard Lowry
Storekeeper	Howard Chatham
Webmaster	Howard Chatham
Scouting Coordinator	Chuck Martin
NJROTC / School Program Coordinator	Mark Reithmeier

By a voice vote, all 2017 nominees were approved by the membership.

SUBMARINE HISTORY:

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, is on the binnacle list. Howard Chatham read a passage on Submarine History: USS Shark (SS-174) was built by Electric Boat Company and was already operating in the Philippine Sea when Pearl Harbor was bombed Dec 7, 1941. On Dec 19, 1941, captained by LCDR Lewis Shane, Jr., Shark was ordered to return to Manila to embark and evacuate Admiral Thomas C Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the US Asiatic Fleet. He was transported safely to Surabaya, Java.



On her second and final war patrol she just evaded torpedoes from an Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) submarine on January 6, 1942. She patrolled the Molucca passage where she was depth-charged and failed to sink a Japanese ship in a torpedo attack. On February 8, she was ordered to proceed to Makassar Strait via the north coast of Celebes. After responding to this tasking message, the USS Shark was never heard from again. Japanese records reviewed after the war documented that the IJN destroyer *Yamakaze* sunk a surfaced submarine with deck gun fire on Feb 11, 1942. The USS Shark was not credited with sinking or damaging any enemy vessels.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 162 PRESENTATIONS:

The Base CDR asked that our **American Legion Post 162** liaison, Alan Amos, come forward for a presentation. The base then donated two checks: one for \$150 as a donation to Post 162 for their support of the base and for 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. Alan Amos thanked us for both of these contributions and said that each year another 400,000 cases of Hanson's disease are diagnosed and treated.



Alan wanted to thank all submariners for what we do and have done for our country. He said that just this morning he woke at 0500 and in his amazement, he watched on TV a WW II film about a submarine crew that went ashore and sabotaged and blew up a Japanese train. He said it was an incredible operation!! What a great, unsolicited segue into next month's guest speaker. Tim Richard, the son of one of those eight saboteurs from the USS Barb, will be our speaker on March 11th. Tim himself is a qualified submariner and a member of USSVI in Hampton Roads, VA. Tim will tell us and show us with memorabilia from the USS Barb how it was done by eight men on two rubber rafts and he will explain what a great skipper and person the USS Barb's CO (and later COMSUBPAC) Gene Fluckey was.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2016 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion. There was no meeting in January 2017 due to the sleet / ice storm weather predictions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Starting balance: \$ 6,530.83

Ending balance: \$ 6,688.66 with Walmart Grant restricted use funds of \$1,254.21

Grand total discretionary: \$5,434.45

The annual End of Year (EOY) financial report for 2016 has been sent to, and received and accepted by the USSVI National Treasurer. Copies of the report were forwarded to the Regional Director and District Commander.

A round of applause for Tightwad broke out spontaneously to thank him for his fine work.

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; and the Eagle Scout program

Vice Commander: George Wallace spoke of the Holland Club arrangements for May 13th at the Amphora Restaurant in Herndon, VA. This restaurant accommodates attendees with mobility challenges – NO STEPS!! This year's ceremony will be a joint initiation for both NOVA and Capitol bases. The 2017 Holland Club inductees will be: David Oliver (NOVA), David Cooper (NOVA), Mike Naughton (Capitol), and David Lorms (Capitol).

COB: Mike Varone reported that an Eagle Scout Court of Honor (COH) ceremony was conducted for Carter Greis on February 4th with Mike Varone and Howard Chatham representing USSVI. At each ceremony we present a certificate and USSVI patch to new Eagle Scouts.

Membership: The Base now has 83 members, with 37 Holland Club members including 2 WW

11 members; 36 regular members; and 10 associate members.

PAO: Nothing to report

Veterans Affairs: Bill Clement spoke of:

1. DFAS distributed the IRS Forms 1095 (C and/or B depending on your status) for the Affordable Care Act in January. By now you should have received yours. The forms are online at MyPay. For retirees, W2 is online at MyPay or mailed to you.
2. Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is Welcoming Home All of America's Veterans with Online Shopping Benefit. Shopmyexchange.com will open to All Honorably Discharged Veterans on Veterans Day 2017 (After Meeting Note: DoD spokesperson has retracted the proposed date and stated no timeline is available)
3. There are military beach cottages for rent in the Virginia Beach, VA area thru both Ft. Story and Dam Neck web sites.
4. According to MOAA, there will be increased charges imposed on users of the TRICARE Standard medical coverage, including a new \$150 enrollment fee.

Store Keeper: Howard Chatham reported Base Challenge Coins and 20th Anniversary shot glasses are still for sale and the new discounted price on Submarine calendars for 2017 is \$9.00.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported our next visit to the Walter Reed National Military Center in Bethesda, MD will be at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 21st. This will be the first of nine planned K4K hospital visits in 2017. The second K4K visit will be to Fairfax INOVA at 2:30 PM on March 23rd.

We intend to apply on-line near-term to several local Northern VA Walmart stores for their Community Grant program. We were very successful last year and hope to repeat that fundraising success in 2017.

Chaplain: Steve Jaeger asked that we keep those on the Binnacle list in our prayers and thoughts this month.

Scouting Coordinator: Chuck Martin reported that we will be honoring Eagle Scouts Alex Broussard and Matthew Waskiewicz on March 4th at 3 PM at Camp Thunderbird, located at 9300 Shawonodasee Rd in Chesterfield, VA (south of Richmond). Any base member is welcome to attend this Court of Honor. Contact Chuck Martin if interested.

Naval Submarine League: The Base CDR announced that:

1. The Sea-Air-Space symposium is 3-5 April at the Gaylord Hotel, National Harbor (<http://www.seaairspace.org>). The NSL will have a booth at the Sea-Air-Space symposium and is in need of members to assist with manning it. This is a great opportunity to be part of an impactful event which draws a very large and engaged audience. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tim Oliver at timoliver@navalsubleague.org.

2. NSL Events :

- a. D.C. Area Submarine Birthday Ball April 1st
- b. Submarine Technology Symposium May 9th – 11th
- c. History Seminar October 31st
- d. 35th Annual Symposium November 1st – 2nd

AMERICAN LEGION POST 162:

1. Wednesday, February 15th: General Membership Meeting beginning at 7:15pm
2. Thursday, February 16th: Sons of the American Legion Meeting beginning at 7pm
3. Friday, February 17th: “Third Friday” – Food 6-8pm and Entertainment (TBA) beginning at 7pm
4. Sunday, February 26th: Daytona 500 Tailgate- with Fundraiser for Mason’s Dream

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2017-2018 USSVI Scholarship information/application are now posted on the USSVI website. Your children and grandchildren are probably eligible, if college-bound.
2. 2017 USSVI Convention – RVers need to register with a campsite ASAP.
Recommended campsites are:
 - Tropical Palms Resort and RV Park, 2650 Holiday Trail Kissimmee, FL 34746, (407) 396-4595
 - Orlando/Kissimmee KOA, 2644 Happy Camper Place Kissimmee, FL 34746, (407) 396-2400
3. USSVI National release guidance on the USSVI National Insurance policy coverage is at the website (mostly for trailers for base floats)
4. Starting next month the Base will collect USSVI Scholarship donations at each meeting, then in December the Treasurer will make a single donation from the Base to the USSVI Scholarship Fund

NEW BUSINESS

1. Requests for invitations to the USS WASHINGTON commissioning are still being accepted at <http://www.usswashingtoncommissioning.org>
2. Sub Ball -- this year's ball will be held on 01 April 2017 from 1800-2400 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA
3. USS DALLAS reunion is scheduled for 2 - 4 March in Groton. Any questions please give contact John Carcioppolo at either gumba700@comcast.net or (860) 514 – 7064.
4. USS DALLAS is scheduled for Decommissioning in Galveston TX on 9 April.
5. USSVI Doug Smay Base in Chula Vista, California sent in its Charter, and its members have either reverted to Member At Large (MAL) status, or have become members of another Base, if they were dual members.
6. The National Awards Manual was submitted and approved by the BOD in January 2017, and is posted on the National web site under the Awards tab. All Members are encouraged to review the Manual and submit their nominations to the National Awards Committee Chairman. Remember that the nomination period begins on February 1, 2017, and ends on 30 April, 2017. The only exception is the Newsletter Awards, which ends on 15 May, 2017.

The Binnacle List currently includes: Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger

for Darlene's mother, Tony Poblete, Mike Naughton, and David Cooper.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for January and February: Dan Arquette, George Billy, Hank Chiles, Sam Dunlap, Nader Elquindi, Delbert Ennis, Bob and Susan Glover, Bruce Miller, Charlie Mills, Mike Murphy, Einer Nielson, Judy Perrault, Ross Sargent, Gary Smith, and Linda Clement.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Woody Woodworth . The Base's share will be sent to USSVI National this month to support the Holland Club. Woody donated his share back to the base. Thank you!!

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 11^H AT POST 162 IN LORTON, AND OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE TIM RICHARD. TIM, A SUBMARINER HIMSELF, WILL PRESENT TO US THE THRILLING STORY OF HOW HIS FATHER AND SEVEN OTHER SUBMARINERS ON THE USS BARB (UNDER CDR GENE FLUCKEY) INVADED MAINLAND JAPAN AND BLEW UP A TRAIN IN WW II. COME SEE THE "REST OF THE STORY" AND WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO SERVE UNDER THE MOST HIGHLY-DECORATED SUBMARINE SKIPPER EVER!!

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 1200.

24 of the members and guests attended the annual Sweethearts luncheon at Eleni's Greek Restaurant in Springfield, VA. The Base CDR provided each lady with a red rose. All received candy kisses. Thank you, Terry and Paul Nelson, for arranging this luncheon! Thank you, Penny and George Wallace, for recommending this Greek restaurant as a venue.

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