

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1102 on February 9, 2019 at Armetta's Italian Grill in Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deborah Bishop, Steve Bishop, Joe Castell, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Linda Ennis, Delbert Ennis, Anthony Ennis, Ruth Garverick, Mickey Garverick, Pat Haller, Brian Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (26 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 Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, 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 26, 1944
USS Trout (SS-202)	Feb 29, 1944

The ship's bell was tolled twice in remembrance of the 25 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

LT Andrew Brooks, USN – 12/24/18
CAPT Leslie Dorris Kelly, USN, Ret. – 12/24/18
CTC (SS) William J. Harmon, USN, Ret. – 1/9/19
Carolyn "Cari" Coleman Carns – 1/19/19
FTCM (SS) Paul John "PJ" Melher, USN, Ret. – 1/19/19
CDR Edward "Ted" B. Vaughan, Jr., USN, Ret. – 1/19/19
CAPT W. James Doyle, USN, Ret. – 1/28/19"

INDUCTION OF BASE SECRETARY:

The Base CDR administered the oath of office and swore in Steve Bishop as the NOVA Base Secretary.

SUBMARINE HISTORY:

The Base Vice CDR read the historical presentation prepared by Woody Woodworth on USS Grayback (SS-208). (Woody was delayed arriving at the meeting)

The following is paragraph (1.) of Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet SECRET (Now declassified) letter dated MAR 30 1944 with the Subject: U.S.S. GRAYBACK (SS208) – loss of.

“1. It is with deepest regret that the Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, announces that the U.S.S. GRAYBACK is overdue from war patrol and must be presumed lost. The GRAYBACK closed out her final chapter in an outstanding manner in keeping with the previous fine record of this submarine. The two messages received from her on her final patrol reported an estimated total of 50,000 tons of enemy shipping sunk and damaged. This impressive total is merely another indication of the courage, determination, and aggressiveness of the Commanding Officer and all under his command.”

The following is an extract of the patrol description for GRAYBACK included in: UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, Volume Four, page 340.

“Japanese information made available since the cessation of hostilities records an anti-submarine attack which probably explains GRAYBACK’s fate. It came on 26 February, and in about the expected position of GRAYBACK at the time. The enemy tells of finding a surfaced sub at 25°-47’N, 128°-45’E. A carrier plane “gave a direct hit at the sub, which exploded and sank immediately.” The attack was continued by surface craft at the point where bubbles rose, and an oil slick appeared covering an area of 100 by 250 meters.

GRAYBACK was credited with an estimated 25,000 tons sunk and 25,000 tons damaged on her final patrol. In the first nine patrols of this vessel, she is credited with 22 ships sunk, for 83,900 tons, and 9 damaged for 49,300 tons.”

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 2019 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion. The minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Jaeger reported and report accepted

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Beginning Cash on Hand | \$ 8,195.87 |
| • Receipts: | \$ 260.00 |
| • 2019 Annual Dues (National and Base) | |
| • Dues-Life, Base | |
| • Donations-Base | |
| • Revenue-Raffles (50/50) | |
| • Expenditures: | \$ 25.00 |
| • Dues to National | |
| • Ending Sub-Total | \$ 8,430.87 |
| • Minus Remaining Walmart Grant rest. use funds | (\$ 1,169.40) |
| • Grand Total (Discretionary) | \$ 7,261.47 |
| • NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: | \$ 922.44 |

Steve also noted that the 2018 EOY report was submitted to National and has been accepted.

MEMBERSHIP: Steve Jaeger reported and the report was accepted.

81 members

- 41 Holland Club members

- 3 WW II members
- 30 Regular members
- 10 Associate members
- Two (2) members are delinquent for 2019 dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was held January 30th and the BOD discussed: membership; plans for upcoming meetings and events; K4K program; updates to the website; Holland Club Luncheon; NJROTC program; Eagle Scout program; and American Legion Post 162 fire.

VICE CDR:



Brian Haller reported that he had contacted our two NOVA Base Holland Club initiates for this year. **Rodey Batiza** has recently relocated to Minnesota to be near his grandchildren, and **William Waylett** still lives in FL. Neither member intends to be in this area for this year's Holland club ceremony. At this point the Base CDR opened the floor for discussion on whether we should hold a Holland Club Luncheon this year. A vote was taken; and we will NOT hold a Holland Club luncheon in 2019. We will ensure that both members receive all of their Holland Club awards materials in the mail.

COB: Nothing to report (NTR)

PAO: Mike Varone recently attended a Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) meeting in Fredericksburg, VA and Mr. Bill Ashton of the FRA has volunteered to brief us on Veterans Affairs matters.

Veterans Affairs: Base CDR presented:

On January 30, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed a decade-old ruling yesterday that potentially paves the way for the return of earned disability benefits for some 90,000 so-called Blue Water Navy veterans from the Vietnam War.

Storekeeper: Howard Chatham reported:

There is still time for ordering your 2019 USSVI calendar. The calendar theme for 2019 is "Submarine Squadrons of the Atlantic Fleet". The price is now \$14 per calendar. He also has several submarine stickers/decals and USSVI NOVA Base and other Navy related patches.

WEBMASTER: Howard Chatham reported:

- Website updates include:
 - 2019 Elected Officers and Appointed Positions
 - Status of our temporary meeting location(s) due to the major fire at the American Legion Post 162. As soon as we determine where the next monthly meetings will be held, those locations will be posted to this website.
 - Maps and information on the Post 162 facility will be deleted soon.

KAP(ss) 4 KID(ss):

Steve Bishop reported that our next K4K visit will be to: **INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 2:30 PM.** The facility is on Gallows Road, just west of route I-495 and just south of route 50. Contact Steve Bishop at 703-895-8137 if you would like to join them.

The nationwide 2019 Walmart Community Grant funds submittal window opens Feb 15, 2019. Each local Walmart Store Manager has approval authority. Our K4K applications will be submitted to only those stores that have approved funding for our K4K efforts previously.

Steve will be visiting those Walmart stores in our area to speak face-to-face to the store general managers. When he does, he will be showing them samples of our K4K wares and photos taken on previous K4K visits (we hold the signed parental permission slips) before we submit any grant applications. Walmart has contributed significantly to our program for the last three years, as well as to other USSVI K4K programs across this country. Our K4K team and the EXCOM will approve the text of these on-line applications before they are submitted.

Scouting Coordinator: Chuck Martin reported:

Upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor:

- Eagle Scout Shanne Gallagher on Saturday February 16, 2019 at 1 pm in Gainesville, VA.
- Eagle Scout Jacob Domikis of Scout Troop 835 in Spotsylvania Virginia. We will be sending a package.
- Eagle Scout Mason Miller on Saturday April 6, 2019 at 5 pm in Staunton, VA.

Contact either the COB or CDR if you are interested in attending/participating.

NJROTC/School Program Coordinator:

The Base is seeking a volunteer for this position.

Naval Submarine League: The Base CDR and Tim Oliver announced:

Upcoming NSL Events

- The NSL has started a new program for business exchange and benefactors. The next speaker will be the Head of the Armed Services Committee, Representative Adam Smith (D-WA)

- Breakfast Business Exchanges - Join Us for Breakfast Thursday 21 Feb 2019 at 0730-0900 for "Roles for Large and Small Business in SBIR" by Mr. Dick McNamara.
- NROTC RADM Frederick B. Warder award presenter volunteers are needed- various colleges/universities still need a presenter
- On April 26, the Capitol Chapter's meeting will be held at the Army Navy Club
- 2019 Annual Symposium and Industry Update will be held November 6-7, 2019.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions

1. USS JALLAO (SS 368) – 3/13-17/2019; Tusculumbia, AL
2. USS CROAKER (SS/SSK 246) – 4/27/2019; Buffalo, NY
3. USS MARIANO G VALLEJO (SSBN 658) – 10/24-26, 2019; Vallejo, CA where and when the sail of the ship will become part of the Mare Island Museum at Vallejo.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2019 USSVI Awards nomination submission period is from February 1, 2019 until April 30, 2019. Submit any nominations to John G. Stanford, National Awards Committee Chairman, 3026 Cesery Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32277-3527
- Our new USSVI NE District 4 Commander is Arthur Glover. Art is the Capitol Base CDR and was the former USSVI National Chaplain.
- Tim Oliver and Tom Denton of the Tri-State Base attended the commissioning ceremony of USS South Dakota recently at Groton, CT. Tom presented a painting to the crew of the ship as a gift from USSVI and Tim provided the CO and COB with NSL challenge coins.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2019 DC Area Submariner Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, 6 April 2018, from 1800-2400 at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency in Arlington
2. CDR e-mailed to National about the discrepancy in USS SCORPION Lost at Sea date.
- 3. A two-alarm fire occurred at American Legion Post 162 on January 26, 2019 resulting in severe damage to the Post.**
 - o On Wednesday, the EXCOM met Amos at the Post to retrieve the items from the storage behind the stage. About half of the items were deemed not worth salvaging and disposed of; the EXCOM is attempting to salvage/restore the remaining items. As we cleaned out our items, water was still running out of the meeting hall, over the door's threshold, onto the steps, to the parking lot, and towards the caboose.
 - o The attached picture is not two A-gangers ready to dive Sanitary # 2, but rather your NOVA Base leadership (Chuck and Brian). They entered Post 162's rear door to gain access to our stored materials back stage to remove, triage, and save all we could from the fire- and smoke-damaged building.
 - o Some wall items were placed in the caboose immediately after the fire by staff. However, we did not have access to the caboose. We are waiting on Amos to let us know when we can get into the caboose to see if any of the Base items, e.g., dolphin display case, USS Scorpion collection, etc., was collected and if it is potentially salvageable.
 - o The normal Base meeting setup items, e.g., ship's bell, flag poles/stands, green table clothes flags and collection cans were spared any damage due to being located at the CDR's home after the January meeting at NSL.

- The EXCOM is arranging for temporary meeting locations. Once we know the meeting location for the upcoming month, the information will be distributed by e-mail and will be posted to our website. Going forward, Springfield's American Legion Post is allowing Lorton's AL Post 162 to share their facilities during the Post's recovery efforts.
4. LT Jimmy Aylward, January's guest speaker, sent the Base a hand-written Thank You note. It is included in the minutes. (attached)
 5. The USS Thresher Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) has been approved. The opening is expected to be in the October/ November 2019 timeframe.
 6. The Base is discontinuing the inclusion of the USSVI News, News from the Fleet, and previous information emailed during the month in the minutes beginning this month.





Base CDR and Vice CDR at Post 162's Back door

BINNACLE LIST:

“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.”

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY ARE: Roger Hall, Ross Sargent, and Gary Smith.”

50/50 RAFFLE:

George Wallace drew the winning number. The winning ticket belonged to Chuck Martin, who donated his winnings back to the Base treasury. **THANK YOU, CHUCK!!**

BENEDICTION:

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, gave the Benediction.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 9 AT A LOCATION TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 1145.

A wonderful Sweetheart Luncheon was then enjoyed by all 26 members and guests in attendance.



The luncheon fare was from the restaurant's menu, and was primarily Italian, as this is one of the Varone family's favorite restaurants. Michael Varone introduced the store manager to us all before lunch was served. After the meal the Base CDR presented Mr. Filippo Cataldo, the manager, with a Base challenge coin.

Thank you COB / Mike for setting up this venue for us on Sweethearts Luncheon Day, 2019. Special thanks to Mr. Filippo Cataldo and Mrs. Cristina Armetta of Armetta's for hosting our meeting and Sweetheart luncheon in their restaurant.

Photos by Mark Riethmeier and Steve Bishop.

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



Mr. Martin/ USSVI NoVA Members,

1/15/19

Thank you again for allowing me to join you this past Sunday and share my thoughts on the submarine force. Opportunities like this chapter meeting remind me how lucky I am to be a submariner. I appreciate the warm welcome and insightful dialogue! I look forward to joining ~~and~~ USSVI and engaging in the future! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help the chapter

VR/^{LT} Jimmy Aylward