

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, OCT 12, 2019**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on Oct 12, 2019 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. New members and guests introduced themselves: 1. **Sean Castell**, the son of member Joe Castell, was here on leave from active duty aboard USS Tennessee, where he recently qualified in submarines. 2. **Tom Fortier** was attending his first NOVA Base meeting. 3. **William Douglas** was attending his third meeting after recently joining. Both Sean and Tom joined the Base today. Welcome!!

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Steve Bishop, Joe Castell, Sean Castell, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, Bill Douglas, Tom Fortier, **Bob Glover**, Brian Haller, **Pat Haller**, Chuck Martin, **Paul Nelson**, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, **Mike Varone**, and **Woody Woodworth**. (16 total)

■ **Holland Club Member**

■ **Associate Member**

■ **Guest**

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

The Base Secretary, Steve Bishop, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, The Base Secretary 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

The Chief of the Boat tolled the bell twice in Remembrance of the 25 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

**In Memoriam:**

CAPT John J. Burke, III, USN, Ret. – 5/3/19;  
RADM William A. Williams, USN, Ret. – 6/6/19;  
CAPT Robert R. Gavazzi, USN, Ret. – 8/28/19;  
CAPT William Earle Smith, Jr., USN, Ret. – 9/6/19;  
CAPT Jacob Calloway Brown, USN, Ret. – 9/7/2019;

**HISTORIAN:**

Woody Woodworth presented an historical moment about the third war patrol of USS Wahoo (SS 238).

The third patrol of the U.S.S. WAHOO (SS-238) was the first under the command of Lieutenant

Commander Dudley W. Morton, who assumed command on 31 December 1942 in Brisbane Australia. WAHOO's Executive Officer was none other than Lieutenant Richard H. O'Kane the future holder of the Medal of Honor and the retirement rank of Vice Admiral. The following is a quote of the Remarks section of WAHOO's third war patrol report:

“(a) The fire control party of this ship was completely reorganized prior to and during this patrol. The Executive Officer, Lieutenant R.H. O’KANE is the co-approach officer. He made all observations through the periscope and fired all torpedoes. The Commanding Officer studies the various setups by the use of the Is-Was and analyzing the T.D.C. and does the conning. A third officer assists the Commanding Officer in analyzing the problem by studying the plot and the data sheets. On the surface the Executive Officer mans the T.B.T., makes observations and does the firing; the Commanding Officer conns.

This type of fire control party relieves the Commanding Officer of a lot of strain and it gives excellent training to all hands, especially the Executive Officer. It is recommended that other ships give it consideration and thought.

(b) The conduct and discipline of the officers and men of this ship while under fire were superb. They enjoyed nothing better than a good fight. I commend them all for a job well done, especially Lieutenant R.H. O’KANE the Executive Officer, who is cool and deliberate under fire. O’KANE is the fightingest naval officer I have ever seen and is worthy of the highest of praise. I commend Lieutenant O’KANE for being an inspiration to the ship.”

For this third patrol, WAHOO was credited with the sinking of one destroyer, two freighters, one tanker, and one transport for a total of 31,890 tons. The reconfiguration of the fire control party seems to have worked very well.



USS Wahoo (SS-238)



LCDR Mush Morton and LT Dick O'Kane



Historian Woody Woodworth

## MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2019 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. There was one correction to Woody Woodworth's story about his transfer to USS Thresher (SSN593) and the minutes were accepted, as amended.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Secretary, Steve Bishop, reported for the Treasurer that:

• Beginning Cash on Hand	\$ 8,255.11
• Receipts:	\$ 121.70
- Donations-Base	
- Interest/Dividends	
- Revenue-Sale of Items	
- Revenue-Raffles	
- Donations-Charitable Foundation	
• Expenditures:	\$ 443.97
- Other-Memorial (Thresher Family)	
- Meeting Expenses (Dixie Bones)	
• Ending Sub-Total	\$ 7,932.84
- Minus Remaining Walmart Grant rest. use funds	(\$1,169.40)
• Grand Total (Discretionary)	\$ 6,763.44
• NOVA USSVICF K4K Total:	\$ 2,054.10

## MEMBERSHIP

NOVA Base has 81 members

- 44 Holland Club members
  - o 3 World War II members
- 28 Regular members
- 9 Associate members

(Two additional members have joined the NOVA Base today as regular members - Sean and Tom)

**CHAPLAIN REPORT:** Nothing to Report (NTR)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Base CDR summarized the discussion at the **Executive Board** meeting held on October 2nd, including:

committee reports,  
discussion of meeting related items,  
old business,  
new business,  
2019 elections, and  
meeting/event planning.

**VCDR:**

Brian and Pat Haller recently returned from a European fly / bus trip where they followed the exploits of Brian's father, uncle, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. His uncle was shot down in his B-17 Oct 10, 1943 over Germany and spent the rest of the war in a Stalag as a POW. The bus tour across Normandy to see the Beaches where Brian's dad landed and was a SeaBee, was stopped at a border crossing. The French armed guard boarded the bus and asked if anyone aboard had served in WW II near here. There was one other tourist in the group who raised his hand, the guard approached this 90-something year old man, shook his hand, and thanked him for his service, he then left the bus and waived them on.

**COB: NTR**

**Public Relations: NTR**

**Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) Steve Bishop reported:**

- Most Recent K4K visit was on October 1, 2019 at UVA Charlottesville
- Upcoming K4K visits: Walter Reed Bethesda on October 23, 2019 at 1015. Meet at the usual place in Building 10.
- Steve called VCDR Brian Haller forward. He presented Brian with two patches- one from John Riley our National Chairman for K4K, and one K4K Team Member patch from the Base. Steve asked Brian to tell the members present what he took away from his first two trips to local hospitals to visit kids with serious medical conditions. Among other kind words, Brian **said he didn't know that he could make a trip to see children and their assembled parents and relatives and friends, but he knew that he should make the trip.** He did go on two trips before his European trip, and he is glad that he made the effort.



VCDR Brian Haller and K4K Chair Steve Bishop

**VETERANS AFFAIRS** Base CDR reported:

- TRICARE Health Benefits and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season for enrolling is from Nov 11 through Dec 9.
- 2020 TRICARE Pharmacy Copay Increase (Federal News Network; 10/4/19) - At the beginning of 2020, TRICARE recipients will see an increase of up to 40% or slightly more to their prescription drug copayments.
  - Copayments for 90-day supplies of generic medications will increase from \$7 to \$10. Brand name drug copayments will increase from \$24 to \$29 and non-formulary drug copayments will increase from \$53 to \$60.
  - Prices will go up when buying drugs at an in-store pharmacy as well. Brand name medications will increase from \$28 to \$33 and generic drugs will increase from \$11 to \$13. Non-formulary drugs will see the same bump as mail order copays, \$53 to \$60.
  - **“Military pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will remain the lowest cost pharmacy option for TRICARE beneficiaries,”** Air Force Lt. Col. Ann McManis of the Defense Health Agency pharmacy operations division said in a statement last year.
- **Coast Guard Exchange (CGX)** at 6335 Multiplex Dr Centerville, VA is holding its Grand Opening on Friday October 11, 2019; The CGX is open Mon-Sat between 0900-2100 and on Sun between 1100-1800.

**Storekeeper** Howard Chatham reported:

- Orders for the 2020 USSVI Calendars are being taken by the SK. The price is \$10. The theme is shipbuilding.
- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Contact Howard Chatham, SK, if interested in any items.

**Scouting Recognition** Base CDR reported:

Upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor is for Eagle Scout Joey Keating on October 12. The Base sent a package of a patch, certificate, USS Virginia photo, and a letter from the Base Commander.

**Submarine League** Tim Oliver and Base CDR reported:

- Upcoming Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
  - **2019 NSL History Seminar**, Washington, DC – October 17, 2019
    - The Naval Submarine League is presenting the 2019 Submarine History Seminar on “US Submarines in the Arctic” Thursday 17 October (next week) at 5 PM at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC.
    - The announcement is on line at [www.navalsubleague.org/events/history-seminar/](http://www.navalsubleague.org/events/history-seminar/)  
All the speakers are now confirmed and \$15 tickets can be bought with a credit card at the website.
  - **2019 Annual Symposium and Industry Update** – November 6-7, 2019 in Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The 2019 theme is “Accelerating in a New Direction.”
- Other Events
  - The USS Virginia (SSN 774) Commanding Officer (CO) and Chief of the Boat (COB) plan to make a namesake visit to Virginia on November 10-14, flying into DC and out

of Richmond, with a day in Charlottesville. If you can provide information about local media contacts, a community relations/service opportunity (such as a visit to a children's hospital), and/or a sports event they might attend, please send an email to [communication@navalsubleague.org](mailto:communication@navalsubleague.org). We will coordinate with them and let you know what their final itinerary will be. Cathy Chatham has contacted NSL, Ginger Haskell, with information on the Child Life Specialists at our K4K hospitals.

**Upcoming Submarine Reunions** COB reported:

- USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641) – 10/10-14/2019, Mt. Pleasant, SC
- USS Diablo (SS-479) – 10/13-16/2019, Virginia Beach, VA
- USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN 617) – 10/16-19/2019, San Diego, CA
- USS Chivo (SS-341) – 10/20-24/2019, Cocoa Beach, FL
- USS James Monroe (SSBN 622) – 10/20-25/2019, Gulfport, MS
- USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN-642) – 10/21-25/2019, Jacksonville, FL
- USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658) – 10/24-26/2019, Vallejo, CA
- USS Tunny (SSN 682) – 10/27-31/2019, Charleston, SC
- USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN 640) – 11/4-8/2019, Savannah, GA

**OLD BUSINESS** Base CDR reported:

- Submarine sweaters – if interested in obtaining one, LCDR Powell ordered a few extras or he can place you on the next order. See the Base CDR for more information.
- USS Thresher memorial dedication ceremony and reception was held on September 26, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. The Base sponsored two USS Thresher Family Members to attend the event for \$100. Present representing the Base were the CDR, George & Penny Wallace, Tim Oliver, Paul & Terry Nelson, Woody Woodworth, and Brian Haller.
- USSVI Charitable Foundation has established a USS Batfish Memorial Fund to assist with the recovery efforts from damage that the USS Batfish received from recent flooding in the

**NEW BUSINESS** Base CDR reported:

- The BASE is seeking volunteers to be members of the Election Committee for 2020 Base Officer Nominations. Please let either the CDR or VCDR know if you are interested in being a member. **Tim Oliver** raised his hand and volunteered to be on the nomination committee.
- The Base is seeking volunteers/nominations for candidates for the 2020 Base Officer Election. Positions available are Base Commander, Base Vice CDR, Treasurer, and Secretary. Being a Base Officer is a great means in shaping the vision and activities of the Base.

**The Binnacle List** Please keep the following in your prayers:

Steve Bishop, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.

**For the Good of the Order**, the Secretary read the list of birthdays for October: Al Anceravage, Louise Decker, Mike Kwiecien, Lou Maruzo, Ed Mattran, Mark Shafer, George Wallace, and the US Navy.

**The 50/50 raffle** was won by Chuck Martin who donated his winnings back to the Base.  
THANK YOU!!.

**The Benediction** was delivered by the Base Secretary.

**The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2019, at American Legion Post 364 at 1100. Our guest speaker will be base member and former shipmate of Brian Haller - John Lindstedt who will speak on ADM Rickover. He is travelling from his home in MN to make this presentation.**

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:48 AM.



Pirate Auctioneer aka Base CDR Chuck Martin

After a short break, we assembled to conduct our Pirate Auction. The auctioneer was Chuck Martin (see above) and the accountant was Howard Chatham. The auction netted \$634 for the Base treasury. Thank you all for both bringing and buying!

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All photos in this set of minutes, except for the Wahoo photos, are by Base member Mark Riethmeier. Thanks, Mark.

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