

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020**

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on March 14, 2020, at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Marcher Castell, Joe Castell, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (9 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The VCDR, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The VCDR read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS F-4 (SS-23)	Mar 25, 1915
USS H-1 (SS-28)	Mar 12, 1920
USS PERCH (SS-176)	Mar 3, 1942
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	Mar 5, 1943
USS TRITON (SS-201)	Mar 15, 1943
USS KETE (SS-369)	Mar 20, 1945
USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)	Mar 26, 1944
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	Mar 26, 1945

The VCDR, Brian Haller, then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 26 USSVI Northern Virginia members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CDR Richard N. Cordova, USN, Ret. – 2/4/20; CAPT Raymond “Bill” Vogel, III, USN, Ret. – 2/15/20.

BASE HISTORIAN: Woody Woodworth read an article on the USS GRAMPUS (SS-207). The article is appended after these minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

The February 2020 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. One amendment to the minutes: Cathy Chatham provided the date for the UVA K4K visit and not Steve Bishop. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussion for the February minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the amended minutes were accepted.

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

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 9,428.80
• Receipts:	\$ 210.41
- Dues-Annual, Base	
- Dues-Annual, National	
- Donations-Charitable Foundation	
- Interest/Dividends	
- Revenue-Sale of Items	
- Revenue-Raffles	
• Expenditures:	\$ 175.00
- Dues to National	
- Donations made (Not to National) (Post 364)	
• Ending Sub-Total:	\$ 9,464.21
- Minus remaining Walmart Grant rest. use funds	(\$1,169.40)
• Grand Total (discretionary)	\$ 8,294.81
• NOVA USSVICF K4K Total:	\$ 2,304.10

The Treasurer reported that the Walmart Community Grant check for \$250 had been submitted to, and accepted by, the USSVI National Treasurer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on March 4, 2020. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2020 Holland Club
- 2020 Base Budget
- K4K Program
- New Website
- Other Base events/calendar

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 81 members comprised of:

- 44 Holland Club members,
 - 4 WW II Members
- 29 Regular members
- 8 Associate members

The **Vice Commander**, Brian Haller, reported that due to COVID-19, the Supply Corps Birthday Ball had been cancelled; the Sea Air Space Expo had also been cancelled; and the Naval Submarine League ROTC presentations at Miami University had been cancelled.

On behalf of the **COB**, the CDR provided the status of USS CLAMAGORE (SS-343): The Patriots Point's motion to dismiss and CRAMA Motion for a Preliminary Injunction were heard before Judge Price on January 30th; the injunction was denied. The CDR reported that the

CLAMAGORE would become a reef and that the USS RAZORBACK foundation and the Casper Society was working to obtain parts from CLAMAGORE to support RAZORBACK.

On behalf of the **PAO**, the CDR provided that Mike Varone had sent the name a highway request packages to our Virginia Representatives, Delegates, and Senators along with similar packages to our US Virginia Congressional Representatives and Senators. Each package contained the naming request letter, USSVI NOVA's business card and trifold, and a copy of the *American Submariner* magazine. To date, no responses had been received on the highway naming request.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, provided information that Ray Stone's funeral service, interment at Arlington National Cemetery, and reception had been attended by Howard and Cathy Chatham, Bob Glover, Patrick Peterson, and Chuck Martin.

On behalf of the **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, the CDR provided information that the latest K4K visit took place at Walter Reed Bethesda on February 20, 2020, and was attended by Steve Bishop, Terry Nelson, Penny Wallace, and MMN2(SS) Tom Lalor. In response to that visit, Steve Bishop has submitted an article for publication in the *American Submariner*. That article, along with photos of the visit, are appended after these minutes. The next scheduled K4K events had been for INOVA Falls Church on March 19, 2020 and UVA Charlottesville on April 14, 2020; but was cancelled due to COVID-19 health concerns. All K4K Hospital visits have been postponed dates pending due to the continued COVID-19 health concerns and social distancing. The Base has received one Walmart Community Grant check for \$250 which has been submitted for deposit.

The CDR reported as **SCOUTING COORDINATOR** that there were no currently scheduled Eagle Scout Court of Honors. The CDR reported that he gave a presentation to Cub Scout Pack 501 on February 19. The CDR also attended the Cub Scout Pack 501 "Crossing Over" ceremony on February 26th, 2020 and met with the BSA Troop 501 Scoutmaster to discuss USSVI Scouting Recognition.

On behalf of the **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, the CDR reported that there are plenty of USSVI NOVA Challenge Coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.

On behalf of the **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, the CDR reported no issues with the USSVI Northern Virginia Base website.

Due to current issues associated with COVID-19, all listed events are subject to cancellation or rescheduling. Those events that are known to have been cancelled are annotated.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL) Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace provided the following information on upcoming NSL and related events:

- Upcoming Naval Submarine League (NSL) and related events:
 - 2020 Submarine Birthday Ball – Saturday, 4 April 2020 **(CANX)**
 - 2020 Submarine History Seminar – Thursday 23 April 2020 **(CANX)**

- 2020 NROTC Award (**Contact individual school**)
 - NSL is looking for volunteers to make an NROTC award presentation. Several schools are still available
 - Contact outreach@navalsubleague.org for more information
- Next NSL meeting is scheduled for 8 May at the Army-Navy Country Club with RADM Yu as speaker.
- The Submarine Technology Symposium date has been moved to 14-16 July 2020.
- George and Penny Wallace provided information regarding the 2020 Hall of Fame Boat Program hosted by the Hampton Roads USSVI
 - Hall of Fame boats for 2020 are: USS ATLANTA, USS GUARDFISH, USS HENRY CLAY, USS PROVIDENCE, AND USS SPADEFISH.
 - Currently scheduled for 21 May at the Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, VA
 - Additional info regarding the Hall of Fame Boat program can be found at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/hall-of-fame-boat-program>

The **VCDR** provided information on upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707) – April 3-5, 2020; Fairhope, AL
- USS JALLAO (SS 368) – April 7-10, 2020; Philadelphia, PA
- USS CAVALLA (SS 244/SSN 684) – April 17-18, 2020; Galveston Island, TX
- USS CAIMAN (SS 323) – April 20-23, 2020; Albuquerque, NM
- USS RAZORBACK (SS 394) – April 20-24, 2020; Little Rock, AR
- USS BLUEFISH (SS 222/SSN 675) – April 23-26, 2020; Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS SIMON BOLIVAR (SSBN 641) – April 26-30, 2020, Galveston, TX

OLD BUSINESS

- The newest book by Charles Hood and Frank Hood is “Sub Tales: Stories that Seldom Surface.” Profits from the book are supporting the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) Scholarship fund.

The CDR called for other items of old business and none were identified.

NEW BUSINESS

- Korean War “Ambassador for Peace Medal.”
 - The “Ambassador for Peace Medal” was authorized by the government of South Korea and will be awarded to U.S. veterans in a future presentation ceremony honoring recipients.
 - Eligible U.S. veterans must complete an application and provide a copy of their DD214 for verification purposes by the Korean Consulate.
 - To be eligible, U.S. veterans must have served in Korea at any time during the period of June 25, 1950 through July 27, 1953. U.S. Navy veterans are eligible if their vessel was assigned to Korean waters during this specific time. UN peacekeeping forces assigned to Korea through December 31 of 1955 are also eligible. Medals can also be provided posthumously to family members with proper documentation.
 - Applications are available at the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey or by visiting www.senatormensch.com/Korean-peacemedal.

- If you need an application to be mailed to you, or if you have questions, please call 215-541-2388. Completed applications and a copy of your DD214 can be returned to the office of PA State Senator Bob Mensch, 6 West Fourth Street, Floor 2 Red Hill, PA 18076 or mailed to the Office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey at 200 Chestnut Street, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
- The deadline for the application is Friday, April 3, 2020.
- USS THRESHER Memorial Ceremony Invitation
 - Join with us on April 18, 2020 at the R.W. Traip Academy Auditorium in Kittery, Maine to honor the memories and SUBSAFE legacy of the 129 men lost aboard USS THRESHER (SSN 593) on April 10, 1963.
 - Please see the attached electronic invitation, RSVP via the on-line RSVP form link shown below by March 18, 2020.
 - <https://forms.gle/ZHPnKH4BsBb6WLGi8>
- The new USSV Charitable Foundation website is up and running at www.ussvcf.org
- USS DELAWARE (SSN 791) commissioning ceremony that was scheduled for April 4, 2020, is under review. Additional information regarding the commissioning and related ceremonies can be found at <https://www.ussdelawarecommissioning.org/>
- Holland Club ceremony is currently scheduled for 9 May at Amphora; more to follow.

The Binnacle List

The CDR asked that we keep the following in our thoughts and prayers: Steve Bishop, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.

For the Good of the Order, the Base CDR read the list of birthdays for March: David Gault, Norman Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and William Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Brian Haller.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 11th at American Legion Post 364. We will be conducting our annual tolling of the boats ceremony. **As of March 18, 2020, American Legion Post 364 is closed due to concerns associated with COVID-19. The Base CDR will monitor to determine impact to the next NOVA Base meeting.**

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 1138.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary

SUBMARINE HISTORY

U.S.S. GRAMPUS (SS-207)

This source of this history presentation is available at

<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/united-states-submarine-losses/grampus-ss-207.html>

After starting on the 9th and being ordered to return on the 10th, Grampus (Lieutenant Commander J.R. Craig) departed Brisbane on 11 February to make her sixth patrol in the Solomon area, having made two successful previous patrols under Craig. After leaving her exercise target on 12 February 1943, she never was heard from again.

She was directed, during the period from 14 February to 20 February, to patrol successively the area west of Shortland and south of latitude 6°-30'S, the entire Buka-Shortland-Rabaul Sea area, and to leave the southern part to Triton, which subsequently was lost in this general area.

On 20 February, Grampus was ordered to patrol north of 4°-30'S, until dawn on 21 February, and then to patrol east of Buka and Bougainville. On 2 March she was told to round Cape Henpan, proceed down the west coast of Bougainville, south of Treasury Island, north of Vella Lavella and into Vella Gulf on the afternoon of 5 March. She was to sink enemy ships trying to pass westward through Blackett Strait in attempting to escape our surface ships scheduled to bombard Vila and Stanmore airstrip on 6 March. Grayback was teamed with Grampus in the above operation, and each was informed of the other's assignment.

The evening of 5 March, Grayback and Grampus were warned that two destroyers were proceeding from Faisi (off southeastern Bougainville) toward Wilson Strait (between Vella Lavelle and Ganongga). These destroyers later went through Blackett Strait and into Kula Gulf, where they were sunk by our surface forces, but Grayback did not report having seen or heard them. Shortly after the report concerning these destroyers was sent, Grayback heard and saw a ship in the part of Vella Gulf assigned to Grampus, and, assuming it was she, maneuvered to avoid. She was unable to track it or exchange recognition signals by radar, since her SJ radar was not functioning. When Grampus made no radio transmission up to 6 March, she was ordered by ComTaskFor 72 on 7 March to do so. No transmission was received, and on 8 March she was ordered again to make one, again without results. She was reported lost on 22 March, 1943. Since the war's end, the following facts have been culled from the enemy sources. On 17 February 1943, the enemy claims to have sighted one of our submarines at 5°-35'S, 152°-18'E and later that day in 4°55'S, 152°-30'E. During the afternoon of the 18th, a submarine torpedo attack was delivered on enemy ships at 4°55'S, 152°-18'E and a freighter of 6,400 tons was damaged. An enemy counterattack was made. All of these positions were in Grampus' area.

On the afternoon of 19 February, enemy seaplanes claim to have sighted and attacked a U.S. submarine at 5°-04'S, 152°-18'E. The next day, two patrol boats found a large amount of oil on the surface in this position, and the enemy believed that the submarine had been sunk.

However, another enemy report states that a submarine was sighted on 24 February in 6°-15'S, 156°-35'E. Since no other U.S. submarine could have been in this position at this time, it may be assumed that Grampus escaped serious injury on 19 February, or that Amberjack was the victim of the attack of 19 February.

Whether the ship Grayback saw and heard in Vella Gulf on the night of 5-6 March 1943 was Grampus is impossible to determine, since she was unable to identify it. However, if it was Grampus and she did survive the enemy attack of 19 February, the only other possibility, so far as is now known, is that Grampus was sunk by the destroyers passing through Blackett Strait on the night of 5-6 March, 1943. From the information at hand, it appears that Grampus could have been no more than 15 miles from Grayback on that night, yet Grayback reported hearing no depth charges. In view of this, it seems likely that Grampus was caught on the surface by the destroyers and sunk by gunfire. Since the enemy ships were themselves destroyed subsequently, no mention of any attack by them is made in Japanese reports. A large oil slick was reported in Blackett Strait on 6 March.

American Submariner Submission for Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) for NOVA Base
Author: CDR Steve Bishop 703 293-6344 dsbishop1@verizon.net

The Northern Virginia (NOVA) Base Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) team visited the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD in February, 2020. We visited several in-patients at the Children's Ward and then visited the out-patient Infusion Center. Active duty submariner and NOVA Base member MMN2 (SS) Tom Lalor from NAVSEA-08 (Naval Reactors) joined fellow NOVA Base members Terry Nelson, Penny Wallace, and Steve Bishop on this visit.

The hospital's Director of Arts Activities was in the Infusion Center assisting the children and their siblings create undersea creatures on a blue paper background. This three-dimensional patient creation using pipe cleaners of all colors on the table mimicked one of the pages in our NOVA Base younger child's crayon coloring book – with starfish, octopi, and other deep sea animals. We talked with them about how a submarine operated in such an environment.

The NOVA Base K4K Team visits Walter Reed National Military Medical Center three times per year; INOVA Fairfax Hospital four times per year; and the University of Virginia Medical Center two times per year. This is our eleventh year visiting these hospitals. During our visits we spend time with the kids sharing sea stories and give them an Honorary Submariner certificate, a ball cap or beanie cap or do rag, an age-appropriate coloring book printed by the Base, a Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) challenge coin, an instant sticker photo, and instructions on how to get a tour of a submarine.

Active duty submariner Tom Lalor commented later that day, "Thank you again for everything today. I had fun and would love to do it again soon."



NOTES: Photographs by Terry Nelson

Steve Bishop of NOVA Base holds photo release forms on all persons in these photos. Pictures in separate attachment have Steve Bishop and MMN2(SS) Tom Lalor in each picture.