

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEP 10, 2022

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1034 on Sep 10, 2022, at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and he welcomed all members and guests. Michael Kwiecien attended the meeting and introduced himself. He was one of the original plank owners when this NOVA Base stood up as a new base within USSVI in 1996. Welcome back, Mike.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Beavers, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Tom DeBenedetto, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Mike Kwiecien, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (19 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The COB, for the Base Chaplain, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the VCDR read the list of boats lost in the month of September. These were:

USS S-5 (SS-110)	Lost Sept 1, 1929
USS Grayling (SS-209)	Lost on Sept 9, 1943
USS Pompano (SS-181)	Lost after Sept 17, 1943
USS S-51 (SS-162)	Lost Sept 25, 1925
USS Cisco (SS-290)	Lost Sept 28, 1943

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER(S) WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN SEPTEMBER:

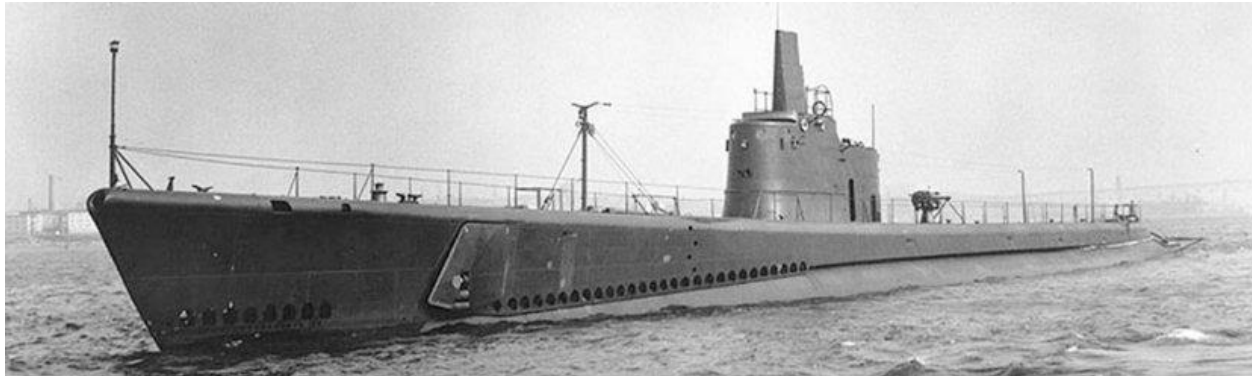
- **Arthur "Art" Raymond Dunn, Jr.**, Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Chivo (SS-341), 1970. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 29 September 2018.
- **Randall Dean Buss**, Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Plunger (SSN-595), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 25 September 2012.

The Ship's Bell was rung twice for the thirty-four (34) USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Submarine sailors recently departed on Eternal Patrol are:

- RADM Richard Anderson Riddell, USN, Ret. – 27 May 22
- CDR Bruce Holmberg, USN, Ret. – 31 July 2022
- EMC(SS) Lloyd John Gratto, USN, Ret. (WW II Submariner) – 19 Jun 2022

**HISTORIAN:** Woody Woodworth read an article on submarine history: “The Investigation into the loss of the USS Rabalo and USS Flier.” This presentation is attached to the end of these minutes.



**USS Flier (SS-250)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 2022, meeting were distributed by e-mail. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The CDR, Chuck Martin, for the Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented the following:

**NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for September 10, 2022**

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$10,810.74</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
NFCU Dividends (August)	\$0.09
Donation to Base from August 50/50 Raffle	\$22.00
Donation to Base from Haller	\$25.00
Donation to USSVCF from Martin	\$20.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
Reimbursement to SK for Convention purchases	\$246.75
Payment to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$10,611.08</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,231.68</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$3,054.10
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

- Membership information
  - 79 Members
    - 46 Holland Club Members
      - 02 WW II Members
    - 26 Regular Members
      - 17 – Life Members
      - 09 – Annual Members
    - 07 Associate Members
  - Newest Base Member(s): Tim Shannon, USN, Qual Boat – USS Sturgeon (SSN-637) in 1974
- For Base members who are not lifetime members, your Annual National and Base membership expires on December 31, 2022, and you need to submit your 2023 annual membership fees before that date unless you have prepaid for 2023. The Membership Chairperson will be sending out an email to those who need to renew their memberships for 2023 with the amount to submit.

## **CHAPLAIN:**

Steve Bishop mentioned that Steve Jaeger will be coming home from Johns Hopkins soon.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

CDR: Board of Directors met August 30th via Zoom and discussed:

- Holland Club
- Meeting-related items
- Old business
- New business, and
- Meeting /event planning

**VCDR:** The Holland Club induction ceremony for Tony Cunningham will be held at our December 10, 2022, meeting.

**CHIEF OF THE BOAT:** The COB took a hand count of the attendees for the Member Appreciation luncheon after this meeting at Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Woodbridge.

### **PAO:**

- USSVI National Convention was held on 24-27 August in Buffalo, NY. The Base was represented by 7 members attending. About 500 attended the convention.
- Our keynote speaker next month is Stephanie Treece, one of the early females on submarines, to tell us about her experiences.

**SK:**

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Three 2022 USSVI Calendars are available from the Base SK. The price is \$5 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- Contact Mike Varone, at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvinova.org) if interested in any items.
- If you ordered a 2023 USSVI Calendar, the SK has them for you to pay for and pickup.

**WEBMASTER:** CDR on behalf of Webmaster:

- Under the Links section recent changes include:
  - Updated the USSVI National website hyperlink to the new URL of [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)
  - Added a link to the USSV Charitable Foundation website.
- Added to the Sailing Book Photo Album hyperlink under the Photo Album/Presentation section several pictures from the 2022 USSVI National Convention and the hyperlink to the “The War Beneath the Waves” short film produced by the Buffalo and Erie Country Naval & Military Park.

**K4K:** Nothing To Report (NTR)**SCOUTING COORDINATOR:** NTR**NJROTC / SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** NTR**NE Regional/NE District 4 News - EN4 District CDR, and Base CDR Chuck Martin remarked:**

- National News
  - 2022 USSVI National Convention was a huge success. Buffalo Base did a great job at hosting the convention. Start planning to attend the 2023 USSVI National Convention in Tucson, AZ during the dates of 28 August – 2 September.
  - USSV Charitable Foundation is producing short videos on YouTube, with the hyperlink on the USSV CF website when available, currently there are three videos. If USSV CF can get 1000 followers and 1000 hours of viewing in the first year, YouTube will place ads on the USSV CF videos and USSV CF will receive a donation from the ads showing.
  - USSVI National Website
    - The new USSVI National Website is now LIVE.
    - You should have received an email on or about 23 August providing instructions with a temporary password to login and change your password. It needs to be 12 characters.
  - Other USSVI Websites
    - The USSV Charitable Foundation website and 2023 USSVI National Convention website are both accessible without going through the USSVI National website.
      - USSV Charitable Foundation - [www.ussvcf.org](http://www.ussvcf.org)
      - 2023 USSVI National Convention - <https://www.ussvi.org/2023-ch>
- Region News - NTR
- District News - NTR

**SUBLEAGUE:** George Wallace reported:

- NSL Headquarters address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone number is 703-256-0891
- The Honorable Nickolas H. Guertin, the current Director, Operational Test and Evaluation Office of the Secretary of Defense, and our last Holland Club keynote speaker, has been nominated to become the Navy's Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN (RDA)).
- NSL celebrates its Ruby Anniversary (40 years) in 2022.
- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
  - NSL Capitol Chapter
    - The NSL Capitol Chapter fall meeting was held on 9 September 2022 at the ANCC.
  - 2022 Submarine History Seminar – Admiral Hyman Rickover, Engineer of Power
    - 20 October 2022 – 7pm-9pm EDT – presented online via Zoom (link TBD)
    - Moderator – David A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.
    - Panelist – Marc Wortman, Ph.D.; RADM Jay Cohen, USN, Ret.; CDR Matt Beach, USN; VADM Jay Donnelly, USN, Ret.
  - 2022 Annual Symposium & Industry Update
    - 1-2 November 2022
    - Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

**ISA/USA** – Base CDR for Bud Cunnally:

- ISA/USA held a meeting at the 2022 USSVI National Convention. Key notes are:
  - Future Congress Locations –
    - 2023 Crete Greece
    - 2024 Montenegro
    - 2025 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA); If Montenegro cannot host the congress, Ireland may shift to 2024
    - 2026 France has expressed an interest
  - Discussed ways to promote ISA/USA
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00

**American Legion Post 364** – CDR remarked:

- Sunday, 11 September – Patriot Day, 9/11 Day of Remembrance Ceremony at 5pm followed by dinner by Mission BBQ.
- Friday, September 16 – POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at 6pm. Dinner will be lasagna buffet from 5pm to 5:45pm and then from 7pm to 8pm.

**Upcoming Submarine Reunions** – VCDR read:

- USS Grenadier (SS-525) – 11-14 September; The Villages, FL
- USS Diablo (SS-479) – 18-21 September; Portland, ME
- USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN-617) – 4-9 October; Greenbelt, MD
- USS Dogfish (SS-350) – 5-9 October; North Little Rock, AR
- USS Chivo (SS-341) – 16-20 October; North Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS Tunny (SS-282/SSN-682) – 16-20 October; New Orleans, LA

- USS Sea Cat (SS-399) – 17-20 October; Little Rock, AR
- USS Robert E Lee (SSBN-601) – 26-30 October; Mystic, CT
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association provide free transportation to medical appointments and COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
  - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.
  - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at [melissa@novavets.org](mailto:melissa@novavets.org)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The 2023 USSVI Northern Virginia Base Officer Nominating Committee is being formed.
  - The Base is seeking one or two volunteers who can contact members. Please contact the CDR if you are interested in this important committee.
  - Someone from the committee may be contacting you to see if you are interested in being a candidate for one of the Base Officer positions. If you are interested in being a candidate and not contacted by a committee member, then send the CDR an email at [CDR@ussvinova.org](mailto:CDR@ussvinova.org)

## **BINNACLE LIST**

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Earl Griggs, Ginger Haskell, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, Nancy O'Brien. Tim Oliver, Tom Perrault, and Tony Poblete

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

The 50/50 raffle (\$55 to the House; \$60 to the Winner) was won by George Wallace, who donated his winnings to the USSV Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund. Thank you, George!!

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE:**

Howard Chatham, Thomas DeBenedetto, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, Woody Woodworth, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 8, 2022, AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER STEPHANIE TREECE, ONE OF THE EARLY FEMALES ON SUBMARINES, TO TELL US ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES.**

The Benediction was delivered by the COB on behalf of the Chaplain.  
The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:14AM.

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

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## SUBMARINE HISTORY

### INVESTIGATION INTO LOSS OF U.S.S. RABALO AND U.S.S. FLIER

On September 5, 1944, the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations tasked Rear Admiral Freeland A. Daubin, U.S. Navy with the “Investigation into loss of U.S.S. RABALO and U.S.S. FLIER.

This history presentation contains a subset of the “FINDING OF FACTS” and “OPINIONS” of the investigation that deal with the sinking of the FLIER. The complete text is available at the following link and page #s.

[https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-250\\_flier](https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-250_flier)

pages 60 thru 65

“After full and mature deliberation, the investigating officer finds as follows:”

#### **FINDING OF FACTS**

Finding of Fact 13. “That on the night of 13 August 1944, the FLIER had all underway stations fully manned. The watch was alert. No ships or planes were sighted by the lookouts. The commanding officer was at the conn on the bridge, and the navigator was in the conning tower. The proper charts were in use. The course through Nasubata Channel had been plotted on the chart, also the course of the CREVALLE through the channel. The Coast Pilot and Tide Tables had been studied. Radar bearings and soundings were being taken at frequent intervals and were being plotted. Listening gear was manned. Nothing was heard. Speed was seventeen knots, four engines, auxiliary engine carrying the auxiliary load, with a zero float on the battery.”

Finding of Fact 14. “That on the night of 13 August 1944, during the transit of the FLIER through Nasubata Channel, the sky was overcast, there was no wind, and the sea was calm. A slight set to the northward, indicating a current of less than a knot, had been noted by the navigator in his approach to the channel. “

Finding of Fact 15. “That a terrestrial fix at 1800 on landmarks on Palawan and Balatac Island was obtained. Last position was determined by radar ranges. Last sounding was forty-one fathoms. This last position is shown at 2200 on C.S.C. & G.S. Chart Number 4326, enclosure © to “Exhibit 3”.”

Finding of Fact 16. “That FLIER’s fix at 2200, just prior to the explosion and her sinking was about eight hundred yards to the southward of the CREVALLE’s Track, which track lay in water of over one hundred fathoms. This fix was also about eight hundred yards northward of the LAPON’s Track.”

Finding of Fact 17. “That, navigationally, the course being followed by the FLIER through Nasubata Channel was a safe track. Insofar as danger from Japanese minefields was concerned, the FLIER’s Track was between the track used by the CREVALLE on 8 May 1944 and that used by the LAPON on 10 June 1944. “

Finding of Fact 18. “That shortly after 2200 there was a terrific explosion from an outboard source, apparently on the starboard side, and the FLIER took a down angle by the bow and sank within a matter of seconds. This position is latitude 7°-58’-30” South, longitude 117°-13’-40” East.”

Finding of Fact 19. “That after the FLIER sank, fifteen of the ship’s company were accounted for in the water:”

Commander John D. Crowley, U.S. Navy.  
Lieutenant James Liddell, junior, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Ensign Alvin E. Jacobson, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Lieutenant J. E. Casey, U.S. Navy.  
Lieutenant Paul Knapp, U.S. Navy.  
Lieutenant (junior grade) W.L. Reynolds, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Ensign Phillip S. Mayer, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Chief Radio Technician A. G. Howell, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Fire Controlman Range Finder Operator Second Class D. P. Tremaine, U.S. Navy  
Motor Machinist Mate Third Class W. B. Miller, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Quartermaster Third Class J. D. Russo, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Motor Machinist Mate Third Class E. R. Baumgart, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Chief Motor Machinist Mate K. W. Hudson, U.S. Navy.  
Chief Gunners Mate C. D. Pope, U.S. Navy.  
Fireman Second Class G. F. Madeo, U.S. Naval Reserve.

“Finding of Fact 20. “That during the night of 13-14 August, while attempting to make their way to land, the following disappeared and are believed lost:”

Lieutenant Paul Knapp, U.S. Navy.  
Lieutenant J. E. Casey, U.S. Navy.  
Lieutenant (junior grade) W.L. Reynolds, U.S. Naval Reserve.  
Chief Motor Machinist Mate K. W. Hudson, U.S. Navy.  
Chief Gunners Mate C. D. Pope, U.S. Navy.  
Fireman Second Class G. F. Madeo, U.S. Naval Reserve.

Finding of Fact 21. “That, on 14 August at about 1530, and various times thereafter on the same afternoon, the eight survivors reached shore on the eastern end of Mantangule Island, a distance of about fifteen miles from the spot where the flier sank. All of them had been in the water for a period of over seventeen hours. On 23 August the survivors finally arrived at Brooke’s Point and, through a coast Watcher’s unit, made radio contact with the Commander Task Force Seventy-one and were picked up by the U.S.S. REDFIN on 31 August 1944.”

Finding of Fact 23. “That the explosion which sank the FLIER came from an underwater outside source. It did not come from an enemy surface vessel, or plane, since none were sighted or heard. The ship was rocked by the force of the explosion and there was a great rush of air from the conning tower followed by debris, a geyser of water, and a strong smell of oil.”

Finding of Fact 24 “It cannot be stated whether the FLIER was sunk by an enemy mine or torpedo.” [Followed by a long discussion on enemy minefields.]

## **OPINION**

Opinion #4 “That in the loss of the U.S.S. FLIER, no blame was incurred by the defendant, Commander J. D. Crowley, U.S. Navy, the commanding officer, or any member of the FLIER’s crew.”

Opinion #6 “That the loss of the U.S.S. FLIER, while transiting Nasubata Channel, must be ascribed to the hazards of war.”



