

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1036 on September 14, 2024 at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Howard Chatham, Brian Haller, Jeff Leonard, Janice Leonard, Chuck Martin, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Cliff Whitener, Woody Woodworth, and, via Zoom, Cathy Chatham and Michael Niblack (15 total; 14 members)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Secretary, Howard Chatham, delivered the Invocation.

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

USS S-5 (SS-110)	1 Sep 1920
USS S-51 (SS-162)	25 Sep 1925
USS Grayling (SS-209)	9 Sep 1943
USS Pompano (SS-181)	25 Sep 1943
USS Cisco (SS-290)	28 Sep 1943

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON
ETERNAL PATROL SINCE OUR LAST BASE MEETING:**

- Joseph Carl Castell, USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN-658), 1978. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 12 August 2024.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON
ETERNAL PATROL IN SEPTEMBER:**

- Randall Dean Buss, USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Plunger (SSN-595), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 25 September 2012.
- Arthur “Art” Raymond Dunn, Jr., USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Chivo (SS-341), 1964. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 29 September 2018.
- Ronald A. Williams, USSVI Holland Club and Life Member. Qualified on USS James Monroe (SSBN-622), 1964. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 7 September 2023.

The COB rang the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 43 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIUM:

- LCDR Russell G. Van Moppes, USN (Ret) – 13 April 2024
- CAPT John Winthrop Cade, USN (Ret) - 8 May 2024
- CDR John F. "Frank" Cook, Jr., USN (Ret) – 3 June 2024
- CTTC(SG/IW) Daryl Francis Maynes, USN (Ret) – 25 July 2024
- TMCM(SS/SW/DV) Thomas S. Beach, USN (Ret) – 1 August 2024
- CDR James R. Miltenberger, USN (Ret) – 14 August 2024
- CDR Christopher Robyn Tockey, USN – 23 August 2024
- TMC(SS) Tudor Fred Davis, USN (Ret) – 24 August 24 2024
- CAPT Leon Everman, USN (Ret) – 5 September 2024
- RADM Virgil Lusk Hill, Jr., USN (Ret) – 6 September 2024

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, presented a synopsis of submarine evacuation and ferry services performed from 1 December 1941 through 1 April 1942. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented the following:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for September 14, 2024

•	Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$12,465.00
•	Plus Receipts:	
	•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (August)	\$0.06
	•NFCU CD Dividends (August)	\$21.04
	•Donation to Base from 50/50 raffle	\$23.00
	•Donation to Base – C. Whitener	\$23.00
•	Minus Expenditures:	
	•None	\$0.00
•	Ending Cash on Hand:	\$12,532.10
	Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
	Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
•	Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$6,152.70
•	USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,135.41
•	Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	\$3,514.81

The Base CDR accepted the Treasurer's report as presented.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail and USPS. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The Executive Committee met on 4 September via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

The **VCDR** had nothing to report.

The **CHIEF OF THE BOAT** also had nothing to report.

The **PAO** (Mike Varone) reported that he is still working with Tim Snyder to be a guest speaker at a future meeting to discuss and demonstrate the EWPro device (Electronic Warfare simulator) that was developed by RDSI when he worked for them.

The **TREASURER** reported that he will be sending out notices to the members soliciting Base and National dues for 2025. He noted that National dues will be going up in 2025 so paying them now (before 31 December 2024) will result in a saving for all applicable members. Consideration should also be given to paying for multiple years membership in USSVI at this time.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership information
 - 91 Members
 - 50 Holland Club Members
 - 1 WW II Members
 - 32 Regular Members
 - 13 – Base Life Members
 - 19 – Base Annual Members
 - 9 Associate Members

The **WEBMASTER** (Howard Chatham) reported that our website was still up and working fine.

The **Kaps 4 Kids Chair** (Steve Bishop) noted that we are still waiting on Child Life Coordinators at the three hospitals we used to visit to let us know when we can resume those visits.

The **STOREKEEPER** (Chuck Martin) reported that he has USSVI 2025 calendars for sale (\$10 each plus any shipping costs) as well as other submarine related items.

USSVI and NE District 4 News – the NE District 4 Commander, Chuck Martin, reported:

- The 2024 USSVI Convention was a huge success and gave a BZ to the USSVI Cod Base for hosting the convention. He will be preparing highlights of various meetings at the Convention which will be sent to the Base Commander for distribution to the base members.
- Jeff Walsh from the Groton Base was elected as the new NE Region Director.
- USSVI Capitol Base has copies of Charles and Frank Hood autographed books for sale for \$20. Contact our SK if you are interested.
- The USS New Jersey (SSN-796) commissioning ceremony was in progress at NWS Earle in Colts Neck, NJ while we held our meeting.
- Chuck announced that he would not be seeking reelection as the NE4 District CDR next year. Nomination letters for the 2025-2027 position will be requested around March 2025. Chuck noted that this is a great opportunity to learn more about USSVI National and the other bases in the District. Contact him if you are interested or want more information about the position.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL): George Wallace reported:

- The 2024 Annual Symposium & Industry Update will be held 13-14 November 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Links to register for the symposium will be posted on the NSL web site ([ASIU – Registration | Naval Submarine League \(navalsubleague.org\)](#)) when available.
- Chuck Martin reported that USSVI will have a table at the symposium again this year and he is looking for any members of USSVI to help man the booth.

UPCOMING SUBMARINE REUNIONS

- USS George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) 18-21 Sep 2024, Groton, CT
- USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN 630) 18-21 Sep 2024, Warwick, RI
- USS James K. Polk (SSBN/SSN 645) 19-22 Sep 2024, Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS Growler (SSG 577) 20-22 Sep 2024, New York, NY
- USS Clamagore (SS 343) 22-26 Sep 2024, Little Rock, AR
- USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN 601) 24-29 Sep 2024, Manitowoc, WI

- Navy Deep Submergence Group Assn. 27-29 Sep 2024, Silverdale, WA
- USS Nautilus (SSN 571) 27 Sep - 1 Oct 2024, Groton, CT
- USS Tiru (SS4 16) 29 Sep - 1 Oct 2024, Warwick, RI
- USS Angler (SS 240) 29 Sep – 3 Oct 2024, New London, CT
- USS Bang (SS 385) 30 Sep – 3 Oct 2024, North Little Rock, AR
- USS Cavalla (SS 244/SSN 684) 3-6 Oct 2024, Groton, CT
- USS Patrick Henry (SSBN/SSN 599) 3-6 Oct 2024, San Antonio, TX
- USS Threadfin (SS 410) 3-6 Oct 2024, New Orleans, LA
- USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN 644) 15-18 Oct 2024, St. Marys, GA
- USS Chivo (SS 341) 20-23 Oct 2024, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Dogfish (SS 350) 23-27 Oct 2024, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Tunny (SS 282/SSN 682) 6-10 Nov 2024, San Antonio, TX

It is recommended that you call or email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the current reunion.

Jeff Leonard reported that the USS James Madison (SSBN 627) is planning their next reunion for 12-16 March 2025 in Tucson AZ.

OLD BUSINESS

- USS Groton Sail Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization focused on building a lasting public monument to celebrate their region's contribution to our Nation's defense. The centerpiece of the monument will be the USS Groton's sail and rudder, which will serve as a permanent tribute to the Navy's submarine community, past, present, and future. The Foundation is now attempting to raise \$2M to secure a site in Groton, CT and to build the monument. They are selling pavers and taking donations at <https://grotonsail.com>.
- Chuck Martin reported that the Base officers and Eternal Patrol plaques are being updated and should be ready soon. He also noted that the copy of our charter that is posted on the rear wall of the meeting room has been draped with a black cloth in remembrance of the passing of Joe Castell.
- Penny Wallace asked if there was any movement in USSVI towards allowing Associate members to be eligible for multi-year memberships. Chuck and Brian reported that National is looking into that and are considering a change that would allow such after five years of continuous membership. There would have to be changes to the By-laws and a vote by the membership next year for this to be enacted.

NEW BUSINESS

- The following Base members participated in the 2024 National Convention:
 - Howard and Cathy Chatham
 - Bob and Susan Frick
 - Ron and Eloise Grabowski
 - Brian and Pat Haller
 - Jim and Bonnie Kraut
 - Jeff and Janice Leonard
 - Chuck Martin
 - Tim Oliver
 - Mike Varone
 - George and Penny Wallace
 - Note: Bud Cunnally also came to Cleveland to conduct the International Submarine Association/United States of American membership meeting.
- The CDR congratulated Howard Chatham on his Robert Link Award (Second Award) presented at the Convention Awards Banquet and George Wallace on his Meritorious Award, which was erroneously sent to the Tucson base. Brian also noted that dual member John Lindstedt also received a Meritorious Award.

BINNACLE LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers: Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Mary Miller (mother of Bruce Miller), Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Tim Shannon and Diane Whitener as well as Base members who contracted COVID and other viruses at the convention: Howard and Cathy Chatham (twice, but now out of the hospital), Brian and Pat Haller, George and Penny Wallace, and Tim Oliver.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, the COB read the list of birthdays for the month of September: Howard Chatham, Tom DeBenedetto, James Kraut, Jeff Leonard, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, Cliff Whitener, and Woody Woodworth.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our next regular Base meeting will be on 12 October at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge and on Zoom.

The CDR called for a show of hands for those planning on going to our members' appreciation luncheon at Texas Roadhouse in Woodbridge after today's meeting. (Nine people attended the function which was paid for by the Base.)

The Secretary delivered the Benediction.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 1130.

50-50 DRAWING was held and Chuck Martin was the winner. He donated his winnings back to the Base. Thanks, Chuck.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Howard Chatham
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

Submarine Ferry and Evacuation Services in Early WWII

During my research for a previous history presentation on U.S.S. SHARK, I came across an archived report dated April 1, 1942 describing the “War Activities SUBMARINES, U.S. ASIATIC FLEET, December 1, 1941 – April 1, 1942” from “The Commander Submarines, U. S. ASIATIC FLEET” to “The Commander in Chief, U.S. FLEET and Chief of Naval Operations” via “The Commander U.S. Naval Forces based in Western Australia”. This link to this report is <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/133909661>.

The discovered report is extremely long and contains 48 paragraphs, some filling two to three 8.5 X 11 pages and each paragraph describing different topics. The contents of this history presentation is from paragraph 1 and paragraph 37 of the archived report.

1. “On December 1, 1941 Submarine Squadron TWO and TWENTY were reorganized into Submarines, U. S. ASIATIC FLEET, dispensing with the Squadron echelon and under the command of Captain W. E. Doyle, U.S.N. This officer had just recently been Commander Submarine Squadron Two and had brought his Squadron from Pearl Harbor to Manila, arriving during November in two groups. The new organization was composed of the following units at that time present and based on Manila Bay:”

{The following list contains the names of each unit and the current Commanding Officer. The list includes 3 submarine tenders, a rescue vessel, and 29 submarines. The list will not be read during history presentation but included in the minutes.}

“HOLLAND (Tender) – Commander J.W. Gregory, U.S.N.
CANOPUS (Tender) – Commander E.I. Sackett, U.S.N.
OTUS (Tender) – Commander J. Newsom, U.S.N.
PIGEON (Rescue vessel) – Lieutenant R.E. Hawes, U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-36 – Lieutenant J.R. McKnight, Jr., U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-37 – Lieutenant J.C. Dempsey, U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-38 – Lieutenant W.G. Chapple, U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-39 – Lieutenant J.W. Coe, U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-40 – Lieutenant N. Lucker Jr., U.S.N.
U.S.S. S-41 – Lieutenant G.M. Holley, U.S.N.
PORPOISE - Lieut. Comdr. J.A. Callaghan, U.S.N.
PIKE - Lieut. Comdr. .W.A. New, U.S.N.
SHARK - Lieut. Comdr. L. Shane, Jr., U.S.N.
TARPON - Lieut. Comdr. J. Wallace, U.S.N.
PERCH - Lieut. Comdr. D.A. Hurt, U.S.N.
PICKEREL - Lieut. Comdr. B.E. Bacon, Jr., U.S.N.
PERMIT - Lieut. Comdr. A.M. Hurst, U.S.N.
SALMON - Lieutenant E.B. McKinney, U.S.N.
SEAL - Lieut. Comdr. K.C. Hurd, U.S.N.

SKIPJACK - Lieutenant C.L. Freeman, U.S.N.
SARGO - Lieut. Comdr. T.D. Jacobs, U.S.N.
SAURY - Lieut. Comdr. J.L. Burnside, U.S.N.
SPEARFISH - Lieutenant R.F. Pryce, U.S.N.
SNAPPER - Lieut. Comdr. E.L. Stone, U.S.N.
STINGRAY - Lieut. Comdr. R.S. Lamb, U.S.N.
STURGEON - Lieut. Comdr. W.L. Wright, U.S.N.
SCULPIN - Lieutenant L.E. Chappell, U.S.N.
SAILFISH - Lieut. Comdr. M.C. Mumma, Jr., U.S.N.
SWORDFISH - Lieut. Comdr. C.C. Smith, U.S.N.
SEADRAGON - Lieut. Comdr. W.E. Ferrall, U.S.N.
SEALION - Lieut. Comdr. R.G. Voge, U.S.N.
SEARAVEN - Lieut. Comdr. T.C. Aylward, U.S.N.
SEAWOLF - Lieut. Comdr. F.B. Warder, U.S.N.”

{The following is a subset (because of presentation time limits) of the contents of the source document paragraph 37 relating to the use of units for evacuation and ferry services.}

37. “In addition to the other activities described herein, ever since the first of the year, this Command has been continuously attempting to satisfy numerous demands from other sources for submarines for various evacuation and ferrying trips. Since early January an average of two submarines have been continuously diverted for these purposes. From the nature of the requests it has been obvious that the outside sources which request them have not done so with the full realization of how much this has taken away from potential offensive capabilities of this unit. Both Admirals Hart and Purnell have continuously opposed these demands in order to keep our offensive operations at a maximum.”

“On 16 January SEAWOLF departed Darwin on a similar expedition with a cargo of anti-aircraft ammunition. Thirty-seven tons was all that could be obtained from Army authorities for this trip. SEAWOLF arrived Corregidor evening of 27 January and departed the following day.”

“SEADRAGON, then on patrol off the Indo-China coast, was dispatched to Corregidor primarily for the purpose of evacuation nineteen member of the Radio Intelligence unit during her return south.”

“On 13 February the High Commissioner, Mr. Sayre, requested Admiral Hart to send a submarine for evacuation of himself, family, and staff, totaling eleven persons. A reply was sent back from Bandoeng to the effect that this could be accomplished at any time on three days notice. The High Commissioner requested one immediately, and since SWORDFISH was then on patrol off Surigao and the closest one of our submarines to Manila at that time, she was designated to go up for this purpose. On 14 February Admiral Hart told Mr. Sayre that he regretted that accommodations were insufficient for the entire staff and that the party must be

limited to four in order to allow for evacuation of naval personnel much needed in other theatres of war. Upon arrival SWORDFISH was used, at the end of February to first make a shuttle trip to Panay with President Quezon and party and then return for Mr. Sayre. His entire party of eleven was embarked, necessitating reduction of the naval personnel desired to be evacuated at that time.”

“On 26 February the Navy Department directed that one submarine be always kept at the disposal of General MacArthur and that submarines that were used for this purpose were to take in maximum quantities of ammunition. It was at first planned to send SPEARFISH from Surabaya, arriving about 13 March, and General MacArthur was informed that she must return immediately due to time already spent at sea but would be relieved by PERMIT later. He was also told that the question of whether or not PERMIT carried ammunition would depend on availability of a loading port in Java and that she would patrol off the Bataan coast until needed by the General. Events in the Java Sea prevented execution of this plan and on 28 February PERMIT was directed to proceed from her patrol station north of Java direct to Luzon without being able to be filled with ammunition.”

“About this time request from British authorities was received for rescue of a party of forty, including Rear Admiral Spooner and an Air Marshall from Singapore, who were reported stranded on Chebia Island. S-39 was designated, made a landing on the island but the party had vanished before his arrival.”

“SARGO, STURGEON and SEADRAGON were used for evacuation of naval personnel from Java when the collapse appeared imminent.”

“Instead of bring out General MacArthur and party, PERMIT was used as a standby should his plan for plane evacuation fail.”

“Meanwhile, on 5 March, the Commander in Chief directed that all remaining personnel of the Radio Intelligence unit at Corregidor be evacuated as soon possible. Based on this the Commandant Sixteenth Naval District utilized PERMIT, loading her with forty-seven people in addition to the ones she already had on board and, unknown to this command, directing her to conduct a patrol through Verde Island Passage and in the vicinity of Marinduque. Previous directives from this command had limited total number of passengers to twenty-five and on this occasion the Commanding Officer, PERMIT should have protested the carrying of a total of one hundred and eleven persons in his ship. The situation was complicated a short time later when she was required by the presence of enemy anti-submarine units to stay down a total of thirty-seven hours out of thirty-eight. All of this occurred unknown to this command because on 16 March Commandant Sixteenth District had specifically reported that an offensive patrol by PERMIT was not desired.”

“On 7 March a message was sent to SWORDFISH directing that all passengers and others on board be impressed before arrival with the fact that revelation of the nature of her recent trip would jeopardize similar future expeditions. This was

carefully complied with and as far as known Mr. Sayre and party did not reveal on arrival in the United States that they had been evacuated by submarine. This precaution was, however, nullified a few days later when Army authorities revealed PERMIT's activities in connection with the evacuation of General MacArthur.”