

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 10, 2012

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on March 10, 2012 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Amos, Dex Armstrong, Steve Bishop, Debbie Bishop (new member), Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ralph Chatham, Ed Ettner, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry (new member), Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Paul Nelson, Benny Parker, Tom Perrault, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Reb Wooten. (24 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Dex Armstrong, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of January. These were:

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The Base Historian, Ralph Chatham, read a passage on Submarine History: John Holland's March 1898 first trim dive on the USS Holland (SS-1). Lesson learned: having the correct ballast in the right place always helps. He used three blasts on the ship's whistle to announce the dive maneuver.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail and hard copies were available on each table. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Starting balance: \$ 4,241.74

Ending balance: \$ 4,188.10

A math error was corrected on the 2012 budget (too much revenue had been anticipated from the raffles). Proposed amendments to the 2012 base budget to balance the budget were reported. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the amended 2012 budget and to approve the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Base Commander presented a summary of the most recent Executive Board Meeting.

Legion Post 162 Adjutant Alan Amos presented the base with a framed certificate of appreciation for the recent contribution made to the "Carvelle Star" charity for the benefit of Leprosy victims. He spoke briefly about the 40&8 "40 men / 8 horses" organization that has administered this charity.

The COB reported that PJ Skidoos has booked us for the Holland Cub ceremony on November 10, 2012. Menu choices, with optional priced salads and desserts are being discussed. Base Secretary has contacted RADM Mike Yurina. Mike's wife Jennifer has accepted for Mike who has been on travel for DHS. Mike and Jennifer will attend. The COB also reported that the World War II museum in New Orleans opened last year but they are still accepting Charter memberships. He has applications for those that would be interested.

Membership Report by Steve Jaeger: 82 members, including:

- 22 Holland Club members
- 2 World War II members
- 50 Regular members
- 10 Associate members

Two new members were introduced: Richard Lowry and Debbie Bishop

Public Relations / Veterans Affairs by Mike Varone: All base members should be aware that our elected officials in Washington DC are discussing increases to the costs of TRICARE for retirees. Several organizations are working to mobilize opposition to this potential legislation, including FRA, MOAA, and Senator Webb of VA. Raises in costs to retirees could be in the range of 39% to 78%. HEADS UP.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) The date for our next visit to Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward is Thursday, April 19, 2012. Days after this base meeting, the hospital's coordinator confirmed to Cathy Chatham that **a visit at 11:00 AM on this day would be best for the staff and the children.** We have always gone mid afternoon in the past, so this is a change. The COB related the story of his spotting a young girl at a local Applebee's restaurant this past month wearing her pink Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) "honorary submariner" ball cap. He approached the family and they thanked him profusely for the love the submariners had shown their daughter at Fairfax Hospital. Her father told Dex she never takes off that pink cap except to go to sleep.

In the absence of a NSL official, the Base CDR announced that:

1. The quarterly luncheon would be held on April 13th and the guest speaker would be VADM Burke, VCNO for Fleet Readiness and Logistics.
2. The NSL Annual History Seminar will be held April 24 at Ft McNair with a presentation on Over the Horizon Targeting (Outlaw Shark).

District Commander Mike Naughton spoke:

1. District 4 intends to hold a District meeting in August or October, 2012
2. Mike is now the Commander of the Capital Base.
3. The Capitol Base would like to borrow NOVA Base's ship's bell for the F-4 graveside Tolling

of the Boats ceremony May 19th at 1100 inside Arlington National Cemetery. We will gladly accommodate our shipmates. Our base members are encouraged to attend.

There were no other officer reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Sweetheart's Luncheon - A success again. Thank you Terry and Paul Nelson.

We still have NOVA Base business cards.

September USSVI Convention in Norfolk – Sign up at the USSVI national website. If the Marriot hotel is full when you book your room, the Sheraton is directly across the street.

SCORPION Symposium – The date, time and place are up in the air according to several of the members in attendance.

District 3 Convention will be held 3/24 in Scranton, PA.

NEW BUSINESS

News from National:

1. AMERICAN SUBMARINER is in the mail and available on line.
2. New Base has been established in Point Loma, CA (now three bases in SD).
3. The USSVI scholarship applications are available and the due date is approaching fast.

District 2 Convention is planned for April 28 in Morris Plains, NJ.

Submarine veterans are being sought to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.

E-mail from Tim Shannon (Former Base and District Commander who has retired to New Mexico) was read. He attended a local SubVets base meeting and "respectfully" declined to assume a leadership position in their base.

Boat ball caps from Jim Rolle's estate are being sold by his widow.

BREAKING NEWS – Three female Supply Corps officers have been relieved of duty and transferred off their submarines. They were supposed to be the mentors for the other newly reported female officers on the selected SSBNs/SSGNs. Expect more press on this as details are made available.

The founder of the Horse and Cow drinking establishments has died

The Binnacle List currently only includes: Rod Puffer. The COB requested that members send him cards. His address is:

Rod Puffer
4630A South 28th Road
Arlington, VA 22206-1126

Alternatively, his e-mail address is: rodpuffer@aol.com

The Base CDR noted that the National Secretary, Tom Conlon, is still recovering from complications due to diabetes and to keep him in your prayers.

Three submariners have recently died. Thoughts and prayers, please, for the families of CAPT Charles Armitage, CAPT Reuben Woodall, and RADM Thomas Meinicke.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Bill Truslow 6th, Ruth Garverick 7th, Marie Phoenix 11th, Tom Perrault 11th, John Lindstedt 17th, Wanda White 18th, Terry Nelson 23rd, Steve Jaeger 23rd, Dave Gault 26th, Mary Parker 26th, and Art Dunn 29th.

The 50/50 raffle was won by COB Dex Armstrong.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 14TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE, NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1155.

After a break to get liquid refreshments and popcorn, the Base CDR thanked AMERICAN SYSTEMS for the donation of a video projector to the base, and then a movie on the capture of the German U-boat U-505 was shown. After the U-505 movie, a cinematic viewing of the U-505 boat tour in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry was shown. Howard and Ralph Chatham then elaborated on the "rest of the story" as they grew up next door to one of the two pilots in the movie shown strafing the U-505. The COB also had come reminiscences on Admiral Gallery.

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