

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1103 on September 10, 2016 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Nate Compton, Delbert Ennis, Linda Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, VADM Bill French (Guest Speaker) and his assistant Chris Haley, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (25 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, was attending the Casper Society's Reunion in Pensacola, Fl, so Woody Woodworth, as Acting COB, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

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

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

The Acting COB rang the ship's bell twice in Remembrance of the 23 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

In Memoriam: Please keep the family of CAPT Richard Anderson Jr. in your prayers. In his 40 year of naval service, among other duties, he was USNA class of 1958, the CO of the USS Corporal (SS 346), and a DSRV pilot.

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Richard Lowry, presented a short synopsis of the USS Cisco (SS-290).



USS *Cisco* (SS-290) was launched on 24 December 1942 and was commissioned on 10

May 1943 with Commander James W. Coe in command. Coe was a Naval Academy graduate and an experienced submarine commander. He had already commanded six war patrols; three on S-39 and three on *Skipjack*. He earned the Navy Cross for his bold and aggressive actions against armed enemy surface combatants while commanding S-39 and *Skipjack*. *Cisco* was in good hands.

After a Panama Canal transit and a Pacific crossing, *Cisco* departed Port Darwin, Australia on 18 September 1943, headed out for her first war patrol. Seven days later *Cisco* encountered the Japanese gunboat *Karatsu*, the former US Navy ship USS *Luzon*. To avoid capture, *Luzon* had been scuttled in Manila Bay, but the Japanese were able to refloat her and make her seaworthy again. *Karatsu*, along with Japanese bombers, attacked *Cisco*. The attack was called off when oil appeared on the surface.

Cisco was never heard from again. She never fired a shot in anger. She slipped silently into the depths with 76 men, never to be seen again. Our only record of her demise is from old Japanese war reports.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail. No discussion or changes.

USSVI National Convention Award

At the recent convention in Reno, NV, NOVA Base member Steve Bishop was awarded one of the three national “2016 Meritorious Shipmate Awards.” These awards are presented to those members who, through their civic involvement, “exemplify Pride Runs Deep and who by their efforts promote the concepts of honor, duty, and pride of the US Navy Submarine Force to the General Public.” The USSVI National Commander Al Singleman is shown presenting the award to Steve.



Photo by Bob Bissonette
TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 8,780.51

Ending balance: \$ 8,268.40 as of September 10, 2016, of which \$2,750.00 is the Walmart Grant restricted use funds. This leaves \$5,518.40 in unrestricted Base Funds.

MEMBERSHIIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 82 members comprised of: 37 Holland Club members, 36 Regular members, and 9 Associate members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR :

Board of Directors meeting was held on Aug 27th. The topics discussed were:

- Membership
- 2017 Holland Club initiation
- Base finances
- Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) program
- Website
- Scouting Recognition program
- Youth Outreach program, and
- Public Affairs Officer items

VCDR: George and Penny have returned from their August travels to the west coast for the USS Houston (SSN 713) decommissioning in Bremerton, WA, and to the UK for the filming of the movie based upon George's novel Firing Point. The movie will have a different title, Hunter Killer, and has an expected release date of late 2017.

CHIEF OF THE BOAT: Absent

PAO/VETERANS AFFAIRS: Absent

SUBMARINE HISTORIAN: Richard Lowry announced that he has published another book, his first novel. This one is titled "Codeword Scarlet" and is available only as an E-book on Amazon. Richard made it plain that this was his first attempt at a novel, not a history.

STOREKEEPER: Howard Chatham reports that the Base Challenge coins are still for sale. The 2017 USSVI calendars have been pre-ordered from the National SK. We also have some NOVA Base 20th anniversary shot glasses for sale.

K4K: Steve Bishop reported that during our August 24th visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, we visited 19 children with medical issues and three of their siblings. In addition to our normal bedside visits, Chuck Martin, Mike Varone, and Steve Bishop assembled a twelve-game table of fun that we had purchased at the request of Walter Reed's Child Life Supervisor. This purchase was made possible by, and with the blessing of, the Walmart's Community Fund. The essence of these games is an air hockey game and it is reported by the Walter Reed nurses to already be a big hit with those kids undergoing infusion

treatments.

We will visit Fairfax INOVA on October 20th and UVA Charlottesville on November 18th.

CHAPLAIN: Nothing to report

SCOUTING COORDINATOR: Nothing to report

NJROTC / SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mark Riethmeier has updated the briefing with a revised PowerPoint presentation.

SUBLEAGUE : Tim Oliver, reported that:

- 34th Annual Fall Symposium will be held October 26 – 27 in at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Crystal City, VA
- 2016 Fleet Awardees will be announced
- 18th Annual Naval Submarine League and Undersea Warfare Magazine Photo Contest is in progress – submissions are due by 23rd September
- USS Silversides Submarine Museum announced the opening of the Mom and Pop Kaye Naval/NASA Collection to take place on Saturday 8 October, 2016.
- NSL Capital Chapter fall luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, 13 October where Nautilus Chapter (Groton) member Jonathan Ward will present a discussion on The Emerging Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region.
- At the National Convention in Reno, NV, Tim had several USSVI members join NSL. He would value our membership in NSL also.
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DISTRICT CDR/REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT: Base CDR Chuck Martin reported:

- The USSVI Northeast Regional Meeting will be held October 8, 2016 at the Hyatt Place in Malta, NY. Rooms are \$115.00 per night for a single (one queen bed) or a double (two queen beds). A complimentary hot breakfast is included. Room rates will be guaranteed until September 30th.
- Mike Naughton has resigned his USSVI leadership position for health reasons.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 162: Base CDR Chuck Martin reported:

- Sunday, September 11: Patriots Day Observance Ceremony starts at 11am
- Saturday, September 17th: Veteran Outreach Drive and Community Picnic. Picnic begins at 1pm
- Saturday, September 24th: SAL Annual Oktoberfest, (More information TBA)

OLD BUSINESS

- Special Thank You to Howard, Cathy, Steve B, and Mark R for their support in making the 20th Anniversary of USSVI Northern Virginia Base luncheon a huge success
- 2016 USSVI National Convention was a success. Base Officers discussed the following topics:
 - The 2015 Archive Procedure Manual – Being reviewed
 - Why Associate members are not allowed to vote in national elections – Complies with USSVI Charter
 - Establishing a USSVI National JROTC Recognition program.
 - Highways/Bridges naming for USSVI

- K4Ks baseball cap color change
- Smithsonian Channel Submarine Series “Hell Below” – The Wolf Pack shows on September 23rd
- USS Houston (SSN 713) Decommissioning was held on 26 Aug 2016

NEW BUSINESS

- The 2017 Base Officer Nomination Committee has been convened and is seeking candidates for Base Officers. If interested, contact Howard.
- 2016 USSVI Convention Annual Business Meeting notes were available in hard copy on the tables and the two page summary Word Document will be forwarded with the minutes to the membership
- Richard Laulor reported a local (South Carolina) retirement home created a Wall of Honor to recognize the residents with military service. Richard encourages Base Members to register on any of the national registry websites, e.g., WWII Memorial, Navy Memorial, or Army Soldiers Registry.
- News from the Fleet and previous information emailed this month will be included in the minutes.

BINNACLE LIST

“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”

Richard Lowry, Steve and Darlene Jaeger for Darlene’s mom, Art Bivens, Tony Poblete, Mike Naughton, and David Cooper.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.”

The drawing for Rick Campbell’s book [Ice Station Nautilus](#) was won by Penny Wallace. The 50/50 drawing was won by Steve Jaeger.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE: Howard Chatham, John Belt, Woodie Woodworth, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 8, 2016 at 1100 at Famous Dave’s Restaurant at 6630 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, VA 22306. Famous Dave’s is at the intersection of Rt. 1 and Beacon Hill (near LOWES @ Beacon Hill Mall).(about 2 miles south of the beltway, or 6 miles north of Ft Belvoir on Route 1.) **THE BASE MEETING WILL BE AT 1100 AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BBQ LUNCHEON, TO BE PAID FOR BY THE BASE TREASURY. DO NOT GO TO THE AMERICAN LEGION POST THAT DAY- YOU WILL BE ALL ALONE.** Note: Base members John Belt and Sam Harris are both associated with this Famous Dave’s.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:36 AM .

After a short break, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker, Vice Admiral William “Bill” French.



Bill French is the President and CEO of the Armed Services YMCA based in Springfield, Virginia. The Armed Services YMCA serves hundreds of thousands of military service members and their families each year through a variety of programs and services designed specifically to overcome the unique challenges faced by our military members.

French retired in October 2014 as a Vice Admiral in the United States Navy after 35 years of service. He spent the majority of his career going to sea in submarines, which included command of the USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN-716) and command of a fast attack submarine squadron in Pearl Harbor, HI. As a Flag Officer, he served in three Regional Command assignments; in the Northwest, Southwest and Guam. His last assignment was as Commander, Navy Installations Command, where he was responsible for the Navy's 70 bases with oversight of all Navy shore support operations world-wide.

He is a May 1979 graduate of Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and was commissioned in the Navy through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. He subsequently earned Master's degrees from both the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval War College. French currently serves as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC).

Bill spoke passionately about the Armed Services YMCA and its role in helping the DOD's junior (E-5 and below) soldiers, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen and their spouses and children in times of need. He showed PowerPoint slides and videos to drive home his points. One video was about a Ft. Riley, KS wife of a deceased soldier. The Armed Forces YMCA helped her and her children get back on their feet (no husband, no breadwinner, mouths to feed, no longer eligible for base housing, no job, bills to pay, etc.)

The Armed Services YMCA provides such support on 59 bases inside the USA in 18 states, including Norfolk, San Diego, and Hawaii. Last year they supported 540,000 family members in need at little or no cost to the service member. Some of the programs they use to help are:

- Teddy's Child Watch. They watch the kids while the parents are at a hospital or a doctors' appointment. This program has lowered the patient no-show rate at military hospitals by 30%!
- Operation HERO. This program works with schools on military bases to give extra attention to those kids who are needy or who are falling behind their peers.
- Operation Kid Comfort. Volunteers from all over the country make quilts using a template provided by the Armed Forces YMCA such that each quilt has eight pictures of the deployed adult (father or mother of the child).

More information on the Armed Services YMCA can be obtained at their website:
www.asymca.org

The Base CDR thanked Vice Admiral French and then presented him and his assistant Chris Haley with NOVA Base Challenge coins.



Photo by Mark Riethmeier

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