

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2020

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on January 11, 2020, at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, **Arthur Bivens**, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, **William Douglas**, Tom Fortier, **Robert Glover**, Brian Haller, **Darlene Jaeger**, Steve Jaeger, Thomas Lalor (active duty) and girlfriend **Courtney**, Chuck Martin, **Edmund Mattran**, **Paul Nelson**, **Teresa Nelson**, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, Mark Riethmeier, **Mike Varone**, George Wallace, **Penny Wallace**, **Dominick Grimaldi**, **Pat Haller** and **Woody Woodworth** (25 total).

■ **Holland Club Member**

■ **Associate Member**

■ **Guest**

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

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

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

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	Jan 5, 1944
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	Jan 10, 1943
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	Jan 12, 1945
USS S-36 (SS-141)	Jan 20, 1942
USS S-26 (SS-131)	Jan 24, 1942

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 26 USSVI Northern Virginia members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CWO4 William D. Cutler, USN, Ret. – 12/1/2019; CAPT Richard R. Stark, USN, Ret. – 12/5/2019; CDR William F. Bundy, USN, Ret. – 12/15/2019; CAPT Gary Q. Geist, USN, Ret. – 12/24/2019; LT Charles H. “Tim” McCoy, USN, Ret. – 12/28/2019.

INDUCTION OF 2020 BASE OFFICERS

The Immediate Past Base Commander, Howard Chatham, swore in the re-elected NOVA Base Commander, Chuck Martin





The NOVA Base Commander then swore in the other 2020 NOVA Base officers: Vice Commander – Brian Haller, Secretary – Joe Castell and Treasurer - Steve Jaeger.



APPOINTMENTS FOR OTHER BASE POSITIONS

The Base Commander nominated the following members for Base appointed positions and the members in attendance approved the nominations:

CHIEF OF THE BOAT – Mike Varone

MEMBERSHIP – Steve Jaeger

CHAPLAIN – Steve Jaeger

SUBMARINE HISTORIAN – Woody Woodworth

STOREKEEPER – Howard Chatham

WEBMASTER – Howard Chatham

KAPS 4 KIDS – Steve Bishop

SCOUTING COORDINATOR – Chuck Martin

PAO – Mike Varone

BASE HISTORIAN: Woody Woodworth read an article on the USS ARGONAUT. The article along with a photo of the USS ARGONAUT are appended after these minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

The December 2019 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. No comments or corrections were noted, and they were accepted as distributed.

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

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 9,294.02
• Receipts:	\$ 275.38
- Dues-Annual, Base	
- Dues-Annual, National	
- Donations-Base	
- Interest/Dividends	
- Revenue-Meetings	
- Revenue-Raffles	
• Expenditures:	\$ 100.00
- Dues to National	
• Ending balance:	\$ 9,469.40
- Minus remaining Walmart Grant rest. Use funds	(\$1,169.40)
• Grand Total (discretionary)	\$ 8,300.00
• NOVA USSVICF K4K Total:	\$ 2,054.10

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** held an electronic meeting on January 2, 2020. The meeting agenda included:

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 83 members comprised of:

- 43 Holland Club members,
 - 4 WW II Members
- 31 Regular members
- 9 Associate members

The **Vice Commander**, Brian Haller, had nothing to report (NTR).

The **COB**, Mike Varone, had NTR.

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, discussed email received regarding the USS Clamagore status. Additional information is provided under new business.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, reported that Ray Stone's interment at Arlington National Cemetery would be Wednesday, February 12, 2020 starting 3:00 PM at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel followed by a reception at the O-club.

The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, discussed that while K4K visits had been suspended during the flu season, Walter Reed Bethesda had agreed to a visit. That visit is currently scheduled for February 20, 2020. The K4K Chairman also stated that he was waiting for the 2020 Walmart Community Grant application to be released and estimated submission of applications in February.

The CDR reported as **SCOUTING COORDINATOR** that there were no currently scheduled Eagle Scout Court of Honors.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported that he has exhausted his supply of 2020 USSVI calendars, but stated he had plenty of USSVI NOVA Challenge Coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase. Contact Howard by land line, email, snail mail, fax, Gertrude, or WQC using Dolphin Code if interested.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported that the USSVI Northern Virginia Base website had been temporarily offline due to the loss of web hosting services. He has obtained new web housing service and the website was operational. The Base CDR, commended Howard for his work in getting the Base's website up and running. **BZ**, Howard!

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

- Unmanned Systems Seminar is (was) 14 January from 0900 - 1200 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel (2800 South Potomac Ave Arlington, VA 22202).
 - The event to discuss opportunities and challenges in unmanned systems integration.
 - Cost \$20 per guest.
- January N97 Social – 31 Jan 2020
 - Where: January N97 Social! It will be hosted in the N97 Front Office, Pentagon Room 5C459
 - When: Friday, January 31, 2020
 - Time: From 1400-1600
 - N97 Wardroom fund providing drinks & snacks
 - If you are coming to the Pentagon and will require an escort contact LT Quent Dickmann at john.q.dickmann@navy.mil to coordinate with you to place a visit request and escort you to the social.
 - Contact LT Dickmann separately if you require parking.
- 2020 Submarine History Seminar - 23 April 2020
 - In conjunction with Smithsonian Associates
 - Nuclear Deterrence, or How a U.S. Submarine in the Mediterranean Helped Resolve the Cuban Missile Crisis!

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

- USS VON STEUBEN (SSBN 632) – March 9-13, 2020; Pigeon Forge, TN. Additional information can be found at the ship's website at : <http://ssbn632reunion.org/index.html>

OLD BUSINESS

- The Base CDR has been trained in uploading photos into the USSVI profile. If you have a photo that you wish to have placed on your USSVI profile, contact the CDR.
- The newest book by Charles Hood and Frank Hood is “Sub Tales: Stories that Seldom Surface”.
 - This new book is available on both Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites as an e-Book for \$9.99.
 - A soft cover is available for about \$25.
 - Profits from the book are supporting the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) Scholarship fund.

The CDR reminded all that proceeds from the sale of the book "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots" by Frank Hood, Vice CDR of USSVI Marblehead Base, will go to the USSVI Scholarship Fund.

The CDR called for other items of old business, hearing none;

NEW BUSINESS

- USS Clamagore (SS-343) Status
 - Supreme Court has denied accepting USS Clamagore (SS-343) Restoration and Maintenance Association, Inc. (CRAMA) case.
 - Patriots Point’s motion to dismiss and CRAMA Motion for a Preliminary Injunction will be heard before Judge Price at 10:30 AM January 30th.
- 2020 USSVI National Election
 - Nominations for the 2020 USSVI National Officers are being accepted for the following National Officer Positions:
 - National Commander
 - National Senior Vice Commander
 - National Junior Vice Commander
 - National Treasurer
 - National Secretary
 - Regional Director
 - Nominations must be accompanied with a letter from the Nominee indicating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve if elected
 - Nominations must be received by the Nominations Committee Chairman on or before March 1st, 2020
 - The 2020 Nominations Committee Chairman is IPNC John E. Markiewicz, e-mail is jemjax2@att.net.
- Howard Chatham passed along greetings from Alan and Debbie Brodie who were previous members of the Base before moving to the west coast.

The Binnacle List

The Chaplain 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, Joe Castell, the new Base Secretary, read the list of birthdays for January: Dan Arquette, George Billy, Hank Chiles, Sam Dunlap, Nader Elquindi, Delbert Ennis, Bob and Susan Glover, Gary Grimes, Bruce Miller, Mike Murphy, Einer Nielson, and Judy Perrault.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Howard Chatham, who kept the money as just compensation for all the time he spent getting the website Back In Commission (BIC).

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 8th at American Legion Post 364 with a Sweethearts luncheon at Armetta's Italian Restaurant (4585 Daisy Reid Ave, Woodbridge, VA 22191) following the meeting.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn and take a short 5-minute break before introducing the guest speaker, CAPT Gerald "Jerry" Miranda. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1138.



After a short break, the Base CDR introduced CAPT Gerald N. Miranda, USN, Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs on the Navy Staff. CAPT Miranda is a third generation Navy Sailor, who graduated cum laude from the University of California, San Diego in May 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Mathematics. He received his commission in 1990 at the Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1997, he earned a Master of Science degree (with distinction) in Mathematics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and in 2008, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree (with distinction) from Webster University. He is also a 2002 graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In

2009, he was awarded a Certificate of Legislative Studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

Captain Miranda served in 5 submarines: USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707) as a division officer; USS FLORIDA (SSBN 728) (BLUE) as Navigator and Operations Officer; USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) as Executive Officer; and USS ASHEVILLE (SSN 758) and USS OHIO GOLD (SSGN 726) as Commanding Officer. On OHIO, his crew was the recipient of the 2017 Commander, Submarine Squadron 19 Battle Efficiency "E" Award and the COMPACFLT Retention Excellence Award.

For shore assignments, he served as a Branch Chief in Special Plans at Joint Special Operations Command in Fort Bragg, NC (2002-2004). While assigned there, he served on a Joint Special Operations Task Force battle staff in Iraq and worked as a liaison to the Iraqi Survey Group

searching for weapons of mass destruction (2003). Following his XO tour, he was assigned to the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs as Deputy Director, Navy Liaison for the U.S. House of Representatives (2006-2009). Following Commander command, he served as Deputy Commander for Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 (2012) and as Senior Military Assistant to the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (2012-2013). He also served as the Executive Assistant for Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97) (2013-2015).

Following at-sea Major Command in 2018, he served on the OPNAV Staff, Assessment Division N81 as the Associate Director for Integration. In January 2019, he reported aboard the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs and serves as the Deputy Chief.

Captain Miranda is entitled to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon along with other personal and unit awards. He served on multiple crews that earned the Battle Efficiency "E" and other team awards. He is also the Pacific Fleet's 2011 recipient of the VADM James Bond Stockdale Award for inspirational leadership.

CAPT Miranda provided a great presentation on the specifics of the SSGN program and operations. He provided his personal perspective on his last deployment as Commanding Officer, USS OHIO GOLD (SSGN 726), to include Special Forces operations, use of SSGNs vice surface ships or SSNs for certain operations in the Western Pacific, China build-up of artificial islands in the South China Sea, and women in submarines.

A Q&A period followed with Base members asking various questions on a wide variety of SSGN topics.



The Base CDR thanked CAPT Miranda for his insights on SSGN and deployments and presented him with a USSVI NOVA Base challenge coin. CAPT Miranda also presented the Base CDR with a USS Ohio SSGN 726 Commanding Officer challenge coin.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Joe Castell
Secretary
USSVI Northern Virginia Base

Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, provides a lively submarine history of the USS ARGONAUT.

SUBMARINE HISTORY

**U.S.S V-4 (SF-7); U.S.S. ARGONAUT (SM-1);
U.S.S. ARGONAUT (APS-1); U.S.S.
ARGONAUT (SS-166)** *(Never officially
designated as SS-166)*



The first of the two WW II submarines named ARGONAUT was built and commissioned on 2 April 1928 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with the name V-4 and with a designator of (Fleet Submarine) SF-7.

V-4 is the largest U.S Navy non-nuclear-powered submarine built. V-4 had: a displacement of 2710 long tons surfaced and 4161 long tons submerged; a length of 381'; a beam of 33' 10''; a draft of 15' 4''; a surface speed of 15 knots; two 6'' guns; four 21'' torpedo tubes forward; and two 40'' mine laying tubes aft.

V-4 was renamed ARGONAUT on 19 February 1931 and reclassified (Submarine Minelayer) SM-1.

ARGONAUT was at sea, patrolling off Midway Island during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Upon return to Pearl Harbor from this first war patrol, ARGONAUT was ordered to Mare Island for conversion to a transport submarine. During this shipyard period: ARGONAUT's engines were replaced; the forward and after batteries were replaced; the two 40'' minelaying tubes were removed; two external aft mounted 21'' torpedo tubes were installed; and multiple updates to the onboard electronics and a TDC were installed.

ARGONAUT returned to Pearl and on 8 August 1942 got underway on her second war patrol in company with U.S.S NAUTILUS (SS-168). Their orders were to transport marines of the USMC 2nd Raider Battalion that were task to conduct a raid on a Japanese held island in the Gilbert Islands to cause Japan to divert troops away from reinforcing Guadalcanal. The raid started on 17 August when the marines landed and was successfully completed on 18 August 1942 when ARGONAUT and NAUTILUS re-embarked the marines. ARGONAUT completed her successful second war patrol on 26 August 1942 upon docking at Sub Base Pearl.

On 22 September 1942 her designation was changed to (Submarine Transport) APS-1 in keeping with her new duties.

The following is a copy of the Remarks section of ARGONAUT's second patrol report. This report can be found at the following link (https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-166_argonaut)

"17. REMARKS.

At the start of the cruise the ARGONAUT had on board 114 men and 7 officers of the Marine Raiders and 91 men and 8 officers of the Ship's company. This made a total of 220 persons, which is believed to be a record for people embarked on a submarine on an offensive mission.

Prior to departure it was decided to have only two meals a day with soup and crackers at mid-day. This plan worked out very satisfactorily. It required from three to three and a half hours to mess all hands for each meal. This meant that when the first mess sat down the food for the latter messes was just being prepared. The galley was in use twenty-four hours a day, necessary baking being done at night. As a consequence the mess-hall was extremely hot and uncomfortable. Two of the heat prostration cases occurred among the galley force.

If future operations of this type are considered, serious consideration should be given to the installation of additional galley facilities and wash-room facilities. This ship has only one washroom for the use of the crew. An additional washroom could easily be installed in the forward end of the mine stowage room.

The wardroom had to be utilized as an operation room. The surgeon performed two operations under general anesthetic, one on a head wound and one on an abdominal wound."

The website link "<https://www.pigboats.com/subs/v-boats2.html>" provides a detailed history of the V-4, ARGONAUT (SM-1), ARGONAUT (APS-1); and ARGONAUT (SS-166) with a lot of pictures that include the following picture and text of ARGONAUT tying up at Pearl Harbor sub base pier on returning from the second patrol with marines standing topside.



HEROES RETURN --Marine raiders line the deck of the U.S. Submarine from which they conducted their surprise raid on Makin Island as the ship pulls into Pearl Harbor. Submarine officers who took part in the successful attack look down from the conning tower as they come into the harbor to receive the "well done" accolade from their Commander-in-chief in the Pacific, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN.

USMC 2nd Raider Battalion, is shown standing on the deck of the USS Argonaut SS 166 returning from their mission to the Gilbert Islands. On August 17-18, 1942, a force of 221 Marines from the 2nd Raider Battalion, named "Carlson's Raiders" for its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, landed from two submarines on Butaritari Island, Makin Atoll. The raid inflicted heavy damage and forced the Japanese to divert troops from reinforcing Guadalcanal.

Argonaut was sunk with all hands on January 10, 1943. An Army aircraft witnessed her final battle with 3 destroyers guarding a convoy Argonaut was attacking. Saw her bow break water after a severe depth charge attack and receive unrelenting gun fire until she sank with all 105 men and officers.

Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.