

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1104 on May 9, 2020, and welcomed all members and guests. Due to social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Cisco Webex web conferencing application. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Les Altschuler (USSVI Northeast Regional Director), Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, John “Bud” Cunnally, Tony Cunningham, Tom Denton (USSVI Tri-State Base CDR), Michael “Mickey” Garverick, Dominick Grimaldi, Arthur “Art” Glover (USSVI Northeast District 4 CDR), Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Michael Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (21 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 VCDR, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in May. These were:

USS SQUALUS (SS-192)	May 23, 1939
USS LAGARTO (SS-371)	May 3, 1945
USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)	May 30, 1958
USS SCORPION (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968

The CDR then tolled the ship’s bell twice for the 26 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CAPT Ralph John Goulds, USN, Ret.—4/1/20; CAPT James R. Wilson, USN, Ret.—4/2/20; DS Jerald Dan “Jerry” Benzal, USN, Ret.—4/8/20; RADM Dennis Michael “Denny” Dwyer, USN, Ret.—4/14/20.

MEETING MINUTES

The April 2020 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. One amendment was provided by Howard Chatham to correct the spelling of the surname for Robert and Megan from MAXWELL to MAYDWELL. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussion for the April minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted as amended.

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

- Beginning Cash on Hand: \$ 9,464.21
- Receipts:
 - Dues-Annual, Base \$ 138.78
 - Dues-Annual, National
 - Dues-Life, Base
 - Interest/Dividends
 - Revenue-Raffles
- Expenditures: \$ 98.00
 - Base Operating Expenses
- Ending Sub-Total: \$ 9,504.99
 - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds (\$1,169.40)
- Grand Total (discretionary) \$ 8,335.59

- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 2,804.10
 - To date, we have received \$750.00 in 2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on April 29, 2020, via Cisco Webex. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2020 Holland Club
- 2020 Base Budget
- K4K Program
- Other Base events/calendar

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 83 members comprised of:

- 45 Holland Club members,
 - 4 WW II members
- 30 Regular members
- 8 Associate members
- New Base Member
 - LCDR Anthony "Tony" R. Cunningham, USN, (Ret). Qualified in 1972 on board the USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642). His wife is Phyllis.

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

The **COB**, Mike Varone, had nothing to report.

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, reiterated that he'd received feedback from Governor Northam's office regarding the name a highway request package, and needed to contact the County Board of Supervisors to petition for a USSVI NOVA Base highway naming resolution. Mike recommended reading George Wallace's books, *Operation Golden Dawn* and *Dangerous Grounds*.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, the CDR announced that all K4K visits had been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, had nothing to report. The CDR stated that Base members should contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if they desired to purchase USSVI and NOVA Base merchandise.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, had nothing to report. The CDR inquired whether the Old Goat site was operational, and Howard provided that it was still down when he checked a few days ago.

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

- Cancelled, postponed, or modified Naval Submarine League (NSL) and related events:
 - 2020 Submarine History Seminar, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Associates – **Postponed** until 17 Nov 2020
- 2020 NROTC Award – Contact NSL or the School for latest information.
- 12 June NSL meeting is TBD due to concerns with COVID-19 and may be rescheduled to July.
- NSL Submarine Technology Symposium has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The presentations will be provided via secure internet and a DVD is available for purchase. Contact the NSL for additional details.
- NSL Annual Symposium and Industry Update—18-19 Nov 2020, Hyatt Regency Crystal City.
- NSL Capitol Chapter holding elections for President and Treasurer.
- NSL is piloting a mentoring program. Contact Tim Oliver for more information.
- NSL is encouraging its members to join USSVI for mutual support for all submarine related activities.

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

- USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) – May 7-10, 2020; San Antonio, TX
- USS BLACKFIN (SS 322) – May 11, 2020; San Diego, CA
- USS DARTER (SS 576) – May 14-18, 2020; North Little Rock, AR
- USS FLASHER (SSN 613) – June 10-14, 2020; Myrtle Beach, SC

- USS BALTIMORE (SSN 704) – June 12-14; Pittsburg, PA
 - USS WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN 680) – June 22-25, 2020; Silverdale, WA
- Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the current status of the reunion.**

OLD BUSINESS

- The Base's wall pictures damaged in the American Legion Post 162 fire have been restored.
- Check out the latest edition of the *American Submariner* for USSVI National Officer Candidate information and proposed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws for this year's USSVI National election. **The USSVI National Election Online Voting begins on 18 June 2020.**

The CDR called for other items of old business:

- The COB provided that in the latest *American Submariner* there was a picture of a USSVI Base Highway naming ceremony that he intended to provide to the Prince William County Board of County Supervisors as part of the naming campaign.
- Bud Cunnally thanked the Swedes for being able to shift this year's International Submariners Association (ISA) convention to 2021 and provided that the 2022 ISA convention would be in Greece, and 2023 in Montenegro.

NEW BUSINESS

- The USSVI Board of Directors will make a final decision on May 15, 2020 whether to hold, reschedule, or cancel the 2020 National Convention.
- The 2021 National convention will be in Orlando at Rosen Shingle Creek resort.
- The 2022 & 2023 National convention locations are TBD
- Bill Clement provided his experience earlier this year with using Space "A" (a great way to travel) and indicated that members might consider using USA lodging as USAF Inns had doubled their rates to account for having to pay their own utility bills. {post mtg note: Bill provided the following phone numbers for Space-A: Andrews 301-981-3604; Dover 302-677-4088; McGuire 609-754-5023. Some Space-A travel may be suspended at present, contact the terminal for additional information.}
- Bill Clement also provided that the DoD Fairfax Pharmacy is open, and service is ok.
- George Wallace provided information that Mission BBQ is providing free sandwiches to veterans and Active duty military the week of May 11th.

The CDR called for other items of new business and none were provided.

The Binnacle List

The COB asked that we keep the following in our thoughts and prayers: Steve Bishop, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent. The CDR asked if there were any others, and Mary Lou Naughton asked for Mike Naughton to be added.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for May: Joe Castell, Bill Clement, Mike Harmody, Robert Miller, Joanne Pasquinelli, Mark Riethmeier, Noland Smith, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Ron Williams, and the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

The CDR called for any others and Brian Haller stated that Cynthia Lindstedt needs to be added.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on June 13th with venue TBD (American Legion Post 364 or Cisco Webex). The CDR provided that plans are to continue using Cisco's Webex with our in-person meeting to allow all members to opportunity to attend meetings.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn and take a short 5-minute break before introducing the guest speaker, Senior Chief Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) (SS) Dominick A. Grimaldi. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1134.

SENIOR CHIEF MACHINIST MATE (NUCLEAR) (SS) DOMINICK A. GRIMALDI

He enlisted on September 21st, 1998, and reported to boot camp at Great Lakes, aka Great Mistakes, IL

He reported to and completed Nuclear Field MM 'A' School and Nuclear Power School in Charleston SC and prototype at the MARF prototype, in Ballston Spa, NY.

He reported to USS SEAWOLF SSN-21 in September of 2000 and qualified SS on 20 Apr 2001. While onboard he qualified as Engineering Watch Supervisor and Engineering Duty Petty Officer.

He reported back to MARF serving as a Staff Instructor from April 2005 to July 2008. While there, he served as the M Division Leading Petty Officer for Section 3 from July of 2006 until his transfer.

He reported to USS CONNECTICUT in August of 2008. While on CONNECTICUT, he served as M Division LPO, Assistant QAO, and Engineering Department Training Assistant. He was selected and advanced to Chief Petty Officer on September 15th, 2010.

He reported to USS OHIO (Blue) SSGN 726 in December of 2010 and relieved as M Division Leading CPO. While on OHIO he again served as Assistant QAO and qualified to serve as Engineering Department Master Chief.

He reported to HISTORIC SHIP NAUTILUS SSN 571 in December of 2013 and relieved as the Command Master Chief.

In November of 2015 he curtailed shore duty early to support an unplanned loss and served as Engineering Department Master Chief on USS PROVIDENCE SSN 719. In March of 2019 he was screened and selected to serve at Naval Reactors Headquarters (NRHQ).

In June of 2019, he reported to NRHQ and assigned to Section 08T, Nuclear and Major Propulsion Plant Components. He is the cognizant engineer responsible for all nuclear-powered ship and submarine main engine and reduction gear sets, as well as the mechanical side of submarine turbine generator sets. He also serves as one of 5 senior enlisted advisors serving not only as an advisor to his section, but all sections of NRHQs providing fleet perspective to NRHQ Engineers.

As Senior Chief Grimaldi was dialed-in, he provided a discussion on the following topics:

- History on senior enlisted personnel at Naval Reactors Headquarters.
- OHIO and VA Class replacement submarines.
- Future of Historic Ship NAUTILUS.
- COVID-19 and the effects on our nuclear-powered fleet.
- Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (NPTU) Ballston Spa and Charleston Moored Training Ship (MTS) operations.
- Where we are headed in the Nuclear pipeline.

Having senior enlisted personnel at Naval Reactors Headquarters was started by ADM Kirkland Donald and continues today to support junior nuclear engineers, both civilian and military, who have little to no experience with the operational fleet.

For the OHIO and VA-Class replacements, Senior Chief Grimaldi provided that the design for COLUMBIA (OHIO replacement) was complete and that Electric Boat has most of the work and would be assisted by Newport News Shipbuilding. The replacement for VA-class (SSN-X) has no design yet but anticipate completion in about 10-15 years.

Historic Ship NAUTILUS is scheduled for drydock in 2021 for hull preservation, etc., either at Electric Boat or Sub Base. The ship is in great shape and has a long time remaining to serve as a historic symbol of nuclear-powered submarine engineering.

- The Base CDR inquired about funding for NAUTILUS and Senior Chief Grimaldi stated that the ship is owned by the government (NAVSEA 08) and funding for the ship (maintenance, etc.) is provided by NAVSEA. The museum aspects are funded by the Navy History Museum and Submarine Force Library.

Senior Chief Grimaldi provided that we've all heard and read the events surrounding the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and the Coronavirus on board the ship. There is a pool of nuclear-trained individuals to support crew swap. For the submarine force, there are no issues. Ships are going on both local ops and deployments, conducting self-quarantine prior to and when they return from deployments, and maintaining themselves ready.

For NPTU Ballston Spa, the MARF unit decommissioned last year. NPTU is still testing new equipment, and there has been an Engine Room Team Trainer developed (not an actual plant) to support hands-on training without the need for a reactor. The USS LA JOLLA (SSN 701) has been converted to an MTS and moved to Charleston, SC to serve as a training platform. The USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN 635) will be replaced by the USS SAN FRANCISCO (SSN 711) in about 1 year and the USS DANIEL WEBSTER (SSBN 626) has another 1-2 years of training life.

- The VCDR inquired as to the location of Nuclear Power School. Senior Chief Grimaldi provided that Nuclear Field “A” School and Nuclear Power School are collocated in Charleston. Both officer and enlisted nuclear power school are taught in the same building on separate floors.
- Tim Oliver asked if there were any challenges to NPTU for extra instructors, reduced training, or operations. Senior Chief Grimaldi indicated there were no issues or delays at NPTU.
- Art Glover provided that he has a co-worker who helped design the Engine Room Team Trainer.

Senior Chief Grimaldi stated that the nuclear pipeline is in great shape for now and the future. The Engine Room Team Trainer is a great example of the future for training and maintaining proficiency for nuclear operators. At present, while practicing social distancing is difficult, all hands are wearing masks and doing what they can to avoid contact. There have been no issues associated with COVID-19 in our nuclear pipeline.

The CDR thanked Senior Chief Grimaldi for his discussions. The CDR thanked all for attending via Webex and stated that the connection would be continued for an additional 30 minutes to allow old friends to reconnect.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary