



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on April 10th, 2021, and welcomed all members and guests. Because of the social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Zoom 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, John “Bud” Cunnally, Michael “Mickey Garverick”, Robert Glover (USSVI Northeast District 4 Commander), Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Darlene Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Louis Maruzo, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (19 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 reading of the boats lost in April was dispensed with in light of the forthcoming Tolling of the Boats ceremony.

IN MEMORIAM: CDR Rupert Thomas Nicholas Best, RN, Ret—2/3/2021; ETCS(SS) William J. Sigmund, USN, Ret—2/28/2021; ET1(SS) John Henry Lehman, Jr., USN, Vet—3/5/2021 (last known survivor of WWII crew of USS BARB); CAPT Arthur Harold Gilmore, USN, Ret—3/6/2021; CDR Robert F. Parico, USN, Ret—3/9/2021; TM1(SS) Harold William “Butterbean” Dixon, Jr., USN, Ret—3/19/2021; CAPT Mark Haskin, USN, Ret—3/28/2021.

MEETING MINUTES

The March 2021 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussions for the March minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.

The **Treasurer**, Steve Jaeger, presented the Treasurer’s monthly report:

- Beginning Cash on Hand: \$ 10,334.44
- Receipts: \$ 90.08
 - Dues—Life, Base
 - Donations—Base
 - Money from National
- Expenditures: \$ 224.50



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- Base Operating Expenses (USSVI Calendars)
- Ending Sub-Total: \$ 10,200.02
 - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds (\$1,169.40)
- Grand Total (discretionary) \$ 9,030.62
- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 3,054.10
 - We received \$1000.00 in 2020

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, provided the following:

- ET2(SS) George F. Steeg, USN, Vet. Departed on Eternal Patrol on February 12th, 2020. George was a WWII veteran. His interment was conducted on December 14th, 2020 at Arlington National Cemetery.

The CDR, Chuck Martin, provided the following on ET2(SS) George F. Steeg, USN, Vet. who departed on Eternal Patrol on February 12th, 2020:

- Navy Biography
 - George enlisted in 1946. George went to NTC Great Lakes for Recruit Training with follow-on training at Class A Electronics School and Radio Materiel School.
 - He attended Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) at Submarine Base New London.
 - While at BESS, George was a member of the COMSUBLANT Boxing Team.
 - He served onboard USS COBBLER (SS 344) and USS CONGER (SS 477) between 1948 and 1949. George qualified and received his Silver Dolphins onboard the USS COBBLER in 1948.
 - He was subsequently transferred to Naval Base Philadelphia until the end of his enlistment.
- USSVI Biography
 - Joined USSVI and USSVI Northern Virginia Base on 14 August 2000
 - Member of the USSVI NOVA Base
 - A Holland Club member since joining USSVI in 2000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on March 31st, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2021 Holland Club
- K4K Program
- Project Mend-A-House Fundraiser
- USSVI NOVA Base Bylaws Rev 4
- Other Base events/calendar



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As **VCDR**, Brian Haller, had nothing to report.

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT presented by Steve Jaeger: 80 members comprising:

- 42 Holland Club members,
 - 3 WW II members
- 30 Regular members
- 8 Associate members

On behalf of the **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, the CDR provided the following:

- K4K visits have been suspended until further notice.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Storekeeper stated that he had five (5) 2021 USSVI Calendars remaining in stock and they would be discounted \$5 due to the time remaining in the year.
- Storekeeper also has access to National USSVI SK, Submarine Ships Store, and SubmarineShop.com items for purchase.
- Contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you have an interest in purchasing any submarine-related merchandise.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported the following:

- No issues with the Base website.
- Base speakers and presentations are now on the Base website.
 - Go to the USSVI Northern Virginia Base website at www.ussvinova.org.
 - Scroll down the home page until you reach the Photo Album/Presentations section.
 - Click on the Presentations hyperlink listed in the second bullet.
 - A new page will open up with the list of available presentations and the hyperlink for viewing the presentation.
 - Select the presentation(s) you wish to view and click on the associated hyperlink.

The **USSVI NE Region Director**, Les Altschuler, provided the following:

- Northeast Region Biennial election for District Commanders
 - Nominations for the position of Northeast Region District Commanders commenced on March 1st, 2021, and goes through April 15th, 2021.
 - Nominations received to date are: 1 for Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5; and 2 for District 4.



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- Nominations are to be sent to Les Altschuler at DirectorNERegion@outlook.com (preferred) or mailed to Les Altschuler, ENRD, at 228 N Pondview Blvd, Monroe, Twp., NJ 08831-5541
- o The election for NE District Commanders will be held from May 15th, 2021 through June 30th, 2021.
- o As of April 10, the NE4 District Commander nominees are Arthur “Art” Glover (incumbent) and Charles “Chuck” Martin.
- o Results will be announced at the National Convention.
- o Voting is based on your Primary Base membership.
- 2021 USSVI National Award Program:
 - o National Award Nominations opened as of 1 February.
 - o Individual and Base award submissions end 30 April 2021.
 - o Newsletter of the Year award submission end date is 15 May 2021.
 - o See the 2021 USSVI Awards Manual for guidelines for nomination submissions.
 - o Harold W. (Bill) Scott, II, STSC(SS) USN, Ret., is the USSVI National Awards Chair.
- At 1230 today (10 April), the USSVI THRESHER Base will hold its 58th USS THRESHER Memorial Service via Zoom.

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

- The NSL Headquarters is quiet due to COVID-19.
- NSL Headquarters is looking at hiring a few new staff members.
- NSL Capitol Chapter:
 - o The next Capitol Chapter meeting is TBD but the speaker may be Rear Admiral Lorin Selby.
 - o If you have missed meetings, you can still see and hear the guest speaker’s presentations by visiting https://capitol.navalsubleague.org/?page_id=30
 - October 2020 Meeting, Jonti Powis presentation
 - December 2020 Meeting, Don Keith presentation
- NSL Brick Campaign:
 - o You can contribute to the Capital Campaign by purchasing a brick for the patio at the NSL headquarters. This is an opportunity to display your name, your boat’s name, the NSL logo, or a message up to 3 lines of 18 characters each. At \$140 each, an NSL brick would make a great gift! And it is a donation, so tax-deductible to the extent you can deduct charitable contributions.
 - o To buy a brick, go to the NSL website...SUPPORT US...NSL SHOPPING...and place your order, or click on the link:
https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php
- Corporate Member Days:
 - o Scheduled for 20 April 2021.
 - o Virtual event is available to corporate member employees.



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- For registration information contact your Corporate Representative to the NSL or contact corpmem@navalsubleague.org.
- 2021 Technology Symposium “Balancing Capability and Force Structure for High-End Combat”:
 - Scheduled for in-person 20-22 July 2021.
 - If in-person is not possible, an online conference format will be offered, and classified presentations will be recorded and included in the distribution of the Symposium proceedings.
- Navy League Sea-Air-Space Expo still on track:
 - Scheduled for August 1-4, 2021.
 - STEM Expo will be held on August 1st, 2021.
 - Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.
- 2021 Annual Symposium and Industry Update:
 - Scheduled for 17-18 November 2012.
 - Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Alexandria, VA.
 - Registration information will be posted in September on the NSL website.

The **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)**

President, John “Bud” Cunnally, provided the following:

- No elections to be held this year. May 2022 will be the next election with nominations due in January 2022.
- Upcoming International Submarines Congress:
 - 2022—Sweden (500th anniversary of the Swedish Navy). Tentative dates are 22-26 May 2022 and there will also be a Baltic cruise offered to coincide with the Congress.
 - The website for the Congress www.57isc.com.
 - 2023—Greece.
 - 2024—Montenegro.
 - USA has made a bid for hosting a future convention (2025/2026) to honor JP Holland in the Republic of Ireland with visits to his home in Clare.
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website www.isausa.org/.
 - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00.
 - Application is on the ISA/USA website.
 - There are 33 countries as members of ISA.

Upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS TINOSA (SSN 606)—April 14-18, 2021; Charleston, SC
- USS BLUEFISH (SS 222/SSN 675)—April 22-25, 2021; Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS JALLAO (SS 368)—April 22-25, 2021; Philadelphia, PA
- USS WAHOO (SS 565)—April 29-May 1, 2021; Pensacola, FL
- USS SCAMP (SSN 588)—May 17-21; Rapid City, SD

Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the status of reunions.



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OLD BUSINESS

- 2021 USSVI National Convention:
 - The convention will be at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, Florida 32819.
 - The convention dates are August 30-September 4, 2021.
 - The room fee is \$105.00 per night + tax. No Resort Fee will be charged, and the rates are good for stays from 27 August to 7 September. The cut-off date for Room Block is August 1st, 2021. Reservations made after this date may be made at the Convention rate based on room availability.
 - To date, 76% of rooms are booked.
 - Reminder to submit your USSVI National Convention Reservation form.
 - Guests receive the following:
 - 25% off Green Fees, use of Spa, and most restaurants (excluding Headwaters, 18 Monroe Street retail items, ParTake, and Smooth Java. Discount does not apply to room service or alcoholic beverages).
 - Free WIFI in room and common areas.
 - Free self-parking (show name tag when leaving parking lot).
 - Free Handicap parking in the valet parking lot with handicap placard/tag (call hotel for a ride to the front desk).
 - \$2.00 draft beer in the hospitality room.
- The 2021-2022 USSVI Academic Scholarships:
 - Applications are being accepted for the August 2021-2022 academic scholarship cycle.
 - The deadline is May 15th, 2021.
 - Eligible applicants include children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of a USSVI Member in good standing.
 - Apply at <http://subforcescholarships.smapply.io>
 - As a bonus, you can also apply for the Dolphin Scholarship Program on the same website.
 - 52 scholarships were awarded last year and ranged from \$100 to \$1500.
- The *American Submariner* 2021 Second Quarter edition is now available online.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- The Base fundraiser for Project-Mend-A-House is completed. The Treasurer will send the funds received along with the matching funds of \$100 to the organization. Thanks to all that donated to this worthwhile cause. Our support will help a Veteran and their family.
 - The fundraiser raised \$1000.
- USSVI Northern Virginia Base Bylaws Rev 4.0. The EXCOM has been working diligently on the new revision to our Base Bylaws.
 - The Bylaws have not been revised since December 2014.



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- Some of the changes incorporated include:
 - Update to the USSVI Creed/Purpose.
 - Add a section on the Base emblem.
 - Update to the section on Base membership.
 - Changed wording throughout to make the Bylaws gender-neutral.
 - Changes to Base current operating practices.
 - Incorporated responsibilities for Election Master.
 - Clarified when the Bylaws are approved.
 - Minor grammatical corrections.
- A copy of the draft Bylaws will be emailed or mailed to each Base member before the next meeting for review and comments.
- During May's Base meeting, we will hold a vote to accept the Bylaws so the Bylaws can then be sent to the NE4 District Commander for approval.
- For the latest COVID-19 information in the Northern Virginia area visit one of the below websites:
 - State of Virginia – <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov>
 - Dept of Veterans Affairs – <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine>
 - Arlington County – <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/>
 - City of Alexandria – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
 - Fairfax County – <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
 - Prince William County – <https://coronavirus.pwcgov.org>

The CDR called for any other items of new business.

- Tim Oliver asked when the Base would be holding its Holland Club luncheon.
 - The CDR confirmed that the Base would hold its Holland Club luncheon in October 2021, pending any continuing COVID-19 restrictions. The luncheon would recognize 2020 and 2021 Holland Club inductees.

The Binnacle List

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, and Tony Poblete.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for April: Edward Ettner, Robert Frick, Rufino "Ric" Guntang, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Patrick Peterson, Willie Petruy, and the U.S. Submarine Force.

- Post birthday announcements, Tim Oliver stated he thought this was Edward Ettner's 100th birthday. The CDR confirmed after the meeting that Ed will be celebrating his 100th birthday this year.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on May 8th via Zoom.

The CDR called for a short 5-minute intermission before the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony to allow members to charge their glasses.



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TOLLING OF THE BOATS



NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE



Tolling of the Boats:

“The “Tolling the Boats” ceremony was originally established by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. It honors the memory of those submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty since the establishment of the U.S. Submarine Force in 1900. At the heart of the ceremony, the names of each of the U.S. Submarines lost, along with the fate of its crew, are read aloud as a bell is tolled for each in turn.”

The ceremony was conducted by the COB, Mike Varone, with a slideshow representing each boat. The ship’s bell was then rung for the 32 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a toast was offered by the Base Commander to honor the past, present, and future U.S. Submarine Service.

The Chaplain delivered the benediction.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded and so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 1216.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary