

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, February 12, 2022

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1105 on February 12, 2022, at the American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. New member Jim Beavers, potential new member Vic Smith (online ZOOM and recently retired from active duty), and guest Nancy O'Brien introduced themselves, as did the incoming base officers.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Beavers, Nancy O'Brien, Deborah Bishop, Steve Bishop, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Robert Glover, Dominic Grimaldi, Pat Haller, Brian Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Tim Oliver, Vic Smith, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (23 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

For the Chaplain, the Base Commander, delivered the Invocation.

The Vice Commander, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in the month of February. These were:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| USS SHARK I (SS-174) | February 11, 1942 |
| USS AMBERJACK (SS-219) | February 16, 1943 |
| USS GRAYBACK (SS-208) | February 26, 1944 |
| USS TROUT (SS-202) | February 29, 1944 |
| USS BARBEL (SS-316) | February 4, 1945 |

The ship's bell was tolled twice in remembrance of the 33 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol. **THE FOLLOWING NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN FEBRUARY: George Frederick Steeg, Holland Club, and Lifetime SUBVET Member, Qualified on USS Cobbler (SS-347), 1948; Departed on Eternal Patrol on February 12th, 2020**

IN MEMORIAM: CAPT Kent MacNeill, USN, Ret. - 11/25/21; CAPT John T. Regan, USN, Ret. - 12/18/21; MCPO Kenneth Lynn Small, USN, Ret. - 1/3/22; CWO Robert M. Rishel, USN, Ret. - 1/7/22; CDR Edward Rudolph Ettner, Sr., USN Ret. - 1/26/22. Ed was a NOVA Base member and spent a total of 59 years in direct support to the US Navy's submarine force – 29 years on active duty, then 30 years of classified civilian duty.

The HISTORIAN, Woody Woodworth, read an article on Submarine History which was researched by Chuck Martin:

LOST 52 PROJECT

<http://www.lost52project.org/>

Dedicated to preserving and telling the story of WWII Submarines and Submariners. Our Quest is to provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing WWII Navy Sailors for their families

and the nation. The Lost 52 Project is a long-term exploration and underwater archeological project that is documenting and preserving the story of the Lost 52 WWII Submarines, leaving a foundation of knowledge for future generations. Building on their current discoveries, ocean exploration, and underwater robotics expertise, their team is organizing, executing, and managing expeditions with the goal to discover and survey as many of the lost 52 US WWII submarines as possible.

Lost 52 Project was founded by Tim Taylor as a continuation of his first WWII submarine discovery of the USS R12. Together with Christine Dennison, they produced a 24-minute documentary "Expedition R-12 Americas Forgotten Submarine" chronicling the groundbreaking AUV expedition and history of the submarine. In addition to a focus on lost US WWII submarines, the team is developing a unique and proprietary scanning photogrammetry methodology that has them branching out and collaborating on numerous submerged cultural resource expeditions and post-processing projects around the world. The team is committed to the discovery and comprehensive 3D reality capture documentation of underwater historic sites.

Their mission objective is to provide the fullest possible documentation and accounting of these locations for our missing WWII Navy Sailors, their families, and the nation. Our mission goes beyond discovery and exploration and includes site surveys, developing a complete database on each submarine, enabling community outreach, and building education components that will stand the test of time. This includes collecting and preserving memorabilia, artifacts, scanned correspondence, official documentation, oral histories, films, and photos that are shared by family members. A total of 52 U.S. Submarines were lost in WWII with 374 officers and 3131 men of the Submarine Force who gave their lives. Currently, there have been seven of these "Lost 52" that have been found. Our team has discovered five of those submarines and we are engaging with several organizations who have also made discoveries.

U.S. Navy Submarines Discovered by Lost 52 Project

- USS Grayback (SS-208) - June 2019 Okinawa, Japan
- USS Grunion (SS-216) - August 2018 / 2006 Kiska, Alaska
- USS S-28 (SS-133) - September 2017 Honolulu, Hawaii
- USS S-26 (SS-131) - September 2014 Pacific Panama
- USS R-12 (SS-89) - October 2010 Key West, Florida

U.S. Navy Submarines Discovered by Other Organizations

- USS Robalo (SS-273) - Balabac Strait Philippines
- USS Flier (SS-250) - May 2009 Palawan Island
- USS Lagarto (SS-371) - May 2006 Gulf of Thailand
- USS Wahoo (SS-238) - July 2006 La Perouse Strait, Russia
- USS Perch (SS-176) - November 2006 Java Sea
- USS Stickleback (SS-415) - August 2019 Honolulu Hawaii
- USS Robalo (SS-273) - May 2019 Philippines
- USS Grenadier (SS-210) - October 2019 Strait of Malacca Phuket, Thailand
- USS S-35 (SS-140) - August 2019 Honolulu Hawaii

Lost 52 Project is endorsed by the USSVI, the National WWII Museum, USS Bowfish Submarine Museum & Park, and PigBoats.com.

For more information on the Lost 52 Project visit their website at www.lost52project.org Below are hyperlinks to two videos:

USS GRAYBACK (SS-208) Discovery – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubNxbwFb1c> [video running time 1:54]

USS GRAYBACK (SS-208) Discovery Memorial Service - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcTf_284hs [video running time 8:15]



*One of the first photos of the USS Grayback under 1,400 feet of water after it was discovered off the Okinawa coast on June 5, 2019. The sub was last heard from in February 1944.
Courtesy photo by Lost 52 Project*

INDUCTION OF THE 2022 BASE OFFICERS:

The Immediate Past Commander, Howard Chatham, swore in the Base CDR, Chuck Martin.

The Base CDR then swore into office the other elected base officers:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Vice Commander | Brian Haller |
| Treasurer | Howard Chatham |
| Secretary | Steve Bishop |

The Base CDR nominated the following members to fill appointed positions, subject to base approval:

CHIEF OF THE BOAT – Mike Varone
MEMBERSHIP – Howard Chatham
CHAPLAIN – Charles “Mickey” Garverick

SUBMARINE HISTORIAN – Woody Woodworth
STOREKEEPER – Mike Varone
WEBMASTER – Howard Chatham
K4K – Steve Bishop
SCOUTING COORDINATOR – Chuck Martin
PAO – Mike Varone

The Base approved all by voice vote.

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 2022 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion. The minutes were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Howard Chatham reported that the Treasurer turnover with Brian Haller is completed; and that the 2021 End of Year Financial Report was submitted and accepted by the National Treasurer.

The Base Treasurer Report for February 2022.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| • | Beginning Cash on Hand: | \$ 10,618.81 |
| • | Plus Receipts: | |
| | - NFCU Interest/Dividends | \$ 0.09 |
| | - Base Dues | \$ 75.00 |
| | - National Dues | \$ 200.00 |
| | - Donation to Base | \$ 105.00 |
| | - Donations to USSVCF | \$ 40.00 |
| | - Sale of Items | \$ 15.00 |
| • | Minus Expenditures: | |
| | - Dues to National | \$ 175.00 |
| | - Payments to National for BSP | \$ 60.00 |
| • | Ending Cash on Hand: | \$ 10,778.90 |
| | - Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds | (\$1,379.40) |
| • | Total Local Discretionary Funds | \$ 9,399.50 |
| • | USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance: | \$ 3,054.10 |
| • | Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF): | \$ 4,433.50 |

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was held February 2, 2022 via Zoom. The BOD discussed: committee reports, 2022 Base Officers, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VICE CDR: Nothing to report

COB: The CDR and I attended the USSVI Tri-State Base meeting on Saturday, February 5, 2022, in Inwood, WV.

PAO: Our Sweetheart luncheon is today following the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership information
 - 81 Members
 - 42 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 31 Regular Members
 - 20 – Life Members
 - 11 – Annual Members
 - 08 Associate Members
 - Newest Members – James “Jim” Beavers and William “Bill” Lawton

CHAPLAIN:

- CDR Edward R. Ettner, USN (Ret.) departed on eternal patrol on January 26, 2022. Ed was a valuable member of USSVI Northern Virginia. He joined USSVI in August of 2006 and was one of our Base’s WWII Veterans and Holland Club members.

K4K:

- K4K visits have been suspended until further notice. Our three served hospitals do not even allow their long-serving volunteers to enter the hospital. Only paid staff and close relatives can visit their patients. They have all received their USSVI 2022 calendars.

SCOUTING COORDINATOR: Nothing to Report

STOREKEEPER: Mike Varone reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, Silent Service dog tag/keychain, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Three 2022 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- The USSVI Smokey Mountain Base has extended an opportunity to purchase custom-made USSVI Tee-shirts. The shirt's cost starts at \$35 and increases depending on the size and options you desire. Information about the shirts, photos, and how to order the shirts can be found at the end of these minutes.
- Contact Mike Varone, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

WEBMASTER: The website has been updated to reflect the new officers and currently there are no issues with the Base website.

NE Regional/NE District 4 News – Chuck Martin spoke:

- National News
 - 2022 is an election year. Nominations for USSVI National Officers are required to be submitted by March 1st. See USSVI News Bulletin #2021-076 for more details.

- 2022 Proposed Amendments to our USSVI National Constitution & By-Laws must be received by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman (Parliamentarian) Skipton (Skip) Turnbull no later than midnight Tuesday, March 1, 2022.
- 2022 EOY Financial Reports are to be submitted to National Treasurer by March 1st.
- Region News
 - USSVI Tri-State Base – Hosting their 30th Base Anniversary on April 2nd in Frederick, MD, and holding their Tolling of the Boats ceremony on April 9th in Gettysburg, PA.
- District News
 - Capitol Base – Hosting a Sweetheart dinner on February 12th.
 - Northern Virginia Base – Hosting a Sweetheart luncheon on February 12th.

NSL – George Wallace reported that:

- NSL Headquarters address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone number is 703-256-0891
- NSL celebrates its Ruby Anniversary (40 years) in 2022.
- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
 - NSL Capitol Chapter
 - The NSL Capitol Chapter spring meeting will be held on May 13, 2022 at the ANCC, with COMNAVSEA as the Speaker.
 - NSL Brick Campaign is ongoing. To buy a brick, go to the NSL website select the “SUPPORT US” from the ribbon then from the dropdown menu select “NSL SHOPPING” and place your order, or click on this link https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php
 - 2022 Submarine Technology Symposium (STS)
 - Scheduled for 17-19 May 2022.
 - Location: Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723).
 - STS is a classified (SECRET/NOFORN) three-day conference.

Tim Oliver added via Zoom that:

1. 35 years of the NSL REVIEW is now available online and can be goggle searched for articles.
2. The June 2021 NSL REVIEW article on the Lost 52 project is available.
3. The Sea Air Space Convention will be April 4-6 this year
4. The 2022 edition of the Evolution of the Submarine poster is available for sale on line.

ISA/USA – Chuck Martin spoke for Bud Cunnally:

- International Submariners Congress
 - Date: May 22-26, 2022
 - Location: Karlskrona, Sweden
 - For more information visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>
- 11-Day Scandinavia & Russia Cruise after the Congress
 - Roundtrip from Copenhagen, Denmark on board the Enchanted Princess cruise ship
 - Thu, 26 May 2022 to 06 Jun 2022. Ship leaves at 1800
 - Interior cabins from \$1,959*
- 2022 ISA/USA Officers Election

- We have received some candidates for our ISA/USA Board for President, Vice President, and Secretary. Where are the rest of our Brothers and Sisters?
- The election will begin in April.
- To Join the International Submariners Association of the United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00.

American Legion Post 364 – Chuck Martin reported on the following events:

- Sunday, February 13—Chili Cookoff during the “Super” game (Bengals vs Rams)
- Tuesday, February 15 - Legion Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm
- Friday, February 18—Americanism Dinner & Ceremony
- Saturday, February 19—Celebration of Life for Mark Clark
- Thursday, March 10 – LifeLine Screening
 - Five screenings for \$149
 - Register phone at 866-229-0469 or 888-653-6434 or online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

Upcoming Submarine Reunions – VCDR Brian Haller reported:

- USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN/SSN-610) – March 8 -13, 2022; Charleston, SC
- USS Von Steuben (SSBN-632) – March 24 -27, 2022; Jacksonville, FL
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion**

OLD BUSINESS

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a VA Welcome Kit that can help guide you to the benefits and services you’ve earned. The VA Welcome Kit is available for downloading or viewing at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>
- Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, and other public lands
- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association provide free transportation to medical appointments and COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
 - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.
 - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at melissa@novavets.org
- 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/>

NEW BUSINESS

- The Base Bylaws Standing Rules for Membership Dues Structure: The following item was presented by the BOD for discussion and consideration for approval. The motion to approve this change was approved unanimously.

APPENDIX A – USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Base Annual Dues \$15.00 per year

Members joining in October – December will pay \$5.00 for the current year and \$15.00 for the dues for the following year.

Base Life Dues (Age Dependent)

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Age 65+ | \$55.00 |
| Age 56-65 | \$105.00 |
| Age 46-55 | \$155.00 |
| Under Age 46 | \$255.00 |

Please submit your National and Base membership dues as applicable to your situation to the USSVI Northern Virginia Base Treasurer.

Checks/Money Orders should be made payable to USSVI Northern Virginia Base.

For submission instructions or if you have any questions, please contact the USSVI Northern Virginia Base Treasurer by email at treasurer@ussvinova.org

The intent of this change was to take names and addresses out of the By Laws, so this wording works, no matter who is the elected treasurer.

- **Coverage of COVID-19 testing by Medicare** - Howard Chatham noted that:
 - Currently, Medicare does not cover over-the-counter COVID-19 test kits unless prescribed by health care personnel.
 - Recently that policy has been revised and in early spring 2022 people with Medicare will be able to go to a network of pharmacies and health care facilities to get up to 8 free, over-the-counter COVID-19 tests a month.
- Howard then said that there is a proposal in the Virginia House of Delegates **to delete Virginia taxes on military retired pay for 2022**. There might be means testing or a cap on this Virginia tax reduction. A similar bill is being introduced in the State Senate. Howard recommended everyone contact their state Delegate and Senator asking them to support the bills. Stay tuned...
- Woody and Chuck spoke on the “highly encouraged” push to get a new military ID card that is more like a CAC card. If you have an indefinite expiration date on your present ID card, you are probably OK for now.

BINNACLE LIST: read by the COB:

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Barbara Harmody, Ginger Haskell, Steve Jaeger,

Francis McNamara, Robert R. Miller, Tom Perrault, and Tony Poblete

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY ARE:

Donald Hall, Bill Lawton, Ross Sargent, and Gary Smith.

50/50 RAFFLE:

The winning ticket belonged to George Wallace, who donated his winnings back to the USSVI Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Fund. **THANK YOU, George!!**

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Our next Base meeting will be on March 12th at American Legion Post 364 (3640 Friendly Post Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192). Following the meeting our guest speaker, John Lindstedt, will be presenting "41 For Freedom"

The meeting will not be in the main hall, but rather, in the room to the right of the main entrance. This meeting room has its own outside entrance door at the right side of the building front.

2. For those who can attend, following this meeting, we will reconvene at Armetta's Italian Restaurant (4585 Daisy Reid Ave, Woodbridge, VA 22192) for our Sweetheart Luncheon.

BENEDICTION: The Base CDR gave the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 1202.

A wonderful Sweetheart Luncheon was then enjoyed by all 16 members and guests in attendance.



The luncheon fare was from the restaurant's menu, and was primarily Italian, as this is one of the Varone family's favorite restaurants. Thank you COB / Mike for setting up this venue for us on Sweethearts Luncheon Day, 2022.

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

USSVI TEE SHIRT OFFER

BASIC ITEM/COST

Short sleeve, S-XL: \$35

Long Sleeve: +\$5

2XL/3XL: +\$5

Holland Club Logo on right sleeve: +\$5

Customer responsible for the shipping/handling cost

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Shirts will be Navy Blue, 50/50 cotton/poly, short sleeve or long sleeve. Text will be gold.
Graphics will be printed as shown.



ORDER INFORMATION REQUIRED

1. Quantity of each size/style.
2. Quantity of shirts printed with right sleeve Holland Club logo. (Will generally be the same as total quantity of shirts for that member.)

3. Text above Dolphins. Typically name only or name and rate. (Maximum 24 characters, ALL CAPS.)
4. Dolphin color. (Silver or gold.) If an associate member has no warfare pin or a different warfare pin, please specify.
5. Text below Dolphins. Typically rate only or current/former Base office held. (Maximum 24 characters, ALL CAPS.)
6. Base name. Curved above USSVI Logo.
7. LIFE MEMBER or ASSOCIATE MEMBER status. Curved below USSVI Logo.
8. List of Boats/Commands. (Maximum 32 characters per line, ALL CAPS.) List hull name and hull number for each. Hull names can be abbreviated as needed to fit. Include Blue/Gold crew and plankowner status, if desired.

ORDER CONTACT

Terry McBride, EMC(SS)(RET)
Chief of the Boat
Smoky Mountain Base
terence.mcbride.71@gmail.com
931-248-2783