



## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE

### MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1107 on March 12, 2022, and welcomed all members and guests. Because of the social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, and the morning sleet and snow storm, the meeting was held using the Zoom web conferencing application as well as face to face in the Banquet Hall of the American Legion Post 364. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE** Steve Bishop, [Art Bivens](#), Joe Castell, [Howard Chatham](#), [John “Bud” Cunnally](#), [Tom Denton](#) (USSVI EN3 District CDR), [Mickey Garverick](#), Brian Haller, [Pat Haller](#), [William “Bill” Lawton](#), John Linstedt, [Cindy Linstedt](#), Chuck Martin, [Lou Maruzo](#), [Paul Nelson](#), [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.

Acting for the **Chaplain**, the **CDR**, delivered the Invocation.

The **VCDR** read the list of boats lost in March. These were:

USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS PERCH (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS TRITON (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS KETE (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN MARCH:**

- **Raymond R. Gillin**, Qualified onboard the USS Sea Poacher (SS-406), 1958. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on March 31st, 2005.
- **David R. Gallagher**, Qualified onboard the USS Gato (SS-212), 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on March 30th, 2002.

## **THE BELL WAS TOLLED TWICE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 34 USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL.**

**IN MEMORIAM:** CAPT Daniel Eubank McGlasson, USN, Ret. – 1/12/22; LCDR Stuart Grant Murray USN, Ret. - 1/17/2022; CAPT James A. Ross, USN, Ret. – 2/3/22; Edward Henry Kracker (WWII submarine veteran) – 2/6/22; CAPT Jared P. Kennedy, Jr., USN, Ret. - 2/17/22; RMCM(SS) Scott Wayland Howard, USN, Ret.- 2/28/22.

**SAILORS, REST YOUR OAR.**

## **THE PAST SECRETARY, JOE CASTELL, READ AN ARTICLE ON SUBMARINE HISTORY FOR US.**

**The article was on VADM Charles Momsen.**

### **SUBMARINE HISTORY**

Vice Admiral Charles Momsen

The following presentation are excerpts of articles available at the following links:

[Charles 'Swede' Momsen: Submarine Pioneer](#)

[Submarine Torpedoes - Fleet Submarine - History of WW2 Submarines](#)



In July 1943, the American submarine USS *Tinosa* was on patrol in Japanese waters when she came across an unescorted oil tanker. It was big at 20,000 tons. There were only a few that size in the Japanese fleet, and her sinking would be a huge blow to the enemy. The *Tinosa* maneuvered for position at right angles to the lumbering tanker and fired four torpedoes. At least two of them struck their target but none exploded. Alarmed, the tanker raised speed and fled. The *Tinosa* fired again from an angle behind. This time two torpedoes hit their target and exploded, leaving the tanker dead in the water. The *Tinosa* moved in for the kill. At 900 yards the skipper of the *Tinosa* fired eight more fish at the sitting duck. All failed to explode.

It was the last straw. Since the beginning of the war, submarine skippers had complained that the Navy's Mark 14 torpedoes with the new Mk 6 exploder failed to explode on target impact. Thousands of tons of Japanese shipping had escaped unharmed due to the faulty workings of the Mark 6. Yet, the Division of Naval Ordnance claimed that there was nothing wrong with the torpedoes. They claimed that the failure must be attributable to the crews of the submarines.

When the *Tinosa* returned to Pearl Harbor, her skipper complained bitterly to the commander of submarines Pacific, Vice Admiral Charles Lockwood. Yet, when the *Tinosa*'s last torpedo was examined, no defect could be found. Lockwood had a big problem. He had frustrated and angry submariners on the one hand and an

intransigent Ordnance Department in Washington on the other. He turned to his friend, Captain Charles “Swede” Momsen, for advice. Momsen was the commander of a submarine squadron but, more importantly, he was a hands-on problem solver who knew how to get things done. He had previously, while Commanding Officer of the submarine S-1, had to just lay-to over the site of the sinking of the S-2 as there was no way of rescue any S-2 survivors. After that he came up with the concept of designing and building a rescue bell that could be used to provide a rescue. He put together a proposal for this concept and forwarded it up the chain of command. Later he also designed, built, and personally tested from 200 feet, a “lung” that could be used by trapped submarine sailors to get to the surface. This “lung” became known as the “Momsen Lung” and all submarine personnel were required to train in the lung’s use in the diving training tanks built at Sub Base New London and Sub Base Pearl.

Momsen was unwilling to wait for the ponderous Navy bureaucracy in Washington to solve the torpedo problem, so he proposed to Lockwood that a target range be set up on the nearby island of Kahoolawe. The island has sheer cliffs rising from shallow water. Momsen suggested that torpedoes be fired at the cliffs and any duds be examined. So be it.

Three torpedoes were fired from U.S.S. *Muskallunge*, with the third failing to explode. Navy diver John Kelly found the dud and swam down to attach a line. Momsen jumped into the water with his snorkel gear and supervised the recovery of the live warhead. The torpedo was hauled aboard the rescue/salvage vessel Widgeon and returned to Pearl Harbor where Momsen supervised the disassembly of the exploder. It was found that the contact mechanism, built to essentially the same standards as that in the slower Mark-10 torpedo, had failed under the greater impact of the much faster Mark-14. Instead of striking the primer, the firing pin had bent and jammed in the guides, which had also distorted. More tests were made, this time by dropping dummy warheads fitted with live exploders onto steel plates from a height of 90 feet, confirming the diagnosis.

Once understood, the problem was fairly easy to fix. New firing pins were machined from a light, high-strength aluminum alloy—the metal reportedly came from the propellers of Japanese fighters shot down during the Pearl Harbor raid—

and the guides were strengthened, so that they would hold up long enough for the firing pin to strike the primer and detonate the warhead. This “PHM” (Pearl Harbor Modification) was fitted to all the torpedoes in the inventory, and the changes incorporated into new production. After that, the Mark-14 torpedo suddenly became a model of reliability, and sinking finally did soar.

Momsen received the Legion of Merit for his successful efforts at discovering and fixing the torpedo problem that had plagued the submarine fleet for a year and a half. It was not the first or the last time that Swede Momsen would save the day. One example: While as Officer in Charge of Experimental Diving at Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. he assisted in the successful rescue of some of the crew members from the submarine *Squalus* after she sank in approximately 240 feet of water off the Isle of Shoals in May 1939. He then assisted in the salvage of the *Squalus*.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the February 2022 meeting were disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

**The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, provided the Treasurer’s Report:**

•	Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 10,778.90
•	Plus Receipts:	
-	NFCU Interest/Dividends	\$ 0.17
-	Base Dues	\$ 0.00
-	National Dues	\$ 0.00
-	Donation to Base (50/50 Raffle)	\$ 0.00
-	Donations to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$ 25.00
-	Sale of Items	\$ 35.00
		\$ 00.00
•	Minus Expenditures:	
-	Dues to National	\$ 25.00
-	Payment to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	

-	Payment to Base SK (BSA Certificate holders)	\$	30.00
		\$	52.46
•	Ending Cash on Hand:	\$	10,726.61
-	Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$	1,379.40
•	Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$	9,347.20
•	USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance:	\$	3,054.10
•	Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF):	\$	4,433.50

The report was accepted as read.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD** – The meeting was held on March 2nd via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, Holland Club, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

**VCDR** – Nothing to report (NTR)

**COB** – NTR

**PAO** – Our Sweetheart Luncheon was held last month after the Base meeting and it was a rousing success.

**Membership** - Presented by the CDR:

- Membership information
  - 78 Members
    - 46 Holland Club Members
      - 02 WW II Members
    - 25 Regular Members
      - 16 – Life Members
      - 09 – Annual Members
    - 07 Associate Members

**Chaplain** – The CDR reported:

- Eternal Patrol duty request **for CAPT Richard N. Nelson** has been made by his wife. Captain Nelson's departed on Sept 27, 2020, and his burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on March 25 at 8 AM. He qualified on USS Odax (SS-484) and also served on USS Sennet (SS-408) as an enlisted member then went through the NESEP program to become an officer. He spent 25 years serving in NAVSEA 808.
- **ADM William Dee Smith, USN (Ret.)** funeral service will be held at Old Post Chapel, Ft. Myer on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 9 am followed by a burial service at ANC.

**K4K** – K4K visits have been suspended until further notice.

**Scouting Coordinator** – NTR

**Storekeeper** – The Storekeeper, the CDR reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Three 2022 USSVI Calendars are now available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.

Contact Mike Varone, at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvinova.org) if interested in any items.

**Webmaster** – No issues with the Base website.

**NE Regional/NE District 4 News** – NE Regional Director, EN4 District CDR Chuck Martin reported:

- National News
  - 2022 Mid Term Board of Directors meeting will be held on March 19, 2022.
- Region News
  - USSVI Tri-State Base – Hosting their 30<sup>th</sup> Base Anniversary on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Frederick, MD. They will be holding their Tolling of the Boats ceremony on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Gettysburg, PA, with our

Base member, CDR George Wallace, as their guest speaker.  
Contact CDR for additional information.

- District News
  - Capitol Base – Held a Sweetheart Dinner on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chesapeake Base – Eternal Patrol notice for Edward Parylo, Base Commander; Qualified on USS Tunny (SSN-682) in 1977; Departed on his Eternal Patrol on December 8th, 2021.
  - Northern Virginia Base – Held Sweetheart luncheon on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

NSL – George Wallace reported:

- 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. The Ruby GALA, in formal attire, will be held during the fall symposium Nov 1-2. The actual anniversary will be commemorated at a ceremony in June.
- 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 VADM Willaim Galinis, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command,
  - 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](https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php)
  - Tim Oliver reported: The 2022 Naval Submarine League Corporate Member Days was held on March 9-10 in Washington DC. **At the meeting it was learned that the country needs 70 SSNs; we have 50, and we are going down to 47 soon; and then down to 41 in a few years. Our SSN build rate for the Virginia class subs is two per year.**
  - Navy League’s Sea – Air – Space Expo
    - April 4-6, 2022, with STEM Expo on April 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD
    - Contact NSL to volunteer to staff the NSL booth



- 2022 Submarine Technology Symposium:
  - 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.
- 2022 Annual Symposium & Industry Update
  - 1-2 November 2022
  - Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

**ISA/USA – Bud Cunnally reported:**

- International Submariners Congress
  - Date: May 22-26, 2022
  - Location: Karlskrona, Sweden
  - For more information visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>
  - Participants from Russia are not allowed to participate in the Congress
- 11-Day Scandinavia & Russia Cruise after the Congress
  - Roundtrip from Copenhagen, Denmark on board the Enchanted Princess cruise ship . **Some port calls have been changed by Princess Cruise Lines due to the Ukrainian / Russian conflict. (to Norway and Denmark and away from Poland and Estonia.)**
  - Thursday, 26 May 2022 to 06 Jun 2022. Ship leaves at 1800
  - Interior cabins from \$1,959

**Post Meeting Note: Princess Lines has cancelled the cruise.**

- 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
- Bud commented that he and ISA are following the world events closely, and that, in his opinion:
  - Sweden has moved much of its armed forces to the Russian border.
  - All countries are very nervous about Putin's moves
  - Sweden and Finland want very much to join NATO soon.

**American Legion Post 364** Jon Pittman, the Assistant Club Manager, reported:

- Sundays – Bingo; doors open at 1200 with Early Bird games beginning at 1400
- Tuesday, March 15 – Legion Membership meeting at 1930
- Thursdays – Pizza dinners
- Fridays- Stuffed pepper dinners
- Saturday, March 19 – Boys State and Girls State interviews
- Saturday, March 26 – Cigar Madness at 1800; Prime Rib, Premium Whiskey and Cigars while watching the NCAA playoffs; cost \$60 (adv) \$65 (at door)
- Saturday, April 2 – U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club will hold the 2022 Bike Blessing & Free Pancake Breakfast from 0900-1200
- Saturday, April 9 – Kid's Easter Party at TBA
- Tuesday, April 19 – Legion Membership Meeting at 1930
- May 2022 Membership Meeting - Election of officers for the 2022-2023 Legion Year.
- June 10, 2022 – Las Vegas Pinup Girls show

**Upcoming Submarine Reunions –VCDR reported:**

- USS Von Steuben (SSBN-632) – March 24 -27, 2022; Jacksonville, FL
- USS Volador (SS-490) – April 3-6, 2022; Las Vegas, NV
- USS Chopper (SS-342) – April 6-9, 2022; Mobile, AL
- USS Caiman (SS-323) – April 18-23, 2022; Albuquerque, NM
- USS Jallao (SS-368) – April 21-24, 2022; Philadelphia, PA
- USS Drum (SSN-677) – April 28-May1, 2022; Mobile, AL
- USS Wahoo (SS-565) – April 27-May 1, 2022; Pensacola, FL
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Ordering customized USSVI T-shirts from the Smoky Mountain Base ends Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Ordering information was provided in the February Base meeting minutes.

- 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
- Coverage of COVID-19 testing by Medicare
  - Currently, Medicare only covers COVID-19 testing for medical reasons however new policies will be enacted in the spring.
  - Medicare does not cover COVID-19 testing for meeting travel requirements and this is subject to change.
- 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 CDR** and the base discussed the need to re-pay VCDR Brian Haller for the Holland Club award materials purchases of \$124.02. This amount exceeds the budget authority of the EXCOM. A vote was taken after discussion, and the members attending approved paying Brian for these Holland Club expenses.
- **The CDR** announced that the date of our Holland Club Luncheon and ceremony has been moved to Saturday, May 21, 2022.
- **Lou Marruzo** spoke about the Sub Ship Store link on our USSVINOVA.ORG Base website. He used to own and run that enterprise, but he sold it and it has been resold to a bigger firm with no ties to or employees who are submariners. He recommends that we delete that link and use the SUBVET Store or the USSVI National storekeeper instead. Howard countered that we recommend that all purchases be made thru our link to the NOVA Base Storekeeper.

- **Tim Oliver** reported that the NSL is now selling the newly revised “Evolution of the Submarine” wall hanging / picture for \$40.00 on the NSL website.
- **The CDR and TREASURER** discussed that COVID-19 At Home tests may be available at military hospital or clinics. You may be able to obtain up to eight (8) test kits. You must visit the hospital or clinic in person. Suggest contacting the hospital or clinic to verify availability of test kits. COVID-19 At Home test kits are also available for free by going to [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov). You can order up to two sets of four kits at this time.

## **BINNACLE LIST:**

### **The VCDR reported:**

### **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.”

### **PLEASE KEEP THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH ARE:** David Gault, Norman Griggs, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and William Truslow.

## **BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our next BASE meeting will be on April 9th at American Legion Post 364 and via Zoom. It will be followed by our Annual Tolling of the Boats ceremony.**

The **CDR** delivered the benediction.

The meeting was **adjourned**, at 1158. The CDR thanked everyone for their participation. A 5-minute break was observed then the VCDR introduced our guest speaker, John Lindstedt, who provided a “41 For Freedom” presentation to the Base.

## **Biography of John S. Lindstedt, LT, USNR**

John Lindstedt is a former nuclear-trained submarine officer. He “Qualified in Submarines” in 1974, on the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine, USS Kamehameha (SSBN-642). He served during the Cold War, making 3 deterrent patrols, all in the Mediterranean Sea, as deployed by Submarine Squadron 16 out of Rota, Spain. His duties were to operate and maintain the S5W nuclear reactor plant and all associated propulsion equipment as the ship’s Main Propulsion Assistant.

John also had two years of sea service in the Merchant Marine as a marine engineer. During this time, he sailed to Northern Europe and South America.

John is a Wisconsin native, born in Milwaukee. He attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy and then the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from which he received his degree in chemistry (1969). He did his graduate work at Arizona State University in electroanalytical chemistry. Following his military service, he has worked and studied in the Metal Finishing Industry for the last 45 years. John is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Plating Technologies.

John is married to Cindy, his lovely bride of 50 years. Yes, 50 years!!! She is a very special lady. They have 3 children: Jennifer, Matthew (U.S. Air Force veteran) and James (U.S. Navy veteran). He enjoys hunting, hiking and studying history, particularly history of World War II and history of the U.S. Submarine Force.

Summarized remarks on the “41 for Freedom” presentation:

The Cold War (1945 -1991) was a period of intense confrontation between East and West, the USSR and the USA. It was waged on numerous levels - social, economic and military. Multiple times in this period, war was eminent, and often unknown to the general public. The availability of nuclear weapons and the platforms to deliver them made this era particularly dangerous. It also demanded a different strategy, deterrence, and the systems capable of countering the nuclear threat. **“41 for Freedom” is the history of the development and deployment of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Fleet used by the United States to protect its homeland.** Few are knowledgeable of this weapons system which was developed under the pressures of the Cold War, in record time, and with technological systems that rivaled the space program in innovation and complexity. Forty-one of these magnificent vessels manned by 25,000 highly trained men over a 33-year period forced the Soviets to never release a nuclear weapon, and were instrumental in the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Little is known of this part of the history of the Silent Service, but all Americans should be cognizant of and profoundly thankful for their protection provided by these dedicated submariners. “Pride runs deep”

The presentation will shortly be available online at [www.ussvinova.org](http://www.ussvinova.org) by going to the Photo Album/Presentations section and clicking on the hyperlink for Presentations.