



# USSVI Northern Virginia Base



## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1030 on January 14, 2023, and welcomed all members and guests. The meeting was conducted in person at the Woodbridge, VA American Legion Post 364 and using the Zoom web conferencing application to allow attendance by Base members out of the area, and to support the continued social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Cathy Chatham, Bud Cunnally, Tom DeBenedetto, Michael “Mickey” Garverick, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (20 total).



Holland Club Member



Associate Member



Guest

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

The **Chaplain**, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

The **VCDR**, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in December. These were:

USS S-36 (SS-141)	January 20, 1942
USS S-26 (SS-131)	January 24, 1942
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	January 10, 1943
USS SCORPION (SS-278)	January 5, 1944
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	January 12, 1945

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER(S) WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN JANUARY:

- **Edward R. Ettner**, Holland Club and Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Cabezon (SS-334), 1950. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on January 26th, 2022.



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- **Gary Charles Grimes**, Holland Club and Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Diodon (SS-349), 1966. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on January 15th, 2021.
- **Michael "Mike" Naughton**, Holland Club and Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Baya (SS-318), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on January 12th, 2021.
- **Charles Thomas Pythian**, Lifetime SUBVET Member. Qualified on USS Bancroft (SSBN-643), 1968. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on January 12th, 2011.

The **COB** then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 35 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

## IN MEMORIAM:

Craig W. Kurath [QM2(SS), USN] - 11/27/22

CAPT William Green, USN, Ret. - 12/1/22

CAPT John Michael Donlon, USN, Ret. - 12/26/2022

**BASE HISTORIAN:** Woody Woodworth read an article on the history of the USS Tautog (SS-199). The article is appended at the end of these minutes. The source for the article was last year's USSVI Calendar.

## INDUCTION OF THE 2023 BASE OFFICERS

The Current Base CDR swore in the Incoming Base CDR  
**Commander            Brian Haller**



The New Base CDR swore in the other Base officers



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**Vice Commander**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**

**George Wallace**  
**Howard Chatham**  
**Steve Bishop**



**Photos by Steve Bishop and Mark Riethmeier**

**Additional pictures are appended at the end of the minutes.**

The new BASE CDR nominated the following appointments for Base approval:

**CHIEF OF THE BOAT** – Mike Varone [incumbent]

**MEMBERSHIP** – Howard Chatham [incumbent]

**CHAPLAIN** – Charles “Mickey” Garverick [incumbent]

**SUBMARINE HISTORIAN** – Woody Woodworth [incumbent]

**STOREKEEPER** – Chuck Martin

**WEBMASTER** – Howard Chatham [incumbent]

**K4K** – Steve Bishop [incumbent]

**SCOUTING COORDINATOR** – Chuck Martin [incumbent]

**PAO** – Mike Varone [incumbent]

All were accepted by voice vote.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

The December 2022 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or



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discussions for the December minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.

## TREASURER REPORT

The **TREASURER**, Howard Chatham, presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

### NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for January 14, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$10,898.28
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (December)	\$0.09
•Donation to Base from December 50/50 Raffle	\$15.00
•Sale of Challenge Coins	\$300.00
•Donation to Base from Varone	\$55.00
•Donation to Base from Haller	\$20.00
•National Dues	\$75.00
•Base Dues	\$65.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to USSVI for Annual Dues	\$75.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	\$11,353.37
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$9,973.97
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$3,054.10
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	\$4,433.50

The CDR asked whether there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's report, hearing none, the report was accepted.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was no Executive Committee meeting held due to the holidays.

The **VCDR**, George Wallace, had nothing to report.

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

The **TREASURER**, Howard Chatham reported:



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The NOVA Base's end of year report was completed, and that after the new Base CDR signs it, it will be forwarded to National today.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** presented by Howard Chatham: 83 members comprising:

- 46 Holland Club members,
  - 2 WW II members
- 28 Regular members
  - 18 Life members
  - 10 Annual members.
- 9 Associate members
- Annual membership for Regular and Associate members expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Howard reported that all NOVA Base Members have paid their dues for 2023. He also noted that stickers indicating 2023 are available for annual National member's membership cards and to contact him if members wish to have one.

Our newest members are:

MTCS(SS) Bruce E. Byrd, USN (Ret.); qualified on USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) in 1972.

Pat Haller, wife of the new Base CDR, Brian Haller.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Mickey Garverick, had nothing to report.

Steve Bishop reported that Art Bivens is at home with cancer, COVID, and Bell's Palsy issues.

Howard Chatham reported that Earl Griggs is not doing well with severe infection in his legs and cancer.

The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that all K4K visits have been suspended until further notice. The three hospitals we normally visit are still not allowing non-relatives such as us to visit their patients' bedsides.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Chuck Martin, reported:

- He has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- 2023 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.



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- Contact Base Storekeeper, at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto: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.
- He will be updating the Base Website for the new Base Officers and appointed position members. When that is complete, he will update the National site for the same reason.

## **NE Regional/NE District 4 News –EN4 District CDR Chuck Martin presented:**

### National News

- Start preparing your Base End of Year Financial report. The report is required to be submitted by March 1, 2023.
- Region News – Nothing to Report
- District News
  - The District Bases had an active 2022 and I am looking forward to an exciting 2023.
  - I am working on designing a NE4 District logo and patch.
  - Start thinking about the National Awards and who you or the Base would like to nominate.

### **NSL – Tim Oliver presented:**

- NSL Headquarters address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; the phone number is 703-256-0891
- NSL is looking into ways that NSL and USSVI can work together in 2023 on projects such as STEM in schools.
- Too many submarines are stuck in overhaul and the Navy is seeking ways to get them out faster.
- RADM Gene Fluckey was one of the greatest WW II heroes as CO of the USS Barb. His estate in Portugal went to his niece and she is releasing many artifacts from the USS Barb to NSL and others. John Lehman was one of the last Barb crewmembers alive, and he was a USSVI member of the Tri-State Base, so some of the artifacts will go to USSVI. Some will go to the new ship USS Barb (SSN-803) in construction.
- He recommends that USSVI look into sponsoring a table at the 2023 Submarine Birthday Ball. It would be a great marketing opportunity to



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get the USSVI name out there with the Active Duty submariners in the area.

- **Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events**

- NSL Capitol Chapter

George Wallace reported:

- The next NSL Capitol Chapter Luncheon meeting will be held at 1200 on Thursday, 19 January 2023, at the Army-Navy Country Club. VADM William Galinis, Commander, NAVSEA will be the speaker.
- 2023 DC Submarine Birthday Ball hosted by DC Submarine Association
  - Friday, 31 March 2023 from 1730-2300 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City
  - A Facebook page has been created for updates. The URL is [https://www.facebook.com/events/483577613915703/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/483577613915703/?active_tab=discussion)
  - More information to come in a few weeks
- U.S. Naval Academy Submarine Ball will be held on 15 April 2023. More information when available.
- 2023 Submarine Technology Symposium
  - Classified (SECRET/NOFORN) three-day conference
  - Dates: 9-11 May 2023
  - Location: Kossiakoff Center on the campus of Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723).
- 2023 Annual Symposium & Industry Update
  - 7-8 NOVEMBER 2023
  - Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

On behalf of the **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)** Vice President, John “Bud” Cunnally, provided the following:

- Future Congress Locations –
  - 22-26 MAY 2023 Thessaloniki, Greece – Russian delegation is not attending. The total cost is about 600 Euros for hotel and registration.
  - 2024 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA). This will be in Dublin, a tour of John Holland’s home and museum, and then Belfast, all in the last week of May 2024.



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- 2025 Unknown
- 2026 France has expressed an interest
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website [www.isausa.org/](http://www.isausa.org/)
  - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00

On behalf of the **American Legion Post 364**, the **CDR** provided the following:

- Tuesday, 17 Jan – Legion Membership Meeting at 1930.
- Thursday, 19 Jan – Americanism Dinner.
- Saturday, 18 Feb – Record Riots from 1000-1700. Open to all with admission fee.

## Upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS James Madison (SSBN 627) March 20-23, 2023, Galveston Island, TX
- USS Finback (SS 230/SSN 670) April 12-16, 2023, San Antonio, TX
- USS Bluefish (SSN 675) April 20-23, 2023, Myrtle Beach, SC

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

## OLD BUSINESS

- 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](mailto:melissa@novavets.org)

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Byrd presented that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has recommended two options for changing the TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) system to reduce the Federal Budget Deficit. First option is to introduce a TFL enrollment fee. This option would require most Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay an annual enrollment fee of \$575 for individual coverage or



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\$1,150 for family coverage. Second option is to introduce a Minimum Out-of-Pocket Requirements in TFL. For calendar year 2026, TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of an enrollee's cost-sharing payments (those for which enrollees are responsible when they receive health care) under Medicare and would cover only 50 percent of the next \$7,650 in such payments. Because all further costs would be covered by TFL, enrollees would not be obligated to pay more than \$4,675 in 2026. MOAA is already mobilizing its members to fight this CBO effort. It was recommended that the NE4 District Commander contact USSVI National to discuss having the information be communicated to USSVI members so they can let their Senators and Congress Representatives know their feelings on the CBO recommendations.

### **The Binnacle List**

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Art Bivens, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, and Tom Perrault.

**For the Good of the Order**, the COB read the list of birthdays for January: Dan Arquette, George Billy, Hank Chiles, Sam Dunlap, Nader Elquindi, Bob and Susan Glover, Richard Hamly, Bruce Miller, Mike Murphy, Einer Nielson, and Judy Perrault.

### **BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

OUR NEXT BASE MEETING WILL BE AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 ON 11 FEBRUARY 2023. AFTER THE MEETING WE WILL HAVE OUR SWEETHEART LUNCHEON AT ARMETTA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT. INDIVIDUALS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN MEALS

The Chaplain, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Benediction.

The CDR called for a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1114.

Submitted by Steve Bishop  
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary



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## SUBMARINE HISTORY

This presentation is the text contained on the December calendar page of the 2022 United States Submarine Veterans Calendar titled “STUNNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS Celebrating the unusual successes of America’s submarines in WWII.”

### “USS Tautog Transports the Most to the Bottom”

“There’s a lot to be said for longevity. Set your mind to something, then just keep plugging away at it over a long career and you’re practically guaranteed success. This was USS Tautog’s (SS-199) WWII story. Acknowledged as one of the earliest U. S. fleet submarines to engage in the conflict, she began her remarkable history by downing one torpedo bomber and damaging a second plane during the war-inciting Japanese airborne attack on Pearl Harbor. Then, over the course of an unbelievable thirteen successful war patrols, she went on to amass a record total of twenty-six Japanese ships sent beneath the waves. Second patrol: three down, including two submarines. Third patrol: one down. Fourth patrol: one down. Fifth patrol: two down. Sixth patrol: two more down. Carried on over a lengthy wartime experience, a record like this certainly adds up. Notable targets included a submarine chaser, a destroyer, a passenger-cargo vessel, a loaded troop ship, a torpedo boat tender, those two early submarines, plus all the familiar tankers and freighters, of course. Tautog ended her combat career in February of ’45, but lived on in training duty, as a test bed for new safety equipment, and as a reserve training ship for a decade. She was eventually stricken and sold for scrap – an ignoble end for such a long-lived fighter.”



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