

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 11, 2023

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1034 on March 11, 2023, at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and via Zoom and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Joe Castell, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Tom Denton (Commander, NE3 District), Mickey Garverick, Ron Grabowski, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Michael Niblack, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Gary Wallick (guest speaker), 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 Vice Commander, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the month of March. These were:

USS Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL SINCE OUR LAST BASE MEETING:

- **CAPT Norman Earl Griggs, USN, Ret.** – USSVI Holland Club and Life Member. Qualified aboard USS Tiru (SS-416), 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on February 26, 2023. CAPT Griggs's memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Monday, March 13, 2023, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA 22101. Interment will be at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery.

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

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

The COB TOLLED THE BELL TWICE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 36 USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL.

IN MEMORIAM:

CTICS (SS) Tommy Cox, USN, Ret. – February 19, 2023

RADM John Francis Shipway, USN, Ret. – February 18, 2023

CDR Toby G. Warson, USN, Ret. – February 1, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February 2023 meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion or any comments. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for March 11, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,204.47</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (February)	\$0.09
•Donation to Base from February 50/50 Raffle	\$45.00
•Donations to Base from Riethmeier and Oliver	\$25.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship fund	\$20.00
•Calendar Sales	\$40.00
•National Dues	\$115.00
•Base Dues	\$15.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to USSVI for National Dues	\$115.00
•Reimbursement to Chuck Martin for purchase of American Legion Memorial Tile	\$81.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,248.56</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	<u>\$1,379.40</u>
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,869.16</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	<u>\$3,054.10</u>
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

There was no discussion on the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as read.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership chair presented:

- Membership information
 - 84 Members
 - 47 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 28 Regular Members
 - 15 – Base Life Members
 - 13 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members
 - Newest Member(s)
 - Captain Curtis Duncan

NE Regional/NE District 4 News – EN4 District Commander Chuck Martin presented: National/Region/District News

- 2022 Mid Term Board of Directors meeting was held on March 8, 2023.
- Northern Virginia Base – Held Sweetheart luncheon on February 11th.
- Election for District Commanders are this year. Key dates for the NE4 District Commander election are:
 - Nomination letter submission for District Commander: 3 March 2023 - 15 April 2023
 - I have agreed to rerun and serve as your District Commander if so elected.
 - District Commander election period: 15 May 2023 - 30 June 2023
- March 18, 2023 - USSVI Chesapeake Base meeting will commence at 1200 being held at American Legion Post 278 (800 Romancoke Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666). The guest speaker will be Captain Jim Campbell, USN (Ret.), a 1973 graduate of the USNA. He will be talking about his multi-hatted tour as XO, Navigator and Supply Officer on the NR1. I will be attending the meeting and anyone who would like to join me is welcome and we can carpool.
- NE4 District Commander presented to the Base Commander the replacement 1996 Base Charter for the USSVI NOVA Base. The original was lost in the Lorton fire. The Secretary took custody of the Charter and will take a picture of the new charter and forward the picture to all elected base officers.

Naval Submarine League (NSL): Tim Oliver and George Wallace announced:

- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
 - NSL Capitol Chapter
 - Next Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting will be held April 14, 2023, at the Army-Navy Country Club. RADM Gaucher (N2/N6T) will be the guest speaker.
 - 2023 DC Submarine Birthday Ball hosted by DC Submarine Association will be Friday, 31 March 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

- NSL will have a table(s). If interested in sitting at the NSL table, contact George Wallace.
- U.S. Naval Academy Submarine Ball will be held on 15 April 2023. More information when available.
- 2023 Sea – Air – Space
 - 3-5 April
 - Gaylord National Harbor
 - NOVA Base plans to share a table with NSL.
 - Volunteers should contact NSL to arrange table volunteer time slots.
- Tim Oliver, NSL Executive Director, reported that the proposed President's Budget includes \$15B for submarine construction and the Submarine Industrial Base Council paid a visit to the Hill last week to ask for Congressional support for the budget.
- Tim also suggested that the Base consider establishing a Submarine Association for one of the three boats related to the state of Virginia – USS John Warner, USS Alexandria, and USS Virginia.

Thanks for the meeting refreshments! The Base thanks Mark Riethmeier for bringing blue-and-gold-iced submarine-shaped cookies, Tim Oliver for the coffee, and Brian Haller for coffee and donuts.

THE BELOW INFORMATION WAS NOT INCLUDED AT THE MEETING BUT INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES FOR AWARENESS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Executive Committee met on 1 March via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VCDR – Nothing to Report

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COB – Nothing to Report

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PAO – Our Sweetheart Luncheon was a huge success.

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Chaplain - Nothing to Report

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K4K - K4K visits have been suspended until further notice.

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Webmaster – Nothing to Report

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Storekeeper - [SK remarks as desired]

- Storekeeper 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.
- Contact Base SK, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

Scouting Recognition Coordinator –

- The Base honored Eagle Scouts Christopher Varone, Charles Smith, and Nathan Gearhardt on 27 Feb 2023, at their Eagle Scout COH in Stafford, VA.

ISA/USA – [Bud Cunnally remarks as desired]

- Future Congress Locations –
 - 22-26 MAY 2023 Thessaloniki, Greece – Russian delegation is not attending.
 - 2024 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA)
 - 2025 Unknown
 - 2026 France has expressed interest.
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for an application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00.

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
- USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) May 22-27, 2023, Mobile, AL
- USS Tigrone (SS 419) May 18-22, 2023, Cleveland, Ohio
- USS Scamp (SSN 588) June 12-16, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Archerfish (SS 311/SSN 678) August 24-26, 2023, Groton, CT

- USS John Adams (SSBN 620) Sept 28 –Oct 1, Amelia Island, FL
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.**

OLD BUSINESS

- The new increased National dues rates go into effect on April 1, 2023.
- 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

NEW BUSINESS

- The Base has purchased a 4-inch by 8-inch tile to be mounted with the other memorial tiles at AL Post 364. Our tile will have the USSVI logo and the text, “In Honor of All Submariners. USSVI NOVA Base.

The Binnacle List currently includes:

Al Anceravage, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, the Chatham family, Francis McNamara, and Tom Perrault.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for March: David Gault, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The Benediction was delivered by Base Chaplain, Mickey Garverick.

The meeting adjourned at 1057.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT 1030 ON APRIL 8, 2023, AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 AND ON ZOOM FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED “UNIFORM” IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE. NO T-SHIRTS OR JEANS, PLEASE.



Who is that masked man on the left? Surely was good to see Steve Jaeger!!!!!!

The 50/50 raffle was won by Chuck Martin. He donated his winnings to the Base treasury. Thank you, Chuck!

After a short break, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker:

RM1 (SS) Gary Wallick, USN (Vet.)

Gary Wallick served onboard USS Bergall (SSN 667) from December 1986 to April 1991, separating from active duty as RM1(SS). He served 20 months at Mare Island during completion of a refueling overhaul, then 2 Northern Runs, an ICEX, and UNITAS South American cruise as deployed staff. He has been an active member of the USS Bergall (SS 320/SSN 667) Association for 12 years.

Gary served on the USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee with Captain John Mackin as his mentor, and on the USS Delaware (SSN 791) Commissioning Committee. He is the Founder and Immediate Past President of the Delaware Submarine Association, and a Trustee of USSVI Mid Atlantic Base in Dover, Delaware.

Gary spoke to us about “Submarine Clubs” which act in direct support of active-duty submarines and their crews. He was asked to speak to us by both Chuck Martin and Tim Oliver.

Tim Oliver has created a “Submarine Club Guide.” This is a handbook to stand up and operate such a submarine club. Since the start in May of 2016, Gary has accomplished much as the formal liaison between the USS Delaware (SSN791) and the civilian community, as well as Delaware state and local associations and businesses. The club supports the USS Delaware whenever she returns to port and creates fun outings for the crew (morale boosters). One such outing was a field trip to a foster home for 40 children in Delaware – from the submarine’s homeport of Norfolk, VA. Anyone interested in starting a submarine club should contact Tim Oliver

The submarine club raises funds from local businesses and citizens. They have created a new ship’s bell for USS Delaware (SSN 791). The new bell sits across the street from the old bell from the Battleship USS Delaware (BB 28)



Base CDR, Brian Haller presents a base challenge coin to guest speaker Gary Wallick.