

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1030 on June 8, 2024, at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Kris Battles, Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Bob Glover, Ron Grabowski, Pat Haller, Brian Haller, Jim Kraut, Jeff Leonard, Chuck Martin, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, Clifford Whitener, and Lawrence Woodworth (17 members, 19 total). Clifford introduced himself – he served on the USS James Madison (along with Jeff Leonard) and intends to join the Base.

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Secretary, Howard Chatham, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the VCDR, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the months of June and July. These were:

USS Herring (SS-233)	Jun 1, 1944
USS R-12 (SS-89)	Jun 12, 1943
USS Golet (SS-361)	Jun 14, 1944
USS S-27 (SS-132)	Jun 19, 1942
USS Bonefish (SS-223)	Jun 19, 1945
USS O-9 (SS-70)	Jun 20, 1941
USS Runner (SS-275)	Jun 26, 1943
USS S-28 (SS-133)	July 4, 1944
USS Robalo (SS-273)	July 26, 1944
USS Grunion (SS-216)	July 30, 1942

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY:

- **William “Rod” Puffer**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Pickrel (SS-524) in 1953. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 20 June 2013.

- **Robert “Dex” Armstrong**, Holland Club Member and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Requin (SS-481) in 1960. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 8 July 2014.
- **Richard S. Lowry**, Qualified on USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN-631) in 1968. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 24 June 2017.
- **William J. Douglas**, Holland Club Member and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Grampus (SS-523) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 1 July 2020.
- **David S. Cooper**, Holland Club Member and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Dace (SSN-607) in 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 4 June 2023.
- **Alvin V. Anceravage**, Holland Club Member and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Narwhal (was V-5) (SS-167) in 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 10 July 2023.
- **Arthur C. Bivens**, Holland Club Member and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Quillback (SS-424) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 19 July 2023.

The COB then rang the bell twice in remembrance of the 42 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

- STSC(SS) Robert J. Bissionnette, USN (Ret) – 21 Aug 2023
- ENC(SS) Isaac Spears, USN (Ret) – 3 May 2024
- LCDR Charles David Firebaugh, USN (Ret) – 4 May 2024
- WWII Submariner GMC(SS) Henry Kudzik, USN (Ret) – 11 May 2024

During the reading of the loss of the R-12, the Base CDR displayed a pennant from the boat that Mark Riethmeier had obtained.



TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer, Howard Chatham, presented the following:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for June 8, 2024

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$12,511.83
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (May)	\$0.06
•NFCU CD Dividends (May)	\$20.78
•Donation to Base from J. Bertine and C. Martin	\$60.00
•SK sales – HC cert and hat for J. Lindstedt	\$39.00
•SK sales – USSVI 60 th anniversary coin/patch	\$20.00
•SK sales – HC hat	\$20.00
•HC luncheon	\$1,200.00
•Base dues – V. Fiebig	\$15.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to Amphora for Holland Club luncheon	\$1,405.79
•Reimbursement to SK for Longevity pins purchase	\$96.11
•Reimbursement to CDR for Dale City Parade ad	\$65.00
•Payment to Vest Lady for 5 more HC hats	\$87.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	\$12,232.77
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$5,853.37
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,135.41
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	\$3,514.81

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May meeting were distributed by e-mail and USPS. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

USSVI LONGEVITY AWARDS PRESENTATION:

The Base CDR awarded the USSVI Longevity pins to those *in attendance* who were celebrating the anniversary of their 1, 5, 20, and 25 years as members of USSVI. Those who deserved pins, but were not present, will have theirs mailed to them by the Base Secretary the week after the meeting. Awardees were:

- 1-year Pin – Phil Davis, Curtis Duncan, *Patricia Haller*, John Kaysak, Richard Kelley, *Jeff Leonard*, Stanley Meyers, John Newton, Randy Tran, and Jonathan Woodall.
- 5-year Pin – Tom Fortier.
- 20-year Pin – Dan Burke, *Howard Chatham*, *Bob Glover*, Donald Hall, Mike Murphy, Patrick Peterson, Joe Phoenix, Lee Turner, and William Waylett.
- 25-year Pin – Ross Sargent.

USSVI AND NE4 DISTRICT NEWS

Chuck Martin, the NE4 District CDR, report:

- 2024 USSVI National Election voting begins on June 19 at 0001 and ends on August 17 at 2359. Voting can be done online (preferred) or by paper ballot. See the American Submariner 2024 Second Quarter issue for the ballot and additional information.
- 2024 USSVI National Convention is August 19 – 24 in Cleveland, OH. If you are planning on attending, the block of rooms at the special rate (\$109/night which is only good until July 30), are filling up fast. Book your room today.
- Next, he presented a check to the winner of NE4 Good of the Order drawing, Brian Haller, who won \$400.00 and a check to the Base for \$100.00.



BINNACLE LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers: Joe Castell, Phil Davis, Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Mary Miller (mother of Bruce Miller), Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Tim Shannon, and Diane Whitener.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, the CDR read the list of birthdays for June and July: Debbie Bishop, Dan Burke, Bruce Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Bill Decker, Tom Fortier, Bob Gilmore, Brian Haller, Jim Huck, Mark Kenny, William Lehan, Mike Niblack, Tony Poblete, Art Rosen, and Lee Turner.

50/50 RAFFLE: The raffle was won by Chuck Martin who donated his winnings back to the Base. Thank you, Chuck!

Our next base event will be the Dale City 4th of July parade.

On July 13th at 1800, we will have our informal dining out at Kilroy's Restaurant, 5250A Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA.

Our next base meeting will be at American Legion Post 364 and on Zoom at 1030 on 10 August 2024.

The Base Secretary delivered the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 1100.

Following the meeting Kristopher Battles, the current Marine Corps Artist in Residence on the staff of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA regaled us with tales about his time in the Marine Corps and sailing onboard Navy vessels (although not on submarines). Not only is he a sketch artist and painter but he is a sculptor too. He also exhibited five of his paintings and one sculpture. His biography is appended at the end of these minutes.





The following items of normal committee reports and old/new business are included here for completeness, but were not discussed at the meeting:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Membership information
 - 91 Members
 - 49 Holland Club Members
 - 1 WW II Members

- 33 Regular Members
 - 21 – Base Life Members
 - 12 – Base Annual Members
- 9 Associate Members

Our newest member is CAPT Victor Fiebig.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD – The Executive Committee met on 29 May via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VCDR: We need to get with Jeff Leonard and Phil Davis to determine when we can hold a Holland Club induction ceremony for them.

COB/PAO: Nothing to Report (NTR)

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS): NTR, however Cathy Chatham is attempting to contact the Child Life Specialist at INOVA Fairfax, however she has received no reply yet.

WEBMASTER: USSVI has recommended members use the old website (<https://ussubvets.org>), instead of the newer site (<https://www.ussvi.org>), which has a number of problems.

NSL:

- The next Capitol Chapter Luncheon will be held on 25 June at the Army-Navy Country Club.
- 2024 SUBSEA & SEABED Warfare and Technology Seminar is scheduled for July 16 and 17 at Keyport, WA.

International Submarine Association ISA/USA:

- The 59th ISA USA/Ireland Congress was successfully completed on 30 May.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions:

- USS Louisville (SSN 724) July 24-27, 2024, Louisville, KY
- USS Jallao (SS 368) August 15-18, 2024, Cleveland, OH
- USS Nathan Hale (SSBN 623) August 23-27, 2024, Cleveland, OH
- USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN 610) September 4-8, 2024, Fort Myers, FL
- USS Halfbeak (SS 352) September 9-13, 2024, Branson, MO
- USS Sam Houston (SSBN/SSN 609) September 10-12, 2024, Buffalo, NY
- USS Growler (SSG 577) September 20-22, 2024, New York, NY

- USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN 601) September 24-29, 2024, Manitowoc, WI
- Navy Deep Submergence Group Assn. September 27-29, 2024, Silverdale, WA
- USS Nautilus (SSN 571) September 27 – October 1, 2024, Groton, CT
- USS Tiru (SS416) September 29 October 1, 2024, Warwick, RI
- USS Angler (SS 240) September 29 – October 3, 2024, New London, CT
- USS Cavalla (SS 244/SSN 684) September/October 2024, Groton, CT
- USS Patrick Henry (SSBN/SSN 599), October 3-6, 2024, San Antonio, TX
- USS Threadfin (SS 410) October 3-6, 2024, New Orleans, LA
- USS Chivo (SS 341) October 20-23, 2024, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Dogfish (SS 350) October 30 – November 3, 2024, Kings Bay, GA
- USS Tunny (SS 282/SSN 682) November 6-10, 2024, San Antonio, TX
- In addition to the Jallao and Nathan Hale, the USS Tusk, Ronquil, Silversides, Kamehameha, Piper, Skate, and Ohio will be holding reunions at the USSVI annual convention in August.

STOREKEEPER:

- The SK has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for sale.
- The 2024 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is now \$7 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- USSVI 60th anniversary coins/patches can be ordered from the SK.
- Contact the Base SK, storekeeper@ussvinova.org, if interested in any items.

OLD BUSINESS:

- USS Groton Sail Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization focused on building a lasting public monument to celebrate their region's contribution to our nation's defense. The centerpiece of the monument will be the USS Groton's sail and rudder, which will serve as a permanent tribute to the Navy's submarine community, past, present, and future. The Foundation is now attempting to raise \$2 million to secure a site in Groton, Connecticut and to build the monument. They are selling pavers and taking donations at <https://grotonsail.com>.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Base is considering updating the Base marketing trifold/brochure and is getting quotes for a reprint.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Howard Chatham
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

Kristopher Battles

Kristopher Battles is a contemporary fine artist and illustrator creating artworks in a variety of media which honor the highest traditions of representational art.

Mr. Battles graduated with a BFA in Painting from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) in December 1991 and earned his MFA in Illustration from the University of Hartford in September 2013.

Originally serving as a Marine Reservist from 1986 until 1996, Mr. Battles became a Marine combat artist after reenlisting in 2006 and deployed to Overseas Contingency Operations to create combat art for the United States Marine Corps, serving in that billet until 2014. From 2014 until 2019, he served as a civilian combat artist for the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Battles is currently the Marine Corps Artist in Residence, on staff at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA, and manages the Marine Corps Combat Art Program.

His work has been featured in publications and art venues across the country, including the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. as a part of the art show "Fly Marines! The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation 1912-2012" from January 2012 through January 2013. His work was featured on the cover of *Leatherneck* magazine, March 2008, December 2009, August 2020 and February 2022. His illustrations for the "Sharing the Courage" series were featured in *Marines* magazine, Oct/Nov/Dec 2009, and in a *Marine Corps Times* article "Heroics illustrated, comic-book style" by James K Sanborn, March 22nd, 2010.

Mr. Battles was featured in the *New York Times* Arts & Leisure section on July 18, 2010, in an article by Carol Kino entitled, "With Sketchpads and Guns, Semper Fi" and on March 11, 2018, in an article by Janet Morrissey entitled, "In the Marines, a Connection Between Art and Combat."

Mr. Battles has been invited to be a guest speaker and artist for several events and organizations. He was featured at the USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA during Marine Week in May 2010, and his work was also on display on May 5, 2010, in the John F. Kennedy School of Government for Harvard University. He was also guest speaker at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, January 28, 2011, and was forum speaker at The Army and The Navy Club in Washington, DC March 2, 2011. Mr. Battles was also invited to share his experiences as a combat artist in a panel discussion "Preservation of War: Vietnam—the Combat Artist Program" at the US National Archives April 9, 2018, along with fellow Marine combat artists Charles Grow, Ben Long, and Jim Butcher, and Army combat artist James Pollock.

Mr. Battles was featured in ABC's, "Persons of the Week: Combat Artists" with Charlie Gibson, September 2007, along with fellow combat artist and Hartford MFA alumnus Michael Fay, and combat artists Charles Grow and Marine Corps Artist in Residence Col. Charles Waterhouse. He is a 2008 and 2010 recipient of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's *John W. Thomason Award* for excellence in combat art, and the 2010 and 2011 recipient of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondence Association's *Merit Award for Combat Art*.