

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 9, 2024

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1035 on March 9, 2024 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Jeff Leonard, Janice Leonard, Chuck Martin, CAPT Ben Shupp, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, Woody Woodworth, and, via Zoom, Mike Niblack, Tim Oliver, and Mark Riethmeier. (17 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

For the Chaplain, the Secretary, Howard Chatham, delivered the Invocation.

The Vice Commander, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the month of 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 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 42 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CDR Earl O'Neal Henson, USN (Ret) – January 23rd, 2024;

CAPT Hugh Reeves Adair, USN (Ret) – 1 February 2024; ADM Bruce DeMars, USN (Ret) – 3 February 2024; CAPT Norman F. "Red" Stein, USN (Ret) – 4 February 2024; CAPT James Allen Marshall, USN (Ret) – 7 February 2024; CDR Steven Hartzell, USN (Ret) – 12 February 2024; Randall L. “Randy” Groff - 3 March 2024.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February 2024 meeting were distributed by e-mail and snail 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 9, 2024

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,009.86</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (February)	\$0.06
•NFCU CD Dividends (February)	\$19.22
•Donation to Base from February 50/50 Raffle	\$35.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship fund – C. Martin	\$20.00
•Calendar Sales	\$10.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
•Reimbursement to SK for coin/patch purchase	\$28.11
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,046.03</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$6,666.63</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$1,958.81
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$3,338.21</u></u>

There was no discussion on the Treasurer’s report and the report was accepted as read.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership chair presented:

- Membership information
 - 89 Members
 - 49 Holland Club Members

- 1 WW II Members
- 31 Regular Members
 - 12 – Base Life Members
 - 19 – Base Annual Members
- 9 Associate Members
- Newest Member
 - Jeff Leonard

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

- National Officers and Regional Directors election is this year.
 - Les Altschuler, NE Regional Director, is not running for reelection.
 - Current known NE Regional Director candidates are:
 - Jeff Walsh – National Awards Chair, NE One District CDR
 - Chuck Martin – 2023-2024 District Commander of the Year, NE Four District CDR
- Upcoming NE4 District Base Events
 - March 16 – Chesapeake Base – Speaker: CAPT Ostendorff
 - April 13 – NOVA Base – Tolling of the Boats
 - May 11 – NOVA Base – Holland Club Induction Luncheon
 - May 18 – Capitol Base – Tolling of the Boats at Arlington National Cemetery
 - May 18 – Chesapeake Base – Tolling of the Boats at USS Torsk in Baltimore, MD
 - May 27 – Capitol Base – Memorial Day Wreath Laying in Rockville, MD
- NE4 District Good of the Order drawing will be held on 1 June. The winner will receive 80% and the winner's base 20% of the ticket revenue. Tickets are \$10 for one or \$50 for six. Chuck has tickets available if you are interested.
- The 2024 National Convention, hosted by Cod Base, will be in Cleveland (Independence), OH, August 19 – 24, 2024 (<https://subvetconvention.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/codbaseusvi>).
 - The Convention Hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside with a room rate of \$109 per night.
 - The room rate includes free breakfast and a Manager's Reception (2 complimentary drinks).
 - Some great-sounding tours will be available.
 - From Woodbridge it is only 377 miles.

- Chuck encourages all that can to attend the National Convention to see old shipmates and friends and to make new friends.

Navy Submarine League (NSL): Tim Oliver announced that:

- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
 - The 2024 USW Spring Conference will be held 18 – 20 March 2024 in San Diego CA and the Seabed Warfare and Technology Seminar will be held in July 2024 In Keyport WA.
 - NSL Capitol Chapter
 - Next Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting will be held April 26, 2024, at the Army-Navy Country Club.
 - NSL is planning to have tables at the Submarine Birthday on Saturday 4 May 2024. Capitol Chapter President John Newton will be sending out a call for those who will be attending and would like a place at a NSL table.
 - 2024 Sea – Air – Space Exposition will be held 8 – 10 April 2024.
 - Volunteers who would like to assist at the NSL table should contact Steve Fischer at operations@navalsubleague.org.
 - Tim Oliver, NSL Executive Director, is looking for volunteers to speak to work forces across the country on submarine work opportunities. A prepared script is available and your submarine experiences can be added to personalize the speech.

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 28 February via Zoom. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

VCDR – The VCDR is working to get Admiral John Richardson (Ret), to be the speaker for this year's Holland Club induction/luncheon. He also noted that Tri-State Base held a celebration for WWII veteran John Price who is turning 100. George was the speaker at this event.

COB – NTR

PAO – Our planned speaker for the June meeting is USMC Artist in Residence – Kris Battles.

Webmaster – The Base website has been updated current Holland Club members and addition of Venture Scout's Summit award as well as the newly USSVI sponsored Naval Sea Cater Chief Petty Officer award.

Storekeeper

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- 2024 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- USSVI 60th anniversary coins/patches can be ordered from the SK.
- Contact Base SK, at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if interested in any items.

Scouting Recognition Coordinator –

- Provided the Webmaster with updated text for Scouting and Sea Cadet awards. Chuck Martin is the coordinator and the new email address is scouting-seacadet@ussvinova.org.

ISA/USA –

- The 2024 Congress is still planned for 26 – 30 May in Ireland sponsored by ISA/USA with two more days (30 – 31 May) in Northern Ireland hosted by the UK
- 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 – [VCDR read]

- USS Von Steuben (SSBN 632) April 11-14, 2024, Jacksonville, FL
 - USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 641) April 14-18, 2024, Branson, MO
 - USS Batfish (SSN 681) May 7-10, 2024, Nashville, TN
 - USS Spinax (SS 489) May 14-16, 2024, North Little Rock, AR
 - USS Hawkbill (SSN 666) May 20-24, 2024, Galveston, TX
 - USS Louisville (SSN 724) July 24-27, 2024, Louisville, KY
 - USS Nathan Hale (SSBN 623) Aug 23-27, 2024, Cleveland, OH
- Call or email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.

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 needs to purchase more certificate folders for presentation at the upcoming Holland Club induction/luncheon. Currently we only have six on hand and have eight inductees this year. To get a price break and keep an inventory for the next few years the CDR proposed we buy 25 folders at a cost of \$169.25 plus \$32.95 shipping/handling. As this is not covered in the currently approved budget for 2024, iaw our Base Bylaws, approval of the expenditure by the membership is required. A voice vote was taken and hearing no dissenters, the purchase was approved.

The Binnacle List currently includes: Steve Jaeger, Francis Terry McNamara, and Tom Perrault. The CDR reported that he had made contact with Terry this month who is 96 years old and in good spirits even though he is not healthy enough to attend our meetings. Please keep these folks and others of our Base who are in need in your thoughts and prayers.

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 the COB.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 13TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED "UNIFORM" IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The meeting was adjourned at 1058 and 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 CAPT Ben Shupp who discussed his career in submarines, his role as the Dean of the School of Mathematics and Science and the Senior Submarine Warrior at the US Naval Academy, and issues with recruiting middies for submarines. Following his presentation the CDR presented him with a Base challenge coin.



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



Captain Ben A. Shupp

Captain Ben A. Shupp is a native of Houston, TX, and joined the Navy as a Nuclear Machinist's Mate in 1989. A 1995 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and minors in French and Russian. He also holds a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Master of Engineering Management from Old Dominion University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College.

His operational assignments include Reactor Control Assistant/Assistant Engineer on USS HELENA (SSN 725), Engineer Officer on USS LOUISIANA (SSBN 743)(GOLD), Executive Officer on USS CHICAGO (SSN 721), command of USS WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN 736)(GOLD), and deployment to Afghanistan in support of NATO's Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT. His shore assignments brought him a wide range of experiences, and included the Naval Postgraduate School; Material Officer at Submarine Squadron THREE; Moored Training Ship Shore Commanding Officer at Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit Charleston, SC; Deputy Director for Nuclear Officer Assignments at Navy Personnel Command; Assistant Chief of Staff for Afghanistan Operations at Joint Forces Command, Brunssum, The Netherlands; and Command of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit in Cape Canaveral, FL.

Captain Shupp has conducted two Western Pacific deployments, multiple other deployments, and emergent missions, and eight strategic deterrent patrols in support of our nation's defense. He is currently the Dean, School of Mathematics and Science and the Senior Submarine Warrior at the US Naval Academy. His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), as well as numerous campaign and unit awards.

Captain Shupp is married to the former Donna Pellerito of Cocoa Beach, FL, and has two sons, Brendan and Dylan.