

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

The Base Commander (CDR), Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1105 on May 11, 2024, at Amphora Diner Deluxe Restaurant, 1151 Elden St, Herndon, VA, and welcomed ADM John Richardson (31st CNO), Holland Club inductees, Chuck Martin, (USSVI Northeast District Four Commander), Holland Club members, regular and associate members, and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Bertine, Richard Bingman, Debbie Bishop, Stephen Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Erlinda Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Tom DeBenedetto, Bob Frick, Susan Frick, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ginger Haskell, Joseph “Doc” Holliday (USSVI Tri-State Base), Leah Holiday, Darlene Jaeger, Stephen Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Richard Kelley, Cindy Lindstedt, James Lindstedt, Jennifer Lindstedt, John Lindstedt, Matt Lindstedt, Lisa Murphy, Mike Murphy, Chuck Martin, Emma Ney, Tim Oliver, Richard Phillips, ADM John Richardson, Tom Teters, Randy Tran, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, Jonathan Woodall, Woody Woodworth, and, via Zoom, Mark Riethmeier and Mike Niblack (40 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The Base VCDR, George Wallace, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The VCDR read the list of boats lost in the month of May. These were:

USS Squalus (SS-192)	May 23, 1939
USS Lagarto (SS-371)	May 3, 1945
USS Stickleback (SS-415)	May 30, 1958
USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968

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

- **Benny L. Parker**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member, Qualified on USS Sea Owl (SS-405) in 1949. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 4 May 2014.
- **Ralph E. Chatham**, Qualified on USS Barbel (SS-580) in 1972. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 18 May 2013.
- **Arthur G. Smith**, Holland Club and Submarine Veterans of WWII Member, Qualified on USS Skate (SS-305) in 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 30 May 2010.

- **Richard A. McSpadden**, USSVI Life Member, Qualified on USS Trigger (SS-564) in 1957. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 28 May 2009.
- **William Knull, Jr.**, Holland Club and Submarine Veterans of WWII Member, Qualified on USS Apogon (SS-308) in 1944. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 28 May 2008.

The CDR tolled the ship's bell twice in remembrance of the 42 members of the USSVI NOVA Base on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

CAPT George Lewis Graveson, USN (Ret) – 3 March 2024

QMCM(SS) Paul Curtis, USN (Ret) - 20 March 2024

QMCS(SS) Norman M. Bower, USN (Ret) - 13 April 2024

CMDCM(SS) Michael A. Gilbert, USN (Ret) - 15 April 2024

MM1(SS) Loree Riggs - 2 May 2024

NOVA BASE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 11, 2024

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$12,797.21</u>
• Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (April)	\$0.06
•NFCU CD Dividends (April)	\$20.03
•Donation to Base from April 50/50 Raffle	\$20.00
•Donation to Base from P. Haller	\$15.00
•SK sales – HC cert and hat for T. Shannon	\$39.00
• Minus Expenditures:	
•Reimbursement to G. Wallace for HC certificates	\$178.17
•Reimbursement to SK for Base coin purchase	\$201.30
• Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$12,511.83</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>\$6,132.43</u>
• USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,135.41
• Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$3,514.81</u></u>

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed by e-mail/USPS.

BINNACLE LIST: Please keep the following in your prayers: Phil Davis, Steve

Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, and Tim Shannon.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: The CDR read the list of birthdays for May: Joe Castell, Bill Clement, John Kaysak, Cindy Lindstedt, Mark Riethmeier, Noland Smith, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, and the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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

BASE MEMBERSHIP:

- 90 Members
 - 49 Holland Club Members
 - 1 WW II Member
 - 32 Regular Members
 - 12 – Base Life Members
 - 20 – Base Annual Members
 - 9 Associate Members
- Our newest member is Shannon Gilbert.

USSVI National/NE Regional/NE District 4 News -

- National Officers and Regional Directors election is this year.
 - Voting begins 19 June and ends 27 August. Voting can be done either online or by use of the paper ballot in the current American Submariner.
 - National Officers are running unopposed.
 - 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
 - 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 26 – Chesapeake Base – Tolling of the Boats at USNA
 - 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/codbaseussvi>).
 - 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 (two complimentary drinks).

Naval Submarine League (NSL) -

- NSL Capitol Chapter presentation of USS George C. Marshall submarine model at George C. Marshall International Center, 312 E. Market Street Ste C., Leesburg, VA 20176 on 2 June 2024; 1400-1600 (presentation of submarine model ~ 1530 - 1600).
- NSL Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting will be held Tuesday, 25 June 2024 at the Army-Navy Country Club.

International Submarine Association (ISA)/USA –

- The 2024 Congress is 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 –

- USS Hawkbill (SSN 666) May 20-24, 2024, Galveston, TX
- 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) 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 Angler (SS 240) September 29 – October 3, 2024, New London, CT

- USS Tiru (SS 416) September 29 – October 1, 2024, Warwick, RI
- USS Cavalla (SS 244/SSN 684) September/October 2024 (Dates TBD), 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

Call or email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.

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 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>.

The Base CDR turned the podium over to the Master of Ceremonies for the Holland Club Induction, the Base VCDR, George Wallace, who then introduced our guest speaker ADM John Richardson, USN (Ret.). The Admiral joined the Navy in 1982. He commanded USS Honolulu (SSN 718), Submarine Development Squadron 12, Submarine Group 8 in Naples, Italy, Submarine Force Atlantic and Submarine Forces, Naval Reactors, and was Chief of Naval Operations. The attendees then welcomed Admiral Richardson, who delivered his remarks which included a few sea stories. He expounded upon what it takes to be a submariner and how those who are members, or about to be members, of the Holland Club have contributed greatly to the submarine force we have today. After his speech, the VCDR thanked him and presented him with a NOVA Base challenge coin.



Vice Commander George Wallace



Guest Speaker ADM John Richardson

The VCDR then noted that the reason for this special meeting was to show our appreciation, to recognize, and to thank eight of our shipmates (only five were able to attend the ceremony today) by inducting them into the prestigious USSVI Holland Club: YN3(SS) James Bertine, LTJG John Philip Davis, SN(SS) Richard Kelley, TM3(SS) Jeffrey Leonard, LTJG John S. Lindstedt, FTG3(SS) John Mike Murphy, RM3(SS) Tim Shannon, and LTJG Jonathan Woodall.

Before the Induction, all Holland Club members in attendance were asked to stand so they too could be recognized. These were [Bruce Byrd](#), [Howard Chatham](#), [Bob Frick](#), [Brian Haller](#), [Joseph \(Doc\) Holliday](#), [Steve Jaeger](#), [Tim Oliver](#), [Tom Teeters](#), and [Woody Woodworth](#) who all stood and received a round of applause.

The VCDR then called the five inductees to the head table. He read their biographies, the Base Secretary, Howard Chatham, read and presented the USSVI Holland Club certificates and cards, the Admiral presented the Holland Club ball caps, patches, and coins; and the Base CDR presented the large qual boat posters.



Jim Bertine



Rich Kelley



John Lindstedt



Mike Murphy



Jon Woodall



Base CDR, the inductees, and
ADM Richardson

All five of the newly inducted Holland Club Members were given the opportunity to speak and John Lindstedt presented a few remarks on what it meant to him to be a submariner.

YNCS(SS) James R. Bertine, USN (Ret.)

Jim Bertine embarked on his Navy journey on November 25, 1969. His initial days at the AFEES NAS Jacksonville were a testament to the phrase 'serving at the pleasure of Uncle Sam.' Despite the unexpected change of plans that led him to Great Lakes, IL, on a freezing Thanksgiving Day, Jim's spirit remained unyielding. At just eighteen, he braved the cold in a light jacket, with no winter issue until the Monday following Thanksgiving.

Following Great Lakes, Jim was transferred to NAVSTA Bainbridge, MD, to attend Yeoman 'A' School and then off to SUBASE Groton to become a submariner.

Jim's first submarine was the USS BARB (SSN 596), which he reported aboard in July 1970. His first Chief of the Boat, a seasoned veteran from the WWII era, took him under his 'wings'. This mentorship ensured his enjoyment of mess cooking and marked the beginning of what it means to do the task and then ask questions. During his first WESTPAC deployment in 1971, he qualified 'SS' on July 15, 1971. During Jim's 27 years of service, besides the BARB, he served aboard USS DARTER (SS 576), USS BARBEL (SS 580), USS PORTSMOUTH (SSN 707), and USS NORFOLK (SSN 714).

STCM(SS) Richard (Rich) Kelley, USN (Ret.)

At 17 years old, on June 3, 1969, three days after graduating High School at Fountain Fort Carson High School, Rich became a Seaman Recruit (SR) and was put on an airplane to San Diego bootcamp. Upon graduation from bootcamp he received orders to Submarine School Groton, CT. Upon graduating Submarine School, he got orders to the USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (SSBN 640) (Blue). The Blue Crew was in off-crew in Hawaii and did refits in Guam.

Rich remained on FRANKLIN for six years, serving first on the Blue Crew, then the Green Crew in the shipyard for Poseidon conversion, and later the Gold Crew. While in the shipyard at Groton, CT, he was sent to Sonar "A" school in Key West Florida. After "A" school he returned to FRANKLIN completing the yard overhaul. Out of the shipyard Rich was assigned to the Gold Crew. All total he made 3 patrols with the Blue Crew and 5 patrols with the Gold Crew prior to transferring to Shore duty. During his six years on FRANKLIN, he advanced from SA/SU to ST1(SS).

His first shore duty via instructor training school in Groton, CT, was the blue building in Pearl Harbor known as NSTCP, Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific. Upon completion of shore duty, he was accepted into the Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) training program in Washington, DC. After a year of training and having met all the requirements for independent duty as an Acoustic Intelligence Specialist he was awarded NEC 0416. From June of 1980 until his retirement 31 January 1990, he supported 17 fast attack submarines on Spec Ops.

His career milestones include Submarine Quals 1970, CPO selection 1978, ACINT Rider NEC 0416 1980, and MCPO selection 1984. His personal awards include seven Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals, and two Navy Achievement medals. Unit awards include three Navy Unit Commendations, six Meritorious Unit Commendations, and two Battle E awards. To date 75% of his life has been Submarine qualified.

Lieutenant John S. Lindstedt, USNR (Vet)

John Lindstedt attended the US Merchant Marine Academy for two years, where he saw service as a marine engineer sailing to Northern Europe and South America. Seeking a more rigorous chemistry background, he transferred to the

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry after which he attended graduate school at Arizona State University on a fellowship. Following graduate school, he attended NUPOC OCS, was selected by ADM Rickover for the nuclear power officer program, completed Nuclear Power School, Nuclear Prototype, and Submarine Officers Indoctrination Course. He reported to USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) (Blue), then undergoing nuclear refueling, Poseidon conversion and overhaul at Electric Boat in Groton, CT.

John was designated “Qualified in Submarines” in February 1974 on KAMEHAMEHA, while the boat was attached to Submarine Squadron 16 in Rota, Spain. During this time, KAMEHAMEHA engaged in the first Yom Kippur War in October 1973, when she sortied to patrol the Straits of Gibraltar and then proceeded into the Mediterranean Sea for Deterrent Patrol 20. It was on KAMEHAMEHA where John met Brian Haller, resulting in a friendship of some 52 years and many sea stories! Brian and John, with wives Pat and Cindy, have travelled extensively to Europe, the Pacific, and many locations in the US over the intervening years. They have many invaluable and cherished memories.

Following his naval service, John returned to his home state of Wisconsin and joined Advanced Plating Technologies, a surface finishing engineering firm providing surface finishes in gold, silver, nickel, tin, and lead in addition to engineering services to a large array of US companies. He is especially proud of the components that his company provides to the US military, including SSTG catch bearings on the current Virginia class SSNs, EMALS Launch System currently operational on the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), and the carry ammunition for all service branches.

John has an avid interest in the history of the U.S. Submarine Force, and he has developed a series of lectures that present the accomplishments of the Force and the key role that it plays in our national defense. He provides these lectures free of charge to universities, maritime museums, veterans groups, high schools, grade schools, and senior citizen groups. It was because of his teaching that he was invited to spend an evening with Eleonore Rickover, Admiral Rickover’s second wife, at her home in Arlington Virginia. It was a special evening that he captured in an article, **“The Hidden Rickover”** (copies were made available at the meeting).

John was a Commissioning Committee member for and is an Honorary Plank Owner of the USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 795), and he is a member of the 786 Club, the 795 Club, and the Commissioning Committee for the USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827).

John is married to Cindy, his lovely bride of 55, yes 55, years!!! They have three children: Jennifer, Matthew (Air Force veteran), and James (Navy veteran).

FTG1(SS) John “Mike” Murphy

Mike Murphy was born at Old Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC, on January 12, 1954, and raised in Prince Georges County, MD. He graduated from

Suitland High School in Suitland, MD in June 1971.

On his 18th birthday he signed up for the draft and then walked across to the Navy recruiter. The other services never even crossed his mind as his family are all Navy people. His father was a Boatswain Mate aboard the USS Augusta during WWII and was a Landing Craft Coxswain at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. His uncle retired as a Master Chief ASW Tech and his grandfather served aboard battleships in WWI.

Mike completed the required testing, enlisted in the delayed enlistment program in the Advanced Electronics Field, and then was sent to Great Lakes.

After Boot Camp, he was sent to the A1 Fire Control School at Great Lakes and advanced to FTG3. He then attended A2 FT school and upon graduation chose FT-C Underwater school for the MK-101 Fire Control System.

Upon graduation from C school, he was assigned to USS SHARK (SSN-591) and made a Med run, Unitas weekly runs to chase away Russian Yankees, and a 30-month shipyard period in Pascagoula, MS.

In February 1976, he was advanced to FTG1(SS). He was the Leading PO for Fire Control and the Qual PO and Educational PO for SHARK.

Post-shipyard, he was the only E6 to stand Duty Chief, Chief of the Watch, and Diving Officer of the Watch.

Mike left the Navy in January 1978 and with his Navy training entered an electronics career. He married and had three sons, one of whom now has a daughter and son of his own.

In October 2009, he married again to Lisa, whom he loves dearly and believes to be his soul mate. Between their children, they have five grandsons and one granddaughter, who is treated a little differently than the boys.

Mike is currently a Senior Principal Engineer with SAIC assigned to an agency of the Intelligence community as a System Engineering Technical Advisor. He is now 70 years old and hopes to work until he is 75 as that is when his current program completes and because he loves his job and the paycheck.

Mike and his wife have recently purchased a 21-acre parcel 30 minutes west of Lake Okeechobee and plan to finish adding a house by May 2029.

Commander Jonathan Hill Woodall, USN (Ret.)

Jonathan Woodall grew up in a Navy family living mostly on the East Coast: Maryland, Maine, Virginia, and Connecticut. They also lived in Hawaii from 1953-1955.

He received his commission in June 1970, through the NROTC program at the University of Virginia. After commissioning, he attended Naval Submarine School from July to December 1970, and then served on the diesel submarine, USS BLUEBACK (SS-581), homeported in Pearl Harbor, HI. He qualified in Submarines in February 1972.

From May 1974 to December 1976, he was assigned to Deep Submergence

Rescue Vehicle ONE (DSRV-1) (later named MYSTIC (DSRV-1)). He qualified as Deep Submergence Pilot (Hydronaut) Number 57 in September 1975. He was one of two pilots that completed the first successful Nine Round Trip Mission test in August 1976, while operating from USS GURNARD (SSN-662) off the coast of San Diego. He attended the Department Head course at Surface Warfare Officers School and was assigned to USS BLAKELY (FF-1072), first as Chief Engineer, and later as Weapons Officer. His last assignment on active duty was at Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, as an instructor. He left active duty in May 1981.

The remainder of his Naval service was in the Naval Reserve in various units both in Syracuse, New York, including the first commanding officer of NR DD-963 SPRUANCE 6302, and at Suitland, Maryland, including NR Naval Operational Intelligence Center.

He has been the lucky husband of Lina Scott Woodall since April 28, 1979. They have one daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Woodall, who is currently a resident of Greenland. Lina grew up in Bethel, Delaware, attended Mary Washington College, and graduated in 1975. They first met in October 1976, when Lina went to the West Coast to visit MWC classmates in Los Angeles and San Diego. One classmate, Susan Early Decesari, was the wife of Jonathan's DSRV-1 shipmate, Bob Decesari. He met Lina one morning as he prepared for a DSRV flyaway exercise to Washington State. They met again when he was transferred to the East Coast in March 1977. The rest, my friends, is history.

The CDR concluded the ceremony and noted that our next meeting will be on June 8th back at American Legion Post 364. He then thanked the Admiral for being our keynote speaker and gave special thanks for Cathy and Howard Chatham and Penny and George Wallace for coordinating this Holland Club event. He also wished a happy Mother's Day to our spouses.

The Chaplain delivered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1223.

We then partook of a plated, served luncheon of salad, Steak Diane, Chicken Breast Piccata, or Poached Salmon, and various desserts.

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