

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, June 9, 2012**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on June 9, 2012 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dex Armstrong, Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Nate (Doc) Compton + two daughters, Doris Faber, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Jimmy Lee (NAVSEA 07TR - guest speaker), Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Willie Petruy, Art Rosen, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (28 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Dex Armstrong, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of June. 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 Bonefish (SS-223)	Jun 19, 1945
USS S-27 (SS-132)	Jun 19, 1942
USS O-9 (SS-70)	Jun 20, 1941
USS Runner (SS-275)	Jun 26, 1943

**HISTORICAL MOMENT**

Our new Base Historian, Richard Lowry, presented a short synopsis of the demise of the USS Herring (SS-233). The ship carried out 8 War Patrols and its last skipper was the very aggressive leader LCDR David Zabriskie.

**MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the May meeting were distributed by e-mail and hard copies were available on each table. Minutes were approved by the membership.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 4,311.45

Ending balance: \$ 4,401.99 as of June 9, 2012.

Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Base Commander summarized the discussion at the recent **Executive Board** meeting,

including: the potential for future speakers for base meetings, candidates include PMS 435 (George Wallace to get his boss to speak), Norman Polmar, our members who are WW II vets, and our resident authors (at least three as active members); items on the agenda for today's meeting; and get out there and recruit, wearing your USSVI gear is a good way to advertise the organization. The next EXCOM meeting will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>,

**Membership Report** (Steve Jaeger): 87 members, with Doc Compton as our newest member.

**COB:** Dex mentioned that he still has some Italian Navy jumpers if anyone wanted them.

**Public Relations/Veterans Affairs** (Mike Varone): Nothing to report.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss)** (Steve Bishop): The date for our next visit to Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward will be in October 2012. Steve Bishop will order two dozen blue and two dozen pink special ball caps from the national supplier for USSVI in order to replenish our stock for this visit.

**District Commander** (Mike Naughton): Mike announced that the USSVI national elections are in progress and the American Submariner has the ballot and amendment information - please vote. Associate members for any base must have a sponsor who is a member in good standing at the base, and associate members cannot sponsor other associate members. These rules are so we can preserve our USSVI tax-free status with the IRS.

There were no other officer reports.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

We still have NOVA Base business cards for your use in recruiting new members.

The Capitol Base held their Tolling of the Boats ceremony last month at Arlington National Cemetery and borrowed our ships bell.

The Holland Club event will be held at P.J. Skidoo's on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

September's USSVI Convention will be in Norfolk – sign up at the USSVI national website. If the Marriott hotel is full when you book your room, the Sheraton is directly across the street.

**Post Meeting Note:** both hotels are now full, rooms are available at the Courtyard by Marriott near the other two hotels.

SCORPION update – Plans are being made for a dive to be conducted in October 2012. Paul Boyne is looking for helpers (on land - not divers).

The USSVI Memorial Plaque was discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to donate \$50.00 from the NOVA base to the USSVI Memorial plaque.

Mike Varone announced that the funeral for CAPT Armitage, former Sturgeon CO, will be held at Arlington National Ceremony on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Start planning for the 2014 Memorial Day Parade in Wash DC - it's the 50th anniversary of the USSVI.
2. News from National: The elections allow you to vote on line or by paper ballot found in the American Submariner. Several clarifications have been sent out from National.
3. The fire on the USS Miami at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was traced to a heat source in a vacuum cleaner. Possible re-use of systems and equipment from the USS Memphis (being decommissioned) is under consideration by NAVSEA.
4. Pictures of members when they served and now (head shots preferred) can be posted in the USSVI website where member information is displayed. If you forward your picture(s) to Howard Chatham, he will ensure that they get uploaded.
5. Veterans ID cards (VIC) are now available to Virginia residents from the VA DMV. If you served and have a DD214, but did not retire from the service, you can obtain one of these veterans cards to allow you to get Veteran's discounts at stores like Lowes, Home Depot, and others.
6. A submarine-themed movie night was discussed. A potential site is Neighbor's restaurant in Vienna (on Cedar lane north of Rt. 29 and south of Tysons Corner). The CDR/COB will check availability on a weekend in July.
7. The regular base meeting for July is superseded by our participation in the Lorton 4th of July parade. The plan is to meet July 4th at the American Legion Post between 9 and 9:30 AM to carpool to the parade route down the hill. Drivers will drop off the marchers at the Lorton Fire Station staging area, then drive the cars not being used in the parade to the parade finish area, and then walk back to the fire house in time for the 11:00AM parade start. We will march with and behind the American Legion Post 162 unit. Comfortable shoes, sun glasses, your USSVI vests and caps, sun tan lotion, and a bottle of water are recommended. At least two convertibles are planned to be available for those who prefer riding over walking. Members and associate members are encouraged to participate.
8. George Wallace announced that his second published book, Firing Point, will be available for sale in bookstores on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**The Binnacle List** currently includes: Rod Puffer; Joe Phoenix; Lorraine Sargent; and Ralph Chatham.

**For the Good of the Order**, the CDR read the list of birthdays for June: Don Basham 1st, Paul Boyne 4th, Rick McNamara 6th, Reb Wooten 7th, Debbie Bishop 7th, Dave Cooper 9th, Marcy Bivens 10th, Lee Turner 11th, Dan Burke 15th, Art Rosen 19th, Brian Haller 23rd, and Curt Haggard 29th. Birthdays in the month of July are: Robert Gilmore 3rd, Ralph Ghormley 10th, Frank Pasquinelli 25th, Bill Decker 25th, and Cathy Chatham 29th.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Steve Jaeger, who donated the winnings back to the Base. THANK YOU!!

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the business meeting at 1145.

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The Base Commander introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Jimmy Lee, the director of the NAVSEA 07TR submarine trainer program office. He is qualified in submarines and retired as a CWO3. Jimmy showed a submarine trainer film, and then showed slides while discussing the status of today's submarine trainers, and the submarine force's vision for future training and trainers. He paid due respect to the submarine force's earlier leaders in training, including George Horn, Stan Meyers, and Ed Johnson. All of us in the submarine service know we stand on our predecessors shoulders and that any success we had, and the missions we accomplished, were in large part due to the efforts of those that went before us. The bridge trainers, navigation trainers, and many other virtual simulation trainers for equipments like the oxygen generator and the diesel engines, have come a long way since we all served and trained. It was a most informative briefing. Thank you, Jimmy.

Howard Chatham, in his role as our Base Commander, and not in the role of Jimmy Lee's NAVSEA support contractor, presented Jimmy with the submarine challenge coin to thank him for today's presentation.

Our submarine trainer training session concluded at 1225. Many thanks to all who helped to clean up.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Stephen C. Bishop  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base