

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on 12 January, 2013 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Amos, George Billy, Steve Bishop, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ralph Chatham, CAPT Steve Debus (guest speaker), Cathy Debus, Edward Ettner, Mary Ettner, Robert Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Austin Miller, Mike Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Pete Petruy, Mike Varone, George Wallace and Penny Wallace. (26 attendees)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Chuck Martin, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The CDR read the list of boats lost in the month of January. These were:

USS Scorpion (SS-278)	Jan 5, 1944
USS Argonaut (SS-166)	Jan 10, 1943
USS Swordfish (SS-193)	Jan 12, 1945
USS S-36 (SS-141)	Jan 20, 1942
USS S-26 (SS-131)	Jan 24, 1942

The USSVI Regional Director, Mike Naughton, swore in the newly elected Base Commander, Howard Chatham.

Howard Chatham then swore in the other newly elected NOVA base officers:

Vice Commander	Paul Nelson
Treasurer	Steve Jaeger
Secretary	Steve Bishop

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, read a short submarine history passage about the thirteen War patrols of the USS Swordfish (SS-193), her wartime tonnage sunk, and her most probable demise to enemy mines near Okinawa.

A round of introductions was held to summarize all attendees' military service and current activities. This gave our guest speaker a better sense for his audience.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2012 meeting had been distributed by e-mail to the membership. One change to the minutes was made to indicate the wreath laying ceremony location in Alexandria National Cemetery, not Arlington National Cemetery. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as distributed and amended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

Starting balance: \$ 4,807.00

Ending balance: \$ 5,021.20 (as of 12 Jan 2013).

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the report.

Membership Report by Steve Jaeger: 86 members. This total includes 22 Holland Club members, 53 regular members, and 11 associate members.

The Base Commander presented a summary of the most recent Executive Board Meeting. Major items included: this year's planned events, membership status, updating our Facebook page, and a request for recommendations for this year's Holland Club speaker in November, 2013.

The Vice Commander, Paul Nelson, reported he anticipates that next month's "Sweetheart Luncheon" will be held after our February 9th meeting at 12:30 PM at the Fireside Grill restaurant in Lorton, VA. Post Meeting Note: Please pay the Base Treasurer Steve Jaeger before you leave the American Legion facility that day. The cost will be \$25 per person. The three entree choices will be: grilled angus sirloin, ahi tuna, or grilled breast of chicken. A flyer have been distributed via e-mail.

The COB spoke on the upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor on February 3rd. The COB and Base Commander intend to participate. Bruce Miller volunteered that there was a Sea Scout organization in the area, his father donated a 34 foot boat to them, and he will get us a POC.

The Kaps 4 Kid(SS) chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that the next event was TBD but would likely be in April or May.

The next Submarine League luncheon will be on February 15th and the guest speaker will be RADM Dave Johnson (PEO Subs).

The Base Commander spoke about the USS Thresher lanyards that will be up for sale to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the loss of the USS Thresher (SSN 593).

The Regional Director, Mike Naughton, noted that USSVI Executive Board will be meeting soon and will discuss plans for 2014 USSVI convention, USSVI is looking for a base that wants to sponsor the convention in 2015, and he reported that a base in Missouri has developed and printed a Tolling of the Boats brochure that National is trying to get made available on-line for all bases. He also reminded the Base that changes to the USSVI NOVA Base Bylaws need to be submitted to the District CDR for approval and then forwarded to the Regional Director.

There were no other officer reports.

OLD BUSINESS

The Base Commander spoke to the SECNAV response to the USSVI letter requesting a new investigation into the loss of the USS Scorpion based upon new evidence already having being found. USSVI's letter to SECNAV was incorrect as our recommendation to USSVI referred to

new technologies being available, not new technologies. We are waiting on official copies of the letters to be provided to the Base by National or the Navy before making any formal response.

The proposed Bylaws amendments had been e-mailed to all members and hard copies were sent to those members who don't have e-mail. The proposed Bylaws as distributed, were recommended for approval, the motion was seconded, there was no discussion, and they were approved unanimously by the membership. These approved Bylaws changes will be forwarded to the District Commander, Tom Perrault, for his signature.

NEW BUSINESS

The Base Commander reported:

- The USS Montpelier CO was relieved three months after the collision
- Electric Boat was awarded a \$ 2 Billion contract for the design and development of the next SSBN
- The USS Jacksonville was in the press for a damaged periscope after an incident at sea. Our guest speaker could not comment on the situation (he owns the Navy's Periscopes, among other submarine equipments)

The Binnacle List

Rod Puffer, Ralph Chatham, Tommy Cox, and Tom Perrault's niece Leslie.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for January: George Billy, Hank Chiles, Bruce Miller, Katy Chiles, Paula Friedrich, Dr. Sam Dunlap, Mike Murphy, Einer Nielson, Judy Perrault, Nader Elquindi, Susan Glover, Roger Hall, and Dan Arquette.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Chuck Martin who donated his winnings back to the Base.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1145.

After a short break, the Base Commander introduced CAPT Steve Debus, Program Manager for the Submarine Imaging and Electronic Warfare Program Office (PMS 435). The CAPT spoke to his colorful slides showing us how the control room and periscope depth operations are changing on our modern submarines. This was a wonderful presentation on submarine optics, infrared, and other imaging sensor systems and many questions were asked by the members. We all learned much today. Many members commented repeatedly during the presentation, "Wow."

The Base Commander thanked CAPT Debus and presented him a Challenge coin from the USS Von Steuben (SSBN 632), his submarine qualification boat. Thank you, CAPT Debus!!!

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