

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on September 13, 2014 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Dan Burke, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Delbert Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Glover, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Willie Petruy, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (22 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The Vice Commander (VCDR), George Wallace, 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 September. These were:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| USS S-5 (SS-110) | Sep 1, 1920 |
| USS Grayling (SS-209) | Sep 9, 1943 |
| USS Pompano (SS-181) | Sep 17, 1943 |
| USS S-51 (SS-162) | Sep 25, 1925 |
| USS Cisco (SS-290) | Sep 28, 1943 |

HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Richard Lowry, is on the Binnacle List, but he prepared a short synopsis of the demise of the USS Pompano (SS-181) which was read by the VCDR. Although she sank several enemy ships on her first three war patrols, the Pompano did not survive War Patrol 4 near Hokkaido and Honshu. This was due most likely to a Japanese sea plane attacking the surfaced sub, and then the next day the Japanese minelayer Ashizaki depth charging the flotsam and jetsam near the subsequent oil slick.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail and were approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 5,525.21

Ending balance: \$ 5,611.35 as of September 13, 2014.

Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 81 members, comprised of: 32 Holland Club members, 38 Regular members, and 11 Associate members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CDR :

Board of Directors meeting was held two weeks ago, as the annual convention was held last week. Discussions included:

- plans for the next K4K visit on October 16th to Fairfax Inova Hospital
- modifications made to the USSVI NOVA website by the CDR
- the SK purchase plans to be made from vendors at the convention
- future briefs for NJROTC units
- base challenge coin issues
- USSVI national election results
- nominating committee for 2015 base election – Paul Nelson and Bob Glover
- program schedule for 2015 – there is still time for requests if you have any suggestions
- plans for the Dixie Bones BBQ luncheon after today's meeting.

VCDR: RADM Lorin Selby (NSWC) will speak to us in January, 2015. CAPT John Zimmerman (PMS 425) will speak to us in March, 2015. On Sep 23rd, author George Wallace will be the guest speaker at the Army - Navy Club dinner.

PAO/VETERANS AFFAIRS: Mike Varone reported that the November 8th speaker will be Prince William County Aquia District Supervisor, Paul Milde, who will be bringing in and sharing with us memorabilia including the cruise book created by his grandfather, who was a US submariner in the 1930's. Mike also reported on the Casper Base meeting in Groton last month and his impressions from the tour they took of the VA-class sub New Hampshire.

K4K: Steve Bishop reported that the next Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) visit to Fairfax Inova Hospital will be on October 16, 2014. The team will meet in the Blue waiting room at 2:15 PM. Let Steve know if you can make the Oct 16th visit by calling him at (703) 293-6344. He presented a K4K bracelet to Mike Varone, who has made 10 of our 11 trips to visit these kids. At the USSVI national convention, John Riley, the national K4K chair shared best practices from bases across the country. He praised one of our shipmates, Thomas "Woody" Woodhouse, of the Peoria base, who has visited a total of 1152 kids by making weekly visits. We at the NOVA base have visited 151 kids on our 11 visits to date. The CDR presented Steve with a 2015 SubVets calendar, donated by Joe Phoenix, to be given to our POCs at Inova on the next visit.

CHAPLAIN: Steve Jaeger reported that Darlene is doing well after her recent surgery.

SK: Howard Chatham reported that he purchased a number of 2015 SubVets calendars at the convention for the COB and that more can be ordered individually through the USSVI SK website or via the Base SK.

SUBLEAGUE: Tim Oliver, reported that:

- We all miss our dear friend Dex Armstrong who has gone on Eternal Patrol. He was a friend to all of us.
- As the NSL Executive Director he attended the USSVI convention last week and signed up 28 life members to the NSL. ALCON are encouraged to become members of both USSVI and NSL.

- The Fall Symposium will be held on Oct 22nd and 23rd, 2014, at the Fairview Park Marriott. Registration forms are available online and were mailed to all members. The luncheon speaker on the 23rd will be the CNO, ADM Jonathan Greenert, and the speaker for the dinner that evening will be Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.
- The next Capitol Chapter luncheon will be on December 12th.

DISTRICT CDR/REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT: Mike Naughton , the NE Regional Director, reported:

- The NE Region business meeting will be held next month in Pittsburgh on Oct 13th, the same day as our NOVA base monthly meeting.
- USSVI National has purchased a group liability insurance policy that now covers us as participants in USSVI events. We will be submitting forms as a base as we participate in these events (parades, K4K, other sponsored events, etc.) to ensure we are covered.
- The USSVI National convention in San Francisco was a success in spite of the expensive hotel and some catering glitches. The tours and good times spent with shipmates were exceptional. The final banquet was superb and highlighted the 13 WW II submarine veterans who were in attendance.
- The crew putting on the 2015 convention in Pittsburgh was taking copious notes during this entire convention. The Pittsburgh site will be right downtown with walking access to many restaurants, casinos, ball parks, and cultural and entertainment sites. The convention will start on Labor Day and the Labor Day parade starts at the front door of the host hotel. Free tours of the submarine USS Requin will be available. There will also be a dinner cruise on the Gateway Clipper paddlewheel ship. Registration is now open on their website (<http://www.ussviconventionsteelcity2015.org/>) and will soon be up on the USSVI.org website.
- The 2016 convention will be in Reno, NV.
- The USSVI election statistics on voting participation showed a rather apathetic turnout this year. The Base CDR added that our base voting participation was the highest turnout in the district, but was still low at about 18% of eligible voters.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Base Challenge coin is still a possibility
 - o The Base CDR is corresponding with the vendor POC used by the Casper Base.
 - o He also spoke with Shelly Saxton at the convention and she says she can get the detail we are seeking (Howard, George, and Steve saw her detailed work).

NEW BUSINESS

- The CDR asked if there was any interest in holding a meeting next year at the Cold War Museum on the Navy Yard. After a discussion, a show of hands indicated most attendees supported such a meeting, perhaps in June, 2015.
- The DFAS password requirements have been relaxed (see the MOAA page identifying the changes at http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Enjoying_Retirement/Compensation/DFAS_Eases_Complex_Password_Rules.html).
- A USSVI SE regional conference will be held at Cape Canaveral, FL during April 20-23, 2015.
- A TRICARE pharmacy champion in Congress has stepped up – Senator Kay Hagen of NC who is submitted an amendment to reject the DoD proposed pharmacy copay.

- There will be Town Hall meeting at the Washington DC VA Medical Center on Tuesday, September 16th.
- The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum is looking for donations to support its “Save our Sail” campaign. They have the complete sail of the decommissioned USS Mariano G Vallejo, but they need to move it ashore and create a museum display with decorative tiles surrounding it. More information can be found on their website at <http://www.saveoursail.com/>.
- The USS Farragut base will be selling its second printing of its cookbook “Silent Service Food to Dive For”. Copies can be ordered via our SK for \$22 plus shipping and handling (or \$17 plus shipping and handling if more than one is ordered).
- News from the fleet: (see details in the Word document attached to the e-mail forwarding the minutes)
 - o 34 sailors to be discharged at NTU Charleston, SC in a cheating scandal
 - o SUBGRU TWO has been disestablished after 49 years in service
 - o The CO of the USS Newport News was relieved for alleged domestic abuse
 - o The USS North Dakota was delivered to the US Navy on August 29th
 - o The USS John Warner was christened at Huntington Ingalls Shipyard on September 6th
 - o The Scottish independence vote, if approved, would impact British submarines as the leaders of the secessionist movement want Scotland to be a nuclear free zone (Post Meeting Note: Scotland decided not to secede)
 - o Australia may buy 10 Japanese submarines for ~ \$19 Billion
 - o The Chinese are working on a supercavitation submarine that would ride inside a big bubble and go very fast – right!
 - o A Japanese sub didn’t violate Russian waters, but Russia claims a US sub was spotted in the Barents Sea
- Art Bivens reported that he had read The Trident Deception noting that it was pure fiction, if not, fantasy. There are other reviews of the book in the Winter 2014 NSL “Submarine Review”.

BINNACLE LIST

“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”

Richard Lowry, Chuck Martin, Resi Steeg, the family of CAPT Walter Mazzone, and the victims of the 9/11 attacks and last year’s Navy Yard attack, and their families.

“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.”

“BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE: Alan Amos, Howard Chatham, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Paul Nelson.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

Our next meeting will be held on October 11, 2014 when the guest speaker will be our own Doc Compton who will talk to us about his experiences as a corpsman in submarines and what submariners are doing in the Reserves.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:54 PM.

At 12:15, we reconvened for a BBQ lunch at Dixie Bones in Woodbridge, hosted by "Tightwad" Jaeger and the Base treasury. The Base CDR and Treasurer presented a Base patch to the owner of Dixie Bones, Nelson Head. The patch will join those from other military, police, fire department, etc. units that adorn the rafters of the restaurant.

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