

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1107 on May 10, 2014 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Robert Frick, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Austin Miller, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Willie Petruy, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (20 total)

■ 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 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

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, then read the history of the loss of the USS Squalus, the rescue of 33 crew members, the raising and repair of the hull, and recommissioning as the USS Sailfish (SS-192) and her subsequent conduct of twelve war patrols.

**MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the April meeting were previously distributed by e-mail and a motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept them as promulgated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented his report:

Starting balance: \$5,811.20

Ending balance: \$5,322.98

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The **Base CDR** presented a summary of the topics of discussion at the most recent **Executive Board Meeting**: plans for the Holland Club initiation; plans for future K4K visits, the Eagle Scout recognition program, investigation of a submarine brief for a local NJROTC unit, the Base challenge coin proposal, Memorial Day weekend events, and finalizing what would go in the library display.

The **Vice Commander**, George Wallace, reminded ALCON that the Holland Club induction/ luncheon was scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at P. J. Skidoos and that RSVPs are needed ASAP. Payment for the event can be sent to the Treasurer or at the restaurant. Penny Wallace noted that

P. J. Skidoos needs the total count and menu selections a week before the event.

The **COB** reported that we have two more Eagle Scout Courts of Honor scheduled. This first will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> and the second (for two scouts) will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Both ceremonies will be held at 3 PM at Trinity UMC in McLean, VA. Please let the COB know if you wish to attend.

Steve Jaeger reported on **Base Membership**: 82 members now as Benny Parker went on Eternal Patrol May 4<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that we have 33 Holland Club members and will add nine more next month.

In the absence of the **K4K Program** chairman, the Base CDR reported that the next visit to Inova Fairfax would probably be in August.

Mike Varone had nothing to report regarding **Public Relations / Veterans Affairs**.

In the absence of the **NSL** Executive Director, Tim Oliver, the Base CDR announced that the Spring classified Submarine Technology Seminar would be held next week and the date of the next Capitol chapter luncheon is TBD.

The **Regional Director** and Capital Base CDR, Mike Naughton, had nothing to report but the COB reminded ALCON that the Capital Base would be holding their Tolling of the Boats ceremony on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1100 at the F-4 Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. Our Base CDR then summarized the USSVI events for the Memorial Day weekend noting that anyone wishing to take part in the parade needed to complete and return the Agreement of Release he had sent out earlier this week. (**Post Meeting Note**: it turns out that the e-mail wasn't received by the membership and had to be resent after the meeting.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Base CDR asked if there were any more orders for the proposed Base challenge coin. Receiving none he noted that there were no changes suggested to the design and thanked the COB for coming up with what will be the final design.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Base has set up a submarine display at the Tysons Pimmit Regional Library. This display will be on view for the rest of the month. The Base CDR thanked the Secretary, Steve Bishop, for his help in getting this display in place.

Post 162 Memorial Day Weekend Activities: The Post will be placing American flags on the graves of veterans in cemeteries near the Post. This will take place on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and start out with a car caravan from the Post at 1000. They also will hold a joint Memorial Day ceremony with the 40&8 on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1100. Members of the Base are invited to participate in/attend these events.



Chick-fil-A restaurants in Northern Virginia will be holding a Military Appreciation Night on

May 21<sup>st</sup> for all active duty and retired military personnel and certain meals will be offered for free from 4 to 7 PM. Check with your local Chick-fil-A to see if they are also participating.

From the “Undersea Warfare News”:

The House Armed Services Committee has listed the SSBN replacement program and building two VA class submarines per year as priority items as well as no BRACs.

Two brothers, MMCM (SS/DV) Chris Konopka and ETCM (SS) Jeremy Konopka, stationed in the Pacific Northwest shared a milestone in their career by pinning the rank of Master Chief on each other May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

RADM Timothy Giardina accepted NJP of a letter of reprimand and forfeiture of \$4,000 for his involvement in a casino gambling case last year. At that time he was relieved of duty as deputy commander of U.S. Strategic Command, reverted to two-star rank and could be further reduced to one-star by a formal review when he requests retirement.

Rickover: The Birth of Nuclear Power will be featured at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual GI film festival at the Old Town Theater in Alexandria on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Discount tickets are on sale at <https://gifilmfestival.webconnex.com/admiralrickover> using the checkout code AUTEUR14. It is anticipated that the film will be broadcast on TV in the fall and will also be available on DVD.

The New London Day reports that EB has been awarded the largest shipbuilding contract in its history to build ten Virginia class submarines for roughly the price of nine. The article only tangentially notes that Huntington Ingalls Industries is a partner with EB in this award.

Efforts to remove the concretion from the hull of the CSS Hunley have started and may take up to five years. It is hoped that this will finally reveal why the Hunley sank 150 years ago.

STSCS Walker, the sonar chief on the USS Hampton and a Star Wars enthusiast, arranged to carry sixth scale figures of Darth Vader and a Snowtrooper on board during ICEX 2014 and took pictures of them with the sub at the North Pole. The figures also stood watch in the Sonar shack helping the ship look for any “Rebel Scum”.



The Chilean submarine CS Thomson (SS-20) has arrived in San Diego to participate in the U.S. Navy’s Diesel-Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) which provides realistic and relevant training for our forces in ASW.

The Taiwanese have reported that the U.S. has agreed to help Taiwan build its own diesel-electric submarines. No details were provided in the article.

There is now confirmation that the RN submarine HMS Trafalgar was involved with the hunt for the missing Malaysian airliner MH370 however the Trafalgar’s search has been terminated.

Three Lieutenants in the RN have recently completed qualification in submarines.

The French Navy, following training planned to start next year, will also send three women officers to sea on an SSBN in 2017.

An Iranian stealth mini-submarine recently sank while preparing for a naval exercise to practice sinking or disabling a mock-up of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. They have also had problems with arming speedboats with more weapons than they were designed for and ten boats tipped over during testing.

A South Korean man was arrested for spreading internet rumors that a U.S.-South Korean military drill caused the passenger ferry, Sewol, to sink last month. He posted a photo of a U.S.

submarine operating of South Korea's west coast, altered and reposted navigation warnings of the exercise, and misidentified the date of the exercise.

The International Submarine Association has voted to pursue hosting an International Congress (Convention) tentatively scheduled for May 2018 at Disney World.

Bruce Miller reported that Sea Scout Ship 212, which received a 35' sailboat from his father-in-law, Ray Coe, have renamed their base the Runners in honor of the submarine he qualified on. They are interested in participating in our Quartermaster and Eagle Scout recognition program and possibly a briefing on submarines. Bruce will get the COB the Ship's POC information.

Gary Smith noted that Mickey Garverick coordinated a highly successful fund raising campaign from USS Permit veterans to put a park bench with a plaque at the Kittery ME Memorial Park. It will be dedicated at a ceremony on Memorial Day.

Lou Maruzo won't be able to make it to the Holland Club event next month. It had been hoped that we could conduct the induction at this meeting as he was to have arrived on the auto train from Florida this morning. However, the train was significantly delayed. He sent us his regrets and noted that if he had known that it was going to take this long to get into the Holland Club he would have finished his qualification sooner.

The **Binnacle List** includes: Dex Armstrong, Debbie and Steve Bishop, Resi Steeg, Ray Stone, and the family of Benny Parker.

**For the Good of the Order**, the CDR read the list of birthdays for May: Bill Clement, Mike Harmody, Robert Miller, Joanne Pasquinelli, Mark Riethmeier, Sue Shannon, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Ron Williams, and Ruri Wootten.

The **50/50 raffle** was won by Paul Nelson.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR reminded ALCON that the next meeting will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> at P.J. Skidoos for the Holland Club initiation and luncheon and adjourned the official meeting at 1143.

Next Robert Frick entertained us with stories of his career on the USS Sabalo, USS Will Rodgers, USS Haddock, USS Drum, USS Kamehameha, USS Birmingham and lessons learned as well as some instances where others haven't learned how to keep history from repeating itself. Some of his points included the need to understand the ocean, the concept of root cause, knowing your ship, letting the right people do their job (not allowing others to insert themselves when they should just be monitors), etc. He also discussed the circumstances involved with the USS Greenville - Ehime Maru disaster. His briefing was most interesting and educational and we can only hope that he will share more of his thoughts and experiences at future meetings.

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