

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1105 on 11 January, 2014 at American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Bud Cunnally, Ed Ettner, Mickey Garverick, Bob Glover, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mary Lou Naughton, Mike Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Pete Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Lorraine Sargent, Ross Sargent, RDML Lorin Selby, Noland Smith, Mike van der Biezen, George Wallace and Penny Wallace. (26 attendees)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The Base Chief of the Boat (COB), Chuck Martin, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base 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

Mike Naughton, the NE Regional Director, swore in the reelected NOVA Base Commander, Howard Chatham.

The CDR then swore in George Wallace as Vice Commander and Steve Jaeger as Treasurer. Steve Bishop was unable to attend the meeting and will be sworn in as Secretary at the February meeting.



This is the original DBF design that started the "Diesel Boats Forever" movement. Designed and drawn by Lee Figuerido. West Pac 1970

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, was ill so the VCDR read the unofficial history of the origins of the Diesel Boats Forever pin. It was designed by a member of the crew of the USS Barbel (SS-580) and was intended to be awarded to diesel boat crews that relieved nuke boats who had casualties and could complete their missions. However, the craftsman that first produced the pins made up thousands of these and sold them to anyone that wanted them. In 1970 a proposal was made to the Navy Department to make the pin official but that was rejected.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 2014 meeting had been distributed by e-mail and snail-mail to the membership. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Base bank account balance at the beginning of December was \$5,272.37 and balance at the end of the month was \$5,454.60. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD The CDR presented a summary of the most recent Executive Board meeting which was held on January 7th. Major items included: potential new members, planning for this year's Holland Club, membership renewal, boat sponsorship, K4K visits, upcoming Eagle Scout ceremonies, revisions to the proposed Base coin, candidates for Base appointed positions, Wreaths Across America cleanup, and next month's Sweetheart Luncheon.

VCDR The VCDR had nothing to report.

COB The CDR requested and received approval from the membership to reappoint Chuck Martin as the Base COB. Chuck then reported that the next Eagle Scout Court of Honor would be held on Sunday, January 11th for two scouts. He also noted that he has made copies of the video that Tim Oliver recorded of the 2013 Holland Club induction. Copies will be sent to those inductees and more are available from the CDR.

MEMBERSHIP Steve Jaeger reported that we have 84 members. This total includes 33 Holland Club members, 11 associate members, and 40 regular members – with the addition of two new members: Noland Smith and Mike van der Biezen. The CDR noted that USSVI has again qualified for War Veteran status but ALCON should check their membership profile on the USSVI website to make sure their status and any other information (such as duty stations both at sea and ashore) are correctly entered.

PAO The CDR requested and received approval from the membership to reappoint Mike Varone as Base Public Affairs Officer (PAO).

VAO The CDR noted that PAO and Veterans Affairs had been split into two positions and requested and received approval from the membership to appoint Bill Clement to the latter position. Bill noted that the latest Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) bulletin including some items of interest – a BRAC for 2017 has been rejected by Congress and the Commissary subsidy has been reduced. The Bulletin routinely has articles about TRICARE and as anything news comes out Bill will keep us informed. Bill also reported that the new chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee will be Thad Cochran (R-Mississippi). Senator Cochran is a Navy veteran.

CHAPLAIN The CDR requested and received approval from the membership to reappoint Steve Jaeger as the Base Chaplain.

KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS) The CDR requested and received approval from the membership to reappoint Steve Bishop as the Base Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) chairman.

HISTORIAN The CDR requested and received approval from the membership to reappoint Richard Lowry as the Base Historian.

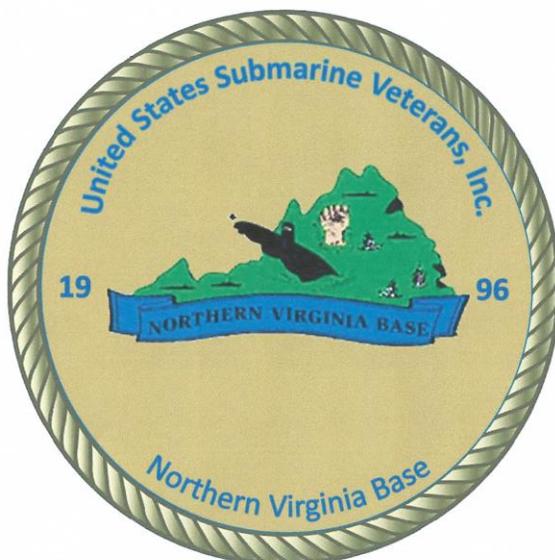
SUBLEAGUE Tim Oliver, the NSL Executive Director, reported that the next Capitol Chapter luncheon will be held on January 16th and the guest speaker will be The Honorable Paul “Chip” Jaenichen, U.S. Maritime Administrator and retired submarine Captain. Tim also noted that membership rates for active duty personnel have been reduced and two year student memberships are free.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT Mike Naughton reminded ALCON to get their reservations in for the National convention this September. He also noted that members who have not renewed their membership yet are on the Dink List and will be unable to get access to the USSVI database until their dues are received by National (via the Base Treasurer). He reminded us that the End of Year Report will be due by February 15th. The Treasurer noted that we are only waiting on the yearend report from our bank to complete the submission. Mike then relayed to us the saga of funding issues from the last convention – National had to temporarily bail out the convention committee and then spent considerable effort in forcing the committee to repay National as well as the percentage of the profits that were due to National. It was also noted that applications are still being accepted for USSVI scholarships.

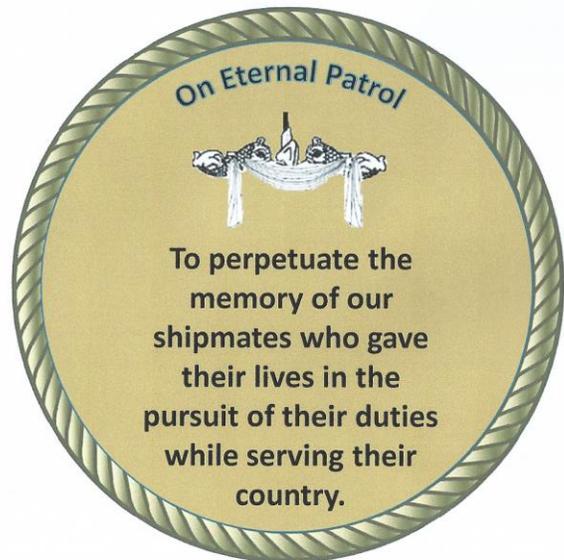
OLD BUSINESS

It was determined that the significant amount of text originally planned for the reverse of the planned Base coin was just too much to make it readable so a revision of the design was proposed to the attendees. Notwithstanding the drawing shown below, there will be no color on the reverse but the text will be raised brass and quite readable. Concurrence was received from those in attendance to proceed with this design.

USSVI NOVA Challenge Coin Rev 4
January 6, 2015



Front



Back

The Wreaths Across America cleanup at Arlington National Cemetery will be held on January 24th and commence with a briefing at the McClellan Arch Gate at 0830. Anyone who wishes to assist in this effort is most welcome. Mike Naughton reported that the underground level of the visitor parking garage at ANC will be closed that weekend so alternatives entrances are recommended. The CDR suggested that anyone planning on driving to the event should consider using the Old Post Chapel gate on Ft. Myer. The Ord-Weitzel gate (near the Iwo Jima Memorial) and the South Maintenance Complex gate (nearest to the Pentagon) are other options.



The CDR reported that the reception and service in honor of our lost shipmate, Dex Armstrong, yesterday was well attended and very moving. Friends, family, and shipmates came from all over the country as well as from Norway. Sailor, Rest Your Oar!

NEW BUSINESS

1. The CDR reported that if you have Verizon Wireless service they are offering a Military and Veteran's discount of 15% on service. Mike van der Biezen said that there is also a 25% discount on accessories. Just go to www.verizonwireless.com and click on the link at the bottom of the page. If you are uncomfortable sending a copy of your DD214 or ID card over the Internet (and you probably should be) you can go to your local Verizon store to work out the details.
2. The VCDR reported on a MOAA program, that started with a local chapter in Oregon, to send letters of support and gratitude for First Responders (law enforcement, fire fighters, EMTs, etc.) thanking them for their service. The CDR sent the idea up the USSVI chain of command and is awaiting a response. If this is something too political for USSVI George will prepare letters that individuals can send to local First Responder units. **[Post Meeting Note:** the answer came back and USSVI does deem this too political. Personnel that wish to pursue this can contact George or Howard at georgew@rmi.net or hmc64@verizon.net.]
3. The San Francisco Maritime National Park Association is looking for articles on diesel boat WWII technology and tactics and life on the boats during WWII and the Korean War.
4. News from the Fleet (see more details from the Undersea Warfare News published along with these minutes)
 - COMSUBLANT and COMSUBPAC have announced the 2014 Battle "E" winners.
 - A contest is underway requesting designs for the crest of the USS Colorado. Information on the contest can be found at <http://usscoloradocommittee.org>.
 - The National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund has been set up for the Ohio Replacement Program, unfortunately no one has figured out where to find the money for it yet.
 - A ceremony was held at Naval Reactors' on January 9th to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the nuclear navy.

- The sailors involved in the video taping of female officers onboard the USS Wyoming will face “significant” penalties. VADM Connor noted that this action was not a high-schoolish prank but a serious sexual offense.
 - The newly created submarine memorial in Bartow FL will be dedicated March 7th.
 - It’s back on again – Japan is proposing jointly building Australia’s new submarine – of course this report is unconfirmed.
 - Taiwan had decided not to wait for the U. S. to make good on plans to develop a diesel submarine for them and will design their own.
 - Thailand also wants a submarine fleet and may be looking to procure two or three.
 - Poland just wants to find one of theirs that was lost in the North Sea in WWII.
5. The movie “Black Sea” is a British adventure “thriller” starting Jude Law about an ex-submarine captain searching for a German WWII submarine filled with gold that was sunk in the Black Sea. We understand that if you look carefully at the sub you may notice that it isn’t a U-boat as this was filmed on an ex-Soviet Foxtrot in England.
6. For a more realistic submarine tale George Wallace confirmed that the Navy has approved the filming of “Hunter Killer” based on his novel Firing Point. They will start filming on April 13th in Alaska. Ninety percent will be shot in Whittier. Check out <http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2014/12/12/submarine-thriller-hunter-killer-to-be-filmed-in-alaska-port-town-whittier/> for why they picked that site.



The Binnacle List

The Armstrong family, the Bishop’s, Richard Lowry, Ray Stone, Resi Steeg, Ruri Wootten, and the family of CAPT John Howland. Tim Oliver also informed us of the death of ADM Trost’s wife Pauline Louise.

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

The 50/50 raffle was won by Cathy Chatham who donated it all back to the base. Thanks Cathy. We also held drawings for six of the U. S. Navy Submarines A Century Of Service To America stamp booklets. These were donated by Mickey Garverick. Thanks Mickey.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The next meeting will be on February 14th and be followed by the Sweethearts Luncheon at the Fireside Grill in downtown Lorton, VA. A flyer will be created and distributed shortly.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 1157.

 After a short break, the CDR introduced RDML Lorin Selby, Commander Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC). He is the first submariner to command NSWC. His presentation was on the NAVSEA Warfare Centers – Naval Surface Warfare Center and Naval Undersea Warfare Center. These started as various labs in WWII and have evolved into nine divisions run by a collaborative executive staff. Their efforts range from R&D, S&T, T&E, to



Product Delivery and Fleet Support. Their major customers are PEO IWS and PEO Subs and other customers include numerous other NAVSEA offices, SPAWAR, NAVAIR, even the Army and the Air Force as well as some DOD and non-DOD agencies. The work force consists of almost 21,000 civilian employees and many naval personnel. The major roles of the Warfare Centers include: helping to determine and develop capabilities needed by the Navy and Marine Corps; design, develop, and field solutions for urgent operational fleet needs; and to provide a bridge between warfighters and the technical community. All this results in a properly sized and trained workforce and the facilities required to provide the necessary technical capabilities at the right time at the best cost. RDML Selby fielded a number of questions from the attendees and then the CDR thanked him for the presentation and presented him with a USSVI Challenge coin.

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