

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, June 13, 2015

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on June 13, 2015, at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, CAPT Michael Coughlin, Delbert Ennis, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Richard Lowry, Vickye Lowry, Chuck Martin, Austin Miller, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Mike Niblack, Willie Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Ray Stone, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (24 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.

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

HISTORIAN

Richard Lowry presented a historical remembrance of the USS Bonefish (SS-223). During her first seven war patrols, she sank nearly 150,000 tons of enemy shipping and damaged another 40,000 tons. Then the Bonefish and her Captain, Commander Lawrence Edge, were selected to participate with one of the wolf packs breaking through the heavily mined entrance to the Sea of Japan. These wolf packs were meant to wreak havoc on the Japanese homeland and they did that during June of 1945. During this period, Bonefish received permission to conduct independent daylight submerged patrols inside Japan's Toyoma Wan Bay in the middle of Western Honshu. Here, on June 19, 1945, Bonefish torpedoed and sank the 5,488-ton cargo ship *Konzan Maru*. Four Imperial Japanese Navy patrol craft were immediately sent to attack her with depth charges and Bonefish succumbed to their relentless attack. She and all 85 hands were lost.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 162

Post Commander Patty Veld thanked and presented a Certificate of Participation to five members of our USSVI base for their recent assistance during Post 162's April 18th Post Beautification Program. Members recognized were: Mike Varone, Chuck Martin, Steve Bishop, Howard Chatham, and Brian Haller.



MEETING MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance: \$ 5,875.14

Ending balance: \$ 5,186.56 as of June 13, 2015.

The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Base Commander summarized the discussion at the recent Executive Board meeting, including: potential new members, Holland Club results, replenishment of the K4K library at the hospital, status of the base challenge coin, the July 4th parade, and a mid-year financial review.

VCDR: George Wallace thanked Brian Haller for videoing last month's Holland Club ceremony. Copies of the video will be provided to the new Holland Club honorees.

COB: Chuck Martin reported that we participated in another Eagle Scout Court of Honor last month. The honoree was the grandson of a submariner and the Scoutmaster also served on submarines. No new COHs are scheduled as yet.

Membership Report by Steve Jaeger: 85 members consisting of: 35 Holland Club; 39 Regular; and 11 Associate members.

Public Relations: ALCON were advised that an article about our Base activities is included in the latest issue of the [American Submariner](#).

Veterans Affairs: the CDR, reporting for Bill Clement, noted that the HASC released its markups of the National Defense Authorization Bill and none of the DOD proposals for cuts in pay or benefits were included.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): The date for our next visit to Fairfax Inova Hospital's pediatric oncology ward will be Thursday, July 23rd. We will meet at 2:15 PM in the Blue Lobby. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Steve Bishop at 703-293-6344 or dsbishop1@verizon.net. The CDR noted that replacements for all the books in the Inova submarine library have been received and will be ready for redistribution to the hospital at the next visit.

Submarine League: The Capitol Chapter Luncheon will be on July 16th. The Annual Fall Symposium will be held Oct 21-22, 2015 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church.

Regional Director: Mike Naughton reported that the USSVI national officers are working on a program to get highways in all fifty states named after submarine veterans. There are 114 members signed up for the national Convention in Pittsburgh in September. The Brewers vs. Pirates baseball game has been added to the agenda for Friday night of the Convention week.



He also thanked the Base for the use of our bell for the Capitol Base’s Tolling of the Boats ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery last month.

Next he presented the Base CDR with his Certified Base Commander patch for completion of the associated qualification card (“better late than never” said the CDR).



OLD BUSINESS

The Base challenge coins were shipped to the Base Commander yesterday.

NEW BUSINESS:

FLEET NEWS: Headlines here with details provided for each in the attached file.

- Admiral Richardson, the current head of NR, has been nominated for CNO
- RADM Tofalo, the current N97, will become the next COMSUBLANT / COMSUBFORCE
- Project for Government Oversight thinks both these Admirals are guilty of ethics violations but the Navy doesn’t seem to agree (nor do government lawyers)
- Former SECNAV Lehman isn’t happy about pulling ADM Richardson from NR after only 2 years in an 8 year billet “protected” from political pressure
- Other submarine flag officer announcements/assignments have been made
- USS John Warner has successfully completed sea trials
- SSN 796 will be named the USS New Jersey
- Four sailors have been sentenced so far in the USS Wyoming filming of female sailors scandal. However, this scandal hasn’t stopped the Navy from meeting its quota for 100 applicants to be the first enlisted females to serve on subs
- The submarine sailor/arsonist caught and found guilty of the USS Miami fires in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard now proclaims his innocence
- Submariners will don the new fire resistant coveralls later this year
- The USS Topeka has shifted homeport to Guam, making it the fourth sub in CSS15

The First Annual SUBFEST in Manitowoc, WI (Ed Ettner’s hometown) will be held July 9th – 12th. Information on the event can be found at <http://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/index.php>.

Thank you to Brian Haller and Cathy Chatham for joining the Base CDR and Post 162 in placing flags at Lorton area veterans' gravesites.



Thank you also to Steve Bishop, Penny Wallace, and George Wallace who joined the Base CDR in the DC Memorial Day Parade where we marched with Famous Dave's of Alexandria, whose manager is a submarine veteran.

The Lorton 4th of July parade for this year was previously cancelled due to Fairfax County hosting the World Police and Fire Games. We investigated participating in the Dale City parade but there has not been enough interest from the membership to do so thus we will not be marching in any parade on the 4th.

For the November Pirate's Auction, we have added Lockwood's book Sink 'em All and coasters depicting fleet boat depth gauges and engine order and speed/distance indicators.



Joe Phoenix reported that a new brick has been engraved in memory of Dex Armstrong and added to Post 162's memorial in front of the Legion Hall. It is right beside the brick for Smitty. Both shipmates are on eternal patrol.



Mike Naughton noted that he attended a ceremony on the Nautilus commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of Midway. A few WWII veterans were there and had some great stories to tell.



And many thanks to Joe Phoenix for bringing refreshments to the meeting.

BINNACLE LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers. John Gluck, Tony Poblete, Anita Varone, Penny Wallace, Reb Wooten, and the families of VADM Joe Williams, Jr., VADM A. J. Baciocco, Jr., and CAPT Dave Cooper (on the loss of his wife Mimi). We are happy to report that Bruce Miller and Ray Stone have been removed from the list.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for June: Debbie Bishop, Marcie Bivens, Dan Burke, Dave Cooper, Brian Haller, Michael Niblack, Tony Poblete, Art Rosen, Lee Turner, and Reb Wooten.

50/50 Raffle: The raffle was won by Mary Lou Naughton.

There will be no NOVA SubVets meeting at the Legion next month. Instead, we will hold an informal ‘dining out’ at Neighbor’s Restaurant in Vienna on Saturday, July 11th at 1800. The next monthly meeting will be held on August 8th at the Cold War Museum on the Washington Navy Yard. Following the meeting, we will get a tour the Cold War Museum and the Navy Museum across the street.

The Chaplain delivered the Benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1148.

After a short break, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker, CAPT Michael Coughlin, Program Manager for PMS 415, Undersea Defensive Warfare Systems.



Captain Coughlin is a 1990 graduate of Northwestern University and initially served as a Division Officer on the USS Asheville (SSN 758). His next tour took him to Yokosuka as Flag LT for (at that time) RDML Al Konetzni, CSG Seven. He then served as Engineer Officer on the USS Portsmouth (SSN 707), the Force Radiological Controls Officer for CSP and as XO on USS Columbia (SSN 771). His next tour was as an analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Program Assessments and Evaluation, Naval Forces Division. In April 2008 he took command of the USS Olympia (SSN 717). His next assignment was as Deputy Commander for Training in Submarine Squadrons One and Three and then he became the Assistant PM for Warfare Requirements and Test and Evaluation for PMS 450 (the Virginia Class Program Office). In April he fleeted up to Program Manager for PMS 415 – Undersea Defensive Warfare Systems.

CAPT Coughlin spoke to us about his current job at NAVSEA’s Team Submarine Program Office for Surface Ship Torpedo Defense (SSTD). His biggest challenge is a Presidential /

SECDEF rapid fielding mandate for defeating wake homing torpedoes. A video of a SINK-EX showing the power of a torpedo to break the keel of a surface ship and send her to the bottom certainly caught our attention. He is trying to protect the US Navy's largest surface ships from these powerful weapons by developing and fielding quickly an anti-torpedo torpedo (ATT) system. His contracted team for this rapid development effort is Penn State ARL and 3Phoenix at Wake Forest. The ATT system is heading for a Milestone B decision where industry competition for production of the systems will occur. This system would certainly be seen as an improvement on those larger fleet assets lacking any sonar systems, including those used to carry US Marines into battle.

When commenting about his time served in the submarine service, he delighted in the resilience and toughness of his fellow submarine sailors. He commanded the USS Olympia during a live fire test of torpedoes near Hawaii. During that test, his ship experienced the force of his own launched American torpedoes at close ranges. He said, "You don't want to be at 10 yards when they detonate; we were at 4,000 yards and it really shook us up." In commenting on how small the US submarine force is, he said his former sea daddy when qualifying on his first boat, Gary Watson, is now the ATT program manager at Penn State ARL. He really appreciates that retired submariners, like Gary Watson, our own George Wallace who was serving in San Diego when CAPT Coughlin was a JO, and others he hadn't met yet in the room, who stick around in their follow-on civilian life careers to help support the submarine force.

After the presentation and question and answer session, the Base CDR thanked CAPT Coughlin and presented him with a USSVI challenge coin. The session ended at 1234.

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