

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, March 14, 2015**

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on March 14, 2015 at 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, Tom Denton, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Paul “Chip” Jaenichen, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Willie Petruy, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Larry Woodworth. (24 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The VCDR, George Wallace, 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 Perch (SS-176)	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus (SS-207)	March 5, 1943
USS H-1 (SS-28)	March 12, 1920
USS Triton (SS-201)	March 15, 1943
USS Kete (SS-369)	March 20, 1945
USS F-4 (SS-23)	March 25, 1915
USS Tullibee (SS-284)	March 26, 1944
USS Trigger (SS-237)	March 26, 1945

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, prepared a vignette on the USS Triton (SS-201). As he was unable to attend the meeting the VCDR read the remembrance. Launched in March, 1940 at Portsmouth Navy Shipyard, NH, she arrived in Pearl Harbor in August, 1941. On December 8, 1941 during a practice war patrol near Wake Island, she learned that Japanese warplanes had attacked both Wake Island and Pearl Harbor. During her next three war patrols she ranged to the South and East China Seas and the waters off Alaska, sinking nine Japanese ships, including a submarine and a destroyer. Her fifth patrol was off Wake where she sunk three more ships. On



her sixth and last war patrol, USS Triton was pursuing an enemy convoy with its wolf pack partner USS Trigger (SS-237). On March 15, 1943, USS Trigger heard an extended depth charge attack coming from the area patrolled by USS Triton. Post-war re-construction shows that all 73 men were lost and are now on eternal patrol when three enemy destroyers sank the USS Triton.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed by e-mail. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Starting balance: \$ 5,409.81

Ending balance: \$ 5,697.53

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Board: The Base Commander presented a summary of the Executive Board meeting held earlier this week. Discussions included: recruiting efforts; plans for this year's Holland Club initiation; boat sponsorship; K4K status; base coin purchase; website updates; upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor; speaker for the June meeting; suggested facility upgrades proposed to American Legion Post 162; and planning for this year's Tolling of the Boats and Pirate Auction.

VCDR: George Wallace reported that the Holland Club luncheon and induction ceremony will be held on May 9th at P. J. Skidoo's Restaurant in Fairfax at 1100. Our two inductees will be Admiral Henry Chiles and CAPT Earl Griggs. Our guest speaker will be VADM Daniel Cooper.

Chief of the Boat: 1. The Base CDR spoke for the COB who is attending a family funeral in Texas today. The Base CDR will attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Ruther Glen, VA on Sunday, March 15 and another in McLean VA on Saturday, March 21. 2. Author Rick Campbell, a submariner and member of the USSVI Capitol Base, has donated a copy of each of his two books, "Trident Deception" and "Empire Rising", to supplement our base 50-50 raffle for today.

Membership Report: by Steve Jaeger: 81 members, including:

33 Holland Club members

2 World War II members

37 Regular members, with our newest member Michael Niblack of Woodbridge, VA

11 Associate members

Public Relations: Mike Varone reported that our article and pictures have been submitted to the American Submariner showing and describing several of the activities undertaken by the base during the past year.

Storekeeper: The CDR reported that the down payment has been made on the base coin. The process takes about 7-9 weeks, including approval of the line art and the proof.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Steve Bishop reported that the date for our next visit to INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric oncology ward is Thursday, April 16, 2015. Plan to meet at the Blue Women and Children wing visitors' lounge on the ground level, across from the Blue parking lot at 2:15 PM. Wear your USSVI sub vest and cap, and bring your Blue parking lot ticket, as the nurses will validate our parking. If you want to join us for this, our first visit of our 6th year of USSVI NOVA base visits to the Fairfax Hospital pediatric oncology ward, please contact Steve at 703 293 6344. Steve also noted that Ross Sargent is still working with the UVA hospital to set up similar visits to their pediatric oncology ward.

NAVY SUBMARINE LEAGUE Tim Oliver announced that:

1. The Submarine Birthday Ball will be held April 10th. 2. There will be a Submarine History Seminar on April 15th entitled "US/UK Cooperation in the 1960's". 3. The next Capital Chapter luncheon is April 24th. RADM Lorin Selby will be the speaker. 4. The Navy League Sea / Air / Space Expo will be held April 13-15 and he is looking for volunteers to man the NSL booth.

Regional Director Mike Naughton spoke:

1. A call for candidates for District Commander has gone out. Candidates only have to have served as an elected base officer, not as Base Commander. 2. Now is the time to make nominations for USSVI awards – instructions on this are included in the Awards Manual that can be found on-line. Mike then turned over his time to Tom Denton of the Capitol Base to talk on the F-4 (SS-23) memorial. March 25th is the anniversary of the US submarine force's first loss of a submarine – the F-4 in 1915. Although 21 men were lost on the F-4, only 17 are listed and remembered at the F-4 memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. The Capitol base is leading the campaign to get Congress to acknowledge all lost members of the crew of the F-4 with a plaque. The Capitol Base memorial service at the F-4 will be held on May 16th this year at 1100. The Base CDR noted that the USSVI Long Range Planning Questionnaire had been modified, but was still not user friendly and the deadline to reply has now passed. He also reported that only 25 people have signed up for the USSVI annual convention in September. (The NOVA Base will not be holding a regular meeting in September as we encourage all of our NOVA shipmates to attend the convention in nearby Pittsburgh.)

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you to Terry and Paul Nelson for organizing the Sweethearts Luncheon last month. Paul told us Terry did 90% of the work, but we think we knew that already.

Each year the American Legion Posts apply for a grant from the Home Depot Corporation for capital improvements. The Base CDR mentioned the recommendations he made to the Post 162 for consideration in the use of those grant funds this year:

1. Install a new door with a lock to the supply closet behind the stage.
2. Bring the two bathrooms at the back of the hall up to par with the bathrooms in the bar.
3. Purchase a large projection white screen for the stage.
4. Conduct a field day in the two closets behind the stage and invite all owners of "stuff" in the closets to participate.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Groton USSVI Base will be holding its 51st anniversary celebration April 30 - May 2.
- Former Base Commander Tim Shannon forwarded to us the Top Ten Military / Veteran Discounts. They are: VET TIX; Sea World; Overstock.com; Thompson Cigar; Under Armour; Microsoft; Dell; HP; Apple; Bodybuilding.com; and a bonus 11th one - ManUP. Most of these good deals require you to sign up at www.go.id.me but you also might try the actual corporate websites for the discounts.
- The New Jersey South and Jersey Shore Bases are asking for donations to erect a submarine memorial.
- A cold war certificate is available to you at no charge at:
www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch%20-%20Cold%20War%20Certificate%20Program

NEWS FROM THE FLEET

- Another successful D-5 missile test (the 155th in a row)
- Obituary for John P. Craven
- CNO told HAC that funding for the Ohio Replacement Program is a must
- MCPON says Chiefs induction is not a tradition
- CDR Tom Swanson, CO of USS Mississippi (SSN 782), relieved of command
- SUBLANT 2014 Sailors of the Year
- An actual yellow submarine (Echo Ranger) courtesy of Boeing
- Keel laid for USS Colorado
- Navy planning on Bangor pier extension for two Seawolf subs who are currently home-ported in nearby Bremerton, where underways and arrivals are restricted by tides
- Presidents who served in the Naval Reserve
- Changes coming for JCS and CNO
- SECNAV – “we will have 300 ships before the end of the decade”
- 22 Rear Admirals nominate for second stars
- Hearing commenced regarding the USS Wyoming incident

See details of the above items in the attached news clippings.

It is never too early to start planning for the Pirate Auction at our November meeting; start looking through your treasures and/or saving up your money. The CDR showed a few items that will be included in the auction – a submarine jigsaw puzzle and a yellow submarine tea infuser.



The Binnacle List currently includes: John Gluck, Bob Frick, Richard Lowry, Ray Stone, and the family of VADM Edwin Snyder.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for March: Art Dunn, Ruth Garverick, Dave Gault, Steve Jaeger, John Lindstedt, Terry Nelson, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, and Bill Truslow.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Mary Lou Naughton. The Rick Campbell book raffles were won by: Brian Haller who received a copy of “Empire Rising” and Mike Varone who won a copy of “The Trident Deception”. Our thanks to Rick Campbell for donating the books to the Base.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 11TH FOR THE ANNUAL TOLLING OF THE BOATS CEREMONY. THE RECOMMENDED “UNIFORM” IS SUIT OR VEST AND TIE; NO T-SHIRTS AND JEANS PLEASE.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1158.

After a break to get liquid refreshments and to pump bilges, the Base CDR introduced our guest speaker: CAPT (ret) Paul “Chip” Jaenichen, Sr, Maritime Administrator for the US Department of Transportation. After 30 years of submarine service, Chip retired in April 2012. Although he was a submarine CO (USS Albany) and a Submarine Squadron Commander, he now has a fleet of 46 ships as he is also the Commandant of the US Merchant Marine. As such, he also oversees the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. Many of the ships in his fleet are the Roll-On/Roll Off ships that provide forward base logistics support on five days’ notice (Iraq and Afghanistan deployments).



Chip spoke on “Why the Maritime Industry Matters” His color handouts were very informative and painted a bleak picture of the status of the American-flagged fleet of commercial ships. Basically, foreign-owned ships service our US ports and as such we are not in full control of our waterborne supply chain. The United States has not had a meaningful Maritime Strategy since 1936. Chip is determined to create such an overarching strategy and to focus this country on improving the river and ocean port-based shipping infrastructure of this country with a theme of “Go Big, or Go Home.” Without meaningful changes, we as a country are out of the big shipping business in about ten years.

Remember: 2/3’s of the support equipment for forward military deployments arrives in theater by Sealift Ships, and Sealift ships need efficient ports. Do we want our military Sea Lift moving on Chinese - flagged ships?

At the end of his hour-long presentation, Chip answered questions for 20 minutes. The Base CDR then presented him with a USSVI challenge coin and thanked him for this presentation.

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