



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12th, 2021

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1101 on June 12th, 2021, and welcomed all members and guests. Because of the social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Zoom web conferencing application. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Les Altschuler (USSVI Northeast Regional Director), Steve Bishop, Arthur Bivens, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Mickey Garverick, Robert Glover, Brian Haller, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Louis Maruzo, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Teresa Nelson, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (19 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The **Secretary**, Joe Castell, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **Chaplain**, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The **Vice CDR**, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in June. These were:

USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	Btwn June 26-July 4, 1943
USS HERRING (SS-233)	June 1, 1944
USS GOLET (SS-361)	June 14, 1944
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	June 19, 1945

The **CDR** then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 32 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: CAPT James W. Davis, USN, Ret—4/12/2021; CAPT Arthur E. Walther, USN, Ret—4/27/2021; CAPT John H. Cox, USN, Ret—5/1/2021; Senator and Secretary of the Navy John William Warner—5/25/2021; RDML John Thomas Michell, Jr., USN, Ret—6/1/2021; MOMM3(SS) Paul Algot Christofferson, a WWII submarine vet—6/2/2021.

MEETING MINUTES

The May 2021 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussions for the May minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



BASE HISTORIAN: Woody Woodworth read an article on the USS DRAGONET (SS-293): Construction, Commissioning & First War Patrol). The article is appended at the end of these minutes.

The **Treasurer**, Steve Jaeger, presented the Treasurer’s monthly report:

- Beginning Cash on Hand: \$ 10,376.61
- Receipts: \$ 5.09
 - Donations—Base
 - Interest/Dividends
- Expenditures: \$ 34.30
 - Expense—Events (HC and 75th Anniv)
- Ending Sub-Total: \$ 10,347.40
 - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds (\$1,169.40)
- Grand Total (discretionary) \$ 9,178.00
- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 3,054.10
 - We received \$1000.00 in 2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on June 2nd, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2021 Holland Club
- K4K Program
- Base Mid-Year Budget Review
- USSVI NOVA Base Bylaws Rev 4
- Other Base events/calendar

The **VCDR**, Brian Haller, had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **PAO**, Mike Varone, the CDR presented the following:

- Dale City July 4th Parade is being held on July 3rd. The Base is planning on participating; contact the COB or the CDR if interested in participating. Participants will meet up at the COB’s house at 8 am and then go to the staging area. It is a fun time!

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, had nothing additional to report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT presented by Steve Jaeger: 80 members comprising:

- 42 Holland Club members,
 - 3 WW II members
- 30 Regular members



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



- 8 Associate members

The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, provided the following:

- K4K visits are still suspended until further notice.
- Intent is to contact the 3 hospitals when schools are back in session; however, don't expect any visits this summer.

The **Scouting Coordinator**, Chuck Martin, had nothing to report.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, 2021 USSVI Calendars, Silent Service dog tags/keychains. Silent Service/Pride Runs Deep ribbon magnets, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Storekeeper also has access to National USSVI SK, Submarine Ships Store, and SubmarineShop.com items for purchase.
- Contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you have an interest in purchasing any submarine-related merchandise.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported the following:

- No issues with the Base website.
- Base speakers and presentations are now on the Base website.
 - Go to the USSVI Northern Virginia Base website at www.ussvinova.org.
 - Scroll down the home page until you reach the Photo Album/Presentations section.
 - Click on the Presentations hyperlink listed in the second bullet.
 - A new page will open up with the list of available presentations and the hyperlink for viewing the presentation.
 - Select the presentation(s) you wish to view and click on the associated hyperlink.

The **USSVI NE Region Director**, Les Altschuler, provided the following:

- Northeast Region Biennial election for District Commanders:
 - The election for NE District Commanders is in progress and ends June 30th, 2021.
 - Thanked everyone who has voted.
 - Votes must be postmarked by June 30th, 2021.
 - Nominees for the NE4 District Commander Arthur "Art" Glover (incumbent) and Charles "Chuck" Martin.
 - Results will be announced at the National Convention.
 - Voting is based on your Primary Base membership.

The **NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL)** Executive Director, Tim Oliver, and the Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace, provided the following information on upcoming NSL and related events:

- NSL Headquarters address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone number is 703-256-0891.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



- NSL Headquarters has hired a couple of new employees, but there are several Staff positions available, both part-time and full-time still open. The positions are: Assistant Editor/Publications, Business Manager, Executive Assistant, Communication Coordinator, Corporate Membership Coordinator, Individual Membership Coordinator, Events Coordinator, and Outreach Coordinator.
- If you or someone you know is interested, contact Tim Oliver at execdirector@navalsubleague.org
- The focus for NSL for the next few months is reaching out to the industrial workforce to let them know how important their efforts are on behalf of the Submarine Force.
- NSL Capitol Chapter:
 - The next Capitol Chapter meeting is being planned for July. Date and keynote speaker TBD.
 - The June meeting was held on the 3rd and the keynote speaker was VADM(Sel) Bill Houston, perspective Commander, U.S. Submarine Force.
 - If you have missed meetings, you can still see and hear the guest speaker's presentations by visiting https://capitol.navalsubleague.org/?page_id=30
 - October 2020 Meeting, Jonti Powis presentation
 - December 2020 Meeting, Don Keith presentation
- NSL Brick Campaign:
 - You can contribute to the Capital Campaign by purchasing a brick for the patio at the NSL headquarters. This is an opportunity to display your name, your boat's name, the NSL logo, or a message up to 3 lines of 18 characters each. At \$140 each, an NSL brick would make a great gift! And it is a donation, so tax-deductible to the extent you can deduct charitable contributions.
 - To buy a brick, go to the NSL website...SUPPORT US...NSL SHOPPING...and place your order, or click on the link: https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NavalSubmarineLeague_1/default/index.php
- 2021 Technology Symposium "Balancing Capability and Force Structure for High-End Combat":
 - Scheduled for in-person 20-22 July 2021.
 - If you cannot attend, this year you can purchase an UNCLASSIFIED DVD of the five keynote speakers (ADM Frank Caldwell, The Honorable James F. Geurts, Mr. Ron O'Rourke, Representative Joe Courtney, and VADM William Galinis) and a classified DVD (SECRET) with the slides (with notes) for each presentation. To order visit NSL website at <https://www.navalsubleague.org/events/submarine-technology-symposium/>.
- Navy League Sea-Air-Space Expo still on track:
 - Scheduled for August 1-4, 2021.
 - STEM Expo will be held on August 1st, 2021.
 - Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.
- 2021 Annual Symposium and Industry Update:
 - Scheduled for 17-18 November 2012.
 - Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Alexandria, VA.
 - Registration information will be posted in September on the NSL website.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



On behalf of the **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)** President, John “Bud” Cunnally, the CDR provided the following:

- Upcoming International Submarines Congress:
 - Date: May 22-26, 2022
 - Location: Karlskrona, Sweden
 - Activities include Naval Museum tour, Naval Base tour, Memorial Service, Boat trip, and local activities.
 - Application for participation needs to be submitted no later than December 31st, 2021, and payment of the conference fee no later than February 28th, 2022.
 - For more information, visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>.
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website www.isausa.org/.
 - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00.
 - Application is on the ISA/USA website.
 - There are 33 countries as members of ISA.

Upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS WYOMING (SSBN-742)—July 23-26, 2021; Cheyenne, WY
- Several boat reunions are scheduled for August, see the *American Submariner* for listings.
- Reunions are also listed on the NSL website.

Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the status of reunions.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2021 USSVI National Convention:
 - The convention will be at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, Florida 32819.
 - The convention dates are August 30-September 4, 2021.
 - The room fee is \$105.00 per night + tax. No Resort Fee will be charged, and the rates are good for stays from 27 August to 7 September. The cut-off date for Room Block is August 1st, 2021. Reservations made after this date may be made at the Convention rate based on room availability.
 - Reminder to submit your USSVI National Convention Reservation form when you make room reservations.
 - Guests receive the following:
 - 25% off Green Fees, use of Spa, and most restaurants (excluding Headwaters, 18 Monroe Street retail items, ParTake, and Smooth Java. Discount does not apply to room service or alcoholic beverages).
 - Free WIFI in room and common areas.
 - Free self-parking (show name tag when leaving parking lot).



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



- Free Handicap parking in the valet parking lot with handicap placard/tag (call hotel for a ride to the front desk).
- \$2.00 draft beer in the hospitality room.
- Six USSVI Northern Virginia Base members (George & Penny Wallace, Mike Varone, Tim Oliver, Lou Maruzo, and Chuck Martin) are planning to attend.
- The NSL will have a booth at the Convention.
- The *American Submariner* 2021 Second Quarter edition has been distributed and is available online at the USSVI National website.
- The USSVI Northern Virginia Base Bylaws Rev 4.0 have been approved by Art Glover, NE4 District Commander, and have been posted to the Base website.
- The Base received the items from Ray Stone's collection of submarine memorabilia that he bequeathed to the base. The items included various plaques, a poker set, and multiple framed prints. The EXCOM has decided that the items will be placed for bid at our Pirate Auction this year.

The CDR called for other items of old business and none were provided.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2021 Annual Base Activity report has been submitted to the NE4 District Commander by the CDR.
- Holland Club Special Recognition:
 - Last year, the USSVI Holland Club began recognizing two special groups of Holland Club members.
 - The Senior Submarine Service (SSS) Award for being qualified for at least 70 years.
 - Certificate of Achievement (CoA) for being qualified in submarines for 75 years or longer.
 - The awards are not retroactive.
 - The Base has three members who received recognition in 2020; one SSS and two CoAs.
 - The intentions were to make the presentations to the awardees at the Holland Club Induction Luncheon, but due to COVID-19, the event was canceled. The EXCOM has decided not to delay the presentations any longer.
 - On May 20th, 2021, Howard & Cathy Chatham, Mike Varone, and CDR Chuck Martin presented to Al Anceravage a CoA for 76 years of submarine service along with several gifts with his family and friends. A photo of the presentation is appended at the end of these minutes.
 - In May 2021, the Base mailed to Francis McNamera his CoA for 75 years of submarine service along with several gifts.
- Our VCDR, Brian Haller, has recently qualified as a USSVI Base Commander. BRAVO ZULU, Brian!
- ADM Archie R. Clemins, USN, Ret., will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on July 16th, 2021. Additional information will be emailed to the Base members when obtained.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



- For the latest COVID-19 information in the Northern Virginia area visit one of the below websites:
 - State of Virginia – <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov>
 - Dept of Veterans Affairs – <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine>
 - Arlington County – <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/>
 - City of Alexandria – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
 - Fairfax County – <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
 - Prince William County – <https://coronavirus.pwcgov.org>

The CDR called for any other items of new business and none were presented.

The Binnacle List

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Francis McNamara, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, and Tony Poblete.

For the Good of the Order, the Secretary read the list of birthdays for June: Debbie Bishop, Marcy Bivens, Dan Burke, Dave Cooper, Lynwood Crow, Brian Haller, Jim Huck, William Lehan, Mike Niblack, Tony Poblete, Art Rosen, Lee Turner, and Carl Wooten.

Due to no base meeting in July, the list of birthdays for July: Cathy Chatham, Bill Decker, Tom Fortier, and Robert Gilmore.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Base will be participating in the Dale City 4th of July Parade on July 3rd. We will be meeting at the COB's house at 0800 and then going to the staging area. Please contact either the COB or the CDR if you plan on participating and for directions to the COB's house.
- The Base's informal dining out is scheduled for July 10th at Kilroy's in Springfield, VA at 1800. An email will be sent closer to the event providing the address. Please send your RSVP to the CDR by July 6th so we can provide Kilroy's a head count.
- The CDR conducted a poll of those Base members in attendance as to who would be interested in the informal dining out.
 - Results were 6 yes, and 9 no.
- Our next base meeting will be on August 14th, venue TBD (American Legion Post 364/Zoom or Zoom). The CDR conducted a poll of those Base members in attendance regarding interest in resuming in-person Base meetings.
 - Results were 10 yes, and 5 no.
- The CDR stated that the Base would continue using Zoom for in-person meetings to allow for greater Base participation.

The Chaplain delivered the Benediction.

The CDR called for a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1147.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



USS DRAGONET (SS-293) Construction, Commissioning & First War patrol

DRAGONET's keel was laid down on 28 April 1942 at [Cramp Shipbuilding Co., Philadelphia, and](#) launched 18 April 1943. DRAGONET was then moved to Philadelphia Navy Yard for completion and was commissioned there on 6 March 1944. Commander Jack Hayden Lewis in command.

DRAGONET was depth charged during a series of controlled tests in April, May, and June 1944 off [Portsmouth](#), New Hampshire. More information on this test is available via the link: [HyperWar War Damage Report 58 Submarine Report \[Section 18\]](#), Subsections; 18-6, 18-7, and 18-8.

DRAGONET reached [Pearl Harbor](#) from [New London](#) on 9 October 1944 and put out on her first war patrol on 1 November.

The body text of C.A. Lockwood, Jr, COMSUBPAC letter dated 3 January 1945 available via link https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-293_dragonet concerning DRAGONET's first patrol is as follows:

1. The first war patrol of the DRAGONET was conducted in the Kurile Islands and Sea of Okhotsk Areas.
2. Despite thorough area coverage, no contacts worthy of torpedo fire were made. On 15 December while conducting a submerged patrol south of MATSUWATO, the DRAGONET struck an uncharted rock and holed her forward torpedo room. While award of combat insignia is not authorized for this patrol, the courageous actions of the commanding officer, officers, and crew of the DRAGONET throughout the harrowing period of clearing the almost fatally damaged ship from the grounding and while enroute based in typhoon weather are deserving of the greatest praise."

The following are excerpts from the narrative section of DRAGONET's first war patrol report concerning the grounding.

On 15 December 1944 at 0515 "Submerged in RASHOWA Strait and commenced patrol to eastward. Depth control difficult in heavy tide rips."

At 0717 "In position Lat. 47-57.5N, Long. 143-08.5E, 6 miles south of MATSUWA TO, returning to 100 feet from 63 feet after a periscope observation. At 70 feet, course 090°(T), speed 2 knots, with 2° dive angle a slight jar was felt and ship broached to 58 feet. This was thought to have been an aircraft bomb. Negative tank was flooded and speed increased to gain depth. Rigged for depth charge attack. Hung at 90 feet with 20° dive angle, heavy grinding sounds forward and repeated jars, realized we were aground. Forward torpedo room reported flooding. Collision quarters and abandoned forward torpedo room. Blew all main ballast tanks and put pressure on compartment salvage air to forward torpedo room. Forward room reported completely flooded. Boat rose to 65 feet with very large dive angle and then began to sink again. Getting no place, and afraid that stern would clear and be sighted, from MATSUWA, ordered all



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



main ballast tanks flooded. Settled at 92 feet with 16° dive angle and pounding badly. Could not obtain suction with trim pump on forward trim tank. We were greatly concerned with the heavy pounding and grinding sounds that continued. It is essential that we got off before ship breaks up.

0732 Received report the water was receding in the forward torpedo room.

0735 Blow forward main ballast tank group and safety tank. Angle began to level off and ship rose slowly. Blew after main ballast tank group.

0738 Surfaced under the eyes of shore installations on MATSUWA, exchanged feel of temporary relief for one of shameful nakedness. Cut in all four main generators clearing area at best speed. With all the days of low visibility we have had, today would be one of unlimited visibility and ceiling. Shore installations clearly visible on MATSUWA as we ran for it.

0740 Steering "normal escape courses" at emergency ahead speed, about 17.3 knots. Large list to port and believe Nos. 2B and D M.B.T.'s have been holed.

0750 Blew all fuel ballast tanks and pumped variable tanks. Flooded No. 6A M.B.T. and No. 3A F.B.T. to compensate for list. The location of our grounding is well established. We were in a tide rip as shown on chart HO 5324 and encountering a westerly set. Navigational fixes had been obtained at 0607 and 0640 using points of references on MATSUWA TO and RASHOWA TO. Chart indicates 69 to 70 fathoms in this locality and from rocky to coarse sand and shell bottom."

At 2400 Changed time to zone -10.

16 December 1944 (-10)

At 0230 (K) Cleared message to radio and received receipt.

At 0832 (K) "Received COMSUBPAC 151921. Using fuel from No. 6 normal fuel oil tank to gain weight aft. Left No. 3A F.B.T. flooded to correct for list. Also flooded 8.5 tons into No. 3 auxiliary and left 13.5 tons in after trim tank. All other variable tanks pumped dry."

At 1800 (K) "In cyclonic storm. Barometer dropped 0.13 in one hour. Gale winds and heavy seas. Slowed to 5 knots and changed course frequently to find best sea condition to ride out storm. Bow planes are still rigged out and pounding continuously. Feels as though ship will come apart. Steadied on course 105° (T). Water rising in forward torpedo room. Leak around cable stuffing gland in bulkhead between forward battery and torpedo room causing water to enter pantry. Blew No. 1 normal fuel oil tank into No. 5A and B F.B.T. in effort to obtain an angle and reduce water level in torpedo room.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



Developed 20° port list which settled down to a final 10 degrees. Rolling 40° to port. With the large free water surface in flooded compartment, it felt that we would roll over. Opened 5B flood valve and blew this tank to sea. This leveled the list. Pumped No. 3 Auxiliary dry. Taking fuel from starboard side of No. 6.”

17 December 1944

At 0800 (K) “By morning seas had drawn around to the westward, bow was riding higher and the water level in the forward torpedo room down to about 6 inches above the floor plates. Still pounding heavily with bow planes rigged out. At the time of striking ground, the Mark 18 torpedoes in Nos. 1 and 4 tubes were half out being charged. These torpedoes are still in that position with inner doors open and outer doors closed but not locked. Put air pressure on forward battery compartment and equalized pressure between this compartment and the flooded torpedo room. Opened door to forward room and Commander A.F. SCHLECH, Jr., USN, Lieutenant J.K. HENRY, USN, and Lt(jg) R.G. STEWART, USN, with H.K. HALE CTM, USN and J.T. SCANLON, TM1c, USNR entered. Helmets to protect against chlorine gas were made available but were not needed. Air was foul with fuel oil fumes and oxygen was bled into the compartment. The torpedo tube outer doors were locked closed and the bow planes were rigged in by hand and secured by chains in the super structure. The forward room was again abandoned. As well as can be determined from observation the pressure hull has been ruptured between frames 21 and 22, port side, just above the top level of forward trim tank. The clock in the forward room had stopped at 0720, indication that it took about 3 minutes for the compartment to flood.”

At 2350 (K) “Heavy seas and winds of gale force. Ship rolling badly.”

18 December 1944 Set clocks ahead to zone -11 time.

At 0245 (L) “Ship rolled 63° to port and hung there righting herself very sluggishly and settling down with a 20° port list. Mercury spilled out of master gyro and compass went out of commission. Personnel were thrown out of bunks clear across compartments. Sea filled the port side of bridge, but fortunately did not reach the upper conning tower hatch. No. 6A M.B.T. flood hole was rolled clear of water allowing air pocket to collect there. This tank was vented and the port tanks blown to restore ship to even keel.”

At 1245 (L) “Wind and sea abating.”

Two days later DRAGONET’s first patrol ended upon mooring at S10, Submarine Base, Midway at 0831 20 December 1944. DRAGONET entered ARD-6 at 1615 the same day for emergency repairs. On 23 December emergency repairs were completed and at 1511 DRAGONET was underway for Pearl. On 25 December DRAGONET “Celebrated Xmas with a fine meal and Santa Claus in the form of the American Red Cross delivered presents to all hands.” At 1117 27 December 1944, DRAGONET moored at S/M Base Pearl.



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



An additional link also is available: <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/w/war-damage-reports/submarine-report-vol1-war-damage-report-no58.html> SECTION XIV U.S.S. DRAGONET (SS293) Grounding While Submerged Off Matsuwa To, Kurile Islands 15 December 1944



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



AL ANCERAVAGE PRESENTATION



Chuck Martin, Al Anceravage, Mike Varone, and Howard Chatham