



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 2021

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1108 on November 13th, 2021, at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. The meeting was also conducted using the Zoom web conferencing application to allow attendance by Base members, not in the local area, and to support the continued social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

George Billy, Steve Bishop, Arthur Bivens, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Catherine Chatham, John “Bud” Cunnally, Michael “Mickey” Garverick, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, Teresa Nelson, Mike Varone, and Woody Woodworth (14 total).

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The **COB**, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **Chaplain**, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

The **Secretary**, Joe Castell, read the list of boats lost in November. These were:

USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943
USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944

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

IN MEMORIAM: CAPT Willard E. Johnson, USN, Ret—10/06/2021; George “Bucky” N. Kilmer [ETN3(SS)]—10/11/2021; CWO3 Johnny G. Stanford, USN, Ret—10/15/2021; CAPT Eric W. Krieger, USN, Ret—10/18/2021; CAPT Gerald Sedor, USN, Ret—10/24/2021; Hon. A. Linwood Holton Jr., USN, Veteran—10/28/2021 (CAPT and WWII SubVet); CAPT David R. Burgess, USN, Ret—10/31/2021.

BASE HISTORIAN: Woody Woodworth read an article on the history of Naval Submarine Base New London: Navy’s first Submarine Base and the “Home of the Submarine Force.” The article is appended at the end of these minutes.



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MEETING MINUTES

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

On behalf of the **TREASURER**, Brian Haller, the **CDR** presented the Treasurer’s monthly report:

•	Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 9,885.22
•	Plus Receipts:	
	- NFCU Interest/Dividends	\$ 0.08
	- Holland Club Luncheon	\$ 735.00
	- Donation to Base	\$ 80.00
	- Sale of Items	\$ 75.00
•	Minus Expenditures:	
	- Holland Club Luncheon	\$ 1,014.06
•	Ending Cash on Hand:	\$ 9,756.24
	- Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	(\$1,379.40)
•	Total Local Discretionary Funds	\$ 8,376.84
•	USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance:	\$ 3,054.10
•	Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF):	\$ 4,433.50

The CDR asked whether there were any questions regarding the Treasurer’s report, hearing none, the report was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** meeting was held on November 3rd, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2022 draft Base budget
- Base election
- Old and new business
- Other Base events/calendar

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, presented the following:

- The Base participated in two Veteran’s Day ceremonies:
 - Howard Chatham participated in Falls Church Veterans Day ceremony
 - Jeff Curren and Chuck Martin participated in Patriot Scuba’s Veterans Day “Honor Dive” ceremony.
- Our Holiday Luncheon is on December 11th at Madigan’s Waterfront Restaurant:
 - We will meet after our December Base meeting ~1200
 - Downstairs seating



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- Order from the menu

MEMBERSHIP REPORT presented by Chuck Marin: 79 members comprising:

- 42 Holland Club members,
 - 3 WW II members
- 29 Regular members
 - 20 Life members
 - 9 Annual members
- 8 Associate members
- Annual membership for Regular and Associate members expires on December 31st of the year that dues are paid up. The CDR will be sending another email shortly requesting you to pay your dues early.
- Early Bird drawing will be held on December 11th at our meeting. Winners will have their next Base annual fees paid for by the Base.
- Early Bird winners from last year's drawing are: Regular Member—George Wallace and Associate Member—Cathy Chatham. Their 2022 Base dues will be paid for by the Base.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Mickey Garverick, provided the following:

- Announced that James “Jim” Sandman is the new USSVI National Chaplain. Please refer any matters that you feel pertain to this position to:

James (Jim) A. Sandman
501 Skipping Stone Rd
Christiana, TN 37037-4792
615-975-4792
Jsandman85@gmail.com

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

- K4K funds and supplies are good, and he doesn't anticipate requesting anything in 2021.
- Due to COVID-19, no visits until further notice.

The **SCOUTING COORDINATOR**, Chuck Martin, had nothing to report.

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

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Silent Service dog tags/keychain, Silent Service/Pride Runs Deep ribbon magnets, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Storekeeper also has Holland Club Lapel Pins and window decals for \$5 each.
- Three 2022 USSVI Calendars are available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- Contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you have an interest in purchasing any submarine-related merchandise.



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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 District 4 Commander**, Chuck Martin, provided the following:

- The District Bases participated in several Veterans Day ceremonies this year:
 - Capitol Base—Rockville, MD Veterans Day ceremony
 - Mid-Atlantic Base—DE Memorial Park's Veterans Day Service
 - Northern Virginia Base—Falls Church, VA Veterans Day ceremony and Patriot Scuba's Veterans Day "Honor Dive"
- USSVI's annual membership expires on December 31st, 2021. Renew early to keep your membership active.

On behalf of the **NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL)** Executive Director, Tim Oliver, and the Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace, the Base **CDR** 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.
- NSL Capitol Chapter:
 - The next Capitol Chapter meeting is TBD. Expect January or February.
 - 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 Annual Symposium and Industry Update:
 - Scheduled for 17-18 November 2021
 - Location: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Alexandria, VA
 - Registration information is posted on the NSL website
 - Art Glover is scheduled to give the Benediction at this year's Symposium Banquet



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The **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)** President, John “Bud” Cunnally, 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
 - Conference is limited to the first 100 participants
 - For more information, visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>
- 11-day Scandinavia & Russia Cruise after the Congress:
 - Roundtrip from Copenhagen, Denmark on board the Enchanted Princess cruise ship
 - 26 May 2022 to 6 June 2022. Ship leaves at 1800
 - Interior cabins from \$1959*
 - *Pricing is per person, double occupancy; USD
 - Mention while you are booking you are traveling with the ISA/USA group for some extra goodies
- 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
- Bud provided that he would be at the 2021 NSL Symposium, and strongly advocated that ISA, USSVI, and NSL needs volunteers to continue supporting our submarine community.

On behalf of the **American Legion Post 364**, the CDR provided the following:

- Post Toys for Tots drive kicked off on November 5th. Please stop by with a new, unwrapped toy in support of the drive.
- 2022 Membership drive is underway; \$35 to join.
- Post-meeting information
 - Life Line Screening will be at American Legion Post 364 on Thursday, December 16, 2021.
 - Special package price of \$139 for five screenings
 - Carotid Artery (Plaque) Screening
 - Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)
 - Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
 - Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
 - Osteoporosis Risk Assessment
 - To register for an appointment either call 1-888-653-6450 or visit <https://lisa.social/HSC>



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Upcoming submarine reunions:

- None to report

OLD BUSINESS

- 2021 TRICARE Open Season period is from November 8th, 2021, through December 13th, 2021:
 - TRICARE eligible veterans can either enroll in a plan, change plans, or do nothing to keep their current plan
- Eligible veterans may enroll in Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP):
 - Vision coverage is available for those enrolled in a TRICARE health plan
 - Dental coverage is available for those who are eligible for a TRICARE health plan
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a VA Welcome Kit that can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned. The VA Welcome Kit is available for downloading or viewing at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>
- Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, and other public lands.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Due to the delay in establishing the 2022 Base Officers Nomination Committee, our Base election for 2022 Officers will be delayed. The schedule is now as follows:
 - Establish the 2022 Base Officers Nomination Committee—November 2021
 - Ask for Officer Nominations at Base Meeting—December 11th, 2021
 - Election open—December 20, 2021
 - Election closes—January 8th, 2022
 - 2022 Base Officers sworn in—February 12th, 2022
- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association are providing free transportation to medical appointments and COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
 - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William
 - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at melissa@novavets.org
- Those attending our December meeting in person, we ask that you bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the American Legion Post 364 Toys for Tots drive.
- 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>



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The CDR called for any other items of new business and the following was provided:

- Howard Chatham read in the local news that Boy Scout Troop 987 is comprised of all girls, four of which have earned the rank of Eagle Scout already. He recommended that the Base contact the Troop about recognizing them with the USSVI Achievement Award.
- The Base CDR acknowledged the request.

The Binnacle List

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Cathy Chatham, Barbara Harmody, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, Robert R. Miller, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Marie Phoenix, and Tony Poblete.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for November: Rodney Batiza, Art Bivens, Anthony “Tony” Cunningham, Francis McNamara, Eva Waylett, and the United States Marine Corps.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Chuck Martin who donated his winnings back to the Base for a total of \$60 to the Base.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our next base meeting will be on December 11th, 2021, at the American Legion Post 364 (3640 Friendly Post Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192) and via Zoom. Following the meeting, we will meet at Madigan’s Waterfront Restaurant (201 Mill Street, Occoquan Historic District, VA 22125) for our Holiday luncheon. We will be seated on the ground floor and meal selection is from the menu.
- Post-Meeting Announcement – The Pirate Auction raised \$261 for the Base this year. Thanks to all who made donations and purchased items.

The Chaplain delivered the Benediction.

The CDR called for a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 1151. Upon adjournment, the Base took a five-minute break to commence the Pirate Auction.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary



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Naval Submarine Base New London is the Navy's first Submarine Base and the "Home of the Submarine Force."

Naval Submarine Base New London had its beginning as a naval yard and storage depot on April 11, 1868.

Envisioning the economic potential of a local military installation, the state of Connecticut and its southeastern cities and towns had donated land along the Thames River to the Navy for the establishment of a base. The citizens of New London were especially generous, as their City Council appropriated \$10,000 to purchase the land that would be donated.

The first Commander of the Yard was retired Commodore Timothy A. Hunt, who was called back to service. Living in New Haven, Commodore Hunt used the Central Hotel on State Street, New London when in town to attend to Yard duties on an "as needed" basis. Despite being physically located in the Town of Groton, the name New London became associated with the Navy Yard.

The Navy Yard was first used for laying up inactive ships. The Congressional appropriations were small and the Navy had little need for the Yard, which was actually closed from 1898 to 1900 and the personnel reassigned.

In 1898, Congress approved a coaling station be built at the Yard for refueling small naval ships traveling through the waters of New England.

By 1912, oil replaced coal in warships and again the Yard was scheduled for closure and the land relinquished by the Navy.

The Navy Yard was spared permanent closure in 1912 by an impassioned plea from local Congressman Edwin W. Higgins of Norwich, who was worried about the loss of Federal spending in the region. Strangely, Higgins thought it was cheaper for the Navy to keep the Yard open than pay for its closure. Within in six years, the Federal government would spend over a million dollars at the Yard.

October 18, 1915, marked the arrival of the submarines G-1, G-2, and G-4 under the care of the tender USS Ozark. Submarines E-1, D-1 and D-3 with the tender USS Tonopah bolstered this small force. The first ship built as a submarine tender, the USS Fulton (AS-1), arrived on Nov 1, 1915.

On June 21, 1916, the Navy Yard changed forever as Commander Yeates Stirling assumed the command of the newly designated Submarine Base, the New London Submarine Flotilla, and the Submarine School.

Today, Naval Submarine Base New London, our Navy's first submarine base, still proudly proclaims its motto: "The First and Finest."

The Base property expanded during the latter part of World War I. Congress approved over a million dollars for Base real estate and facilities expansion. By the end of the war, 81 buildings had been built to support 1400 men and 20 submarines. With victory in hand, the land expansion of the Base was slowed through much of the 1920s. However, the Great Depression of the 1930s saw an expansion and enhancement of the physical plant of the Base.

President Franklin Roosevelt created a series of Federal Government employment programs that contributed significantly to the Submarine Base. Over 26 high quality warehouses, barracks and workshops were built at the base under these Federal job-spending programs.

The Submarine Escape Training Tank, long known as the "Dive Tower," was a constructed during this period and became a prominent feature to the local landscape from 1930 to 1992. Generations of submariners practiced escaping from sunken submarines through the Dive Tower by ascending in a 100-foot column of water.



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The second largest expansion of Submarine Base New London occurred during World War II when it grew from 112 acres to 497 acres. The Submarine Force leaped in size, and the Base accommodated thousands of men to service the growing combat fleet.

Immediately after WWII the Submarine Force was significantly reduced and many famous submarines were sent into storage. Most of the WWII fleet was sold for scrap metal during the early 1960s. The remainder were modified for better underwater capabilities and served until the early 1970s.

The arrival of nuclear power with the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), the world's first nuclear powered vessel, and the USS George Washington (SSBN-598), the Navy's first nuclear ballistic submarine, created changes at the Base.

Commissioned in 1954, and home ported at the Base, Nautilus became the first vessel to transit the North Pole during an historic trip across the Arctic in 1958. Retired from service in 1980, Nautilus became an historic exhibit at the Submarine Force Museum, adjacent to the Base, in 1985.

Technological changes contributed to a cycle of renewal and reconstruction of the various physical facilities that supported both submarine operations as well as the Submarine School. The Fleet Ballistic Missile program further expanded the Base.

The Base was the headquarters for Squadron 14 for many years, which represented the "two crew per boat" philosophy of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. Two crews would rotate on one submarine. In the early days, the limited range of missiles required long term forward positioning of the ballistic missile submarine and a supporting dry dock and tender. The Squadron 14 forward site as Holy Loch, Scotland.

By the 1990s, advances in missile capability eliminated the need for these forward bases and Submarine Base New London became home to only "attack" submarines.

Today, Naval Submarine Base New London stretches along the east side of the Thames River, straddling the communities of Groton and Ledyard. While Groton is often referred to as the "Submarine Capital of the World," the Base proudly bears the title - "Home of the Submarine Force." Almost every submariner in today's Navy will be stationed here for training. A tour of duty in one of the fast-attack submarines home ported here or with a pre-commissioning crew for a new submarine under construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton may follow.

Occupying more than 680 acres, with more than 160 major facilities and 15 nuclear submarines, Naval Submarine Base New London supports fleet readiness by providing quality service and facilities to our Fleet, Fighters, and Families. The Base mission is twofold: to home port and put Submarines to sea; and to support the Submarine Center of Excellence that trains Sailors to take Submarines to sea.

Naval Submarine Base New London is also home to more than 70 tenant commands and activities including Commander Submarine Group Two; the Submarine Learning Center; Naval Submarine School; the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory; and the Naval Undersea Medical Institute.