



## U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base  
American Legion Post 234  
23 Pleasant Street  
Ballston Spa, NY

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of every Month  
Minutes from **02 Jan 2013** meeting

1900 hours: meeting called to order by Cmdr. Jim Irwin.

- Base muster (17 members present).
- Chief of the Boat led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

**We Have 6 New Members! Welcome Aboard, shipmates!  
Ten-Hut! As of 01 Jan 2013, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 118 members!**

- **Jeffrey M Hughes**      **qual boat: SSN 674**    **USS Trepang**                      **qual year: 1986**
- **James Athearn**      **qual boat: SSN 717**    **USS Olympia**                      **qual year: 1993**
- **Peter Baldwin**      **qual boat: SSBN 636** **USS Nathaniel Green**      **qual year: 1974**
- **David Van Wie**      **qual boat: SSBN 645** **USS James K Polk**      **qual year: 1970**
- **William Kolbe**      **qual boat: SSN 674**    **USS Trepang**                      **qual year: 1983**
- **Michael Markham**    **qual boat: SSN 715**    **USS Buffalo**                      **qual year: 1993**

- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer and gave the invocation.
- The Bell was tolled for boats lost during the month of January:

**USS S-26 (SS-131)**      24 Jan 1942    46 died. Rammed and sunk by submarine chaser PC 460 at night in the Gulf of Panama. Three men (CAPT, XO, lookout) survived.

**USS Argonaut** (APS-1) 10 Jan 1943    104 killed - sunk by aircraft (582d Kokutai) and Japanese destroyers Isokaze and Maikaze southeast of New Britain in Solomon Sea.

**USS Scorpion** (SS-278)    Jan 1944    77 killed. Sunk by Japanese mine south of Palawan in Balabac Strait.

**USS Swordfish** (SS-193)    Jan 1945    89 killed. Possibly sunk by Japanese Coast Defense Vessel No.4 on 5 January or sunk by a mine off Okinawa on 9 January.

Base and associate members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus confirmed a quorum was present.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein has previously presented the base financial report.

## **B**ase information notes

- **Base Christmas party** — was held on 8 December at The Recovery Sports Grill on Wolf Road in Colonie (15 present) – (no minutes issued for that meeting). The results of the Army-Navy game? – Well, Navy won 17-13! That makes the 11th consecutive victory for the Midshipmen over the Black Knights, a real nail-biter that was decided in the closing moments when Army's senior quarterback had a bad exchange with his running back inside Navy's red zone. That turnover was game lost!
  - **New York State Auto License plate coordinator** informs us that if you have a SUBVET plate, you MUST maintain your USSVI membership to keep your plate. The fee to apply for and obtain such a plate (if you don't already have one) is \$38.75. A custom plate (e.g., your boat's hull number) will cost you a one-time fee of \$70.00, plus an annual fee of \$31.25. There is a new form to use; copies are available on NYS DMV site.
  - **Wreaths Across America Day**, Saturday 15 December, at Saratoga National Cemetery – Base members who participated: Jim & Janet Irwin, Randy Stein, John Cook, Andy Bodien, Sondra Carlson, Tom Kirbey and Walt Forney. The Gazette Photo Gallery posted a photo of Andy Bodien laying a wreath at the cemetery on that day. Two large wreaths were also posted at the New York State Submariners Memorial in the Ballston Spa Veterans Park.
  - **New Bell** – thanks to sterling efforts by base member Brian Nissley, our base now has the ship's bell for radar picket submarine USS Ray (SSR-271) obtained on indefinite loan from the Naval Historical Foundation. We are now researching how to properly mount the bell.
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### **Binnacle List Update:**

Consider dropping a note to the following members: I'm sure they would appreciate a note or two!

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- Tom Kelley at home (email: [wkelly7@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wkelly7@nycap.rr.com) );
  - Frank Hardick thyroid surgery (email: [fhardick@adelphia.net](mailto:fhardick@adelphia.net));
  - John Cook (and wife Pat) chemo (email: [jcook001@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jcook001@nycap.rr.com))
  - Tom Nolan is back with us after a successful rehab following knee replacement last month.
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**Foundation Report** – we have sold a total of 26 pavers since memorial dedication; keep promoting!

**VA Hospital “ditty bag”** – Think: *donations!*

**50/50 Raffle** – and the winner was – base storekeeper Diane Singleman!!

**Sub Vet History Reports!** – Just go directly to the base website: [www.albany-saratogasubvets.com](http://www.albany-saratogasubvets.com) and click on “Sub Vet History Report” – and fill in the blanks!!! As easy as that...then print it!

**Storekeeper's Corner** – Diane has 2013 USSVI Calendars on hand at \$10.00 each. Magnetic bumper stickers are also available. Anyone wishing to upgrade your base wardrobe; i.e., vests, jackets, shirts, ball caps, ship's patches, etc., please give Diane a call!

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**Groton – Sub Base trip** – plan for June 2013. (Awaiting approval from Sub Base Public Affairs Officer – tours now limited to 25). Cost: \$65 per person (28 passenger bus = increased cost. Could possibly run 2<sup>nd</sup> trip. More on this come March meeting.

**New patches coming soon: Base and District 5. Base member Dean Bennett (and 1<sup>st</sup> Mate) developing these designs.**

**Happy Birthday US Submarine Force – Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. We will toll the boats at our memorial on this date. (Inclement weather will move the ceremony indoors at AL Post 234).**

**Next meeting – 1900 hours Wednesday 06 February 2013**

At 2015 hours, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The USSVI Creed was recited by all, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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**Fritz Feldhaus –  
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary**

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## **Base Officers –**

**Cmdr. – Jim Irwin 383-2481**

**Sr Vice Cmdr. – John Christopher –  
399-4810**

**Jr Vice Cmdr. – Al McGuire – 752-5389**

**Treasurer – Randall Stein –**

**Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481**

**Base Storekeeper – Diane Singleman –  
355-2119**

**Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus 885-3546**