



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Albany-Saratoga Base

Location: American Legion Henry Cornell Post 234
23 Pleasant Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Minutes from **03 Apr 2013** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin with 21 members present.

- Chief of the Boat led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

Ten-Hut! As of 11 Mar 2013, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 117 members!

- **We have 1 new Associate Member! Welcome Aboard mate!**

- **Dawn M. Saville** Sponsor: **base member Gus Negus**

- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for boats lost during the month of April:

USS Pickerel (SS-177) 03 Apr 1943 - 59 killed. Sunk by Japanese destroyer Yamakaze; Makassar Strait, 120 miles east of Manado, Celebes.

USS Grenadier (SS-210) 22 Apr 1943 - 76 POWs, 4 later died. Scuttled after Japanese seaplane attacks (936 Kokutai) the previous day, off Penang, Malaysia.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) 18 Apr 1944 - 79 killed – sunk by Japanese naval aircraft (901st Kokutai) 166 nautical miles southeast of Iwo Jima.

USS Snook (SS-279) 09 Apr 1945 - 84 killed. Probably sunk by kaibokans Okinawa, CD-8, CD-32 and CD-52; and/or Japanese submarine I-56 in the Nansei Soto.

USS Thresher (SSN-593) 10 Apr 1963 – 129 died. Sank after a possible piping failure during deep dive trials southeast of Cape Cod Massachusetts. April 10 marks the 50th anniversary of this historic tragedy. A 129-foot flagpole was dedicated the morning of April 7 at Memorial Circle in Kittery, Maine, to honor the 129 Navy sailors and civilian workers who died that day.

Base and associate members each stood, introduced themselves and stated the name of his qual boat and any other boats served on. Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus verified a quorum was present.

Minutes from the March meeting have been previously distributed to members. Base member John Mishoe motioned to accept the minutes; base member Tom Glenn seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept: base member Bill Preece; second: base member Dean Bennett; Motion carried.

Base information notes

- **Trip to Sub Base** –Tour limited to 28 (set by Base Security). Date: 16 June 2013 (Father's Day). Departs Northway Exit 8 Park & Ride at 0630. Cost: \$65.00 per. (28 passenger bus = increased cost). 7-8 seats still available.
- **Memorial update:** informational plates are to be mounted on pedestals flanking the USS Albany submarine model; details to follow. Charlie McCormick will be doing the pedestals. Our memorial stone currently lists 476 names – 25 more are to be etched come this spring. Note that New York is the only state to memorialize all its sailors who were lost in submarines.
- **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.
- **Ship's Bell** from radar picket submarine USS Ray (SSR-271), on indefinite loan from the Naval Historical Foundation. Base Sr. Vice CDR John Christopher continues to work with CBM to have the bell properly mounted.
- **USS Scorpion SSN 589 Memorial** – update: present at our base meeting today was Art Nolan and his wife, associate member Maryetta Nolan. As Chair of the USS Scorpion SSN 589 Memorial Committee, in appreciation for the kick-start we delivered to their "99 for 99" fund raising campaign for the 45th Anniversary Memorial Service, Art Nolan presented to our base a special edition SSN 589 Challenge Coin. Our base gift has been designated to sponsor Chief Hospital Corpsman LYNN THOMPSON SAVILLE from Fort Edward, New York. In accepting the coin for the base, CDR Jim Irwin pointed out the key efforts by National USSV in furthering the success of this fund raising campaign.
- **Binnacle List Update:** Consider dropping a note to the following members:

 - **Tom Kelley** at home (email: wkelly7@nycap.rr.com);
 - **Frank Hardick** thyroid surgery (email: fhardick@adelphia.net);
 - **John Cook** (and wife **Pat**) chemo (email: jcook001@nycap.rr.com)

- **Foundation Report** – we have sold a total of 26 pavers since memorial dedication; keep promoting!
- **VA Hospital Fund** – Think: *donations!*
- **Correspondence** – The base has received a donation check in the name of Mike Frasl, former base member now on eternal patrol, from daughter Kim Zieoli.

50/50 Raffle – and the winner was – base member Jim Stevens!!

Sub Vet History Reports! – Just go directly to the base website: www.albanysaratogasubvets.com and click on "Sub Vet History Report" – and fill in the blanks!!! As easy as that...then print it!

Storekeeper's Corner – Diane (back home after knee replacement!) 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!

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

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

The schedule follows:

1000 - pickup folding chairs at the Legion, also at Firehouse & setup at the Memorial

1130 – Food will be delivered to Legion by Brick Yard Restaurant – need setup to unwrap food trays

Post ceremony – break down chairs and table and cleanup Legion hall (after refreshments)

USSVI 49th Anniversary weekend – Groton – May 2-5 (Sub School Graduation, tours, banquet)

- **Upcoming parades:**

Memorial Day

Ballston Spa (Saturday 25 May 2013) line up at 0830, step off at 0900

Lansingburgh (Monday 27 May 2013) line up at 1015, step off at 1100

Flag Day

Saratoga Springs (Saturday 08 June 2013) line up at 1130, step off at noon

Next meeting – 1900 hours Wednesday 01 May 2013

At 2030 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:

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

Base Officers –

CDR – Jim Irwin 383-2481

Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481

Sr Vice CDR – John Christopher – 399-4810

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

Jr Vice CDR – Al McGuire – 752-5389

Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus - 885-3546

Treasurer – Randall Stein –