



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

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

Minutes from **03 Jul 2013** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin with 17 members present.

- Chief of the Boat Al Singleman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.
- **Ten-Hut! As of 03 July 2013, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 120 members!**
- **We have one new member! Welcome Aboard mate!**
- **Drew Millier of Ballston Spa      qual boat: USS Olympia (SSN-717)      qual year: 2002**
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for ***boats lost during the month of July:***

**USS G 2 (SS-27)**      30 Jul 1919 – 3 died. She had already been decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Register at the time of her sinking, but is included here because of the loss of life. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew on 30 July, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 ft (25 m), drowning three of the inspection crew.

**USS Grunion (SS-216)** 31 Jul 1942 - 70 killed. In 2007, video recordings were taken of the imploded remains of a submarine which had markings in English, and propeller guards and limber holes identical to those on the *Grunion*. In 2008, the U.S. Navy acknowledged that the find was the *Grunion*. The evidence strongly suggests that *Grunion* was sunk as a result of several torpedo failures.

**USS Robalo (SS-273)** 26 Jul 1944 – 74 killed, 4 POW's later died. Sunk from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably by a mine off western Palawan Island, Philippines.

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 June meeting have been previously distributed to members. Base member Bill Preece motioned to accept the minutes; base member Steve Cipperly seconded; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept: Base member Tom Glenn; second: base member Walt Forney; Motion carried.

## **B**ase information notes:

- **Sub Base Trip** (16 June 2013 (Father's Day) was a success! Two cancellations, so 26 made the trip. The bus company sent the 55 passenger luxury coach! At 65\$ per, a real bargain! Breakfast at the base was excellent – we got in just before the morning rush. We were met by the base PAO and escorted by van to the lower base and the USS New Hampshire SSN-778. The crew gave awesome tours. We donated \$150 to the crew's rec fund. After touring the Nautilus museum, back to Clifton Park by 1900!
- **Saratoga County Veterans Monument Ceremony at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery** - The ceremony was held on 29 June 2013 to honor the Saratoga County Veteran whose name was recently placed on the monument: **Marine Lance Corporal Anthony J. Denier**, from Mechanicville. Jim and Janet Irwin attended along with Pat Luther and Art Nolan.
- **Taps for a shipmate: Ted Curley**, 73, of Ballston Spa passed away Sunday, July 7, 2013. He was buried with military honors on Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville.
- **Summer Picnic** – put this date on your planning calendar! Saturday Sep 14 2013! The place: Right here at American Legion Post 234! Bring a dish (appetizer, salad, desserts)! Base will supply hot dogs, burgers, sausage, rolls and condiments. Drinks (beer & soda) are from the bar. Reserve your seat – we'll be inducting 4 new members in to the Holland Club!
- WWII veteran – in attendance at our base meeting was Salvatore (Sal) Franze (brought by his daughter Lisa). He joined up on Dec 7 1942 – in his words, for: "2 years, 3 months and 21 days!" Diesel Engine school was his first assignment – his job was to service and repair boats in dry dock. He learned about Sub Vets from a talk given by base member Ray Misiewicz.

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### **Base Correspondence:**

- Thank You card: from Jamie Smith (Boy Scouts) for attending his Eagle Scout Court of Honor (6/1/13) at NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.
- Holland Club (no outside source of funding) acknowledged our base donation (\$50).

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**Binnacle List Update:** Consider dropping a note to the following members:

- **John Cook** chemo (email: [jcook001@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jcook001@nycap.rr.com))

**Foundation Report** – we have sold only 2 pavers since the last bunch were engraved in the spring; that is currently the only source of income for the Foundation. Keep promoting!

**VA Hospital Fund** – Think: *donations!*

**50/50 Raffle** – and the winner: our Base Storekeeper, Diane Singleman!

### **Chief of the Boat's corner:**

The base now has a piece of submarine history: the sextant from the WW II Nautilus. No LORAN C back in those days! All we need now is to muster up a Quartermaster (who knows how to use it)! Al Singleman reports that he has delivered 25 gym bags and several coffee cans to the VA Hospital.

Al is currently crafting SSN submarine models in his home work shop. One will go to Charlie McCormack, another to the village mayor.

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**Sub Vet History Reports!** – Just go directly to the base website:

<http://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/> and click on “Sub Vet History Report” – and fill in the blanks!!! As easy as that...and 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!

**New patches: Base: Done and Distributed! District 5: a work in progress.**

**Next meeting – 1900 hours Wednesday 07 August 2013**

At 2025 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 –**

**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**

**Chief of the Boat – Al Singleman, Jr.**

**Treasurer – Randall Stein –**

**Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus - 885-3546**

## **Subvets Creed**

**“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”**