



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

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

Minutes from **05 June 2013** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin with 24 members present.

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

Ten-Hut! As of 05 June 2013, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 119 members!

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

- **Andrew Alvarado** **qual boat: SSN 773 USS Cheyenne** **qual year: 2007**

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

USS Runner (SS-275) Jun 1943 - 78 killed. Probably lost in newly laid minefields north of Honshu after sinking Japanese cargo vessel *Seinan Maru*, on June 11, 1943.

USS Herring (SS-233) 01 Jun 1944 – 83 died. After sinking two merchant ships at anchor at Matsuwa Island in the Kuriles, sunk by shore battery counterattack.

USS Golet (SS-361) 14 Jun 1944 – 82 killed. Probably sunk by Japanese ASW attack by guard boat *Miya Maru*, auxiliary submarine chaser *Bunzan Maru*, and naval aircraft off northern Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223) 19 Jun 1945 – 85 killed. Sunk in Toyama Wan; Near Suzu Misaki by Japanese escorts Okinawa, CD 63, CD 75, CD 158, and CD 207.

USS O-9 (SS-70) 20 Jun 1941 – 33 died. Foundered during deep submergence tests off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth NH. Crushed, her exact location is secret; the area has been designated an official Naval burial ground.

USS R-12 (SS-89) 12 Jun 1943 – 42 died. While preparing to dive off Key West, FL, foundered and sank in 15 seconds in 600 feet of water when forward battery compartment flooded. The reason for her loss remains unknown.

USS S-28 (SS-133) 04 Jun 1944 – 50 died. Following ASW exercises out of Pearl Harbor submarine base with Coast Guard cutter *Reliance*, S-28 lost depth control and sank in 1400 fathoms; because of the depth, salvage operations were impossible.

USS Sargo (SSN-583) 14 Jun 1960 – 1 died. Oxygen feed line fire and explosion in after torpedo room; blaze extinguished by submerging in Pearl Harbor with compartment sealed and stern torpedo hatch open.

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 May meeting have been previously distributed to members. Base member Kurt Von Maucher motioned to accept the minutes; base member David Van Wie seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report Motion to accept: Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus; second: base member Tom Glenn; Motion carried.

Base information notes:

- **Trip to Sub Base** – Date: 16 June 2013 (Father's Day). Departs Northway Exit 8 Park & Ride at 0630. Cost: \$65.00 per.
- **Memorial update:** informational plates will 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 this spring. Note that New York is the only state to memorialize all its sailors who were lost in submarines.
- **USS Scorpion SSN 589 Memorial** – 45th anniversary – held in Norfolk on Saturday May 25th. Base member Maryetta Nolan briefed us on the ceremonies: presentation by RADM Breckenridge, current director Undersea Warfare Division. Approximately 175 family members and 150 USSVI members were present; 3 submarines were open for tours, including USS Albany. SSN 589 Sub model on display. Scorpion's "99 for 99" fund raising program was a resounding success; ~33% of USSVI bases contributed directly. We were proud to be a part!
- **Saratoga County Veterans Peer to Peer Mentoring Program** – Kickoff Event was held at New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center on Thursday 13 June 2013. This program pairs established veterans with returning veterans who are experiencing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from combat to civilian life. For more information, contact Amy Hughes (518-84-4999).
- **Aprons in Action** – We won \$25, 000 for VETHELPNY. (Guardian House and Dottie's House) Home Depot grant. New contest: possible \$250,000, \$150,000m or \$100,000 for Saratoga County Veteran programs (Saratoga County RPC – VETHELPNY.ORG).
- **Summer Picnic** – put this date on your planning calendar! Saturday Sep 14 2013! The place: Right here at the American Legion Post 234! Base supplies meat, rolls and condiments. Bring desserts, and special dishes to share...more details to be filled in at our next base meeting.

Base Correspondence:

- Thank You card: from John Cook – follow-up: Motion to make donation (\$50) to The Community Hospice of Saratoga: Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus; seconded: base member Mike Lynette; motion carried.
- Thank You card: from Dawn Saville – follow-up: for our April donation to sponsor Chief Hospital Corpsman Lynn Thompson Saville. Dawn recommended we look into installing benches at the Memorial; An excellent suggestion! That is currently under consideration by our base and the Village of Ballston Spa.
- NROTC commissioning: held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on 24 May 2013; out of a

class of 12 midshipmen, 5 submarine officers (4 men, 1 woman) were commissioned by Rear Adm. James Murdoch (1980 NROTC RPI graduate), Program Executive Officer, Littoral Combat Ships at the ceremony at RPI. (Photo submitted to American Submariner magazine). By invitation (Capt. Daniel Arensmeyer, RPI NROTC commanding officer), USSVI Albany-Saratoga base was represented at the ceremony by CDR Jim Irwin and Base Chaplain Janet Irwin. An honored Navy tradition requires that a newly commissioned officer give a silver dollar to the first enlisted sailor that salutes him or her; retired CPO Matt Deniziak from Norfolk, VA collected 9 of the 12 silver dollars.

- Eagle Scout ceremony was held 6/1/13 at NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Our Base CDR Irwin was invited and did attend.
 - Holland Club has no outside source of funding, accordingly has requested a \$1.00 donation for each member – (our base has 29 Holland Club members). Base Chief of the Boat Al Singleman motioned that our base donate \$50; we will make this an annual donation (Base Treasurer take note); seconded by Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus; motion carried.
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Binnacle List Update: Consider dropping a note to the following members:

- **Tom Kelley** at home (email: wkelly7@nycap.rr.com)
 - **John Cook** chemo (email: jcook001@nycap.rr.com) –
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- **Foundation Report** – we have sold only 2 pavers since the last bunch were engraved in the spring; keep promoting!
 - **VA Hospital Fund** – Think: *donations!*
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50/50 Raffle – and the winner: our Base Chaplain, Janet Irwin!

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 and District 5. Done! Distributed! Anyone needing either patch see Diane!

Next meeting – 1900 hours Wednesday 03 July 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:

**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

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.”