



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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

Meetings 1st Wed of every Month
Minutes from **06 Feb 2013** meeting

1900 hours: meeting called to order by Sr. Vice Cmdr. John Christopher.

- Base muster (11 members present).
- John Christopher led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

We Have 1 New Member! Welcome Aboard, shipmate!
Ten-Hut! As of 24 Feb 2013, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 116 members!

- **Chris Humphrey** **qual boat: SSBN 644 Lewis & Clark** **qual year 1990**

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

- **MaryEtta Nolan** **Sponsor: base member Bill Preece**

- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer and gave the invocation.

- The Bell was tolled for boats lost during the month of February:

USS Shark (SS-174) 11 Feb 1942 - 59 killed. Sunk by Japanese destroyer Yamakaze;
Makassar Strait, 120 miles east of Menado, Celebes.

USS Amberjack (SS-219) 14 Feb 1943 - 74 killed – Probably sunk by combined efforts of a
Japanese seaplane (958th Kokutai), torpedo boat Hiyordori, and submarine chaser Ch
18 off Cape St. George, New Britain.

USS Grayback (SS-208) 27 Feb 1944 - 80 killed – Probably succumbed to damage inflicted by
land-based Japanese naval aircraft suffered the day before in the East China Sea.

USS Trout (SS-202) 29 Feb 1944 - 81 killed. Most likely sunk by Japanese destroyer
Asashimo southeast of Okinawa in the Philippine Sea.

USS Barbel (SS-316) 4 Feb 1945 – 81 killed. Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft in South
China Sea off Balabac Island about midway between Borneo and southwest Palawan.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting was waived. Motion to accept the minutes: Base

secretary Fritz Feldhaus; second: base Treasurer Randy Stein. Motion carried.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein had previously posted the base financial report for the month of February via email and on line. Motion to accept: base member Al Singleman; second: base member Bill Preece. Motion carried.

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

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus confirmed a quorum was present.

Base information notes

- **Trip to Sub Base – APPROVED!** Tour limited to 28 (set by Base Security). Date is 16 June 2013 (Father's Day). Departs Northway Exit 8 Park & Ride at 0630. Cost: \$65.00 per. (28 passenger bus = increased cost). Could possibly run 2nd trip. More on this at March meeting.
- **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.
- **New Bell** – thanks to base member Brian Nissley, we have the ship's bell from radar picket submarine USS Ray (SSR-271), on indefinite loan from the Naval Historical Foundation. Base Sr. Vice Cmdr. John Christopher is working with CBM to have the bell properly mounted.
- **USS Scorpion SSN 589** – We have special guests visiting with us today. They are on a mission to raise cash to hold a special memorial service for the USS Scorpion in honor of the 99 crewmen lost on 22 May 1968.

 - **Dawn M Saville, daughter of Lynn T. Saville, HMC(SS) (from Fort Edward, New York;** he is listed on the NYS Submariners Memorial), accompanied by her fiancé
 - **Maryetta Bishop Nolan, daughter of TMC (SS) Walter William Bishop (Chief of the Boat),** accompanied by spouse Art D. Nolan.

As noted by USSVI National junior vice Cmdr. Al Singleman, submarine veterans "**do remember**". Al motioned for the base to write a check for and donate \$99.00 towards the Scorpion memorial; base member Frank Dorchak seconded the motion; motion carried. Al will forward the motion to USSVI National for matching donation.

Note that as recently as Nov 15, 2012 – USA Today reported that a veterans group of submariners (USSV) is calling for a new investigation of the unexplained accident that sank the U.S. nuclear attack sub **USS Scorpion SSN 589**. Google that news item for more information.

- **Binnacle List Update:**

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

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- **Foundation Report** – we have sold a total of 26 pavers since memorial dedication; keep promoting!
 - **VA Hospital Fund** – Think: *donations!*
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50/50 Raffle – and the winner was – one of our Scorpion guests!! Who promptly turned around and donated the proceeds to the base!

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

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).

Upcoming parades: (details to follow)

Memorial Day

Ballston Spa (Saturday 25 May 2013)

Lansingburgh (Monday 27 May 2013)

Flag Day

Saratoga Springs (Saturday 8 June 2013)

Ray Misiewicz will be doing the talk "**NR-1 America's Inner Space Shuttle**" at the Saratoga Military Museum on Saturday, March 9, at 1 pm.

NR-1 was the world's only nuclear powered deep submergence ocean engineering and research submarine. She was the brain child of Admiral Hyman Rickover who managed to get the boat built by the U.S. Navy, while most of the Navy chain of command knew nothing about it. She was so secret that NR-1 was never commissioned as a U.S. Navy ship nor was she ever given a name. Built at General Dynamics Electric Boat, NR-1 was home ported at the New London Submarine Base. She performed covert military missions, but really excelled over many years carrying scientists to the remote depths of the world's oceans. This talk tells her story from Admiral Rickover's initial idea, through construction and shakedown and into the world of covert operations and scientific discovery. She was a unique vessel and nothing like her has ever been built again.

Base member Jim Lerch qualified and served on the NR-1, a signal achievement!

Next meeting – 1900 hours Wednesday 06 March 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:

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

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