



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

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

Minutes from **06 Nov 2013** meeting

1903 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin with 23 members present.

- Chief of the Boat Al Singleman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for ***boats lost during the month of November***.

**USS Corvina (SS-226)** 16 Nov 1943 – 82 killed. Japanese war records show that IJN submarine *I-176* fired three torpedoes at a surfaced American submarine south of Truk Atoll on November 16, 1943. *Corvina* was the only American submarine sunk by a Japanese submarine, the victim of the submarine she was sent to sink.

**USS Capelin (SS-289)** Nov 1943 - 78 killed. Possible causes for her loss include an operational mishap, a circular-torpedo run, or an enemy mine. *Capelin* was lost in Celebes Sea, or in Molukka Passage or the Molukka Sea, probably in December 1943.

**USS Sculpin (SS-191)** 19 Nov 1943 – 12 killed, 51 POWs later died, 21 POWs survived. After the order to abandon ship north of Truk, the ship was dived at emergency speed by opening all vents. About 12 men rode the ship down, including the Captain. In all, 42 men were taken prisoner by the Japanese destroyer Yamagumo.

**USS Albacore (SS-218)** 7 Nov 1944 – 85 killed. Based on a review of Japanese records recovered after the war: the *Albacore* struck a mine very close to the shore off southeastern Hokkaido. The underwater explosion was witnessed by a Japanese auxiliary minesweeper in the area.

**USS Growler (SS-215)** 8 Nov 1944 – 86 killed. Probably sunk by Japanese destroyer Shigure, kaibokan Chiburi, and Coast Defense vessel No. 19 off Mindoro, Philippines.

**USS Scamp (SS-277)** 11 Nov 1944 – 83 killed. War records show that *Scamp* was sighted by Japanese planes and depth charged by Kaibokan CD-4 to the south of Tokyo Bay.

**Tom Kelley is now on eternal patrol.** Thanks to all who attended the wake and funeral.

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

Our base Senior Vice CDR John Christopher announced he is moving to Ohio on 11/18 but will remain a member of Albany-Saratoga Base. All Base members present gave him a round of applause and thanked him for all he has done for the base.

Minutes from the October meeting have been previously distributed to members. Correction to those minutes: George Gasser not present for the Holland Club presentation; however, Dave Thierling was present. Motion to accept the minutes: approved and seconded.

**Treasurer's Report** - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept the report: approved and seconded.

**Dues** - Base: \$10.00; National: \$20.00/1 year or \$55.00/3 years, \$90.00/5 years.

Consider adding \$5.00 to support USS Croaker restoration fund.

As of 11/6/2013, - 41 base members paid 2014 and beyond; leaves 79 members owing Base or Base & National dues. Some LIFE members are one or more years behind in Base dues; - they become Members At Large (MAL) if not caught up. Base Membership chair will be calling them.

## **B**ase information notes:

- Silent Service video – now available on line at [www.olgoat.com](http://www.olgoat.com). Plan on 75-76 episodes.
- Toys for Tots – bring an unwrapped toy to the December meeting! Will be distributed locally.
- **Base Christmas Party** – will be a pot luck dinner held here at American Legion Post 234 on Wednesday **4 DEC 2013!** ...

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### **Base Correspondence:**

The **USS Albany** arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard on 10/16 just ahead of its scheduled ~29 month Engineered Overhaul. The work will include removing the shaft and the sonar dome for maintenance. In a first for Norfolk Naval Shipyard, the Los Angeles-class submarine will receive the latest system combat package currently being developed. USS Albany now has a new COB (Dwight Newton). In the upcoming change of command in February, CDR Soldow will be relieved by CDR Landis. The former COB has relocated to Groton where he is now the Sub School's Department Master Chief.

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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))
- Mike Lynett recovering from neck surgery
- George Gasser home recovering from back surgery

**Foundation Report** – sold a total of 7 pavers since the last group was engraved last spring – pavers are currently source of income for the Foundation. Keep promoting!

Subvet member William Klose (Pocono PA Base) be will be donating some submarine memorabilia to the Foundation.

**50/50 Raffle** – and the winner: Base Member (and new Holland Club member) Dave Thierling! Dave promptly donated his winnings to the USS Croaker fund! (Thanks, Dave!) Note that the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle are now used to support the foundation.

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

Al Singleman showed a short video on SEAFAC (Southeast Alaska Acoustic measurement Facility). SEAFAC is the Navy's only East Coast asset for making high fidelity passive acoustic signature measurements. SEAFAC includes directive line arrays, data collection and processing systems for real-time data analysis and signature evaluation.

**Base officer nominations:** CDR Jim Irwin, Sr Vice CDR – Tom Glen, Jr. Vice CDR- Al McGuire, Sec'y – Fritz Feldhaus, Treasurer – Randy Stein.

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

<http://www.albany-saratoga-subvets.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 2014 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!

**Next meeting – Base Christmas Party at American Legion Post 234, 1900 hours Wednesday 04 December 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**

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

**Sr Vice CDR – John Christopher – 399-4810**

**Chief of the Boat – Al Singleman, Jr. – 355-2119**

**Jr Vice CDR – Al McGuire – 752-5389**

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

**Treasurer – Randall Stein –**

**Base Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481**

### **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.”**