



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

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

Minutes from **08 Jan 2014** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin, 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 Jan 2014, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 122 members!**
- **We have a new associate member! Welcome Aboard mate! Arthur Nolan!**
- CDR Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for ***boats lost during the month of January.***

**USS S-26 (SS-131) 24 Jan 1942** – 46 died. In Gulf of Panama, S-26 was proceeding from Balboa, C.Z. to its patrol station in company with S-21, S-29 and S-44 and an escort vessel, PC-460. At 2210 hours, the escort vessel sent a visual message to the submarines that she was leaving the formation. S-21 was the only submarine to receive this message. Shortly thereafter PC-460 collided in the dark with S-26 on the starboard side of the torpedo room; the submarine sank within a few seconds. Only three of the four men on the bridge survived.

**USS Argonaut (APS-1) 10 Jan 1943** – 104 killed. Sunk by aircraft (582d Kokutai) and Japanese destroyers Isokaze and Maikaze southeast of New Britain in Solomon Sea. At the time, she was the largest submarine in the U.S. Navy, until the advent of nuclear submarines in the 1950s. Designed as a minelayer, *Argonaut* was 385 feet long and displaced 2,710 tons (4,080 submerged), with 4-21" torpedo tubes forward, and two minelaying tubes aft. She also carried a pair of 6"/53-calibre deck guns, one forward and one aft.

**USS Scorpion (SS- 278) Jan 1944** – 77 died. Cause unknown. Probably sunk by mine in Yellow or East China Sea.

**USS Swordfish (SS-193) Jan 1945** - 89 killed. Possibly sunk by a mine off Okinawa on 9 January. It is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that island.

Minutes from the December 2013 meeting have been previously distributed to members. Motion to accept the minutes (Base member Bill Preece): seconded: Mike Lynett.

**Treasurer's Report** - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept the report: Sr. Vice CDR Tom Glenn; seconded: Base member Bill Preece.

**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.

20 base members have not paid Base Dues for 2014; of those, 9 USSVI Life Members have not paid their base dues. They will become Members At Large (MAL) if not caught up; all others will lose their membership in USSVI if not paid by 1/31/2014. Base Membership chair will be calling them.

## **B**ase information notes:

- Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> – Tentative plan is to toll the boats at 1100 hours at the Base Memorial; family members to be present. Lunch at Post 234 following the ceremony will be catered by the Brickyard Restaurant.
- Our base will be hosting the 2014 Eastern North Regional meeting scheduled for the first weekend in October (3rd-5th).
- Silent Service video – now available on line at [www.olgoat.com](http://www.olgoat.com) . Plan on 75-76 episodes.
- Kudos to base member Dean Bennett for dropping the Toys for Tots off at the collection site.
- Thanks go to the 5 base members who participated in placing the wreaths at Saratoga National, with special thanks to John Cook and Walt Forney for placing the wreaths at other locations.
- Back when SSBN 600 transited the Panama Canal, the ship's US flag had 49 stars – that flag will be brought to the Theodore Roosevelt reunion in May...after which this piece of history will be donated to our foundation.

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### **Base Correspondence:**

- Letter from CO NPTU Ballston Spa – Invitation from CDR Edwards: we are invited to the First Annual Spring Formal at the Water's Edge Lighthouse at 2 Freeman's Bridge Road.
- "The Missile Boats" – new talk by Ray Misiewicz to be presented in February, March and April. The Feb 18 talk is at the Town of Ballston Community Library at 7pm.

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

- **Richard Craft** had a stroke recently but is recovering (email: [rgcraft@comcast.net](mailto:rgcraft@comcast.net) ).
- **Bob Von Allmen** (member Hudson Valley) is in a nursing home in California with chronic lung disease (email: [rvona577@aol.com](mailto:rvona577@aol.com) ).
- **John Cook** chemo (email: [jcook001@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jcook001@nycap.rr.com) )

**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) has donated some submarine memorabilia to the Foundation. **Albany VA Ditty Bag - The Sunshine Fund** - \$319.69

**50/50 Raffle** – no raffle today! No tickets!

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

**2014 Base officers installed:** CDR Jim Irwin, Sr Vice CDR – Tom Glenn, Jr., Vice CDR- Al McGuire, Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus, Treasurer – Randy Stein.

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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 2014 USSVI Calendars on hand at \$10.00 each. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coin and patch available from National - \$15 coin, \$7 patch; \$20 both. 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** – American Legion Post 234, 1900 hours Wednesday 05 February 2014,

Submitted by:

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

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## **Base Officers –**

**CDR – Jim Irwin 383-2481**

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

**Sr Vice CDR – Tom Glenn, Jr – 438-8113**

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

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

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

**Treasurer – Randall Stein –**

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

## **Subvets Creed**

**“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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.**

**In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.**

**The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes into contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.”**