



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

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

Minutes from **02 Apr 2014** meeting

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

- Chief of the Boat 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 April.***

USS Pickerel (SS-177) 03 Apr 1943 – 74 killed. Lost off the Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the northern tip of Honshu - sunk by Japanese minelayer Shirakami and auxiliary subchaser Bunzan Maru.

USS Grenadier (SS-210) 22 Apr 1943 – 76 POWs, 4 died later. Scuttled after Japanese seaplane attacks (936 Kokutai) damaged the boat the previous day, off Penang, Malaysia.

USS Gudgeon (SS-211) 18 Apr 1944 – 79 killed. Probably sunk by Japanese aircraft (901st Kokutai) southwest of Iwo Jima.

USS Snook (SS-279) 09 Apr 1945 - 84 killed. Probably sunk by kaibokans *Okinawa, CD-8, CD-32 and CD-52*; and/or submarine I-56 in the Nansei Soto.

USS Thresher (SSN-593) 10 Apr 1963 – 129 died. Sank during deep submergence testing off New England coast. A court of inquiry concluded that the most probable cause of the Thresher's sinking was (1) a flooding casualty in the engine room, (2) most likely due to a piping system failure in one of the seawater systems, probably in the engine room, (3) in all probability seawater affected electrical circuits and caused a loss of power.

Minutes from the January 2014 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: Base member John Mishoe; seconded: Base member Mike Lynett.

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.

We have lost 7 members who for one reason or another have not rejoined the Base. Current membership total: 118.

Base information notes:

- Friday April 11th – toll the boats was held at 1100 hours at the Base Memorial; family members present. Lunch at Post 234 following the ceremony; 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. Plan on 75-76 episodes.
- Back when SSBN 600 transited the Panama Canal, the ship's US flag had 49 stars – that flag was brought to the May 1-4 Theodore Roosevelt SSBN 600 reunion; this piece of history was donated to our foundation.
- USSVI's 50th Anniversary was held May 1-4 week in Groton CT and hosted by the Groton SubVets Base. The Albany-Saratoga Base was represented by your Base Commander (Jim Irwin), Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) and Base Secretary (Fritz Feldhaus).

Base Correspondence:

- “The Missile Boats” – new talk by Ray Misiewicz was to be presented in February, March and April. Old Man Weather spiked that plan (all three of them).

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

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

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.

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. 50th 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 04 June 2014.

Submitted by:

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

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.

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.”