



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

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

Minutes from **09 July 2014** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin, 14 members present.

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

Ten-Hut! As of 09 July 2014, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 118 members and 18 Associate members!

- CDR Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for ***boats lost during the month of July.***

USS Grunion (SS-216) 31 Jul 1942 – 70 killed. The *Grunion* was lost 10 miles north of Segula, near Kiska Island, Aleutians. The Japanese freighter *Kano Maru* was hit by a Grunion torpedo which knocked out the ship's engines. Over the next twenty minutes Grunion fired three more torpedoes: one passed harmlessly under the ship; the other two hit but failed to explode. The *Grunion* surfaced and *Kano Maru* began firing its forecastle gun. The last torpedo circled back, hitting the periscope supports on the submerged submarine without exploding. That event, coupled with a jammed rear dive plane, triggered a sequence of events that led to loss of depth control. At about 1000 feet the sub imploded, then hit the bottom, breaking off about 50 feet of the bow. It then slid 2/3-mile down the side of an extinct volcano, finally coming to rest on a notch on the underwater mountain. *Peter F. Stevens. Fatal Dive: Solving the World War II Mystery of the USS Grunion, Regnery History, 2012. (Base library has a copy of this book).*

USS Robalo (SS-273) 26 Jul 1944 – 74 killed, 4 POWs later died. Sunk 2 miles (3.2 km) off the western coast of Palawan Island from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy mine.

USS G 2 (SS-27)

30 Jul 1919 – 3 died. During inspection by a six-man maintenance crew, the boat suddenly flooded and sank at her moorings in Two Tree Channel near Niantic Bay. She went down in 81 ft (25 m), drowning three of the inspection crew. Too deep and too old to salvage.

- Minutes from the Jun 2014 meeting have been previously distributed to members. Motion to accept the minutes: Sr. Vice Commander Tom Glenn seconded: Base member Mike Marko.
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Treasurer's Report - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept the report: Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus; seconded: Base member Kurt von Maucher.

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.

Base information notes:

- Silent Service video – available on line at www.olgoat.com. Plan on 75-76 episodes.
- **Summer picnic** – will be **here** at the Post on September 20th from 1100-1500. Base provides hot dogs, burgers (plain or with cheese) sausage, rolls, and paper goods (non-edible). Base will also foot the bill for beer and soda from the bar. All other drinks are on your own. Members: please plan on bringing a dish to share. Please sign up at the meeting or call 383-2481 and leave a message on what you are bringing (to avoid too much duplication).
- **Holland Club** – we will be inducting our new Holland Club members at the picnic! Bill Preece, Fritz Feldhaus, possibly Don Amorosi (MAL).
- **Veterans Administration - Albany** – Best time to arrive 3:15 – 3:30. Best to do new cards: Wed afternoon (photos only done on Wed). Note: VA coming out with new ID cards soon.
- **Base Float** – is in desperate need of repairs! Base COB Al Singleman is spearheading a recovery effort at his place...

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- **Base Correspondence:** thank you notes acknowledging our support for members now on eternal patrol: Marv Hassell (Alice), Dean Bennett (Elizabeth).

Foundation Report – sold a total of 9 pavers since the last group was engraved last spring – pavers are currently source of income for the Foundation. Keep promoting! If not done already, the new pavers will be engraved in early July. The base will be providing pavers (bricks) for those shipmates who recently departed on eternal patrol: Gus Negus,

Dean Bennett, and Marv Hassell.

Albany VA Ditty Bag - The Sunshine Fund - \$319.69

50/50 Raffle – and the winner (\$30) is: Harry Terzian! Good show, Harry!

Chief of the Boat's corner:

Plan on bringing to Wednesday's base meeting your serviceable clothes (shirts, pants, shorts, socks, etc.) for VA hospital.

Long Range planning: 2018 - USS Scorpion 50 years.

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. Want to upgrade your base wardrobe? (i.e., vests, jackets, shirts, ball caps, ship's patches, etc.), please give Diane a call!

Meeting adjourned: 8:04 pm. Following the meeting, the COB (Singleman) gave a detailed presentation on the development and history of fleet boats.

Next meeting – American Legion Post 234, 1900 hours Wednesday 09 July 2014.

Submitted by:

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

Base Officers –

CDR – Jim Irwin 383-2481

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

Jr Vice CDR – Al McGuire – 752-5389

Treasurer – Randall Stein –

Base Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481

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

Chief of the Boat – Al Singleman, Jr.

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.”