



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 June 2012** meeting

1900 hours: meeting called to order by Cmdr. Jim Irwin.

- Base muster (23 members present).

Members stood and saluted for the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

We Have Two New Members! Welcome Aboard, shipmates!

- **Gilbert Mendez** **qual boat: SSN 770 USS Tucson** **qual year: 2000**
- **Dr. John T. McCarthy, MD** **qual boat: SSBN 622 USS James Monroe** **qual year: 1972**

- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for boats lost during the month of June:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| O-9 (SS-70) | 20 Jun 1941 |
| USS Runner (SS-275) | Jun 1943 |
| R-12 (SS-89) | 11 Jun 1943 |
| S-28 (SS-133) | 04 Jun 1944 |
| USS Bonefish (SS-223) | 18 Jun 1945 |

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

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus confirmed a quorum was present.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting was waived. Sr. Vice Cmdr. John Christopher motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by base member Bob Bailey; motion carried.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented the base financial report. Fritz Feldhaus motioned to accept the report; seconded by Jim Irwin. Motion carried.

Base information notes:— We recently received a Thank You card from Capt. Jeff Hughes former CO of USS Albany – he was our guest speaker at the District Meeting held at the Best Western motel in Clifton Park . Capt. Hughes and his wife Amy attended the dinner held at the Ravenswood Pub following the meeting. He was most appreciative of our hospitality, and the SSBN 600 Theodore Roosevelt coin he received.

- **The NYS Submariners Memorial dedication** - was held at 11 am on Sunday May 20 – we had excellent attendance, including groups from American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa VFW Post 358, and both Ballston Spa Fire Companies: Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Co. No.1 and Union Fire Co. No.2. The Albany Times Union newspaper featured the event in the AROUND THE REGION section along with several photos of the ceremony. Our base Cmdr. extends a personal “thank you” to all who attended and to those who participated (especially our Chief of the Boat “bugler”, Tom Glenn!)
- **Holland Club** – the induction ceremony was held at the District Meeting (Best Western Motel, Clifton Park). The Albany-Saratoga Base inducted four members (John Cook, Ted Curley, Clark Shafer, and Ron Phelix (member at large)); The Buffalo Base inducted four members: Phil Griffith, Dennis Roth, John Sherman and Dennis Staley. We still have Walt Barden to do (Walt is normally here for our summer picnic).
- **Saratoga Springs Flag Day Parade** – Saturday June 9 @ 12:00 noon (lineup at 11:30 on North Broadway). Bill Preece will tow the float.
- **Ballston Spa**- Great Parade! Well attended (thanks to Bill Preece for towing the float).
- **Lansingburgh**- Great Parade – not so well attended (thanks to Walt Forney for towing the float – and to John Mishoe for the use of his truck!).
- **Malta** – base member Andy Bodien informed us that the Town of Malta will be holding its annual parade for Veterans and First Responders on Saturday September 8, 2012. We note the schedule conflict – the National Sub Vets convention in Norfolk, VA is that same weekend.

USS Croaker Memorial - our base is pledged to donate \$500 per year towards the upkeep of this memorial located in the **Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park**. USSVI National charitable foundation provides matching funds. At last month’s meeting, base members approved switching the base share of our 50/50 raffle to the USS Croaker Memorial.

A working party is being organized to give the caretaker a helping hand. Base members Walt Forney and Jack Cornell have stepped up to handle this item. The trip will include an overnight stay aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Little Rock. The timing will be later in the fall so as not to interfere with the tourist season April-October.

Special Presentation – District Five Commander Jim Irwin presented base member **Tom Glenn** with a special award in recognition of his extraordinary efforts in organizing and executing the timely completion and installation of the NYS Submariners Memorial. **Well Done, Tom!**

All Hands on Deck! Get out the Vote! The USSVI National Election is in progress and we need your vote! Take note that Al Singleman is on the ballot for National Jr. Vice Commander.

Binnacle List Update: If you would, drop Base member Tom Kelley a line, he is back in the hospital. (Email: wkelley7@nycap.rr.com) - I’m sure he would appreciate a note or two. Our Base Storekeeper Diane Singleman is back home following knee surgery.

VA Hospital “ditty bag” –. Think: *donations!*

50/50 Raffle – and the winner (\$52.50) was – base member Mike Lynett!!

Storekeeper 's Corner – Diane has 2012 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., give Diane a call!

Annual base picnic – considering 2nd or 3rd week in September. Location: The Navy MWR field on Galway Road has worked well for us the last few years. Base member Bruce Talbot (when he was Command Master Chief) made the arrangements in the past; now that he is retired, we need to hook up with the new Command Master Chief.

Re: question: hold base meeting on the weekend? Answer: NO! (unanimous)!

Four West Milton sailors lost all in fire on Route 29 – as noted during meeting break, the USS Croaker fund is currently paid up for this year, so the base share from the 50/50 raffle can be put aside to aid those sailors. Junior Vice Cmdr Al McGuire so motioned; base member Bill Preece seconded – motion carried.

Next meeting – Since the 1st Wednesday in July falls on the 4th, Mike Lynett motioned to switch the next meeting date to the 11th! Motion carried forthwith!

At 2030 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

Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481

**Sr Vice Cmdr. – John Christopher –
399-4810**

**Base Storekeeper – Diane Singleman –
885-2119**

Jr Vice Cmdr. – Al McGuire – 752-5389

Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus - 885-3546

Treasurer – Randall Stein –