



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base
American Legion Post 70
34 West Ave.
Saratoga Springs, NY

Meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the
Month

Minutes from Wednesday 20 Oct 2010
meeting

1902 hours - CDR Bailey called the October meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base to order; 14 members were present. Base muster was taken. All hands saluted the colors and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) opened the meeting with a prayer and Tolloed the Boats for the month of October.

All members present stood and stated their names, qualification date and boat(s) served on. Base member spouses also introduced themselves.

Base Secretary (Fritz Feldhaus) verified quorum present. Meeting minutes for the month of September were previously distributed by email or US mail. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as corrected.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. A motion was made (Bill

Preece), seconded (Walt Forney) and carried to accept the financial report as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Navy Ball – unfortunately, no one from our base was able to attend. Next year?

For whom the bell tolls -

Last month's proposal to extend the ritual of tolling the bell to the funeral of a base submariner was briefly addressed. Trying to organize and coordinate something like this on short notice would be difficult at best. The consensus is to continue our current practice where we make our services available to the family upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

Base Christmas Party – Janet Irwin recommended that we consider holding our base Christmas party on a Saturday - during daylight hours. To start at noon is more accommodating for our more senior members – and could have the added advantage of drawing in the kids and the grandkids! The availability of Post 70 on either the 11th or the 18th could be problematic; we may need to hold it at the American Legion Post 234 on Pleasant Street in Ballston Spa. Tom Glenn will check this out for us.

Toys for Tots – we will again be participating in this worthy cause.

Christmas Wreath - Al Singleman motioned (seconded by Jim Irwin) that we arrange to lay a Christmas Wreath at the

Saratoga National Cemetery for our deceased base members; the motion was passed.

KAPS 4 KIDS Report –

Al Singleman updated this area:

- At the USSVI website, The USSVI KAPS 4 KIDS Program Chairman has posted bulletins on what to do when we as a base (maximum of 5 members per visit) visit the kids at Albany Medical Center. The novel [And the Baker's Boy Went to Sea](#) is a popular handout item; CDR Bailey will be ordering ten more cases of the novel to distribute during future KAPS 4 KIDS events.

Veterans History project - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – so the story goes, we need YOUR life history. Do yours on line at our base website!

VA Hospital Ditty Bag – is also in need of any useful toiletry and clothing donations.

Binnacle List: If you know of anyone who should be on the Binnacle List, email Jim Irwin.

District 5 Conference - Southern Tier NY Base hosted the Eastern North Region, District 5 Business Meeting on October 15-16 at the Comfort Inn, in Binghamton, NY. Jim Irwin attended; the following is his trip report:

Approximately 20 Sub Vets attended; all Bases in District 5 (except Albacore) were represented. New York City and Long Island Bases were also represented.

Jerry Tighe from Parche/1000 Island Base, District 5 Commander, chaired the meeting. Paul Orstad, Eastern North Regional Director, reported on the National Convention.

Issues discussed included the following proposed amendments that were passed:

- (1) changes in Holland Club recognition,
- (2) conventions will now be held in even numbered years, beginning in 2014, and
- (3) in order to be elected as District Commanders, the candidate must be serving as or have previously served as a Base Commander.

Other subjects included member retention, uses and capabilities of the USSVI web site, the New York State Lost Submariners Memorial, and rumors concerning changes to the USSVI Creed.

Southern Tier NY Base provided a well-stocked hospitality room with plenty of food, cold beverages and sea-stories (all completely true of course)!

Sea Daddy program – If you have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch... see how they are doing...extend an invite to the next base meeting – we'll arrange the transportation!

Facebook – USSVI National is now on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com, and create a Facebook account. Then “search” for USSVI or USSVI Albany Saratoga.

•**Base website news** – the base website is up to date! The website address is: albany-saratoga-subvets.com

• **Foundation update** – Al Singleman reported the memorial continues on a holding pattern pending resolution of the site land plot ownership issue. The village is negotiating with the US Post Office. Terri McKenna is actively working on the foundation website; the target is now late November.

Storekeeper – let Diane know when you would like to order caps, shirts, vests, etc.

New Submarine CD's – Check out our base library inventory on submarine DVD's. Next time you come to a base meeting on West Avenue, take a look!

2010 Robert Link award was presented to the director of the USS Croaker Memorial museum submarine in Buffalo in recognition of his extraordinary efforts and success in restoring that submarine.

USS Croaker Memorial – action on a Buffalo trip has been tabled until next spring. We will start planning in January 2011. In case you didn't know, *Croaker* was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) on 12 September 2008.

50/50 raffle – and the winner was – Walt Forney! (Sorry Harry...) The KAPPS4KIDS fund now has a comfortable balance – in light of this, John Mishoe made a motion to divert half of the 50/50 raffle to the VA Hospital Ditty Bag fund. Bill Preece promptly seconded that motion – all present voted “Aye!” and the motion was carried.

Base float – skirt banner: each member is requested to contribute one ship's patch for the boat(s) he served on. The patches

are the same size as used on ship's jackets. These ship patches can be ordered on line direct from the supplier. You do NOT have to give up your patch! Each will be attached to the banner. The Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) has volunteered to take on the sail maker's task of sewing the patches on the float skirt.

Albany Veterans Day Parade – This is a very first for us. The Albany Saratoga Sub Vets have been trying since it's inception to be a part of this MAJOR parade. The route is an easy and simple one - Marching down hill and east from Central Ave to the State Capitol building.

Parade Staging Area is the corner of Central and Ontario Streets North side. We are in the EIGHTH DIVISION. Look for the Seabees and Korean Vets who will be marching before us. Look for our Sub Float, too. Standard marching Uniform of the day- Blue Hat, Blue Jacket, Kaki Pants, Comfortable shoes!

Muster is at 10:45 am. Step off is at 1100 Hrs. Of course, the earlier, the better for Parking Purposes. A contingent of seven members was mentioned to the organizers for a showing. Let's try to make it a better showing than expected.

At 2100 hours, a motion was made to adjourn. All hands recited the creed. CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Wed 17 Nov 2010

Submitted:
Fritz Feldhaus – Base Secretary