

U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
Albany-Saratoga Base  
American Legion Post 70  
34 West Ave.  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
Meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
Minutes from **21 April 2010** meeting

CDR Bailey called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was made. The Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) Tolloed the Boats for the month of April.

Members present introduced themselves, qualification date and boat(s) served on. Secretary verified quorum present. The March minutes were previously distributed by email and US mail; a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as distributed.

Muster was taken and recorded.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2010. A copy of his report is appended to these minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sub Base Groton trip** – Jim Irwin reported on the 18 April 2010 chartered bus trip to the Submarine Base New London and the USS Nautilus Museum,. The trip agenda included a visit to the USS Virginia (SSN 774), recently returned to homeport after completing the first full 6-month deployment for a Virginia-class submarine. Final head count: 47 (4 cancellations). The first stop of our trip was the Groton Base Clubhouse for their Sunday brunch. Then - on to the Submarine Force Library & Museum and the USS Nautilus. Our visit to the USS Virginia came as a surprise to the duty section on board – no one knew we were coming! Nonetheless, the crew rallied to provide an impressive guided tour of the ship. We tapped \$5 a head to contribute to the ship's recreation fund. Vice CDR John Christopher stood in awe of how far the technology has advanced since he first qualified on submarines. He also noted that the Submarine Base itself just doesn't look the same without the old escape training tower. The Groton Sub Vets arranged a catered lunch after our visit to the USS Virginia at Groton Sub Vet Clubhouse. Tom Glenn commented that the Base CDR just couldn't do enough for us. We also contributed \$50 to the Groton Base Scholarship fund. The trip returned

a nice profit for the base - we will be contributing \$400 to the USS Croaker memorial; the \$87 balance will go to Kapps4Kids.

**Veterans History project** - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – we continue to solicit new life histories. So far, only 16 (of 95) base members have provided life histories. None of the five members who passed last year had life histories on file. Do we have yours?

**Binnacle List** – Although not on the Binnacle list per se, **Ed Luther** is doing OK. Do you know of anyone who should be on the Binnacle List? If so, send an email to Jim Irwin.

**District 5 Conference** - Southern Tier NY Base is hosting a D5 conference for October 15-16 (Friday & Saturday) at the Comfort Inn, Front Street, Binghamton @ \$75 per night no tax. Hotel conference room also serves as hospitality room, Friday night and Saturday AM. Plan on a registration fee, a 50/50 raffle to help with expenses, and a small hospitality room fee for pizza and salad for Saturday lunch [soda and beer on us]. Saturday night buffet dinner at American Legion hall nearby [three miles away], includes 1/4 barbecued chicken, roast beef tips, ham, salad, rolls and butter and coffee, tea or soda and some cookies to break your teeth on. Estimate ~ \$20 or so for the dinner. (Food is Tax-free also). Still working on the final price. Contact Jim Irwin if you are interested in attending.

**Sea Daddy program** – reach out and touch someone! If you have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch and see how they are doing – extend an invitation to attend the next base meeting – we’ll arrange transportation if needed!

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Memorial Day Parade – Village of Ballston Spa – 9:00 am**, Saturday morning 29 May 2010. Milton Avenue to Front to Low Street. Let’s have a strong turnout for this one!

**Memorial Day parade – Lansingburg** – plan on marching in this Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 31 May 2010. CDR Bailey provided a street map for the two Parking lot locations. We need to be in position by 1015 hrs. Our lineup location (likely: 125th St between 5th and 6th Ave) will be posted in the Troy Record.

Parade route - 123rd St and 5th Ave south to 115th St and 5th Ave, turn down 115th St to 2nd Ave, then north on 2nd Ave to 121<sup>st</sup> St.

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We now have an ample supply of small hand held flags for the parade.

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The base still needs a new banner with the USSVI logo and the Albany-Saratoga name; Al Singleman has this item for action.

Mike Lynette volunteered to go to Saratoga Flag and purchase a new flag (web belt) holder (white) and pole (with eagle); a motion was made and carried for Mike

to purchase these two items. Brian Holland of Post 70 will be our point of contact for better pricing through American Legion.

**2010 USSVI Scholarship Grant Program** – is your child/grandchild planning on attending college in the fall? Give this program a shot. Download the application and check it out.

**Facebook** – USSVI National is now on Facebook. Tim Fredericksen setup our Albany Saratoga Facebook page. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), first create a Facebook account. Then “search” for USSVI or USSVI Albany Saratoga. Hey! Use the Facebook – good advertising for the base!

**Storekeeper** – let Diane know when you would like to order caps, shirts, vests, etc. Someday (Hartnagel take notice!) our new website will include storekeeper access.

**Base website** – Randy Stein now has the new version of Front Page, i.e., Microsoft Expression Web 3 to edit the base web page. Now, if base member Hartnagel will only set up access for Randy Stein...

**New Submarine CD's** – Walt Taylor is to be commended for continuing the expansion of our base library inventory on submarine DVD's. At three pages, the list is too long to include here. But take a look – the title list is really impressive.

**USS Croaker Memorial** – Their summer meeting is scheduled for 1 Aug 2010. Consider planning a trip to Buffalo. The trip would be an overnighter. Our base continues to pay down the \$500 that we contributed to the Croaker memorial.

**50/50 raffle** – and the winner was – Bob Bailey! Half to Kapps4Kids - Bob promptly donated his half to Kapps4Kids.

**Albany Saratoga Memorial Foundation** –The Ballston Spa Village Board approved our proposal to build a New York State Submariners Memorial on Lowe Street between the Village library and the US Post Office. The vertical black granite monument will be built in the grassy area below the library in Veterans Memorial Park. Phase II will add a brick pavers' oval: one brick for each of the 65 Lost Boats. Phase III - Brick walkway laid out in an elongated “S” between Lowe Street and Milton Avenue. Phase IV will add a scale model of USS Albany SSN 753 (Los Angeles class) submarine. Phase V adds lighting.

**VA Hospital in Albany** – Keep in mind to fill the large cardboard box that will be used to ferry ditty bag stuff and other useful toiletry and clothing donations to veterans in need at the VA hospital. Need to fill it up!

**Sparkling Press closeout:**

The base is taking advantage of a one-time good deal to obtain free copies of the novel:

**And the Baker's Boy Went to Sea** Owen Pasquerly, barely 15, is supposed to be 17 or more to serve on a submarine in World War II. His friends get the exciting

jobs of lookout and guiding the sub in a dive. Owen's stuck doing what he did back home: baking bread. "Where's the glory in that?" he wonders, even as he does what he's told to keep Captain Abbott's suspicions about his age from sending him home. Then again, maybe Owen never will get home. Maybe the U.S.S. MAKO, loaded with torpedoes for hunting Japanese ships, will itself become the hunted. But there's no "maybe" about it. Owen and his shipmates are in for the battle of their lives. And not everyone will survive...

We opted to get two cartons (18 copies each) for the cost of shipping: \$9 ea. Great read for your grandsons!

**Tolling of the Boats** – The Tolling of the Boats ceremony honoring 65 lost submarines lost in the line of duty was held at 1 PM on Friday April 9, 2010 at Veterans Memorial Park in the Village of Ballston Spa. Shortly thereafter, a brief ceremony inducted fellow member Robert Currier into the Holland Club, as he has been qualified in submarines for over 50 years.

At 2050 hours, following a motion to adjourn - All hands recited the creed. CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 19 May 2010**

**Submitted:**

**Fritz Feldhaus - Base Secretary**