

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: July 1st, 2026

The July meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 23 Base Members present.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Senior Vice Commander Jason Vilander.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of July.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary's report

- National Officer elections start July 7th (this is different than what is printed in the *American Submariner*, but Tim Carlisle at National confirmed July 7th is correct). Voting will be available online at ussubvets.org, or there is a ballot in the *American Submariner* that can be mailed in.
- Events this month include:
 - Clifton Park 4th of July Parade. 1100 muster, 1200 step off.
 - Granville America 250th Parade on July 11th 1000 muster, 1100 step off.
 - NPTU 2506 Graduation on July 31st. Location not yet confirmed.

Treasurer's report

- Was read.

Old Business

- Regarding the Granville parade, we identified a float driver and at least 3 additional people who could support, so we determined the Base will support the Parade.
 - Starting location is Firemen's Field (83 E. Potter Ave, Granville, NY 12832)
 - Muster at 1000, parade starts at 1100
 - Parade ends at the American Legion (10 Columbus St, Granville, NY 12832)
 - We are welcome at the post parade celebration at the Legion (free hotdogs)

New Business

- Jerry Whitehead briefed us on the status of Kap(SS)4Kid(SS).
 - Jerry and Jim Cree had a meeting at Albany Med to discuss the possibility of the Subvets coming. Jerry and Jim presented what our group would do for the children and Albany Med agreed to let us come in.
 - The first presentation will be some time in July.
 - Albany Med will contact Jerry Whitehead on a Monday and let him know what day that week we can come in. They will likely give us 2-3 days heads up, so we anticipate it will probably be a Thursday or Friday for the presentation.
 - We will strive to have 4-5 Subvets support each event and we anticipate around 25 children would be present on a given visit.

- After the first visit the hospital personnel will determine if we'll continue on a monthly or every other month basis.
- We will be able to support events at Albany Med and also Camp Hole in the Woods.
- To get on the list to support an event, call or email Jerry Whitehead. If you call Jerry and he doesn't answer, be sure to leave a voicemail. Let Jerry know if you would like to support the event at Albany Med, or Hole in the Woods, or both locations.
 - Jerry Whitehead
 - 518-409-5668
 - jwhitehe@nycap.rr.com
- Jim Cree thanked all those who supported our events in June, Tolling the Boats and the Saratoga Flag Day Parade.
- Janet thanked everyone for their support at Tolling the Boats. After the ceremony Dawn Saville's mother thanked Janet and Jim for keeping up the tradition. She also noticed the area and memorial had been spruced up and looked great.
- Jim Irwin let the group know that USS MARINETTE (LCS-25) is coming to the area. Tours are being offered at the Port of Albany from 7/4 – 7/7/2026. At the time of drafting the minutes, all tour times were booked. There is a waiting list.
<https://www.portofalbany.us/navy-250-tours-uss-marinette>
- Jim Irwin let us know that for the Ballston Spa American Legion's post-Memorial Day celebration they were able to get a free ice cream station kit from Stewarts. If there is interest, Jim will look into getting one for our picnic in September.
 - There was lots of interest.
- On the topic of the picnic in September, Kurt will get a sign-up sheet for food out to the Base by the August meeting. Jim Irwin reported that Al Singleman has indicated he will cook the burgers/dogs again, but we will need to verify as we get closer to the date.
- Randy Stein updated us that there has been no movement on his mobility van situation. He has not heard back from any of the radio or news stations he has contacted.

The 50/50 drawing was held and was won by Carl (Jumpy) Jump.

The next meeting will be on August 5th and will begin at 1900.

The meeting adjourned at 1940.

Upcoming Events:

- 04 July - Clifton Park 4th of July Parade
 - Lineup at the Shenendehowa Campus at 1100, step off at 1200.
 - Khaki shorts authorized
- 11 July – Granville 250th Celebration Parade
 - Lineup at Firemen’s Field at 1000, step off at 1100.
 - Khaki shorts authorized
- 31 July – NPTU Class 2506 graduation
 - Starts at 1000, location TBD
- 02 August - Schuylerville Turning Point Parade at 1300
- 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
- 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Military Parade at 1300
- 25 September – NPTU Class 2507 graduation
- 26 September - Base Picnic
- 20 November – NPTU Class 2601 graduation
- 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
- 05 December - National Cemetery Wreath Laying
- 22 January – NPTU Class 2602 graduation

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- 2026 National Convention:
 - Corpus Christi, TX at the Omni Hotel
 - September 6-11, 2026
 - <https://subvetconvention.org/>
- USSVI Charitable Foundation 125th Submarine Anniversary Commemorative Coin
<https://www.ussvcf.org/commemorative-coin>
- USSVI Charitable Foundation's service to provide free wills for USSVI members.
<https://www.mylegacywill.com/ussvcf>
- Please consider purchasing a brick paver for our Memorial.
<https://www.subvetmemorial.com/buy-a-brick.htm>
- Please fill out a Sub Vet history report – see the Base Chaplain. Forms are also available on the Base website.
<https://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

Submitted by: Kurt Daniels
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep - Shoot First!!!
End Report.