

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: March 4th, 2026

The March meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 21 Base Members present.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chief of the Boat Mike Lynett.
- The Base Chaplain Janet Irwin read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of March.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Swearing in of the final two incoming elected base officers was completed.

Senior Vice – Jason Vilander

Junior Vice – Andy Bodien

Secretary's report

- No upcoming events in March
- Next event is NPTU Class 2504 Graduation on 4/3/26 at the Fieldhouse on NSA Saratoga Springs at 1000.
- The CROAKER working party this year will be from May 4-8th. Information attached to the end of the minutes. The working party is asking for RSVPs by 31 March to finalize arrangements.

Treasurer's report

- was read

New Business

- BC Jim Cree provided an update on Bill Preece. He's been having a tough recovery to his knee surgery.
- Jim Marshall discussed the need for purchasing more base coins. Cost per coin if purchased in the following quantities:
 - 50-99: \$7.49
 - 100-149: \$6.59
 - 150-199: \$6.05
 - 200-299: \$5.80
 - 300-500: \$5.47
 - >500: \$5.25

Initial purchase was 100 coins and it's taken about 3 years to go through them. Plan on giving them out as necessary at functions.

- Motion: Al Singleman made a motion to purchase 100 coins. Mike Lynett seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Jim Marshall recommended a general base email address be setup that would be

forwarded to all Base Officers. This would allow prompt response to inquiries by the appropriate Officer.

- Motion: Jim Marshall made a motion to set up a general email address. Adam Mainville seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- BC Jim Cree provided the following updates:
 - Randy Stein will change the names on the website for the 2026 Base Officer.
 - The new parade in Hudson Falls will be on 12 September. We will have the Base Picnic the following weekend on 19 September
- Motion: Al Singleman made a motion to have the Base picnic on 19 September. Mike Lynette seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Regarding the other Parades:
 - Jim Irwin is on the committee for the Ballston Spa Parade. He invited any interested personnel to join the Parade Commission; there is a meeting on 22 March at 10am at the Ballston Spa VFW.
 - Jim Cree will follow up on the other parades we plan to attend.
- Jim Irwin discussed his trip to Groton.
 - Jim attended the monthly Holland Club luncheon. The CO of ALBANY was there along with the COB.
 - Jim exchanged coins with the CO/COB
 - ALBANY is still in Groton for maintenance and drydocking (will be out of drydock in late March) but will be moving to Bremerton, WA in the fall.
 - The CO discussed ALBANY's last deployment.
 - The new COB's contact information was obtained.
 - The Sailor of the Year (YNS1 Sullivan) was also the Squadron 6 Sailor of the Year.
 - The Subvets were invited to a tour of ALBANY. We would ideally have a small group (10-12) go. Attendees would be responsible for their own travel. The tour date/time is TBD and will be sometime this Summer or Fall.
- Jim Irwin discussed the following:
 - USSVI scholarships are available and still open.
 - USSVI national awards are also open for submissions, the 2026 manual hasn't been posted yet, but the 2025 manual is still there. For reference, last year the award submission deadline was April 30th. (<https://usubvets.org/Awards.asp>)
 - The Ballston Spa American Legion is hosting an Easter party on 28 March 2026 from 1030-1200. You are all welcome to attend, bring a food party item to donate.

The 50/50 drawing was held, the drawing was won by Adam Mainville, for a second meeting in a row!

The next meeting will be on April 1st and will begin at 1900.

The meeting adjourned at 2003.

Upcoming Events:

- 22 March - Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony meeting at Ballston Spa VFW, start at 1000
- 03 April - NPTU Class 2504 graduation
- TBD - RPI NROTC Awards Ceremony
- TBD - RPI Commissioning Ceremony
- 04-08 CROAKER working party
- 09 May - Malta Military Veterans & First Responders Parade
- 23 May - Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
- 25 May - Glens Falls Memorial Day Parade
- 29 May – NPTU Class 2505 graduation
- TBD - Tolling of the Boats
- 04 July - Clifton Park 4th of July Parade
- 27 July – NPTU Class 2506 graduation
- TBD - Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
- 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Military Parade
- TBD - Base Picnic
- 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
- TBD - National Cemetery Wreath Laying

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.

BUFFALO BASE
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.



Base CDR: *Fred Marazita Jr,*
Secretary: *Dave Banister*



Sr. Vice-CDR: *Ken Wojtanik*



Jr. Vice-CDR: *Bill Walker*
Treasurer: *John Radens*

February 2026

All Hands

Buffalo Base is partnering once again with the Buffalo Naval Park to hold the 4th annual weeklong working party to help restore and refurbish the USS Croaker SS/SSK 246, the WWII museum ship located at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park.

We are organizing another group effort this year with the intent to repair and refurbish what we can in the time frame we have. Plans are underway to send the Croaker (and The Sullivan's) into dry dock at the end of this year so we may also do some preliminary work in preparation for drydocking..

We are looking for volunteers for the week of May 4th. The volunteers will have accommodations available on board the USS Little Rock, a WWII Cruiser, moored at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park,

Accommodations include:

- Refurbished Staterooms (You must supply your own twin size bedding.)
- Fresh running water (incl. HOT) and showers.
- Working heads.

Current plans are for volunteers to arrive on Monday the 4th between noon and 5 pm, assemble everyone Monday afternoon to review the worklist and tour the Croaker. We will commence work on Tuesday the 5th and work through Thursday the 7th and leave on Friday the 8th.

There are many venues within walking distance as well as having access to the ships overnight to use the mess decks to gather and tell Sea stories.

Many restaurants and drinking establishments are also within walking distance and others are also accessible using the Metro Rail.

Parking accommodations will also be made for your POV.

Please let us know by March 31st if you plan on volunteering so we can make final arrangements for accommodations and establish our work list.

“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 may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution”

BUFFALO BASE
UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.

The information we will need if you would like to volunteer.

- Your Name:
- Your Phone Number:
- Your Primary Base:
- Any Special Skills you may have:
- An Emergency Contact:
- E. Contact's Phone Number:
- What days you can participate.
- Your T shirt size.

Please send this information to Ken Wojtanik, the Croaker Caretaker at mm1ssn615@gmail.com, John Nesselbush, the Croaker committee chairman, at Johnnesselbush@gmail.com or to me, Fritz Marazita, at buffalobaseussvi@gmail.com.

You can access the Naval Park website at: <https://buffalonaivalpark.org/>

If you have any questions, contact us through email or call us on our cell phones.

Ken: 716 238-4937

John: 716-583-1211

Fritz: 716 545-8500.

If we don't answer, leave a message and we will get back to you.

Sincerely.

Fred "Fritz" Marazita Jr. MM1(SS)

Buffalo Base/EN5 District Commander