

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI**  
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa  
Meeting Date: August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The August meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Jim Cree at 1901 with 18 Base Members present.

- The Base muster list was made available by the Base Secretary.
- 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 August.
- Base members introduced themselves.

**Secretary's report**

- The next event is the Base Picnic on 13 September.
- The Storekeeper could not attend this month's meeting. We will look to have the items he ordered at a future meeting instead.
- Officer elections are coming up in November.

**Treasurers report** – was read

**New Business**

- Base Picnic Logistics:
  - Sign up to let us know you are attending, if you're bringing guests, how many burgers/dogs you'll have, and what side you'll bring.
  - Sign up sheet: [Subvets Picnic 2025 Signup](#)
  - Kurt Daniels will pick up the burgers/hotdogs/plates/napkins/cutlery
  - Jim Cree will check if Al Singleman will be available for grill duty (Jason Vilander is available as a backup)
  - We will get Soda/Beer from the Legion
  - Start time will be 1130
- Jim Irwin discussed the article he submitted about Dawn Saville and family to the American Submariner that was published in the Third Quarter issue. Jim was able to get an electronic copy of the issue early and sent it to Dawn. Dawn sent back an email that is attached to the meeting minutes.
  - Jim also recapped the effort to get Lynn Saville a memorial headstone at Saratoga National Cemetery.
  - Jim Cree discussed how he moved from the Fleet Marine Force to Submarines just after the SCORPION was lost. Since Lynn Saville had been a Corpsman, folks thought Jim was nuts for shifting to submarines.

- Jim Irwin discussed how the ROOSEVELT collided with a seamount and went back to Holy Loch. There was only one phone on the pier and so the command made phone calls to family members, and his parents were notified of the incident and that Jim was ok. His parents ran a short snippet in the hometown newspaper that Jim's submarine was in a collision, but Jim was ok. After the ship returned to EB for repairs, Jim went home on leave and decided to attend the high school graduation ceremony since he had only been out of school for two years. When Jim walked in people gasped and couldn't believe he was there. They had just assumed he had not survived the collision since it was so soon after the SCORPION.
- The first class of students at NPTU will graduate in mid-October. We will plan to give out the Tenacity Award and attend the ceremony.
- A discussion was had on the report that came out on the Titan submersible accident and how messed up that situation was.
- We discussed again how ALBANY changed homeport to Groton. Jim Irwin has not had luck in communicating with the COB, but has corresponded with the CO.
- Stan Westhoff discussed how the old Route 50 Diner was reopening as the Doubleday Diner. They plan to donate meals to the Veterans Homes as the Route 50 Diner had done and Stan inquired if we would make donations as before. The group had no definitive answer at this meeting, something to think about in the future.
- Jim Irwin discussed the wreaths we place at the cemetery to remember our own. We have 25-28 members at the cemetery. Right now, about 40% of what our yearly dues bring in goes to buying the wreaths and as we get more members at the cemetery and as wreath prices go up, and with Wreaths Across America coming the next week and placing another wreath, what alternatives could we consider to leave at the gravesites in the future? Not something we need to answer now, but to keep in mind.
- Jim Irwin will be going to the convention, let him know if there is anything you would like him to pass to the National Leadership.
- The 50/50 drawing was held, and the prize was won by Steve Cipperly who donated his 35\$ winnings back to the Base.
- The Base Chaplain delivered the Benediction
- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next meeting will be the picnic on September 13th and will begin at 1130.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2000

#### Upcoming Events

- 8/31 to 9/6 – 2025 USSVI Convention in Orlando, FL
- 9/13 – Base Picnic at the American Legion at 1130
- October – NPTU Student Graduation
- 12/3 – Base Meeting and Holiday Potluck at the American Legion
- 12/6 – Wreath laying at Saratoga National Cemetery

#### Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- USSVI Charitable Foundation 125<sup>th</sup> 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>
- 2025 Convention– Orlando Florida – 8/31/2025 to 9/6/2025. Room rate \$120.00  
<https://subvetconvention.org/>
- 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 or forms are 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.

Wow Jim! What a beautifully written piece! Thank you so much for that!!! You honor and humble me! My entire family will be forever indebted to you and the base members for all that you do to keep all lost Submariners memories alive and providing information to families like mine. I personally have been able to heal emotionally with each visit to the national cemetery and the tolling of the boats and I feel surrounded by love by this wonderful base. More than that, I have witnessed my mom, brother and especially my sister heal and come to terms with how our lives changed when the unthinkable happened. My family spent the largest portion of our lives not thinking about it, not talking about it and trying to forget. Now, we all remember and honor Dad in our own way and I know it brings them a great deal of peace just knowing that dad and the crew of Scorpion really are remembered by others. We all have healed and grown and come together in ways I never imagined. So, if anyone feels that what your base members do doesn't mean anything or make a difference, I say yes it does mean something! It means more that you can imagine and I thank God that mom went to that lecture. I know He had a hand in that and even the most mundane things in life can be life altering. Thank you Jim for all you do and thank you for sharing this! I will be sharing with the rest of my family. See you at the picnic! Joe will be there too this year!