



## U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base  
American Legion Post 234  
23 Pleasant Street  
Ballston Spa, NY

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of every Month  
Minutes from **03 Oct 2012** meeting

1900 hours: meeting called to order by Cmdr. Jim Irwin.

Chief of the Boat led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer and gave the invocation.

- Base muster: 25 members present.
- The bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of October:
- **S 37** (SS-142)                      10 Oct 1923    3 died. Battery explosion in after battery compartment while battery charging in harbor at San Pedro, California.
- **O-5** (SS-66)                        20 Oct 1923    3 died. Rammed and sunk by United Fruit steamer Abangarez in Limon Bay, Canal Zone.
- **S 44** (SS-155)                    07 Oct 1943    56 killed. Sunk by Japanese Shumushu class escort Ishigaki, northeast Ariaito Island off Kamchatka. Two survivors, both repatriated at end of war.
- **USS Wahoo** (SS-238)            11 Oct 1943    80 killed. Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft, submarine chasers Ch 15 and Ch 43, and minesweeper W.18 in La Perouse Strait off Japan.
- **USS Dorado** (SS-248)            12 Oct 1943    77 killed – mistakenly attacked with depth charges by a U.S. Navy flying boat on the night of October 12, 1943. Hull has never been found.
- **USS Seawolf** (SS-197)            03 Oct 1944    100 died. Mistakenly sunk by naval aircraft from escort carrier USS Midway (CVE-63) and USS Richard M. Rowell (DE-403) off Morotai Island.
- **USS Escolar** (SS-294)            17 Oct 1944    82 killed –most likely lost due to mine detonation in the Yellow Sea.

- **USS Darter (SS-227)** 24 Oct 1944 0 died. Ran aground on Bombay Shoal, Palawan Passage; later scuttled by USS Nautilus (SS-168) and USS Dace (SS-247).
- **USS Tang (SS-306)** 24 Oct 1944 78 died, 9 POWs survived. Accidentally sunk by circular run of own torpedo in Formosa Strait.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting was waived.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein had previously posted the base financial report for the month of October via email and on line.

## **B** ase information notes

- **Albany Law Veterans Rights Pro Bono Project** –facilitates free legal advice to veterans and their families. Base member Steve Cipperly attended their scheduled presentation on Saturday, September 15, 2012. Steve reports that the event was well presented. He recommends that the base revisit this event about once a year.
- **USS Croaker Memorial** –Base member Walt Forney has organized a 3-man working party to give the caretaker a hand in installing new decking in the pilot area of the bridge. They leave on a Friday and return the following Saturday night. The trip includes an overnight stay aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Little Rock and a courtesy breakfast and lunch.
- **New York State Auto License plate coordinator** informs us that if you have a SUBVET plate, you **MUST** maintain your USSVI membership to keep your plate. The fee to apply for and obtain such a plate (if you don't already have one) is \$38.75. A custom plate (e.g., your boat's hull number) will cost you a one-time fee of \$70.00, plus an annual fee of \$31.25.
- **NYS District Patch** – for some time now, we have been advertising for someone interested in designing a new patch for District 5. Voila! Base member Dean Bennett (and his wife) came through for us today! They have presented us with **three** graphic designs – all three rendered in full color posters - from which to choose! Outstanding! Stay tuned for the final selection!
- **Base Christmas Party** – Potential dates and locations were discussed: e.g., the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 24), or early December: Dec 1, Dec 8. One location under consideration: Recovery Sports Grill in Malta (new this fall, plenty of room, great menu and wall to wall sports TV and décor. We will finalize details at our next meeting (Wednesday 7 Nov) right after Tuesday's presidential election.
- **Base Picnic** – held on Saturday 15 September – had a great turnout (19 base members plus, some spouses and family), and the weather cooperated (no rain!) – Good thing, since the indoor party room and kitchen were preempted by a baby shower! Good food, good desserts, and good friends all! And we had our very own master chef (Al Singleman) manning the grill! A hearty “thanks” to all who contributed their culinary delights, help, time, and setup!
- **Toys for Tots** – the Saratoga American Legion Post 70 on West Avenue is the drop off location for all toys for tots – bring your toys to our next (7 Nov) meeting!
- **US Submarine Veterans of World War II** disbanded at the end of its convention Sep 7 in Norfolk VA. Retired vice Adm. Al Konetzni gave the keynote speech at the closing ceremony. He said they do not need the administrative burdens of a federally chartered organization to preserve their memories. “They will never be forgotten, ever, ever, ever. They gave us our traditions and our spirit. They were our leaders.”

---

### **Binnacle List Update:**

Base member Tom Kelley is home these days – drop him a line! (Email: [wkelly7@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wkelly7@nycap.rr.com) ).

**VA Hospital “ditty bag”** – Think: *donations!*

---

**50/50 Raffle** – and the winner was Roger Tapio!! Potential new member - ?

**Storekeeper's Corner** – Diane has 2013 USSVI Calendars on hand at \$10.00 each. Magnetic bumper stickers are also available. Anyone wishing to upgrade your base wardrobe; i.e., vests, jackets, shirts, ball caps, ship's patches, etc., give Diane a call!

**Groton – Sub Base trip** – plan for April 2013. Based on our previous trip, basic itinerary:

---

Bus – departs at 0700 hours, with brunch/breakfast on the way  
Visit Nautilus Museum  
Visit Fast Attack submarine in port  
Club house for lunch  
Sub Base tour  
Back in Clifton Park by 1900 hours

---

Need about 45 takers to break even

**Navy Memorial** - Washington DC – USSVI is looking to fund a memorial plate (cost \$10 K), \$5,000 of which to be raised from base membership. Our base has donated \$150.

**Next meeting – 07 November 2012.**

Submitted by:

---

**Fritz Feldhaus –**

**Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary**

**Base Officers –**

**Cmdr. – Jim Irwin 383-2481**

**Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481**

**Sr Vice Cmdr. – John Christopher – 399-4810**

**Base Storekeeper – Diane Singleman – 355-2119**

**Jr Vice Cmdr. – Al McGuire – 752-5389**

**Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus 885-3546**

**Treasurer – Randall Stein –**