

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: August 5th, 2026

The August meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 19 Base Members and 1 guest present.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Base Chief of the Boat Mike Lynett.
- Base Storekeeper Jim “Fuzzy” Marshall delivered the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of August.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary’s report

- National Officer elections are on-going and end Sept 4th.
 - An email will should have come from "**Election Buddy**" with brief instructions and the URL that will take you to the voting page.
 - Alternately there is a ballot in the *American Submariner* that can be mailed in.
- No further events this month, September events are:
 - 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
 - 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Parade at 1300
 - 25 September – NPTU Class 2507 graduation at 1000
 - 26 September - Base Picnic at 1130
- Here is the link for the [picnic sign up](#), also look for a link in the email with these meeting minutes.

Treasurer’s report

- Was read

Old Business

- Steve Cipperly and Jim Cree discussed the latest NPTU graduation. The event was well attended with an estimated few hundred people in the crowd. One of the students in the class passed away in a motor vehicle accident after qualifying but before graduation (the students’ car was hit by a drunk driver). The student was posthumously promoted at the ceremony. The student who was given the Tenacity Award displayed a truly gritty performance in getting to graduation. The command was so unsure the student would qualify that a graduation certificate wasn’t printed ahead of time. However, she qualified just in time and made it to graduation and will be heading to PCU BARB (SSGN 804).
- August 4th was the first Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event at Albany Medical Center in many years. Among the group of Subvets present was Jerry Whitehead, Bill Preece, Butch McCabe and Jim Cree. The group was able to meet with two patients and their families. Jerry did an excellent job at delivering the presentations. One of the patients was very inquisitive about submarines. The patients, families, and staff were all appreciative of the visit. Jerry reports the staff will do better advertising for

the next time.

- 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)

New Business

- We discussed the possibility of getting a photo and story from the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event in the next *American Submariner*. Jim Cree mentioned we may need a photo release to use the photos that were taken and will look into it further.
- We discussed that we typically have the September meeting at the picnic, but may want to re-assess for this year with the picnic being at the end of September.
 - Andy Bodien made a motion to hold a meeting at the normal time in September and hold the October meeting at the Picnic on September 26th. Bernie Landers seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.
- Jim Irwin reported:
 - The ice cream kit from Stewarts was ordered for the picnic.
 - The travelling Vietnam War Memorial is coming to Glens Falls from 8/20 – 8/24. The wall will be located in Crandall Park. [Official Website](#)
 - Jim investigated a news story claiming that the TSA will have a military line at ~30 airports around the country (Albany Airport is one of them). The TSA website advertises that active military, veterans, and their families may use the military TSA lines. For more information and required ID: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips/military-lanes>
- Andy Bodien reported that the USSVCF scholarships have been awarded for the year, his daughter was one of the recipients.
- Jim Stevens reported the Granville parade was a success and well received. Many of the crown enjoyed our float. Many people came over to get pictures with it before the parade as well.
- Jason Vilander asked if there would be any interest in getting dri-fit base shirts for the summer parade season, as they would be more breathable than the heavy cotton shirts we have now. There was plenty of interest, and the Storekeeper started a list for those interested.
- Mike Lynett shared a story about why he's an associate member. It started with former member Ed Luther's daughter calling and asking if Mike could introduce Ed to ADM Fluckey when the ADM was in town for Medal of Honor convention and parade (circa 1998). Ed's daughter was calling because Ed's house had been destroyed by the tornado that went through Mechanicville that year and he was out getting a new belt. Mike knew ADM Fluckey from his time in Portugal and was able to make the connection to get Ed at the dinner. Ed bothered Mike about joining the Base often and Mike finally gave in.
 - There were more memories shared about Ed Luther including:
 - His penchant for drinking Genny Cream Ale, maybe while driving

- Checking out Thunder Below from the library to get it signed by ADM Fluckey, then buying the library a new copy of the book
- Fibbing about being related to a lost Submariner in order to get a headstone for them at the National Cemetery

The 50/50 drawing was held and was won by Steve Cipperly, who donated his winnings to the Base.

The next meeting will be on September 2nd and will begin at 1900.

The meeting adjourned at 1955.

Upcoming Events:

- 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 (Will also serve as the October meeting)
- 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.