



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Albany-Saratoga Base

Location: American Legion Henry Cornell Post 234
23 Pleasant Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Minutes from **04 June 2014** meeting

1900 hours: regular meeting called to order by CDR Irwin, 21 members present.

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

Ten-Hut! As of 04 June 2014, Albany-Saratoga Base now has 118 members and 18 Associate members!

We have one new member! Welcome aboard mate!

- **David Rich of South Glens Falls**
 - **qual boat: USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) qual year 1986**
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer, gave the invocation and tolled the bell for ***boats lost during the month of June.***

USS Runner (SS-275) Jun 1943 – 78 killed. The *Runner* was probably lost sometime after sinking the Japanese cargo vessel *Seinan Maru*, on June 11, 1943. Cause unknown, possibly due to a Japanese mine or combined air and surface attack off northeastern Honshu, Japan.

USS Herring (SS-233) 01 Jun 1944 – 83 killed. Japanese Army shore batteries (Guards Division 52) scored two direct hits on the submarine's conning tower and "bubbles covered an area about 5 meters wide, and heavy oil covered an area of approximately 15 miles" off Matsua Island, Kuriles.

USS Golet (SS-361) 14 Jun 1944 – 82 killed. The *Golet* was probably depth charged and sunk off the northeastern coast of Honshu by Japanese naval aircraft, Japanese guard boat *Miya Maru*, and an auxiliary submarine chaser.

USS Bonfish (SS-223) 19 Jun 1945 – 85 killed. Nanao Bay. Sunk by combined efforts of Japanese Destroyer Escort Okinawa, Coast Defense Vessel No. 63, Coast Defense Vessel No. 75, Coast Defense Vessel No. 158, and Coast Defense Vessel No. 207 off southern coast of Honshu, Japan.

USS O-9 (SS-70) 20 Jun 1941 – 33 died. Foundered during deep submergence tests off New London, CT. The sub went down 15 miles off Portsmouth, in the area where Squalus had been lost.

USS R-12 (SS-89) 12 Jun 1943 - 42 died, including two Brazilian Navy officers on board to observe a torpedo firing exercise. While underway from Key West while preparing to dive, forward battery compartment began to flood; sank within fifteen seconds in 600 feet of water. Two officers and three enlisted men who were on the bridge were the only survivors. Court of Inquiry: exact cause unknown, but probably due to rapid flooding through a torpedo tube. On May 24, 2011, the RV Tiburon Team announced discovery of the wreck off the Florida Keys.

USS S-28 (SS-133) 04 Jun 1944 – 50 died. Following ASW exercises out of Pearl Harbor submarine base with Coast Guard cutter Reliance, S-28 lost depth control and sank in 1400 fathoms; because of the depth, salvage operations were impossible.

USS Sargo (SSN-583) 14 Jun 1960 – 1 died. Oxygen feed line fire and explosion in after torpedo room; blaze extinguished by submerging in Pearl Harbor with compartment sealed and stern torpedo hatch open.

Correction to May minutes: Our base will **not** be hosting the 2014 Eastern North Regional meeting scheduled for the first weekend in October (3rd-5th).

Taps for shipmates now on Eternal Patrol:

Marvin Hassell of Ballston Spa passed away on 10 June 2014. He was buried in Ballston Spa Cemetery on 14 June 2014. He was the initiator and driving force behind getting the New York State Memorial installed next to the Veteran's Memorial in the Village of Ballston Spa in 2012.

Dean Bennett of Ballston Spa passed away on 24 June 2014. He was buried in Syracuse New York. Dean wore his Sub Vest proudly, especially when he was granted the honor of being the bell-ringer for the National Submarine Day's "Tolling the Boats" ceremony this past April in the Ballston Spa Veteran's Memorial Park.

Merril "Gus" Negus of Glenville passed away on 29 June 2014. He will be buried with military honors on 3 July 2014 at Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY.

- Minutes from the May 2014 meeting have been previously distributed to members. Motion to accept the minutes: Base member Kurt von Maucher; seconded: Sr. Vice Commander Tom Glenn.
-

Treasurer's Report - Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. Motion to accept the report: Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus; seconded: Base member Ed Huether

Dues - Base: \$10.00; National: \$20.00/1 year or \$55.00/3 years, \$90.00/5 years. Consider adding \$5.00 to support USS Croaker restoration fund.

Base information notes:

- Silent Service video – now available on line at www.olgoat.com. Plan on 75-76 episodes.
 - **Summer picnic** – will be here at the Post on September 20th from 1100-1500. Base provides hot dogs, burgers (with or without cheese) sausage, rolls, and paper goods (non-edible). Base will also foot the bill for beer and soda from the bar. All other drinks are on your own. Members: please plan on bringing a dish to share. Please sign up at the meeting or call 383-2481 and leave a message on what you are bringing (to avoid too much duplication).
 - **Holland Club** – we will be inducting our new Holland Club members at the picnic! Bill Preece, Fritz Feldhaus, possibly Don Amorosi.
-
- **Base Correspondence:** Boat Sponsorship for 2014 – done! For USS Albany and NPTU Ballston Spa!

Foundation Report – sold a total of 9 pavers since the last group was engraved last spring – pavers are currently source of income for the Foundation. Keep promoting! If not already done, the new pavers are to be engraved in early July.

Albany VA Ditty Bag - The Sunshine Fund - \$319.69

50/50 Raffle – and the winner (\$30) is: Art Nolan! Art promptly donated his share back to the base – Thanks, Art!

Chief of the Boat's corner:

Plan on bringing to Wednesday's base meeting your serviceable clothes (shirts, pants, shorts, socks, etc.) for VA hospital.

Long Range planning: 2018 - USS Scorpion 50 years.

Sub Vet History Reports! – Just go directly to the base website:

<http://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/> and click on "Sub Vet History Report" – and fill in the blanks!!! As easy as that...and then print it!

Storekeeper's Corner – Diane has 2014 USSVI Calendars on hand at \$10.00 each. 50th Anniversary coin and patch available from National - \$15 coin, \$7 patch; \$20 both. Magnetic bumper stickers are also available. Anyone wishing to upgrade your base wardrobe; i.e., vests, jackets, shirts, ball caps, ship's patches, etc., please give Diane a call!

Next meeting – American Legion Post 234, 1900 hours Wednesday 09 July 2014.

Submitted by:

**Fritz Feldhaus –
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary**

Base Officers –

CDR – Jim Irwin 383-2481

Base Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481

Sr Vice CDR – Tom Glenn, Jr – 438-8113

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

Jr Vice CDR – Al McGuire – 752-5389

Chief of the Boat – Al Singleman, Jr.

Treasurer – Randall Stein –

Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus - 885-3546

Subvets Creed

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

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes into contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.”