



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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

Meetings 1st Wed of every Month
Minutes from **11 July 2012** meeting

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

- Base muster (21 members present).
Members stood and saluted for the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

We Have a New Member! Welcome Aboard, shipmate!

- **Brian Nissley** **qual boat: SSN 671 USS Narwhal** **qual year: 1974**

We have a long standing tradition where any World War II veterans present stand and be recognized. Tonight we are honored to recognize a visiting WW II veteran: Roland Mitchell; he made five war patrols.

- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for boats lost during the month of July:

G 2 (SS-27) 30 Jul 1919 3 died. Foundered and sunk in Long Island Sound.

USS Grunion (SS-216) 31 Jul 1942 70 died. Sunk during failed torpedo attack on Japanese transport Kano Maru. Imploded hull found in 2006, depth 1000 ft. on undersea mount near Kiska Island, Aleutians.

USS Robalo (SS-273) 26 Jul 1944 77 killed; 4 POWs later died. Sunk by a Japanese mine off western Palawan, Philippines.

Base and associate members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus confirmed a quorum was present.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting was waived. Corrections to June meeting minutes: Capt. Hughes is CO of NPTU Ballston Spa; Phil Griffith is Surgeon Base, not Buffalo and dual at Alb-Sar. Motion to accept the minutes: base member Bill Preece; second: base member Gus Negus.

Motion carried.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented the base financial report. John Christopher motioned to accept the report; second: Tom Glenn. Motion carried.

B ase information notes

- **Upcoming Parades**
- **Malta - Military, Veterans and First Responders** – Saturday September 8, 2012 @ 10:00 am. Note the schedule conflict – the National Sub Vets convention in Norfolk, VA is being held that same weekend.
 - **Turning Point** (Schuylerville) – Sunday August 5th @ 1:00 pm
 - **Uncle Sam** – Lansingburg – Sunday September 16th @ 1:00 pm
- **Albany Law Veterans Rights Pro Bono Project** – facilitates free legal advice to veterans and their families – coming in September- so stay tuned.
- **Four West Milton sailors** – those who lost all in fire on Route 29 – were well provided for right after event (all have graduated and are no longer in the area).
- **USS Croaker Memorial** - a working party is being organized to give the caretaker a helping hand. Base members Walt Forney and Jack Cornell have stepped up to handle this item. The trip will include an overnight stay aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Little Rock. The timing will be later in the fall so as not to interfere with the April-October tourist season.
- **Salute Military Golf Association** – Base member Frank Dorchak gave his report on the June 30, 2012 event. Did quite well...netted \$5700.00, earned recognition for our base as a “Gold Supporter”. In his words: *“The wounded warriors that attended the tournament were quite impressed with the attention they received and are very appreciative of it. The Base can be very proud of what they did for those young warriors, and I am very proud of my SUBVETS!”*
- Frank is pushing for a championship playoff round in Malone, NY on Thursday, 27 September 2012. Base member Bill Preece made a motion to donate \$100 for a pin flag; seconded by Tom Glenn; motion carried.
- **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. To obtain 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.

Binnacle List Update: base member Fred Carlson is recent addition to our binnacle list, now on chemo-therapy. Consider dropping a note to Base member Tom Kelley a line, he is back in the hospital. (Email: wkelley7@nycap.rr.com) - I'm sure he would appreciate a note or two. On a positive note: Base Storekeeper Diane Singleman is back home following knee surgery.

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

50/50 Raffle – and the winner was – base member Bill Preece!!

Storekeeper's Corner – Diane has 2012 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!

Annual base picnic – Saturday **15 September**. Time: 12:00 noon to 3:30-4:00 pm. Location: American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant Street, Ballston Spa, NY. Bring a covered dish to share! Note that food will be “By George”! Base will provide hot dogs, burgers, sausage & peppers.

Update on USSVI national election statistics: Alb-Sar base has highest percentage of NYS voter response: >28%. It's not too late to vote! Ends 7 days before convention starts – so ballots must be in the mail to Householder by 25 Aug 2012.

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

Next meeting – Wednesday, 1 August 2012.

At 2015 hours, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The USSVI Creed was recited by all, and the meeting was adjourned.

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 –