

Membership Meeting

Minutes Rev. a
2026-10-05



USSVI Groton Base

860.445.5262
40 School St., Groton CT

CALL TO ORDER:

Base Commander (BC) (Steve Ricard) called the meeting to order at (1835). A quorum was present. Members in attendance (24). ZOOM Attendance (6). Pledge of Allegiance was led by (Siver Dolphins). Opening prayer by Base Chaplain (Earl Colella). SUBVETS Creed was led by (BC Steve Ricard). Tolling of the Boats presented by JVC (Jim Lawton).

INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Bob Sharpe, Color Guard Captain presented to the SUBASE SUBSCHOL COLOR GUARD the 4th of July parade "Patriotic Award" from the Town of Groton.

RECOGNITION OF VIP AND GUESTS:

Introduced and recognized New Members & First Meeting participants **Jim Franklin**

Recognized National Officers

Recognized former Base Commanders

Recognized WWII Members present

Recognized Holland Club Members

Recognized Chris Quijada Distinguished Member of the year

Recognized Joe Negri Recipients

Recognized Robert Link Recipients

MEMBERSHIP SOUND-OFF:

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING:

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS:

BC REPORT:

BC Ricard mentioned the Cribbage tournament October 17th from noon to 1600 at the clubhouse and will dovetail with Our monthly dinner Octoberfest. Sign up for Cribbage Tournament via Jennifer Bourque at Jennifer.a.bourque2.civ@us.navy.mil.

He announced that SUBVETS has again been asked to conduct a WINTER COAT DRIVE for children ages 5-14 years of age now through Thanksgiving.

He would like to get nominations for Groton base Chris Quijada/volunteer of the years award. Send to his attention as soon as possible.

He announced that to enable SUBASE SUBSCHOL students to continue participating in SUBVETS activities Groton base will need to provide student transportation at an estimated cost of \$400/year. He stated it is urgent that we have the discussion and membership consensus and how it will be paid in the future.

He also extends a request for member volunteers to support Saturday morning clean up as well as Thanksgiving volunteers.

Lastly, He announced the RI Base is having their annual Christmas party December 20th. Location is Traditional Pub Fare and New England Classics, 3347 S. County Trail, East Greenwich, RI Sunday 12/20/2026.

TREASURERS REPORT:

SEPTEMBER (maybe delayed because we have Events we do not want to cancel)

Tentative in planning: Ladies' Room Bathroom. Complete renovation. Target start is mid-month. FYI, please remember that you can send in a separate donation for this project; as in the past, Michael Shusta, our contractor, will work to get some materials donated. Remember that National will help us with funding as a match on expenses up to \$15,000.

If you want to make a separate donation for this project, please consider it since this is the last of the building's bathrooms to be renovated.

THANKSGIVING APPEAL (HOLIDAY FUND RAISING) 2026

Letters will be mailed out after September 1st. This is our efforts to support our local submarine community during the Holiday season. Always a great event & appreciated by our active duty & Navy families.

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FINANCIALS:

Financial information thru August 31 will be posted on our website

All expenses have been paid to date.

Reimbursement – Notice: Going forward, please coordinate any expenses with the Treasurer in advance of any expense. We have staff with debit cards that can be used to purchase necessary items. To limit processing checks, we will be reimbursing via Zelle and PayPal. We are still working through a few issues with setting up Venmo.

Future donations:

We are asked, “How can I identify Sub Vets Groton for donations in my name once I'm on Eternal Patrol”?

- First, Sub Vets wants to know that you are well but if you pass away, we want to acknowledge your service and show our appreciation for you as a shipmate.
- Next – you need to let your family know that they should notify Sub Vets if you pass away.

If you select to make or have donations, go to Sub Vets:

Now - Your family can include in your obituary the suggestion that donations be made to Sub Vets Groton. We appreciate these donations in memory of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

Now – you can set up a Legacy Fund in your name with the National Charitable Foundation. Ask if you are interested

Future - We are working to set up an account for those members who want to include in their wills or insurance beneficiary statements that Sub Vets is identified as their beneficiary or receives a specific amount of money once they pass. This account could be restricted for the ongoing support of SubVets Groton.

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies' room – tentative late August....we are still short of funds to do this work
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer (with luck it is fixed before you read this)
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors (over the summer)
 - o Lock installed between bar and hallway from front door... reason in the future we may want to isolate the bar from events in the Hall
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters – will recheck before winter

Note: if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know

DONATIONS:

DONATIONS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT CRITICAL. Our National and local bases need donations to keep activities available to our submarine communities. For Groton it's keeping the doors open but just one visit and you can see the difference individual donations have made in maintaining the building and improving services to all of us!

YOU CAN DONATE TO SUBVETS GROTON OR THE NATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

There are a few ways you can donate.

Option 1: You can mail a check to SUBVETS GROTON 40 School St Groton CT 06340

Option 2: You can donate Via PayPal at <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>.

You can donate to our Annual or Thanksgiving Appeals, to our Scholarship, Holland Club, Memorial Fund, Capital Improvements and Kaps4Kids.

Note: Contributions to SUBVETS GROTON are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

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Option 3: You can mail a check to USSV Charitable Foundation PO Box 1063 Groton CT 06340-1063. Please indicate that your donation is for Groton Building or Groton Thanksgiving.

(We have fund accounts with the Charitable Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3), so your donations to our accounts at the Foundation are tax deductible.)

(as always, we will acknowledge all donations)

IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL DONATIONS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER DONATING DIRECTLY TO THE USSVI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

Note: Contributions to the USSVI Charitable Foundation are tax deductible. And you can indicate that you are donating to any of the Funds or to a specific GROTON Fund.

IMPORTANT NEW OPTION AVAILABLE – IF YOU WANT A TAX DEDUCTION

You can use one of the Links below to send directly to the Charitable Foundation

1. Option to get donations applied and available for Groton.
 - a. Indicate that the donation is for Groton Building or
 - b. [Additional funds are listed for Groton: Scholarship](#), Building Fund, Thanksgiving or WWII Memorial East
2. Option to get donations applied to the Brotherhood Fund or any of the Funds that benefit USSVI members.
 - a. [Donate - Support Our Top Donation Campaign - USSVCF](#)

Brotherhood supports all of our national members, including Groton, with assistance in their time of need.

If you need more information about any fund-raising options, please contact Treasurer *Charlie Murray*, 860 830 9605 or Treasurer@ussvigraton.org

BUILDING INTERIOR CLEANUP:

1. Work on the 3rd floor will continue in June or during summer, with scraping old paint off one area of the walls and repainting.
 - a. Possible relocation of items to improve area usage
2. Old auditorium chairs will be removed from attic, and the intent is to get more donations.
 - a. Initial evaluation is that there is some value
 - b. I believe we don't have any use in our clubhouse for these, and it could be dangerous to keep them in the attic.
 - c. Need a crew maybe 5 to relocate items
3. A new space to be identified on the 3rd floor for any donations that come into the club. I hope that in left in a central location we can more quickly evaluate whether or not to keep the donations. NOTE: It's extremely hard not to accept these donations from navy families; remember the items were personal belongings to their family members.

BUILDING EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

THANKS TO : Larry Williamson for repairing the buzzer on the front door.

SECRETARY REPORT/ARCHIVES:

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

BYLAWS

the subcommittee has met once and made good progress.

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 21 at 1530 here at the club.

The membership approved the September 14, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Copy forwarded to Web master to post on web site.

SR. VICE REPORT:

Nothing new to discuss

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JR. VICE REPORT:

JVC reported that he has installed motion light on street side where pool table. Also, will be installing nonskid on ramp

NATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Reported about 2026 convention issues and events. Update membership dues. Website has issues being addressed. Members are responsible for updating their own record. Reported that national is now addressing Groton base clubhouse as their clubhouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Jim Kading

Category	June **	July **	Aug **	Sept ***
Total Membership	1047	1049	1059	1060
National Life Membership	858	809	821	828
Groton Base Life Membership	404	404	404	404*
Holland Club Membership	657	657	655	652
Associate Membership	61	61	61	40

* Unable to capture actual number at this time per GB Membership Chair

** Numbers are from National Data base

*** Numbers are from GB Membership Chair

SUBSCHOL GRADUATION SCHEDULE: BC Ricard

BC Ricard reported that SUBASE SubSchol is preparing schedule for 2027 graduations.

CHAPLAIN REPORT: Earl Colella/John Carcioppolo

The following members departed on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter.

- **FTCS(SS) Floyd E. Hodge Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol on 3 November 2025**
- **EM1(SS) Ralph Masi** departed on Eternal Patrol on 18 March 2026. There were no honors presented. **TMCM(SS) Barry Russack** Departed on Eternal Patrol on 16 August. The Honors Detail Presented Honors on Sunday 27 September. We had a great turnout. Present for the Honors Detail were Earl Colella, Rob Davis, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bob Fedder, Bob Gustafson, Dave Gustafson, Obie Hill, Dennis Hopkins, Harold Haugland, Kirk Haugland, Mark Kashar, Jim Lawton, Bob Sharpe, and Paul Skalski
- **IC2(SS) Dell Howse** departed on Eternal Patrol on 2 September 2026. There were no honors presented. **RM1(SS) Jerry K. Patterson** Departed on Eternal Patrol on 04 September 2026. There were no honors presented.
- **ICC(SS) Nathan Isenhour** departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 September 2026. There were no honors presented.
- **ET2(SS) Forrest E. Cramer Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol on 20 September 2026. The Honors Detail will muster on Friday evening, October 2nd at the Mystic Funeral Home located on Route 1 Mystic CT. The Honors Detail will muster at 1715 and go on at 1730.

Please make sure that your families have instructions to contact us in the event of your passing. This information should be kept with insurance documents, wills, and other like documents.

The information for the Eternal Patrol bios comes from the USSVI National Webpage Membership section. What you have there is what I put out. If you don't have all the right stuff, then that's what we are going to put out. Additionally, some of the info comes from old bios from Holland Club inductions. If your info on the National Web Page is not up to date, either update it or ask Base Commander Steve Ricard at commander@ussvigroton.org. Also, with regards to information, if we don't know of a member passing, we cannot provide the information or present Honors. Please ensure that your families

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know that when you have passed to contact Groton Base Chaplain Earl Colella 734-730-1026 earl.colella@comcast.net or John Carcioppolo 860-514- 7064 gumba700@comcast.net and if possible, provide a link to the obituary.

Keep your eyes open. If you know of a member passing or see an obituary of a Submariner who passed and maybe a member don't hesitate to pass that info along. We will figure out if he is a member and conduct business accordingly. A link to the obituary is always good to have.

The sooner we know the information the timelier we can react and put out the notices and hopefully have the Honors Detail render honors. All too often we find out about the passing of a member long after the funeral and do not get the chance to provide honors for our Shipmates.

We are always looking for potential new members of the Honors Detail to supplement those who participate. If you are interested in being part of the Honors Detail, all you really have to do is let me know and show up. We prefer you to have the SUBVETS vest, but that is not a hard requirement. If you are interested in joining the Honors Detail, please let me know.

HOLLAND CLUB: John Carcioppolo

October 2026 Holland Club Report

LUNCHEONS We had a great luncheon in September with 57 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) CDR Christian Olsen and MMACM(SS) Cody Henry

gave a great talk about his career and PCU ARIZONA.

A special thank you to Jim Lawton and our SUBSCHOOL Students (WILL PROVIDE THIS LIST SEPARATELY) and Kate Hodge for putting on the meal.

I would also like to thank SC Wes Norton for providing the students, and to Dee Carcioppolo and Bob Dulin for collecting the money. Last but not least, thanks to Kim Beagle for taking pictures. Pictures will be provided next month.

The 50/50 was won by Dave Frease, who won \$160.00

Upcoming Speakers are as follows:

- 20 October Guest Speaker – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots". Please RSVP by 15 October if you plan to attend.
- 17 November Guest Speaker – CSS-12 CAPT Thomas Bullock and CMDCM(SS/EXW/IW/DV) Dustin Bruner
- 15 December Guest Speaker Commander, Undersea Warfare Development Center (UNSEAWARDEVCCEN) RDML Eric J. Rozek

Holland Club 2027 – Save the date: 05 June 2027 SUBASE New London. Nothing else to report right now.

COLOR GUARD REPORT: Bob Sharpe

During the month of September, the color guard provided the presentation of colors at the USS George C Marshall SSBN-654 and the USS Archerfish SSN-678 reunion banquets. The next scheduled color guard muster will be in November for the presentation of colors on Veteran's Day. The color guard needs a few new members to assist in events. If you are interested, please email me at bobsharpe@hotmail.com or on my Cell at (860) 501-6161 and leave a message.

EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM: Jim Weaver

- Eagle Scout project working and progressing nicely with local boy scout chapter.

SMALL STORES: Alex Doucette

- Reminder - Chairman reported looking for ideas for 2027 challenge coin. C. Murray offered to put female sailor on one side and base info on the other.

DOCENT COORDINATOR: Alvin Kinsall

- Reminder: We need volunteers, all watches, every day except Tuesdays. Please consider volunteering for a watch or two a month
- The Museum is open daily 9-5pm during the summer schedule and 9:4:00 during the winter schedule except on Tuesdays

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- October 19-30 Museum is closed for Fall maintenance
- Docents will be changing to winter hours on November 1st
- The Museum is holding its 6th annual golf tournament on October 15th lake of Isles (Active duty, retirees, civilians) \$200pp E7 and above, \$185 E6 and below Register your foursome online by Oct 5th ussnautilus.org/golfregistration. Or contact Jennifer.a.bourque2.civ@us.navy.mil

DMV LIAISON: Michael Hodges

No report

KAP (SS) 4 KIDS PROGRAM: John Riley

Again, Bob Dulin reported that John is still south on a family matter. Hopes to be available for Vet Day memorial

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Marion Galbraith

Marian Galbraith reported that the memorial ceremony for Veterans Day is Nov 11th. Arrangements have been set for the Municipal Building. Thanked Dick Warnock for taking care of memorial. Groton groundbreaking Friday at 1400.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: Jim Lawton

PAO again asked members to use the Website as a means for obtaining what is going on at the clubhouse.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Greg Kane

Latest in formation is on Boat notes.

VETERAN AFFAIRS: Brian Hague

Chairman Hague reported announced veterans' stand-down in Norwich. Also, reported defects in Big Beautiful Bill in Washington DC.

WEST PORT SATGRP: Paul Grammer

No report

STAN MATHIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Paul Skalski

BC reported October German dinner Oct 17, 2026. No monthly dinner in November. Prime rib dinner for Dec 5th Christmas dinner.

CLOSING EVENTS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER -

Archerfish reunion committee donated \$300 to SUBVETS Groton Base for hosting the reunion.

Dining-in registration form can be obtained from John C.

Attendance drawing (COIN)– Winner “No winner”

50/50 Drawing Dave Gustifson wins \$60. Donated to the Bus

Closing Prayer Chaplain Colella

Meeting adjourned: adjourned at 1947.

Submitted by: Alvin G. Kinsall, Base Secretary

Date Minutes Approved by membership:

Date:

NEXT MEETING November 2, 2026