

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
(EAST) BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE Monthly Meeting Feb 23, 2011

1. Due to work contingencies the Chair, Terry Chatham, the Vice Chair, Minke Alarie and Social Keith “Brum” Tovey regrets. The Secretary George “Bazoo” Byzewski and the Treasurer John Clahane brought the meeting to order at 1930 and welcomed the members in attendance.
2. Members in attendance were Art Bodden, Jerry Bourgeois, George Byzewski, John Clahane, Duster Miller, Bert Philips, Lionel (Tex) Ranger and Irv (Soapy) Watson. A moment of silence was observed for Our Troops in Afghanistan as well as our ill at home and in hospital. Due to lack of numbers, quorum was not achieved.
3. As there was no Quorum the meeting was not brought to order by the Secretary.

Reports:

4. The Secretary did not table the minutes from the Jan, 2011 meeting due to lack of Quorum. Minutes for the Jan, 2011 Monthly General Meeting will be tabled at the March, 2011 General Meeting. The Secretary stated that the next Monthly meeting will be held March 30, 2011, 1900 for 1930 in the SR’s Mess

Enclosure E-mail from Bob Wallace Central Branch

There are no minutes for this month, January, 2011.

There was not enough members in attendance to form a quorum, a regular occurrence, and second in a row.

Folks. This Association has reached a crossroads; we are very close to having to make a decision on closing this Association down. Because of money problems? No. Because of administrative problems? No. Because of low membership? No.

We are quite healthy as an Association other than the fact that we do have to have meetings on a regular basis in order to function.

5 or 6 stalwarts continue to come to meeting after meeting (and for the most part keep this Association running by voluntarily rotating executive positions year in and year out) (some for the past 12 years) because they believe in the Association. They are beginning to wonder if it is worthwhile at all. Every other meeting is a no go because we can't even form a quorum of 10 people, 10!

Half of our membership live far and wide across the country and cannot make the meetings, I am sure they would if they could. The problem, for the lack of a better word, is apathy of our **local members** who can't be bothered to attend a meeting once every two months for a couple of hours.

Are the meetings boring? Of course they are. Are they repetitive? Of course they are. We have done various things to change this; guest speakers, presentations and so on in the past, however, it makes no difference.

We have reduced the meetings from monthly to bi-monthly which has made no difference.

We changed the AGM to co-incide with the annual BBQ (which begot a fiscal year nightmare but we did it anyway). Was this successful? To a degree. Few local members show up for that. We provide great food, a great venue, everything is well organized all free and very few members who live in the area and could attend don't bother.

We have considered trying include members from outside the local area but

there is no easy way of doing this short of setting up a major communication link that everyone could access at great expense. An executive position would be somewhat easier, however, the routine business of mail, email, cheques, membership deposits and so on would be very, very difficult. There ARE more things that go on in the background on almost a daily basis that keep this organization going. We have had a "distant member" nominated in the past for an Executive position, however, after a great deal of consideration he declined for the reasons of the distances involved.

The dates of meetings are put in the Newsletters, we send a "heads up" email before every meeting all to no avail.

What is so puzzling is the East and West coast branches have a turnout of 25 to 30 at every meeting. Their agenda is no different than ours; their local members are less than ours; they cover the same things; have the same repetition and all in all their meetings are just as boring as ours so what is the difference?

This Association is for you, the members, every attempt is made to provide you with the best we can provide.

Several people put in a lot of time to make it work, year in and year out. Unfortunately there is a mindset out there that thinks those on the executive, year in and year out, are there because they want to "run the show", it is their whole life etc.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

They do what they do because they know as things stand the Association will fold if they don't. Many of them would like to be member again for a change; pass on jobs to new people with new ideas, and just attend a meeting as a member. As it stands this is not possible so they plug on for the lack of a better word.

Is the Association our whole lives? Of course not! Do we have other things to do? Of course we do. However, if you believe in the Association and want to be part of it then you have an obligation to support it, after all it is all for you. There are no wages or remuneration of any kind paid to anyone for what they do as you well know.

We have begged, pleaded, cajoled our local membership to please give up a couple of hours of your time once every two months to no avail. If you believe

in the Association enough to join it; believe in what the Association is doing and are close enough to support it then is this too much to ask? You would think that a greater number of those in the local area would be willing to put a couple of hours of their time every other month to see this work.

All in all it is pretty discouraging, disheartening and disappointing to say the least and flies in the face of what being a submariner is all about.

The bottom line is the continuation of SAOC Central is in your hands because as things stand the Association is in trouble.

Yours Aye,

Bob Wallace
President
SAOC Central

Enclosure Taff Jones

DIESEL BOAT SUBMARINERS 1960 - 1997

21st Annual Reunion

The 2011 Newsletter is early this year to give you plenty of time to plan ahead and book accommodation as it promises to be a high attendance. Please read the IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT at the end of the letter.

Well you did it again, you smashed the record as 241 signed in; it could've been a few more as some arrived late without signing in and some were accessing through the wrong door? Entrance was free this year so there was no reason not to enter through the reception area.

It never ceases to amaze me, as the years go by we are supposed to be dropping in numbers but the fantastic effort you make to attend is just incredible. I want to thank you for spreading the buzz especially the SA members who are placing our gathering in their respective newsletters, this all adds up to increasing numbers which makes the DTS such a success. The increase is very much welcomed but more importantly it means after many years friends are meeting up again.

Last year 418 were notified, on the day 241 checked in, 18 informed me they would be attending but unfortunately couldn't make it, 7 of those paid for food and I received 68 apologies. That adds up to an active database for 2011 of 330. For this year only I haven't made any deletions and kept 132 members for a further year which means the total database now holds 462 members. There's still quite a few who still don't bother to answer my communication but still turn up on the day, although this is slowly being eradicated.

Just before the reunion last year I received an email from Ken Walby informing me that Dave Thomas ex TI Opportune and others are coming over from Australia this year and hope to meet up with as many old friends as possible. I did mention it in my dit last year so if you want to meet up with Dave and others get yourself down to Guz this year. Also I know the guys from Canada are coming over again which is also great news, I know we all appreciate the great distance members' travel to join us.

My plan to book the New China Garden on the evening of the reunion in 2011 with partners has now had to be cancelled due to the closure of the restaurant. It's a shame as the restaurant has been one of my favourites in Plymouth for many years; I knew the staff very well and they have always provided a great night for a large group of people.

As this year marks a milestone please find attached a poster from Stan Bowles who has taken the trouble to organise the production of a commemorative mug celebrating 21 years of the reunion for a small cost of £7.00, £2.00 of which will be donated to a charity of my choice. You can also add a personal photo to the design but must forward your JPeg to Stan. The purchasing options are as follows:

- (a) You can purchase directly from Stan via email: solconkk@xln.co.uk the cost will be £7.00 + £2.50 P&P.
- (b) Alternatively you can place an order with me and collect at the reunion for the cost of £7.00 but I must receive payment by cheque no later than the 30th June. **I must state that if you do not turn up on the day to collect I'm afraid it will not be posted on to you.**

- (c) If you want to include payment with your buffet lunch then you can forward a cheque for £12 (£7.00 + £5.00 Buffet) then I will place an order for you but only if you want to collect your mug on the day.

Also to commemorate our special day David Donnelly is also planning to organise a photographer to mark the occasion.

Two bucket collections were on the go last year £430 was raised for the Alliance Appeal and the Club staff I am told received £30 each in tips. I received a letter from the Submarine Museum thanking us for our donation which will be placed on the notice board at the reunion. Last year shortly before the reunion I was asked to send you all a flyer asking you if you would like to continue to donate. This flyer was sent via email a week later; I didn't send a flyer by post due to the amount of photocopying and postage that would be required

The staff again were brilliant, over the years it's become tradition for them to dress up for us and I know we all appreciate the immense service they give! It's great that the staff enjoy serving us as much as we enjoy being in the Club, it's always a pleasure to hold our reunion in such a great friendly establishment. The staff once again asked me to say a big 'thank you' for your tips, the generosity you show every year is amazing. For all these reasons, the 21st Annual 'DTS' will once again be held at the **W.M.O.V. Social Club, Ferndale Rd, Plymouth (Nr Camels Head Fire Station) on Saturday 6th August, starting at 1130 to 2359.**

Due the large amount of credit £250.09 I have decided once again to waive the entrance fee. I try to maintain the reunion as a non profit event and found this the easiest way to return your fees. The buffet lunch has now been increased at a cost of £5 per head, booked and paid for in advance. I believe the price of the buffet is still good value for money when you realise you can only buy a sandwich from M&S for not much less! Those who require food please forward a cheque for the sum of £5.00 made payable to K. J. Woods.

Finally I look forward to hearing from you if this is the first time you've received a newsletter, "WELCOME" to our reunion.

Programme

Please do not arrive before 1130

1130	Start CHECK IN
1130	Bar Open
1400	Welcome Speech.
1415	Buffet available.
1900	Lounge Bar closed.
1900 - 2359	Main Bar and Entertainment Lounge.

Yours aye
Ken 'slinger' Woods

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CREDIT

CREDIT BALANCE C/FWD 01/04/2010 349.79

COLLECTION OF LEVY 2010 00.00
DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS (Thank you) 25.00

TOTAL 374.79

DEBIT

CLUB HIRE CHARGES 0.00
BAR STAFF CHARGES 0.00
POSTAGE 28.50
TELEPHONE 6.20
STATIONERY CONSUMABLES 12.00
PHOTOCOPYING 18.00
BAR STAFF TIPS 20.00
RECEPTION 40.00

TOTAL 124.70

CREDIT 2010 374.79
DEBIT 2010 124.70

CREDIT TOTAL 01/03/10 250.09

I.....**will / will not** be attending the 21st Annual Reunion on Saturday 6th August 2011.

Please circle:

I only require food and enclose a cheque to the value of £5.00

I want to purchase a commemorative mug + food & enclose a cheque for £12

I do not want food but would like to purchase a mug & enclose a cheque for £7.00 only

My address

.....
.....

Post Code

Email.....Signature.....

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with much regret and a heavy heart that after 21 years as co-founder and organiser of our informal Annual Reunion (DTS) I have decided to step down. Celebrating the 21st Anniversary will be my last as organiser of the DTS. I have reached retirement age

and my wife Carol is retiring with me in 2012, as we have plans to travel, it would make it impossible to give the DTS my full attention as the planning of the DTS takes up a lot of our time.

From the very beginning I have been determined to keep the DTS as simple and informal as possible and have disregarded suggestions from members to build a website or indeed create an association. I never wanted to go down this route as I believe I would've encroached on the Submarine Association which possibly may have discouraged shipmates from joining the official organisation.

We started in a back street back pub off Union St called the Famous Firkin; it was just a DTS with the Opportune Senior Rates before they sailed from Plymouth for Opportune's disposal. At that time we planned and decided to meet up every year on the same weekend just for a few beers at lunchtime and a catch up. The original idea was just for Senior Rates who served on O Boats which was soon changed to all rates and to all diesel boats. At present the database holds 462 members and over the past 21 years if I had kept every person who has dropped by to join us for a drink it would now be close to over 1000 members.

When I finally handover, a financial settlement will be made to the new organiser after debiting expenditure for this year from the 2010 outstanding balance of £250.09. On completion a cheque will be presented to him after the 2011 reunion later in the year. Also a current database will be handed over so make sure you respond this year otherwise you will not receive communications in the future.

Lastly can I say thank you for all the support you have given to this fantastic gathering of Diesel Boat Men for the past 21 years. I have enjoyed my time and I'm confident that the DTS will continue well into the future with a similar criteria I have set. One member has come forward and volunteered to take over the reins but to date has not yet confirmed his intension of taking over the responsibility. I can assure you once I receive confirmation the DTS will be kept in safe hands.