



## Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 28 June 2017

MOG5 HQ SR MESS



**Opening** the Chair Sylvain Rouillard brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 1930 hrs. The Chairman thanked everyone for the excellent turn out for this meeting on this beautiful evening. Thank you was given to PO2 Bob Johnston for bartending tonight. Be generous to the bartender. The Chairman called the meeting up for a moment of silence for all sick and departed members. From SAOC W special mention was given by the chairman on the passing of Henry Maurice Turner CPO1 retired on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017. He had sailed on HMCS Grilse. May he ever be remembered for his good deeds.

**Attendance** 26 members were in attendance: Mark Aalbers, Art Boden, Cliff Boettcher, Ron Butchart, George Byzewski, Jon Carpenter, Terry Chatham, Ron Cooper, Bob Davidson, Keith Estabrooks, Rob Fraser, Jim Gordon, Bert Houde, Ray Hunt, Wynn Jones, Brian Lapierre, John Madison, Ken McMillan, John Meehan, Mark Osmond, Jim Northrup, Marc Pallard, Sylvain Rouillard, Brum Tovey, Willy Waugh and Peter Weis.

**Regrets** were received from 9 members, Buster Brown, John Clahane, Norm Chouinard, Greg Hallonquist, James Dusty Miller Snr, Boyd Thomas, Lee Thompson, Soapy Watson, and Phil Wood.

**Minutes** the 31 May 2017 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. There was one spelling mistake (Spell check didn't work) it was moved by Mark Osmond and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Chatham the minutes be accepted as amended. **Carried**

**Correspondence** Tridents were received and distributed. Received an email from George Byzewski passed on from Keith Nesbitt on concerning the centenary of Perisher course reunion dinner held Senior Gun Room of Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Devon, UK. It was attended by 280 graduates. Pictures were attached.

### **Reports:**

**Chairman** Nothing to report.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup stated have a great summer.

**Secretary** reported that he was able to finally to get a hold of Marty Girard the DCPO for the Submarine School this week. Marty had been on leave and apologized that they were not able to get any memorabilia from the Saunders Room for the Onondaga 50<sup>th</sup> Commissioning Anniversary Dinner on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The secretary was also informed that the latest BSQ course had already graduated at the end of May. We had missed that grad as we had not been informed by school staff. Marty said he will ensure that we are kept informed of all future BSQ graduations. It is supposed to be the lead instructor for the BSQ course that contacts us. The next BSQ course starts in the fall. The secretary will ensure that he gets in contact with both the lead instructor and DCPO. Buster had made a SAOC plaque for the BSQ courses which we present to Top BSQ student on their graduation with their name engraved. Sylvie informed everyone we do this and that we also give a pitch to join SAOC, but sadly, we have had no takers yet.

**Health and Wellness** Just the regrets which were passed on earlier ie Dusty Miller Sr and Soapy Watson were not well enough to attend.

**Slops** Greg Hallonquist gave his regrets therefore no report on slops

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his detailed financial report as of 28 June 2017. The closing bank balance is now \$14,093.86 after debits and credits. Ron gave a detailed tally of all expenses for: 22<sup>nd</sup> June Onondaga 50<sup>th</sup> Dinner final cost \$1,076.96 at cost of 15 dollars a plate for sixty. Sold tickets \$470 for dinner. Upcoming events Summer BBQ @ cost \$1,000 for food and keg of beer; and 15 Dec Xmas Dinner Dance

@ \$1,200. The check for BAO Sunday Wreath was \$75 but the actual cost was \$85 which Cliff Boettcher made up with \$10. Once the outstanding cheques from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner are cashed this will leave @ \$12,605.84 in the SAOC account. One more anniversary will be next year for HMCS OKANAGAN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her commissioning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1978. We are hoping to have the same type of event.

**Social** Brum Tovey stated that Ron had covered all his points again. Brum stated that the Summer BBQ is still slated for the 15<sup>th</sup> July with a keg of beer starting at 1200 hrs. Everyone is welcome. The Xmas Dinner Dance is still on for the 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Lion's Club. Brum thanked Ron Cooper and Greg Hallonquist for all their efforts for organizing the Onondaga 50<sup>th</sup> Commissioning Celebration Dinner. Brum told only one joke tonight. A young man called 911 and stated that two women were fighting over him. He asked by the operator what the problem was he said the ugly one was winning. A groaner. Bazoo stated Brum must have been in a different navy as there no such thing as an ugly woman in the RCN.

### **Old Business:**

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> June HMCS Onondaga 50<sup>th</sup> Commissioning Anniversary Dinner**

Sylvain Rouillard stated 50 people attended our dinner. It was an immense success, excellent and well done were some of the comments voiced by members. There were a couple of comments to improve the dinner for next year. John Meehan said the tables should be arranged in long lines at angles like Ojibwa's 50<sup>th</sup> instead of individual tables which made the seating too close together. Brum had 10 place mats from the dinner for those who could not attend which were designed by Ron Cooper who like to put in a lot of jokes concerning the Royal Family. John Meehan informed us that Queen Elizabeth is the Commandant General for the RN Submarine Service. Brum asked what is a Commandant General she couldn't make chief? Tony Palmer drove from Ottawa to attend the dinner with us. Sylvie informed us the SAOC W had their dinner where they had guest speaker Bill Woodburn. Sylvie asked if we would like to have the same for our next dinner. The consensus was no, let's keep it informal. Brian Lapierre said we should have had a specially designed commissioning cake like we had for Ojibwa's 50<sup>th</sup> and have members of the commissioning crew cut the cake. Ron Cooper stated that Greg had ordered the cake but someone had let him down so Greg had to scramble at the last minute to get a cake for the meal. Jim Northrup has a brother-in-law who is an excellent baker who works at SR Mess in Juno Tower and if we remind Jim next year he will get a proper cake done up for OKANAGAN's Dinner. We will identify the commissioning crew for next year's event. Everyone in attendance is in favour of having a dinner for OKANAGAN's 50<sup>th</sup> next year.

#### **Rimouski SAOC C AGM/BBQ and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMCS Onondaga Commissioning**

SAOC C is having their AGM/BBQ and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMCS Onondaga Commissioning at Rimouski starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Aug. Sylvie asked for a show of hands of how many would be attending this event. Approximately 12 members indicated that they would be attending. John Meehan informed us that the hotel he is staying at is about full up. John also informed us that the SAOC Central Web Site has a form to register stating that you will attend. This was brought up last year when SAOC C President Peter Heppleston was here for a meeting.

Sylvie passed on the schedule for the function:

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of August: 1800-2300: Meet & Greet - Hangar 14 - Business Casual or Blazers

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of August: 1200-2000: at Hangar 14 Annual General Meeting & BBQ - Méchoui (pig roast) and Chicken (70/30 split).

Sunday 27<sup>st</sup> of August: 0800-1000: The send-off brecky buffet TBA

It was decided to wear casual as no dress code has been stated for BBQ. Sylvie will contact Peter Heppleston to get more details. This information will be passed on at regular meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> July as there will no MGM meeting at our Annual BBQ at the Dube's. We have had MGM meetings at the summer BBQ at Dube's to include members who could not attend our regular meetings for example Paul Dube. This had been brought up by Dusty Miller Sr last year if this was going to be a reoccurring theme to have a short MGM prior to an event. So therefore, we will have our regular meeting iaw our by-laws on the last Wednesday of the month unless someone wanted to put a motion on the floor to cancel it. After discussion, it was decided not to have a meeting before the BBQ.

**Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers** The chairman has responded to the email from James Kappel, SMV Program Assistant, Office of the Secretary to the Governor General confirming that he was the POC for Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for our group. As of today, he has had no reply email from Mr. Kappel. Sylvie asked if there were any members or any submariner who were active in the volunteer groups who would qualify for the medal. Jim Northrup informed the meeting that Norm Chouinard received this medal from the Governor General in Moncton two weeks ago. Received this for volunteering in seniors homes a couple times a week for past few years. If you are active in Lions Club, Red Cross, St John Ambulance or other volunteer organizations we can put your name forward for this award.

**SAOC Web Site** was hacked again and has been fixed again. The new passwords were emailed out. Brian Lapierre stated that he could still log in with the old and new passwords. Bazoo stated that he has been in contact with the Web Master, Ted Hirtle and he has been working with Web Host to correct this problem. There are still members who are having problems logging in. Brian Lapierre has the updated contact information for 160 members out of 220 but doesn't want to post it on the site till the problems have been fixed. Once done he will pass this onto John Clahane who will then pass it on to Ted Hirtle. Bazoo brought the point that for all the hard work, the Web Master does for us we should give him some monetary compensation. The chair will contact John Clahane and see what was done last time. Note we do pay for the SAOC Web Site @ \$85 a year and that John Clahane had been paying for this out his own pocket but just submitted a receipt for this year.

**SAOC E Membership** Brian Lapierre will get together with Ron Cooper to see who are paid up members and have an update by next MGM in July. Bazoo brought up the point on who is an active member and who is not. Sylvain quoted the SAOC E CONSTITUTION dated 2009 Article 3.04 Submission of dues Any member who fails to pay annual dues as outlined in article 8.00, sub-para 8.02 is deemed "Lapsed" through the current year until December 31 at which time the member is deemed to have resigned from the association. We have members on our roles who have not paid dues since 2012 and have never attended any meetings and have not responded to any phone calls or emails. Ron Cooper stated there was a time when SAOC E gave out one-year free memberships to submariners who retired who never showed to one meeting. There will be an update report on this for the next MGM.

**SAOC E Annual Summer BBQ at the Dube's 15 July Rawdon** George Byzewski will be sending out an email with map link for the Dube's 1200hrs. Hopefully Sylvie will not end up in Falls Lake again. Bazoo stated that Terry had same problem it must be new disease called Chairmanitis.

**Groton Pig Roast** Terry Chatham stated of the six rooms he had booked in Groton for the Sub Vets Pig Roast five are spoken for. If anyone is interested in going please contact him for a room so he can book more rooms.

**USS Pittsburgh visiting Halifax in Aug** Sylvain was in contact with the Senior Engineering Chief Dom Grimaldi. Since no dates have been given yet, it is difficult to arrange an event or RPC, however he will pass on the Chief's contact detail to the PMC of the SR and JR mess and see if they would be interested in arranging an RPC. Sylvie will arrange an access list for SAOC members if there is an RPC in MOG5 HQ. It has been stated that CO of the Pittsburgh will allow personal tours of the submarine. More information to follow. If no RPC is entertained Sylvie will see if he can book the Shearwater Yatch Club for a meet and greet.

**New Business: Nil**

**AOB:**

**New Dolphin March** Ray Hunt informed us that the SAOC W President Paul Hansen had requested that a Submarine March be composed for the submarine community in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMCS ONONDAGA Commissioning Dinner which was held on the west coast. This came about when some SAOC W members attended a mess dinner and all the regiments had their own marches and the Navy had the Heart of Oak played. This was brought up to CO of the Naden Band. PO2 Robin Dumas a member of the Naden Naval Reserve Band composed the Dolphin March which was played at their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner. Ray played the march on his iPad for us. Hopefully this will be sent to the Stadacona Naval Band. This is still an unofficial march which needs Royal approval staffed through the proper channels to be approved.

**New JR Mess** Ron Cooper put forward the idea that we have a MGM at the new JR Mess in Tribute Tower to have a good look around at the facility. This will have to be investigated for cost. Marc Pallard piped up that if you want a room for a night you can stay at Wellington House for \$10 a night and fight with cockroaches, mice and rats.

Another Joke from Brum but it is too salty to put in the minutes. All we can say it concerned plastic surgery, lips, bouquets of roses, the burn unit and new ears.

**Access to Dockyard** John Madison raised a concern about access to the dockyard which he was told that his NDI 75 identification would be no good by the gate commissionaire. Some other members stated that they had the same problem. Veterans card or CF Force One cards are not accepted. Only driver's licence and or government ID are good, provided you are on access list. Sylvie will investigate.

**Helen Dube Thank You Card** George Byzewski was asked by Helen Dube to read out a thank you card from the Dube Family on Paul's Celebration of Life at the Elmsdale Legion on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. Expressing their thanks and love to the submarine family and for our support over the years. Paul's celebration was very beautiful and made us extremely proud in loving tribute to his memory. Bazoo passed on from Helen Dube as long she is breathing there will be a place for the annual SAOC BBQ at the ranch in Rawdon.

Sylvie stated that he will be taking Art Boden and his wife Doreen down to Rimouski for SAOC C AGM and BBQ.

Rob Fraser requested that Willy Waugh write down the lyrics from the song he sang "We don't wash in Submarines" at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner as he had never heard them before. George will get this off Willy and send on to the membership. Willy stated this came from the time he sailed on RN "S" boats.

Brian Lapierre had a couple things to pass on. First, Brian received an email from a Mr. Barry Dickson a RN Fleet auxiliary sailor who runs a Web site. He had been asking Garry Weir about this on the For-Posterity's Sake Web site if anyone has any photographs or documents about OKANAGAN's Big Crunch in 1973 before and after the accident, which Brian has supplied. Mr. Dickson is also writing a song about Grey Rover. Also, he sent a link to Brian showing a video of Grey Rover being stripped and broken up. Brian stated that he is planning stages for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Big Crunch. Once Mr. Dickson is finished with his research he will send Brian a link to his web site concerning the Grey Rover.

Second item Brian brought forward is that at the end of the March MGM he was approached by one our members that had written a book on his career in the navy. Brian made arrangements to meet with this gentleman at his home to get a copy. He received permission to scan this book and has it posted on For-Posterity's Sake Web site. The book is called "A Simple Sailor" and can be found here: <http://forposterityssake.ca/RCN-DOCS/SIMPLE-SAILOR.htm> The author is our own Capt (N) Ray Hunt (Ret'd) who was in attendance tonight. The book is about 147 pages long and has photographs. Ray started going to sea when he was 16 years old and rose to be Master Mariner. He joined the RCN when he was 28 years old with the intention of going submarines. He had several nick names over the years, one was Father Hunt and the other when he worked with the Airforce in Africa and was called Bomber Hunt. Another tidbit related that he had received a letter from his career manager stating that he was too old at 33 to progress higher than XO of a submarine as he just qualified in boats. Ray certainly proved him

wrong. Brian had first met Ray Hunt in Aug 1974 when he relieved Jim Bell as CO of HMCS OKANAGAN. He didn't know anything about Ray's past career and Brian encouraged everyone to read this book on line. A hearty round of applause was given to Ray Hunt by all.

**50/50** The 50/50 of \$60 was won by Jim Northrup who put it all on the bar.

The Beast, Keith Esterbrooks related a story about Bob Rockley and Ray Hunt about the change of command in NFLD for OKANAGAN. It seems that Bob the Reverend had a Jeckel and Hyde switch that was activated after a few wets and a few more at the Union Club. He was very uncomplimentary to his new CO after the change of command ceremony and the Rev. had to be escorted back to the boat. Note this incident did not make it into Ray's book.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by John Meehan

**Adjournment** There being no further business it was moved by John Meehan and seconded by Terry Chatham to adjourn the meeting at 20:53 hrs. Carried.

The next MGM will be held at the MOG5 HQ JR Mess 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman