



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 29 Aug 2018

RCNA Peregrine



Opening. The Chairman Sylvain Rouillard brought the meeting to order (open-up for dive) at 1940 hrs to allow 50/50 tickets to be sold. The chairman welcomed Paul Lang to the meeting. Paul was on the West Coast with NETE after being in the Navy with five years in Vic class boats. He and his wife has just relocated to Halifax. She is working for Health Canada and Paul is working in Dockyard with skimmer stuff soon to be involved with HMCS Cornerbrook's TRP. Sylvie had worked with Paul for 4 years out west and stated that he is good man to have on our side. The chairman welcomed Marcel Simard back from his adventures from down south with his sailboat. He was going around the Great Lakes and the Interior Waterways to Florida then encountered some problems. The chairman recognized Larry "Uncle Smudge" Smith to the meeting. (I/C Under Cover Dress Patrol) One of the best-dressed submariners of all time. He was once picked up the dress patrol and he was asked who was his Coxn? His answer was he was the Coxn. Bazoo related a story about Larry wearing a Burberry while it was 100 degrees at the Ottawa airport. When asked why he was wearing the Burberry he explained he couldn't fasten the buttons on his shirt! Brian Cooper related a story about when he and Uncle Smudge were on 1976 SLC Course together and they were why the Army guys didn't care by the end of the course. "Buddies in boats!"

Sylvain thanked the RCNA bartender Jerry Wiley for supporting us. Sylvain explained that he had requested the use of RCNA Peregrine because the MOG5 HQ messes were very hard to book due to the lack of bartenders due to courses and summer leave periods. A few members such as Bazoo, Boyd, Cliff and Chooch recommended that we use the Peregrine. The RCNA treasurer informed the chairman that they do pay their bartenders but they had a volunteer for this evening. Please be generous to the bartender. The Peregrine normally shuts at 1800 hrs but made an exception for us.

The Chairman called the meeting up for a moment of silence for all sick and departed members. The chairman asked George Byzewski to inform the meeting of the passing of Irving "Irv" Archibald "Soapy" Watson. Soapy had been suffering from numerous health issues since the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Ceremony at the Lt/Governors residence. Soapy passed away on the 12th August 2018 in hospital. He did not suffer and someone was with him 24 hrs a day. His son brought in as small bottle of Watson Scotch and he had a small drink. The family will be having an open house at his son's place on 15th September. A service will be held from 1400-1800 hrs. More details to follow. Please pass the word to any "A" Boat or RN submariner who had sailed with Soapy. All SAOC members are welcome. His widow Mickey would greatly appreciate it. They were the only married couple he sailed in Malaysia. Others who sailed out east with him were Buster Brown, Griffy Ginnou, Ricky Selka, Doc Jones. Soapy was a Life Member of the SAOC(E). He joined the Submarine community early 1960's as a Canadian serving in RN Boats in the UK. He did a stint in Singapore sailing in HMS Andrew. Irv was Commissioning Crew HMCS Onondaga until 1973 until he was medically returned to General Service. Soapy was the Canadian who liberated the well protected" Miss Wahoo" from the USS Wahoo whilst HMS Andrew and USS Wahoo were side by each in Japan.

The chairman said may he and all other submariners be remembered for their good deeds. Amen

Attendance 29 members were in attendance: Cliff Boettcher, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, Brian Cooper, Ron Cooper, Rob Fraser, Claude Gendron, Jim Gordon, Greg Hallonquist, Gary Hopkins, Taff Jones, Paul Lang, John Madison, Jim Northrup, Marc Osmond, Marc Pallard, Scotty Parsons, Sylvain Rouillard, Marcel Simard, John Smith, Larry Smith, Steve St-Amant, JJ Surette, Sean Surette, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey, Nigel Walsworth, Peter Weis and Tim Wood.

Regrets & Health and Wellness Regrets were received from 14 members: Marc Aalbers, Rob Braye, Buster Brown, John Clahane, Jerry Conway, Keith Estabrooks, Bert Houde, Ray Hunt, Brian Lapierre, John Meehan, James "Dusty" Miller Snr, Conrad Petrikowski, Harry Suto and Lee Thompson. John Meehan and Ron Cooper were at RC Legion National Convention in Winnipeg. Bazoo exclaimed why would anyone want to go to Winnipeg in the summer. The mosquitos are so large they have to file their

own flight plan. Rob Braye is still suffering from his kidney stones. Keith Estrabrooks is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Only 15 defects now. Several members commented on the Beast's physical abnormalities which we do not want to get into too much detail "ie the Light Bulb "as some members cringed when discussing them. Buddies in Boats again.

George Byzewski asked if we had a Health and Wellness representative? The chairman answered not at this time. Sylvie stated Bazoo has been the unofficial representative. George stated there are people out there who need assistance but do not know who to contact and do not want to bother people. George gave several examples of people who he has helped over the years. The chairman pointed out all the help George has given to several of our elderly and sick members. After discussion a decision was made to make people available on our web page and by word of mouth to help our members who are in need and assistance to come to meetings. Jim Northrup volunteered his name as a point of contact on the web page.

Mark Pallard noted that we should be "Opened up for Dive" Some one commented we were running on the surface as the screen door was open. George commented that he and Terry were invited to Battle of the Atlantic Dinner three years ago. They had such a good time they decided to join. Sylvain exclaimed that he run into several people after attending the battle of Atlantic ceremony at Point Pleasant Park he sailed with before joining submarines. The PMC of the Peregrine club is a former submariner Ernie Marcoux. There is a lot of history in this club house which opened in the early Eighties. The Chairman commented on the big picture of Halifax dockyard from the late Fifties which showed the old Halifax dockyard with the Old Bridge (MacDonald) when it was new and the train tracks before the SRU and the old Submarine shed. Hoppy pointed out the chicks (WRENS) would be here at the end of the month. There were several comments made which could not be entered into the minutes.

Minutes the 25 July 2018 MGM minutes were distributed by email and a few hard copies were available tonight for review. There being no errors or omissions the chairman approved the minutes as distributed.

Approved

Correspondence In The Chairman received an email from Jerry Conway from Campobello Island via Brian Lapierre (Jerry works with whale rescue and was at our meeting which has held at the new Fleet club in Stad last Oct)

> From Jerry Conway conwaycwi@gmail.com "I have been talking to a friend of mine, a ex US nuke submariner who lives across the bridge in Lubec Maine (11 Km's away). He was relating how the US submariners celebrate the birth of US submarines on April 11th. He wondered if Canada celebrated the "birth" of the Canadian submarine service, I told him we didn't have a specific day but celebrated commissioning dates of individual boats. Am I correct ??? Anyway, the bottom line is we are thinking of forming an "international" association made up of the few submariners in the area, we are too far away from our regional associations and thought a small international chapter might be worth looking into. IF and I emphasis the IF this materializes I would like to get in touch with any of our crews that are in the southern NB area and to let them know what we are considering. We have a meeting hall and are open to suggestions especially too being affiliated with existing organizations in Canada and the USA. I believe some of our members went down to Groton Conn. to celebrate the US submariners earlier this year, neither of us could make it although we knew about it and had thought of going. Could you pass this along to the other members as I would like their feed back. Cheers, Jerry."

The chairman asked the secretary to forward this email to all members for their feedback and comment. Brian Cooper commented that when he belonged to SAOC C they would go down occasionally to a USN Sub Vets meeting/BBQ in Watertown New York. The SAOC W members goes to North Western USN Sub Association meetings. If we have a bash we can invite them up for our celebration.

No correspondence out.

Reports Chairman Sylvain asked Rob Fraser to give a report about the Tour of HMCS Windsor.

Sylvain stated that he has booked his tickets for the 50th anniversary of the Rainbow on the west coast 1-7

Nov. There several other people going as well such as Terry, Bazoo and Geoff Mawdesley.

Ron Cooper commented that he was up in Ottawa and attended the SAOC C AGM/BBQ. He thought he would be the only the East coaster but Dougie Birch and Geoff Mawdesley were there as well. The SAOC C BBQ was at CFS Leitrim (located outside Ottawa) which SAOC C Chairman Peter Hepplestone said it was an excellent venue.

Vice Chair Jim Northrup will give a report on the Submarine Display at the Museum under old business.

Secretary Rob Fraser (former Coxn of WSR) gave a report of the Tour of HMCS Windsor on the 8th August conducted by CPO2 Neil Lake, The CERA of Windsor. Eight members showed up for the tour. Lot different from "O" Boats. Shane Applin is the Coxn. All were impressed with the cleanliness of the submarine despite being in a work period. Rob stated it was great to get back onboard and that there were noticeable improvements in the combat suite, especially the original sonar systems from the RN which have been replaced with sonar sets carried onboard USN Virginia Class Submarines. They would be replacing the Fire Control consoles as well in the near future. With the new sonar system, they can track over 100 targets. It was mention while they were off Crete they had over hundred contacts which overwhelmed the system. Jim Gordon and John Smith were impressed with the complexity of the new systems, the dedication and the knowledge of the three-man duty watch. Bazoo made a comment about the old CEP and poking his eye out with a grease pencil.

Ron Cooper commented that Cornerbrook will coming out soon with all the new equipment. Sylvain asked Paul Lang to comment on the equipment going onboard which he has been working on with NETE for the last six and a half years for the extended docking work period. He saw Chicoutimi go through repairs and return to full service. He commented that Cornerbrook after she had found bottom has had all the damage she had suffered repaired. Once Cornerbrook leaves her work period she will have an all new Combat suite. Communications equipment has been changed from a NATO standard to USN modern standard (all American radios). They are looking to update the rest of the platform ie SELEX (Submarine Life Extension) which could have the Vic class go to 2030 -2035. One of the big projects will be the replacement of the Motor Generators and 140KW MGs. This is needed as the new Combat suite needs more power and cooling. The AC needs to be updated as the boats were designed to sail in the North Sea but sailing on the east coast, down south and in the Med requires more cooling. This is being looked for SELEX.

Treasurer Ron Cooper gave his detailed financial report for Aug 2018. The closing bank balance is now \$10112.12 after expenses and credits in. Ron wrote a couple checks for Greg which will bring the bank balance below \$10,000.00 Next expense will be the 14 Dec Xmas Annual Dinner Dance @ \$1,100. A comment was made that Credit Unions do not charge deposit fees.

Social Brum reminded us that the Annual Xmas Dinner Dance at the Sackville Lion's Club on the 14th December is still on. Brum is looking for at least sixty people to attend. Brum informed us the South Korea has an eighty-year-old WW II USN fleet submarine still in service. Brum told his normally politically incorrect joke about politicians. It was a real groaner.

Slops Greg Hallonquist said the new ball caps are in today. He has had over 100 orders for the new Submarine Veteran ballcaps via Facebook. The cost for each ball cap is \$20 including shipping & taxes. Greg thanked Steve St-Amant for all his help. Greg is getting five to six orders a day. Greg did a trial run with a ball cap which he shipped to himself. Only took five days by Canada Post. The ball cap bounced back in shape with no problem. Bazoo piped up he tried to do this with the centenary rum but it didn't work. Greg informed us the prices from his supplier effective 1st Aug have gone up. The ball caps from the supplier costs \$18 so Greg rounded the price up to \$20. Greg talked to the new submariners and they remarked why didn't he have anything for the new boats. So, Greg has come up with couple proofs. One of the "O" boat crests similar to 100th anniversary and "Vic" class boat crests T-shirts which were passed around the meeting for comment. Greg will inform the executive of the price increase of slop items after the meeting. Greg stated that he is selling slop items at cost and he is not making any money. Greg

thanked everyone for their support. He asked if anyone had any contacts with the west coast.

Paul Lang said that Paul Hansen or Wade Berglund were the persons recommended as they would return an email. Greg suggested that the door prizes for the Xmas bash be five gift certificates of \$50 each from slops. You can give your missus a sweat shirt from slops for Christmas.

The chairman stated that we had voted on increasing the price of slops by 15% at the last MGM, entirely at the Slops manager discretion. To address other financial concerns later raised by others, we will have an executive meeting in the near future to discuss again our financial situation and come up with a plan to break even at the end of each year; we will look at ways of reducing our expenses, and a way of making our functions cost neutral to our association. We must ensure that we do not let our capital go down to zero otherwise we would have to close shop. Fundraising has been discussed in the past but there is little appetite for anyone to organize. The executive committee meeting will most likely be held at the Elmsdale Legion on a Friday in Sept. We should have a plan to present by the Sept or Oct MGM or at the AGM.

Membership Report the Secretary, Rob Fraser has regrets from Brian Lapierre so he read the membership report emailed to him by Brian. This email was sent out to all members. We are down to 47 Life Members with the passing of Soapy Watson. 77 Members have paid for 2018 and beyond and 35 members who have not paid dues for 2017. Total membership is 159 souls.

Garry Hopkins asked what constituted a SAOC Life member. Sylvain, the chairman read out from our by-laws which laid out the difference between a member who pays for a Life membership (according to a formula) and a member in good standing that reaches the age of 80, having fully paid his yearly dues for the 10 prior years. Sometimes older people forget if they have paid or not. Mark Pallard made a comment if we want to make money can the old guys pay 2 or three times. Everyone had a good laugh. Paul Lang remarked that there is difference between the SAOC W and us. The SAOC W Life/ Honorary membership is some thing they grant and that is earned. That is the difference between our By-Laws. Sylvie had a slip of the tongue and said our dues were \$20 a month which he should said \$20 a year. If it was \$20 a month that would solve all our money problems.

Sylvain stated that SAOC E W and C common constitutions are now all the same.

Old Business Stadacona Navy Museum Submarine Display Jim Northrup gave an update on the progress of the Submarine Display in Stad MARCOM Museum. Rodney Lake is setting up the display with 3 bunks, a settee and seat lockers. The display cases have arrived and are set up. We will have a history of each submarine starting with CC1 to Victoria Class. We need volunteers who can do research. They meet every Thursday at 9 am at the Museum. The vinyl murals of the submarines will be going up. Jim stated they need help to look up information and old pictures. They are looking to NSCC for assistance. They have been invited to go talk to them in September. The Museum spent over \$5600 for display cases. They want people to sit down with them to come up with a plan.

No New Business

AOB Jim Northrup informed us that Loui King's wife Laura had suddenly passed away suddenly last week. The chairman will send a card on our behalf. Steve St-Amant asked shouldn't we send flowers? It was explained even though Louie was a long-time submariner and many had sailed with him in the past, he is not a member of SAOC. This issue had been discussed several times in the past. It had been decided that we cannot afford to spend money on non-paying members.

Lucky Gordon commented that he was been disturbed by comments on Facebook versus the Old Submariners to the New. Lucky stated as he is one of the Old but he has a hell of lot respect for the new submariners running the new boats. He spoke to all three of WSR duty watch. He remembers when there were 15 people on a "O" boat duty watch. The new submariners are doing a great job. Jim Northrup comment that the Vic Class has done two major deployments in the past year. CHI to the Sea of Japan and the WSR to the Med for almost six months. Steve St-Amant stated he seen these comments on Facebook and Chevy Ford stepped in and squared everyone off and told them to wind their necks in. The

new guys are doing the bis and are just as well as the old guys. We are all submariners. Bazoo stated that Americans are having the same problems old versus the new. Lucky stated that we were the best. Ron Cooper was at the Legion convention last weekend and they have the same problem old versus new veterans. General Walt Natynczyk from Veterans Affairs said he had walked up and talked to an old WWII vet. The vet said when he came back from the Second World war they had the same problem with the WW I vets. They said you didn't fight in the trenches or suffer from gas attacks. General Natynczyk said stop what you are doing because everyone is a veteran and we should all get along.

John Madison said he is one of those eighty-year-old members and he plans to live to 101.

John Smith said he just want to echo Lucky's comments and he enjoyed the tour of Windsor.

Steve St-Amant has some 38 old ONONDAGA ball caps that he is selling for \$10 ea. which he found at Hubbard's farmer's/flea market last week. The money will go the Last Post fund. Sylvain asked Steve to explain the Last Post Fund. The Last Post Fund's purpose is to bury veterans whose estate is less than \$35K and the family can not afford it. There is a means test to qualify for this but they are quite generous. The Veterans Affairs and The RCL have nothing to do with the operation of this fund. They will also erect a headstone after five years or more if one was not placed. This is your last relocation move according to Brian Cooper. The Last Post fund spent Eight million dollars last year in burying veterans. According to VAC a veteran is classed as anyone who has completed recruit training honorably.

Taff Jones reported that he and Brum had an excellent time in Plymouth for the RN Diesel Boat reunion. He got together with a RAN submariner Teddy Caldwell and his wife. Ted had sailed with Taff on Ojibwa. Ted had served on Ovens, Onslow and Otway. Taff had not seen Ted since 1983. They went to the Dolphin Pub and participated in a singing contest. They performed "Never Let Me Go". There were about 190 who showed up on Saturday for the reunion. They all got a TOT when they entered the event but they were caught out when they tried to get a second. This will be the last Diesel Boat reunion as such. There are no more diesel boats in service and there were some rumours floating around that some may be built. But that is just a rumour. The guy in charge is a Nuclear boat submariner and there are others from the Nuclear Submarine fleet. They do not want to shove them away because they are submariners. Taff left Monday but his flight to Halifax was cancelled. Air Canada put him on a 777 from Heathrow to Toronto. The rest of Taff's story was so politically incorrect that it could not be put in the minutes. You will have to ask TAFF what MMMG stands for. Taff said he thought he was on Air India flight not Air Canada. Taff had us in stitches.

Brum told another story about the reunion when one old timer who had a heart attack and while the paramedics and ambulance staff were looking after him he was in the way for twenty minutes. Meanwhile the rest of mates were giving him a kick and telling to stand up and have drink.

Brian Cooper volunteered to help out with the financial meeting if it is held out in Elmsdale Legion.

Greg Hallonquist asked for a show of hands for people interested in the new T-shirts.

Paul Lang restated that we have to be inclusive with the new submariners. This is why the membership is suffering on the west coast. Paul said it was nice to see such a large crowd at tonight's meeting.

Hoppy Hopkins said it was great to see so many guys at tonight's meeting. It was good to see Hoppy out tonight. A round of applause was given to Hoppy.

Claude Gendron said that there was a place out on Number 7 Hwy that was selling Onondaga Ball caps for \$1 ea. Perhaps it was Sticky Buns Fairburn who was flogging them.

Boyd Thomas had few questions for the meeting. First was how many members excluding guests showed for the Annual Summer BBQ at the Dube's? The crests on the "O" Boat T-shirts why is Ojibwa in the

left-hand corner? Boyd felt OJ should be in the center. Boyd felt we should start fund raising now instead of waiting for the end of the year.

Bazoo informed us that the Pig Roast in Groton was a great success as per normal. The moose milk was served by Willy Waugh supervised by Charlie Lonsdale which was all gone in half an hour. The weather cooperated and it was a nice day for the event. The Pig Roast is held at a working farm outside Groton. The original owner was WW II USN Fleet boat skipper. His daughter and family stated that this event will continue on there as long as they own the property. This is good function to go to. It is an easy drive down and the accommodation rates are reasonable. Terry Chatham had informed Sylvie that to make things easier to travel to the US you can apply for the NEXUS card.

Bazoo reminded us of the passing of Keith "Red Dog" Lavers in August a couple years ago. George first met Keith when he was OS on the Iroquois. Then they caught up again on Okanagan when Bazoo went submarines. Nobody knew that Keith had problems. It still bothers George as he had lost a good friend to this day. George said we should think above health and wellness. Bazoo said if you have not talked to shipmate in while take the time and look him up and follow up. Drop in and have a cup a coffee with your friend.

Brum Tovey found a CD in a UK Charity shop and played for us a 5-comedy min skit by Bob Newhart about 2-year patrol by a USN submarine which had the whole room laughing. One bit was the captain said that his door was always open. Whoever stole it please return it with XO.

50/50 The 50/50 of \$65 was won by Marc Pallard who returned back to the SAOC Coffers

Next MGM will be held at the 26th September 1930 hrs - Location TBP

Submariners Prayer was read by Paul Lang

Adjournment There being no further business it was moved by Marc Osmond and seconded by John Madison to adjourn the meeting at 2115 hrs. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman