



## Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018

MOG5 HQ SR Mess



**Opening** The Chairman Sylvain Rouillard (standby to standby) brought the meeting to order (open-up for dive) at 1930 hrs. The Chairman informed us that the VAC briefing we were supposed to receive tonight had to be postponed due to the VAC presenter being unavailable due to a family emergency. VAC couldn't find a replacement due to the short notice. This information was passed on to the chairman at noon today. The VAC brief will happen at the October MGM. Sandra Clattenburg will require access to Audio visual assistance to give her PP presentation which is available in the MOG5 HQ SR mess. It was brought to the Chairman's attention that in the opinion of some of our members that our meetings were dragging on too long and we were going over the same problems meeting after meeting. In finances. Therefore, the executive will keep their reports short and sweet but we will continue to go around the room for AOB to give every member a chance to speak. Sylvain thanked the MOG5 SR's bartender PO2 Mike Davis for supporting us, and please be generous to the bartender as they are volunteers and do not get paid. The Chairman called the meeting up for a moment of silence for all sick and departed members. We have one departed member Soapy Watson. Some members were at his memorial service at Soapy's son Andrew's place at Lewis Lake. The chairman said may he and all departed and sick submariners be kept in our minds. Amen.

**Attendance** 39 members were in attendance: AG "Dinger" Bell, Alain Blondin, Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Rob Braye, Buster Brown, Ron Butchart, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, John Clahane, Billy Cleal, Ron Cooper, Lloyd Dyck, Keith Estabrooks, Rob Fraser, Claude Gendron, Jim Gordon, Keith Griffin, Greg Hallonquist, Neil Lake, Rodney Lake, Brian Lapierre, Pete Linstrom, John Madison, Ernie Marcoux, Geoff Mawdesley, Ken McMillian, John Meehan, Marc Miller, Jim Northrup, Marc Pallard, Sylvain Rouillard, Steve St-Amant, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey, Peter Weis, Al White and Tim Wood.

**Regrets & Health and Wellness** Regrets were received from 12 members: Jerry Conway (chasing whales), Brian Cooper, Bert Houde, Ray Hunt (Med appointment), Taff Jones, Jordie McDonald, James "Dusty" Miller Snr, Marc Osmond, Scotty Parsons, Conrad Petrikowski, Lee Thompson and Harry Suto.

George Byzewski informed the meeting that James "Dusty" Miller is in the QE II undergoing tests to find out what is wrong with weight. Dusty's wife is holding up well just needs transportation at times. George passed on the thanks from Nikki and Soapy's children for the Crossing the Bar Service that we put on for them. The sudden appearance of the Submarine Centenary Rum was well received by all with the memorial shot glasses. Bazoo stayed back for 9 o'clockers. Brian Lapierre informed us Charlie McManus was admitted back into hospital due a relapse for his cancer. Some members did not recognize Charlie at the July meeting as he lost so much weight. Buster Brown informed us that Lloyd Blagdon is having some health problems with his heart. Buster had visited Sam Jennings but he is deteriorating in the Camp Hill Hospital. Sam still has his sense of humour by quoting an Irish expression "If you are in hurry while visiting there is the door!" Jim Northrup visited Sam. Sam asked had if Jim had seen Buster or Lloyd. Keith Estabrooks stated that Harry Suto would like to see some of his old shipmates for a beer at the pub days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) 1400- 1530 hrs at Camp Hill. Harry drinks black rum. Bazoo commented that one of the girls there has no problem breathing. There were other comments made which cannot be included in the minutes.

**Minutes** the 29 Aug 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** Only the five editions of the Tridents were received and put out for people to grab. No correspondence out.

**Reports Chairman** Sylvain reported that he attended Soapy Watson's memorial service with several

other SAOC E members at Soapy's son Andrew's place at Lewis Lake. Sylvie reported that through Brian Lapierre we had arranged a veteran's affairs brief from Sandra Clattenburg of the Integrated Personnel Support Centre. This fell through as previously explained but we will try to arrange it for next month's MGM.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup reported on the Submarine Display at the Museum is progressing. Rodney Lake is building the bunk space. Brian Lapierre is doing a lot of research and archiving material. The museum has been very good to us. They are still looking for more volunteers to assist in the research. They meet every Thursday at 9 am at the Museum.

**Secretary** No report

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his detailed financial report for 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018. The closing bank balance is now \$9,816.00 after expenses and credits in. The only remaining expense for this year is the 14 Dec Xmas Annual Dinner Dance @ \$1,100. Note to count as assets the slop's stock which is over \$7000.

**Social** Brum reminded us that the Annual Xmas Dinner Dance at the Sackville Lion's Club on the 14<sup>th</sup> December is still on. Brum stated if someone knows some company which could donate items for the door prizes it would be welcome. Brum said that Ron Cooper's wife gets some crystal donated from a downtown business. Brum is looking for at least sixty people to attend. Brum told his normally politically incorrect joke with stoker overtones about a Plimsoll line. Sylvie was stumped about this expression which will have to be explained to him later.

Steve St Armand suggested that we buy a glass turkey ie rum from Iron Works Distiller which could be raffled off at the dance which would have to be a stand alone thing. John Clahane has already bought something for the dance, which he will comment on AOB.

**Slops** Greg Hallonquist informed the meeting that he was told that he talks too much at the meeting so he will keep his comments short and sweet. Greg has sold over 144 of the new Submarine Veteran ballcaps and only has a six ball caps left. Sylvie commented that this takes a lot of work and dedication to do all this work. Greg received a round of applause from the members. Greg has sold a lot of material across Canada, US and some orders from the UK. Greg asked Slinger Wood when he was going to buy his Veteran's Ball Cap. Slinger replied that he has too many ball caps at home which he doesn't wear.

**Membership Report** Brian Lapierre gave his membership report. We have 47 Life Members. 79 Members have paid for 2018 and beyond and 34 members who have not paid dues for 2017. Total membership is 160 souls. If anyone wants to pay their annual dues for 2019 please see Brian after the meeting. E-transfers are accepted through Chairman's email address. This has been working fine for the past year. Brian Lapierre received the SAOC C newsletter which he posts out to the members.

**Old Business** the Chairman informed the members that the executive had a special meeting a couple of weeks ago to discuss our financial situation. It seems that our bank balance is continuing to slowly shrink. We need to break even. The meeting was very successful and lots of suggestions were made. While the executive is finalizing the report, it will be presented formally at the AGM. Note people still enjoy the subsidized events ie Annual Summer BBQ and Xmas Dinner/Dance. Note we do not pay for the MOG facilities or for the bartenders. One major point is that there will be motion made to increase our annual dues from \$20 to \$25. This will be discussed and voted on by the membership at the AGM.

**New Business** the Chairman Sylvain Rouillard informed the meeting that this year's AGM is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. The Chairman reminded the meeting if there are proposed amendments to our By-laws they must be submitted to him by the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct iaw our bylaws which can be found on our Web site or you can contact him. Sylvie reminded everyone that this is an election year for the executive. Sylvie asked George Byzewski and Terry Chatham to take on the job of the Nominating committee. They accepted. Sylvain canvassed all the members of the current executive if they were willing to let their names stand for their current positions. All said they would be happy to continue. Note that Slops is a volunteer position. However, the Chairman and the secretary are willing to step aside if someone else wants to take on the

jobs as they have been in these positions for the past four years. Perhaps it is time for new blood and fresh ideas. Sylvie stated he would like to be one of the hecklers in the back. Slinger said Robbie should stay on now that he has the email addresses sorted out now. Rob replied it only took a year or year and half to get it updated but if Slinger thinks he can do better he can take the secretary's job over today.

**AOB** Sylvain stated that we will keep to same format of meetings by going counter clockwise around the room to let all the members to have their chance to speak. We could cut this out to shorten the meeting but Sylvie says he finds this his favorite part of our meetings.

Brum Tovey stated there might be a need for another 50/50 draw that he has just bought a 1951 Massey-Harris Farm Tractor for \$1500 which needs a lot of work. Sylvie had never heard of Massey-Harris before. This was before Massey-Ferguson was formed.

Sylvie greeted Marc Miller saying it was good to see him again. Dusty said that he was no longer the angry man. Some in the crowd found this hard to believe.

Sylvie greeted Alain Blondin. Alain had some health issues and he had planned to build a house this summer but this was put on hold. Alain is currently living on Larry Utech Drive in Bedford.

Steve St Armand has been keeping the Facebook account "Canadian Submariners Past and Present" up to date. Steve says he has photos for all the boats now. If anyone has any photos they want to share they post them on the account (please annotated them with your name and specific information) or email to the photos to him. He has placed the deceased members photo albums in a special file in memorial. He is not in competition with "For Posterity Sake" webpage. Steve has just taken over the task at the "Last Post Fund" of placing head stones for unmarked veteran graves. If anyone knows of any veteran who does not have a headstone after a year let him know. Brum asked if had the information for the Stadacona grave yard. Brum will give this information to Steve.

Geoff Mawdesley stated that he will be attending 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of commissioning of the Rainbow and Okanagan which will be held on the SAOC West Coast 2-4 Nov in Victoria. There are several other people going as well such as Terry, Bazoo, Sylvie and Ray Hunt. Sylvie will pass the reins to Jim Northrup for the next meeting if it held on the 31 Oct as he is flying out early on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov. This function will be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Bazoo said that SAOC W puts on a good function.

Allan "Dinger" Bell stated that he specifically came to hear the VAC brief this evening. He has a lot of lessons learned to share after fighting with VAC and DND for 40 years for his benefits. He said that we could be missing out on thousands of dollars in benefits. VAC were to give an overall view of VAC process and entitlements and how it is supposed to work. Sylvie asked Allan to present his personal information after the meeting to any interested members.

Keith Griffin had received a photo from an RN Submariner (a Scotsman from Glasgow) of the Jolly Roger flag flown from the WW II HMS Osiris when he was serving on the Modern "O" boat Osiris in 1968. This happened at the International Submarine Association meeting. There are meanings for all the symbols sown on the flag ie gun barrel for gun action with stars. The dagger represents a sneaky where agents/SBS were put ashore. Griffy has had this photo for over fifty years and it has been sitting in his house just gathering dust. After a brief discussion he donated it, framed, to the Submarine Display being set up by us at the Navy Museum in Stadacona. Brian Lapierre will scan the picture and put it up on our web page so everyone can see it. Buster says he has a copy of CANSSOs which he can happily donate.

Sylvain wished Lucky Gordon a Happy Birthday.

Lloyd Dyck stated it was great idea to have VAC representative to give us a brief. He suggested that we could bring in other guest speakers to increase and attract interest from the members.

Keith Estrabrooks just had his knee operated on and everything is working well. Sylvie remarked that the Beast is now minus one defect. Bazoo said he only has seven now. A good laugh was had by all even Keith!

Terry Chatham stated that he thought that the meetings are not too long in his opinion. Who ever said this was full of shit. Sylvie responded it seemed to some people said that the same subjects ie finances were continually being thrashed over again and again that was what was turning them off.

George Byzewski reminded everyone again that this AGM is an election year and everything seems set with all the executive reoffering to stay put. Bazoo stated after doing the same job for 2-4 years people tend to get stale. If anyone wants to offer for the chairman and secretary, they would gladly step aside. Someone suggested that Dusty Miller should take it as he is the youngest blood there. Marc said unfortunately he doesn't have the time with a young family to look after.

John Clahane has a submarine decanter to donate as a door prize for the Xmas/Dinner Dance. Tickets will be made by Ron Cooper and John before and sold to the public. Tickets will be one for five dollars and three for ten. Dusty Miller may have a Submarine Anniversary Rum bottle still at home.

Mike Davis informed us that Anders Berglund is looking to place an order of 1000 bottles of alcohol made by a local distillery on Barrington street. Anders is looking to get a submarine speciality rum made at cost of \$40 a bottle. Sylvie asked for a show of hands for those interested. A lot of hands went up. You could order whiskey or gin. Buster piped up that the wardroom would want one bottle of gin for themselves and one bottle for the periscope windows. Buster said there is an International Pusser Rum Society and they have get togethers and to taste/share the rum.

Greg Hallonquist is working on a new T-shirt which has all four of the VIC class crests and he will have a sample ready for the next MGM. There is a lot interest in this T-Shirt. He had passed around proofs at the last MGM. He will only be taking pre-paid orders. Thank you very much for all our support. A round of applause was given to Greg.

**50/50** The 50/50 of \$95 was won by Rodney Lake who returned back to the SAOC E coffers.

**Next MGM** will be held at the 24th October 1930 hrs - Location TBP. This date change was because Halloween was on the 31<sup>st</sup> and this wouldn't be a good night to have a meeting.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Buster Brown.

**Adjournment** There being no further business it was moved by John Clahane and seconded by Rodney Lake to adjourn the meeting at 2020 hrs. **Carried.**

**Post Meeting briefing on benefits available and some personal experience by Alan 'Dinger' Bell:**

The majority of members remained and took seats around the mess post meeting. Alan shared a tremendous amount of information on what benefits are available and some of the processes required to get those benefits. This was very well received.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser  
SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard  
SAOC (E) Chairman