



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 28th Aug 2019

MOG5 HQ SR MESS



Opening the Vice Chairman, Jim Northrup, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at 19:30 hrs and thanked all who could make tonight's meeting. We needed the AC units turned off but it was too much of a challenge for our CSE type (Marc Pallard) so the bartender was needed to facilitate so we could hear what was being said. A thank you was given to Bob Johnson for bartending tonight. If you need a refill please get up at any time during the meeting. Please be generous to the bartender. The Vice Chairman called the members up. A moment of silence was observed for all sick, ailing and departed members. May they always be remembered in our hearts and minds for their good deeds.

Attendance 29 members were in attendance: Mark Aalbers, Art Bodden, Cliff Boettcher, Rob Bray, Buster Brown, George Byzewski, Terry Chatham, John Clahane, Ron Cooper, Lloyd Dick Keith Estrabrooks, Rob Fraser, Jim Harris, Taff Jones, Neil and Rodney Lake, Brian Lapierre, Andy Lovasi, Ken McMillan, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Mark Osmond, Marc Pallard, Scotty Parsons, Steve St. Amant, Lee Thompson, Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey and Slinger Wood.

Minutes the 31st July 2019 MGM minutes were distributed by email and copies were available tonight for review. There being no error or omissions the minutes were **Approved** as dist.

Jim didn't know that he was chairing this evening's meeting until he walked in the door. He was informed by the secretary who seemed to be panicking thinking that he would have to chair the meeting himself. Rob knew about this from last meeting that Sylvie would not be here obviously the message wasn't passed to Jim.

Correspondence In The secretary reported 2 editions of Trident were received and distributed around the mess. The secretary had received an OP order from the Base Administration Officer concerning 50th Anniversary of HMCS Kootenay Disaster that will be held on the 23rd Oct at 1030 hrs at the Bonaventure Monument in Point Pleasant Park. As Brian Lapierre is heavily involved with this project, he was asked to comment on this. Brian stated that there will be numerous events happening around the base to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the explosion on HMCS Kootenay and a rededication of the Bonaventure Anchor memorial. Brian stated that 50 more names would be added to the plaques to commemorate personnel lost in peacetime. Patty Christy and Dinger Bell are heavily involved with this. There will be an official meet and greet at the Damage Control School & HMCS Scotian. If you are interested and want to attend you have to get your names in soon by contacting Brian. Brian will have more details shortly which he will email out. Anyone who wants to go should go to pay their respects. Buster Brown stated that Vern McCloud's name (who died on HMS Sidon in Portland harbour, England, on 16 June 1955) would be added to the plaque. Buster also informed us that Phil Boudreau, who Buster had sailed on HMCS Mic Mac, that his widow had just passed away last week.

Correspondence Out None from the secretary.

Regrets were received from 6 members: Ron Butchart, Jim Gordon, Greg Hallonquist, Conrad Petrikowski, Sylvain Rouillard, and Peter Weis. Brum stated that Willy Waugh couldn't be bothered to come in.

Health and Wellness None reported

Reports Chairman No report as Sylvain is in Ottawa as he had sent his regrets.

Vice Chair Jim informed us that the MacDonald bridge would be shut tonight after 7pm so you will need to take the McKay bridge if you need to get back over to Dartmouth as Ron Cooper found out coming in. Jim Northrup informed us that the Submarine Room is complete and the official opening was conducted by the Base Commander at the Stadacona Naval Museum on Thursday 9th Aug. Jim stated that at least 80 people attended including the CO of HMCS Windsor and 20 of the WSR crew. Jim thanked the people who were involved in the Submarine Project: Brian Lapierre for all his research and hard work, Rodney who did a lot of carpentry work with the Hull Techs from the Windsor, personnel from MOG 4 and 5, NSCC College students and Charlie McManus's daughter Crystal and all of the museum staff who helped out. It is now open; if you have not seen it you should as it is considered the best display in the museum. Well done to all and a round of applause was given. There were several people who attended the opening we had not seen in a while such as Vic Miniotas from Truro who took a bus down to Halifax, Kipper Day who flew in from Cyprus, David Russell who sailed on RN "A" and "T" boats before coming over to the RCN and then sailing on "O" boats. Captain Brian Nelson who was the OIC for the first Canadian submarine courses in Halifax. He was looking for the grad pictures for the first five RCN submarine courses.

Brian Lapierre stated that when he and Jim had looked at each other a week before the official opening and they agreed that there was no way in hell that the room would be ready in time. The panels had not arrived until Friday. They erected the center panels on Tuesday once they got more Velcro. They went in on Wednesday and the Directors and their husbands had worked till 10pm Tuesday night to cut all the wood for the back for the wall panels which they hung that day. The ladies of the museum were organizing the display cabinets in how they thought things should be displayed, which led to some discussion with the boys. The video screens with the presentations were displayed and everything was ready at 4 pm on Wednesday. They should be proud of all the work everyone accomplished.

Jim and Brian are considered the full-time volunteers and Submarine Experts for the Museum and they are now only going in on Tuesdays. They are giving tours of the room and have done so far 4 school groups already.

Secretary No report

Treasurer Ron Cooper's financial report for the 28th Aug 2019 showed a closing bank balance of \$12,182.92 after bank charges. There is just one future expense, the annual Xmas Dinner/Dance at the Lions Club on the 20th Dec for \$1000.

Social Brum was not present at the last month's MGM as he and Taff were in UK for the Diesel Boat reunion busy drinking Guinness. Brum thanked everyone who came to the Annual BBQ and we did hit our sixty-target goal. Brum asked if everyone was pleased with the quality of BBQ food this year. Numerous people stated that the food this year was excellent. Brum stated that Bradly Meredith has the contract as long as we have the BBQ. Bazoo stated that the BBQ was in Dube's driveway for three-four days and he was amazed it was not stolen. It was a very hot day but the beer was cold. Brum asked who won the 50/50 draw. We will have to ask Sylvie once he gets back from Ottawa. Brum stated that Xmas Dinner/Dance at the Lions Club is still on for the 20th Dec and is hoping for a good turnout for that. Tickets will be \$20 per person. The Lion's Club has a good bar and a three-course dinner. The DJ is excellent. Brum's Joke "An IT

guy called in sick and told his boss he could not come in due to a terrible headache. The boss wanted the IT guy in to get some IT problems sorted out. He told him that whenever he got a really bad headache, he would go home and make mad, passionate love with his wife. It seemed to work as his headaches disappeared. Three hours later the IT guy comes in to work. He said "I took your advice and it worked boss. Headache is gone. By the way, you have a really nice house." Brum's jokes are lot better than Sylvie's!

Jim Northrup asked Cliff Boettcher when the next Submarine gathering will be held. Cliff said it will be on the Saturday 21st of Sept starting at 1400 hrs at the Somme Branch Legion on King Street in Dartmouth in the back room. More and more submariner's past and present are coming out of the woodwork for this event and it is a hoot. People were getting pissed off that the only time they saw each were at funerals. This has been a great success since it got started. It is a great social event. Bill Woodburn was at the last gathering and really enjoyed himself. Boyd Thomas asked if Greg Hallonquist could be there and bring the slops if he is available. He will be asked.

Slops No report.

Membership Update Brian Lapierre reported there are 45 Life Members, 87 Members paid for 2018 and beyond with a total of 129 members. Brian has forty dollars in dues to turn into the treasurer. Ron Cooper said he received \$20 USD dues from Ron Workman from the US.

No Old Business or New Business

AOB Boyd Thomas asked how many paid up SAOC members attended this summer's annual BBQ at the Dube's. The answer was forty members attended. He then asked why it is the BBQ is so far out of town. People without transport can get rides from members of the Association. All they have to do is ask. Brum asked Boyd if he has a better suggestion where to hold it and that he would listen to any suggestions. Jim Northrup stated this had been decided at previous MGM meetings by the majority of members to have the BBQ there. Bazoo stated that we started to have the BBQ there out of respect for Paul Dube. Since the Fossil's passing Helen Dube ask us to continue coming as it feels like family coming to visit. Helen wants to host it as long as she is able. Jim Northrup stated that this will come up again next year prior to the BBQ and then we will vote again on this. Boyd thinks we are spending too much money on the BBQ and we cannot have even a cheese tray for the MGMs. So, Jim Northrup stated that we will have an executive meeting to discuss a way ahead for this issue. Bazoo stated that this issue seems to come up every two years or so. Bazzo said if Boyd would get the groceries, he would pay for them. Jim stated that we cannot get food from the MOG5 HQ galley anymore as it is only providing meals for submarine duty watches due to cutbacks and prices are too expensive. Brum tried to get pizza for the meetings but Dockyard security does not allow pizza delivery cars into the dockyard anymore.

Ron Cooper stated the group of eight of SAOC members had an excellent time at the Pig Roast in Groton. There is \$45 left in the Pig Roast kitty for next year. There is also money left from the hotel. This was the 30th anniversary of the pig roast. There was a memorial for Bear Randall's celebration of life.

Brum Tovey told his second joke: "Mahatma Gandhi used to walk barefoot, which produced impressive calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, so he was rather frail, and with his odd diet he suffered from bad breath. This made him a "Super callused, fragile mystic hexed with halitosis." Where does Brum find these jokes?

Steve St Amant asked if a decision had been made concerning his donation of \$200 from the sale

of Submarine T shirts. This decision was put off till the Sept MGM for a larger attendance to decide which charity to donate it to as was stated in last month's MGM minutes.

Taff Jones stated that he and Brum had an excellent time at the Diesel Boat reunion in UK. If you have any stocks or shares in Guinness they went up. It is a long flight to get over to UK as there is no longer any direct flights to London from Halifax at the moment with the grounding of the 737 Max. Therefore, they had to go through Toronto making it a 10 ½ hr trip. The run started on Friday night in the Dolphin Pub. All the submariners seemed to gather into one little corner. The day of the races was on Saturday, which even though it is called the Diesel Boat reunion, there are a lot of nuclear submariners attending. A lot of the diesel boat guys went from diesel to the nuclear boats ie Vanguard class and now the coming replacement Dreadnought class, which will be the new RN SSBN. There were approximately 280 submariners attending and they were greeted with a Tot of Pusser rum from the barrel at the door. Some delinquents managed to get a second tot. Taff was one of them. Good news no one died this year at the reunion. Taff and his Aussie buddy were having a few wets and they bought a round of raffle tickets and Taff won a box of wine. Being a nice guy, and suave like 007 he gave it to a large group of women. Taff spun us a good dit about a couple elderly dolly birds with their husbands who came into the pub. They were not pretty as the expression goes as Taff stated, "mutton dressed up as lamb" and their makeup was slathered on with a trowel. One had eyelashes like those on a VW Beetle. One picked him and the other picked his Aussie mate. She asked Taff are you Canadian and Taff answered in his most excellent Canadian accent "Yes". Then she opened up her blouse and showed him her huge fun bags (blue veiners for Bazoo) and asked Taff "do you like these?" Taff answered they were lovely. Then Taff had some close-up windshield wiper experience. Meanwhile their husbands were just sitting there watching the show. Then she turned around and she had on some cut-out leather pants on and backed into Taff and grabbed his hands and he got a good handle of her magic mountains. That is all Taff could remember! On Sunday they mustered at a cenotaph. They had rum set up again for those submariners who were feeling a little poorly. Some the guys needed a second or third try to get the tot down their necks. It was a good run and Taff is going back. Taff is actually going back in October. Brum said Taff is going back to apologise.

Brian Lapierre received pictures of the HMCS Okanagan Bell with all the baptisms after tracking it down thanks to Julie Ferguson. It is currently in Museum and Archives in Penticton BC. The OK bell is on loan from Ottawa till 2022. It is currently in stowage out there in BC. Brian has asked the Halifax museum's staff to contact Ottawa to suggest that if Penticton museum is not displaying the OK bell perhaps it should be returned to Halifax Naval Museum so all three Canadian "O" boat bells would be reunited under one roof.

Bazoo talked about the Pig Roast. There were eight members who went down this year. The drive was very long with lots of construction. It took the best part of 13 hours to get down to Groton. They went a day early to attend Bear Randall's celebration of life as he was the organizer of the first USN Sub Vets Pig Roast and paid their respects to the family. Bear's ashes were buried at the Rhode Island Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter, RI on Thursday 1 August 2019. The Pig Roast is organised now by the daughter of WWII Sub Captain vet on his farm. Charlie and Willie looked after the moose milk as normal. They run out every time. It was a good bash and they had a long drive back. It was too bad the two functions conflicted as Brum and Taff would have enjoyed themselves. The hotel they stay at treats them like family and they are actually glad to see them. They keep the bar and restaurant open late just for them. It is well attended. Terry has a great relationship with a WWII skipper and his wife.

Lee Thompson has been in contact for two years with Jerry O'Keeffe who passed on his regards for this evening's meeting and stated that he is feeling much better after getting over his mental difficulties. Jerry now lives in Quebec. Jim said if Lee is talking to Jerry again please pass on our regards.

Buster Brown had sent a letter to the editor of the Chronicle about water conservation "if anyone needs some tips on how best to conserve water, ask a submariner." This was published on the 23rd Aug. He was called by a local reporter, who asked Buster some questions. Buster explained things like bird baths then using the water to scrub out, double decking and white spirit used to wash the deck (white spirit is insoluble in water and is used as an extraction solvent, as a cleaning solvent, as a degreasing solvent and as a solvent). Rigging a shower from the distiller wastewater in the snake pit from the water discharge and doing other things. Buster then spun a dit about the crew taking a shower on the upper deck in the all together and getting ordered by the coxn to put bathing suits on as they were putting on too good a show for the skimmers next door.

Brum passed around a very nice submarine coin that he got in UK at the Diesel boat reunion.

50/50 The 50/50 of \$75 was won by Lloyd Dick who just bought his tickets prior to the draw. Lloyd donated \$75 back to SAOC Funds

Submariners Prayer was read by Buster Brown.

Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by Taff Jones and seconded by Mark Osmond to adjourn the meeting at 20:25 hrs. Carried.

The next MGM will be held at the MOG5 HQ JR Mess 25th Sept 2019 @ 1930 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B Fraser
SAOC (E) Secretary

Jim Northrup
SAOC (E) Vice Chairman