



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 24 February 2021
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



The Monthly Meeting of SAOC(E) was held via Zoom. A Zoom connection was provided for all members who wished to participate. Emails had been sent out and a posting made on the Facebook Group "Canadian Submariners - past and present" to inform everyone. Once the connection was established greetings were extended all around.

Opening the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at about 19:04 via Zoom. Sylvain welcomed new members Jim Voakes & Erik Norman. Even though Nova Scotia is doing well he still felt that it was best to do the meeting via Zoom. We have to take each meeting month by month and hopefully as things progress through the year everything will improve. He thanked everyone in the Zoom meeting who connected. A moment of silence was held for all our departed brothers and those who are ailing. Since our last attended meeting we have lost Reg Coulter on the West Coast who Commissioned both Grilse & Rainbow. Reg laid down for a rest in the afternoon and never woke up. There also has been no information if and when there will be a Celebration of Life for Buster Brown, Gus Gardner or Art Bodden.

Attendance 18 members were in attendance at Peregrine and on Zoom. Lloyd Blagdon, Ron Cooper, Claude Gendron, Jim Harris (from Mexico), Brian Lapierre, Shaun MacDougall (Cape Breton), Ken McMillan, John Meehan, Erik Norman (Cape Breton), Jim Northrup, Scotty Parsons, Larry Pike (Newfoundland), Gilles Poirier (Hospital in Halifax), Phil Rody (Miramichi), Sylvain Rouillard, John Smith, Jim Voakes, Phil Webster.

Regrets Brian Cooper, Sherm Embree.

Health and Wellness Gilles Poirier was still in hospital in Halifax. He hoped to go home on the weekend. He said he is feeling better. Gilles says there are two words you don't want to hear in the hospital. "Infected" and "it Stinks". He is keeping his spirits up. Since the meeting he has been released from the hospital and is now back home. Brian Hills has been visiting Tony Halvorson about once a week to give Tony's wife Shawne a break. Very thoughtful of Brian. Tex Ranger is basically the same with his health. Dick Newman is also the same. If we didn't have a Zoom meeting, we wouldn't see everyone who connects from afar so there are some advantages with the Zoom.

Minutes The 27 January 2021 MGM minutes were distributed by email. No errors. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

Correspondence In Brian went to the PO mail box and picked up no mail. Only mail coming in is people paying their dues.

Correspondence Out Nil.

Reports Chairman Sylvain has been in contact with Mrs. Gerri Brown regarding Buster's Funeral status. Because of COVID and the new restrictions we still don't know if it will come about. She would like someone to talk about Buster and his career. We don't know what role SAOC(E) will play as yet. She has to be in contact with the Funeral home the first week of March. Sylvain stated that he would talk to Jim Gordon about the speaking part. Jim and Buster go way back and worked together in Submarines during their careers, Sea Training and many other functions.

Vice Chair Jim Northrup reported that Rodney Lake has got a contract from the Naval Museum of Halifax for some wood working in the Uniform Room.

Secretary Nil. Brian Lapierre is recording the meeting and will transcribe it. Brian has accepted the position of Secretary. Mail will be picked up every couple of weeks.

Treasurer Ron Cooper gave his report. He presented the December 2020 monthly report, the 2020 financial Summary that was prepared for the AGM but wasn't presented because we had no AGM in 2020, and the monthly financial statement for today's meeting, 24 Feb 2021. Those reports are attached. Our closing balance as of Feb 2021 is \$14,483.48. Dues are still coming in and Claude will be sending Ron some money from the sale of some Slops.

Slops Claude Gendron has said he has sold some items and will send a cheque to Ron Cooper. He told me that he has about \$6000.00 in inventory We are hoping that when the new website is up and running that we can get a dedicated page for the Slops.

Membership Update Brian Lapierre reported there are 40 Life Members, 89 Members paid for 2020 and beyond for current total of 129. Brian encouraged people to find out their status and pay their dues. An email was sent out last week asking people to pay their dues. As a reminder if people have not paid their dues and are lapsed for one year then their name will be taken off the list and they will no longer receive any emails from SAOC(E). Again, I would like to thank Jim Voakes & Erik Norman for becoming New Members joining SAOC(E). If you lapse in your dues, and wish to rejoin, no past dues will be charged, and you can rejoin by simply contacting Brian and paying your dues for the year you are rejoining. Dues are still at \$20 per year.

Send Dues via E-Transfer to: Sylvain.Rouillard.outlook.com

Send Dues via Canada Post to: Submariners Association of Canada East, PO Box 91, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3Y2

Social Nothing to be done with Entertainment due to COVID-19. BBQ may again not happen this year but we are keeping our fingers crossed that restrictions will eventually be relaxed the more people are becoming vaccinated and the local cases are low. Brian Cooper, our Social Rep, had suggested we could host a "Meet and Greet" for the crew of the Windsor. Let's hope that this can happen this year. Any meetings we are going to have will be at Peregrine with its limited capacity but we have to do what we have to do at this time.

Old Business SAOC Websites. Ted has finished with the transfers of our four websites onto fullhost and paid for it. Sylvain reimbursed him and will call on SAOC East, Central and West to pay their third share of the cost. Total cost was \$488.42 for one year of hosting and the cost of domain registration for 4 domains. SAOC(E) cost now is \$162.81. Ted Hirtle is still working on the website. He hopes to have it up and running soon. The recommendation from SAOC(W) about the National SAOC Organization has had some participation and comments from members who had received an email outlining why the National SAOC Organization would be all about. Sylvain sent these comments to Wade Berglund SAOC West & Bob Bush SAOC Central. Brian sent them out to all members of SAOC(E). All comments have been appreciated. Ongoing.

New Business No New Business.

Discussion There still was some discussion about the National SAOC Organization. Many comments were made over the hour of which would be too many to post here. Again, discussions are ongoing and if you have any comments forward them to the Chairman & Secretary.

Around the Room Brian mentioned that the Name Tag Project is coming along. About 170 Name Tags collected so far. Also, he continues to work on Submariners' profiles. He continues to send out the Zoom Meeting poster for the Weekly Meetings. Lloyd Blagdon showed us a picture of a deck plan of a submarine. Larry Pike would hope that the Zoom meetings will continue. It is the only way he can communicate from the rock. John Meehan said he would be sending Brian a Cloth Badge

“HM Submarines” “Proud to Have Served”. We would like to see more people attend for a short time or long time. Also, Brian received a USB stick with pictures from RIMPAC 2012 in HMCS Victoria from LCdr Jimmy Lau in Ottawa.

50/50 Draw None held.

Submariners Prayer was read by Erik Norman.

Adjournment There being no further business, it was moved by Gilles Poirier and seconded by John Meehan to adjourn the meeting at 2000 hrs. **Carried**

The next MGM will be held possibly at Peregrine and via Zoom on Wednesday 31 March 2021 @ 1700 hrs, pending the COVID situation in Halifax. Free pizza will be had. If not, on Zoom only at 1900, but we will have a meeting!

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman