



## **Submariners Association of Canada (East)**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 31 March 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 Facebook Group 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 19:10 via Zoom. 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. James “Bud” Weatherup passed away on 25 March 2021. He served in Submarines from the mid 60’s to early 70’s. He served in Ojibwa and was an Instructor in Submarine Division of Fleet School. We also lost Lou Martel on 04 April 2021. Lou was on Okanagan during the accident with Grey Rover in 1973. .

**Attendance** 16 members were in attendance. George Byzewski, Jeff Cameron, Ron Cooper, Sherm Embree, Jim Harris (from Mexico), Brian Lapierre, Ron Lyle, Shaun MacDougall (Cape Breton), John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Scotty Parsons, Larry Pike (Newfoundland), Gilles Poirier, Sylvain Rouillard, Phil Webster, Tim Wood.

**Regrets** Ken McMillan

**Health and Wellness** George Byzewski has been assisting spouses of departed members with various tasks. This includes getting the vaccine shot, groceries etc. This is very kind of George. Pierre Alarie is having some health issues but Pierre didn’t want to elaborate. Also Tom Nickle as well. 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 24 February 2021 MGM minutes were distributed by email. One error correction in spelling which was changed prior to sending out. The minutes were approved 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. No Junk Mail received.

**Correspondence Out** Nil.

**Reports Chairman** Nothing.

**Vice Chair** Jim Northrup. Nothing to report.

**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. End of February the balance was \$14, 483.00. One cheque was sent to Sylvain for SAOC(E) portion of the new website. Three big deposits were received for dues. Final Balance at end of March is \$16,021.00. Ron is going to send a cheque for \$50.00 to Brian from the Bodden family for the Naval Museum of Halifax.

**Slops** Claude Gendron has said he has sold some items and will send a cheque to Ron Cooper. He told me a couple of weeks that he has \$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. John Meehan said he couldn’t remember what the Ojibwa T-Shirt that Bernie Gagnon is selling what it is all about. No further comments.

**Membership Update** Brian Lapierre. Brian reported there are 42 Life Members, 92 Members paid for 2020 and beyond for current total of 134. 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). Send Dues via E-Transfer to: Sylvain.Rouillard.outlook.com

Send Dues via Canada Post to: **Submariners Association of Canada East, 73 Portovista Drive, Portuguese Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1P3**

Ron Cooper also paid his dues tonight. Jeff Cameron paid his dues to become a LIFE MEMBER.

**Social** Nothing to be done with Entertainment due to COVID-19. BBQ will not happen this year and due to this situation, the Christmas Function has also been cancelled. 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** None.

**New Business** The West Coast News Letter is produced by Valerie Braunschweig. She would like to receive articles and stories from submariners that perhaps will be put in the News Letter. Her email is [valerieanddick@telus.net](mailto:valerieanddick@telus.net). Fred Schatz is so busy, still working so we don't hear much from Central unless it is from Jerry Brown. Sylvain has been in contact with Mrs Gerri Brown and Buster's Funeral status. This was found out a few days after the meeting was held. We now know that the Celebration of Life for Buster Brown will be held at J.A. Snow's Funeral Home, Lacewood Drive, Halifax at 1300 on 06 May 21. A total of 90 people can attend. So it is Family 1<sup>st</sup>, Submariners' 2<sup>nd</sup> and then anybody else. Dress. Blazers with Medals. Emails will be forth coming within the next few weeks to remind everyone.

Jim Gordon has offered to talk about Buster. Jim and Buster go way back and worked together in Submarines during their careers, Sea Training and many other functions. No news on Gus Gardner or Art Bodden's.

### **Discussion**

**Around the Room** Brian talked a little bit about going to the next level with respect to the Submarine Memorial or Monument. Please send any suggestions to Brian. Many obstacles to overcome. We need to form a committee, suggestions for further fund raising events etc. Brian also mentioned that the Name Tag Project is coming along. About 206 Name Tags collected so far. Also he continues to work on Submariners Profiles. Jim Harris in Mexico would like to thank people who post items on Facebook. Keeps the moral up for sure. Sherm Embree talked about Battle of the Atlantic and the SS Nerissa of which his uncle was onboard. It was torpedoed on 30 April 1941 by U-552. Sherm is donating a couple of copies of the book to the Naval Museum of Halifax. Everyone is encouraged to buy the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. John Meehan said he would send Brian a Trident Newspaper clipping from an IWK Fund Raising event from 1988 Bed Race.

**50/50 Draw** None held.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by John Meehan.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Jim Harris and seconded by George Byzewski to adjourn the meeting at 2006 hrs. **Carried**

The next MGM will be held possibly at Peregrine and via Zoom on Wednesday 28 April 2021 @ 1700 hrs, pending the COVID situation in Halifax.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre

SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard

SAOC (E) Chairman