



## Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
Friday 30 April 2021  
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



The Monthly Meeting of SAOC(E) was held via Zoom and combined with the SAOC(E) Weekly Zoom. This was to facilitate a presentation by the Canadian Submarine Force Group in Esquimalt which consisted of Captain Stephane Ouellet, CPO1 Patty McGuire and CPO2 Rob Tibbetts. 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. The SAOC(E) Meeting was held first before getting the brief.

**Opening** the Chairman, Sylvain Rouillard, brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at about 19:15 via Zoom. With the increased cases of COVID-19 exploding in Nova Scotia this past week everyone was encouraged to do their part and follow the guidelines. He thanked everyone in the Zoom meeting who connected.

**Attendance** 50 SAOC members were in attendance. Jerry Brown, Jeff Cameron, Alvin Carrier, Bill Cleal, Ron Cooper, Norm Chouinard, Sherm Embree, Claude Gendron, Jim Gordon, Jim Harris (Mexico), Brian Lapierre, Andy Lovasi, Drew MacDonald, Shaun MacDougall, Steven McLellan, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Marc Osmond, Scotty Parsons, Larry Pike (Newfoundland), Gilles Poirier, Phil Rody, Luc Rollin, Sylvain Rouillard, David Russell, Marcel Simard, Steve St.-Amant, Bill Venator, Phil Webster, Tim Wood. No regrets received from SAOC(E) Members.

**Out of Town Guests Connected were:** Moe Allard, Lloyd Barnes, Wade Berglund, Valerie Braunschweig, Gord Burns, Richard Cermak, Memphis Don, Ron Ewen, Ed Falstrom, Jim Ford, Patty McGuire, Richard Morgan, John Noble, Stephane Ouellet, George Roach, Fred Rowe, Ian Sanderson, David Soule, Rob Tibbetts.

**Health and Wellness** Nothing to report on Health and Wellness. 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 31 March 2021 MGM minutes were distributed by email. No error found. The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Correspondence In** None 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. The big thing that the Secretary Reported was that the Executive decided to eliminate the Canada Post Office Box. Effective on the 21 April 2021 the Box was closed and all mail will now be forwarded to 73 Portovista Drive, Portuguese Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1P3. The reason was that the cost of the PO Box of \$228.00 per year was determined to be excessive for the amount of Snail Mail we received. It was deemed not necessary when we receive a max of 5 letters per year. Most everyone pays their dues with E-Transfers. Please note this and also the address has been changed on the website for the mailing address.

**Treasurer** Ron Cooper gave his report. End of March the balance was \$16,021.92. One cheque was sent to Brian for redirecting the mail out of the Canada Post Office Box for \$178.88. Bank Dues was

\$3.75. Deposits from Slops and Dues totaled \$160.00. Closing Balance at end of April was \$15,999.29.

**Slops** Claude Gendron said he is dealing with a few people on items. Nothing to report.

**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 a couple of days after the end of April meeting 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**

**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**. 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. Due to COVID restrictions in Nova Scotia the Celebration of Life for Buster Brown has been cancelled until further notice. No news on Gus Gardner or Art Bodden's.

**Discussion** Guest Speakers attending the meeting were Captain(N) Stephane Ouellet, CPO2 Rob Tibbetts and CPO1 Paddy McGuire.

Captain Ouellet thanked SAOC(E) for letting them attend this meeting. Again, he expressed his concern with COVID. He stated that CPO1 McGuire will be taking over as Submarine Formation Chief by the middle of May. CPO2 Tibbetts will assume his role as Coxn on HMCS Corner Brook. During Captain Ouellet's last visit to the East Coast in early March 2020 the Submarine Force has changed significantly. COVID has taken its toll on the ongoing work in the Submarine Force, pushing everything to the right. Victoria has had some propulsion problems which took time to sort out and repair. Her updates make her up to date and will be a very modern and capable submarine. Windsor has done some sea trials and safety workups. She will be operating in the Halifax local area until some additional maintenance can be carried. Corner Brook work is ongoing with anticipation of sea trials in November. When she comes back in service, she will be the most modern Victoria Class Submarine in the Fleet. Chicoutimi is in a docking period and when she comes out, she will be updated as well. When she returns to the fleet, she also will be modern. The Victoria Class Modernization Project will be a series of Projects to modernize the submarines. Finally, problems still continue to the manning of all four submarines. We are experiencing some critical shortages which we are working on to overcome.

CPO1 McGuire and CPO2 Tibbetts expressed their concerns with the manning issues. The shortage of trained submariners makes it difficult to shuffle men and women around and try and get them to sea so they can qualify. Again, COVID issues makes it difficult for social distancing and to carry on work. They have been working hard to overcome any issues. It appears the issues that the Submarine Service had in the 1960's, 70's, 80's, 90's and until the end of the Oberon Class are still prevalent today but extended due to the conditions we are encountering.

It was a well-informed meeting from the Submarine Force Group and everyone appreciated it.

**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 210 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. Much of the information was classified for years and it's the first recent account of the loss of life and the trials of the crew of that ship.

**50/50 Draw** None held.

**Submariners Prayer** was read by Sylvain Rouillard before the meeting was opened.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, it was moved by Jim Northrup and seconded by Jerry Brown to adjourn the meeting at 2015 hrs. **Carried**

The next MGM will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 26 May 2021 @ 1900 hrs, pending the COVID situation in Halifax.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Lapierre  
SAOC (E) Secretary

Sylvain Rouillard  
SAOC (E) Chairman