



**Minutes of the  
Joint Thresher Base & USS Maine Base Meeting  
15 March 2014  
Recorded by Secretary Frank Hood**

*(Robin Galeaz Photographer. Photo editing in Adobe PhotoShop, and minutes edited for distribution by Kevin Galeaz.)*

*(Note: Login to <http://ussvi.org> to view hyperlinks.)*



*Thresher Base  
Commander  
Kevin Galeaz*

**Meeting called to order** by USSVI Thresher Base Commander Kevin Galeaz at 1200 hours.

Kevin read **USSVI's charter dedication**, to remember all of our shipmates how have served to protect our country on submarines.

Chaplain Al Page led the **opening prayer** for Thresher Base and USS Maine Base joint meeting.

**Tolling of Bells** for boats lost in March and April: 15 boats lost in these 2 months.

USS Maine Base Secretary John McCutcheon rang the USS Maine Base ships bell they brought to meeting.



*Thresher Base  
Vice Commander  
Richard Cecchetti*



*USS Maine Base Secretary John McCutcheon ringing USS Maine Base Ships Bell  
& Thresher Base Secretary Frank Hood*

## National Officers, New Members & Guests

1. Kevin recognized and introduced [Peter Koester](#), NE Regional District 1 (NERD1) Commander.



*Peter Koester*

2. New member [Stephen Reichle](#), MM1(SS), also member of Groton Base. Steve qualified aboard USS Sunfish (SSN-649).



*Stephen Reichle*

3. Potential new member **Jim Garvey** (Nuclear Machinists Mate). Jim qualified aboard USS Dace (SSN-607). Sponsoring member [John McArdle](#).



*Jim Garvey*

4. Potential new member **Mike Lawson**, A-Ganger, Qualified aboard USS Kamehameha (SSBN-642).



*Mike Lawson*

5. Potential new member **Mike Badger**. Mike qualified aboard the USS Tigrone (AGSS-419). Sponsoring member, Tigrone shipmate & recruiter extraordinaire [Bob McApline](#).



*Mike Badger*



*Thresher Base Secretary  
Frank Hood*

**Minutes from last meeting:** Secretary [Frank Hood](#) posted minutes of January 2014 meeting as recorded by [John McArdle](#). The motion to accept the minutes as written was accepted & approved.



*Thresher Base Treasurer  
Ed Lyons*

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer [Ed Lyons](#) was unable to attend and the Treasurer's report was not submitted. Motion to distribute the report via email when obtained was accepted and approved.

Committee Reports:

Chaplain [Al Page](#)



*Thresher Base Chaplain  
Al Page*

We have lost 2 Thresher Base members to eternal patrol since our last meeting:

1. [EN2\(SS\) Bruce Hauschel](#), funeral in New Market. [Obit](#)



*Bruce Hauschel*

2. [QMC\(SS\) Roger Miller](#), charter member of Thresher Base. [Obit](#)



*Roger Miller*

**Eagle Scout Coordinator:** New Eagle Scout Coordinator [Jerry Schock](#) - active in Scouting in NH for 30 years. Welcome Jerry!



*Jerry Schock*

**51<sup>st</sup> Annual USS Thresher Memorial Service**, Reported by TB Commander Kevin Galeaz

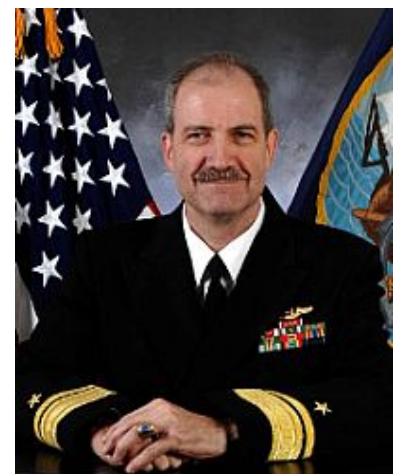
1. R.W. Traip Auditorium & Foyer will be rented from 1000-1600 on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. R.W Traip Auditorium doors will be open to attendees at 1130.
2. Rental forms for the [R.W. Traip Academy](#) have been submitted and approved by the [Kittery Schools Department](#). R.W. Traip Academy and Kittery Schools Department required formal event insurance policy. Policy was selected and purchased.
3. Auditorium setup is scheduled for 1500 on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>. A program dry run is scheduled for 1700.
4. USS Thresher Family Member story boards may be setup either during the late afternoon early evening on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, or any time between 1000 and 1230 on the morning of the service.
5. We will be using a professional high lumen projector rented for \$100 from Victoria Sallade, Granddaughter of [FTC\(SS\) Charles Louis Wiggins, USS Thresher](#).
6. We plan on using the pull down auditorium screen at R.W. Traip Academy.
7. Invitations were designed by [Robin Galeaz](#).
8. 500 invitations were printed at Kinkos/Fed Ex along with mailing and return mailing labels by Robin.
9. Invitations Stuffing Party:
  - a. Held at [Stratham Memorial School Library](#) courtesy of TB Member & SMS Facilities Director [Bob McAlpine](#).
  - b. Contributing team members included
    - i. [Bob and Emily McAlpine](#), [Bob and Mary Flannery](#), [Tom & Shirley Young](#), [John and Judy McArdle](#), Jim Garvey & Kevin and Robin Galeaz.
  - c. Kevin thanked all who helped for their spirited help and noted all 500 invitations were prepared for mailing in one hour.
10. RSVP's due March 15th. Total RSVP's received to date is 111 USS Thresher family and former crew members, SubVets and invited guests. Estimated attendance ~300.
11. Kevin has asked USS Thresher family and former crew members who cannot attend to provide messages of greetings that he will include in the pre-service PPT presentation.
12. Master of Ceremonies will be Thresher Base Chaplain [Al Page](#)
13. PNS will provide active duty seating escorts, Color Guard, Chaplain, and the Honor Guard. [Rick Cechetti](#) will be the PNS Liaison.
14. The National Anthem & the Navy Hymn will be performed by [Lori Arsenault](#) & [Debra Henderson](#), Daughters of [Chief Engineman Tilmon Joseph Arsenault](#),
15. Opening remarks will be given by [Captain William C. Green](#), Commander, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.
16. USS Thresher Family speaker will be [Vivian \(Dabruzzi\) Lindstrom](#), daughter of [ET2\(SS\) Samuel Joseph Dabruzzi](#), USS Thresher. Viv is working with Kevin on synchronizing photos to her speech.
17. The Keynote speaker will be [RADM John Clarke Orzalli](#), USN Retired, former Deputy Director Naval Sea Systems
18. Tolling of the bells:
  - a. Readers: Kevin Galeaz & John Riemenschneider, USS Thresher Former Crew Member
  - b. Bell Toller: COB Robert Flannery



*Captain William C. Greene, USN  
Commander,  
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*



*Vivian (Dabruzzi) Lindstrom,  
Daughter of ET2(SS) Samuel  
Joseph Dabruzzi, USS Thresher*



*RADM John Clarke Orzalli,  
USN Retired  
Former Vice Commander, NAVSEA*

- c. Bagpiper: Patrick Boyle
19. TB Member George Stevens will play taps.
  20. Subvets are encouraged to show up in force.

**Holland Club** reported by Kevin Galeaz on behalf of Holland Club Coordinator [Charles H. Andrews Jr.](#): The following Thresher Base members will be inducted into to the Holland Club at the July TB meeting and Lobster Fest:

1. [George R. Tranchemontagne](#)
2. [Richard J. Blatchford](#)
3. [Larry S. Goelz](#)
4. [Maurice R. Goodson, Jr.](#)
5. [Larry LeRonn Leppard](#)
6. [Vincent T. Mahany](#)
7. [George F. Thomas](#)

**COB** – [Bob Flannery](#) – Last month he has been reaching out to members on phone. Talked to quite a few and left messages. A couple of members are sick and not doing. Adolph Pavel and Sam Hill are both sick, and William Severin is wheel chair bound. They would appreciate a call or a visit if you live near them.



*Thresher Base Chief of the Boat  
Bob Flannery*

**Old Business:** Chicago Sub Memorial. We decided to give \$100 to project. We passed hat, and we raised \$200 so we are passing on \$300 to them.

**New Business:**

1. [Fred Pietrowski](#) has tapes of boats on VCR. Will be given to Portsmouth Museum.
2. NERD1 Commander [Peter Koester](#) notified the members of the following upcoming events:
  - a. St Patricks Day Parade tomorrow in Boston. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year for USSVI. WWII vets encouraged. Muster at 1130 in West Broadway and Dorchester Ave. 1300 hours step off – ends at Andrew T Stop. New Banner was made for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniv of USSVI. Thresher Memorial Float will be featured.
  - b. Patriots Day Parade, Mon 21 April, Lexington MA. Invite to join. Muster 1200 Mass Ave north of Pleasant St. Parking at HS. Step off 1400 hours. End near HS.
  - c. Marblehead Base 114<sup>th</sup> Sub Birthday Ball April 28<sup>th</sup>. Details on sheet. \$35 per person. End of March numbers are required.
  - d. USSVI – Groton Base Annual Celebration – May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Golf Tournament, Return of Sub School, Annual Mem Service, banquet of Port and Starboard Club. Get in touch with Groton Base. Require valid ID of US Citizenship.
  - e. Washington DC Memorial Parade. Mon May 26<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements made with Hotel in Md. Along Metro line. Memorial Service at 11am. Step off at 2pm on Constitution Ave.
  - f. Boat Tours being arranged on active duty boats. Virginia Class. 774 Class trainers at Sub School.
  - g. Big Recruiting push, get some new blood. Went to USSVI website and printed out recruitment posters, and did pull off tabs and posting those in Agwam Diner, Army Barracks Surplus Store, and etc.

3. [Fred Pietrowski](#) presented TB Commander Galeaz with a custom hand-carved Dolphin US Flag stand for the Base to be used at all future meetings. Kevin expressed his gratitude followed by a round of applause from all in attendance.



*Thresher Base Commander Kevin Galeaz, accepting the hand carved flag stand donated by its craftsman, Thresher Base Member Fred Pietrowski*

4. Kevin gave a shout out to the Maine Base members who were present and mentioned that they have been the mainstay SubVet supporters of our Memorial Service every year, and we let them know of our appreciation of their effort to attend and for their continued support.
5. Kevin asked USS Maine Base Senior Vice Commander [John Starbird, Jr.](#) if the USS Maine Base attendees would bring their Ship's Bell to the Memorial Service. Yes they would. It will be placed on the Stage Floor and TB COB Bob Flannery will ring it from there.



*John Starbird, Jr.,  
USS Maine Base  
Senior Vice Commander*

6. [Dick Wood](#) reports that USS Diablo (SS-479) is having their reunion at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida on October 8, 9, 10 & 11. They are trying to find members. Please contact Dick at [dickathy41@yahoo.com](mailto:dickathy41@yahoo.com) if you know of anyone who served aboard Diablo.



*Richard Wood*

7. TB Commander Galeaz thanked [Bob McApline](#) for the great job he has done recruiting for us. Round of applause for his efforts.
8. A discussion of what can be done to reach out to potential members. [Bob McApline](#) suggested placing recruiting posters in Kittery Trading Post, Albacore Park, Seabrook Station, and more.



*Thresher Base Recruiter  
Bob McApline*

9. Kevin has discussed and obtained approval for selling USS Thresher coins at Albacore Park to fund future annual USS Thresher memorial services with USS Thresher Family Member Coordinator Victoria Sallade and Albacore Park director John Maier.
10. Kevin will produce a brochure about Thresher Base for the USS Albacore Museum.
11. [Fred Pietrowski](#) described his book, "De Profundis, Out of the Depths" about his life on a diesel boat. Will be out in April and can be found on Amazon.
12. Have to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Class PO to qualify for Helmsman or Planesman anymore. (Name needed).

13. [Dave Webster](#) reported that sometime around the beginning of August, TM SubVets put on a Pig Roast down in Hopkington, RI. This is the 25th anniversary, all done on donations, always toward the first week of August. It is a week long event. Kevin will put it on Website and FB page as soon as the date has been selected. The URL for the Old Salts Pig Roast on Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Salts-Pig-Roast/150965204983645>



*Dave Webster*

14. [Gordon \(Red\) Wentzel](#) pointed out that when you do go aboard a nuke boat for a tour, you cannot go to the engineering spaces.



*Gordon (Red) Wentzel*



Chaplain [Al Page](#) gave Closing Prayer.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 1305.

#### Meeting Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Qual Boat</b>	<b>Base</b>
Tom Naleway	USS Croaker (SS-246)	Thresher
Herm Stolzenburg	USS Conger (SS-477)	Thresher
Jerry Shock	George Bancroft (SSBN-643)	Thresher
Ian Johnston	USS Sennet (SS-408)	Thresher
Steve Reichle	USS Sunfish (SSN-649)	Thresher/Groton
Fred Pietrowski	USS Angler (SS-240)	Thresher
Ralph Devoid	USS Halfbeak (SS-352)	Thresher
Al Page	USS Quillback (SS-424)	Thresher
Richard Wood	USS Diablo (SS-479)	Thresher
Gordon Wentzell	USS Dogfish (SS-350)	Thresher
Bob Flannery	USS Cod (SS-224)	Thresher
Peter Koester	USS Providence (SSN-719)	Marblehead
Charles Manes	USS Jack (SSN-605)	Thresher
Bill Seaward	USS Tench (SS-417)	Thresher
Dave Webster	USS Tinoso (SSN-606)	Thresher
Ed Storer	USS Conger (SS-477)	Thresher
John H. McArdle	USS Narwhal (SSN-671)	Thresher
Jim Garvey	USS Dace (SSN-607)	
Roy Gorman	USS Remora (SS-487)	Maine
John Starbird	USS Picuda (SS-382)	Maine
Bucky Walters	USS Porpoise (SS-172)	Maine
Perley Shover	USS Carbonero (SS-337)	Maine
Harlan Brown	USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN-635)	Maine
Frank Hood	USS Seahorse (SSN-669)	Thresher
John McCutchen		Maine
Rick Cecchetti	USS Sea Devil (SSN-664)	Thresher
Kevin Galeaz	USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659)	Thresher
Bob McAlpine	USS Tigrone (AGSS-419)	Thresher
Mike Badger	USS Tigrone (AGSS-419)	
Mike Lawson	USS Kamehameha (SSBN-642)	
George Tranchemontagne	USS Angler (SS-240)	Thresher