



Submariners Association of Canada (East)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 06 May 2025 at
Somme Branch Legion &
Via ZOOM Conference Meeting



The Monthly Meeting of SAOC(E) was held at the Somme Branch Legion, Dartmouth and via Zoom. Emails had been sent out and a posting made on Facebook Group to inform everyone that the meeting would commence at 1830 Halifax time so members could attend or connect.

Opening. The Vice President, Jeff Cameron brought the meeting to order (open up for dive) at about 18:34. Scotty Parsons the President is away on business. He greeted all and those connected via Zoom. You can get your own drinks tonight. He asked that if you go to the Bar please sign in.

Attendance. 26 members & 4 were connected via Zoom. Those attending were Doug Birch, Ron Butchart, Wayne Buzzard, George Byzewski, Jeff Cameron, Terry Chatham, William Cleal, Robert Clements, Brian Cooper, John Dunn, Keith Estabrooks, Robbie Fraser, Claude Gendron, John Gullion, Steve Higdon, Brian Lapierre, Matt Larkin, Andy Lovasi, John Madison, John Meehan, Jim Northrup, Sylvain Rouillard, JJ Surette. Boyd Thomas, Brum Tovey, & Nigel Walsworth. 4 connected via Zoom were Cliff Boettcher, Sherm Embree, Shaun MacDougall & George Roach. Regrets received from Anton Carter, Ron Cooper, Jim Harris, Marc Osmond, Scotty Parsons, Conrad Petrikowski, Willy Waugh, John White & Tim Wood. Guest attending was Eric Corbeil.

Vice President. The Vice President would like to welcome everybody to the meeting.

Health and Wellness. A moment of Silence was held to honour fallen and ailing brothers. Our thoughts and prayers to everyone.

Luc Rollin, Willie Waugh, Gary Hopkins, Jon Carpenter, Brian Lapierre, Gilles Poirier, Rob Braye, Lloyd Dyck, Brian Cooper, Joe Haddock, Jake Allen, Jim Gordon & Bill Medynski are all dealing with issues.

Jake Allen passed away on 23 April 2025. Jake served in all three Oberons and will be missed.

Robert MacNeill passed away on 02 May 2025. Served in Ojibwa and was the last Storesman recruited into Submarines.

There was a Celebration of Life for Ronald (Alvin) Carrier was held on 03 May 2025 in Salisbury, N.B.



Good turnout of SAOC(E) members and non members. Those attending were Gilles Poirier, Sylvain Rouillard, Brian Lapierre, Ray Beaudin, Terry Chatham, George Byzewski, Gord Hamilton, Brian Hills, Scotty Parsons, Geoff Mawdesley, Ernie Marcoux, JJ Surette, Pierre Bouchard & Bill Harris. JJ Surette recited a story about him and Alvin down south on a "run" which entertained the guests.

I was contacted by Neil Lake, a friend of the family of the late Robert "Dolly" Gray. They would like SAOC(E) to conduct a "Crossing of the Bar" Ceremony. No details as yet but probably will be held in June at RA Park here in Halifax.

For those who have passed away the Secretary does up their Obituary Profile and they are posted on www.forposterityssake.ca. They are also sent to Barrie Downer in the UK and they end up in the Barrow Newsletter as well.

Minutes. The 01 April 2025 MGM minutes were distributed by email. The minutes have been adopted. They have been adopted as read & distributed at the MGM. The minutes for the AGM will be adopted at next years AGM.

Correspondence In. Emails received from various Submarine Organizations Newsletters. They have been forwarded to the Membership for Info.

An email was received from Unseen Warriors Society which was forwarded to the membership.

Received an Email from Valerie Braunschweig about the new type of Newsletter. It is called "Run Silent". It is a shortened version now. She wants articles and dits to be published in the Newsletter. Her email is valerieanddick@telus.net.

Correspondence Out Nothing sent out other than letters to members who do not have email. Emails sent out for any correspondence received. Brian continues to write a quarterly report that he sends to Valerie for the West Coast Newsletter.

Letters were mailed out to members who do not have email.

The Secretary has a good contact in the UK. Barrie Downer sends me the latest edition from the Barrow Association. All Obituaries are sent to Barrie Downer so they can be published in the Barrow newsletter.

President. Absent.

Vice President. Thanks for everyone attending tonight's meeting.

Secretary. Brian Lapierre is recording the meeting and will transcribe it. Effective on the 21 April 2021 our mailing address is **73 Portovista Drive, Portuguese Cove, Nova Scotia. B3V 1P3**. 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. Brian stated that his dialogue with the Submarine Force has been good in trying to establish a good working relationship for obtaining information on the Submarine Force and on serving members. Ted Hirtle continues to support the Website and is making progress on it. There are still a few issues that have to be resolved with the website. Sylvain Rouillard is supporting Ted in this process. Ted is having issues with his health. With respect to the website this needs to be addressed.

The feeling at this time is that the Somme Branch Legion has treated us well and we will continue to hold our meetings here.

The Secretary continues to send out letters to those who do not have email.

The Secretary stated that he had sent emails to SAOC(W) and Central Presidents & Slops Chairman about us having Blazer and Beret Badges with absolutely no response from either.

Treasurer. Ron Cooper was not present for the meeting.

He did report send the following reports to be tabled.

Financial Report for 01 April 2025.

04 March 25 – Closing Balance - \$16,544.86.

03 March 25 – RBC Fee \$1.36, In Branch Cash Deposit Fee.

01 April 25 – RBC Fee \$3.75, Monthly Fee.

01 April 25 – Closing Balance \$16, 539.75.

Financial Report for 06 May 2025.

01 April 25 – Closing Balance \$16,539.75.

01 April 25 – Cheque #195 to Scott Parsons for \$426.97, Pizza x2, Zoom Account Fee.

01 May 25 – RBC Fee \$3.75, Monthl Fee.

06 May 25 – Deposit \$1106.00. Dues \$756.00, Slops \$95.00, 50/50 \$175.00, Blazer Badges \$80.00.

Balance for Blazer and Beret Badges (298.30) still in stock.

At next meeting need to approve the Budget for the AGM & BBQ in July.

We need to have in the minutes who had signing authority. They would be the President (Scott Parsons), Vice President (Jeff Cameron), Treasurer (Ron Cooper), Secretary (Brian Lapierre) & Entertainment Chairman (Brian Cooper).

Buster Brown would be proud.

Social. Brian Cooper. The Beer Call on the 15th of April at the Seamus David Pub was successful. The association will look at holding it at another venue in the fall. Cost was \$116.41 for the Beer Call. No outstanding issues. The Pizza fund collected at the meetings is going well. The next Beer Call will be in October. If anybody has any suggestions contact Brian Cooper. More in New Business.

The discussion was held about the AGM to be held on 18th of July. In discussion with John Dunn he stated that the Escape Tower, Snr Rates Mess in old MOG is available to be used to hold the AGM. The BBQ is still on at John & June Meehan's in Musquodoboit Harbour on the 19th of July. John Meehan has stated that he will need some assistance in setting up. More to follow. Brian Cooper stated that the price will increase in cost for the BBQ.

Slops. Claude Gendron is going to check with a supplier in getting perhaps Golf Shirts made. The cost will be about \$42.00 for the cost. Perhaps even hats. We should have some in stock. An email will be sent out to the Membership to see how many are interested in buying Golf Shirts. Black is color of choice. Claude did a muster, and he still has pins & stickers. We will wait until next month when the President is back.

Membership The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:

An email has been out on 08 April 2025 on the informing Members who had not paid for 2025 that their dues are due. Only two members are outstanding.

The Secretary has posted a notice on the Facebook Group canvassing for new members.

The latest Statistics for our Membership is as follows:

Life Members = 49

Regular Membership to date = 89

Total Members = Total 138

Welcome to New Member Joshua Davis.

Only one person outstanding in paying dues for 2025.

We now have four serving submariners in our Association. Matt Larkin, Reggie Simmons, Anton Carter & John Dunn.

06 May 2025 – \$109.25 is held by Secretary to be passed to Ron Cooper for dues & slops received.

Send Dues via E-Transfer to: lapo48@gmail.com

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

All members are reminded that if your dues are up to date then you will not receive any emails about not having paid your dues.

SAOC Central is preparing for their AGM in August of 2025. It will be held on 22 to 24th. Ojibwa Museum has obtained Sea Cans containers which they hope to have in place and have a Grand Opening of displayed items. The 60th Anniversary of Ojibwa is in September 2025.

Old Business. Scotty is still working on the By-Laws. Once our monthly meeting day has been finalized then the By-Laws will be amended to reflect the change.

It was mentioned at the April Meeting should we contribute to the Ojibwa Work Period to be held in June. At that time we deferred it to the May meeting. The question is should we contribute the Ojibwa Work Period. The question came up is the money if we contribute being used as to what it is intended?

Rum Project 2025 for the 60 Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa.

A meeting was held at 1000 on 22 April 2025 at Compass Distillers on Agricola Street in Halifax, N.S.

Brian Lapierre met with Graham Collins & Miranda Parker. The step forward is to supply Compass with JPG images to use on the label. SAOC's first approach is to use the HMCS Ojibwa Badge as the Primary with various other names & graphics. Brian Lapierre has provided Compass with a draft label and will send the JPEG images to Compass. Above the Badge it would say HMCS Ojibwa, 60th Anniversary Rum.

Follow up – All the graphics has been supplied to Compass and they are working on the label design.

Included in the discussions were:

1. The product will be a Navy Dark Rum, 40%.
2. Each bottle will be 750ml.
3. The label is approximately 3.75" Wide x 4" High.
4. Proposed order is 600 Bottles. This can be amended up or down.
5. Proposed delivery date is 15 July 2025.
6. Price per bottle is \$48.00 taxes included. Agreed upon at the meeting that SAOC East will receive back \$2.00 for every bottle sold.
7. Will be available online at Compass Distillers from 15 July to 15 August 2025.
8. The production is handled by Compass Distillers, all NSLC concerns are also handled by Compass.
9. Order online with a code and you get the preferred price. Compass also does shipping for a minimal price. More details to follow.
10. The designated Promo Code for this Project will be Ojibwa72
11. Decision to be made by SAOC by early May 2025 for go ahead.
12. Upon completion SAOC would purchase the remaining Rum.

A motion was made by Bill Cleal to proceed with the Rum Project, Seconded by George Roach. Approved.

New Business. Andy Lovasi brought in the Wood burning projects that is completed over the winter in Florida.

Both look excellent. The one project is for the Somme Branch Legion and the other will be raffled off at the BBQ.

In SAOC(E) one of the items that keeps us focused is Anniversary dates of significance. One of these dates is the 60th Anniversary of HMCS Ojibwa on 23 September 2025.

Battle of the Atlantic was carried out on 04 May 2025 at Point Pleasant Park with Brian Lapierre & Sherm Embree laying the wreath. Upon completion we went to RCNA Peregrine for up spirits.

Central is planning on getting a coin made for Ojibwa's 60th. I sent a picture to Pierre Bouchard as they were looking for a picture of Ojibwa Commissioning.

Scotty Parsons mentioned in an email that the Babcock event held for Keith "Red" Lavers.

Discussion was held about the AGM on the 18 of July. John Dunn stated that the Escape Tower renovations was going well. It was suggested we hold the AGM at MOG 5 (for lack of a better term). Mack Larkin said they probably could get a driver to drive people in through the gate. It would not be a Pot Luck so like last year Pizza would be ordered. The Galley is shutdown in MOG 5. All is required a list of SAOC East individuals who will be attending. Only the Membership List is required. Send to John Dunn no later than 01 July 2025.

John Dunn mentioned that on the 20 June 2025 will be conducting an Up Spirits event at MOG 5. This is to celebrate the birthday of HRH Prince William on the 21st of June. He has invited up to 10 Members of SAOC(E) to attend this function. The Secretary will deal with John Dunn about this.

Blazer & Beret Badges. The remaining Blazer & Beret badges have been turned over to Claude for Slops inventory. Brian has 13 Blazer & 12 Beret Badges if someone orders he can fill the order. The Blazer Badge is now on sale for \$23.00 and the Beret Badge is now on sale for \$17.00. This includes Shipping and Handling. The Secretary is still being contacted about sales.



Around the Room. Brum Tovey asked seeing that we have Serving Members in the Association as to why we couldn't have a function at MOG 5. Matt Larkin mentioned the fact that they had a function a few weeks ago with only 15 Serving submariners in attendance. Most of the Submariners have been sent to the West Coast to support the Submarines in Esquimalt. He mentioned there wouldn't be anybody to attend.

50/50 Draw. Won by Doug Birch. \$60.00 to winner, \$60.00 to SAOC.

Submariners Prayer. Was read by Doug Birch.

Adjournment. There being no further business, it was moved by Robbie Fraser and seconded by Claude

Gendron to adjourn the meeting at 1930 hrs. **Carried.**

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at Somme Branch Legion on Tuesday 03 June 2025 at 1830.

Pizza tonight downstairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Parsons

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Parsons', written below the printed name.

Brian Lapierre

Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Brian Lapierre', written below the printed name.