

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the August 2014 meeting was 91.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in August was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: MM1(SS) Troy Gallant, Qual Boat: USS Grayling SSN 646; MS1(SS) Greg Spanbauer, Qual Boat: USS Sturgeon SSN 637 and FTC(SS) Michael Brown, Qual Boat: USS Pennsylvania SSBN 735.

Secretary: Base Secretary Rick Wise reported that the July meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Treasurer/Newsletter: Base Treasurer Steve Morawiec gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List.

Steve will be relieved as Newsletter Editor by George Fuchs.

The July electronic newsletter has been sent out. The mailing will go out on soon.

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 337 members of Charleston Base. He asked that if any members had changes to e-mail or snail mail addresses to please let him know.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

August Report

Highlighted boats of the month:

- While on her 3rd war patrol 72 years ago today, USS S-39 SS144 was lost without loss of life after grounding on submerged rocks off Rossel Island, Papua New Guinea. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba. The S-39 was abandoned and left to "break up" on the rocks.
- While on her 2nd war patrol 72 years ago yesterday, USS FLIER SS250 was lost with the loss of 78 crew members. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.

READ CARD FROM MARIA LUISA GULICK

- **Mike Bailey** is undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer.
- **Gary Williams (aka GW)** is having some problems with his my right foot causing him to fall a lot. He will be having surgery on his back to correct some problems with the nerve to his foot.
- **Steve Everett** recently had a heart attack and had a stent put in. He was in Trident for about a week down the hall from Frenchy. He wanted me to be sure to tell you QUOTE: I love you guys! UNQUOTE
- **Frenchy Fuqua** had a massive stroke a week ago Sunday, was taken to Trident ER and is now in room 301. He is sleeping a lot and is unresponsive. I will let you know when there is more information. He can have visitors but at present can't talk to you. He is in good spirits. Barbara says he should be moved to a rehab facility within a week or so.
 - **NOTE:** one of our newest members, AJ Tassarotti visited with Frenchy and says that he got a smile out of him. Barbara told him that Frenchy was giving the speech therapist a hard time and AJ called him a typical bubble head.
- **Don Londergan** has had an operation to remove a cancerous tumor on his bladder and is undergoing chemo. He will have some more surgery soon. He seems to be doing well and has a positive attitude.
- **Clyde Peters** is still in Mt. Pleasant Manor Nursing Home, 921 Bowman Rd, rm 323. Visitors would be appreciated. His memory and abilities are getting worse.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Website is updated constantly.

Public Affairs Officer (PAO): Base Commander Ed Stank reported that the PAO position is open and he will fill in as PAO until a member volunteers for the position.

Veterans Affairs: No report.

Storekeeper: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison reported that the 2015 calendars should be available at the October meeting. This year the calendars will feature attack submarines.

FRA: Larry Cox told the base that the FRA was holding an indoor picnic on Labor Day, September 1, 2014. There is no charge for FRA members. There will be a drawing for the rocking chair on display in the bar area. Buy ticket and support the FRA Auxiliary.

Holland Club: Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh had no report.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Swamp Fox President George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, August 21 at 1200 at Ryan's in Summerville. Arrive by 1130 for choice seating.

George also reported that the Associate Members dues he currently have been reduced to \$10/year. Annual dues are due at the next meeting.

Clamagore Restoration and Maintenance Association (CRAMA): Rick Wise reported that CRAMA has been in contact with Friends of the Clamagore (the east Tennessee group that wants to move the Clamagore to Knoxville, TN). There is a loose agreement to work together to save the Clamagore and to determine where it will go following the required dry docking and maintenance.

The Save the Clamagore website is up!

Recreation Committee: Charlie Hudson reported that the Butt Roast is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at the Cooper Rivers Partners facility at Bushy Park. The decision has not been made on whether will be catered.

The Christmas party will be held at the Red Bank Club on December 13.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson related the following continuing from last month:

On understanding Engineers:

1: Nuclear Logic

- a. A cat will always land on its feet if dropped.
- b. A slice of buttered bread will always land with the buttered side down if dropped.
- c. If you strap your buttered bread to your cat with the buttered side up and neither will ever land if dropped!

2. Nuclear Fact

a. If a Naval Nuclear Power student fails out of Nuc School he either becomes an Auxiliaryman or a restaurateur.

b. How can you say that?!

c. If you go in to Summerville and go to the Azalea Square Shopping Center you will see a restaurant named Newk's. (Hey! No one ever said they could spell!)

Life is like a penis. When you're relaxed it's hanging loose and free. It's women that make it hard.

An Engineer's dilemma: If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one, what do you call it?!!!

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base of the After Battery in Dorchester, SC. The website with a map and information is www.theafterbattery.com .

District Commander: District Commander Paul Viering reminded the base of the WWII Memorial Service to be held at King's Bay, November 5 -9. Applications area available on our website (www.uusvi-cb.org) and must be submitted by October 31.

Steve Morawiec pointed out that if you wanted to drive down and attend the Memorial Service at 1000 on Friday, November 7, there is no charge or need to register. And that includes the tour of the Trident Training Facility afterward.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger reported that we will be getting the float back, on the old trailer, and we will have to change out some tires and do some cleaning and touchup painting. He will put out a call for a working party when needed.

He asked for people to help out with the Butt Roast if we decide to do it ourselves.

Base Commander: Base Commander Ed Stank talked about his meeting with the Charleston Navy League and the possibility of the base doing some work to keep up the Cold War Submarine Memorial.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The Base Treasurer made a motion to sell shares to trim the investment fund to a set amount. The motion was seconded. After extensive discussion the motion was made to call the motion. The call was seconded and passed on a show of hands. The initial motion then failed on a show of hands.

Good of the Order: George Fuchs told the base that any man who ever smoked or used tobacco is susceptible to a weakening of the aorta which can lead to an aortic aneurism. It can be checked by use of an ultrasound.

Rodney McKanna asked members to bring new packaged underwear to the September to donate to the Undies 500, a drive for homeless veterans.

Robert "Beetle" Bailey gave instruction on the proper way to salute.

Rick Wise told the base that Saturday, August 16th will be Lee Allison's 88th birthday. He brought a card to the meeting for members to sign.

Charlie Hudson brought a card for members of the base to sign and send to Gary Williams on his upcoming surgery.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Jim Williams. He donated \$100 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2033.