

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the September 2014 meeting was 108.

**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 September 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:** There two guests at the meeting but I have no information on them.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Base Commander Ed Stank gave a Treasurer's report since Base Treasurer Steve Morawiec was in the VA Hospital. Since he was not sure if the minutes from the August Base Meeting had been published no motion was made on those minutes.

**Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman:** Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 336 members of Charleston Base. He reminded members that 2015 dues are to be paid starting 1 October. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. If you cannot pay your dues please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

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

### September Report

#### Highlighted boat of the month:

CISCO departed on her 1st war patrol, but never returned. Japanese records tell of sighting a submarine leaking oil in the area where the Cisco was known to have been on duty. Japanese records state she was sunk by bombs and depth charges with the loss of 76 men.

- **LT(SS) Clyde V. Peters** departed on EP on 22 August. His service was held with over 70 SUBVETS attending. Sue was very appreciative of the great turnout.
- **SKCS(SS) Denny Keane** departed on EP on 31 August. His service was held this past Saturday. Charleston Base did not participate due to many of people being out of area or already having commitments for that day. During the October

Holland Club presentation, Denny will be inducted and we will then have our Bell Tolling Service with presentations to his daughters.

- **Steve Everett** is back in the VA Hospital. More chest pain, waiting right now (3 PM) for a CAT scan. He went to the CPO breakfast this morning and went down from there. Will know more when the diagnostics are complete.
- **Steve Morawiec** had a mitral heart valve repair on Monday. Margie says he is doing well. He has to stay in the ICU for a couple of more days and then go to a ward. Once there he can have visitors. She is going to let me know when this happens.
- **Joe Hayes** had a heart valve replacement today at Roper Hospital. Betty called around 3pm to let me know the surgery went well and Joe is doing fine. He will be in ICU for at least two days. When he moved to a room she'll let me know so he can have visitors.
- **Don Meadows** is in the VA hospital with a growth on his neck. Doctors are afraid that if they cut it, cancer may spread further in his body. He would love to have visitors and is in ward B4 bed 20.
- **Gary Williams (aka GW)** had back surgery on 18 August. He has had some rough time in the last several weeks. I saw him at the clinic yesterday and he said he is really missing everyone and hopes to get back soon.
- **"Frenchy" Fuqua** is doing better. He is in Health South Rehab and Barbara tells me that he's had many visitors from the base. She also told me the doctors are talking about letting him go home on the 19<sup>th</sup> if things continue going like they are.
- **Ronnie Kerstetter's** father passed away in PA on 5 September.
- **Glenn Fleming** has completed his second chemo. He has one more treatment in 3 weeks and then another scan to see how good it's working. No visitors unless they wear a face mask and he can't go out in crowds without a mask. He says to give all his shipmates a big hello.
- **Abe Jenkins** gave us a scare but is doing better now.
- **Anna Emerson**, Mike's wife, fell while on their trip and broke her ankle. She had to stay in W. VA for longer than expected but is home now.
- **Gary Semler's** cremains are onboard the USS Newport News for burial at sea. Some of the members said tonight that the burial had been completed.
- **Ken Curtis** has recovered from his bout with walking pneumonia. Says it wasn't high on his list to have again.
- **Charles Wood** had surgery on his neck 21 July and is doing well.
- **Art Hance will be going into Roper on Friday 19 September for a heart procedure.**
- **Colleen**, one of the cooks at the FRA, fell before the meeting started and broke her arm and knee.

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.

## **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

- Website is updated constantly.

**Public Affairs Officer (PAO):** Base Commander Ed Stank reported Tom Clark has taken the position as PAO. Tom had no report.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis reported that the Mobile Service Office van will be at the Publix parking lot on St. James Avenue in Goose Creek on Thursday, October 9 from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be two national service officers to help answer your questions on submitted claims.

**Storekeeper:** Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison reported that the 2015 calendars are available for \$9 each. This year the calendars features attack submarines.

**FRA:** Larry Cox told the base that the FRA was holding another Old Time Navy Breakfast on Sunday, September 21 from 0900 to 1130.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** Swamp Fox President George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, October 16 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 and are now due.

**Recreation Committee:** Gary Williams reported that the Butt Roast is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at the Cooper Rivers Partners facility at Bushy Park. The charge is \$5/person.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson related the following report:

One afternoon a retired submarine officer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass.

Disturbed he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."

Well, then come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the bubblehead said.

"But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there under that tree."

"Bring them along," he replied.

Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You can come with us, also."

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and six children with me."

Bring them all, as well," The bubblehead answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even with a car as large as the limousine.

Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the bubblehead and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The bubblehead replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really like my place. The grass is almost a foot high!"

**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](http://www.theafterbattery.com) .

**District Commander:** District Commander Paul Viering congratulated Charleston Base for having more members voting in the National Election than any other USSVI base. The results of the National Election are as follows:

National Commander – Al Singleman, Senior Vice Commander – John Markiewicz, Junior Vice-Commander – Bill Andrea, Secretary – Ray Wewers, Treasurer – Paul Hiser, SE Regional Director – Dick Kanning.

All of the amendments passed.

Charleston Base received the award for the best newsletter of large bases.

Base member Thom Beach won the Silver Anchor award.

He also 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](http://www.uusvi-cb.org)) and must be submitted by October 31.

**Chief of the Boat:** Rick Sparger reported that we will be picking up the float Friday, September 12. It will be stored at Terry Trump's house in Summerville. He will send out a call for a working party to get the float parade ready when it's cooler.

He also asked for volunteers to help with the Butt Roast.

He turned over a supply skivvies to turn over to Rodney McKenna for the Undies 500 drive.

**Base Commander:** Base Commander reminded the base that the Christmas party will be held at the Red Bank Club on December 13.

He announced the Navy Birthday Ball will be held October 10 at the Marriot Hotel on Lockwood Blvd., Charleston. Information is available at [www.charlestonnavyball.org](http://www.charlestonnavyball.org) .

Ed also presented the Silver Anchor Award to Thom Beach. He also showed the award for best large base newsletter.

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, DC on Oct. 4-5.

**Old Business:** Gordon Long is still looking for members of a barbershop quartet.

**New Business:** Base Member Jim Lewis made a motion to donate \$250 to the Victory House for their canteen. After some discussion the motion was amended to donate \$250 to the Victory House for use of the veterans. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. A motion was made by Jim Lewis to make the donation annually. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Base Member Rusty Pickett discussed the restoration of the Cold War Submarine Memorial. Rusty made a motion for Charleston Base donate no more than \$475 to the restoration. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**Good of the Order:** Base Member Jeff Reuer announced he is running for Berkeley County School District 4.

**Depth Charge:** The depth charge was won by Jim Higgins. He donated \$200 to the Scholarship Fund.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2013.