

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the February 2015 meeting was 96.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1902. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in February 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 men introduced themselves at the meeting: PN1(SS) Larry Tarzwell, Qual Boat: USS James Monroe SSBN 622; MM2(SS) John Sealander, Qual Boat: USS Trigger SS 564; MTC(SS) Steve Kellar, Qual Boat: USS Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617; YN1(SS) Jon Bieniek YN1(SS), Qual Boat: USS Cheyenne SSN 773.

Secretary: Acting Base Secretary Rick Wise called for a motion on the January Base Meeting minutes. Nick Nichols made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer: Base Treasures Steve Morawiec gave a report on the base finances. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org .

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are now 317 members of Charleston Base. He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, www.ussvicb.org .

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

February Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

SHARK 1 was lost on Feb. 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. SHARK 1 was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

- **EM3(SS) James E. Walker**, Summerville, a WWII Submariner, departed on Eternal Patrol on Mon. 2 Feb. He was not a member of USSVI. James qualified on PIKE (SS 173) in 1944 and served on Thornback (SS 418) and CUSK

(SS/SSG/AGSS 348). His funeral service was held this past Monday. Base member Ralph Luther sent me this info on Friday evening but I did not pick up the email until late on Monday. I apologize for not getting the word out to everyone.

- **MOMMFN(SS) Robert A. Barber Sr.**, Newberry SC, a WWII Submariner, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sun. 1 Feb. He was not a member of USSVI. Robert qualified on COCHINO (SS 345) at the end of WWII.
- **ETCS(SS) David Carr**, Johns Island SC, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sat. 31 Jan. He was not a member of USSVI. Received the following from Tom Lufkin:
 - Went to the funeral service at the Shrine Temple. Rodney was also there and we both had on our Vests so lots of people came up and talked with us. The service was very nice and the Masons did their works. I did not know that Dave has a brother who is a Captain on active duty in the US Navy and is submarine qualified. He is currently stationed at the Naval Academy. Dave's wife thanked us for coming and made the statement "Dave always wanted to come and join USSVI Chas Base but he just never got around to it. I used to send him meeting notices each month but he never did make it. Anyway we were there and his wife and daughters appreciated it.
- **MMCM(SS) Paul Frederick Popik, Summerville, departed on Eternal Patrol Sat. 17 Jan.** He was not a member of USSVI. Paul qualified on SENNET (SS 408) in 1962 and served on THOMAS A. EDISON (SSBN/SSN 610).
- **TMCM(SS) Alfred J. Burrill, Jr.**, U.S. Navy (Ret), departed on Eternal Patrol Tue. 13 Jan. Al qualified on Corporal (SS 346) in 1950 and served on Balao (SS 285), Trumpetfish (S 424), Turk (SS 426) and Henry Clay (SSBN 625). He was a member of the Drum base.
- **EMCM(SS) Jesse Lowman**, brother of base member Jim Lowman, departed on Eternal Patrol Fri. 16 Jan. He was not a member but was stationed in Charleston for a number of years with his last tour at Group Six staff.
- **Glenn Fleming** is at home with hospice. Had a chance to talk to Glenn and Joyce on the way to the meeting. Today was a good day for him. He would really like some phone calls and visits if possible. He is a little hard to understand on the phone but if you listen close you can make out most of it. Joyce will need some help at some time in the near future when she must go for an appointment.
- **Jim Yates** had emergency surgery at MUSC at the end of January. He's had a lot of problems but Carol just told us he has been more alert lately. There is hope that the ventilator can be removed soon. Still in ICU, no idea when he can go to a private room. He is out of septic shock but continues with the infection and slight fever. Keep up the prayers please. Carol has asked the SUBVETS **NOT TO RECEIVE PHONE CALLS, TEXTS or EMAILS** at the present time. She will let me know of any changes in Jim's status and I will pass the information to the base members. Please remember Jim, and Carol, in your prayers and thoughts during this time.
- **Gene Weir** is not here tonight due to the recurrence of his lymphoma. He starts chemo this week and will be getting monthly treatments. I am feeling good and spirits are high. He asked that I pass it on to everyone.

- **Doc Hill** has informed me that he has been diagnosed with cancer in his right lung. He has two small spots that will be treated with radiation only. He laughed as he told me that he has beat prostate cancer and bladder cancer, has bone cancer and lung cancer and the only part of his body that hurts is his back where he had a drain for his kidney. That spot has healed but it still gives him fits. Wants everyone to know that he could use some company and/or phone calls. He misses being here with his shipmates.
- **Fred Woodley** had another bout of the Shingles. They came out on his back from his spine to shoulder blades on both sides. It is better now and he's back at work. His comment: "Get the shot if your doctor says you can."
- **Bob & Norma Deschaine** would like to thank everyone for helping them. Ray Bryant took Norma to the hospital for her knee surgery, took Bob to the Sub Vets meeting last month and he also took him to see Norma in the hospital. Jim Boggs also checked on Bob during the time Norma was away from home.
- **Bob Hubert** let me know that he had his first post-surgery checkup and they removed stiches and staples plus X-Ray. Looks good so far. He is recovering at home and will have monthly XRays.
- **Sonny Rash** had major surgery at the VA repair an aortic aneurysm. He came through the surgery very well and is now home recovering and doing PT.
- **Marvin Miller** broke his ankle at the end of Dec. and had surgery on it on Jan. 14th. He is home recovering.
- **Lee Young** is doing well now that the blockages in his heart have been taken care of. He reports that his blood pressure is normal and he feels great!
- **Frenchy Fuqua** continues to recover from his stroke.
- **Anne Snyder**, Ron's wife, will be having knee surgery on 19 February.

Several 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. The Charleston Base website is www.ussvicb.org .

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor George Fuchs asked if someone would help in printing and mailing out the Base Newsletter to those people who do not have e-mail addresses.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis reported that work on the new parking facility for the Ralph Johnson VA Hospital should start in March.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA Valentine's Day show for Saturday, February 14 was sold out as far as seats in the Ballroom. There was Standing Room Only available in the bar.

There is a membership drive underway that will end on February 28. Look into it because it can save you some money.

The two-bell ceremony for Shipmate Gary Sorenson on Sunday February 15.

Submarine Veterans of World War II/Scholarship Committee: Swamp Fox President George Scharf asked if anyone knew a good automobile mechanic in the Hanahan area that did not over charge please contact WWII Submarine Veteran Walt Curtis.

The next Swamp Fox meeting will be at the Golden Corral near Tanger Outlets at 2468 Centre Pointe Drive, North Charleston. Tell the cashier that you are with the SubVets group and get your drinks. Mike Emerson will collect \$12.00 each for the meal and tip and write a check when we leave.

The Scholarship Chairman is looking into holding a Car Show to raise money for the Scholarship Fund.

Ed Stank pointed out that the Base Storekeeper has Charleston Base Challenge Coins for sale with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund and that the Base has a Store on the Charleston Base Website (www.ussvicb.org) to sell donated items with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

Storekeeper/Election Coordinator: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that he still has Challenge Coins for sale. As Election Coordinator he reported that the election this May is for Base Commander and Base Treasurer. Both incumbents are not running. So far the only candidate is Rick Wise running for Base Commander.

CRAMA: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar reported that CRAMA had received assurances from the Coast Guard that Clamagore could only be moved to Florida on another ship or a barge. CRAMA will continue to seek support in the state legislature to have Clamagore turned over to CRAMA. He also pointed out that this is a new year and that we need members. The membership fee is \$20.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

I have been informed that Congratulations are in order for the Charleston Base Auxillarymen (MM's). Or so they think! It seems that there are now more Auxillarymen in our midst than The Exalted Torpedomen.

In Honor of this The Secretary of the Navy have bestowed the new name on the SSN 795 USS Hyman G. Rickover.

I have to assume that in order to achieve this great number they must be adding Nuclear Trained MM's. But what am I thinking...The Auxillarymen were once Nuclear trained , they were just the Non-Accredited one.

This revelation should be evident seeing that there are no longer any TM's in the Navy.

Those that are now performing that duty are Machinist mate Weapons . They have to wear the "Screw" on their sleeve as a reminder of what happened to them. If you ask them what they are they will tell you "TM's".

Why is that surprising to anyone ? Didn't you ever hear the Term " Creeping Nucism".

What is a Nuc School Dropout? An Auxillaryman !

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY!!!!!!!

A Senior Machinist Mate Instructor did a Class Brief at "A" school to see who wants to become a "Torpedoman" and who wants to become an "A-Ganger". Each student would write down which one they want as a First Choice and a brief description of why. So the 1st. sailor wrote... Torpedoman. His reason was , I want to be a Torpedoman because I'd rather tell the Ladies...I work on and Fire Large Weapons rather than " I fix toilets on a submarine!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

I've accidentally swallowed some Scrabble tiles. My next crap could spell "DISASTER".

Last year I joined a support group for PROCRASTINATORS. We haven't met yet!

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base that the Annual After Battery Hog Roast will be on Saturday April 11. People will start arriving on Sunday April 5. This is also the birthday of the US Submarine Force so the theme is "Going Down for 115 years." The After Battery has a website, www.theafterbattery.com .

Chief of the Boat: COB Rick Sparger reported that strengthening of the Float trailer would begin shortly and that there would be a working party to get it ready for welding on Monday, February 16.

The combined Charleston Base – FRA Picnic will be Saturday, May 16 at the Cooper River Partners Picnic Area at Bushy Park. More information will be put out later.

Rick reported that he had 17 volunteers for the Hunley – Houatonic Memorial Service on Tuesday, February 17 at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivans Island, SC.

Rick also reminded the base that the Navy Band will be performing on 9 March at 6:30 pm the Rose Marie Myers Theater at the Academic Magnet School off Montague Avenue.

Rick also reported that the new signs that Charleston Base helped pay for were now up at the Cold War Submarine Memorial in Mt. Pleasant.

Base Commander: Ed Stank told the base that he will be making a trip to the Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro on Tuesday, February 17. He will leave from the VFW on Bellwright Road in Ladson at 1000. If you would like to go give Ed your name so he can let the Victory House know since they want the group to have lunch with the veterans. Ed plans to keep doing this on the Tuesday following base meetings.

The Submarine Birthday Ball will be on April 10 at the Charleston Marriot Hotel. The tentative cost is \$25 a ticket with WWII SubVets and their spouses free. More information will be available later.

Charleston Base has been invited to the Massing of the Colors at the Citadel on 8 March. More will be sent out later.

The Submarine Birthday – Amberjack Memorial Service will be held at 1000 on Saturday, April 11 at the Cold War Submarine Memorial in Mt. Pleasant, SC. More information will follow.

The information on the Admiral James B. Osborne Scholarship and the USSVI National Scholarship program are located on the Charleston Base website. Applications must be submitted by 15 March for the USSVI Scholarship and 15 April for the Admiral James B. Osborne Scholarship.

Acting Base Secretary Rick Wise will be sending out the By-Law changes that were submitted by the By-Laws review committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Please read the changes and be prepared to discuss and vote on the changes at the March meeting. If you have a change you would like made to the By-Laws you may bring it up at the March meeting but be sure of how you want the change worded.

Old Business: It is time to submit nominations for the Distinguished Submariner Award. The form is on the base website. This is for what the nominee has done for the base and there is no timeframe limit. The form is on-line and needs to be submitted by the Board of Directors Meeting on April 2.

New Business: Base Chaplain Nick Nichols talked about a Shipmate Contact Program he was trying to start so that members of the base were contacted monthly. The

program is entirely voluntary. He is asking members to contact 4 other members each month. If you find that a base member has a problem and they give their permission send an e-mail or call Nick

Good of the Order: Base Member Gordon Long talked about the Singing Valentines that the Barber Shop Groups do every year. The cost is \$50.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by A. B. Campbell. A. B. made a donation of \$150 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2020.