

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the April 2015 meeting was 111.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1901. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and Tolling of the Boats lost in April was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Rick Sparger. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Changing of the Guard: Base Commander Ed Stank announced that due to health reasons Don Mook has stepped down as Vice Commander. Rick Sparger was appointed as new vice commander. This left the Chief of the Boat position open that was filled by our ships storekeeper Ken Hutchison. Ken's Storekeeper position was filled by A.J. Tassarotti.

Holland Club Induction: Ed Stank introduced Holland Club Chairman Bill Frelich. Bill explained the meaning of the Holland Club and read the certificates that would be presented to each of the inductees. With the aid of Ed Stank and base member Charlie Hudson, Bill presented the certificates to Hugh Andrews, David H. Clark, Dennis W. Fuqua, Charles E. Gravley, William E Hall, Edgel C. Hash, Robert Ingebretson, Larry M. Knutson, John P. Meyenberg, Cecil F. Rash, Roy Robertson, Ralph Rohrssen, Lawrence Rosselot, William A. Roup, George Scharf, John Sealander, Richard K. Sparger, Leroy Werley, and David Wood.

Following the presentations photographs were taken to be posted on the base website www.ussvicb.org. The guests were thanked for attending and the asked to leave so that a short business meeting could be held.

After the guest left the meeting continued.

Base Commander: Ed Stank Introduced Paul Viering to present the Distinguished Submariner Award for Charleston Base to our Chief of the Boat turned Vice Commander TMC/SS Rick Sparger

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: TMC(SS) Mickey Davidson, Qual Boat USS Tusk SS 426. Mickey is a Holland Club member from the Groton base. MMCM(SS) Robert Williams, Qual Boat USS Threadfin SS 410. CPO FC Terry Chatham HMCS Ojibwa S72. Seth Goodwin (Paul Viering's Nephew) who has volunteered to go in the US Navy and will be in Great Lakes for "A" school then off to Groton for Sub School. His rate will be ET. ETC(SS) John Meyenberg, Qual Boat USS Darter SS 576. FT1(SS) Dennis Dowling, Qual Boat USS Parche SSN 683. STS1(SS) Bill Ramey, Qual Boat USS Parche SSN 683. EN2(SS) Ray Williams, Qual Boat USS Bagara SS 331. TMCM(SS) Lucky Logan USS Pollack SSN 603.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the corrected March meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Ronnie Kerstetter made a motion to approve the corrected March 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.

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

Chaplain's April Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

70 years ago yesterday, April 8, 1945, 84 officers and men lost their lives when **USS SNOOK (SS-279)** was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk.

- **MSCM(SS) Dutch Wieland departed on Eternal Patrol March 23rd.** His memorial service was held on March 28th with several of our base members attending.
- **MMCM(SS) Glenn Fleming departed on Eternal Patrol March 30th.** His funeral service was held on April 4th with several of our base members attending.
- **ICCS(SS) Mike Mulkey departed on Eternal Patrol March 25th.** He was not a member of Charleston Base. His memorial service was held on March 30th.
- **SKCM(SS) Dom Bellon departed on Eternal Patrol March 31st.** He was not a member of Charleston Base. His funeral mass was held on April 7th.
- **Lynn Cousino, Mike's wife**, has been diagnosed with liver cancer and has been undergoing chemo since last September. She has hit a plateau so her treatments have to change to something more aggressive. She is keeping a very positive attitude through everything that is happening.
- **David Sarri** was in MUSC last month with pneumonia. He is home and doing much better.
- **Bob Turner** had rotator cuff surgery but I have not heard how he is doing.
- **Mike Knaub's** ankle is not doing well. He had to go to the ER with a blood sugar lever of 500.
- **David Knaub, Mike's son**, is back in the hospital. If you remember he had a double-lung transplant.
- **Richard Cox** who was at the March meeting had knee surgery on Tuesday and is having a rough time with rehab.
- **Abe Jenkins** would like to see some visitors. Mike Emerson, Theron Irving and Roger Gibson visited him 2 days in a row...first visit he was good but the second day was not so good.
- **Benjamin Neufeld** was born on April 2nd. He was 7 lbs, 9 oz. Parents are Wayne & Erica Neufeld.

I have not heard much from anyone about the SCP but want you to know that we still need to be checking on our shipmates. As a refresher the SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) is a program to make contacts with our base members each month. I'm asking you to:

- Take a look at the Sailing List and contact at least 4 shipmates during this coming month (1 per week).
- Contact can be by email but phone is preferred
- Contact someone outside your table of friends; someone you don't see at the meeting.
- Make no reports unless you feel there's something I need to know about.

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.

Storekeeper/Election Coordinator: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison reported as Election Coordinator he reported he has two nominations for Base Commander and Treasurer. Both are running unopposed. Rick Wise has been nominated as Base Commander and Mike Welch for Base Treasurer. Ken pointed out that A.J. Tassarotti is replacing Ken as the Ships Storekeeper.

FRA: The Red Ticket Drawing was won by George Scharf. Two Steak Dinners.

CRAMA: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar announced that a meeting took place today 9 April with SC State Representative Joe Daning concerning the preservation of the Clamagore. The three points discussed were Mr. Daning finding land for the Clamagore; second a meeting with Mr Daning and Mayor Keith Sumney talking about a guaranteed spot for it; and third Joe Daning talking to the finance director of the state to allocate a million dollars to aid in this whole process. Butch stated that the boat is not going anywhere! He will keep us informed.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

Have you heard about the new Homeless Shelter here in Charleston?

It's called "ONE EIGHTY PLACE". It's a pretty tricky name for Homeless Veterans. To make the Vets feel at home, the place is just like we started our military careers.....It is a large "Open Bay Barracks", only they don't have any lockers. After thinking about who could have designed this place..... I finally figured it out..... CIVIL ENGINEERS!

One of our Nuclear trained members had a desire to go cross country on a train. He purchased his ticket for a sleeper room. This turned into a memorable vacation and a short but beautiful love story.....

A man and women who had never met before, but who were both married to other people, found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a Transcontinental Train.

Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing a room, they were both very tired and fell asleep quickly, He in the upper berth and she in the lower.

At 0100, the man leaned down and gently woke the woman saying, Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but would you be willing to reach into the closet to get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold.

"I have a better idea", she replied. Just for tonight, let's pretend that we're married. "Wow that's a great idea!" he exclaimed. "Good," she replied. "Get your own blanket". After a moment he farted.

Little David: Base Member Rick Wise, reported that a working party of six members will be needed on the 17th and 18th of April or the 24th and 25th. There are boards that need to be replaced and painted.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger stated that the small podium is missing.

He wanted to let everyone know that from now on we need at least 3 people to fold flags at the funeral ceremonies. If you would like to be a Flag Folder at funerals see Mike Emerson after the meeting.

The WWII Meeting on the 16th of April is at 1400.

Terry Chatham from the Canadian Submarine Veterans got up to thank us for all our Hospitality.

Base Commander: Reported that the Hog roast is Saturday 11 April 1400. A good time will be had by all.

Friday is the Submarine Birthday Ball at the Charleston Marriot we still have two tickets.
The Amberjack memorial ceremony is Saturday April 11 at 1000

Old Business: We are returning to participating in parades using the old float trailer. After we replace one tire the float will be towed in local parades with speed limits on towing to and from events.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: The Base Commander of the Kings Bay Chapter Sean Ferrell announced that there will be a WWII tolling of the Bell ceremony the first Friday of November. They pay all expenses with exception of lodging and transportation. Details to follow.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Bob Langley who contributed \$100.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Vice-Commander adjourned the meeting at 2017.