

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the May 2015 meeting was 99.

**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 Tolling of the Boats lost in May 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. Introduction of Poet Laureate: Ed Introduced Jack Smith they met at the H.L. Hunley Memorial ceremony. Ed brought the women back in so they could listen to Jack. He gave a splendid performance.

**Introductions:** The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: RM1(SS) Tim Clutters, Qual Boat: USS Henry Clay SSBN 625; MMCS (SS) James (OX) Oxendine, Qual Boat USS Maryland SSBN 738; EMCM (SS) James J. Fortier, Qual Boat Patrick Henry SSBN 599, MMCM (SS) Robert Williams USS Threadfin SS-410; MTC (SS) Dave Szeszko. Qual Boat USS Will Rogers SSBN 659.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the April meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Butch Bryar made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ken Hutchison and carried on a voice vote.

**Treasurer:** 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.

**Membership:** Ed is our new Membership Chairman and he reported we now have 323 members. If you change your e-mail address please let the base know. You can send the information to the Membership Chairman, the COB, the Chaplain or the Base Secretary and they will make sure the changes are made.

**Vice-Commander/Special Events:** Base Vice-Commander Rick Sparger thanked the base for returning the cooler that was missing and asked everyone to clean out the coolers before returning them. Rick asked for help Saturday morning with loading and transporting materials to the picnic. Thursday 21 May the FRA is having their elections and the Vice Commander encouraged us that are FRA members to attend.

Rick thanked everyone who made his job as COB easier.

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

**May Report:**

<b>USS LAGARTO (SS-371)</b>	<b>May 3, 1945 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War patrol</b>
<b>Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls</b>	
<b>USS SCORPION (SSN-589)</b>	<b>May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment</b>
<b>Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls</b>	
<b>USS SQUALUS (SS-192)</b>	<b>May 23, 1939 – during test dive</b>
<b>33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost</b>	
<b>USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)</b>	<b>May 30, 1958 – under tow</b>
<b>NO LOSS OF LIFE</b>	

**FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost**

**Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman, Submarines, John David Hill Jr.,  
United States Navy World War II Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Highlighted boat of the month:**

LAGARTO SS-371 was lost on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. She was on her 2nd war patrol and is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. HAWKBILL SS-366 got revenge two weeks later by sinking the minelayer

- **Received the following card:** Dear Subvets, thank you so much for the loving and honorable way you all gave to Glenn's passing. It reflected to all of us the commitment you have for one another. Respectfully, Joyce Fleming
- **HMCS(SS) Doc Hill departed on Eternal Patrol March 23<sup>rd</sup>.** His memorial service was held yesterday with 30 of our base members attending. The flag detail was outstanding.
- **Congratulations to Jack & Joyce Harden and Ken & Judy Hutchison** as they have celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!
- **Anna Emerson**, Mike's wife, had ankle surgery today and it went very well. She is staying overnight at the hospital and will be home tomorrow.
- **Rich Koehler** has let the COB know he is not doing well. He was at Trident and had surgery this pass Monday, however he is with us tonight. He was diagnosed last year with bladder cancer.
- **Ray Bryant** has let us know he is under the weather and won't make the meeting.
- **Delores Pease**, Ray's wife, has been diagnosed with bladder cancer.
- **Buck Owens** had a stent put in a couple of weekends ago but is here tonight. He knew he had a problem, went to the ER, and got himself home. Says he feels better than before now that the stent is allowing better blood flow, but the back ache and shoulder pains that seem go with age are not relenting.
- **Lynn Cousino, Mike's wife**, is undergoing aggressive treatment for liver cancer. She is keeping a very positive attitude through everything that is happening.
- **Mike Knaub's** ankle continues to give him problems. Ed reported that Mike has three options at this point: 1) get his AIC for diabetes under control and have more surgery, 2) have the ankle fused, or 3) he might lose the foot.
- **Abe Jenkins** would like to see some visitors. When you go he may or may not know you were there. 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.
- **Connie Chinn** fell in her yard as she tried to get away from a copperhead. She fractured both bones in her wrist and had to have pins and a plate put in.
- **Rich Alkire** will be having carotid surgery next Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) is still going well. Please checkup on your shipmates and let them know you care about their wellbeing.** 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.

**BENEDICTION: Let us pray -**

Heavenly Father we are grateful to You for what we have been able to accomplish. We ask those things discussed tonight will move us forward as a base.

Help us remember those who are unable to be present with us tonight. Place Your hand of healing upon the sick and wrap your arms of comfort around those who are grieving.

And now Father, let us take a moment of silence to remember those who are where we all have been. We pray all of this in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

**Newsletter:** George Fuchs had nothing to Report.

**Storekeeper / Election Coordinator:**

Since there were only a single nominee for the positions of Base Commander, Rick Wise and Base Treasurer, Mike Welch and no member stood to run for those positions, Rick and Mike won by acclamation.

**FRA:**

Larry Cox announced that the FRA / SUBVETS picnic is May 16 at Short Stay. The menu Saturday afternoon is Chicken leg quarters, hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings and is \$5 a head. Come out and enjoy a good picnic!

Larry Cox reminded members that are FRA members that the Branch 269 elections at Thursday May 21st. He would like the support of the SUBVETS running for election.

**Scholarship Committee:** Scholarship Committee Chairman George Scharf reported that the committee had received the applications and that the committee would meet after the base meeting to make their selection and send notifications out before the June base meeting.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George thanked everyone for coming to Doc Hills Funeral and especially thanked Nick Nichols for the wonderful service. George reported that the Veterans of WWII Luncheon will be held at the Golden Corral 18<sup>th</sup> June. Be there at 1100.

**USS Clamagore Restoration and Maintenance Association:** Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar reported that we are talking to Excide about buying batteries on the boat. We are still waiting to hear from the State Ways and Means committee to see if we are going to get any money. Hopefully we will hear something by 1 June.

**Little David:** Rick Wise reported that maintenance was done on May 1 & 2. The working party consisted of Ed Stank, Mike Emerson, Beatle Bailey, Dan Hunt, Dave Taylor and Rick Wise. Rick Wise read a thank you letter from the Berkley County Museum.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson conveyed the following story.

Wasted My Money!

While strolling round the harbor this morning about 7am, I noticed a character shouting "Death to Infidels" and suddenly he tripped and fell into the water.

He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help he would surely drown.

Being a responsible citizen, and abiding by the law of the land that requires you to help those in distress, I informed the Police, the Coast Guard, The immigration office and even the Fire Dept. It is now 11 a.m. The terrorist has drowned and none of the authorities have yet to respond.

I'm starting to think I wasted four stamps.

**The After Battery:** Buddha reported that the after battery has a website. The meal is at 5pm. They have many card games and it's a very fun time if you have never been.

**District Commander:** District Commander was not present. Ed Stank informed everyone that he is running for District Commander. He asked all new elected officers to come forward after the meeting to be sworn in.

**Chief of the Boat:** Ken Hutchinson ribbed the Vice commander about stealing all his thunder. The COB asked anyone that can help be at the FRA 0830 Saturday for help with the Picnic.

Ken also recognized our WWII SUBVETS.

The next event will be the Memorial Day Service on May 26 at 1030. It will be held at Summerville Cemetery, also known as Parks Cemetery, on US 17A in Summerville, SC. Muster time is 1000. The COB will be sending out more information later.

**Base Commander:** Ed thanked all the SUBVET officers who helped him during his tenure as base commander.

**Old Business:** The By Law Changes have been signed out as approved by the base. The others that need to be revised will be done so after Rick assumes the Commander duties. The Picnic has been gone over. The Amberjack Memorial service was cancelled this year.

**New Business:**

- A. The ballots for District Commander were distributed and collected. Ed Stank is running for District Commander.
- B. James Graham informed us that there were changes to CPR by the American Heart Association. If someone has a heart attack you no longer breathe for them you immediately start chest compressions.
- C. Rick Wise informed the base the motion to allocate up to \$4000.00 from the investment fund for a new float trailer is void and made a motion that an amount up to \$1500.00 be allocated from the investment fund to get the current float ready for the parade season. This motion will expire after 6 months. Ken Hutchison seconded the motion.  
The motion passed on a voice vote.

**Good of the Order:**

Gary Williams informed us that members that served in the Korean War are eligible for the Korean peace medal.

Stonewall Jackson reunion is in San Antonio TX in September.

Victory House leaving Tuesday 10am at VFW on Bellwright road.

Base Commander Ed Stank administered the oath of office to the base elected officers.

**Depth Charge:** The depth charge was won by Jim Higgins.

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