

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the June 2015 meeting was 83.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Vice Commander Rick Sparger. 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 June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Awards: The Base Vice Commander introduced Scholarship Committee Chairman George Scharf. George introduced the other member of the Scholarship Committee, Gary Williams. He then presented the scholarships to the recipients. George Scharf presented a \$750 scholarship to Hayley Fowler from Stratford High. Sponsor is Ricard Alfano Hayley will be attending Clemson. \$850 Scholarship to Haliegh Clutters from Bishop England High school. Her sponsor is Tim Clutters and she is the Granddaughter of STCM(SS) Joseph Zilker. Haleigh will be attending Mississippi State. \$1000 Scholarship to Katheryn Lebarron from Charleston County school of the Arts. Her sponsor is Thomas L. Cyrek. Katheryn will be attending USC Honors classes.

Following the presentations and pictures, Base Vice Commander Rick Sparger congratulated the recipients and thanked them and their families and friends for coming and asked the guest to leave so we could continue our meeting.

Introductions: The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: EN3(SS) Linden G. Almony, Qual Boat: USS Runner SS 476; MT2(SS) Thomas W. Timm, Qual Boat USS Henry L Stimson SSBN 655.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the May meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Edgel Hash made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ed Bowles.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch 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.

Newsletter: George Fuchs had nothing to report.

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

June Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

HERRING SS-233 was lost on June 1st, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. HERRING was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower causing her

loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman.
HERRING was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

- Happy Birthday to **Willie Jones**!! His 90th Birthday is this month.
- **VADM Albert J. Bacciocco** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 22nd, 2015. His funeral will be held on Saturday, June 13th, at 1000 at Stella Maris Catholic Church on Sullivan's Island. Charleston Base will not be involved in the service but please make plans to attend to show the family the support of the Submarine Force. Uniform will be the vest uniform.
- **FTCM(SS) Johnnie Wayne Foster** departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, June 5th. His Memorial Service will be held at 1500 on Saturday, June 13th, in Marion. Many of us knew him because of the amount of time he was stationed in Charleston. Johnnie was the COB of Stonewall Jackson Blue 1984-1989. He was not a member of SUBVETS.
- **Steve Everett** was diagnosed with breast cancer and cancer surgery yesterday. About 2100 last night I received an email from him saying the doctors got the mass cut out and surgeons initial thought is that the mass is benign. They will know for sure by Wednesday of next week. He's also waiting on the BRACCA test to see if he has the cancer gene and that will be known in about a month. Wanted me to tell you all thanks for the prayers for him and his family and added: Love you guys!
- **Walt Deal** had his left hip replaced on Tuesday. He called me that evening to say the surgery went well and he will be going to rehab tomorrow.
- **Rich Alkire** had a procedure on his carotid artery on June 1st and he is not doing well. Please call him if you can..
- **Kit Sparger** had surgery on May 29th on her left leg. Surgery went well.
- **Tom Skorepa** has been undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer. The treatment has left him tired. Please give him a call if you have a chance.
- **Roy Robertson** had surgery on his right hand and arm. Everything went well with the operation but he is having to learn to use his left hand....for everything!
- **Mike Knaub's** ankle continues to give him problems.
- **Frenchy Fuqua** is here tonight.

Discussed VA Chapels and presumed removal of all things Christian. Talked to retired Navy Captain, Chaplain Ross Rector. Always been that way. Explain....

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.

Webmaster: Nick Nichols website is being updated as best as it can be. Nick just got his computer back on track.

Membership: Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 331 members and 1 new member at tonight's meeting. We are buying membership cards for people that don't have one. Ed announced that we are having a picnic at the Victory House next Tuesday 16 June.

Public Affairs: Tom Clark had nothing to report.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had nothing to report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had nothing to report.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present. The Vice Commander reported on Larry's behalf that there is a good ole Navy breakfast on Sunday 14 June from 9 am to 11 am. \$5 per person.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that there is a car show planned for the first weekend in October. We gave away \$2600 in Scholarships funds this year.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, June 18 at 1100 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar reported that Joe Danning is still working with the ways and means committee about funding. Butch is working with the weapons station on getting artifacts and stuff for the boat. We have been offered to go field day to clean up the boat.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson related the following:

Back and forth.... Back and forth....

In and out....In and out.

A little to the right.... A little to the left....

She could feel the sweat on her forehead....

Between her breasts....and, trickling down the small of her back....

She was getting near to the end....!!

He was in ecstasy....with a huge smile on his face as his buddy's wife moved Forwards then backwards Forward then backward....

Again and again....!!

Her heart was pounding now....

Her face was flushed !

She moaned softly at first, then began to groan louder.

Finally ... totally exhausted, she let out a piercing scream and shouted.

OK OK you smug bastard I can't paralell park You do it!

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms had nothing to report.

District Commander: District Commander had nothing to report.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger reported for the COB. The FRA elections went well. Every single subvet that ran for a position won. Thanks for the attendance.

The picnic went well everyone had a great time both Subvets and FRA both made \$138 dollars apiece. Due to people not bringing items back to storage facility the combo has been changed and only the COB, Commander and Vice Commander will have the combination.

Rick asked for Volunteers for the Rec Committee.

Old Business: Charlie Hudson gave a float update. \$560 dollars were spent the float trailer was stripped and repainted and new boxes were donated by Rick Carlsons son.

New Business: Gordon Smith presented a collage of WWII Cigarette patches from the Portsmouth UK Subvets. It was presented to Carl Chinn for the Chaleston Base Subvets.

Good of the Order:

A. The depth charge was won by Ronnie Vandiver. He won \$247 and donated \$100 to the WWII Subvets for Lunches.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 2000.