

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the August 2015 meeting was 102.

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

Swearing in of District Commander: Paul Viering swore in Ed Stank as the new District 2 District Commander

Presentation of the Future Submariner Award: Rick Wise and Rick Sparger presented Donovan Gordon with the Future Submariner Award and Future Submariner Hat.

Introductions: Robert Michael Morris (Mike). His rate is MM1(SS) and he qualified in 1975 on the USS Parche SSN-683

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the July meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Walt Deal made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Tom Lehmann.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch stated that the Financial report was posted to the website.

Vice Commander: Gave us a heads up about See Saw Days on September 12th In Harleyville. The float will be implemented. December 5th will be the Christmas Party at the FRA.

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

August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific – 70 years ago tomorrow

August 12, 2000 - Soviet Submarine KURSK sank in Barents Sea – loss of all hands – 15 years ago

**Senior Chief Machinist Mate, Submarines, Robert Dale Hubert,
United States Navy Retired**

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – July 18th, 2015

August Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

Harder was lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded

the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

- **MMCS(SS) Robert 'Bob' Hubert** departed on Eternal Patrol in Mt. Pleasant on July 18th. His funeral was held on July 24th with several of the base members attending.
- **FTCS(SS) Tom McDevitt** departed on Eternal Patrol in Walterboro on July 11th. He was a resident of Victory House and was not a member of USSVI. Tom was a COB on SIMON BOLIVAR and a shipmate of Jimmy Kimbrell.
- **RADM Stanley Bump** departed on Eternal Patrol in Washington state on August 12th. He was CO of Francis Scott Key Blue in the early 70's, Commander SUBGRUSIX 85-87 and then Commander Charleston Naval Base 89-91. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **TMCM(SS) Johnny William 'Lucky' Logan** departed on Eternal Patrol in MD on July 28th. Lucky was the last CMC of Group SIX when it was decommissioned. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Delores Pease**, Ray's wife, passed away on July 18th. Her funeral service was held on July 22nd.
- **Belinda Sparger**, Rick's niece, passed away on July 22nd. There were 17 SUBVETS & wives who attended the service. Effective immediately, if your wife or significant other attends a funeral/memorial service with you then they can sit with you if they desire to.
- **Roy Frank Bognar**, Randy's father, passed away on August 8th in Illinois. There will be a Memorial Service on Saturday, August 22nd at 1400 at Riverbluff Baptist Church in N. Charleston.
- **Elaine Power** lost her balance and fell on July 26th. Injuries were broken ribs, shattered elbow and a punctured and bleeding lung. She is now in rehab at the NHC Rehab Center off Magwood. She is in good spirits and is getting her strength back.
- **Jerry Farr** was in Trident and had a pacemaker inserted. He is here tonight and doing very well.
- **Bill Jennings** was taken to the hospital on July 25th. After several days in the ICU receiving antibiotics and then having his diseased gall bladder removed, he is now home recovering.
- **Ed Simokat** is home after a stay in the hospital suffering from an infected arm where he was scratched by a cat. It was a very serious infection. He is off the antibiotics and doing well.
- **Tom Lufkin** had surgery on his hand on July 22nd. It went well and he is now recovering.
- **Clemon 'CC' Cager** is back home after a stay in MUSC Ashley Tower. His ankle became infected and had to be cleaned and the plate and screws removed. He will be having more surgery in the near future.
- **Steve Everett** has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- **Ray Bryant** has many health issues that he is dealing with. He was here earlier but had to go home.

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:

- Use 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:

- Updated constantly
- Be careful of installing Windows 10. It is a total wipe of the hard drive and although there is a way to 'go back' to what you had, you will lose somethings.
- Effective immediately we will begin putting advertisements on the web similar to what we were doing in the newsletter in the past. These will be mainly SUBVET or veteran related businesses. If interested please contact me at my webmaster email address which is listed on our website. Cost is \$25.00 for 12 months.

Newsletter: George Fuchs had nothing to report.

Membership: Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 330 members. National dues will increase 5 dollars starting October 1st.

Public Affairs: Rick Wise once again asked the members present for a volunteer for Public Affairs Officer.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had nothing to report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis informed us that there are many Submarine Sailors who are dying from exposure to 2190 (Lube Oil). You can view the information on the Website.

TRICARE enrollees will have to fill certain prescriptions via mail at express scripts or the Base Pharmacy. More information is on our website.

The VA is designing a new computer system for hospitals so that VA doctors and Civilian doctors can obtain your health record if you have to go to a civilian doctor anywhere in USA. More information is on the website.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present; we handed out red tickets.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that one of our WWII Veterans, Bill Weaver, made 3 walking sticks and they are being raffled off at this meeting. Bill will burn your name into it if you want him to if you win one.

George stipulated the parameters for applying for the scholarship fund.

Still working on the Car Show. It will probably be in October.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, 20 August at 1100 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

CRAMA: No report.

Rec Committee: Al Dempster informed us he is trying to get some great door prizes for the Christmas Party

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson related the following:

The Old Submarine Sailor

An old Sub Sailor who just moved to Charleston from New London walks into the FRA in Goose Creek and orders three mugs of beer. He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the Sub Sailor, "You know , a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The Sub Sailor replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is an Airborne Ranger, the other is a Navy Seal, both serving overseas somewhere. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The Sub Sailor becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders the mugs and drinks them in turn. One day he comes in and orders only two mugs.

All the regulars take notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The Sub Sailor looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh no, everybody's just fine," he explains. "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking."

"Hasn't affected my brothers though....."

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" just returned from the 26th annual Old Salts Hog Roast in Rhode Island. The After Battery website has a write up of the ceremony they had the last day.

Buddha commented that we need younger members like active duty submariners in our group.

The After Battery Annual Hog Roast will be April 2nd, 2016.

District Commander: Ed Stank wanted us to know the WWII Submarines Veteran Memorial will be held in Kings Bay GA from 4th of November to 8th of November this year. Hotel info and registration forms will be on the website.

There is a special challenge coin for the submarine museum. It's 16 dollars. This will be posted on the website as well.

Chief of the Boat: 9 am on Tuesday the 25th of August we will have a float working party. It will be at 404 Pinehurst in Summerville.

Saturday 22nd August there is a Prime Rib Dinner Dance at the FRA. \$20.00 per person

CPO selectee breakfast 6am at the Summerville Cracker Barrel September 10th.

Base Commander: Rick Wise asked for help on an alternative for Kaps For Kids as a community outreach.

Rick encouraged members to be involved in our funerals and memorial services and even though the submarine dress code is encouraged it is not mandatory.

Old Business:

Ed announced that he will be visiting the Victory House Tuesday 18 August. He will leave at 10am on Belwright road.

New Business: The Scholarship committee auctioned off 3 canes hand made by WWII Veteran Bill Weaver. The first went to Mike Emerson for \$35.00. The second was auctioned to Rick Wise for \$50.00 and the third went to Mike Welch for \$40.00. Overall \$125.00 was raised for the scholarship fund.

Rodney Mckanna talked about the Undies 500. New underwear for homeless Veterans; we will collect them at the September meeting. Please donate.

Mike Emerson gave a flag folding demonstration and encouraged people to come forward and learn so that we can have more volunteers trained to perform this ceremony at funerals.

Good of the Order:

Fleet reserve drawing was won by Joe Hayes He won a one year Membership.

The depth charge was won by Charlie Holycross. He donated \$100 to the Scholarship fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 1812.