

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the September 2015 meeting was 97.

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 September was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: FTG3(SS) Chuck Mayer, Qual Boat: USS Scamp SSN-588; RM3(SS) John Wilkinson, Qual Boat: USS Henry Clay SSBN 625; MMC(SS) Dennis E. Potvin, Qual Boat: Nathan Hale SSBN 623; MMC(SS) Stanley Westhoff Qual Boat: USS Sea Dragon SSN 584; MM1(SS) Terry Romig, Qual Boat: Nathan Hale SSBN 623; IC1(SS) Richard Baker, Qual Boat: USS Raton SS 270; RMCS(SS) Mike Klien, Qual Boat: USS Tirante SS 420; STS2(SS) Roland (Rollie) Crandall, Qual Boat: USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623; YNC(SS) Wayne Weninger, Qual Boat: USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the August 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. Nick Nichols made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Legg.

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.

Vice Commander: Gave us a heads up about the See Saw Days parade 0930 11 September. The Float will be implemented.

As soon as the Vice Commander finds out about availability for the picnic he will turn over to the rec committee.

The FRA is holding a Navy breakfast on October 4th \$5 all you can eat all the usual great food. 0900 to 1130.

The FRA Bar lounge now has Trivia on Wednesdays from 6 to 9pm.

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

**Interior Communications Electrician Third Class, Submarines, Henry Neville Gilmer, Jr.,
United States Veteran**

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 15th, 2015

**Master Chief Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Robert Deschaine,
United States Navy Retired
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 28th, 2015**

**Seaman, Submarines, Monty Silvers,
United States Navy Veteran
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 2nd, 2015**

**Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, Patrick Jude Murphy
United States Navy Reserve
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol at the Pentagon – September 11, 2001**

Tomorrow is Patriot Day and the 14th anniversary of 9.11.2001.

**This is a day to remember those who lost their lives on this terrible day.
The President of the United States of America has declared September 11 each year a day of
national mourning, to be honored with all American flags at half-staff from sunrise to sunset
on that day.**

August Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

Grayling was lost on September 9th, 1943, with the loss of all hands, 76 crew members near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

- **TMCM(SS) Robert 'Bob' Deschaine** departed on Eternal Patrol on August 28th. Bob was a life member of USSVI National, Charleston Base, Holland Club and USS Robert E. Lee Association SSBN-601. He enlisted in the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1975. He qualified on CARP SS 338 in 1959. The family will hold a memorial service in the spring and the base will be requested to participate.
- **SN(SS) Monty Silvers** departed on Eternal Patrol on September 2nd. Monty was a member of USSVI National, Charleston Base and Holland Club. He qualified on USS Requin (SS-481) in 1959. The family did not notify nor request participation of Charleston Base.
- **IC3(SS) Henry 'Skip' Gilmer, Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol in Anderson on Saturday, August 15, 2015, Bob was a member of USSVI National, Golden Corner and Charleston Bases, and Holland Club. He enlisted in the Navy in 1956 and left the Navy in 1961. He qualified on DARTER SS 576. Skip was one of the earliest members of Charleston Base. Robby Roberts attended Skip's memorial service in Anderson on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **Darlene Graham, James' wife**, had neck surgery on August 28th. The surgery went well and her recovery is doing well.
- **Becky Roberts, Bill's wife**, had knee surgery on August 20th. She is doing well with her recovery.
- **This month** has seen the passing of many of our shipmates family members:
 - Randy Bogнар's father, Roy on August 8th.
 - Fred Woodley's brother-in-law, Roland Peach on August 25th.
 - Jerry Farr's 99 year old sister, Edna Moss on August 25th.
 - Jerry Farr's 70 year old niece and Edna's daughter, Margie, on August 28th.
 - Jerry Farr's 93 year old sister, Berinda on August 31st.
 - Jay Pierce's mother, Lucille King on August 25th.
- **Steve Everett** is battling breast cancer. Please remember Steve in your prayers and thoughts.

- **Ray Bryant** has many health issues that he is dealing with. Please remember him in your prayers and thoughts.
- **Clemon Cager 'CC'** is still recovering from his motorcycle accident in June. He will be in his neck brace for another month or so.

WEBMASTER:

- Updated constantly
- Windows 10: I have had many comments from base members after what I said about Windows 10 at the last meeting. If you want to install 10 and are currently running 8.1 you should have no problems. If you're running 7 you could have many issues. If you do install 10 you can roll-back to your original version within 30 days if you want to.
- If you are using COMCAST/Bellsouth/ATT for your internet/email provider and you are not receiving info from the base officers please contact your provider and ask them to remove you from the blacking list for ussvicb.org.
- We now have two advertisers on the website. If anyone else is 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.

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

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers reported that if you're looking for patches he will not have until after the Convention.

He is going to pre order only 50 calendars this year if you want one he is going to ask you to pre pay. The Calendars will be \$10 each.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis informed us that the Last Friday of every month the Legal Clinic Provided by South Carolina Legal Services will provide Pro Bono legal services to Veterans from 130 to 430 PM 843-297-0019. They provide a Myriad of free legal services.

March 4th 2015 Representative Jeff Fortenbury from Nebraska introduced a Bill HR 1292 that would authorize Compensability disabled service connected Veterans and their dependents access to the department of defense exchange commissary. They would have benefits as if they were retired. It is in the works and is coming.

There is a Tri Care Mail scam that is in progress that is designed to steal money from your bank. It authorizes Tri Care Members to work as secret shoppers. It Is a SCAM. Don't do it.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present. The red ticket drawing was won by John Wilkinson He won the 1 Year FRA membership.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that we will hold an Auction for 3 Viet Nam Veterans License plates at the Good of the order.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, 15 September at 1130 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

CRAMA: Butch put out that Joe Danning and Representative Crosby are putting together a Proviso that puts the Clamagore up on land to turn into a Museum for 1 Million Dollars to accomplish this.

Butch and George are going around to the local representatives to generate the money to get the Proviso off the ground.

Rec Committee: Al Dempster reported that the Christmas Party will be the Fifth of December. Social hour will be 1800 dinner served at 1900. We will have Turkey and Ham for Dinner. Tickets will be \$15 each for Subvets and \$25 each for non subvets.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson was not in attendance.

District Commander: District Commander reported that the southeast regional convention is in Mobile Alabama from 20th to the 23rd of April. The Convention hotel rates are very good.

WWII 4th Nov to 8th Nov in Kings Bay.

Ed announced that he will be visiting the Victory House Tuesday 15 September. He will leave at 10am on Bellwright road.

Membership: Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 329 members.

Membership dues are going up \$5 for National on Oct 1. Ed will be out of town after Sept 18th

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" let us know that the "after battery" Will be open Saturday for a Reunion. Hats and T shirts are for sale.

Chief of the Boat: Wanted us to recognize we had 4 WWII vets in attendance.

911 ceremony will be at Rickover Circle 9 AM tomorrow 11 September.

The Chief CPO Pinning Ceremony 10 AM Wed September 16th at the Rickover Center.

There is a Flag Disposal Ceremony 1800 September 11th at the American Legion at Howe Hall Road.

The Rink Roast is at the Elks Lodge on Savannah Highway on 19th September.

Any piece of equipment can be borrowed by any subvet. But not for an Eternity.

Base Commander: Rick Wise announced that the Meeting in October we will have a Holland Club Induction Ceremony. A Buffet will be provided at the meeting.

The October meeting we will present a budget to the base. If you have suggestions to the budget get them into a board member.

Old Business: Ed has challenge coins that we need to sell 10 dollars each.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

The Scholarship committee auctioned off 3 Viet Nam License Plates. The first went to Bill Neff for \$20.00. The second was auctioned to Jimmy Legg for \$20.00 and the third went to Jimmy Legg for \$40.00. Overall \$80.00 was raised for the scholarship fund.

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

Benediction: Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

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