

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the October 2015 meeting was 89.

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 Ken Curtis. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Holland Club Induction: Rick Wise introduced Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh. 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 Rick Wise and Ken Hutchison, Bill presented the certificates to:

James J. Fortier EMCM/SS, 1964, USS Patrick Henry (SSBN-599)

Dennis W. Fuqua QMCS/SS, 1965, USS Bream (SS-243)

Hugh R. Graham FTB1/SS, 1964, USS Requin (SS-481)

Members eligible not present ;

Robert Morrow MTC/SS, 1965, USS John Adams (SSBN-620)

Robert L Williams MMCM/SS, 1962, USS Threadfin (SS-410)

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

After the guest left the meeting continued.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: ET(SS) William (Bill) Rumer, Qual Boat: USS SeawolfSSN 575; MMCS(SS) Hermenegildo M. Maula, Qual Boat: USS Corporal SS 346;

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the September 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. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ed Stank.

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 Big thanks for all the prayers and well wishes for His mothers passing.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols was not present Ken Curtis gave the following report:

Submarines Lost During the Month of October

USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	October 3, 1944 – 15 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands –100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
USS S-44 (SS-155)	October 7, 1944 – 5 th War Patrol	Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
USS WAHOO (SS-238)	October 11, 1943 – 7 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 80 souls
USS DORADO (SS-248)	October 12, 1943 – New - training	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)	October 17, 1944 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS DARTER (SS-227)	October 24, 1944 – 4 th War Patrol	No loss of life
USS SHARK II (SS-314)	October 24, 1944 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS TANG (SS-306)	October 25, 1944 – 5 th War Patrol	Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became

USS O-5 (SS-66)

October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal

POWs and survived the war

Lost with 3 souls

Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost

Senior Chief Engineman, Submarines, Bruce W. Wright,
United States Navy Retired
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – August 28th, 2015

HAPPY 240th BIRTHDAY US NAVY – OCTOBER 13th

September Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

S-44 (SS-155) was lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

- **ENCS(SS) Bruce W. Wright** departed on Eternal Patrol on September 26th in Aiken. Bruce was a WWII SubVet, a member of Swamp Fox Chapter, USSVI National, Charleston Base, and Holland Club. He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 and retired in from the Reserves in 1953. He qualified on BASS SS 164 in 1943. He also served on QUILLBACK SS 424.
- **Rick Sparger's** mother, Margaret, age 92, passed away of natural causes in Midwest OK on September 30.
- **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
- 3 advertisers now. Anyone interested in advertising on our base website please email to webmaster@ussvicb.org for information. Cost is \$25.00 for 12 months.

Newsletter: George Fuchs was not present

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers reported that he has Golf Submarine towels for \$10 each.

Ron now has the Challenge coins for sale \$10 each.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis informed us that Saturday October 10th the USS Illinois will be commissioned in Groton CT.

FRA: Larry Cox gave us the following report.

The FRA is holding a Navy breakfast on October 11th \$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

October 17th The FRA will be having an Octoberfest celebration. There will be a band and food.

October 31st the FRA will be holding a Halloween party so get dressed up and attend.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that challenge coins are for sale at the storekeeper.

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

CRAMA: Butch had no report

Rec Committee: Rich Cox 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:

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

Membership dues are going up \$5 But National has not made the increase as of yet so get your dues paid.

Ed is still trying to get Submarine service License plates for South Carolina. The state wants \$6,850 to start this. He is trying to get a political figure involved because there is a fee to get the process started.

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" had no report.

Chief of the Boat: Wanted us to recognize we had 3 WWII vets in attendance.

The COB also showed everyone in attendance the book of lost submarines. It is displayed at every meeting.

Ed will make a Victory House trip on 20 October.

On November 11th we will hold a Veterans day ceremony up on 78 and 17 meet.

Every Wednesday a group of Subvet's meet at Perkins on Folly Road.

November 4 to the 8th the WWII Memorial service will be held in Kings Bay.

Base Commander: Rick Wise announced that to pull the float on the 7th of November in Andrews we received some volunteers and will send out an email to get at least 4 for the float to participate in the Andrews Parade.

We are changing the checkout procedure for equipment at the storage and Members will be made responsible for damaging equipment. There will be a sign out sheet for equipment.

Old Business: The Float is closed for Old Business.

Gordon Long is asking for Volunteers for the Barbershop quartet.

New Business: Crystal resigned as manager of the Fleet reserve. If anyone knows of someone contact Larry Cox.

Rodney Mckanna reported that the Undies 500 poker run will be at the Ladson VFW October 31st. any vehicle can participate. 15 dollars each.

Beetle asked for Volunteers to drive the VA van for Goose Creek and Monks Corner.

Good of the Order: The Fleet reserve drawing was won by Bill Freligh.

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

Benediction: Ken Curtis gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Ken Curtis, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2003.