

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the November 2015 meeting was 100.

**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 November 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.

**Honorary Charleston base member Induction:** Rick Wise introduced Robert (Bob) Temple and presented him with an Honorary Charleston Base member Award.

**Introductions:** The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: SKC (SS) John L. Townsend Jr, Qual Boat: USS Mariano G Vallejo SSBN 658; FTG1 (SS) Eugene "Gene" Babich, Qual Boat: USS Benjamin Franklin SSBN 640; Jay Rowland MM(SS), Qual Boat: USS Threadfin SS 410.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the October 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. Butch Bryar made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ken Curtis.

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch was not present Rick Wise 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 BZ for Tolling of the Boats.

Parades will be Harleyville, Ellore and Summerville. Dates and times are posted on the website events page.

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

### Submarines Lost During the Month of November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1 <sup>st</sup> War patrol Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs 21 survived the war

### Five Boats and 399 Men Lost

Fire Control Seaman, Submarines, John Irving Clarkin,  
United States Navy WWII Veteran

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### November Report

#### Highlighted boat of the month:

USS Growler was lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

- **FCSN(SS) John Irving Clarkin** departed on Eternal Patrol in Conneaut Lake PA. John was a WWII Veteran, a member of USSVI, USSVI Requin Base and Charleston Base, and Holland Club. He qualified USS PIPER (SS-409) in 1944. He also served on USS PRAIRIE AD-15, USS LIVERMORE DD-429, and USS SEA ROBIN SS-407 and was in the Navy 1941-1945.
- **Ray Bryant** is now at MUSC for tests. He was transferred there after being in Trident for a couple of weeks, getting a blood transfusion and tests. He had to have a third chest tube put in last night with the hopes that he can get the largest tube taken out shortly. I talked to him today and he is undergoing tests for a possible liver transplant. If that happens he will need transportation assistance for doctors' appointments, etc. I'll let everyone know what's needed if a transplant happens. Ray is very tired and in some pain but said that he would really like to see some of his shipmates. Many of you have gone to see him and he has really appreciated it.
- **Bill Hall** is home and recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor. Barbara says there will be more surgery as soon as Bill is strong enough. No visitors or calls at this time and many thanks for prayers. Barbara
- **Rich Alfano** is recovering well from pneumonia.
- **Dot Campbell**, Soupy's wife, is home after her stay in the hospital but will be having further tests.
- **Steve Everett** is battling breast cancer. Please remember Steve in your prayers and thoughts.
- **Clemon Cager 'CC'** is still recovering from his motorcycle accident in June.
- **NOTE:** I would like to stress the importance of making sure you, and your family, know the location of your DD214. This is required to prove veteran status if you are seriously ill or in case of death.

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.

#### **WEBMASTER NOTES:**

- There are now 4 advertisers on the site and these will also be placed in the newsletter each month.

**Newsletter:** George Fuchs had no report.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis had no report.

**District Commander:**

**Membership:** Ed Stank reported that base membership Cards are on order. Membership is now 329 members. Calendars are on sale for the scholarship fund.

The next national convention is in Reno NV next August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Airfare is expensive.

Ed has stated he is going to the Victory House next Tuesday and the Tuesday after the Christmas party. Get your Donations in.

Rick Wise mentioned that John Moody sent a check for \$500.00 for the Victory House.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers had no report.

**Holland Club:** Bill Freligh had no report.

**FRA:** Larry Cox gave us the following report.

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Children's Christmas party. The FRA Christmas party is that night.

**Scholarship:** George Scharf reported that its time to start submitting applications.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf reminded us we are down to 7 WWII vets in membership.

**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. Tickets will be on sale until 23 November.

**CRAMA:** Butch Bryar had no report.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson reported:

#### **Two Alabama Nuclear Power School Students**

A good old Alabama Nuclear electrician won a bass boat in a raffle drawing. He brought it home and his wife looks at him and says, "what you gonna do with that. There ain't no water deep enough to float a boat within a 100 miles of here." He says, I won it and I'm a-gonna keep it. His Alabama Nuclear Machinist mate best friend came over to visit several days later. He sees the wife and asks where his best buddy was. She says, "He's out there in his bass boat", pointing to the field behind the house. The Alabama Nuclear machinist mate best buddy heads out behind the house and sees his his buddy in the middle of a big field sitting in a bass boat with a fishing rod in his hand. He yellows out to him, "What are you doing'?" His Nuclear trained electrician replies, "I'm fishin'. What does it look like I'm a doin'?" His Nuclear machinist mate yells, "It's people like you that give people from Alabama a bad name making everybody think we're stupid. If I could swim, I'd come out there and whip your ass!"

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" says he is planning for their annual Hog roast. The After Battery members donated \$512 to the Freedom foundation.

**Chief of the Boat:** Mentioned we lost a member at the WWII convention in Kings Bay. His name was FT(SS) Chuck Taylor. He was from the central Florida base.

The COB reported that from now on Members of the Holland club will get Rockers for additional years of qualification for every additional five years after the original Fifty.

3<sup>rd</sup> of December is the Harleyville parade. 12<sup>th</sup> of December is the Ellore Parade and 13<sup>th</sup> of December is the Summerville Christmas parade.

Larry Knudson will be our new Membership coordinator after Ed Steps down.

Ronnie Kerstetter is our new Public Affairs officer.

**Base Commander:** Rick Wise wanted two volunteers to go over the Base By laws. They will meet sometime in January. Steve Morowiec and Dan Hunt volunteered.

**Old Business:** Ed commented that National has a Scholarships awards program as well.

#### **New Business:**

The new Charleston base Budget was presented by base commander Rick Wise. There was a motion by Nick Nichols to accept the Budget as written. Ken Curtis seconded the motion. The Budget was voted on by the base and passed on a voice vote.

Rick read a motion that was made by Ray Sparks for the NTPU Legacy Award.

USSVI-Charleston Base will make a Submariners Legacy Award to the Officer and Enlisted Submarine-designated students in each Naval Nuclear Power School graduating class as recommended by the Naval Nuclear Power School. The award materials will be determined by the Board of Directors but will not include a cash award. Ken Curtis Seconded the Motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

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

**Benediction:** Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2006.