

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

11 August 2016

The attendance for the June 2016 meeting was 82.

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 Mike Knaub. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following were new attendees to Charleston Base meetings: Chief selectees Brian Morgan EM from NPTC and Matthew Schultz from NMPTU. Glenn Miller was present and he built Phantom airplanes for Viet Nam.

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. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Charles Wood.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch was not present and Rick Wise mentioned 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.

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

Submarines Lost During the Month of August

USS BULLHEAD (SS 332)	August 6, 1945 – 3 rd War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
USS FLIER (SS 250)	August 13, 1944 – 2 nd War Patrol	LOST WITH 83 SOULS; 8 MEN SURVIVED
USS S-39 (SS 144)	August 13, 1942 – 3 rd War Patrol	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS HARDER (SS 257)	August 24, 1944 – 6 th War Patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
USS COCHINO (SS 345)	August 26, 1949	NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE; ONE CIVILIAN LOSS; TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE

FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost

August 12, 1958 - USS Nautilus completes first undersea voyage to North Pole – 58 years ago
August 12, 2000 - Soviet Submarine KURSK sank in Barents Sea – loss of all hands – 16 years ago
August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific – 71 years ago

August Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS BULLHEAD (SS-332) Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

- **William Allen** was recently in the hospital and has been released to home with hospice care. He has cancer and COPD, is very weak and lost a lot of weight. William has not been to our meetings for the last year or so due to his illness but we knew nothing about it. Please contact your shipmates and let them know you do care about them.
- **Mike Knaub** will have surgery on Sept 16th to clean up the infection in his ankle.

- **Don Mook** has been diagnosed with liver cancer and cancer of the spine. He is in Trident hospital while waiting on decision for treatment methods. Visitors are welcome. Not sure how much longer he will be there. Vickie sent a text that says the oncologist has made the decision to begin treatment today. Don will be transferred to Elms LifeCare soon. As expected Don has cancer of the spine which is being treated with radiation. This should help lower his pain level after a few sessions.
- **Al Dempster** had several teeth pulled last week but there were several broken pieces left in his mouth causing considerable pain. These were removed on Monday and he is doing better now.
- **Soupy Campbell** went into the ER for stomach problems. Turned out to be gastritis which is being treated with meds.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** is home after aortic valve replacement surgery and having a pacemaker implanted. Says he is feeling like a new man.
- **Marvin Smith** had a shoulder replacement on July 25th and is now at home doing well. Welcome calls and visitors.
- **Roger Gibson** will start his chemo next week with a dose every week for three weeks.
- **Ben Hardaway** is at home in Summerville taking time to heal. He had a motorcycle vs deer accident and came out of it with a shattered left elbow and some scratches but alive and has an excellent prognosis. His safety gear saved his life. His daughter put out a PSA saying that a motorcyclist should always wear a helmet and full body protective suit.
- **Sharon Hardaway**, Ben's wife, was with him at the hospital, fell and broke her ankle. She is at home in Summerville and their daughter is taking care of her.
- **Gordon Smith** had a stroke while volunteering at Patriots Point. He was taken to the VA, treated overnight and released. He told me he has some numbness in his left hand/fingers and left side of his mouth...otherwise doing well.
- **Fred Woodley** should be seeing the doctor later this month to decide when he will have his shoulder replaced.
- **Jane Hahne**, Charles Wood's mother-in-law, in in hospice in VA and not doing well.
- **Keith Wooster** (honorary member of Charleston Base...retired Chaplain USN). Was in the VA severe back pain and hard time walking. He was released after treatment. We found out tonight that Keith is back in the VA on O2 and not able to use his legs.
- **Willie Jones** was at the VA for some possible kidney problems, treated and released. Keep the salt away from him at the meetings. Will wasn't at the meeting due to some swelling in one of his legs.
- **Bill Weaver** was at the VA for some tests and was diagnosed with leukemia. Further testing will be needed to determine treatment plan, if any.
- **Bill Roberts** has informed me that his sister-in-law, Becky's sister, passed away in NC.
- **Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well but would like to have visitors and short calls. Please call Catherine before visiting.

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:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

District Commander: District Commander Ed Stank reported that He has a design for Charleston Base T shirts at 13 dollars apiece. He also mentioned that he will not be traveling to the Victory house next Tuesday 16 August 2016. Rick Sparger will be taking his place while Ed is in Reno.

Membership: Larry Knutson was not present. Rick Wise reported that base membership is now 320 members.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy reported that last Kaps for Kids on July 12th was a real success. They visited 12 children ages 2 to 13. Bill is trying to get more hospitals involved. Also Bill wanted to let everyone know 12 members turned out for the last Kaps for Kids.

Special Events Coordinator: Mentioned that the menu for the Christmas Party is trying to be finalized and hopefully we will have Turkey and Prime Rib. Rick is trying to coordinate an Oyster roast in addition to or in substitution of the Annual picnic.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf acknowledged the WWII SUBVETS present. Next Thursday is the lunch at the Golden Corral with the WWII Vets. The car show is postponed until further notice due to other car shows going on our original Date.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers informed us that he has Submarine Bolo's for sale. He has the challenge coin Bolos for \$21.00 apiece. He also had the ribbon magnets which he will order 50 and have them for sale.

FRA: Larry Cox announced the FRA ten year anniversary Party will be on August 20th and the dinner will be prime rib. You can get your tickets at the Bar or at the door the night of the party.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report.

Public Affairs: Ronnie Kerstetter had no report.

Holland Club: Bill Freligh had no report.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar was not present.

Chief of the Boat: Ken Hutchison reported that the Victory house visit will be 16 August Muster at Ladson VFW 10am. 8 Sept CPO selectee breakfast at 0600. Ken stressed that after the next meeting we will have Flag folding practice and encourage any member to Volunteer,

Base Commander: Rick notified us that he will not be running for Base Commander again. Rick informed us we now have an Eagle Scout Award Coordinator, Dick Koehler.

Old Business: None

New Business: Rick informed the Base we are thinking of giving Holland Club coins at the awards ceremony.

Good of the Order: CPO Selectee Brian Morgan notified us about Sailing Day at Lake Moultrie at 11am Saturday at Short Stay. Food will be provided. CPO selectee breakfast, September 8th at 0600

at the Summerville Cracker Barrel. CPO Selectee Matthew Schultz informed us about the car wash at North Charleston Hooters this Saturday from 1000 to 1500.

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms was not present but Jim Lewis spoke for the After Battery. He informed us of the Northern trip. They had a wonderful week and they toured the USS Virginia. He acknowledged with admiration the new age of young Submariners who are carrying on our tradition. There were many international submarine sailors present.

Nuclear Historian:

When You Understand...

When the hatch closes over your head, the OOD says last man down and the COW says green board, you understand the meaning of adventure.

When the only thing between you and millions of gallons of seawater is a steel hull and some closed valves, you understand the meaning of courage.

When sonar calls out to the conn "high speed screws in the water" in hostile waters, you understand the meaning of fear.

When the messenger passes out the only family grams the satellite could catch and yours isn't one, you understand the meaning of loneliness.

When hissing water in the overhead turns from a slight annoyance to a terrifying rushing cascade bouncing off the hull and equipment, you understand the meaning of survival.

When you hear the quick sound that a curtain makes on your rack that indicates your watch is about to begin, you understand the meaning of irritation.

When you see a brother stand at attention while the Captain pins on the fish he worked so hard to earn, you understand the meaning of pride.

When you retire and they pipe you over the side for the very last time, you understand the meaning of great sadness.

When your eyes grow dim and your strength ebbs with age, and you see a submarine getting underway, you understand the meaning of envy.

When a shipmate from a time so long ago passes on and people say so many things they wish they had said before they departed, you understand the meaning of regret.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The depth charge was won by Marty Sessler. He donated \$60.00 to the Scholarship fund.

The FRA red ticket was won by Chris McCool.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2007.

