

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

13 October 2016

The attendance for the October 2016 meeting was 122.

**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 October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko. 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, Bill presented the certificates

ST1(SS) Paul Landry Qualified 1966 on the USS Henry L Stimson SSBN 655

ICC(SS) Michael LeCompte Qualified on the USS Nautilus SSN 571

STS2(SS) Clyde Miller Qualified 1964 on the USS Piper SS 409

MMCM(SS) Jay Rowland Qualified 1966 on the USS Redfin SS 410

Following the presentations photographs were taken to be posted on the base website

[www.ussvicb.org](http://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 guests left the meeting continued.

**Introductions:** The following men and woman introduced themselves at the meeting: FTGC (SS) Mitch Kessler, Qual Boat: USS Haddo SSN 604. Master Sargent Retired Joy Clark, Post commander of the VFW in Ladson. TM2(SS) Skip Shepard, Qual Boat: Henry L Stimson, SSBN 655. FTB2(SS) Dan Ballard, Qual Boat: Henry L Stimson, SSBN 655.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the September meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Clyde Miller made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Rodney McKanna

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his report. 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.

### Submarines Lost During the Month of October

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)  | October 3, 1944 – 15 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol | Lost with all hands –100 souls<br>(83 crew and 17 Army)        |
| USS S-44 (SS-155)     | October 7, 1944 – 5 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol  | Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became<br>POWs and survived the war |
| USS WAHOO (SS-238)    | October 11, 1943 – 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> War Patrol | Lost with all hands – 82 souls                                 |
| USS DARTER (SS-227)   | October 24, 1944 – 4 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol | No loss of life  |
| USS SHARK II (SS-314) | October 24, 1944 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol | Lost with all hands – 87 souls                                 |
| USS TANG (SS-306)     | October 25, 1944 – 5 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol | Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became<br>POWs and survived the war |
| USS O-5 (SS-66)       | October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal          | Lost with 3 souls  |

**Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**

**First Class Commissaryman, Submarines, William 'Bill' Houston Weaver,  
United States Navy Retired WWII Veteran  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol September 10, 2016**

**Chief Radioman, Submarines, Arthur O'Mealy Jr.  
United States Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol October 5, 2016**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY US NAVY – TODAY = OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**September Report**

**Highlighted boat of the month:**

USS WAHOO SS-238 was lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

- **CS1(SS) Bill Weaver**, USN WWII Veteran Retired, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 10<sup>th</sup>. SUBVETS conducted Bell Tolling during the funeral service.
- **RMC(SS) Arthur O'Mealy** departed on Eternal Patrol October 5<sup>th</sup> in MS. A condolence has been placed in the online obituary page.
- **EMCM(SS) Don Mook, USN Ret**, departed on Eternal Patrol September 5<sup>th</sup>. SUBVETS conducted a Bell Tolling Service here at the fleet on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Gordon Smith** is home recovering from his lung surgery. He is doing well but tires very easily.
- **Mike Knaub** had the surgery on his ankle and he is doing well.
- **Brian Sparks**, Ray reported that his son is doing better.
- **Roger Gibson** has been cleared of stomach cancer and his lymph nodes are normal. He will finish all of his treatments just to be safe.
- **Chuck Bohling** has major health issues. As soon as a room comes open at Victory House he will be moving in there.

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 the Charleston Base T-shirts at 13 dollars apiece.

**Membership:** Larry Knutson reported that base membership is now 321 members.

**Kaps for Kids:** No report was given.

**Special Events Coordinator:** Parades: first one is Elloree on 10 December. Summerville Parade on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Mentioned that the Christmas Patry menu is Ham and Prime Rib. Rick has tickets for sale for \$20.00 each.

**FRA:** Old fashioned Navy Breakfast Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf acknowledged the 2 WWII SUBVETS present. Next Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> with the WWII Vets at the FRA.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers informed us that he has Submarine Bolo's for sale. He has the challenge Bolos for \$21.00 apiece. He also reported that there is a limited edition 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patch for Pearl Harbor attack. \$15.00 each.

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

**Public Affairs:** Ronnie Kerstetter was not present.

**CRAMA:** Butch Bryar No Report.

**Chief of the Boat:** Ken Hutchison reported that today is the 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the Navy. The COB mentioned the WWII event in Kings Bay GA Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Veterans Day we will have our memorial service. Dorchester County office building at 17A and 178. 1400 we will do the tolling of the boats at the Coffee Roasters in Summerville. Victory House next Tuesday.

**Base Commander:** Rick notified that there will be a working party before the Veterans Day ceremony. He also reported that the Base Budget will be submitted and voted on next board meeting.

**Old Business:** Holland club coin information is we saved money on the coins.

**New Business:** None.

**Good of the Order:**

**After Battery:** Bhudda reported that the Hog roast is April 22 out at the After Battery

**Nuclear Historian:** How to call the police when you are old and don't move fast anymore. George Phillips , An elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to turn off the light, but saw there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police, who asked is someone in your house? He said "No" but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me. Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors and an officer will be there when one is available". George said "okay". He hung up the phone counted to 30 and phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. "Well you don't have to worry about them anymore because I just shot and killed both of them. The dogs are eating them right now". He hung up. Within five minutes , six police cars, a swat team, helicopter, two fire trucks and Ambulance showed up at the Phillips residence and caught the burglars red handed. One of the policemen said to George. "I thought you said that you'd shot them. George said "I thought you said no one was available".

The Debt Ceiling:

Democrats don't understand the DEBT CEILING  
Republicans don't understand the DEBT CEILING  
Liberals don't understand the DEBT CEILING  
No one understands the DEBT CEILING  
So allow me to explain

Let's say you come home from work and find there has been a sewer back up in your neighborhood. Your home has sewage all the way up to the ceiling  
What do you think you should do?

The **depth charge** was won by Rich Alkire. He donated \$60.00 to the Scholarship fund.

The **FRA red ticket** was won by Mike Welch.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2018.