

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

12 January 2017

The attendance for the January 2017 meeting was 91 members.

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 January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Michael Ciesielko. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Rick Wise: Introduced Joyce Clark Ladson VFW Commander. She wanted to let us know they are having a Valentines Mystery Dinner at the VFW Post. All proceeds will go to the Victory House. The Dinner will be on 11 February 6:30 PM.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ETCM (SS) Keith Deliteris, Qual Boat: USS Buffalo SSN 715; LCDR Bob Neider, Qual Boat: USS Grayling SSN 646.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that there were no meeting Minutes for December. Mike also commented that this was due to only having the Christmas Party in December.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his 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

Special Events: Rick thanked and acknowledged everyone for their outstanding efforts on the Christmas Party. Especially Elmer Feeser, who spent two days in the kitchen cooking the awesome Prime Rib.

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

Submarines Lost During the Month of January

USS SCORPION (SS-278)	Jan. 5, 1944 – 4 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	Jan. 10, 1943 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 102 souls
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	Jan. 12, 1945 – 13 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls
USS S-36 (SS-141)	Jan. 20, 1942 – 2 nd War Patrol	No loss of life
USS S-26 (SS-131)	Jan. 24, 1942 – 2 nd War Patrol	Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued

Five Boats and 314 Men Lost

January Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS SCORPION (SS-278) was lost on January 5 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

- **RMCS(SS) Gary Alexander Burrell, USN Ret.**, departed on Eternal Patrol on December 29, 2016, in York SC. He joined the Navy in 1970, qualified on the George Bancroft, served on the Mariano G. Vallejo, and retired in 1991 from Strategic Systems Programs in DC. Gary was not a USSVI member.

- **MS1(SS) Michael Cline**, departed on Eternal Patrol on January 10, 2017 after a prolonged illness. He qualified on the Nathan Hale in 1976. Michael was a member of Charleston Base through 2012. His funeral will be at St Luke's Lutheran in Summerville on Sunday, Jan. 15th at 1400.
- **Mike Knaub**, Vice Commander, has a couple more weeks before he can put weight on his foot and has to complete his meds. He plans to be here next month.
- **Beetle Bailey's daughter, Diane**, has had a recurrence of her cancer. They found a 1.5 centimeter growth on her liver and she will be starting radiation soon.
- **Buck Owens** was in the hospital over the New Year's weekend due to shortness of breath and a couple of other things. He was released on Monday, Jan. 2nd and is recovering well.
- **Joe Hayes** is having some major issues with his back. He is also having several other health concerns that are being treated.
- **Roger Gibson** was at the doctor on Jan. 4th and received great news. His PET scan showed everything was normal with no cancer. He will get a 6-month scan to check his lymph glands but knows what the report will be. QUOTE: Give the Lord all the praises for the healing and all the prayers; it's only through my Lord and savior that I'm healed and I give Him all the glory, amen and amen.
- **Fred Woodley** will be having his shoulder surgery at some time in the future.
- **April Hilton**, Vickie Mook's daughter, was in the hospital over Thanksgiving in critical condition with blood clots throughout her body. Vickie informed me that April is now home, still on O2, and doing pretty well. She was given only a 30% chance of surviving and she did. Long recovery ahead but at least she is still with us.
- **Theron Irving's wife, Golden**, passed away on Dec. 20th at home with Theron by her side. No local services are planned. Golden will be buried in Texas with her father.
- **Michael Cousino's wife, Lynn**, passed away on Nov. 23rd. Many SUBVETS attended either the viewing or Mass and their attendance was very appreciated by the family. Michael sent the base membership a very nice email which the Base Commander sent to everyone.
- **Lee Young** has completed his radiation and will be having surgery in 8 weeks.
- **James Graham** will be having thyroid surgery on February 14th.

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.

There will be an email coming our soon to begin a program where shipmates will pickup other shipmates who can't drive after dark and bring them to the meetings.

In the next newsletter I will explain what the base does for funerals for members and non-members.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Currently there are 6 ads on the Web site. I would like to encourage anyone that has a business to consider advertising through the base website and newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 for 12 months. If you would like to know more please see me or the Base Commander.
- 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.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy reported that Kaps for Kids will be heading up to Florence on the 21st of February. Meet at Bill's by 8am. They are scheduled for 10 am at the Hospital.

Bill would like if anyone knows a Shriner He would like to get the Kaps for Kids into the Shriners Hospital.

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that there are 73 members that have not paid base dues. Membership is now 324 members.

District Commander: Ed commented that we (USSVI) are no longer a 401 status so charitable Contributions are no longer tax deductible. Next Tuesday Ed will make a visit to the Victory House. Ed mentioned the H.L. Hunley Memorial ceremony is Feb 17th. We need Volunteers for the presenters and wreath laying.

Special Events: Rick had no report.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that there is an FRA inauguration party 1100 to 1600 Friday 21 January. There is also a Superbowl Party on Superbowl Sunday. All food and Liquor will be provided. Tickets are 60.00 each.

Veterans Affairs: No Report.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded us we have 2 WWII vets attending tonight's meeting. George gave us a report on Willy Jones' status. Next Luncheon is at the FRA on 16 February.

Scholarship: George reported that the Scholarship applications need to be in by April 15th.

Election Coordinator: Joe Lunn asked the membership if anyone would like to run for the offices of Base Commander and Treasurer. Neither the Base Commander nor treasurer wish to run again for office.

Public Affairs: No Report

Holland Club: Bill Freigh had no report.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report.

Rec Committee: No Report

CRAMA: Butch Bryar was not present. Rick Wise mentioned that the next CRAMA meeting is 26 January.

Chief of the Boat: Was not present.

Base Commander: Talked about the Don Meadows Donation. The Base made a donation from the general fund of \$500.00

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Mike Ciesielko mentioned about starting a Charleston Base SUBVETS Gun Club He asked if there was interest and if there were and they would like to join email the secretary.

The After Battery: Bhudda reported that the After Battery annual week long Hog roast will be 16th April.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson reported:

Well, to start with we all got our rates back. ADM Richardson's CMC had to eat some crow. The NAVY (Sailors) did not want to do away with their rates! I'll bet he was either a NUC or an Airdale. To date, I have been the Nuclear Historian for over 10 years. (Since we were at the VFW.) I had wanted to call it quits for a while, but I hung in there. I am finally ready for my relief. Any takers? The only requirement is you must be full of S_it or at least half full.

Since I had not seen most of you since the Christmas Party, I'd like to wish you a belated Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kuawana, and Happy New Year.

I spent my Christmas at my Brother-in-laws / Sister-in-laws in St Augustine, FL. It was so memorable I thought I would share it with you.

As a joke, My Brother-in-law Bob always hangs a pair of panty hose over his fireplace. He said all he wanted was for Santa to fill them.

What they say about Santa checking the list twice must be true because every Christmas morning, Bob's kids stocking are overflowing, and his poor pantyhose hung sadly empty.

This year I decided to make his dream come true. I put on sunglasses and went in search of an inflatable love doll.

They don't sell those things at WAL-MART!

I had to go to an adult bookstore on I-95. If you've never been in an X-rated store, don't go, you'll only confuse yourself.

I was there an hour saying things like "What does that do?" You're kidding me! Who would buy that? Finally, I made it to the inflatable doll section.

I wanted to buy a standard, uncomplicated doll that could also substitute as a passenger in my truck so I could use the car pool lane during rush hour.

Finding what I wanted was difficult. Love Dolls come in many different models. According to The top of the box, the most basic model could do things I've only heard about.

I needed the advice of an expert on these matters, so I called G.W. and asked for his recommendation.

I settled for "Lovable Louise". She was at the bottom of the price scale.

To call Louise a "doll" took a huge leap of imagination.

On Christmas Eve and with the help of an old bicycle pump, Louise came to life.

My Sister-in-law was in on the plan and let me in during the wee morning hours. Long after Santa had come and gone.

I filled the dangling pantyhose with Louise's legs and bottom.

I also ate some cookies and drank the milk on a tray nearby.

I went to the Hotel and giggled for a couple of hours.

The next morning my Brother-in-law called to say Santa had been to his house and left a present that had made him "Very Happy", but had left the dog confused. He would bark, start to walk away then bark some more.

We all agreed that Louise should remain in her pantyhose so the rest of the family could admire her when they came over for the traditional Christmas Dinner.

Bob's Grandmother noticed Louise the moment she walked in the door. What the hell is that? She asked?

Bob quickly explained, "It's a doll" "Who would play with something like that? Granny snapped.

I kept my mouth shut---but I wanted to say an Auxillaryman!

Where are her clothes? Granny continued.

Boy that Turkey sure smells nice, Granny, Bob said to steer her to the dining room.

But Granny was relentless, "Why doesn't she have any teeth?"

Again, I could have answered, but why would I?

It was Christmas and no one wanted to ride in the back of the ambulance saying "Hang on Granny, Hang on!"

Bob's Grandfather, a delightful old man with poor eyesight, smiled up to me and asked. "Hey, who's the naked gal by the fireplace? I told him she was Bob's friend.

A few minutes later I noticed Grandpa by the mantel, talking to Louise. Not just talking, but actually flirting. It was then that we realized this might be Grandpa's last Christmas at home.

The Dinner went well. We made the usual small talk about who had died, who was dying. And, who should be killed, when suddenly Louise made a noise like my dad in the bathroom in the morning. Then she lurched from the mantle, flew around the room twice, and fell in a heap in front of the sofa. The cat screamed. I passed cranberry through my nose, and Grandpa ran across the room, fell to his knees and began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. My brother-in-law fell back over his chair and wet his pants.

Granny threw down her napkin, stomped out of the room, and sat in the car.

It was indeed a Christmas to treasure and remember.

Later in Bob's garage we conducted a thorough examination to decide the cause of Louise collapse.

We discovered that Louise had suffered from a hot ember to the back of her right thigh.

Fortunately, thanks to a wonder drug called "DUCT TAPE", we restored her to perfect health.

I can't wait until next Christmas..... She may pay you a visit!!

The red FRA ticket was won by Art Hanson

The depth charge was won by Larry Knutson.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2022.