

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

9 February 2017

The attendance for the February 2017 meeting was 82 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 February 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.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ET1 (SS/DV) Thomas S. Perez, Qual Boat: USS Salt Lake City SSN 716

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the January 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 meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ken Curtis.

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

Submarines Lost During the Month of February

USS BARBEL (SS 316)	Feb. 4, 1945 – 4 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 81 souls
USS SHARK 1 (SS 174)	Feb. 11, 1942 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 59 souls
USS AMBERJACK (SS 219)	Feb. 16, 1943 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 72 souls
USS GRAYBACK (SS 208)	Feb. 26, 1944 – 10 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 80 souls
USS TROUT (SS 202)	Feb. 29, 1944 – 11 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 81 souls

Five Boats and 373 Men Lost

H.L. HUNLEY	Feb. 17, 1864	Lost with all hands – 8 souls
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February Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS BARBEL (SS-316) was lost on Feb 4, 1945 with 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.

- **Richard S. Erb** of Ladson departed on Eternal Patrol on January 10, 2017 at Veterans Victory House, Walterboro. His memorial service was on Saturday, February 4, 2017. He was a 20 year submarine veteran. Richard was not a member of USSVI.
- **Larry Cox** had throat surgery last Thursday. He is now home recovering.
- **Luke Murphy** is at the VA 3rd floor rm 5 3B North. Luke's son, Tommy, took him to the ER Saturday night where he was diagnosed with very bad pneumonia. He had a bad evening on Sunday. Luke was just moved from MICU to a room this afternoon.

- **Judy Murphy**, Luke's wife, had back surgery on 27 January. She is doing well and went home on 29 January.
- **Don Heinle** was in the Colleton County MC for about a week and went home on 27 January.
- **Brian Woodley**, Fred's son, made it through his surgery on both feet and is doing well.
- **Don Meadows** has a bacterial infection around his heart but it is responding to medication. His older son has to lose a couple more pounds before the transplant to Andrew.
- **David Wood** had his prostate removed last Thursday, 2 February. He's home but is limited with what he can do for about three weeks.
- **Rodney McKanna** had minor surgery on his stump and will be in a wheelchair for a couple of weeks. He's already back at work and here tonight.
- **Bill Freligh's** had a house fire on Sunday, 29 January. Both Bill & Mary are ok and they are staying with son Scott.
- **Sonny Rash** had hernia surgery yesterday Feb. 8th at the VA. It took 6 hours to complete. Expects to be home early next week. He is on the 4th floor bed 7. Visitors will be welcome.
- **Ava Daughtery**, Fred's wife, will be having major surgery on her ear on February 14th.
- **James Graham** will be having thyroid surgery on February 14th
- **Lee Young** will be having surgery on March 6th.
- **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.
- **Cards & Checks received** from condolences placed online at Legacy.com. All checks presented to Scholarship Fund IAW Standing Policy:
 - Card from Ruth Elmer in appreciation for condolence for son, Lawrence Elmer.
 - Card & \$50 check from Mary McMahan in memory of CPO(SS) William Martin Lindler.
 - Card & \$50 check from Betty Stokes in memory of her husband, William M. Lindler.

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:

- **BE CAREFUL NOT TO ANSWER ANY CALLS WITH YES OR IN ANY WAY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.** Many of the news agencies are warning of a telephone scam on cell and home phone. Your phone rings, could possibly be from a person on your phone list and a pause then someone says, "can you hear me now?" Would your answer be, "Yes" or something of this nature? If so, you might just have been had, agreeing to whatever, but they do have you saying, YES, which they then use to obligate you to some agreement. Make sure you know them before you pass anything along or JUST HANG UP
- 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.

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

Membership is now 322 members.

Holland Club: Bill Freigh reported that the Holland Club will have 10 inductees in April.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy reported that Kaps for Kids will be heading up to Florence on the 21st of February. Meet at Bills by 8am. They are scheduled for 10 am at the Hospital. Bill is telling everyone to bring their wives as well.

Veterans Affairs: Reported that there is a new VA telephone number for customer service. 1-844-698-2311. Jan 12th Senator Dean Hiller introduced a bill that will allow disabled veterans to travel on a space available basis just like retired personnel.

Special Events: Rick reported that we will be participating (Pulling the Float) in the See Saw Days Parade in Harleyville on 12 May. Rick mentioned that we donated the Trophy from the Elloree Parade to Stump Hole Landing. They are proudly displaying it for us.

FRA: Rick Sparger reported that the FRA will be having a Valentines Steak Dinner. 1800 on 18 Feb 2017. \$25 per couple.

Election Coordinator: Joe Lund 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.

District Commander: Ed commented that next Tuesday he will make a visit to the Victory House.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar commented on the people wanting to turn the Clamagore into a reef. It's not happening. Butch has been talking with the Patriots point Foundation.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded us we have 1 WWII vet 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.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers has challenge coins.

Rec Committee: No Report

Public Affairs: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Hunley memorial 17 Feb. We need Volunteers.

Paul Viering reported that we still need volunteers for the Hunley Housatonic Memorial. The memorial consists of just the Church Ceremony.

Base Commander: Talked about having to take back over the Little David Project. We will have a working party in April or May.

Old Business: None

New Business: Rick Sparger made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the FRA towards the purchase of a portable AED defibrillator. Ken Hutchison seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Good of the Order: Gordon Long relayed to the base that his group is doing the singing Valentines. They will be performing all day Monday and Tuesday.

Rodney McKanna made a motion that we donate \$150.00 for a brick for the Charleston 9 Memorial. George Scharf seconded. The motion passed.

The After Battery: Bhudda reported that the After Battery annual week long Hog roast will be 16th April. Any donations or Raffle Baskets are much appreciated.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported:

1. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Two to three hours after you fall asleep, have your wife whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack".
2. Repeat back everything anyone says to you.
3. Spend as much time as possible indoors and avoid sun light. Only view the world through the peep hole on your front door.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of your bathtub and move the shower head down to chest level. Shower once a week. Use no more than 2 gallons of water per shower.
5. Buy a trash compactor and use it once a week. Store garbage in the other side of your bathtub. Freeze your garbage when the trash man goes on strike (GDU/TDU breaks)
6. Sit in your car for six hours a day with your hands on the wheel and the motor running, but don't go anywhere. Install 200 extra pressure, temperature and Level gauges. Take logs on all gages and indicators every 30 minutes.
7. Convert your pantry to a storage room and fill it with condensed, dehydrated, and powered foods. Think that dehydrated shrimp is a great meal.
8. Share a bunk with your little brother who has incontinence . Hot racking is fun.
9. Have only one bathroom in your house with 25 people sharing it. Win the golden flapper award.
10. Close up your house from outside air and use O2 Candles for oxygen, Lithium hydroxide to remove Carbon Dioxide and when you finally get to bring in some outside air how foul it smells.
11. Drill for 2 weeks in addition to the other 10 weeks preparing for an NTPI, ORSE or TRE.
12. Stand port and starboard duty in port while refitting in Holy Loch of Rota.

Our sub was on station somewhere in the Pacific, and I was standing AEA watch. One of the things we do as AEA while on station is to man the Time-Range plot in Control, a job that requires me to endlessly record every fishing vessel and whale that happens to cross our sonar. The night watch was going very slowly, so we decided to take advantage of the free time to start on housekeeping routines a bit early. The COW called the forward auxiliaryman (A-ganger) to line up sanitary tanks 1 and 2 to blow overboard. He never actually stated to blow them overboard - and for good reason, we were still at "400" feet. This apparently was missed by the mechanic (we were all pretty out of it), and he dutifully went below to the 18-man berthing compartment to accomplish his task.

About five minutes later, those of us in Control began to hear a strange hissing noise, followed by a rather sharp pop and a much louder hiss. The COW and OOD were quick to make a 1MC - "Report the source of the abnormal noise to Control". We needed no report. About ten seconds later we began to smell what could only be described as the most foul sewage ever known to man. It was quickly decided to handle this as a legitimate casualty, as we were all becoming nauseous from the smell, and the officers were concerned about the crew becoming completely overcome by the odor.

We all donned EAB's and waited as reports began to filter in, and the truth of the casualty became clear. The A-ganger had lined up SAN2 to blow overboard, but forgot to wait for the boat to come to PD. He pressurized the tank and began blowing overboard, unfortunately, he did not notice that the pressure was much higher this time due to the ship's depth. Well, the pressure gauge for this tank happens to be in one of the bunks (occupied by one of the ship's cooks) and it was the source of the 'pop' we all heard. When that gauge let go, the bunk (and the cook) were instantly covered in our forgotten meals. The A-ganger quickly isolated the hull valves, but there wasn't much he could do

about the influx of crap that was blowing all over the berthing compartment. Men fell out of their bunks and ran for their lives, and the mechanic jumped into the bunk with the broken gauge and tried to plug the leak, to no avail.

When it was all over, and believe me - it was, the ship was emergency ventilated, and a decontamination area (fit to make any Radcon officer proud) was established in the torpedo room. We went through a couple dozen tetanus shots for those directly exposed to the mess. Needless to say, we were all hot-racking afterwards, as the mattresses in the berthing area were unfit to sleep on, not that anyone really wanted anywhere near the stubbornly lingering odor.

Mike Ciesielko announced that the Charleston Base Gun club meeting will be 13 February at 5 PM

The red FRA ticket was won by John Lookabill

The depth charge was won by Tom Clark.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2031.