

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

10 August 2017

The attendance for the August 2017 meeting was 80 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1859. 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. Ralph welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: Future Submariner Donovan Gordon. He is entering sixth grade and goes Pacific Cascade Middle School.

Chief of the Boat: Joe Lunn mentioned that we will be visiting the Victory House Aug 17th. The COB is gauging interest for an Oyster Roast, He will keep us updated as events unfold for this.

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 meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Butch Bryar

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Gordon Williams 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

Chaplain:

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:

COCHINO was lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of COCHINO and TUSK (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and COCHINO sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of COCHINO'S men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

- **RM1(SS) Ronald "Ron" Keith Pool, USN Ret., departed on Eternal Patrol July 29th.** Ron was not a member of USSVI. He served on the USS ALBACORE AGSS-569 as a Radioman

First Class. A condolence message to the family was placed in the online Guest Book from Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.

- **TM1(SS) Frederick C. Grisham, USN Ret., departed on Eternal Patrol August 4th.** He was not a member of USSVI. Fred (or Tac as he was known) served in the Navy for 21 years, then worked for the Goose Creek Police Department for 18 years. He also worked with Joe O'Saben at Carolina One. A condolence message to the family was placed in the online Guest Book from Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.
- **Steve Curry's mother, Jerry Baker,** passed away unexpectedly on June 22nd.
- **Rodney McKanna** was diagnosed with a detached right retina. Had a procedure last Friday on the eye. He is with us tonight and is doing well.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** had a cardiac ablation on July 27th. The next day he was able to breathe again, his vitals had stabilized and his pacemaker was doing its job. I am sure that all the prayers lifted up for me was a big help. I wish to thank all of you for your help, God bless.
- **Steve Everett's SIL, Aaron Stansbury,** had spine surgery on July 25th. Aaron was moved to Health South on the 28th. It has been confirmed the growth was cancer and he will begin his treatments soon. We thank our submarine family for their prayers.
- **Don Peterson** is now clear of throat cancer as reported in the FRA newsletter.
- **Beetle Bailey's daughter, Diane,** has had her cancer recur. She has two spots on her liver and is having chemo treatments again.
- As I've told you before, I attempt to acknowledge the passing of every Submariner Brother by sending a note, email or message on the funeral home website when possible. These messages come from you, the base members. Someone asked me before why I do this. Here's an email from a WWII SUBVETS wife that will tell you why:
 - FRANKLIN McCULLOCH GATES 1926 - 2017
 - Message from Betty Gates: I'm sorry to say that I just now looked at my husband's obit in the Herald-Dispatch. We were married for 63 years and I am having a very difficult time. Thank you so much for your kind words. Mac would be so pleased to know a submarine veteran responded. I appreciate it so very much.

If you have a change of mailing address, phone number, email address please let the base leadership know about it. We need to make sure all of our records are updated so we can make contact with you if we need to.

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:

- Currently there are 5 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 now 305 members.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy reported that the Kaps for Kids will be visiting the Shriners Hospital, Tuesday August 15th. There will be about 14 attending and around 50 Kids will be visited.

Veterans Affairs: Ken reported that The funding of the choice program will still be around. Veterans were asked to vote on July 22nd.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present. No report

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George reported that the Luncheon is 17th August. Walt Curtis was the only WWII member present.

Scholarship: Scholarships are due 16th of April 2018

NPS Awards: Ray Sparks was not present. No report.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar mentioned that the Clamagore is still here.

Public Affairs: Rick Wise is trying to get our base meeting announcements in the local papers.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had some items donated from ED Stank. Ron asked for donations for the items and all proceeds go to the Scholarship fund.

Special Events: Rick had no report.

Base Commander: Ralph Rhorssen informed us that the Newsletter is where Nationals Information will be posted. Ralph has asked for someone from our base to fill the District Commander Vacancy. Chronic care charge from Palmetto Primary care is still an issue. Ralph informed us that the NMPTC Graduation is 15 Sept.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: Buddha let us know that there was a dolphin pinning ceremony up in CT two WWII vets pinned the Dolphins on. Buddha mentioned about national and Groton having a difference that is now involving Lawyers.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported:

When Periscopes Were Periscopes

When Periscopes were periscopes, The men I knew were bold. We plied the oceans depths unseen, For missions still untold. When diesel boats were diesel boats The fuel was our friend. Now neutrons make the steam, And Dinky's oil rarely spends. When the klaxons were actual klaxons, We managed the ticks and tocks, Not they depend upon something that sends Alarming electrons from a box. When surfacing was surfacing, The hammer-valves would ring, Our negative and Safety tanks Were just a passing thing. When Control was in Control, More manual functions then. Remote monitors and waterfalls Perform for many men. When Sonar was a new thing, And Radar was a babe, You stand upon our shoulders now With technology at your trade. When forward ratings came to pass, Why dd the lately remove, QM's, FT's, RM's, TM's and Ic's Now just ET's and MM's, now what was improved? When Quartermasters were Quartermasters The charts and tools of the trade, Manipulated by the best, Their knowledge made the grade. When Ward roomers were officers, Their esteem and respect would rule. Now the yes –men riding on the boats, Only wish they were that cool. The seaman gang is still the same, The topside chores remain. The WEPS has total dominance, O'er all the nubbies brains. When enginemen were engine men, They were stout and hearty then; The likes of which, compared to now Will never be again. When Topside Watch was Topside Watch Cold New London winters were felt. We'd eat chow, and then watch the

brow, With .45 and a gun belt. When IC-men were IC-men, You never had to fear. Their expertise and acumen, Kept up the needful gear. When Battle stations were battle stations, The Captain would never fail; To Conn from the most crowded tower Not the fairwater or the sail. When Radiomen were Radiomen, Their shack was oh so small. Now the space they have is lacking, To try and hold it all. When Machinist Mates were Machinist Mates, They had so many tricks, But let something break, they would never take, Much time to give it the fix. When Maneuvering was Maneuvering, Men threw the sticks to go, Now clipboards, gauges, and seats immobile, Set film badges aglow. The Sonar Shack our blind man's ears, Back then they had more respect, Now they call them girls, but let me say, Your giddiness should be checked. When ET's were ET's Loran and Radar they knew. Now components fail and they but have, To insert a module new When the bow planes were bow planes, The quicker descent ruled the day. I see they've back to what worked best, No sail planes which diving delays. When TM's were TM's Their muscles brought to bear, The heavy bullets of the past, Now deadly missiles of the air. When dungarees were dungarees, We'd muster on the pier. Now poopie-suits nor camouflage, To make us look so queer. Still submarines are submarines,
And one may surely bet, An Enemy will yet be met, With an ominous stealthy threat.
Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko announced a gun shoot this Saturday.
The Red FRA ticket was won by Chuck Gravley.
The depth charge was won by Ronnie Vandiver Ronnie Donated 100 Dollars to the Victory House Lowcountry Boil.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2002.