

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

8 February 2018

The attendance for the February 2018 meeting was 71 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ralph Rhorsen. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1858. 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 Vice Commander Mike Knaub. Ralph welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: EM3 (SS) Frank Reinbold Qual Boat: USS Harder SS 257. HMC (SS) Nick Medveoeff. Qual Boat: USS Carbonero SS 337.

Secretary: The Minutes have been published and promulgated, Are there any additions or deletions. If not the Minutes are Approved

Treasurer: The treasurers report is published and promulgated, Are there any additions or deletions. If not the report is Approved.

Chaplain:

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. 27, 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

Motor Machinist's Mate Second Class, Submarines, Samuel Eugene Whatley
US Navy World War II Submarine Veteran
Departed on Eternal Patrol – November 28, 2017

January Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS GRAYBACK SS-208 was lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

- **MOMM2(SS) Samuel Eugene Whatley, a WWII Submarine Veteran**, departed on Eternal Patrol, Nov. 28, 2017. The base found out about this when we received a notice from National on Jan. 15th. Sam lived in Ninety-Six and had not attended meetings in a long while. He was a member of Swamp Fox Chapter World War II Submarine Veterans, joined USSVI National and Charleston Base in 2008 and he was a member of the Holland Club. Samuel qualified on USS SPOT SS-213 in 1945 making 3 war patrols and was a plank owner.
- **Don Ort's brother, Tom**, passed away in Yorktown, VA Saturday evening. He was a decorated veteran and served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Tom's memorial service will be held on Saturday in Grafton VA.

- **Charles 'Chuck' Wood** is in Trident Rm 344. I had a call from him on Sunday afternoon and went to visit him. Chuck had major heart surgery on Dec. 28th, and has been in the hospital since then. His throat is still very sore from the tube he had in it. He is very hard to understand unless you listen closely due to the throat soreness and having a hard time 'pushing' the sounds out. He's very upbeat and would very much enjoy having visitors to come by to see him. He doesn't know when he will be leaving the hospital or what rehab he will be doing. This was a sudden surgery. Chuck had told his wife to contact me if anything should happen...she took that to mean if he died. He meant it as if he had to go to the hospital or have surgery...miscommunication.
Update: Chuck's vocal chords need time to get back to normal. Anyone having some time to go by his room and help with some easy physical therapy please call or visit him to discuss.
- **Beetle Bailey's** daughter **Diane MacBride** had her kidney removed. The growth was benign. She also had a cancer in her liver but the spot is gone...No cancer.
- **Ken and Barbara Curtis'** daughter-in-law, Lisa, wife of oldest son Tim, passed away Saturday evening, the 27th. They were not able to attend the funeral this past Sunday due to the flu. Lisa was an organ donor and the doctors told us that 6 people will benefit from her organs. **From Ken:** To everyone who attended my daughter-in-law's funeral on the 4th, I have received word from some of the family members how much they appreciated the "men with the vests". My personal thanks and appreciation to my shipmates even though Barbara and I had the FLU and could not attend.
- **Rick Sparger** is doing well after his hip surgery.
- **Walt Curtis** has a tumor on his liver which is malignant. He is in Hospice of Charleston Mt. Pleasant room 12. Address is 222 West Coleman Blvd. Suite 104, Mt. Pleasant SC 29464. The phone number to the Hospice is 843.212.2813. [MAP to Hospice](#)
- **Terry Trump** had his latest doctor visit and was told he can now walk. He did find out that after 2 ½ months off the foot he had to take it easy. Terry was not able to make it tonight due to his ankles swelling after PT today.
- **Don Peterson** is back with us tonight.
- **Carol Yates** sent me an email which I forwarded to the membership about having a motorized chair/scooter that belonged to Jim. She's trying to give it to a veteran who needs it. I understand Jerry Stout is working with her on this now.
- Received an email that two Palmetto Base Shipmates, Milt Berkey and Terry Matlosz, are in need of our prayers for healing.

I still need page 2s for about 30% of our members.

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.

I have volunteered to be the Charleston Base contact with the 2018 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball Committee. I sent an email yesterday to the NNPTC SubBall Chairman asking for further info. The only thing I know right now is the Ball will be April 7th beginning at 1900 and located at Trident Tech again. As I get more info I'll be sending it out via email to all base members.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- There are a lot of updates to the VA section on our website. The latest one is the VA Disability Rates for 2018.
- 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 informed us we have 265 members.

District Commander: Wade Phillips introduced himself as the new District Commander. He gave us a brief History of Himself.

Kaps for Kids: Bill reported that the February Kaps for Kids has been cancelled. Kaps for Kids will travel to Florence on March 20th.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report. Check the website.

FRA: No Report.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Stacy Power was present tonight. George Scharf commented on Willie Jones Funeral and how happy the Family was. The WWII luncheon is 13 Feb.

Scholarship: Applications due 15 April.

NPS Awards: March 9th.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar is giving personal tours on the USS CLAMAGORE. Just call him ahead of time.

Public Affairs: No Report

Storekeeper: No Report

Special Events: No Report.

Chief of the Boat: Joe Lunn reported the Oyster roast is March 3rd. Tickets will be sold \$20.00 each Subvet member and immediate family all others \$30.00 anyone not eating Oysters will be charged \$10.00.

Base Commander: We have been asked to host the 2019 Southeastern Convention. Ed Stank is the Chairman for this event. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Ralph has encouraged Subvets to bring their wives to the social hour before our meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ralph has asked the Base members to submit hand written recommendations for Distinguished Submariner award. Voting will take place at the next board meeting.

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: Hog Roast is April 21st. The festivities start April 16th and run all week. The New England Subvets will be down again as well. There is a raffle for a 30-30 rifle. Tickets are \$10.00 each

Nuclear Historian:

A mustang retired after 35 years in the Navy and realized a lifelong dream of owning a bird-hunting estate in Alaska. He invited an old Admiral friend to visit for a week of pheasant hunting.

The friend was in awe of the mustang's hunting dog, "Chief". The dog could point, flush and retrieve with the very best.

The Admiral offered to buy the dog at any price. The mustang declined saying that Chief was the very best dog he had ever owned and that he could not part with him.

6 months later the same Admiral returned for another week of hunting and was surprised to find the mustang breaking in a new dog.

“What happened to Chief?” he asked.

“Had to shoot him,” the mustang replied. “Another old shipmate came to hunt with me and couldn’t remember the dog’s name. He kept calling him “Master Chief. After that all the dog would do was sit on his butt and bark.”

A WISE OLD MASTER CHIEF ONCE SAID.....

A young Ensign approaches a crusty old Master Chief and asks about the origin of the commissioned officers insignias.

“Well,” replied the Master Chief. “The insignias for the Navy are steeped in history and tradition.”

“First, a gold bar is presented showing that you are valuable but also malleable.”

“The silver bar also represents significant value but is less malleable.”

“When you make LT, your value doubles, hence the two silver bars.”

“As a Captain you soar over the military masses, hence the eagle.”

“As an Admiral you are obviously a star.”

“Does that answer your question?”

“Yes Master Chief,” replied the young Ensign. “But what about LCDR and CDR?”

“That sir goes waaay back in history – back to the Garden of Eden. You see we always cover our pricks with leaves.”

Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko had no report.

Red ticket FRA ticket was won by Jerry Stout.

Blue ticket depth charge was won by Ralph Rhorsen.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

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