

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

10 May 2018

The attendance for the May 2018 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 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in April 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: MMCM (SS) Robert a. Sellars, Qual Boat: USS John Adams (SSBN620). ET1 (SS) Kenneth Lembrich, Qual Boat: USS John Adams (SSBN620). MMC (SS) John W McDaniel, Qual Boat: USS John Adams (SSBN 620)

Secretary: The Minutes have been published and promulgated; Mike Ciesielko made a revision to include the question asked by Jim Lewis about receiving receipts for paying for membership dues by PAY PAL. There were no additions or deletions. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report is published and promulgated; there were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain:

Submarines Lost During the Month of May

USS LAGARTO (SS-371)	May 3, 1945 – 2 nd War patrol	Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
USS SCORPION (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment	Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
USS SQUALUS (SS-192)	May 23, 1939 – during test dive	33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)	May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii	NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

May Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS Scorpion (SSN-589) was returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment. On May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined.

- **Tom Lawson** was able to go home yesterday. He was taken to Trident with pneumonia and during a test they found a mass in his upper left lung. The radiologist determined that it was not a mass but inflammation from the pneumonia. He states that prayers do work and wants the base members to know that he really appreciate all of their thoughts and prayers.
- **Thom Beach** is home and feeling better. Thom had a blood infection and will be taking at home IV's for a few days. The doctors did rule out liver rejection and kidney issues.
- **John Lookabill's** 94 year old brother, Joe, passed away the morning of 3 May in Aiken SC. His service is probably on Monday. He was a WWII Navy Vet, FC2.
- **WWII SUBVET LTJG(SS) John Coming Ball Jr.,** 95, departed on Eternal Patrol on 4.26.18. He qualified in USS BLACKFIN SS322. He passed at Bishop Gadsen in Charleston. He was a WWII submariner that we knew nothing about.

- **Luke Murphy** is at home in good spirits and doing better. The lift is working great. He would really like some visitors. Before visiting please call Judy's cell (843.560.0431) to make sure they are home and not at the doctor's office. The address is: 180 Chubb Ln, Dorchester SC 29437
- **Larry Cox** has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has started with chemo treatments. He is taking time off of the treatments to go to family graduations.
- **Ed Stank** has visited the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and will be going there again in June. They believe the neuropathy in his legs may be stemming from problems with his back.
- **Charles Wood** is still recovering from his major heart surgery in December. He is doing well with his PT.
- **Ken Curtis** has been diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.
- I still need page 2s from a lot of you.
- 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.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Ken Curtis is constantly giving me updates for the VA section.
- 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.

New Business: Rick Wise made a proposal to move old and new business to before the board members make their reports and after the introduction of new attendees. Nick Nichols made the motion to accept the proposal as written. Roger Gibson seconded. The base voted and it was approved.

Joe Hayes made a motion to give mileage expenses for Kaps 4 Kids drivers. Ed Stank seconded. The motion was handed to the base with discussion and was voted down.

Ralph Rhorssen asked the base about electing a Base Vice Commander and Base Secretary. Ken Hutchison nominated Michael Ciesielko as new Base Vice Commander. The Base voted and Mike won by acclamation.

There were no nominations for base secretary Michael will keep both chairs for a short period of time.

Old Business: None.

Victory House: Ed Stank reported that BJ Tackett was inducted into the Holland club at the last visit. The next visit will be 15 May. Ed also gave us a report about our base storage facility and hopefully they will leave a key for us with the Base Master Chief.

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that there are 285 Members. Larry answered Jim Lewis question from last month

Kaps for Kids: Bill reported that the next Kaps for Kids visit is May 15th up in Florence. June 12th will be visiting Greenville. Three Greenville Chapter Subvets will be attending as well.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report

FRA: No Report.

Special Events: Rick recommended that we not have a Subvets picnic due to the FRA Picnic being Free.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Stacy Powers was present tonight. The WWII Luncheon is Thursday 17 May.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that 2 of the 4 applicants had incomplete packages. The four current members for the scholarship committee are resigning.

NPS Awards: Ray Sparks had no report.

CRAMA: No Report.

Little David: Rick Wise is asking for working party Volunteers in June. Email or call him. All we are going to do this year is paint.

Public Affairs: No Report

Storekeeper: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Joe Lunn acknowledged the John Adams guests. The Memorial Day service is Monday 28 May. Uniform is Blue shirt and Vest. Muster at 10am.

Base Commander: Ralph reported that we are the second largest base in Subvets. We are trying to get awards from National. Don Ort is our new awards coordinator. The author of "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots", Captain Byrne will be our guest speaker in June.

Good of the Order:

- **The After Battery:** Bhudda thanked everyone for making the Hog Roast a success. The New England Subvets donated a replica of the USS Ethan Allen. Bhudda also thanked Don Pardo for his tireless efforts in making the Hog Roast what it was.
- **Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson - I would like to offer you a couple of simple truths.
 1. Lovers help each undress before sex. However after sex they dress on their own. Simple Truth: "in life no one helps you once you are screwed."
 2. When a lady is pregnant, all her friends touch her stomach and say congratulations but no one touches the man's penis and says "Good Job". Simple Truth: Some members of the team are never appreciated.
- Last a story about a Vet sending money home to his mom
One Sunday, in counting the money in the weekly offering, the Pastor of a small church found a pink envelope containing \$1,000.00. It happened again the next week.
The following Sunday, he watched as the offering was collected and saw an elderly woman put the distinctive pink envelope on the plate. This went on for weeks until the pastor, overcome by curiosity approached her. "Ma'am, I couldn't help but notice that you put \$1,000.00 a week in the collection plate", he stated.
"Why yes", she replied, "Every week my son sends me money and I give some to the church."
The Pastor replied, "That's wonderful but a \$1,000.00 dollars is a lot, are you sure you can afford this? How much does he send you?"
The elderly woman answered, "10,000.00 a week."
The pastor was amazed. "Your son is very successful; what does he do for a living?"
"He is a veterinarian," she answered.

“That’s an Honorable profession, but I had no Idea they made that much money” the pastor said. “Where does he practice?”

The woman answered proudly “In Nevada..... He has two cat houses, one in Vegas and one in Reno.”

Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko Gun shoot after the May Meeting

Red FRA ticket was won by Ron Lazor.

Depth charge was won by Tom Clark. Tom Donated 245 dollars to the Scholarship fund.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2010