

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
10 July 2025

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 53 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - **USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls**
 - **USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls**
 - **USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls**
 - **THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost**

Senior Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines
Albert M. Stoll, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 5 July 2025

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were two new members attending who introduced themselves this evening.
 - Barry Mathis – STS2 – Qualified on USS Henry L Stimson SSBN655 – Former Skimmer USS Garcia FF1040
 - New Associate Member – Eva Sollo

Old Business:

- Our guest speaker for tonight had to cancel due to weather. (He flies his own plane)

New Business:

- None

Manitowoc Report – Dave Harvey

- Base Commander Dave Harvey reported on the trip to Manitowoc having those in the room who attended the event to stand. Herb Anderson who had ridden his motorcycle on the 1,000 mile trip was not present. (Probably not back yet.)
- The Charleston Base Float had been transported by truck to the event and was the first submarine float in the parade for over nine years. We felt welcome everywhere we went.
- We were interviewed by both radio and TV reporters. There is an article in the newspaper as well. This will be put into the Charleston Base Newsletter.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the June Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have been published on the Base Website for download. The Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for June was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- **S-28 (SS 133)** was lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 had dove. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- **FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol at the Victory House in Walterboro on 5 July 2025. Al joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. He was a Member of USSVI National [2002] and Charleston Base [2002]. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1969 on USS THREADFIN SS-410. Al also served on USS AMBERJACK SS-522, USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 and USS PARCHE SSN-683. He served on two tenders USS HOWARD W. GILMORE AS-16 and USS BUSHNELL AS-15. His shore assignments were Submarine School NLON (twice) and Submarine Group SIX. Al was also a member of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Navy League US and Rotary.
 - Al will be inurned at Beaufort National Cemetery.
 - The family will have a reception at 1130-1330 on July 25th at the FRA Home.
 - They have requested the FRA Two-Bell Ceremony and the SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling to be conducted at the beginning of the reception.
- **Al Dempster's** service was held on 14 June with 30 SUBVET/FRA members/spouses attending. The FRA conducted the Two Bell and SUBVETS conducted the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. Received the following email from Al's son:
 - *Just wanted to send you a quick thank you. You and the rest of our shipmates did an awesome job! I received many comments about how wonderful and special the military honors and ceremonies were. My wife said she cried through the whole thing. I think my Dad appreciates it very much. Thanks again! Ed Dempster*
- **SK1(SS) William R. 'Billy' Walters Sr., 82**, of Goose Creek SC departed on EP on June 29, 2025. He joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1983 having served on several submarines including USS Henry L. Stimson G in 79-80. His service was held on 5 July at McAlister-Smith Funeral & Cremation, Goose Creek. Billy was not a member of USSVI.
- **YNCS(SS) Robert A. 'Bob' Betz, 82**, of Florence AL departed on EP on Jun 15, 2025. He retired in 1980. He was served in several submarines, including USS Andrew Jackson, USS James Polk, and USS James Madison, and at POMPFLANT. Bob was not a member of USSVI.
- **ET(N)(SS) James A. Brown** departed on Eternal Patrol the last week of June in St. Peter MN. He served onboard USS SIRAGO SS-485 and USS ROBERT E. LEE SSBN-601 in the 60's. This was reported by the After Battery.
- **Susann Taylor, Dave's wife**, is recovering from her recent surgery.
- **Moon Mullins** had a stroke and is in Trident Hospital. Larry Pepper talked with Moon's daughter on Monday. She is going to keep Larry updated and he will pass it on.
- **Rick Wise** is running a low-grade fever and not attending tonight. His next CT is 28 July.
- **Dawn Oakes**, wife of Mike Ciesielko, had carpal tunnel in both hands. Her right hand was done in May and her left hand done today. Mike had to stay with her for the 24 hrs following the surgery.
- **Pete Garrison** had not been able to attend meetings due to his lung issues but was at the June meeting. He's now on supplemental O2 and his portable O2 machine runs at full capacity. He was able to plug in his machine to attend the meeting.
- **Ron Snyder** is recovering well from his late May heart attack and thanks everyone for their prayers. Plans on seeing us at the July meeting.
- **Rick Carlson** has been diagnosed with a main blood vessel rupture behind his left eye causing him to have double vision. A procedure was done to stop the bleeding but he is not driving or doing much of anything.

- **Kit Sparger** is at home and according to her son, Rick Jr., she is doing OK. Continuing to do treatments and so far, looks positive.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **Connie Dempster** is in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Connie Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- The 250th Navy Birthday Ball will be on Oct 18th at the Trident Tech Ballroom 1700-2200. Tickets are available on the website: [250th Charleston Navy Birthday Ball Tickets, Sat, Oct 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- It is election time for our ESR District 2 Commander for the 2025-27 Term of Office. The current ESD2 is Wayne Phillips and is running unopposed. Next week an email will be sent to all base members with both Word and PDF ballots and instructions. Please take time to vote...it is important to show that the 3rd largest base in USSVI cares about electing our leaders.
- Glenn, Linda and I represented SUBVETS at the American Legion Post 166 Flag Disposal ceremony on June 14th. It was a very moving ceremony. When they have it again it would be great for our group to participate like other groups did.
- Boat reunion info for those being held in Charleston will be placed on the home page of the base website when received. Send to webmaster@ussvicb.org
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.
- "Shift Colors" has been discontinued. The new eMagazine is **Sailor for Life**, It will be delivered to you via email if you have a DFAS email address. Also, you can find the first two issues of this magazine on our base website on the Documents webpage.

National Convention – Nick Nichols:

- A total of 22 from Charleston and 1 guest from another base are planning to attend the National Convention Aug 31 – Sep 6 in Orlando FL.
 - Ken & Barbara Brennerman
 - Rick Collins
 - Bill & Mary Freligh
 - Dave & Dee Dee [AM] Harvey
 - Tom & Lisa Holcombe
 - Richard Jordan & Richard J. Jordan [father – Southern Colorado Base]
 - Bob & Debbie MacPherson
 - Nick & Linda [AM] Nichols
 - Art & JonAnne [AM] Sattler
 - Ray & Lois Sparks
 - Steve Woodside & Peg O'Donnell
 - Bob & Eva [AM] Sollo
- Base Commander Dave Harvey encouraged other members to attend this convention in Orlando.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis requested that those who have video from Manitowoc contact him so that he can get it posted.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = Associate Member]
 - Groton 1118 w/62 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 287 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 247 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 206 w/20 AM
- Larry Knutson & Nick Nichols recommended adding the 3- & 5-years payment to the base dues paying schedule beginning in October when dues are being paid for next year. The hope is to reduce the number who forget to pay their dues. Fee will remain \$20/yr.

THE BOARD APPROVED THIS TO HAPPEN BEGINNING IN OCT.

- Larry reminded everyone that for those Members paying annually, National Dues still must also be paid to retain membership.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- Tom is planning a Rummage Sale and will have dates set by the next Base Meeting.

National Awards – Dave Harvey

- Several awards were submitted to USSVI, but we cannot expect any report until the National Convention in Orlando.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing reported

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The Freedom Fest at the Weapon Station was quite enjoyable for those who attended.
- The combined FRA/Charleston Base SubVets picnic will be held at Marrington Plantation on July 19. Johnny requested help to make this a successful event.
- Charleston Base is sponsoring the breakfast bar at the golf tournament for the Navy Birthday Ball fund raiser. The SubVet banner will be displayed.
- There will also be After Battery T-shirts available for those playing in the tournament.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Nothing reported

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- Not present

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is August 1.
- The recruitment numbers have increased.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Please send sea stories especially from family members.
- Phil has posted openings on Base committees in the newsletter.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing to report

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float now has removable fairwater planes.

Ambassador USSVCF/PAO– Bob MacPherson

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing reported

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Ed spoke briefly about how enjoyable the trip was to Manitowoc.
- Ed received another \$100 toward the application fee and will soon visit the DMV director to take the application for the Submarine License plates.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Tom had nothing to report for Special Events, but encouraged others to make the trip to Orlando for the National Convention.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Not present

COB – Greg Landry

- COB reminded everyone about the picnic at Marrington and the National Convention.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing reported

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing reported

Saturday Base Meeting – Secretary Gordon Long

- Secretary reported a discussion by the Board to possibly move the October Base Meeting from Thursday evening to Saturday daytime to coincide with the FRA Indoor picnic. This is to allow those members who cannot drive at night an opportunity to attend a Base Meeting. This is tentative due to scheduling of the meeting room.
- Nick Nichols requested members to send an email noting willingness to make calls. We must find out first whether there is a need for this schedule change.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Groton Base has requested for bases and individuals to provide monetary support for the Groton Clubhouse which is owned by USSVI National. These funds will help with renovations needed at the clubhouse. The board decided to present this to the Base members for individual members to make donations if they would like to. Nick Nichols will send info on email. Charleston Base will not provide any funds to Groton.
- Dave Harvey reminded everyone of the election for SE Regional Commander and recommended that each Base Member cast a vote.
- Dave Harvey will be unable to attend the FRA/SubVet picnic. He will be attending a meeting in Aiken with the SE Regional Commander.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Steve Nelms

- Please pray for Walt Deal's granddaughter who is having surgery.
- Planning next year's Hog Roast. There were 199 people at the last event.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Dale Hostetter
- Depth Charge Drawing – Ken Lux.
- Ken donated an undisclosed amount to the Scholarship Fund.

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1956.