

# USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the July 2015 meeting was 93.

**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 July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** There were no new people present.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the June meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Nick Nichols made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by A.J.Tisserotti.

**Treasurer:** Base Treasurer Mike Welch was not present therefore no financial report was given

**Vice Commander:** Gave us a heads up about See Saw days in September. The Float will be implemented.

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:  
**July Report:**

**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.

- **Madge Hill** sent us a hand-made card to thank us for our help with Doc's funeral. It is attached to this document.
- **RMCM(SS) William David Clark** departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in Charleston. He was 91 years old. His Funeral Service will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Dave was not a member of USSVI.
- **Marvin Miller** will be having knee surgery sometime in the near future.
- **Steve Everett** has been diagnosed with breast cancer. He underwent surgery yesterday and is still very tired and sleeping a lot. Waiting on pathology to determine further treatment. Please remember Steve in your prayers and thoughts.
- **Walt Deal** is doing well in his recovery after his hip replacement. He really enjoyed his stay at Lifecare Rehab saying that it was as good as a 5 star hotel...but he doesn't want to do it again anytime soon.
- **Tom Skorepa** has been undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer. The treatment has left him tired. Please give him a call if you have a chance.
- **Ray Bryant** was in Trident for a week due to fluid buildup around his left lung. He told me that 5 liters of fluid was removed. He is home now but still has many health issues that he is dealing with. Please remember him in your prayers and thoughts.
- **Tom Scott** fell at home. He was running a high temp and found out he had an infection and pneumonia. The medicine really, as he said, "knocked me on my butt." He is doing well now.

- **We had several family-related deaths this month:**
  - **Mrs. Virgie Chinn, 91**, Carl's mother passed away
  - **Mr. Floyd Swanson, 94**, Linda Nichols' father passed away
  - **Mrs. Maxzine Lester, 90**, Pam Hudson's mother passed away
  - **Mrs. Donna Litzenberger, 84**, Ron Litzenberger's mother passed away
- **Diane McBride's** cancer has come back. It is in the lungs and has spread to the lining of the intestines. Diane is Beetle Bailey's daughter.
- **Clemon Cager 'CC'** was involved in a motorcycle vs deer accident ~2am on June 27<sup>th</sup>. CC is in Roper Rehab rm 3913. The deer is dead. CC has many injuries. Open fracture of the left ankle fixed with pins and screws; good movement in the foot and toes so should heal with no problems. Was wearing safety glasses which kept gravel from getting in his eyes but contributed to a broken left eye socket and broken bridge of his nose. Road rash to his head and face due to NO HELMET. 7 ribs on the left side and 2 ribs on the right side broken. 3 cervical fractures and will be in neck brace for next 3-6 months. Some nerve damage between left shoulder and left hand. NO VISITORS until further notice.

**SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) is still going well. Please checkup on your shipmates and let them know you care about their wellbeing.** I'm asking you to:

- Take a look at the Sailing List and contact at least 4 shipmates during this coming month (1 per week).
- Contact can be by email but phone is preferred
- Contact someone outside your table of friends; someone you don't see at the meeting.
- Make no reports unless you feel there's something I need to know about.

Several 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.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

**Newsletter:** George Fuchs had nothing to report.

**Membership:** Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 331 members and that the new membership cards are in.

National dues will increase 5 dollars in September.

**Public Affairs:** Tom Clark has resigned and we need a volunteer for this position.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers had nothing to report.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis informed us that they are going to replace the DD-214 with an ID card. This will make life easier for Veterans.

Affordable care act- you must be covered with minimum essential medical insurance or pay a fee. Tri care meets the requirement for minimum essential coverage. January 2016, DFAS will provide IRS form 1095C to all US Military and 1095B to all US Military retirees and all other individuals having tri care coverage. It makes sure you don't get fined.

**FRA:** Larry Cox had nothing to report and handed out red tickets.

**Scholarship:** George Scharf reported that one of our WWII veterans Bill Weaver made 3 walking sticks and donated them to the Scholarship committee. We will raffle them off next month. Still working on the Car Show. It will probably be in October.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, 20 August at 1100 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

**CRAMA:** No report.

**Rec Committee:** We have volunteers for the rec committee Al Dempster and Rich Cox. The third Volunteer was Elmer Feeser.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson related the following:

In the past I have covered Naval lore and legend. I have covered some of our heroes. You know the OFFICERS.... Gone are the REAL Heroes. The cannon-cockers, sail makers, bosuns, torpedomen, enginemen, throttlmen, quartermasters, radiomen, IC men, signalmen, You know skivie wavers, means the same thing. Gone for us are mid rats, hot sticky buns, hot fresh bread, hot bunking, hand dives, green boards, out of bounds pass, DC stencils, hopping gravity, taking ICV'S, blowing sanitary, venting sanitary-inboard. No more Diesel Boats, No more boomers, No more Beer Ball games, No more nooners, No more pro pay, No more monkey pod DBF pins in the Clean Sweep Bar in Lockwood Hall (the officers club in Pearl Harbor). We once used fenders to tie up. Now we use suspenders to keep our pants up.

We are a little fatter, a little slower.

I'd like to mention our unsung heroes but heroes none the less. You may recall some or all of them. The shithouse mouse, the Laundry Queen, The Cranks (mess cooks for all you aft personnel). The turd Chasers, The topside watches, the messenger of the watch, the battery charging electricians, the duty firecontrolman (he was normally in charge of filling the coke machine on the barge), the yeoman, (you recall the guy was always busy typing the Rickover letter), the duty radioman(he was always changing the crypto typewriter ribbon) during all hands working parties. Did I mention the Sonar girls, or the nurse, and all non-watch standers wherever they are!

Let us not forget the riders from squadron, from the shipyard, INSERV inspectors, Nay team, the non-watch standing, head of the chow line, movie watching, no load personnel.

Did I mention they also take up a bunk.

**District Commander:** District Commander reported that next meeting Ed Stank will be district commander.

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" let us know that the "after battery" hats are back in stock. Also they make all different kinds of baked bread \$4 a loaf.

**Chief of the Boat:** If you send us emails on our official USSVICB emails please make sure it is official business.

**Base Commander:** Rick Wise announced he is the new base Commander for our Subvets

**Old Business:** The float is almost ready to go and has built in storage so we don't have to search for stuff.

Ed announced that he will be visiting the Victory House Tuesday 14 July. He will leave at 10am on Belwright road. Rick Sparger commended the guys who helped for the Victory house picnic last month.

**New Business:** No new Business.

**Good of the Order:**

The depth charge was won by James Graham. He donated \$64 to the Scholarship fund.

**Benediction:** Nick Nichols gave the following prayer:

Al and Connie Dempster gave the Base Chaplain a copy of the Navy Chaplain's "Prayers at Sea" handbook. The meeting was closed with the Submariner's Prayer as written in the Prayer Book.

"Almighty, Everlasting God, the Protector of all those who put their trust in Thee: hear our prayers in behalf of Thy servants who sail their vessels beneath the seas. We beseech Thee to keep in Thy sustaining care all those who are in submarines, that they may be delivered from the hidden dangers of the deep. Grant them courage, and a devotion to fulfill their duties, that they may better serve Thee and their native land. Thought acquainted with the depths of the ocean, deliver them from the depths of despair the dark hours of the absence of friendliness and a goo ship's spirit. Bless all their kindred and loved ones from whom they are separated. When they surface their ships, may they praise thee for thou are there as well as in the deep. Fill them with Thy Spirit that they may be sure to their reckonings, unwavering in duty, high in purpose, and upholding the honor of their nation. Amen"

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 1941.

