

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the January 2016 meeting was 90 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. 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 January 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.

Berkeley County Deputy Will Rogers was awarded with a USS Will Rogers plaque: Rick Wise introduced Will Rogers and presented him with a USS Will Rogers Submarine Plaque. He thanked him for His courage and bravery in the line of duty and he was received by a standing ovation.

Rick Wise: Welcomed back Ken Hutchison as the Chief of the Boat. Rick also informed the base that the After Battery and Nuclear Historian are being moved to the good of the order.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ST (SS) Tom Webb, Qual Boat: USS Woodrow Wilson (Gold) SSBN 624;

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the November 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. Jay Pierce made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ken Curtis.

Mike also commented that he and his friend Ray Brown enlisted the help and donations of VT Group a Submarine Contractor. They took down donated presents, socks and underwear to the veterans at the Victory House during their Christmas Party.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch 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

Vice Commander: Rick thanked and acknowledged the Rec Committee for their outstanding efforts on the Christmas Party.

Rick also thanked everyone for the support of the Submarine Veterans for all the well wishes and sympathy cards and attendance at his son's funeral. A special thanks to Nick Nichols for officiating the service.

Special Events: We had three Christmas parades this year in Summerville, Harleyville and Ellore SC. A special thanks to Moon Mullins for lunch for the float workers and inviting us to the Ellore Parade. We won a trophy for being in the parade.

Rick also hinted at possibly having an Oyster roast this year.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

**Master Chief Yeoman, Submarines, David L. Hansen,
United States Navy Retired
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 9th, 2016**

January Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

SWORDFISH was lost on Jan 12, 1945 with the loss of 89 officers and men somewhere near Okinawa, on her 13th war patrol. After repeated attempts to contact Swordfish by radio had failed, she was reported as lost, the victim of unknown causes.

On this date in 1944 it was a very good day for our submariners: Five U.S. Navy submarines sink five different Japanese vessels in and around the Pacific Ocean.

USS Albacore (SS 218) sinks Japanese destroyer Sazanami 300 miles off Yap;
USS Scamp (SS 277) sinks the tanker Nippon Maru off Sorol Island;
USS Guardfish (SS 217) sinks tanker Kenyo Maru southeast of Palau;
USS Seawolf (SS 197) sinks tanker Yamazuru Maru off Okinawa,
and USS Swordfish (SS 193) sinks transport Yamakuni Maru off Hachijo Jima.

- **YNM(SS) Dave Hansen** departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, 9 January 2016. Visitation is being held tonight and his funeral service is tomorrow at 1100 at McAlister-Smith Chapel on St. James Ave. We will be conducting our Bell Tolling Service and all SUBVETS are invited to attend if possible. Dave joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1987. He served in both surface ships and submarines and was a member of the American Legion, Masons, Tin Can Sailors and SUBVETS. Dave joined SUBVETS in February 2011 and was at just about all of our meetings since then. He served on the JAMES MADISON SSBN 627 and as COB on FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN 657 1981-1984.
- **Gary Lee Green**, a retired NAVET, departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, January 8, 2016 in Ridgeville. His service was on Monday morning. Gary was not a member of USSVI.
- **Gary Samples** has been in the hospital since last Saturday. He is in Trident ICU following surgery to reestablish blood flow to his feet and have chest tubes put in to drain the fluid from his lungs. Having problems with low blood pressure. No visitors until further notice please. Jim Lewis reported that he received news just before the meeting that the family has been called in and Gary is not doing well.
- **Larry Cox** is home after being in the hospital with pneumonia. Doing much better and the meds seem to be working.
- **Ray Bryant** is in MUSC rm 6084 because of too much ammonia in his system. Very confused at present. No visitors until further notice.
- **Richard Cleeve's** son reports that Richard now has dementia and is not monitoring email; doesn't know who people are. Son is monitoring his email and will keep us notified.
- **Buddha** had knee replacement on New Year's Eve.
- **Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well. Catherine told me that Clell would like to have visitors and short phone calls. Due to his breathing issues he can't talk very long before he is out of breath so if you call him please only talk for a few minutes. If you plan on visiting please call first and check that he is up to a visit. Also, if you have a cold or you're sick please don't visit. He'll understand if you just call to say hi and that you're thinking of him. Cards will also be welcome:

- **Bill Hall** had more surgery yesterday relating to his brain tumor and it was successful. Barbara told me that she was very grateful for all of our prayers and is asking for no visitors or phone calls until further notice.
- **Jim Yates** was in the hospital with a stomach infection and is on dialysis. He is now at home.
- **Karen Ilgenfritz** has been receiving treatment for stomach cancer and it has now spread to some of her bones. Jack asks that you keep his family in your prayers
- **Roger Rader** had 3x bypass just before Christmas after having a heart attack. He is home recovering.
- **Jerry Farr** was in hospital for a couple of days with heart issues but is home now.
- **Stella Barwick** has initial stages of Alheizmers.
- **Ray Bryant** has several health issues.
- **Angela Higgins**, daughter of Jim and Mildred, passed away December 20th with funeral services on December 27th. Charleston Base was well represented at the visitation at the funeral home.
- **Johnny Sparger**, son of Rick and Kit, passed away December 19th with funeral services on December 27th. Charleston Base was well represented by our members at the visitation and funeral.
- **Steve Everett** says the chemo makes him tired and his bones ache. Doctors are still working on his breast cancer but tests show a spot on his lung. He said until breast cancer therapy is over with, nothing else will be investigated.
- **Clemon Cager 'CC'** is still recovering from his motorcycle accident in June.
- **Dot Campbell** was in hospital before Christmas with internal bleeding. Her meds have been adjusted in hopes that surgery will not be needed.
- **Kit Sparger** is doing well after her colon cancer surgery. The doctors were able to remove all the cancer.
- **Mike Emerson** will be having surgery on both shoulders in 2016.
- **Ward K. Stout**, 91, Jerry Stout's father, passed away on Wednesday morning in NY. Funeral is Saturday. Please keep Jerry in your prayers for safe travel and for the family during this time.
- **Rich Koehler** will be having bladder surgery at Trident on February 18th.
- **Ann Snyder's** knee replacement we well. She'll be at Trident through the weekend.

Follow-ups were made on those or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- There are now 4 advertisers on the site and these will also be placed in the newsletter each month.

Newsletter: George Fuchs had no report.

District Commander: Ed commented on getting submissions for awards for the things Charleston Base does with the community.

Membership: Ed Stank reported that there are 40 members that have not paid base dues. Membership is now 336 members.

Ed has stated he is going to the Victory House next Tuesday.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis reported that the VA eliminated the use of net worth as a health care eligibility factor. You now only have to use Gross Household income and deductible expenses of the previous year.

Public Affairs: Ronnie Kerstetter introduced himself.

Holland Club: Bill Freligh reported we have a ceremony coming up in April.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Rick Wise reminded us we have 4 WWII vets attending tonight's meeting.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report.

Scholarship: George was not present. Rick Sparger reported that he and Ed Stank got together and sold the Charleston Calenders. They made \$168.00 profit and are donating it to the scholarship fund.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present but Rick Sparger commented on the FRA Superbowl Party. It will be \$60.00 for a square and all you can eat and drink.

Rec Committee: Rich Cox will be stepping down as rec committee chairman. Al Dempster and Elmer Feester will remain the rec committee members.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar had no report.

Chief of the Boat: Had no report

Base Commander: Rick Wise wanted to say how proud he was of the support we as a base gave to the Higgins and Sparger Families.

Old Business: Ray Sparks commented we gave the first legacy awards to Nuclear Power School on the 18th of December. An award was presented to the top Officer and top Enlisted. The next graduation is 26 February.

New Business: Paul Viering reported that the Confederate Heritage trust is doing the Hunley-Housatonic memorial Service on 17 February. Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan's Island. We are going to need thirteen presenters and two wreath bearers. Uniform is The Charleston Tuxedo. Wear your vest for regular attendees.

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: Steve Morawiec reported that the After Battery annual Hog roast will be 2 April.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson reported:

I have been trying to track down the method that the Navy Recruiters use to get Prospective Nuclear personnel into the Nuclear Power Program. These personnel are also referred to as "Engineers", "Engineering Personnel", or just plain "Nuc's".

After several months, I finally traced it back to early childhood school interrelations. This is a story about one of our own members who, since early childhood has always worn Cowboy Boots.

His kindergarten teacher passed this on to me. While she helped all her students this one required EXTRA help trying to put his cowboy boots on. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as, together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots. She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em". Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of the boots"! Now I ask. Do you know anyone here, who wears cowboy boots?

The Fleet reserve drawing was won by Timothy Esch

Rick Sparger won the Folding Chairs.

The depth charge was won by Jim Lewis. He donated \$100 to the Victory House.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2004.