

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

May 2016

The attendance for the May 2016 meeting was 78 members.

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 May was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Rick Wise. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: LCDR (SS) Lawrence T Dorn Qual Boat: USS Puffer SSN 652. FTCS (SS) Frank Capaci, Qual Boat: USS Kamehameha SSBN 642

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the April 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. Rodney McKanna made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Butch Bryar.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a 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.

Special Events: Rick Wise spoke in for Rick Sparger who was not present and wanted to thank everyone for making the Picnic such a huge success.

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

WEBMASTER NOTES:

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	NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

Second Class Commissaryman, Submarines, Lewis Lee Allison,
United States Navy World War II Submarine Veteran
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – April 15, 2016

April 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.

- **CS2(SS) Lee Allison** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 15. We will be conducting a Memorial Service for Lee at the Lost Boats Memorial – Cold War Memorial on Saturday, May 21st at 1000. Inclement weather location will be at the FRA building. A decision will be made on Thursday or Friday before and everyone will be notified. All hands are encouraged to attend and pay their respects to one of our true American heroes. Lee served as World War II Submarine Veterans State Commander for South Carolina, president of Swamp Fox Chapter for many years and was instrumental in getting the Lost Boats Memorial placed at Patriot Point when the city of Charleston would not let SUBVETS maintain the Amberjack Memorial on the Battery.
- **FTCM(SS) Bob Grabowski** departed on Eternal Patrol just before our last meeting. His family has informed me that IAW his wishes there will not be a service. They did say that Bob has asked us to lift our glasses to him at this meeting. (lift glass: To the memory of Bob Grabowski. Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate!)
- **SKC(SS) Bill Campbell** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 28th. He was on the Parche, at FBMSTC and POMFLANT, and several other boats. He used to come with me but never joined.
- **Luke Murphy** is back with us tonight.
- **Beetle Bailey** is back with us tonight.
- **Diane**, Beetle's daughter, received good news. She is in remission. No sign of cancer.
- **Lynn Cousino** is doing well. Having to wait on the first scan sometime around the end of May to know of the new radiation treatment is. Mike is asking to please keep the prayers and best wishes coming. They do her a world of good.
- **Jack Ilgenfritz** sent the following note by email: I want to thank you and all the SUBVETS for all the thoughts, prayers and get well cards for Karen. She really enjoyed the Get Well cards. Numerous of my family members commented on how many SUBVETS were at the viewing and funeral and how much they appreciated the support. God Bless Jack
- **Stacy Power** went in the hospital with low blood sugar, got that stabilized, then had heart rhythm problems and had a pace maker installed. He says that was his two-fer.
- **Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well but would like to have visitors and short calls. Please call Catherine before visiting.
- **Grant Hammett** age 13, Jim Lowman's grandson, has t-cell lymphoma and is undergoing intensive chemo.
- **CS3/AW Andrew Meadows**, Don's son, is in Stage 5 Kidney Failure. He has an autoimmune disease known as IGA. No treatments are working and prognosis is poor. We are hoping he makes it until his brother can be determined to be a match for a transplant. The only area that does transplants is Walter Reed. They will medically retire Andrew soon. However we will need to be there with him for a year near the transplant hospital. My other soon will also be out of work and require care. To help us offset costs I am scratch building sub items. There are pictures of these items available if you want to see them.

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.

- Website is constantly updated.

District Commander: Ed relayed that we will have another trip to the Victory House next Tuesday 17th May Meet at 10am at the VFW on Bellwright road. Ed touched on the convention. He is also informed us of going tax exempt. It is not worth it.

Membership: Membership is now 315 members.

Little David: Maintenance is scheduled for May 28th.

Newsletter: We need a volunteer for this position.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA will be hosting a Vegas show May 28th. Larry mentioned about the FRA having an old fashioned Navy Breakfast June 12th.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report.

Rec Committee: No report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy had no report.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that we finally found a place to hold the car show. It will be held on 1 Oct at the Publix parking lot on St James Avenue in Goose Creek. Kimbrells will be a sponsor.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf encouraged everyone to join the WWII vets at the Golden Corral 16th June.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar had 3 meetings, including one with Senator Campbell.

Chief of the Boat: Thanked Bill Roberts for donating a cooler to the base. He also thanked Dave Taylor for helping Willie Jones with transportation. Memorial Day Service will be held at the Summerville Cemetery Monday May 30th at 10am.

Base Commander: Rick Wise stated that any benevolent donations voted on by the board of directors would be published to the base at the next base meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business: Joe Lunn announced as election coordinator the nominations he had for Secretary and Vice Commander positions. Ken Hutchison made a motion that Mike Ciesielko be elected Secretary by acclamation. The motion passed on a voice vote. Ken Hutchison made a motion that Mike Knaub be elected Vice Commander by acclamation. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Good of the Order: Mike Emerson won the free year membership to the FRA.

The After Battery: : No Report

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson reported:

This is a story of Torpedomen, Nuc's, Auxilarymen, and most of the rest of us who have joined USSVI.

An old man, a boy and a donkey were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey, and the old man walked. As they went along they passed some people who remarked "What a shame, the old man is walking, and the boy is riding". The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions. Later they passed some people who remarked "What a shame, he makes that little boy walk". So they decided they'd both walk. Soon they passed some more people who remarked "They're really stupid to walk when they have a decent donkey to ride." So they both decided to ride the donkey. They passed some more people who shamed them by saying "How awful to put such a load on a poor donkey." The boy and the man figured they were probably right, so they decide to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the donkey, the donkey fell into the river and drowned. The moral of the story: If you try to please everyone, you might as well kiss your ass goodbye.

The depth charge was won by Ken Hutchison. He donated \$100.00 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 1948.