

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

8 June 2017

The attendance for the March 2017 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 June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Knaub. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Awards: The Base Commander introduced Scholarship Committee Chairman George Scharf. He then presented the scholarships to the recipients. George Scharf presented a \$500 scholarship to Dylan J. Higgins grandson of James M Higgins. Larissa Trump Granddaughter of Terry L. Trump received \$800.00.

Swearing in of Newly Elected Officers: District Commander Ed Stank swore in newly elected officers Ralph Rhorssen as Base Commander and Gordon Williams as Base Treasurer.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ETR2 (SS) Howard Dobson, Qual Boat: USS Sam Houston SSBN 609. EMNCS (SS) Mike Mercer Qual Boat: USS Louisiana SSBN 743

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

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Gordon Williams 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

Chaplain:

Submarines Lost During the Month of June

USS HERRING (SS-233)	June 1, 1944 – 8 th war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 83 SOULS
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL	LOST WITH 42 SOULS - 21
SURVIVORS		
USS GOLET (SS-361)	June 14, 1944 – 2 nd war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 82 SOULS
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	June 18, 1945 – 8 th war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 85 SOULS
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 33 SOULS
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	June 30, 1943 – 3 rd war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 78 SOULS

SEVEN Boats and 403 Men Lost

June Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS GOLET SS-361 was lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men while on her 2nd war patrol. Japanese antisubmarine records available after the war revealed that GOLET was the probable victim of a Japanese antisubmarine attack north of Honshu.

I am happy to report that Rick Sparger did such a great job filling in for me at the May meeting that I have just a few items to report this month.

- **Ralph Rohrsen** had surgery and is doing well.
- **Rick Alkire** has had some breathing issues but is doing better.
- **Don Petersen** has been diagnosed with throat cancer and is having both chemo and radiation treatments.
- **Don Meadows** reports that both sons made it through the kidney transplant. Been a rough up and down. Both boys had problems. Andrew is still at Walter Reed for 2 months. Donnie is home. He thanks everyone for the support.
- **MM1(SS) Greg Dunn** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 17th from a massive heart attack. Greg had been the Cincinnati Base Commander since 2010.
- **Mike Ciesielko's** granddaughter, **Madison Grace** who is 10 years old, had surgery at MUSC today to replace a heart valve and insert a stent.
- **Art Hance** is recovering well from an emergency gall bladder surgery he had at the beginning of May.

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:

- 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.

District Commander: Ed mentioned he will be visiting the Victory House Tuesday 13th June. The Base now has insurance for base functions. The National Convention is in Orlando Florida this year. Ed said that it is very expensive. The Convention is on 1-6 September. Ed gave a Bravo Zulu for all the help he has had for the Victory House.

Membership: Rick Wise reported that there are now 302 members.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy reported that the Visit to the Shriners Hospital will be Tuesday August 15th. There will be about 14 attending and around 50 Kids will be visited. Bill is asking for Coloring Books and Crayons to be donated at the June and July meeting. The Florence Hospital visit will be June 20th. Bill mentioned that Summerville Medical Center has a children's center. We will schedule a visit.

Veterans Affairs: Reported that there is a bill introduced S1024 to significantly improve veteran's claims. This will also improve the time to take appeals processed.

Holland Club: Rick Wise

NPS Awards: Ray Sparks announced that the graduation will be next Friday 21st July. Meet at the exchange parking lot at 0800.

FRA: Rick Sparger reported that the Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast will be served from 0830 to 1100 on Sunday 11 June.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George reported that the next Luncheon is at the FRA, 15 June. We are going to have videos at the luncheon. Willie Jones was presented his Holland club coin and hat by Ed Stank and Mike Emerson last week. Willie Jones was stationed on the USS Barb in WWII. The Barb was one of the most decorated boats in WWII.

Scholarship: Jack Harden gave us a 100.00 check in memory of Scottie Enos

Newsletter/Public Affairs: Rick Wise would like to start a letter to the editor section in our monthly Base newsletter.

Special Events: Rick reported that we will be attending the Monks Corner Parade July 1st. Muster at 1400.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report

CRAMA: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Make sure you bring coloring books and crayons to the next meeting.

Base Commander: Ralph Rhorssen thanked everyone for their vote of confidence. He is ready to lead us to the next few years.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mike Mercer was our guest speaker to ask for us to use the NNPTC students for any volunteer work because they need events to volunteer to earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Good of the Order: Mike Welch reported that Andy Anderson donated \$250.00 towards Holland Club Coins

The After Battery: Buddha had nothing to report.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported:

When God Created a Submariner

15 May 2012

When the good Lord created a Submariner, it was almost 2300 on the sixth day. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?"

And the Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? It has to be able to think independently, yet be able to take orders; have the qualities of both a scientific mind and a compassionate heart; be able to mentor juniors and learn from seniors; run on black coffee; handle emergencies without a Damage Control Manual, respond competently to critical incidents, decipher cryptographic codes, understand pneumatics, hydraulics and sonar, have the patience of a saint and six pairs of hands, not to mention the strength of three its size."

The angel shook its head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands - - No way!"

And the Lord answered, "Don't worry, we'll make other Submariners to help. Besides it's not the hands which are causing the problem. It's the heart. It must swell with pride when a Shipmate earns his Silver Dolphins - which above all else signifies the crew members trust it with their lives, sustain

the incredible hardship of life at sea in a steel tube, beat on soundly when it's too tired to do so, and be strong enough to continue to carry on when it's given all it had. "Lord," said the angel touching the Lord's sleeve gently, "Stop! It's almost midnight!"

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something unique. Already I have one whose hands blend knowledge with skill to perform the most intricate procedures, yet are strong enough to patch a ruptured seawater pipe; whose ears can discern the sonar sounds of a myriad of ocean life, yet detect the slightest shift in ventilation; whose mind can practice the science of nuclear submarining, yet not lose sight of the art of teamwork; and whose eyes can peer through a periscope to identify a hull down ship, yet search within to embrace and personify honor, courage and commitment."

The angel circled the model of the Submariner very slowly. "It's too serious," the angel sighed. "But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Submariner can do or endure." "Can it feel?" asked the angel. "Can it feel? It loves Ship, Shipmates and Country like no other!" Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the Submariner's cheek. "There's a leak," pronounced the angel. "I told you you're trying to put too much into this model." "That's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear." "What's it for?" asked the angel. "It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, frustration and pride!" "You're a genius!" exclaimed the angel. The Lord looked pleased and replied, "I didn't put it there." Filled with pride, the Lord continued, "Great things are planned for this Submariner. It will be one of many and together they will lead a legacy of excellence like none has known before." And with that the Lord rested. It was the seventh day.

CAPT Jane F. Vieira
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy

Charleston Base Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko announced that the Charleston Base Gun club had a shoot scheduled two weeks ago. We will try to schedule one in July

The Red FRA ticket was won by Gerald Starr.

The depth charge was won by Paul Smith

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2015.