

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

14 September 2017

The attendance for the September 2017 meeting was 67 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Vice Commander Mike Knaub. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1858. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in September was given by Interim Base Chaplain Rick Sparger. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice Commander Mike Knaub. Mike welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: Bill Brazzle Hew was an O2 on the USS Trigger SS 564 and never Qualified.

Chief of the Boat: Joe Lunn mentioned that we will not be having NMPTC graduation ceremony in September. The COB reported the next WWII luncheon will be 19th October. The Christmas Party will be 2 December.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the August 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 Rick Sparger

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 September

USS S-5 (SS 110)	Sep 1, 1920 – Practice Dive	No loss of life
USS GRAYLING (SS 209)	Sep 9, 1943 – 8 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 76 souls
USS S-51 (SS 162)	Sep 25, 1925 – Rammed off Block Island	Lost with 33 souls; 3 survivors
USS CISCO (SS 290)	Sep 28, 1943 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 76 souls
USS POMPANO (SS 181)	September, 1943 – 7 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls

Five Boats and 262 Men Lost

September Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

S-51 was lost on September 25, 1925 when rammed and sunk off Block Island, N.Y., by the merchant steamer, City of Rome. Only three survivors of the 36 men on board the ill-fated submarine were recovered.

- **Don Peterson** had extensive surgery on his larynx on Tuesday 22 August. All of the biopsies came back negative. He had a severe bout of bronchitis requiring a trip to the emergency room. He is very disgusted with his condition. He will visit with his doctors on the 18th for further treatment.
- **Wendy Ciesielko** had a stroke the last week of August. She is doing very well.

- **Gordon Williams** had surgery 7 Sept. on his hand and arm to correct some issues with this carpal tunnel surgery.
- **Ray Bryant** went into MUSC for surgery on Wed., 6 September. He is in a lot of pain and can't eat. He is now home but still in considerable pain. If you have time to call, he would enjoy talking to you.
- A couple of our members had surgery or were in the hospital during the past month but asked that nothing be put out via email about them.

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.

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.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Website is constantly updated.
- 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.

Membership: No report.

District Commander: The new District Commander is Wayne Phillips.

Kaps for Kids: Bill Kennedy was not present. Mike Emerson reported that Kaps for Kids will be in Florence on October 24th.

Veterans Affairs: No Report.

FRA: Larry Cox joined the Rec Committee. September 30th is a Comedy show and Dinner.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: No Report

Scholarship: Scholarships are due 16th of April 2018

NPS Awards: Ray Sparks was not present. No Graduation in September.

CRAMA: No Report

Public Affairs: Rick Wise is trying to get our base meeting announcements in the local papers.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report.

Special Events: Rick discussed the Possibility of Pulling the Float in the Andrews Veterans Parade

Base Commander: Ralph Rhorssen was not present.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: Buddha gave us information on the Annual Hog Roast April 21st and an Update on the Situation at the Groton Base.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported: NAVY TRUISMS

- A Sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain about standing a 4 hour quarterdeck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.
- A Sailor will lie, cheat and scam to get off the ship early and then will have no idea where he wants to go.
- Sailors are territorial. They have their assigned spaces to clean and maintain. Woe betide the shipmate who tracks through a freshly swabbed deck.
- Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or even third helpings.
- After a cruise, a Sailor will realize how much he misses being at sea. And after retiring from the Navy considers going on a cruise and visiting some of our past favorite ports. Of course we'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually use to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.
- You can spend three years on a ship and never visit every nook and cranny or even every major space aboard. Yet, you can name all your shipmates and every liberty port.
- Campari and soda taken in the warm Spanish sun is an excellent hangover remedy.
- PO2 / E-5 is almost the perfect military pay grade. Too senior to catch the crap details, too junior to be blamed if things go awry.
- Never be first, never be last, and never volunteer for anything.
- Almost every port has a "gut." An area teeming with cheap bars, easy women and partiers, which is usually the "Off-limits" area.
- Contrary to popular belief, Master Chief Petty Officers do not walk on water. They walk just above it.
- Sad but true, when visiting even the most exotic ports of call, some Sailors only see the inside of the nearest bars/clubs.
- Also under the category of sad but true, that lithe, sultry Mediterranean or Asian beauty you spent those wonderful three days with and have dreamed about ever since, is almost certainly a grandmother now.
- A Sailor can, and will, sleep anywhere, anytime.
- Yes, it's true, it does flow downhill.
- In the traditional "crackerjack" uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.
- The Marine dress blue uniform is, by far, the sharpest of all the armed forces.
- Most Sailors won't disrespect a shipmate's mother. On the other hand, it's not entirely wise to tell them they have a good looking sister either.
- Sailors and Marines will generally fight one another, and fight together against all comers.
- If you can at all help it, never tell anyone that you are seasick.
- Check the rear dungaree pockets of a Sailor. Right pocket a wallet. Left pocket a wheel book.
- The guys who seemed to get away with doing the least, always seemed to be first in the pay line and the chow line.
- General Quarters drills and the need to evacuate one's bowels often seem to coincide.
- Speaking of which, when the need arises, the nearest head is always the one which is secured for cleaning.
- Four people you never screw with: the doc, the DK, PC, and the ship's barber.
- In the summer, all deck seamen wanted to be signalmen. In the winter they wanted to be radiomen.
- Do snipes ever get the grease and oil off their hands?
- Never play a drinking game which involves the loser paying for all the drinks.

- There are only two good ships: the one you came from and the one you're going to.
- Whites, coming from the cleaners, clean, pressed and starched, last that way about 30 microseconds after donning them. The Navy dress white uniform is a natural dirt magnet.
- Sweat pumps operate in direct proportion to the seniority of the official visiting.
- The shrill call of a bosun's pipe still puts a chill down my spine.
- Three biggest lies in the Navy: We're happy to be here; this is not an inspection; we're here to help.
- Everything goes in the log.
- Rule 1: The Chief is always right. Rule 2: When in doubt refer to Rule 1.
- A wet napkin under your tray keeps the tray from sliding on the mess deck table in rough seas, keeping at least one hand free to hold on to your beverage.
- Never walk between the projector and the movie screen after movie call and the flick has started.
- A guy who doesn't share a care package from home is no shipmate.
- When transiting the ocean, the ship's chronometer is always advanced at 0200 which makes for a short night. When going in the opposite direction, the chronometer is retarded at 1400 which extends the work day.
- When I sleep, I often dream I am back at sea.
- If I had to do it all over again, I would. TWICE!
GOOD SHIPMATES ARE FRIENDS FOR LIFE!

The Victory House will have a Lowcountry Boil on October 17th.

Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko had no report.

The Red FRA ticket was won by Ron Chambers.

The depth charge was won by Ron Chambers Ron Donated 100 Dollars to the Hurricane Victims Fund.

Rodney Mckenna mentioned that the VFW is having a Comedy Show 7th October and he has tickets.

Benediction: Interim Chaplain Rick Sparger gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Rick Sparger, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 1952.