

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

9 November 2017

The attendance for the November 2017 meeting was 71 members.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ralph Rhorssen. 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 November was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Ralph welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** The following introduced themselves at the meeting: CSSN (SS) David Allport, Qual Boat: USS Guardfish SSN 612. RM2 (SS) Lee Tucker, Qual Boat: USS Tigrone SSR 419. ETR3 (SS) Marlin Wagner, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. CS-C (SS) Garry L Wackerhagen, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. QM3 (SS) Bob Claudy Jr, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. ICFN (SS) John H Broman, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. STS2 (SS) Jerry Topil, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. MMFN (SS) Jim Stephenson, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. ETN2 (SS) James Butler, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. EM3 (SS) Gary White, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. EN3 (SS) Dan Brady, Qual Boat: USS Trumpetfish SS 425. END3 (SS) Nick Buccini, Qual Boat: USS Ray SS 271.

**Chief of the Boat:** Joe Lunn reported the Christmas Party will be 2 December. Tickets will be \$10.00 each. There will be an indoor picnic at the FRA on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>. The possibility of an Oyster roast will be discussed in January.

**Secretary:** Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the October 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 Sparger 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 November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1 <sup>st</sup> War patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs – 21 survived the war

#### Five Boats and 399 Men Lost

### October Report

#### Highlighted boat of the month:

USS CORVINA SS-226 Lost on Nov 16, 1943 with the loss of 82 men when she was sunk just south of Truk. After topping off with fuel at Johnston Island, she left and was never heard from again. Corvina was on her 1st war patrol and appears she was lost to the torpedoes of a Japanese submarine.

- **Carl Rohrsen**, Ralph's brother, passed on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He has been cremated and no obituary was posted. He died as a result of terminal throat cancer and after diagnosis he only lived another 9 months. He had a short tour in the ARMY and had been stationed in South Korea.
- **Robert Gay** was admitted to SMC last Wednesday with acute pancreatitis and severe pain. They found he had an inflamed pancreas but after several tests still no determination on what caused it. Bob is now home, still tired but on the mend. He has an appointment w/ his doctor in 3 weeks.
- **Darlene Graham, James Graham's** wife, was taken to East Cooper Hospital early Monday morning. She is in the PCU and has been diagnosed with pneumonia in all 3 lobes of her right lung. This is a very serious condition.
- **Jerry Farr** was in Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem NC. He fell in the shower when at his son's for a wedding. Had some bleeding around the brain but no stroke. Spent time in ICU and had a few other problems. His daughter, Mary, informed me Jerry was released and is at home. He has to use a walker till he gets his feet back under him and has a lot of follow up Dr. visits. All is back right with our little corner of the world! Please thank all of the Subvets for me for their prayers and good wishes for Dad, and for me as well. Please continue to lift him up as he continues to recuperate. I know he looks forward to being back with the rest of the gang soon!
- **Ernie Barwick** is home after rehab for his fall in early October. He fell at home and received several bruises and scrapes. He hit hard on the back of his head and neck. There was some blood on the brain, minor memory & conversation problems but he's now recovered from that. He is now on lots of different medications for these problems.
- **Sheila Gibson** had a hip replacement on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Came through with flying colors. Only took an hour and a half and she went home on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Kwock Kam** had what was thought to be a stroke in mid-October. After several tests were done he was released. He told me they don't know what caused him to have the problems...it was not a stroke.
- **Howard Anderson's** wife, Chrystle, passed away on Sunday morning. Her memorial service was at Parks FH Summerville on Friday at 1400.
- **Tom Yingling's** oldest son, Chris, was murdered in Eugene, OR on October 19<sup>th</sup>. There are not a lot of details at this point. Tom has not renewed his USSVI membership.
- **Rick Jones**, a non-USSVI submariner, passed away on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. His Memorial Service is on Friday at 11:59am at Coosaw Creek Country Club. I put out the info on email and also placed a condolence message on the FH webpage.
- **Last month we talked about Dick Koehler's success with the new drug Keytruda.** This month Hugh Andrews asked if I would report his success with a new cancer drug. His email said:
  - I was diagnosed in May of 2014 with stage 4 CLL a form of Leukemia. I had 4 Chemo sessions which brought it under control. It stayed in remission until January 2016 when I got pneumonia and was hospitalized for 8 days. Back to stage 4. At this time it was supposed to be back to Chemo but my Doctor heard of a medicine called Imbruvica. I now take 3 pills a day and my bloodwork has gotten so good I only see my Oncologist once every 3 months. CLL is an incurable form of Cancer but as you see it's manageable. In my opinion this is a miracle drug and I hope that more miracle drugs come along to help more people with Cancer.
- There are several others with health concerns that asked I not make their issues public.

As a result of the email I sent out concerning Page 2s, I have received 6 from the membership. Of those 3 were updating a form that was already on file. I hope you've printed the letter telling your family to contact the base leadership if you pass away.

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.
- It is time for renewal for the website and newsletter ads. Send your check to the Treasurer and he will let me know when it's received so that the ad will continue running. Remember that all of the ad proceeds go directly to the mailing of the newsletter to those base members without email.
- 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:** Larry reported that we currently have 303 Members. Dues are due.

**District Commander:** The new District Commander is Wayne Sandifer.

**Rec Committee:** Ed Stank gave us the details of the Christmas Party on 2 December.

**Kaps for Kids:** Bill Kennedy reported that the rocking horse built by Mike Emerson Kaps for Kids was delivered in Florence. Kaps For Kids saw 80 Children this year.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis reported that November is now Veterans and their Families Month. He read a Proclamation by President Donald Trump Proclaiming such. Aloha shirts still on sale for \$75.00 each.

**FRA:** Larry Cox announced that the 10<sup>th</sup> of November is the Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. November 11<sup>th</sup> Charleston will have their parade at 2:30 and the FRA float will be there. November 12<sup>th</sup> The FRA will have an indoor picnic that starts at noon.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** Walt was the only one in attendance. Next Luncheon is in February.

**Scholarship:** Scholarships are due 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2018

**NPS Awards:** Ray Sparks informed us that the next graduation is January 19th.

**CRAMA:** No Report

**Public Affairs:** Rick Wise announced that the Tolling of the Boats will be at the Coffee Roasters 2PM Friday 10 November.

**Storekeeper:** Ron Chambers has Submarine calendars \$10.00 each.

**Special Events:** Rick discussed pulling the Float in the Harleyville and Ellore Parades.

**Base Commander:** Ralph Rhorssen asked members to update Page 2's to get to the Chaplain.

**Old Business:** The low country boil at the Victory House was a success.

**New Business:** February 17<sup>th</sup> is the Hunley Memorial service.

**Good of the Order:** Otto Botzsich announced that there is a Veterans Day Breakfast at Royal Baptist Church Sunday at 8AM. Rear Admiral Cedric Pringle will be a guest Speaker there.

**The After Battery:** Will be closed until 29 November. 1 December Pre Hog roast Meeting. The annual Hog roast will be April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Old Salts Hog Roast will be in August in Rhode Island.

**Nuclear Historian:** Ed Stank reported: The Victory House Lowcountry Boil was a great success.

**Gun Club:** Mike Ciesielko had no report.

**The Red FRA ticket** was won by Gary Wackerhagen.

**The depth charge** was won by Marty Sessler. Marty donated 100 Dollars 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 2030.