

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

12 April 2018

The attendance for the April 2018 meeting was 81 members.

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

Holland Club Induction: Ralph Rhorssen introduced Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh. Bill explained the meaning of the Holland Club and read the certificates that would be presented to each of the inductees. With the aid of Rick Wise, Bill presented the certificates

Chambers, Ronald H.	RMC(SS)	Qualified on USS George Bancroft SSBN 643
Hance III, Arthur J.	MS1(SS)	Qualified on USS Queenfish SSN651
Hayes, Joseph.	MMCM (SS)	Qualified on USS Plunger SSN 595
Lufkin, Thomas L.	ETC (SS)	Qualified on USS Lewis and Clark SSBN 644
Nelson, Lindsay K,	EMC (SS)	Qualified on USS Cutlass SS 478
Weir, Eugene	EMCM (SS)	Qualified on USS Nathanael Greene SSBN 636

Distinguished Submariner: Ralph Rhorssen presented the Distinguished Submariner award to Rick Wise.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: ETSC (SS/DV) David Lanphear
Qual Boat: USS Cavalla (SSN684)

Secretary: The Minutes have been published and promulgated, are there any additions or deletions. If not the Minutes are Approved

Treasurer: The treasurers report is published and promulgated, are there any additions or deletions. If not the report is Approved.

Chaplain:

Submarines Lost During the Month of April

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	April 3, 1943 – 7 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	April 8, 1945 – 9 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 84 souls
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	April 10, 1963 – sea trials	Lost with all hands – 129 souls
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	April 18, 1944 – 12 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 79 souls
USS GRENADIER (SS-210)	April 22, 1943 – 6 th war patrol	76 POWs; 72 survived the war

Five Boats and 370 Men Lost

April Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS GRENADIER SS-210 was lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, Grenadier was bombed, causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another

plane which she shot down. When enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 76 crew members taken prisoner, 72 survived the war.

- On the website there is a new form called Death Notification Checklist. This was given to me by Robby Roberts. When a family member or friend has died, it is important to notify various government agencies, banks, creditors and credit reporting agencies of the death. To reduce the risk of identity theft, these notifications should be made promptly after the death. This checklist will help you do that.
- **Jack Harden** had a car accident last week. He was rear ended and his car was totaled. The airbags worked but he received a dislocated thumb on one hand. He thought the other had broken bones but the doctor said nothing appears to be broken...only a large bruise.
- **Mark Hunter's son, Peter**, passed away in March. A memorial service was held at the Fleet Reserve with several SUBVETS attending.
- **Charles Wood** is still recovering from his major heart surgery in December. He was at the March meeting but had to go home as soon as it was over. He is doing well. Only another couple of weeks of in home PT then he will be released.
- **George Burton** had an accident with a table saw and cut his thumb to the bone.
- **Ken Curtis** had pneumonia but has now been cleared of that. Still weak and he's been dropped from the liver experimental program. He can reapply in 2-4 months.
- **Luke Murphy** is at NHC West Ashley Rm 218 and visitors are welcome. Judy says Luke is doing better which is a step in the right direction. He is now able to use his arms and legs some. There is no prognosis on when he can go home. If you would like to visit the address is 2230 Ashley Crossing Dr, Charleston, SC 29414 and there are no set visiting hours. The door does lock at 2000. Judy says you can call or text her (843.560.0431) if you have any questions. Luke appreciates those who have been by to see him.
- **Dick Stevenson**, a base and HC member who is living in Colorado, has been sick. Was in the hospital for some time but finally went home on March 16th.
- **Base Commander Ralph Rohrsen** had some oral surgery in late March and is doing well. He will have more surgery in May.
- **Moon Mullins** was in the hospital at MUSC for an infection of the skull that began with a hole in his ear drum. He 2 more weeks of IVs and then back to the doctor to be checked.
- **Jay Pierce** had hernia surgery the last week of March. Was same day surgery and he was home before evening. Doing OK, but a little sore.
- **Storekeeper Ron Chambers** has been diagnosed with congestive heart disease and has several health issues.
- **COB Joe Lunn** has been diagnosed with Parkinson's and has started PT to help him adjust to the diagnosis.
- **Tom Cyrek** fell at the end of February and received 2 cracked vertebrae. He is getting better. No lifting over 2 pounds. He has a hospital bed to allow him to sleep better. Told me he is going nuts with nothing to do. Doctor has said no operation unless absolutely necessary since it is so risky.
- **Jimmy Legg** was diagnosed with pneumonia and while in ICU it was discovered he has lung cancer. The MUSC doctors have him on radiation and chemo and are very optimistic this will clear up the cancer. He had a CT scan last Friday and the plan is working. His lung has inflated and the tumor reduced in size. Only 1 ½ weeks left in his treatment and he'll be checked periodically. He said he will see us next month.
Larry Cox has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He had several tests last week and an oncologist appointment yesterday. He starts chemo next week.
- **Ed Stank** will be going to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville to have test for his leg neuropathy.

I still need page 2s from a lot of you.

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.

We had several Charleston Base members at the SUBBALL and I hope you all had as much fun as I did. If you took any pictures with your cell phone or camera please send them to me. I'm putting together some pictures for our website and I will also share the pics with the newsletter editor for the next newsletter.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Ken Curtis is constantly giving me updates for the VA section.
- 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.

Victory House: Ed Stank reported that BJ Tackett will be inducted into the Holland Club. They will visit Tuesday 17 April.

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that there are 277 Members

Kaps for Kids: Bill reported that the next Kaps for Kids visit is May 15th up in Florence. Bill is going to try to schedule four visits this year.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report

FRA: Larry Cox reported the next FRA Meeting is 19 April. Sunday 29 April is the USS Hodgkins Memorial service at White Point Gardens. May 12th is the FRA picnic at Short Stay. Free to FRA members.

Special Events: Rick recommended that we not have a Subvets picnic due to the FRA Picnic being Free.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: No members were present tonight. The WWII Luncheon is Thursday 19 April.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that the deadline for applications will be April 16th.

NPS Awards: Ray Sparks reported that the next Graduation is May Fourth at 9am.

CRAMA: No Report.

Little David: Rick Wise is asking for working party Volunteers. Email or call him. All we are going to do this year is paint.

Public Affairs: No Report

Storekeeper: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Joe Lunn had no report.

Base Commander: Ralph reported that the SUB BALL was awesome and the Subvets were treated like royalty. A great time was had by all. The Amberjack Ceremony will be April 14th Muster time is 0900 and service will be at 1000. Captain Byrne is our guest speaker

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Jim Lewis asked a question about paying dues thru Paypal and not receiving a receipt from Charleston Base or National. He was concerned because he didn't get acknowledgement that Charleston Base and National did not let him know his dues were paid. We will investigate this matter and get back to Him.

The After Battery: Hog Roast is April 21st. The festivities start April 16th and run all week. The New England Subvets will be down again as well. There is a raffle for a 30-30 rifle. Tickets are \$10.00 each

Nuclear Historian: Ed explained Blow down air Officer Coronation.

Gun Club: Mike Ciesielko Gun shoot after the May Meeting

Red FRA ticket was won by Chris McCool.

Depth charge was won by Joe Lunn

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 2009.