

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander David Harvey and attended by Tom Lawson III, Anthony Mazza, Glenn Little, Woody Woodsmall, Bill Freligh, Tom Holcombe, Ed Stank, Greg Landry, Lewis Leal, Larry Knutson, Phil Nunnally, Art Sattler, Gordon Long, and Nick Nichols. Base Members Tom Thompson and Randy Haas also attended the Board Meeting.

Tom Lawson – Tom Lawson III:

- Tom reported that his dad (former Charleston Base Vice Commander) Tom Lawson is now at home on hospice care and needs a wheel chair ramp for access into the house. There were several recommendations.
- Tom talked about a package that he recently purchased called a NOK (Next-of Kin) Box for getting one's affairs in order. He had the NOK Box here for those who want to know more.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- There is currently in excess of \$10k in the Scholarship Fund.
- Tom will be sending letters to area Guidance Counselors.
- The application is available on the Base website, but must be submitted to Tom on paper, not email. The deadline date to submit scholarship applications is May 1.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- It should be soon. Anthony will let us know when Sub Ball tickets are available.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing to report.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing to report today. Tom will address Hunley at the Base Meeting next week.

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- Ed plans to raffle the first plate (SV 00001).
- Only Charleston Base and Golden Corner Base participated in getting the plates through DMV. Only members of these bases will be eligible for the raffle. The drawing for the plate will be held at the Base Meeting next week.

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- There is a bill (H-4769) going through the SC State legislature SC that could possibly impact the reimbursement from the specialty Submariner License Plates. Ed is working on this.

COB – Greg Landry:

- There were three names submitted (Ricky Collins, Tom Holcombe and Larry Knutson). The nominees were excused from the meeting, discussion followed and a vote was taken. The name will be made public at the March Base Meeting when the award is presented.
- Nick Nichols and other talked about the history of the Distinguished Submariner Award.
- The nominees (less Ricky, who was not present) were readmitted to the meeting.
- Greg advised the group that we will be able to get the float onto the Air Force Base on Thursday, April 30 at 1500 for the Air Show. We will be told where to set up. The Blue Angels will be at the show this year.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The Base Meeting Video description lists the Base calendar and other info. Lewis assigned everyone some homework to watch and make suggestions.
- Access to the Base Meeting video is provided via a private link sent to each Base Member.
- Other public videos will be placed onto the Base YouTube channel.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We currently have 249 members and have dropped to fourth in membership of USSVI.
- For those who have not paid USSVI National dues, they could be dropped as members at any time.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey has requested from National a listing of those who are primary/secondary members of other bases and how they are counted. Several of our members are out-of-state, but some of the dual members live here in the local area. Dave talked about issues resulting from someone who is not a primary member of Charleston Base and the ability to vote and hold certain positions within the Base and National offices. Larry stated that National will only accept dues through a member's primary base.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is now #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - Groton 1152 w/65 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 294 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 250 w/14 AM - 4) Charleston 249 w/13 AM – 5) Requin 204 w/21 AM

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation is March 27. Phil will not be there, but has the event covered by another member.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Planning work on Little David tentatively for April 11. Phil wants to get the work done earlier this time. Last year, in May, it was way too hot especially for only the two that came to work (Phil and Woody). Ed Stank suggested that perhaps it could be done during the week instead of Saturday. Phil will consider the recommendation and will send an email requesting participation in this work.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

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Charleston Base Audit – Art Sattler:

- Art and Tom Thompson performed the annual audit of the Charleston Base financial records on January 31, 2026 for the year 2025 with no discrepancies. A signed report was provided to both the Base Commander and Secretary. This report was presented to the BOD and will also be to the membership at the Base Meeting next week.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- Nothing to report.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Nothing to report.

CPR Class – Art Sattler:

- Art is working to reschedule the CPR class which was cancelled due to severe weather.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Ret., 79**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Jay joined the Navy in 1964 and retired in 1991. He was a life member of National [2001], a member of Groton Base [primary 1999] and Charleston Base [secondary 2016]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1966 on USS THREADFIN SS-410. Jay also served on USS SCAMP SSN-588, USS GUARDFISH SSN-612, USS WILLIAM H. BATES SSN-680, USS QUEENFISH SSN-651, USS RAY SSN-653, USS PROVIDENCE SSN-719, and USS SANDLANCE SSN-660 as Chief of the Boat retiring from the SANDLANCE. A Memorial Service was held on January 29, 2026 at the FRA. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. It was a full room with at least 29 SUBVETs attending.
- **STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran, 67**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, January 24, 2026 shortly after being diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Charles served in the Navy for 13 years from 1983-1995. He then served in the Army National Guard from 1997-1999 as a Communication Specialist E4. He was a life member of National [2012] and Charleston Base [2012]. Charles qualified in 1986 on USS GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN-643. He also served on USS TECUMSEH SSBN-628, USS HOLLAND AS-32 and COMSUB GROUP SIX Charleston. There will be a Memorial Service sometime in the near future.
- **EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 October 2025. We expected to conduct a memorial service in January but due to some family concerns the date is still unknown. I will let everyone know when I know.

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BINNACLE LIST

- **Ed Simokat** was in Summerville Hospital from 29 Jan – 4 Feb with a pressure wound on his back. He is home and recovering. Phone calls and visits are welcome. [843.810.0383]
- **Dave Harvey** had a successful heart ablation procedure on 23 Jan. He is back to battery.
- **Steve Curry** was diagnosed with AFIB and congenital heart failure in July 2025. He is on 24/7 oxygen with very limited travel. Phone calls are welcome [843.270.9905]
- **Bob Sollo** is recovering from his shoulder surgery on 13 Jan.
- **Beetle Bailey** had successful surgery on Tuesday 3 Feb, for a pinched nerve at L3-4 that caused him severe pain for the last 2 months. He was home on 4 Feb.
- **James Graham Sr.** went to Trident Hospital on 24 Jan with difficulty breathing and his leg swelling. He is home and with meds to help with his breathing and the neuropathy in his foot and leg.
- **Rick Wise** said in an email on 30 Jan that he is in the second 21-day cycle of Immuno-chemo therapy. It is going well but he has experienced some nausea. The meds are pretty well handling it. The first week following the infusions is worst and during the second and third weeks he is able to live normally. He has a chest and abdomen CT on 16 Feb to monitor his progress.
- **Ken Lux** has the flu. Warns everyone to have their flu shot.
- **Rick Collins** is not feeling well. Thinks he caught something from his grandkids.
- **Don Meadows' son, Andrew age 33**, is again in Kidney failure. Andrew's numbers are getting very bad very fast. He will soon possibly go back on the donor list. He says he'll never go back on dialysis again. Also, Don's oldest son and wife lost their baby in December 2025.
- **Jerry Stout** has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment for that.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Tom Lawson** is home on 24/7 oxygen. He has requested to be placed on hospice care. Calls are welcome but his voice tires easily [843.327.3282].
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings.
- **Ken Curtis** has home Palliative Hospice care. He and Barbara were in good spirits when I talked to them on 4 Feb. He welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. [843.501.7368]
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates. [843.810.0382]
- **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email mlk91444@yahoo.com or [843.795.6665].
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky is in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409,

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Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is cbussvicob@yahoo.com and his cell phone is [843.509.3962]

- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Every single member of the Board should have all contact info for all BOD members. This includes name, phone number and email address in your Contacts on your phone. Nick should not be getting phone calls from BOD members requesting this information. BOD members' phone numbers and email addresses are available on the Base website under the BASE OFFICERS link. An updated sailing list is provided to the BOD each month listing entire Base membership.
- The Base Newsletter also has the Base officers' information on the first page.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- New Base business cards are available.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary has a project for this year to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. Last month at the Base Meeting, our members provided lots of support. The FRA noted this generosity and expressed gratitude.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- Nothing reported.

2029 USSVI National Convention – David Harvey:

- Dave had asked all the BOD members to read the requirements for holding the 2029 USSVI National Convention in Charleston. It will be a sizeable undertaking with a need for all of the available Base members to support. There was good support from Base members who attended the last National Convention in Orlando and the event in Manitowoc.
- Dave encouraged everyone to look at the exposure possibilities for Charleston Base.
- Dave stated that he wants a billboard along I-26 for three months promoting the event and SubVets.
- We have three years to plan. We will bring this up for a vote in March.

2026 Flowertown Festival – David Harvey:

- We will not be participating in the 2026 Flowertown Festival in Summerville. The folks in charge of the event had planned for placement of our float in area with the kiddie rides. We must be in an area visited by adults – expressly submariners. Next year, they will do better.
- The expected cost next year will be \$275 for the entry fee. We will also have to carry \$500k insurance at the event.

SE Regional Conference Committee – David Harvey:

- The 2026 SER Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS on February 26-28. Eleven from Charleston Base will be attending. Dave stated that the turnout for this event is nowhere near what is needed to break even.

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- Dave wants the National Convention to include the Regional Conferences suggesting they be held on Wednesday as part of the big event.
- Dave requests space on the vendor floor at the Conference. All of this should improve participation at the National Convention.

Base Commander – David Harvey:

- Dave is planning an oyster roast.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Not present

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Not present

USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1900.