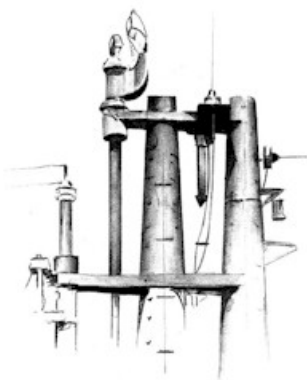


# Charleston, South Carolina, Sub Vets news letter and Minutes

## April 2004

### UP PERISCOPE



*Eternally grateful for those who preceded us and laid down their lives for our country, United States Submarines Veterans Incorporated, Charleston, South Carolina Base.*

#### **Base Meeting:**

Thursday, April, 8, 2004. Social hour & board of directors Meeting, held @ 1830 General meeting @ 1900.

#### **Location:**

VFW Post: 3433 @ 10154 Bellwright Rd." Off Hwy 78", Summerville, South, Carolina. Phone 843-871-0607

#### **Base Officers** **Phone Number**

Base Commander	Steve Nelms (Buddha) 843-563-7115
Base Vice Commander	Keith Schnebel 843-851-7334
Base Secretary	Roger Gibson 843-875-4933
Base Treasure	George Lisle 843-559-4242

#### **Special Officers** **Phone number**

Chief of the Boat	Bill Roberts 843-875-0191
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve 843-899-4563
Chaplain	Bill Kennedy 843-875-3109

Sub Vets WWII Liaison	Barnwell Chaplin 843-762-6945
Membership Chairman	Jerry Stout 843-871-9533
Newsletter Editor	Roger Gibson 843-875-4933
Nuclear Historian	Ed. Simokat 843-873-1709
Veterans affairs	John Nichols 843-873-5897

**Attention on Deck!** Base Commander Steve Nelms called the meeting to order. Let us pledge our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

#### **Base Chaplin, Bill Kennedy**

Opening prayer please be with us God as we meet as comrades and in fellowship tonight. Help our leaders make good and honest decisions for the benefit of all. Guide our helm as the night progresses, in your name Amen

**Moment of silent prayer, the Tolling of the bell for those lost on patrol.**

#### **The final Patrol**



**Admiral OSBORN**



Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best. Make him welcome and take him by the hand.

You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land. So, heavenly Father, add his name to the roll of our departed ship mates still on patrol. Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

#### **April Subs Lost**

USS Pickerel (SS-177) April 3, 1943  
USS Snook (SS-279) April 8, 1945  
USS Grenadier (SS-210) April 22, 1943  
USS Thresher (SSN-593) April 10, 1963

#### **USSVI Creed**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, Pledge loyalty and Patriotism to the United States Government

#### **Cob**

The board was polled "we have a "Quorum"  
Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and treasurer present

### ***Minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting***

#### **Base Commander:**

New people will you introduce your selves:  
Chuck Spatz, Terry Sickel, Ron Snyder, Bob Inglebritzen, Tom Yuengling, Dean Hunt, Larry guest from the Army (Retired), and Jim Dewitt.  
Welcome aboard!

Meeting turned over to **Admiral Osborn** and **Jim Eckles** for Holland Club Presentation, four members, Captain Wikeen, Gene Simpo, James Kirby and Douglas Wickenhoffer. Honors and presentation read by Admiral Osborne and pinning done by Jim Eckles. 50 years Qualified in submarines, well done.

#### **Base Secretary**

Membership and email were discussed, at this time we have approximately 153 active members, 32 mail outs and the rest email, the list is getting bigger and some problem still exist, if you want to receive email at least clean out your mail box, motion made to accept the minutes, seconded and passed.

#### **Treasurer**

Monies were discussed and investments, comment from "Curley" store keeper, if the

people who ordered ties would pay for them the treasurer would have more money!

#### **Vice Commander**

Hunley rehearsal, where and when, the place is the Methodist church on Savannah highway the address is 626, time is 1300, 3 April if you can't make it let Keith know as he will to arrange for an alternate you must be there it is there rules otherwise you cant participate in the funeral. (This is not a dress rehearsal) everyone knows what the uniform is for the pall bearers Right!

#### **Cob**

Some people were looking for some chains for their vests; I found some at Lowe's cheap at that but not real gold, Brass maybe. Seems we are getting bigger, we are working on various projects, Little David for one but if you are interested in doing a project for some organization that we could lend assistance, do the research first then bring it up on the floor for discussion, look it up first and make sure we can do it, we will discuss it the see if we want to participate.

#### **Chaplin**

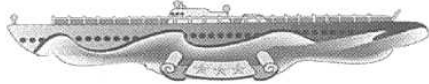
Bill described the Amber jack memorial and the presentation of the submarines as the roll was read even though not all subs were on the presentation it was impressive. Visitation to Captain Wikeen by our Chaplin at the assisted living home, Bill was shown this beautiful coffee table given to him at Pearl Harbor, Jim Eckles was with Bill, but it took quite a while to find the home so following Jim's directions they had a good tour of North Charleston but they finally delivered the flowers and card to Captain Wikeen. Other people that were on the sick list, Stacy Power, had back surgery. Bill asked if anyone knows his status, Stacy stood up and said he is fine, Good job Chaplin! Ed Simokat in hospital with pneumonia I visited him in hospital took him flowers and a card, went home the next day, so I called his wife and asked if we could have the flowers back, (kidding) but when there asked the nurse how the man in the first bed was doing, she said kind of crabby wants his medicine. Jerry Madison could not be with us tonight had an operation today, Jerry is getting the old flags and disposing of them, a Marine called him and a question was brought up about flag replacement for the individuals who turn in there old flags, this Marine managed to get some flags for the turned in ones but we should

discuss if we can come up with a few dollars to buy flags. I have a couple of cards to send out, last but not least, Ed Simokat has authorized Bill to take his place as the Nuclear historian tonight.

### **Public affairs officer**

Has brought in an album with various photos of some of our activities to give some of our new members an idea of what we do.

### **Sub-vets WWII, Barnwell Chaplin.**



Lee Allison, last meeting of the WW11 Sub vets approved to pay half of the bench to be placed at the cold war memorial. Next meeting will be at Ryan's steak house in Summerville Thursday 15 April at 1200

### **Base Commander**

for the new members we are allowed to join the WW11 subvets as an Associate member, their bylaws allow us to join voted on by the local and state chapter, no national dues shall be assessed, you may subscribe to National or other publications at the subscribed rate, no vote higher then the local chapter may not hold office higher then the local level or any office that may conduct business on a National level. Dues are 13 dollars, which a portion goes to the Polaris magazine if you wish to subscribe. Any questions on joining see Lee Allison.

Making money for the organization Patsy Kline has put a whole package together for us four or five different ways to make money for the organization we will study and make a determination on how to pursue this issue.

### **Reminder**

District four convention is in Jacksonville starts on the 29 of April, this also parallels the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Subvets INC there has been some conflict on why these two were planned at the same time, but that is not for us to district the reason but need to be sorted out with the head of each organization. We have registration forms for each of them so pick the one you want to go to.

The little David status, for those who are new and don't know anything about it, "it is a replica" and we didn't just pull it out of the

Cooper river, the write up we got from the journal scene was in error and the editor came to the Ranch to see for himself, when Steve showed him what we were working on the first words out of his mouth, "darn it is in good shape for being in the river bottom for 140 years. When we get done with this project he will personally write the article (the editor) we will send a letter to the editor recognizing all who contributed to the restoration effort.

We have had working parties all week, for those who haven't see the progress, it is stripped to bear metal bottom has been cut out the conning tower has been built set aside and ready to be put on, when I left today the welder was there with the rolled steel, when he looked at our cutting job he asked how many beers did we drink before cutting I guess the lines were not straight.

Along with that we have had a total of 25 guys to come out and work on Little David, now lets go back to a few meeting ago when Shipmate Stacy Power reminded us that when you raise your hand to volunteer to work you commit your self to participate if your not going to participate don't raise your hand. There are certain jobs that can't be done by some or can't be around when (example sand blasting), an other is no neck running tools, he is limited on what he can do but is always there to help anyway he can, his secondary job assignment is to take care of my female goats in fact when he show up the goats run to the fence and say "daaaady," then Rick wise "tunnel rat" gets into places no one else can, but there is a problem when he talks with Jim Eckles, they both learned to whisper in a saw mill then no one else can hear them selves talk. We can use some news guys to sit and listen to Eckles talk so we can get some work done, we know this is cruel and harsh punishment but! I saw first hand thet Rick Wise can't work and talk to Eckles at the same time.

**Kodak moments**, yes there was one with a certain individual had both hands free using a wrench and not a sign of a beer; this was captured by Roger so it is history! oh yes Rick Wise was on the other side so you can imagine the communications, between him and Eckles, right to tight, only problem when they changed sides all that training was lost. All kidding aside some people are allergic to dust guess what, the dust is over! Freddie Freshour our mess cook, talk about what he does for us, I've never seen the place cleaner and all the goodies he has

brought to us, and most of all keeping the Beer inventory up to snuff good job Freddie.

### **Safety**

If you can't do hard labor we can use you by the compressor because if OSHA came by "we would be in trouble" and each one of us would be hanged! Trust me, so we need someone by the compressor to observe some safety, in event we need to shut down a valve and secure the system, and I know there are a few of us qualified in diesel shutdowns even all it has an off switch but we have to cool the diesel down.

Some phone call's made to shipmates, found some watching TV and others just relaxing, I very politely asked them why not help us? If you can't work come out anyway and shoot the breeze, make a list help in calculating and trimming boards, when this project is complete we will get hats with the little David restoration crew with the emblem on the front of the cap, we will also have a plaque with our names next to it a statement that the USSVI restored the Little David and will maintain it.

John Minnano gave us a name of a restoration tech who sells this paint called "POR" paint over rust, which is indestructible, he comes out every day to inspect the progress, since the metal is stripped it will rust, with the treatment you clean, prep which turns the rust to a black film "paint able" surface, the paint we will be using is virtually indestructible when applied properly.

I went to see for myself and with a ball peen hammer I hammered at a gate, it would not chip, Good stuff.

The welder will need some help tomorrow, so even if all you can do is heat up the doughnuts show up. An other note Santee Cooper came up with a change that the original David was covered with wooden planking, so that is an addition that has to be done along with the carriage bolts needed to fasten the planking (2700) of them plus a 150 planks. Mike Emerson has made a jig to cut the taper needed for the bow and stern, so we need people to assist in this venture so be there at my house, forty people raised their hand only 25 showed up we can use some help. Anybody interested in coming out in the morning see me after the meeting I'll give you directions.

District four conference for 2005 this was brought up before and everyone voted for, we plan to go to the one in Jacksonville this May and give our presentation to have the convention in Charleston we are working with the Aiken

base, they will split half the expenses and will get half the profit, there is a lot of work in schedule planning tours and so forth. All joking aside as in the little David, if we don't get any participation we won't do it, 8-10 guys can't do it all! This is not a big issue, the Holiday in will take care of the food and stuff, but we need people to sit in the hotel lobby to "Pre Register" and hand out packets as they come in and for those who haven't registered to get them signed up and settled in. and signed up for the tours or what ever we are putting a lot of time in this and can stop at any time, we will need people to be in the hospitality room and keep it open with coffee and refreshments there will be luncheon and a banquet, but keep in mind though we are hosting we will still have to pay for our meals, as it looks we will make a decent amount of money for our chapter.

Question, head count to see who is interested, also see Keith to put your name on the list to assist in odd jobs and research.

Admiral Osborne comment on their WW11 convention in Charleston was a great success due to the help of the Charleston base USSVI assisting the WW11 Vets, so Charleston has a good reputation for Hospitality is known.

Steve and Keith, what ever we do we want to make sure it is done right; Keith is maintaining the data base on who has or has not paid or registered and so forth.

Keep Ray Sparks in your prayers, his sister was in a terrible accident and is in bad shape.

The healing wall for the Viet Nam war will be at Brittle bank park on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, folks this is going to be a real busy week, an estimate of 50 thousand people are expected to attend, along with that there is suppose to be 150 thousand bikers paying tribute to the Viet Nam wall so Charleston will be the preverbal zoo for that week

One of our members also brought up we forgot to mention the Tennis Tournament, that's for all the nukes.

That's all I have to put out!

### **Old Business**

Stacy; Picnic at Buddha place our quarterly function, the date is 24 April we will verify at the next meeting.

Question brought up, will the beach be ready? Well put it this way we have used 12000 pounds of sand so it is ready the only draw back is

Steve's lawn mower blades will have a rough time! So after the next meeting and the Hunley burial, next question, the license plates was brought up, the Aiken base is handling this project, they will get back to us, yes the picnic is the whole family function, and we will probably need a dish of something, easy on the green beans!

Anyone willing to help Stacy let him know, oh yes we will volunteer Guido since he is not at the meeting.

Rodney. Question on the bench we are getting for the cold war memorial, about how we want it engraved (Base logo) it will be just as our USSVI patch and the WW11 the same as theirs.

Question was brought up if we tabled this decision to buy the bench, according to our minutes it was passed last month.

#### New Business

John, briefly introduce you to the American military museum which was at Patriots point has now been moved to (under the I MAX Theater down town) we are looking for our backing and members to volunteer and funding, the museum is quite a sight to see.

#### Base commander

Question brought up on the monies left over from the cold war memorial, in talking to Admiral Baciocco, the monies were earmarked for the collage and can not be accessed, that's it! Question on where the monies would go in the collage, from the last meeting with the cold war committee, the sponsors of the large amounts would like to see the monies go toward the science fairs in the various schools in the local areas (Rodney)

(Stacy) For all you new guys from the cold war era, you can become a member of the VFW Post if you have a commanding officer sign the application for the WFW; you will also need your DD214. Curly still has forms.

#### Good of the order

Curly has new patches and ties for those who ordered them, pick them up.

Base commander read a letter to the members; the topic was why some one could not pay his bill, very good.

#### Bill Kennedy

Filling for the nuclear historian Ed Simokat, told a story about Na-vet, nuke and a torpedo man as

the story goes it is about communications and who has the latest technology, of course the Torpedo man won out, as we said before "you must be at the meeting to get the full benefit.

#### Cob

Don't forget to get your picture taken and check your email.

**Keith** is working on a phone list, we need to contact with you in event we cancel a function.

Question on the submarine ball and invitations and when they will be sent out, the sailing list has been sent to the Nuclear school and will be kept in a safe place, the invitations should get to you around the forth week in March, the Ball is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, it is quite an event if you haven't attended.

Remember if you're not on the sailing list and want to go (new members) turn in your names to the base secretary.

#### Benediction

Dear God as we leave tonight please be with each and everyone of us. Protect us and our families in our daily lives. Lead us in the path you intended we travel Help us to remember those that have gone before us and our armed forces that are protecting us now. In your name we pray amen

**\*\* End of the minutes for March 2004 \*\***

Depth Charge drawing, who won?

Notes from the Chaplin



Another great meeting, 70 plus again this is great! The total years of submarine service we have must be amazing.

Ed S. is getting better at home. I sure enjoyed speaking for Ed during good of the order the

other night. I am not quite sure if I got the story right. Yes I did get it right Ed.

Sort of quiet here I went to a reunion, Von Steuben SSBN 632, this past weekend. I would recommend to anyone if a reunion comes up,

## **GO its great.**

### **Report**

Sick or injured? What can we do for you???  
Jerry Madison collecting flags lots of calls  
A Marine has donated flag to give if people can not get another for some reason. This is a good community service

Wonder what the picture will be for this month. Roger had a good one last month and I am looking.

If I can help please let me know.  
Thanks Bill

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**Special thanks** to Sue Eckles for a 100 dollar donation to our treasury for/from one of our members she did tax's for, again thanks Sue.

### **Cobs input**

April is a busy month starting out with April Fools day. **On April 1<sup>st</sup>** if your dues are paid you are.....**DINK!!!**.....!

On 1 April 1893 the grade of CPO was established.

For those who didn't know, **Admiral Osborn** has passed away and is on eternal patrol. Those who attended the viewing and the memorial services his family was really appreciative for the thoughtfulness for all those who attended and the flowers sent by us. For us it was an honor that he shared his life with us, it galvanized our base to listen and use him as a sounding board, and we shall miss him.

A memorial service will be held for Admiral Osborn at the Presbyterian retirement center chapel in Summerville and internment in the National Cemetery in Beaufort

Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is practice for the pallbearers.

Our next meeting is Thursday at 1900, with happy hour at 1800. My camera doesn't lie and did not break during the mug shots. Some of you are just ugly. If you missed out or want a

second chance, I will be taking more at the meeting. You can see the pictures at [www.ussvicb.org](http://www.ussvicb.org).

INCOME TAX DEADLINE ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup>

Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> is the H. L. Hunley burial.

District 4 convention in Jacksonville the 29<sup>th</sup> through 1 May

**Don't forget the next meeting this Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> at the VFW.**

I'll catch the birthdays next month  
Sorry this is late

Continue Praying for our troops Lord Keep them out of harms way be with them always send your angel's to watch over them.



For our fallen Soldiers and Marines and Airmen thank you for you sacrifice, you laid down your lives for us that we may have peace what greater gift is there then one to give his life that we may live.

**Thank you and God bless our President.**



**From Curley,**

**“If you ordered a Dolphin tie and don't pick it up this meeting it will go up for sale”**

**From the base secretary “Election time”**

April is the month to get your names of some one to nominate for the board, the by laws stipulate this.

ADMIRAL James B OSBORN  
1918-2004



How can I thank those who went before me, who laid down their lives for our liberty, "the battle cry went out" how can this be! If it's a fight they want then a fight it shall be! "For God and Country" is our battle cry", no question was asked or reason why they prepared to do or die.

As they readied their ship these precious lads, their only thoughts were of "Victory" no matter the cost, no matter the plan, we'll stand together to fight for our land, when all seemed but lost those few, gave their lives for someone like you.

Many were lost to save our cause, you protected our lives but at a cost! With liberty in hand what can we but do, but thank such Veterans as you!

For this gift your Valiant stand, you gave us the hope in freedoms land, how we then as we stand in aw, to offer our thanks and hand salute, his orders are written by Gods holy hand, our shipmate now under his command, not at some far and distance land but to join his mates patrolling at heavens gates.

But for us, who survived to carry on, let's not forget of lives past gone, but to share our memories of bye gone days, to our children that they may see for these brave men who went to sea, gave us this gift of Liberty.

Rest your Oars shipmate, may God bless you for what you have done for me!

*Roger*