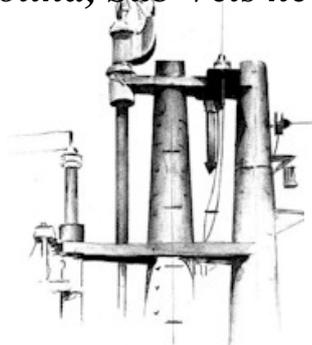
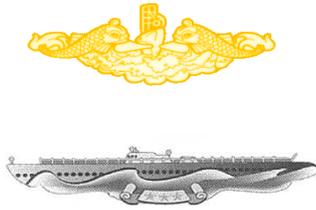


Charleston, South Carolina, Sub Vets news letter and Minutes



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 14, 2005. 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 Jerry Stout
843-871-9533

Base Treasure George Lisle
843-559-4242

Special Officers Phone number

Chief of the Boat Dave Mueller
843-553-2775

Public Affairs Richard Cleeve
843-899-4563

Chaplain Bill Kennedy
843-875-3109

Membership Chairman Roger Gibson

Newsletter Editor Roger Gibson
875-4933

Sub Vets WWII Liaison Barnwell Chaplin

843-762-6945

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: Lord, we thank you for the heritage and liberty we enjoy as Americans and for the privilege of having served in the Submarine service to protect that Liberty. We pray for blessings and wisdom for our country's leaders and those chosen to lead our base. May they seek your guidance as they serve us, our Nation and the United Submarine Veterans Amen!

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

The final Patrol



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”

Minutes of the March meeting

Base Commander – Steve Nelms call to order.

INTRODUCTIONS New persons introduced including Glen Fleming, Ron Sneeda. Welcome aboard.

TREASURY REPORT Financial report given by Base Commander.

SECRETARY REPORT Minutes approved as written.

STOREKEEPER REPORT Curly’s displays are located at the rear bar.

CHAPLIN REPORT Carmon Webb is very sick. No visitors, however prayers are needed for recovery. Barnwell Chaplin will have open heart surgery soon.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS Nick Nichols has joined the team and will be drafting Web Site articles. A new Link has been established for the James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship. Take a look under www.ussvicb.com.

SUBVETS WWII Barney had a procedure for his heart. Our prayers go out for a speedy recovery. All are welcome to attend the every other monthly meeting at Ryan’s Steakhouse. Additional members are needed to keep the organization going. There are only a handful of members. Meeting is held the 3rd Thursday of every other month. The next meeting is 21 April. WWII Vets are planning the 2006 Southern Regional Convention.

COB REPORT Business Cards are being made to handout. Please continue to help out with clean-up after the meeting. The Oyster

Roast total cost was \$891.86. The Casinos and Depth Charge Drawing took care of the bills. Thank you to Richard Sparger for the Catfish Stew, Hans Vlam for the Deviled Eggs and Nana for the Banana pudding. Casino Night(s) are becoming successful; several have been held so far and have brought us a small amount of profit. COB went into detail on the upcoming events. COB stressed the importance of keeping the brotherhood alive in the organization and encouraged all to reach out to those they do not know.

Continue to participate in the Food that is brought out from the VFW and keep the Tip Jar full. If any members need business cards (Generic)! They are available from the COB. Keep the faith on our troops over in Iraq.

Confederate Veterans will build a memorial to mount plaques for the Little David. A working Party will be called for touching up the Little David at the Park.

District Four (4) conferences will be held 5—7 May 2005 at Biloxi Breach Resort. Information is available by contacting blado4west@bsc.net.

HOLLAND CLUB PRESENTATION Not Held

GOOD OF THE ORDER

** Thank you to all who made the Oyster Roast successful. Jim Eckles made a motion to make Buddha a Charleston Base Life Member. All members raised their hands.

Meeting adjourned.
Jerry Stout, Base Secretary.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank you again for your daily care. Help us to continue to seek your will in all we do or say. Thank you for your presence at this meeting and enable these deliberations to be a blessing for our generations to come. Lord Bless our nation! Keep it strong physically, mentally and spiritually, let us take a moment to remember those that are were and we have once been. Amen.

Base Functions for April and May

11 April 05 Monday “Submarine Day”

Tolling of the Bell; at the Cold War Memorial for the all the submarine’s lost.

13 April 05 Wednesday, membership drive – we will have the float at the Ladson Fair Grounds during bike week – this date is not firm yet more info when we know.

14 April Thursday – Regular meeting –

16 April 2005 Saturday – Grits festival Parade in St George, line up at 1000 parade starts at 1100 we will leave the Steve’s house with the float at 0930.

Submarine Ball! Saturday evening!

12 may 2005 Thursday regular meeting.

21 May Armed forces Day

30 May 05 Memorial Day, ceremony downtown Summerville corner of 17A and 78, starts at 10:30 lunch afterwards at the VFW.

Holland Club

We have 7 members that are eligible under the new revised Bi Laws!

WEBB	Carmon H.
LOWE	Bobby W.
BUXTON	William U.
EAVES	Julian B
HAYES	William G.
LOOKABILL	John D
PEASE	Raymond K

The paper work has been submitted.

Sick Members

Webb! Still in hospital, Barnwell his procedure was put back until the latter part of March, “Mac” McCollum is in hospital and has undergone Gall Bladder operation, our shipmates need our prayers, **make a personal commitment to pray for them.**

Inputs from Bill Roberts

Bill Roberts has his camera fixed for your Mug Shots again, only if **your ugly** will you be allowed a **second photo** “for all torpedo men” you’ll need at least four

SUBMARINE: HIDDEN HUNTER

Discovery Channel Celebrates 20th Anniversary Year with Specials that Honor our History and Embrace our Future Released by Discovery Channel, 13 Jan 05 "The one-hour special SUBMARINE: HIDDEN HUNTER, on Sunday, April 17, 9-10 PM (ET/PT), heads deep into top-secret territory with an engrossing profile of the new Virginia Class vessel, which represents a quantum leap

Garage Sale

Remember to start collecting the “Good” stuff for our sale, tune them up with a little spit and polish would help. We are still trying to get an area where we can set up but are running into some resistance so if you know of an area with contact with the public let Ben HEBER know.

Fire extinguisher’s

Sherman Hostettler **many thanks** for the fire extinguisher’s you supplied to the sub vets members, I know I appreciate the one I got.

Submarine Float and Little David

Some of the items to be worked on, one of the items was the Tommy lift, this was put on the back burner and the decision to raise the float 16” this is still in the working stage, the (4) corner poles have been cut and pinned for removal prior to transport

Working party for the poll barn is in the works, the Little David working party to buff up and paint touch up in the works as soon as the “**Tunnel**” **rat** lets us know when; we will be at the Ready!

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.

Cobs input

April is a busy month starting out with April Fools day On April 1st if your dues are not paid you are **DINK!!!** And you will be **dropped off the national Data Base!**

From the COB

Thanks to everybody that took the time to visit our sick members in the hospital this past month. Sometimes just a 15-minute visit can perk somebody up that is experiencing some tough times and we never know when it might be us on the other end. The April Meeting will be on 4/14/2005 at the VFW and at that time Bill Roberts will be taking mug shot pictures for our directory. We have 50 or so of your pictures already but we have 186 members and we want to get everybody's picture for the directory. Please see Bill Roberts at this coming meeting and let him take your picture. I want everybody to think of what your desires are for this years Christmas party. We will discuss what we are going to do at this coming meeting. If you want to bring a covered dish to feed 4 or 5 people or if you would like it catered. We need to make some decisions one way or the other because time goes by quicker then it used to. Thanks for the great support on the depth charge drawings and the casino nights. That's our major source of income that fronts all these functions and parties. If you have an email address and haven't been receiving email from me please let me know at the meeting. Submarine Day is Monday 4/11/2005 and we will be doing a " tolling of the bell" at the Cold War Memorial at Patriots Point at 1300 HRS. I hope you can attend this function. We have several other functions in the month of April and I will keep you posted with COB Reminders .I hope everybody had a Happy Easter and I will see you at the meeting.

*Your Friendly COB,
"Neck"*

From: Tom Conlon, National Commander

STATE OF USSVI MESSAGE

Each year the president of the United States presents to the congress a "State of the Union" message. Since I'm nearly six months into my tenure as your National Commander, I figure it's a good idea for me to provide you with a "State of USSVI" message.

DUES

Since the end of the convention in Saratoga Springs, we have had numerous members take advantage of Life Membership at the old rates.

Because of this we have added almost \$100,000 to our national treasury. These funds will be invested to support future operations.

Also, of the date that I'm writing this message, we are 450 members ahead of where we were last year. I believe that this is a good trend.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

As you know, Gordy Clark resigned as National Secretary. Gordy had some business and personal issues that he had to deal with.

Accordingly, I appointed John Markiewicz as National Secretary. John was a candidate for National Secretary in the last national election. Since taking over as National Secretary, John has contributed much to the Board of Directors.

Also, Jim Terrell has resigned as Editor of The American Submariner.

Jim has been editor for quite some time. During his tenure as editor, The American Submariner has grown into a first class magazine. I believe that it is the equal of any other veteran's organization's publication. Jim has done excellent work. We will miss him as editor. Jim has said that he will stay on until the end of this year while we find a new National Editor. National Senior vice Commander Jim Foote and I are conducting the search for a new National Editor.

NATIONAL OFFICE AND LIBRARY

We are considering the purchase of a building to house our National Office. As you know, we established our national office about 5 years ago. We did this to centralize our organization's operations. Over the years those operations and responsibilities have increased. Since we established the office we have moved from our original small space to our current one. Currently, we rent 500 square feet of office space in Silverdale, Washington. We are outgrowing that space. Additionally, over the last few years we have "inherited" several library collections. Their donors are holding them until we can find a place to put them.

In September, during the convention, NSVC Jim Foote and I discussed the possibility of purchasing a building to house our national office and the libraries. Jim is researching properties in the Silverdale area. If we purchase a building, we will be able to expand our National Office and establish a small museum and library to house our collections.

We will discuss this at our Mid-Term Meeting in Little Rock. There are many issues related to purchasing a building. We will discuss items such as establishing a building fund within our national treasury for members and Bases to donate to assist in the purchase, mortgages, down payments, maintenance costs, etc.

I want to assure you that these are preliminary discussions. This is a "long term" project. There are many things to be considered. I do not want to make this decision hastily.

I will keep you, the members, informed at every step of the process. I do not believe in keeping secrets from the members.

RE-DISTRICTING

Our membership is growing rapidly. We are also establishing more and more Bases. Because these Bases are more widespread through our organization, it's becoming harder and harder for the District Commanders to visit all the Bases in their areas.

Last year you voted to allow the Board of Directors to modify the existing District

structure. At the Mid-Term meeting, we will discuss how to do this. The goal is to make it easier for District Commanders to visit the Bases in their district. For example, in the Central Region, there are ten Bases in the State of Texas. Texas is in District 5, which already comprises the States of; Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

Bret Cortright is the current District 5 Commander. It is very difficult for him to visit the other Bases in the district as well as those in Texas. Therefore, in an effort to "streamline" the District and make it easier for the District Commander to get to the Bases for which he is responsible, I have "carved out" a new District 5A from the current District 5. District 5A will comprise the State of Texas. It has its own District Commander who is responsible for administering the State of Texas.

The new District 5A Commander is Ray Wilgeroth. Ray will take care of the ten Texas Bases. I believe that he will do a great job as the new District 5A Commander

This situation also exists in the Eastern and Western Regions as well.

We will discuss re-districting at the Mid-Term Meeting in Little Rock. We will also solicit comments from the current District Commanders.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

In November, Basil Kio of NJ North Base raised the possibility of having a National Eagle Scout Award for Bases to award to Boy Scouts who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. I then tasked Basil, National Award Chairman Art Randall, Paul Orstad, Tom Denton and Jim Christley to come up with a suitable award. They devised an award that we have made available to the Bases to present to Eagle Scouts in their areas. This will get us out into the community even more.

ELECTION ISSUES

Last year the organization voted for two-year terms for National Officers. Recently some members have asked if there will be balloting this year for Constitution and Bylaw issues. I consulted with Ed Yoder, our National Parliamentarian, to get a clarification. The national constitution says, in part, that: (and I'm

paraphrasing here) "Constitution and Bylaw issues shall be considered in election years." I asked for Ed's opinion. This year is a non-election year. He agreed that, since will not vote for National Officers, we will not be considering Constitution and Bylaw amendments. We will, however, consider and vote on C&B issues in the next election cycle.

REGIONAL AND DISTRICT ELECTIONS
NSVC Jim Foote will conduct Regional Director Elections over the next several months. Jim will post a request for nominations in the American Submariner. PNC Steve Russo will receive the nominations. A ballot for Regional Director Elections will be printed in the American Submariner. Steve Russo will receive the ballots. Ballots will be counted and the election results will be announced at the KC convention.

The Regional Directors and District Commanders will conduct their District Commander elections as they have done in past years.

I hope that you find this "State of USSVI" message to be informative. I believe in keeping the members informed. As I've indicated on past occasions, you can always give me your opinions, either by email or in person. I may not always agree with you. Sometimes I may not respond. But I'll always read your emails or listen to what you have to say.

Running HSN,
Tom Conlon, NC

**

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.

Birthdays

Carlson, Comp, DeWitt, Giannetto, Gibson (70), Hill, Hyatt, Oster, Shoesmith, Smith M. Sparger, Walsh, Wikeen.

Happy birthday to you, and if I forgot you sorry!

Remember April is a busy month keeps tabs on the Cobs Notes

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS Thresher (SSN 593) April 10, 1963 - 129 Men Lost

On the morning of April 10, 1963, the ship proceeded to conduct sea trials about 200 miles off the coast of Cape Cod. At 9:13 a.m., the USS Skylark (a surface vessel assigned to assist Thresher) received a signal, via underwater telephone, indicating that the submarine was experiencing "minor difficulties, have positive up-angle, attempting to blow."

Shortly afterward, the Skylark received a series of garbled, undecipherable message fragments from the Thresher. At 9:18 a.m., the Skylark's sonar picked up the sounds of the submarine breaking apart. All 129 hands were lost—112 military and 17 civilian technicians.

The submarine community, the Navy and the nation were stunned. Thresher was the best of the newest. The ship was built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine and was the first of a new class of submarine, designed for optimum performance of sonar and weapons systems.

Thresher was able to dive deeper and run quieter than other submarine at that time. She was launched on July 9, 1960, and was commissioned by the Navy on August 3, 1961. Two days after the disaster President Kennedy issued Executive Order 11104, ordering U.S. Flags to "be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and

throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions,” from April 12th to 15th.

To the Navy, the disaster meant more than the loss of 129 crewmembers and civilians. Thresher had been the most advanced submarine in the world, capable of reaching depths and speeds unimaginable a decade before. The Navy’s investigation concluded that while the Thresher was operating at test depth, a leak had developed at a silver-brazed joint in an engine room seawater system, and water from the leak may have short-circuited electrical equipment, causing cascading casualties. The submarine was unable to surface.

Navy officials swore Thresher crewmembers would not die in vain. After the investigation, the Navy embarked on an extensive review of practices and procedures in effect during the Thresher’s overhaul. The reviewers determined that existing standards at the time were not followed throughout the re-fit to ensure safe operation of the submarine. Four issues were of particular concern: design, construction, quality assurance and procurement. The lessons learned by the Navy from the Thresher tragedy were to ensure a safer submarine force. Because of improvement in submarine design, construction and repair, further disasters have been avoided. Perhaps the most appropriate legacy for Thresher is the fact that being a submariner in the U.S. Navy today is a lot safer than it used to be.

“Some good came out of the tragedy,” said Neal Collier, son of Thresher’s, LT Merrill Collier, onboard in preparation of relieving the Engineering Officer. “My father died on Thresher,” added Collier, “but the tragedy had a positive effect in the submarine program, nuclear power and national defense.”

At a memorial ceremony in 1988 in Norfolk, VA., marking the 25th anniversary of the loss of Thresher, Vice Admiral Bruce Demars, the Navy’s Chief submarine officer at the time, had

this to say. “The loss of Thresher initiated fundamental changes in the way we do business...changes in design, construction, inspections, safety checks, tests, and more,” said the Admiral. “We have not forgotten the lessons learned. It’s a much safer submarine force today,” he added.

**

Update on our sick list

Barney Chaplain, will have his **heart** procedure done on **April 19th** at Roper hospital, so keep the prayer line open, also **Mac** is home after his operation but **Webb** is still in hospital lets keep in touch and see if the families needs any help!

As of April National will drop these names off their Data base

BLAD, HENDRIX, Mc CLOUD, POPIK, YINGLING, NORTHROP, PIERCE and STRUCKELY

Don’t forget the Boat reunions

And the District 4 convention in Biloxi

Update

Roger received a thank you card from Mrs. Kotzke thanking the Charleston Base for the flowers and the donation to the cancer fund. She also expressed how much Bob enjoyed being a member of our base and attending the meetings.

Any life members that Roger is making business cards for need to check with Roger at the next meeting because the cards have been completed.