



Vol. 1, No. 1

December 2005

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



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"*



Base web page: <http://www.ussvicb.org/>

National web page: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

**Base Meeting:**

No meeting in December!  
Attend the Christmas party December 10 at the Elks in Summerville, 1800 until...

**Location:**

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

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Keith Schnebel	843-851-7334
Secretary	Jerry Stout	843-871-9533
Treasurer	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
	Barnwell	
Sub Vets WWII	Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Ed Simokat	843-873-1709
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Chaplain	Bill Kennedy	843-875-3109
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe	843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering	843-797-2623

**Minutes of the October 2005 meeting**

**Opening Ceremony:** Base Commander, Steve Nelms, calls to order. A quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1830.

**Introductions:** New persons were introduced including Shipmates Vacher, Papineau and guest James Linden.

**Base Commander:** The following event occurred: Veteran's Parade, Downtown Charleston, and November 6, 2006. Events scheduled: Veterans Ceremony at Dorchester County Government Building @1030, Summerville Christmas Parade, December 4, 2006, USSVI Christmas Party, December 10, 2006. Buddha reported that a steering committee was held. He reported the Tullibee Base Memorial needs to be replaced. A memo he read from the District 4

Welcome aboard.

**Treasurer:** Financial report given by George Lisle.

**Secretary:** October minutes presented as published in the Newsletter. Corrections to the minutes: Date of Veterans Parade in Downtown Charleston was November 6, 2005, not November 11, 2005. A motion was heard to accept the minutes as written. It was seconded and approved.

**Storekeeper:** Paul Viering reported the store is stocked and open. "Red Star Rouge" is sold out.

**Chaplin:** Chaplain reported that Frank Evans was hospitalized for back problems. Mike Walsh was stricken with Vertigo, John Kratz's spouse had surgery and our prayers go out to Stacy Powers who will be undergoing back surgery at MUSC on November 29, 2005. Practice for flag folding party will be held in January or February 2006. This flag folding practice will be held occasionally to stay competent in detail for funerals, and other ceremonies.

**Public Affairs:** The USSVICB WEBSITE is up and running. A new feature has been added that includes a red button that indicates when the last update was made. If any members have inputs, please email, call or see Richard Cleeve.

**SubVets WWII:** Barnwell Chaplin reminded the membership and WWII Veterans of the Christmas Party that will be held at Ryan's Steakhouse in Summerville on December 16, 2005. He also invited new associate members to join tonight.

**Veteran's Affairs:** Nick Nichols went into great detail on a handout that was passed. All should keep this available for reference. There is much information that all veterans can use, including pay, VA benefits, Military records, Tri-Care for Life and BESS. His recommendation was to visit the Web Site: <http://www.bessphotos.com/> and see if your class photograph is there. If not, locate the photograph and send it for publication on the site.

**Holland Club:** No presentation

**Membership:** No report given. From the Secretary, a reminder that all dues are to be paid by January 1, 2006.

**Nuclear Historian:** No joke told.

**Chief of the Boat:** COB reported on the following: Hog Roast was extremely successful. Appreciation goes out to several individuals and groups including: Smoke Signal, who donated the BBQ, Guido Allegretto who donated the bacon and meats and to all the help in setting up, cleaning, preparation, and cleanup. Thank you shipmates for assisting in those events. A TM's daughter won the depth charge drawing of \$400.00. Congratulations. The left over alcohol beverages have been donated to the Casino

Commander recommended \$100.00 per base donation that would be used exclusively to rebuild the memorial. It was totally destroyed during the Hurricane. This does not need to happen tonight and can be brought up at the next meeting.

Buddha will donate a week's vacation that includes the use of his timeshare condo. It is a 2BR, 2BA unit. Locations local include Edisto Beach, Hilton Head or anywhere in the continental United States where he can get time. He would like this timeshare to be used for a door prize and/or raffle during the Christmas Party. The offer has to be used by the end of January 2006. The Christmas Party will be held at the Elks Club in Summerville off of Highway 78 on 10 December at 1600. Volunteers were sought out to assist in the setup, coordinating and clean-up of the affair. Sparger offered. The theme will be Pot Luck with the larger meat items being catered. The event will have no-cost alcohol beverages provided. No cost to the Member or spouse will be incurred for food or drinks. A dish to pass for 3-4 persons is requested. Please limit the selections to other than green beans.

**Steering Committee:** Meeting held October 27, 2005.

**Old Business:** Lee Allison spoke on the program for the Convention. He told the entire membership to get out there and sell ads in the book. This is an excellent fundraiser for the group.

**New Business:** Tom Lufkin offered his Ham Radio experience for other Sub Vets to have a SUBVET Ham Radio Club. He is coordinating with the FCC for a call sign and would like SUBVETS to participate in the next Ham Radio amateur event called NYSSN. AL Stoll reported that the South Carolina Federal Credit Union was not passionate in the dealing with the loss of a spouse on the same joint account. He recommended that the SC FCU hear about this defunct procedure in freezing all funds on the death of a spouse. If they do not change, we do not want to do business with them. New tires are needed for the float.

**Good Of The Order:** Depth Charge Drawing was held. Winner announced as Glenn Little.

There will no meeting for the month of December, however all are invited to the Annual Christmas Party at the Elk's in Summerville on Saturday, December 10, 2005. The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 1930.

*Jerry Stout, Base Secretary.*

**\*\* End of the minutes for November, 2005 \*\***

Nights. It will be sold to raise additional funds for Submarine Veterans. Comment on the Veterans Parade: The COB saw an older man stand up to salute the flag on the float and brought tears to his eyes. COB recommended that we come up with a process to render back the salute. We need to look sharp, no goldbricking or lollygagging allowed. In addition, funerals have gotten out of hand, too rowdy. We need to conduct ourselves in a professional manner and not conjugate outside smoking and joking. We all need to be careful while in the Public Eye.

Editor's Note: As you can see, we now have a name for our newsletter! There have been other changes, some minor and others that are more noticeable.

To provide input to the newsletter send (preferably by e-mail) to [chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com](mailto:chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com) or

[carlc@sc.rr.com](mailto:carlc@sc.rr.com) or mail to:

Carl Chinn  
217 Brailsford Road  
Summerville, SC 29485

**No meeting in December!!!**

**Christmas party on December 10 will replace the regular meeting!!!**

### **From the COB**



Don't forget to R.S.V.P. me by 12/5/2005 for your attendance at the Christmas Party 12/10/2005, Saturday, 1800 HRS – Until. The party will be at the Elks in Summerville the same place it was last year. Sub Vets will provide hard liquor, beer, wine, catered turkeys & hams with usual trimmings. No cost to you or your guests. We will have a depth charge drawing (red ticket) and will also draw the winning (blue ticket) for a week's vacation at a time-share that was donated by Buddha and Wanda. We are still selling chances on this and will also do it at the Christmas Party before the drawing. All you need to bring is yourself and your guests with a casserole or dessert dish to feed 5-6 people. This is your choice so ladies bring whatever you so desire. You have never let us down before and I know you won't now.

We have just put down new flooring in the barn and installed 2 new drawer cabinets. A 40 case beer cooler and a pool table have been donated to us from one of our honorary members, Robert Gibbs. We have also gotten us a satellite dish installed in the barn so now we will have be having "fight night" and other sporting events for our members and guests. Who knows, maybe a Super Bowl Party if we can get a turnout. These should be in place by Casino Night, 11/30/2005, Wednesday. The Casino Management Group went in debt \$600 to accomplish this. So we are hoping that the troops will come out and

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



If you are going to get sick please let me know!

### **Membership and Dues Information:**

There is only one month left to pay your 2006 dues and avoid the dink list! Deadline is January 1. Carl Chinn will be collecting dues at the Christmas party on December 10.

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) please let Carl Chinn know at [carlc@sc.rr.com](mailto:carlc@sc.rr.com) or 875-3098.

If you miss a meeting and need to pay your dues you can mail them to:

Carl Chinn  
217 Brailsford Road  
Summerville, SC 29485



### **From the Base Storekeeper, Paul**

#### **Viering**

The books, *Red Star Rogue*, are in. Please pick them up at the next meeting,

Also, in a letter from Ken Sewell, the publisher was down to 4000 copies out of 60,000 printed, that was about 1 Nov.

### **Public Affairs Announcement from Richard Cleeve**

From Richard Cleeve: Web site is up and running with many new features. If you haven't viewed the

patronize us on the Casino & Sporting Event Nights. More things on the agenda to come will be heating and cooling of the barn and also building a new bar. We already have the unit on board but we will need to do some duct work and some preparations which will cost us a little more money. We don't want to bite off more than we can chew so as soon as we pay off this debt then we will take on some more. We are hoping for good turnouts. We also realize that lots of people don't play poker but may like Acey Deucey, Pinochle, Texas Hold-Em Tournament, Checkers, Pool Boxing, Football, or just want a night out amongst good friends, or to harass the troops which is always fun. We are trying to organize these games as well so please let me know so we can get more of these started. Once you get a group together and start playing then the fun starts. We usually have a function every 2 weeks and we have poker players that come every 2 weeks. We can also have Pinochle every 2 weeks as well or Euchre or any other game you want to indulge in. Men this is about Submarine Camaraderie and we must have you to make it work. We are not getting any younger so lets act on this opportunity while we still can. As always food is always free and is getting better. So come on out and give us a try.

Since Wal-Mart and the liberal Democrat party want us all to say "Happy Holidays" and keep Christ out of Christmas I personally can't do that. I want to wish you and your family a Happy, Holy, Safe, Peaceful and Fun filled Christmas. Say a prayer for our troops and our Commander and Chief and all their families who are making that sacrifice for our freedom.

Also men always remember, "Always drink upstream from the herd"

Later man,  
"Neck"

### **\*\*December Happenings!\*\***

#### **Thursday 12/1/2005, Harleyville Christmas Parade**

Lineup in Harleyville is 1730 hrs. Parade starts at 1900 hrs. The float will leave Buddha's barn at 1700 hrs. We can meet there and follow the float if you want or if you have rocks in your head and want to ride on the float while the base commander pulls it at 85 miles per hour, then pay up your insurance and do so. We recommend following safely behind in a warm pickup. Your choice! Uniform of the day is vests and blue ball caps. Also it may be cold so dress appropriately. Any Questions call or email the COB.

#### **Sunday 12/4/2005, Summerville Christmas Parade**

At this time I am not sure just the exact spot for

new web site you're missing out on the news. One new feature added is that by resting your mouse pointer on one of the red squares on the index page, it will display the date of the last update to that topic. If you have an idea to improve the web site, be sure to let me know, all help is welcomed.

#### **Veterans Day Ceremony Highlights Newly Found USS Lagarto**

Release Date: 11/15/2005 11:59:00 AM

By Chief Journalist (SW/AW) David Rush, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- Submarine veterans were honored in a Veterans Day ceremony held at Pearl Harbor Naval Station Nov. 11.

Among those remembered were the 86 men lost in 1945 aboard USS Lagarto (SS 371), whose wreckage was discovered by divers in the Gulf of Thailand earlier this year.

Rear Adm. James Beebe, deputy commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke about the multiple missions that submarines carried out during World War II, calling submarines "a crucial component of our nation's victory."

"They rescued downed U.S. airmen. They inserted commandos behind enemy lines. They ran supplies to troops and allies when it was impossible to get through by any other means. They gathered intelligence and photographed beaches in advance of major amphibious landings. And they operated in dangerous Japanese-controlled home waters, inflicting a stranglehold on the enemy's industrial machine," said Beebe.

The ceremony was particularly meaningful for family members of crewmen killed aboard Lagarto, one of 52 American submarines lost during World War II. The submarine was last seen off the coast of Thailand May 4, 1945, where it rendezvoused with another submarine to prepare for an attack on a Japanese convoy.

In May of 2005, a British diving team found what they believe is Lagarto about 200 feet below the surface in the Gulf of Thailand. According to reports from the divers, a torpedo door was open and the torpedo was missing. That, said Beebe, suggests that Lagarto "went down fighting".

"I believe that is indicative of all the submarines that served in World War II," said Beebe. "Under the most perilous of conditions, they stayed focused on their mission. They were ready to go down fighting if need be...and sadly, many of them did. But our nation is eternally grateful."

Kelan Spalding of Springfield, Mo., was touched by the news of Lagarto's discovery. The 69-year-old is

lineup but it's easy enough to look for the float. When I get more info I will email it.



Bailey	Emerson	Humbertson	Vandiver
C. Chinn	Evans	Schnebel	Williams
Collins	Fulton	Semler	
Davis	Hayes	Standrich	
Eckles	Hopkins	Trump	

### Check out this Sub School web site

Website managed by Gary Walker EM2(SS) Ret., USS Atule SS-403 & USS Trigger SS-564.

He has been collecting class pictures from many of the sailors who attended Sub School in Groton, CT., and placing them on his website.

If you would like to see if your class picture is in his website, go to:

[http://www.bessphotos.com/sub\\_school\\_photos-1.htm](http://www.bessphotos.com/sub_school_photos-1.htm)

Should you have any class pictures that are not yet installed in his website, he has a set of instructions on how you can get a picture to him. He will then insert it on his site.

### Combined Conference reminder!

USSVI Charleston Base, Denizens of the Deep Base (Aiken) and the Southern Region WWII Submarine Veterans will be hosting the *Combined Conference of USSVI Eastern Region Districts Four & Six and Southern Region Sub Vets WWII* in Charleston, May 3-7, 2006. Registration forms will be available soon. You can book rooms at the hotel any time. The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport, on Rivers Ave. at Aviation. All base members are reminded that we will need many volunteers to make this conference a success. More information to follow.

### Combined Conference Book

Our conference book is planned and ready to sell advertisements to various businesses, sub veterans organizations, private and whomever wishes to be a part of our conference. This will help us cover the cost of the various activities for the conference. All hands need to help in selling advertisements. Ads can be sold to individuals as boosters or to any business or organization that wants to get their name out there. If you need sample materials to show to

the brother of Chief Pharmacist's Mate Robert Spalding, who perished aboard Lagarto.

"I was only nine years old when Bob's sub was lost," said Spalding. "It did not have the impact on me that it had on my parents and older brother and sisters. However, it being found has had a big impact on me."

Spalding said that for him, Lagarto's discovery will make this Veterans Day different from any other.

"We are fortunate now that we know exactly where our loved ones are located, and we can honor them," Spalding said.

Though no Lagarto families were able to attend the Pearl Harbor ceremony, they did send a wreath that was laid at the World War II Submarine Memorial. On it was a banner that read, "With Reverence and Respect, from Families of the USS Lagarto."



The Veterans Day ceremony also included music by the Pacific Fleet Band, posting of the 50 state flags by the Radford High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and a 21-gun salute by the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Honor Guard.

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association, Fleet Reserve Association, Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association, Submarine Officers' Wives Club, Aloha Chapter of the U.S. Submarine League and U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II made floral presentations.

Submarine veterans also conducted the roll call, accompanied by a tolling of the bell for each of the 52 submarines lost, putting a flower lei on the marker for each.

### December Submarines Lost:

USS F-1 (SS 20) - December 17, 1917  
USS S-4 (SS 109) - December 17, 1927  
USS SEALION (SS 195) December 10, 1941

".....they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted.

potential advertisers, see Lee Allison. He has full size samples of the book and ad sizes/prices. When you get ads AND payment, send/deliver it to Carl Chinn. He can be reached at 875-3098 or [carlc@sc.rr.com](mailto:carlc@sc.rr.com). Be sure to get payment for the ads! No credit!

*They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*Bravely they died.. In proud remembrance we salute them."*

As we go into this holiday season, please remember those on active duty who fight to protect our freedoms and allow us to live in this great nation.



Merry Christmas to all,  
and to all a good night!

