

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 2, No. 2

February 2006

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: www.ussvicb.org
 National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday February 9, 2006
 Social hour & board of directors Meeting at 1800
 General meeting at 1900

Location:

VFW Post 3433, 10154 Bellwright Rd.
 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
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell 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 January 2006 meeting

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms calls to order. Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: New persons were introduced including Shipmates Larry Starland, Larry Knutson, Dave Rein, Glen Birdwhistell, Bill Erickson, Bob Isaman, Ed Stank, and Mike Ianuzzi. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: Financial report given by George Lisle.

Secretary: December's meeting did not take place, so there were no minutes to approve during the meeting. Secretary reported that membership dues are now over due for members that have not paid for 2006.

Storekeeper: Paul Viering reported the store is stocked and open. He has received a few more books of "Red Star Rouge" and is expecting additional copies in the spring.

Chaplin: Chaplain sadly reported that Jerry Madison passed away during the month of December. A memorial service was held in his honor and several Sub Vets attended. Rich Wise's spouse is recovering from pneumonia and Stacy Powers is recuperating at home after back surgery and must wear an uncomfortable back brace. Our prayers go out to all of our shipmates and families for a quick recovery.

Public Affairs: The USSVICB website is back up after being down for a couple weeks. Photos that are archived can be enlarged by double clicking on the image and expanding it for those who have trouble seeing. The address is www.ussvicb.org. If any members have input to the design and/or content please email, call or see Richard Cleeve.

SubVets WWII: Barnwell Chaplin was present at the meeting to make his report. Lee Allison is under the weather and is resting at home. The next meeting will be held at Ryan's on February 17, 2006 at 1200. All are encouraged to attend. Any USSVICB member made participate as an Associate Member. Dues are only \$10.00.

Veteran's Affairs: Nick Nichols was not present at the meeting; however Carl Chinn stepped in to make the report. He reminded all vets to pay attention to the RAO summary that is published weekly as there are news events that affect our health care and other retired benefits. Reports are available on-line or through the VA. There is much information that all veterans can use, including pay, VA benefits, military records, Tri-Care for Life. In addition, there is a possibility that Tri-Care fees will be increasing in 2008.

Holland Club: Bobby Lowe has informed National USSVI on the members of Charleston Base who are now eligible for Holland Club Membership. These awards will be presented at the May Convention

Membership: Carl Chinn reported that there are 45-50 members who have not paid for 2006. Please pay your dues by the next meeting. Your dues are important to keeping the organization active.

Nuclear Historian: No joke told again for the second month.

Scholarship: Jim Yates reported that the 2006 scholarship drive is totally funded through the generous donations of the members. The scholarship application will be distributed for Tri-County High School applicants on April 15, 2006.

Chief of the Boat: COB reported on the following: Business cards are available from him. These are great to use to promote USSVI Charleston Base. Our membership is growing every month.

The After Battery (located at Buddha's Barn) has been undergoing several building improvements. COB pointed out that no monies from USSVI Charleston Base have been used to improve the barn. The monies used are a direct result of Casino nights. Several improvements have been made, including a new floor, addition of a heater, air conditioning handler, pool table, circulating Casa Blanca Fans and improvements to the head. All of these improvements are a direct result of the Members who participate in Casino. All members are always invited to attend the bi-weekly casino nights, even if you do not gamble; you are invited to enjoy the food and comradeship. The COB brought up there is a \$5.00 cover charge at all casino events.

The Christmas Party cost Sub Vets over \$1015.00. Everything, including the food, drinks, facility and door prizes was provided free of charge to members and guests. As we continue to grow, our desire to keep offering free activities can decline because of dwindling money supplies. COB recommended that from here on that a \$5.00 charge be made to all members and adult guests that can offset and defray the expense of these activities. In addition, the \$5.00 will show a commitment and allow us to obtain a better headcount. A motion was made and seconded to "Charge a \$5.00 cover fee for any organized USSVI Charleston Base Activity". Some discussion was entertained. A vote was made and the motion was carried with only one abstention.

Oyster Roast: Rich Sparger, along with Dana Johnson has volunteered to assist in the preparation of the Annual Roast. The date will be forth coming. A \$5.00 cover fee will be received at the door for this event. A

Base Commander:

Annual Christmas Party: Well done and thank you to Rich Sparger, his spouse, Rick Wise, Smoke Signals and all the other volunteers that assisted in the preparation, set-up, cooking, takedown and publicity of the annual Christmas party. The event was a total success because of the help received. Thank you again.

Base Commander reported that 2005 was a great year. He reported that decking has been installed at "The Barn", a pool table has been purchased, a new and enlarged cooler has been obtained, that will hold 28 cases of product. In addition, well done to Buck Owens that took charge of the working party at the barn, Roger Gibson who has made electrical repairs to the barn for installation for fans, lights and range. During the year, we participated in numerous parades and have the trophies displayed.

Hunley Memorial: Ceremony to be held February 17, 2006. We would like a big showing. See Charlie Rook if you can attend. Uniform of the day is Khaki pants, white shirt, Submarine (blue) tie and blue blazer.

Amberjack: Ceremony to be held March 25, 2006 at White Point Gardens. More information to follow.

Carolina Trusses System has donated enough trusses to house and cover the float. A working party will be started to build the pole barn. A thank you letter will be sent to Carolina Trusses for their generous donation.

Float: A proposal is being drafted that will outline the amount of work and money necessary to refurbish the Submarine Float that will take place over the winter months. The plan is to raise the physical height of the submarine to about 18-24 inches of where it is today. This will then make the Submarine more visible to the general public and also allow more seating for vets directly on the float.

Convention Program: All Sub Vets need to get out there and sell the advertising in the program for the upcoming convention. This is tremendous moneymaker for our group and it is not hard to sell them. Prices are very reasonable and artwork is very cheap for the average ads. Please get out there this month and help us make a difference. Lee Allison has more of the examples that can be brought to individual merchants.

A bridge stick is needed for the pool table. Jim Eckles volunteered to obtain one for the barn.

Casino Night: A double door cooler was obtained from a source in the area, however the compressor needed to be replaced. The cost of the compressor is \$400.00. The actual value of the cooler is well worth this investment to keep product cold during the summer and other months of the year and will used during all function that are held at the barn, including Hog Roasts, Oyster Roasts, Casino and

head count is required to the COB.

Old Business: No old Business. From Lee Allison, speaking 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: Carl Chinn and Paul Viering have volunteered to assist in the 2006 Christmas Party planning.

Dave Rein from the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) spoke to the group. His presentation included an open invitation to join the FRA. The rules have changes and now any former enlisted member can join. The member had to serve a total of 180 days and must have been discharged. FRA is located on Red bank Road and has their meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Attendance at the meeting is small. Currently there are 825 active members. FRA is building a new facility at the corner of Highway 52 and St. James Place. It is located behind Wendy's and 84 Lumber. Plans are for the new building to open by Summer.

Good Of The Order: Depth Charge Drawing was held. Winner announced as Jerry Stout.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 1950.

**** End of the minutes for January, 2006 ****

other meetings that take place there. A motion was made and seconded to loan the Casino Group \$400.00 for the purchase of the compressor. The Casino Group will repay this loan over the next several months. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Steering Committee: Meeting held October 27, 2005.
Minutes are available through the Secretary.

From the COB



Ladies and Men's Casino was a super success. It started at 1 PM and went until about 9 PM. I thank all that attended and all that donated their time to help make it that way. We had 20 men and 18 ladies attend. We had a spaghetti dinner with salad and garlic bread and 2 super fine cakes baked by Connie Chinn. Four ladies had requested a canasta game and those for ladies showed up and played canasta all day. We had a Texas Holdem game, Black Jack game, a stud and draw poker game, and a Ship, Captain and Crew game. Darts and Acey Deucey were available and the pool table got some major use. We had a door prize drawing of dinner for 2 at the Outback Steakhouse and that was won by one of my daughters. Needless to say I caught some major flack over that. The turnout was really good and we definitely plan on having another one in the near future. Thanks again for all the support on this.

Don't forget about the Hunley Memorial on 2/17/2006 a Friday. Call or email Charles Rook at scharlesrook@charleston.net 843-670-8588 He still needs a few people.

The Oyster Roast on Saturday, 3/4/06 at 1 PM \$5 per head is getting close. Already I have 40 people signed up. Remember your children under 18 are free. You must RSVP by 2/22/2006 to me. Live music, plenty of oysters, catfish stew, hot dogs with all the trimmings, cold beer, and other adult beverages. RSVP now and you can pick up your tickets at the gate when you arrive. Your orange ticket will have a tear off number on it and if your number is picked you will win the door prize. We are also having a depth charge or 50/50 drawing, which the winner gets half the cash. These are red tickets and will sell for \$1 apiece or an arms length for \$10 (that's anybody's arm). Hope to see you all there. You will pay as you enter and for those of you that have never been to one of our functions it will be at Buddha's. If you need directions please let me know. Always bring a chair to sit in plus your oyster fighting gear, a dessert to feed 5-6 people and dress warm it may be cold. We will have an outside fire.

Check out our web page www.ussvicb.org It has a wealth of information on it. You can even get a shipmate's phone number and email address there as well as see a picture of all the Sub Vets elected and appointed officials

Base Chaplin, Bill Kennedy

Joe O'Saben's mother passed away Sunday, January 22, 2006, at Memorial Hospital, Belleville, IL. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe and his family.



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

Membership and Dues Information:

If you have not paid your dues, you are now officially on the Dink List! We have 31 members on that list. Dues are payable by 1 January. If your 2006 dues are not paid by 1 April, National will remove you from their sailing list as will Charleston Base.

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

Carl Chinn

217 Brailsford Road

Summerville, SC 29485

Here is the Dink List:

Adinolfi	Allison	W. Bailey	Becker
Cates	R. Chinn	Clarkin	
Dasch	Fledderjohn	Fulton	Garcia
Guptill	Hix	Hostetter	Hyatt
Koebel	Loveday	Meyers	Minaudo
Mulkey	Patterson	Presley	Rourk
Smith	Stump	Valdez	Van Swearingen
	Willis	L. Wilson	Wickenhoffer

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

Sub Vets World War II:

World War II "Swamp Fox Chapter" will be holding their meeting at Ryan's Steak House in Summerville on Friday February 17, 2006 at 1200.

Please note that the meeting will be held on Friday and NOT Thursday!

USS Amberjack (SS-219) Memorial Service will be held Saturday March 25th, 2006 at 1100hrs.

The memorial will be held at the Amberjack Memorial

of the Charleston Base.

Later man,
"Neck"

****February Happenings!****

February 17, Sub Vets WWII meeting. Ryan's in Summerville, 1200.

February 17, Hunley Memorial, 1900 (arrive 30 minutes early). Sunrise Presbyterian Church, 3222 Middle Street, Sullivans Island, SC



Barwick	Burke	Gilmer	Guptill
Jennings	Koebel	Koehler	Lavergne
Minaudo	Rogers	Rook	Sickle
Siebert	Stout	Van Swearingen	Wickenhoffer

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. See registration form in the January issue. 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, submarine 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 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. Be sure to get payment for the ads! No tickee, no washee!

Deadline for the sale of book ads is March 15. That's

at White Point Gardens on the Battery.

This memorial service is for the USS Amberjack (SS-219) and the other 51 Submarines lost during World War II, along with other US Subs lost!



From the Base Storekeeper, Paul Viering

1 copy of the *Red Star Rogue* book has not been picked up. Vests are ready for pick up. I should have dolphin ties by the February meeting, both silver and gold dolphins. Look for new patches!

Public Affairs Announcement from Richard Cleeve

The photos of the November 11, 2005 Veterans Service in Summerville have been added recently. If you deleted your E-Mail from No Neck, you can see most of the information in the "FLASH" section of the Web to refresh your mind. Any comments or ideas to improve the Web are always welcome.

February Submarines Lost:

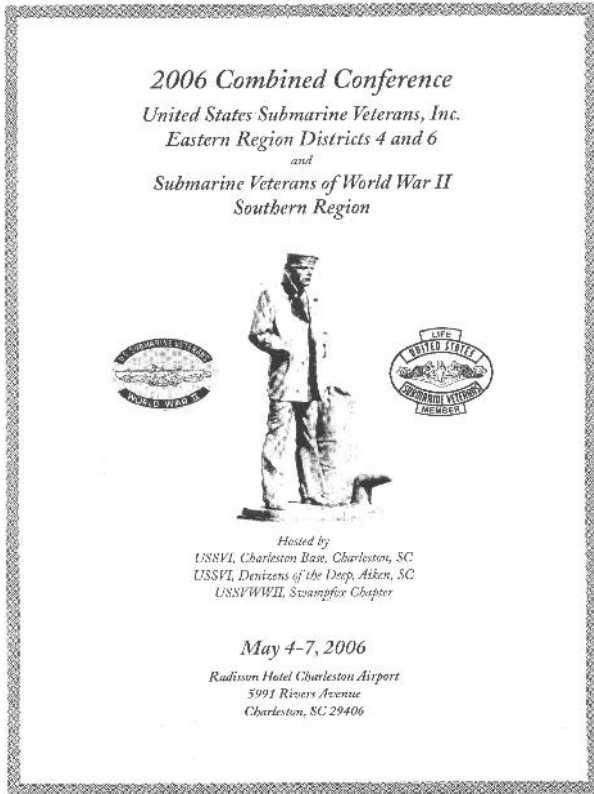
USS Shark (SS 174) February 11, 1942
USS Amberjack (SS 219) February 16, 1943
USS Grayback (SS 208) February 26, 1944
USS Trout (SS 202) February 28, 1944
USS Barbel (SS 316) February 4, 1945

*".....they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted.
They fell with their faces to the foe.
Bravely they died. In proud remembrance we salute them."*

Record Your Sea Service in The Navy Log

Now through the end of July 2006, all members and veterans of the Sea Services are able to enroll in the U.S. Navy Memorial's Navy Log without charge and without any obligation. The U.S. Navy Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, D.C., is a national memorial to those who served, and are serving, in America's Sea Services - Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. The heart of the U.S. Navy Memorial is the Navy Log. The log is the permanent public registry where Sea Service members and veterans can record their service information - name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories. Family members and friends can record service information for veterans who are deceased or those who are unable to record their own information. The Navy Log may be viewed at the U.S. Navy Memorial, or via the Internet at <http://www.lonesailor.org>. The goal of the Memorial is to record the service history of all

only about 6 weeks. We need ads!!



eligible uniformed individuals and veterans. To enroll your information or to enroll family members simply visit <http://www.lonesailor.org>. If you have any questions, please contact the Navy Log Department of the U.S. Navy Memorial, at: 1-800-NAVY LOG (1-800-628-9564).

Historical Note: January 27, 1942 - USS Gudgeon is the first U.S. sub to sink an enemy submarine in action, Japanese I-173



Who is this handsome devil?

TRICARE Fee Increase

Defense Department officials have drafted plans to raise TRICARE enrollment fees and deductibles sharply over the next three years for military retirees under age 65 and their families, about three million beneficiaries.

If the changes touted by senior Defense officials are adopted, annual enrollment fees for TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option, would triple by October 2008 for working-age retired officers and double for enlisted retirees.

Yearly deductibles for retirees using TRICARE Standard, the fee-for-service health insurance option, would double for officers and rise by a third for enlisted. Also, for the first time retirees who use TRICARE Standard would pay an enrollment fee in addition to their deductible.

Pharmacy co-payments also would be raised but for all retirees and their families, regardless of age, if they use the retail drug network or the TRICARE mail order program to buy brand name drugs on the military formulary.

The aim of these initiatives is to slow the projected rise in military healthcare costs by as much as \$12 billion over five years and \$32 billion through fiscal 2015. This would

TRICARE Prime enrollment fees of \$230 a year for individual coverage and \$460 for family coverage, and the TRICARE Standard deductible of \$150 (single) and \$300 (family) haven't been raised since they were set more than a decade ago. Whitman said this contributes to growth in department costs.

Budget documents contend the TRICARE fee structure in only one-third as costly to users as equivalent civilian plans. Defense officials not only want fees and deductibles raised for retirees and their families, in three hefty annual increments, but also want fees after that indexed to inflation so they climb in lockstep each year with growth in medical costs nationwide.

Some of the planned TRICARE increases won't require a change in law, only in regulation, although department plans for fees are sure to be the subject of congressional hearings in 2006. Lawmakers could step in to block or amend the plan if the planned increases seem unreasonable.

Draft budget papers predict a "pushback" from retiree organizations. The first shot was fired Dec. 8 when the Military Coalition, a consortium of 36 service

occur, proponents argue, by having working-age retirees pay a greater share of TRICARE costs and by encouraging others to switch to their employer-provided health insurance.

One assumption being used to estimate cost savings is that for every 10 percent increase in out-of-pocket costs, the number of beneficiaries using TRICARE Prime or Standard will fall by one percent. If accurate, 600,000 beneficiaries would drop out of TRICARE plans by 2015.

Defense officials have expressed alarm over a recent migration of retirees into TRICARE and away from employer-provided health insurance. Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, has said that some civilian employers are offering their retired military workers cash incentives to use TRICARE instead of company insurance.

Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said defense healthcare spending, if left unchecked, could reach \$64 billion by 2015, or 12 percent of total defense spending, endangering a prized benefit. In fiscal 1995, he said, healthcare was only five percent of the defense budget.

associations and veterans' groups, sent a letter to members of the House and Senate armed service committees urging that they oppose department plans to shift a larger share of medical costs to retirees.

Congress gave military retirees better health benefits as an "offset to the unique demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career," the coalition said. Requiring them to pay more for health care, the letter argues, "is not a prudent course of action, especially when the nation is at war."

The benefit adjustment scenario being discussed, both in the fiscal 2007 budget formulation process and resource-sharing debate for the Quadrennial Defense Review, calls for all under-65 retirees to pay more to use TRICARE Prime, Standard and Extra, the preferred provider network option, but retired officers also would pay more than enlisted retirees.

For a detailed chart showing the proposed TRICARE Fee changes visit www.military.com/TRICARE_Chart.

Editor's Note: The following says it all

Forty Years Gone --- by Mike Hemming

Thirty, forty or fifty, the number doesn't matter. It's just a measure of the time that has passed. It's the faces and names of the shipmates that matter. Faces and names, names and faces, are not always matched up.

Shipmates remembered even if it's only bits and pieces. We remember in snippets of things long gone, until we sometimes ask in our own minds did that happen or was it a dream or a story passed on? We would never say that out loud, for around our old buddies we always claim to remember all the good times and sometimes the bad.

They were good men that came from all over for many reasons and sailed together for a time. A time of testing and training, for men would pass on things to you that they themselves had learned. For you were expected to pass that knowledge on to those who came after you. It was a struggle to learn it all, sometimes. But you were learning lessons taught by the school of hard knocks.

There were faces of men now gone who once fought a hot war, who told you of traditions to honor those who did not return. Men that had seen too much to even tell it all. They were fighting a hard enemy that rarely gave quarter and so none was given back.

Faces of men that sailed through the years of a long cold war to hold our enemies at bay. Sacrificing years, marriages, limbs and even their lives at times to do what they thought was right. Years of stories untold even today

And faces and names of those that sailed with you and now are gone these many years. We all say, "I wish I could see him one more time, but I don't know where he is."

He was an old salt that guarded your back while ashore. Or a young kid that became a man when he stood beside you and fought fire or flooding without backing down. You didn't say "thanks" that day, but now you wish you had. They are all there in the time that has flown away from us.

We have all moved on now for better or worse. Some of them did more and some we never called upon to do more again. They returned home and went on with their lives. Names of men tested and found to be shipmates, an honor which can never be taken away. Faces with names that we shouldn't have lost as we traveled down the road. A road that led us away from what we did then as it always has to. But we shouldn't have lost all the faces and the names for all time. The faces and names of these special men that wanted to do something few can do. They did it for reasons unknown to themselves, sometimes much less to others that can never understand the pride in the accomplishment of what they did.

For when the paths we travel meet again, we will all reconnect faces and names again. But wouldn't it be

watching the Bear and preparing for a war. Serving on boats built to fight a hot war and then holding the line through a cold war. Until the new boats that were built for the next hot war, a war that fortunately never came.

nice to sit with that lost shipmate forty years gone and remember that life just one more time, right now?
