

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 2, No. 6

June 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, June 8, 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	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-553-9235
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 "Friar Tuck" 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 May 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 Harvey Manning, John C. Gnodle, Cliff Willis, Thomas Beach, Pinckney Smith, Tim Baker and Monty Giddens. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: Financial report given by George Lisle.

Secretary: Jerry was not present; Base Commander read minutes in detail. A motion was made and seconded; no discussion. Minutes approved.

Storekeeper: No report.

Chaplain: William Buxton's wife was involved in an automobile accident and is recovering at home. Mike Mulkey is back at work. Jerry Madison's widow, Shirley, has donated \$500.00 which was used to buy tables and chairs.

Public Affairs: No report

SubVets WWII: Bi-Monthly meeting will be held at Ryan's in Summerville on June 15, 2006, at 12 noon. Come hungry. Any USSVICB member may join as an Associate Member. Dues are only \$10.00.

Veteran's Affairs: No report.

Base Commander: Convention was a lot of work and the Commander wanted to thank all those that participated and assisted in pre and post activities. The entire profit from the convention which included selling of advertising, food and ticket sales will be split among the three bases that sponsored the event. Again, well done and a very sincere thank you. "I could not have done this by myself".

Steering Committee: No report.

Holland Club: No report.

Membership: Carl Chinn reported there are 217 paid members. Three (3) have signed up tonight. For a total of 220. We need to continue to concentrate on attracting new younger members if we are going to keep our organization alive and active.

Nuclear Historian: No entertainment tonight. Ed Simokat not present.

Scholarhip: Meredith Reock, our first recipient, has finished her second semester with a 4.0 GPA which matched her first semester. The three finalists for 2006 will be receiving scholarship monies from the Base. Well done and congratulations.

Chief of the Boat: On May 27th, Big Lots will be offering a 10% discount at their store in Oakbrook. A reminder of the Memorial Day ceremony on May 29 that will be held at Park's Cemetery in Summerville. COB also wanted to thank all those shipmates that helped out at the convention. Drawings held; Moon Mullins won the Submarine Dictionary and Jim Yates won the Wild Turkey.

Pole Barn working party went well. There is another working party on May 23 at 0830. This working party will be to put up metal roofing and assemble the shed. Breakfast will be provided, the menu is: eggs, sausage, bacon, grits and toast. After the work is done each worker will be provided with free 2 adult beverages of his choice or sodas.

Stag Social will be held May 17 at 1800. Dinner has yet to be determined. The revenue from Stag Social pays down the debt incurred due to the modernization of the barn. Again, only Stag Social Night monies are being used to improve the condition of the After Battery. Other members are always encouraged to volunteer to bring food for the Social.

Fleet Reserve News: Home Committee Chairman, Dave Rein, will be ending his duties next week. Elections will be held on May 18. All members are encouraged to attend and cast their votes for their candidate desired.

Old Business: Treasurer reported that Tax Return monies have been paid.

New Business: Jim Yates advised there would be a ceremony at 1400 on May at the Academic Magnet High School on the Old Navy Base in the old Cochran Hall. All hands are encouraged to attend.

Keith Schnebel has resigned as Vice Commander of USSVI Charleston Base after serving over 5 years. Elections were held and the officers elected are:

Commander – Steve "Buddha" Nelms

Vice Commander – Carl Chinn

Treasurer – George Lisle

Secretary – Jerry Stout.

Good Of The Order: Mac's grandson said "Hello". Lee Allison said the convention was great. Al Stohl read a poem and the Depth Charge drawing was held. Winner announced as John Sutton.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for May 2006 ****

From the COB



No input this month.

From the Base Commander



Our Secretary, Jerry Stout, has resigned his position due to being appointed as Eastern Region District 4 Commander. In accordance with our by-laws, as the Base Commander I have appointed our new secretary. Ronnie Kerstetter is now serving as our Base Secretary.

June Happenings!

June 11, 1300 – Co-Ed Social Sunday at the After Battery
Deep fried turkey and fixins. Games, etc., \$5 per person.

June 24, 1500 – Family picnic at Buddha's. \$5 per person
18 and over. Burgers, hotdogs and drinks (Soda, beer,
wine, liquor) provided, bring a side dish or dessert.



Burton	Hance	Heinle	Kratz
Lowe	Martinoli	Murphy	Rein
P. M. Smith	Suddeth	J. Williams	

Awards

An awards ceremony was held on May 17, at the Academic Magnet High School in the old Cochran Hall on the former Charleston Naval Base. Several of our members attended as two students were presented a certificate and given a monetary award to show our gratitude for their display of patriotism. These two fine young ladies took it upon themselves to raise and lower the American flag each day during the school year. Thank you Lauren Moore and Leah Plante and a "hearty well done!"

Membership and Dues Information:

We're up to 224 members! Keep on recruitin'!

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.



Public Affairs Announcement Richard Cleeve

All of the pictures taken by me at our recent SE Conference are now available on the web site. They have been divided into the day taken to reduce download time for our members. There are five pages to view to see them all.

June Submarines Lost:

USS S 27 (SS 132) June 19, 1942
USS R 12 (SS 89) June 12, 1943
USS Herring (SS 233) June 1, 1944
USS Gudgeon (SS 211) June 7, 1944
USS Golet (SS 361) June 14, 1944
USS Bonefish (SS 223) June 18, 1945

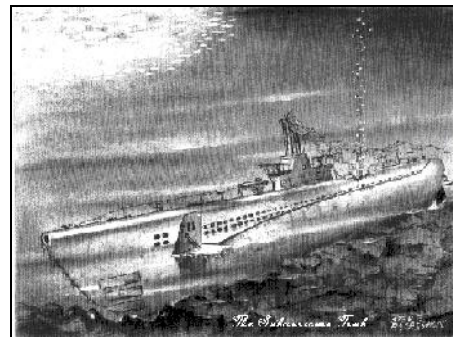
The Final Patrol

*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 shipmates still on patrol.*

*Let them know that we who survive will always keep
their memories alive.*



News update from the Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Committee:

We have been informed that our first (2005) scholarship recipient, Meredith Reock, has completed her second semester at Clemson with a 4.0 GPA which matches her first semester performance. Congratulations to



Navy Honors WWII Submariners

By Photographer's Mate Airman Michael Starkey, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy's Submarine Learning Facility (SUBTRAFAC) here honored submarine veterans of World War II at Naval Station

Norfolk, Va., May 26.

The event included presenting a wreath to the crew of USS Norfolk (SSN 714) in order for it to be laid at sea when the boat next deploys. The ceremony also featured a "Roll Call of Lost Boats," where miniature submarine replicas represented each of the 54 subs lost during World War II; each replica was dropped into a basket as her name was spoken.

"We want to get the sub vets to understand how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice," said SUBTRAFAC's Command Master Chief, CMDCM Kirk Crawley. "We are trying to tie into the theme we had at the sub birthday ball, which was past, present, and future." USS Skate (SSN 578) was also honored this year as she was inducted into the Submarine Hall of Fame.

"I think it's appropriate [to induct the USS Skate]," said retired Capt. Wesley C. Hewitt. "I don't think they could have picked a better ship. She was a pioneer in the Arctic. Several thousand went through the ship and all were touched."

Meredith!

From Little David Project Chairman, Rick Wise



On May 20, Richard Cleeve, Mike Emerson, Bill Freligh and Rick Wise presented the Little David replica at the Berkeley County Museum during a historical tour of Berkeley County conducted by the Berkeley County Historical Society. They talked about the history of the Davids and the Charleston Base Sub Vets' work in restoring and maintaining the replica.

News from the After Battery

Some very disconcerting news has been coming from those who frequent the fine establishment known to all as "*The After Battery*". There apparently is an inventory control problem with the highest quality adult beverage that is normally available, although sometimes in a tepid, lukewarm or balmy state.

The Inventory Control Specialist in charge may misunderstand the laws of supply and demand since there is always an abundant supply of frosty cold adult beverage of one persuasion, but not of the brand and packaging the majority of patrons prefer.

During the last Stag Social Night at the *After Battery* a comment from said person above was overheard. Here is his quoted comment which is very reminiscent of the famous line from the 1948 Humphrey Bogart movie, "Treasure of the Sierra Madre":

"Miller Lite in a bottle? We ain't got no Miller Liter in a bottle. We don't need no Miller Lite in a bottle. I don't have to show you no stinkin' Miller Lite in a bottle!"



Frequently Asked Questions on VA's Letter to Veterans

1- I'm a veteran, how can I tell if my information was compromised?

At this point there is no evidence that any missing data has been used illegally. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs is asking all veterans to be extra vigilant and to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions. If you notice unusual or suspicious activity, you should report it immediately to the financial institution involved and contact the Federal Trade Commission for further guidance.

2- What is the earliest date at which suspicious activity might have occurred due to this data breach?

The information was stolen from an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the month of May, 2006. If the data has been misused or otherwise used to commit fraud or identity theft crimes, it is likely that veterans may notice suspicious activity during the month of May.

3- I haven't noticed any suspicious activity in my financial statements, but what can I do to protect myself and prevent being victimized by credit card fraud or identity theft?

The Department of Veterans Affairs strongly recommends that veterans closely monitor their financial statements and visit the Department of Veterans Affairs special website on this, <http://www.firstgov.gov/> or call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

4- Should I reach out to my financial institutions or will the Department of Veterans Affairs do this for me?

The Department of Veterans Affairs does not believe that it is necessary to contact financial institutions or cancel credit cards and bank accounts, unless you detect suspicious activity.

5- Where should I report suspicious or unusual activity?

The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following four steps if you detect suspicious activity:

Step 1 – Contact the fraud department of one of the three major credit bureaus:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241 Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); www.experian.com; P.O. Box 9532, Allen, Texas 75013

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Step 2 – Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently

A Statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently learned that an employee, a data analyst, took home electronic data from VA, which he was not authorized to do. This behavior was in violation of our policies. This data contained identifying information including names, social security numbers, and dates of birth for up to 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, as well as some disability ratings. Importantly, the affected data did not include any of VA's electronic health records nor any financial information. The employee's home was burglarized and this data was stolen. The employee has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.

Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the VA Inspector General's office, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter. Authorities believe it is unlikely the perpetrators targeted the items because of any knowledge of the data contents. It is possible that they remain unaware of the information which they possess or of how to make use of it. However, out of an abundance of caution, VA is taking all possible steps to protect and inform our veterans.

VA is working with members of Congress, the news media, veterans service organizations, and other government agencies to help ensure that those veterans and their families are aware of the situation and of the steps they may take to protect themselves from misuse of their personal information. VA will send out individual notification letters to veterans to every extent possible. Veterans can also go to <http://www.firstgov.gov/> to get more information on this matter. This website is being set to handle increased web traffic. Additionally, working with other government agencies, VA has set up a manned call center that veterans may call to get information about this situation and learn more about consumer identity protections. That toll free number is 1-800-FED INFO (333-4636). The call center will be open beginning today, and will operate from 8 am to 9 pm (EDT), Monday-Saturday as long as it is needed. The call center will be able to handle up to 20,000 calls per hour (260,000 calls per day).

Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson has briefed the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, co-chairs of the President's Identity Theft Task Force. Task Force members have already taken actions to protect the affected veterans, including working with the credit bureaus to help ensure that veterans receive the free credit report they are entitled to under the law. Additionally, the Task Force will meet today to coordinate the comprehensive Federal response, recommend further ways to protect

Step 3 – File a police report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Step 4 – File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by using the FTC’s Identity Theft Hotline by telephone: 1-877-438-4338, online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or by mail at Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20580.

6- I know the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains my health records electronically; was this information also compromised?

No electronic medical records were compromised. The data lost is primarily limited to an individual’s name, date of birth, social security number, in some cases their spouse’s information, as well as some disability ratings. However, this information could still be of potential use to identity thieves and we recommend that all veterans be extra vigilant in monitoring for signs of potential identity theft or misuse of this information.

7- What is the Department of Veterans Affairs doing to insure that this does not happen again?

The Department of Veterans Affairs is working with the President’s Identity Theft Task Force, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to investigate this data breach and to develop safeguards against similar incidents. The Department of Veterans Affairs has directed all VA employees complete the “VA Cyber Security Awareness Training Course” and complete the separate “General Employee Privacy Awareness Course” by June 30, 2006. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs will immediately be conducting an inventory and review of all current positions requiring access to sensitive VA data and require all employees requiring access to sensitive VA data to undergo an updated National Agency Check and Inquiries (NACI) and/or a Minimum Background Investigation (MBI) depending on the level of access required by the responsibilities associated with their position. Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter.

8- Where can I get further, up-to-date information?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a special website and a toll-free telephone number for veterans which features up-to-date news and information. Please visit <http://www.firstgov.gov/> or call 1-800-FED-INFO (333-4636).

affected veterans, and increase safeguards to prevent the reoccurrence of such incidents. VA’s mission to serve and honor our nation’s veterans is one we take very seriously and the 235,000 VA employees are deeply saddened by any concern or anxiety this incident may cause our veterans and their families. We appreciate the service our veterans have given their country and we are working diligently to protect them from any harm as a result of this incident.