

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 2, No. 8

August 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, August 10, 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 July 2006 meeting

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

Introductions: Seven new persons were introduced; Kyler Smith, John Martin, Joe Gawronski, Kenith Sharp, Warren Worscher, Rick Waller, and Chuck Lester. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: Financial report was given by George Lisle. Scholarship fund has \$605.55. There is \$6,457.69 in the checking account.

Secretary: Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month as presented in the July newsletter. A motion was made and seconded; no discussion. Minutes approved.

Storekeeper: Paul Viering reported that nametags can be ordered for \$6. The tags have your name, dolphins, Charleston Base. Also those who want gold dolphins, I found the outside window decal, I also have these in silver (outside only). Dolphin ties are no longer available the supplier has stopped making these ties.

Chaplain: Bill Kennedy gave the following report. John Kratz had heart problems and is at home. Vernon Freshour's wife Margaret died, sent a card, she lived in Kansas. Randy Bognar had both knees operated on. Randy is here tonight. Karl Humbertson's wife Rose died, sent memorial to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Goose Creek. Five Sub Vets attended Bob Swain's memorial service last Saturday in Santee. Bill Kennedy presented the Swain family with a shadowbox from Sub Vets Charleston Base. Lee Allison is in the Veteran's hospital in Charleston for an ulcer. He had a blood transfusion yesterday.

Bill Buxton's wife has lost eyesight in her left eye.

Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has added pictures of the convention to the website.

Sub Vets WWII: Neither Barney Chaplin or Lee Allison was present. Stacy Powers commented that Sy Maybie was elected president of the Swamp Fox Chapter at their last meeting at Ryan's. Sy was away on vacation in Michigan.

Veteran's Affairs: John Nichols shared the following information: The Tricare user fee may try to increase again. Be prepared to write and e-mail your concerns when the time comes. Also the VA has a warning "phishing alert" for the web (unwanted persons trying to get your personal information). Do not give out any of your personal information over the web.

Steering Committee: No report.

The party, the party went off real well. The food was excellent. Richard Sparger was in charge and we thank him and all the guys that helped to set up and with all the little tasks. As always we did not run out of beer. It was a hot day, really hot and a lot of times in the summer people don't show like they do for the hog roast and oyster roast. We had 160 people that replied by RSVP that they were going to show, but only 125 showed up. Consequently we have a little extra meat. Gerry Farr, one of our members, donated a freezer. Now we have meat in the freezer which will be used at social nights. So it won't be going to waste. In the future if we run out, we run out. If we have extra we will use it up or give it to the guys that helped put the function on.

Coolers, we bought 2 coolers and used them at the picnic. They worked out real well. But we are still borrowing coolers from people. We need two more of these 8 case coolers, so that we can handle these picnics. I recommend right now that Sub Vets buy two more of these coolers. A motion was made and seconded. Motion approved to buy two more 8 case coolers.

That leaves one more item about the party, and that is the portalets. We rented two at \$69 apiece so that the ladies wouldn't fight standing in line going to the head inside. Well the people didn't use the portalets. Do we need to buy these portalets next time? The COB then read a detailed report to help the Base Commander understand the portalet usage problem.

Base Commander: National elections are coming up soon. The big problem is that not many vote and some don't read or understand what they are voting for. Consequently in the past we have given National the authority to raise dues any time they see fit. Only about 15% of the National membership voted in the last election.

The ballots are coming out in the "American Submariner" magazine any day now. I don't want to tell anybody how to vote but we are going to change a little bit how we do this. We will get three or four of us together and see what these proposed amendment and proposed constitution changes will mean to us as a base. We will try to explain it in plain language so that you know what you are voting for when you vote YES or NO for each of these changes. Then you can make your own decision. Please don't vote until we get some word out to you. We might not be as big as the Groton Base, but I can tell you that with our 228 members, we can make a difference.

Now I got to dispel a rumor. We have members here in Sub Vets that are also members of the Fleet Reserve, VFW, American Legion, and the Elks. The rumor is

Holland Club: No report.

Membership: Carl Chinn reported that we now have 228 members. Which is the highest ever for the Charleston Base, but we have a big number to shoot for. Groton has around 2,000 members. Keep recruiting and bring them in. We have thousands of submariners in the Charleston area.

Nuclear Historian: No report.

Scholarship: No report.

Fleet Reserve News: Dave Rein reported that FRA Branch 269 hopes to move into their new building soon. Will need volunteers when the time comes.

Chief of the Boat: First of all we have \$195 in the depth charge drawing, so things are looking up. Next up, back by the groceries is a red tip jar. The VFW has provided this food. If you want to eat, put something in the tip jar. Did everyone sign in? Always sign in. Tonight it will behoove you to sign in. Sometimes we give a little gift out to those that have signed in.

I need a volunteer for the Veteran's Day Ceremony. It's our year to provide the speaker, each year we provide the sound system. We are in this with the Jaycees, Knights of Columbus, and VFW, there is a bunch of us. I need somebody to represent us to go to the meetings. They will have a meeting here at the VFW about two weeks before to make a little plan of action. Bill Erickson agreed to take care of this.

Last meeting we talked about sending flowers to the girl who blew taps at the Memorial Day ceremony. She tried hard and lost it and we wanted her to know that we cared about her. We sent her flowers, a box of candy, and something to tell her that we appreciated her patriotism. A lot of people don't show up now a days. She has been invited to come back next year and do this again.

that we are moving our meeting place from here at the VFW to the Fleet Reserve. We have never discussed this. I CANNOT make that decision on my own. No one or two people can. There are no plans to move anywhere.

Old Business: None

New Business: Stacy Power made a motion that the uniform should include a white shirt and dark tie for memorial services. A discussion followed. The motion was tabled.

Carl Chinn and Paul Viering are on the Christmas Party planning committee. Plans are to have everything catered. No one has to work; no one has to bring a dessert, or set up or anything. Ticket sales will start next meeting. We will have a deadline. Saturday December 2nd is the date of the party. We will start at 17:00; dinner will be served at 18:30. We can stay as long as we like up to midnight. This will be held in downtown Dorchester at a place called Gatherings. It will hold up to 300 people. Food will be traditional Christmas fare.

The State Ports Authority needs some help and is looking for ex-submariners. Good pay and benefits. Anybody looking for a job see Bill Erickson.

Good Of The Order: Jim Eckles thanks everyone that came to the American Legion to talk with the current Nuke School officer class.

The Depth Charge drawing winner was Richard Sparger.

Quart of Absolute vodka winner was Dale Hostetter (#38 on the sign in sheet)

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2025.

**** End of the minutes for July 2006 ****

Member Photos

Bill Roberts will be taking pictures at the meeting for those members who have not had theirs taken yet.

From the Base Commander



Make sure you vote in the upcoming election! Bring your completed ballot to the August meeting. If you can't make the meeting get your ballot to me BEFORE the meeting. Address:

120 Sawdust Lane
Dorchester, SC 29437-2547

August Happenings!

August 10 – Deadline for National ballots. Take your ballot to the meeting on August 10 for tally. If you can't make the meeting, mail to Buddha or give to any member to take to the meeting. Don't forget to write your name in at the bottom of the third page!



August Birthdays!

Addington	Allison	Andersen	Budde
Cates	Chinn, R.	Cleeve	Daughtery
Davis	Freligh	Gawronski	Graff
Hardaway	Hutchinson, C.	Ianuzzi	Irving
Kirby	LaRose	Larsen	Lowman
Morrow	Mulkey	Nelms	Roberts
Wise	Young		

FRA News

The new "Fleet" has a banquet hall (capacity 200+) available for rent for parties, weddings, etc. The introductory rate through December 30, 2006 is \$350. If you know of someone looking to rent, please have them call 843-569-2692 and speak to the Home Manager, Elfie Campbell.

Membership and Dues Information:

We're up to 229 members! Keep on recruitin'!
Time to start thinking about your 2007 dues. If you are unsure of what you owe (regular national or base) please

Admiral "OZ" Scholarship News

Since the inception of this scholarship to honor the intrepid memory of Admiral Oz, Sub Vets Base Charleston has given \$2,000 to four different scholarship winners. I think that Oz is proud to have his name associated with such a worthy cause.

Initially, the money for this scholarship came in the form of generous donations from all of us at the various meetings. Almost instantly, we raised the money for the first scholarship. Our second round of scholarship awards came from a raffle, individual donations and a very generous gift from the McCollum family to honor the passing of Mac.

The McCollum family requested that donations be made to the Admiral Oz scholarship fund instead of flowers for the funeral. This really boosted our scholarship capabilities. We were able to award three \$500 dollar scholarships in one year! This honored the memory of both Admiral Oz and Mac alike.

Currently, it looks as though we will have enough for one scholarship this coming year. We will do a small raffle to try and replenish our funds. Individual members are always welcome to make donations throughout the year or to follow the example set by Mac and his family and ask that donations to the fund be made instead of flowers.

We are doing great things here guys and I know of four of our family members who really do agree. Thank you for supporting this great program. You may contact Jim Yates at 873-0246 at anytime to ask questions or to make donations.

August Submarines Lost:

USS Grunion	SS 216	August 16, 1942
USS S 39	SS 144	August 16, 1942
USS Pompano	SS 181	August 29, 1943
USS Flier	SS 250	August 13, 1944
USS Harder	SS 257	August 24, 1944
USS Bullhead	SS 332	August 06, 1945
USS Cochino	SS 345	August 26, 1949

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

ask me! Dues are payable no later than January 1, 2007. Pay early and don't get on the dink list! Annual dues are \$20 for National and \$15 for Charleston Base.

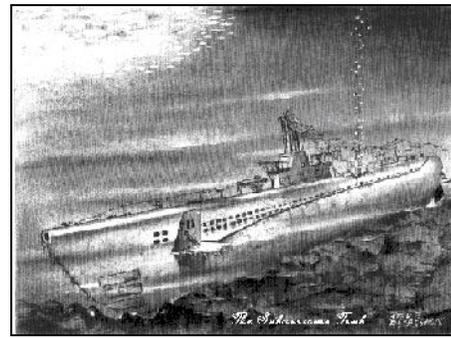
If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) please let Carl Chinn know at chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com or carlc@sc.rr.com or call 875-3098.



Public Affairs Announcement
Richard Cleeve

Day two (2) of the Southeastern conference will be on the big TV at the next meeting. Most of it is the golf tournament held at the airbase.

their memories alive.



Christmas Party Information

Information on this year's Christmas Party is included at the end of this month's newsletter.

Please take the time to read it carefully. Things are a little different this year. We are planning a great party that everyone will enjoy.



Terminology Trivia

Cup of Joe

In 1914, SECNAV Josephus Daniels banned alcohol on US Navy ships. From that time on, the strongest drink permitted onboard was coffee. Hence, a cup of coffee became known as a "cup of Joe."

Log Books

Today, any bound record kept on a daily basis aboard ship is called a "log." Originally, records were kept on the sailing ship by inscribing information onto shingles cut from logs and hinged so they opened like books. When paper became more readily available, "log books" were manufactured from paper and bound. Shingles were relegated to naval museums but the slang term stuck.

Online Sticker Renewal Update

A simpler method of finding your region to go online for sticker renewal: Instead of using the links in last month's newsletter, simply point your browser to:

<https://www.pid.cnic.navy.mil/form2.asp>

This will bring you to a screen where you are allowed to choose one of many different regions.

VA Survivors Website

The Veterans Benefits Administration has created a "Survivors" Web site www.vba.va.gov/survivors for

VA Could Share Facilities in Charleston

Options are being considered for enhanced collaboration between the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Department of Veterans Affairs, which could include a co-located, joint-use facility in Charleston. The two health care systems already engage in a considerable degree of collaboration: some 95 percent of the physicians working at Charleston's Johnson VA Medical Center also work at MUSC and exchange nearly \$13 million in health services every year. The two organizations are partners in a mutually supported biomedical research facility, the Thurmond/Gazes Biomedical Research Center.

Free Credit Monitoring Withdrawn

Associated Press | July 20, 2006

WASHINGTON - Free credit monitoring for veterans whose personal information was stolen has been withdrawn, the Bush administration said Tuesday, because the laptop containing their data has been recovered.

In a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, White House budget director Rob Portman said he was canceling his office's request last month for \$160.5 million in additional funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide one year of free monitoring to millions of veterans and active-duty troops. He noted that the FBI had determined with a "high

spouses and dependents of military personnel who died on active duty and for the survivors and dependents of veterans who died after leaving the military. The Web site is organized into two broad categories: death in service and death after service. It provides visitors with information about a wide range of benefits for the surviving spouse, dependent children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans and active-duty personnel. The site also has information from -- and links to -- other federal agencies and organizations that offer benefits and services to survivors and dependents plus online download of all forms needed to apply for benefits.. The Web site can be reached by clicking the "Survivors Benefits" button on the left of the www.vba.va.gov page. [Source: Bob Lazzell 238AWC input 9 Jul 06]

SSN Security

Unlike credit bureaus the Social Security Administration cannot put a flag or security alert on your social security account if you suspect your social security number been stolen or is being used by someone else. To report that someone is using your Social Security number take the following steps:

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.

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
- By mail at Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20580.

The Social Security Administration will not issue you a new Social Security number as a precaution, if you are concerned or think your number may have been stolen. SSA assigns a new SSN in rare cases, and only if the number holder provides evidence that the old number has been used with criminal or harmful intent and that the misuse has caused the number holder to be subjected to

degree of confidence" that information stored on the stolen laptop and external drive were not accessed or compromised.

"On the basis of the FBI's analysis, the administration has concluded that credit monitoring services and the associated funding will no longer be necessary," Portman wrote.

The announcement came as the House Veterans Affairs Committee was considering legislation to provide credit protection and strengthen information security following the May 3 theft of 26.5 million veterans' and active-duty troops' names, birth dates and Social Security numbers at a VA data analyst's home.

Veterans groups have said they should still receive the free monitoring following the government's worst information security breach, noting there was no certainty that the information had not been compromised.

They also have criticized the VA for the theft, which came after years of warnings by auditors that information security was lax, and say that other breaches are likely to happen. In a blistering report last week, Veterans Affairs Inspector General George Opfer faulted both the VA data analyst and his supervisors for poor judgment and said dramatic reform was needed.

VA spokesman Matt Burns said Tuesday that although credit monitoring won't be offered, the department planned to hire a company to provide data breach analysis to detect potential patterns of misuse of veterans' information.

He said the analysis will be paid for out of current VA funds that will not result in a "diminution in the quality of health care."

"While the potential for misuse of this data is considered highly unlikely by FBI and law enforcement, data breach analysis will provide additional assurances," Burns said.

The laptop and external drive were recovered June 28 after an informant, responding to a \$50,000 reward offer, turned in the equipment to U.S. Park Police. Authorities have said he was not a suspect and no arrests have been made.

VA Home Loan Information

From submarine shipmate Basil Burwell

For many of you there are possibly questions about your previous VA Home loans of the past. From the beginning of the VA Home Loan program through the mid 80's it was possible for any veteran to sell their home via the assumption method without restrictions to the purchaser or you. To some this was a blessing, and to some it became a nightmare, especially if the assumption purchaser defaulted on YOUR loan- You the veteran were held responsible.

recent economic or personal hardship. The FTC has produced a booklet to citizens remedy the effects of an identity theft. It describes what steps to take, your legal rights, how to handle specific problems you may encounter on the way to clearing your name, and what to watch for in the future. The contents of the booklet, *Taking Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft*, are available on-line at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm>

2006 National Ballot

Attached to this e-mail is your ballot for the 2006 USSVI National ballot.

The attachment is in .pdf format. If you are not using your ballot that is in the "American Submariner", please print this .pdf file and complete as required. Disregard page 4 of the ballot. That is the Base tally sheet that will be completed at our next meeting.

Make sure you only vote for the Regional Director for the Eastern Region. That is our region.

If you cannot open the .pdf file, you can download the latest version of the free Adobe Reader at the following web site:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>



"I told you, you should have VOTED!"

I urge all of you that used your VA Home Loan Guarantee and sold your home via assumption to check into the current status of your old home loan. The VA office in Winston Salem, NC is the source of this information. Their toll free # is 888-244-6711. Before calling it will be necessary for you to go through your financial records and find the small green paper entitled Certificate of Eligibility (COE) on the back is what is called the "LH" number- this is what the VA will use to track down your loan and it's status. If the loan has been paid in full then no worry, if it has not been paid in full I urge you to make sure the VA has your current address so that in the event of default they will know where to contact you immediately so you can mitigate the damages to your credit. Many times the loan has been paid in full and the VA has not been notified by the lender that the loan was paid off. Dig for the information on your loan if it has been 30 yrs since you secured the loan to correct this information. Remember that the original assumption purchaser of your VA Home Loan might have sold the property to another non veteran purchaser without your knowledge once, twice or whatever. Additionally, if it has been paid in full or you have never had your COE updated I urge you to do so and remember that you can use your VA Home Loan guarantee again and again for your present home or a future retirement home. I think I have used mine about 5 times.

Inspiration for "Men of Honor" dies

Carl Brashear was the first black U.S. Navy diver Tuesday, July 25, 2006; Posted: 9:20 p.m. EDT (01:20 GMT) RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) -- Carl M. Brashear, the first black U.S. Navy diver who was portrayed by Cuba Gooding Jr. in the 2000 film "Men of Honor," died Tuesday, July 25. He was 75.

Brashear died at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth of respiratory and heart failure, the medical center said.



Submarine Veterans Charleston Base Christmas Party – 2006



Start the Christmas season with your dolphin brothers!

Date: December 2, 2006

Time: Social Hour 1700
Dinner 1830

Place: Gatherings
Dorchester, SC
(maps will be provided)



Located in Dorchester.

- Fully catered
- Includes soft drinks, beer and assorted liquor
- Do not bring anything!
- Door prizes
- 50/50 Depth Charge Drawing
- Beautiful country setting
- Ample parking

Cost: \$5.00 each for Charleston Base members and one guest (wife, girlfriend, etc.)
\$10.00 each for other non-member guests

Tickets: Tickets will be on sale beginning August 10 at the meeting. You **MUST** have a ticket to attend. No at the door sales. Deadline for ticket purchase is November 9, meeting night. There will be no ticket sales after November 9. Plan early, buy early!

Deadline is **FIRM...NO EXCEPTIONS**
Do not lose your ticket...tickets are required for entry and door prize drawings

Tickets may be purchased at meetings from Paul Viering or Carl Chinn
or contact Carl at 875-3098 or Paul at 797-2623

