

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 2, No. 9

September 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, September 14, 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 August 2006 meeting

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

Award Ceremony: Kristen and Sarah Collins, daughters of Ricky Collins, were each presented a \$900 USSVI national scholarship by the Base Commander. The students were joined by their parents for the presentation.

Introductions: Two new persons were introduced; Cal Cochrane and Newell (Soupy) Campbell. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: Financial report was given by George Lisle.

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

Storekeeper: No report.

Chaplain: Bill Kennedy gave the following report. A get well card that was sent out recently came back after a month that said he was not here. Please let Carl Chinn know of any change of address so that cards and letters can be received without delay. Whenever somebody is sick please call the Chaplain. He takes care of these things. Lee Allison had stomach problems which required transfusions. Lee is now out of the hospital. Marty Sessler has agreed to serve as the assistant Chaplain and will serve as a back-up for Friar Tuck when he is away traveling. Ken Ellsworth from the Aiken Base has made monthly posters for boats lost at sea for use at our meetings. Also Ken has forwarded a book detailing ships information concerning the lost boats for our use. Jim Yates donated 6 more shadow boxes.

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

Sub Vets WWII: Lee Allison was not present. Sy Maybie the newly elected president of the Swamp Fox Chapter reported that the next WWII meeting will be held three weeks from today the 31st of August at the Summerville Ryan's on Main Street at noon.

Veteran's Affairs: John Nichols presented the following information. Blood shortage and blood platelet information is on the website on the Veterans Affairs page. Check this page, as information is updated every couple of weeks. Currently there is no memorial at Normandy dedicated to the D-Day efforts of the US Navy. The Navy may soon get a memorial. More information is on the web.

Holland Club: No report.

Buddha personally bought everyone who walked in the door a steak. We had steak, baked potato and salad. This was our way of saying thank-you for supporting social nights. The social nights and the red depth charge ticket drawings are how we make our money. It goes back into Sub Vets. Thanks for your support.

Let me remind you that anything that the Charleston Base Sub Vets owns belongs to you. If you are going to have a party at your house and you need the tents, coolers, or anything they we have. As long as you bring it back in a timely manner, you can borrow it by calling Buddha or myself.

I found a charcoal cooker. We can modify it so it can use gas, so that we can use gas or charcoal. It will cost \$600. Ed Bowles who works for Walterboro Housing has volunteered to help with the cost of the cooker. They are going to buy the cooker and donate it to Charleston Base Sub Vets.

RSVP – 160 VPed me for the last picnic and 120 showed. In the future I will write your name down when you call me, if you RSVP me you will owe me the five dollars. If you call me and say that you are going to come, you are expected to be there. If there is an emergency and you can't come, call me so we can change the total.

Base Commander: Buddha presented Carl Chinn with a red Papa Smurf ball cap. The three-sided cap recognizes Carl's three jobs in Charleston Base Sub Vets. Carl serves as Vice Commander, Newsletter Editor, and Membership Chairman.

Old Business: Funeral Attire

At the July meeting Stacy Powers made a motion that the uniform for funeral services should include a white shirt and dark or dolphin tie with vest. This motion was tabled last month.

Bill Kennedy was designated to look into the attire for funerals and gave the following report. I talked to Bo Parks from Parks funeral home, Don Miller from Dyal funeral home and I talked to the preacher. To sum it all up. What unites us? It's not the hat; it's not the shirt or pants. It's our dolphins. When we appear as a unit we are united by our dolphins. Bo Parks said that the thing he sees when the veterans groups come in is that they are a unit; they sort of look the same. Also Bo said that we need to dress comfortably.

We are grown men and we need to wear what we want. What is most important at a funeral is not what you wear, but your presence. What I recommend for funerals is the word will be put out by the Chaplain (Bill or Marty), via e-mail from the Cob what the attire will be. If you don't wear this attire, that's fine. But please come. You are always welcome to any function that we have no matter what you wear and that's the bottom

Membership: Carl Chinn reported that we now have 229 members. Keep recruiting and bring them in. We have thousands of submariners in the Charleston area. Dues can be paid for next year 2007. Deadline for dues is 1 January.

Nuclear Historian: No report.

Scholarship: Two years ago we realized that there were kids coming up that needed help with college scholarships. We gave three last year. This year we, with the donations given tonight, will be able to give two.

Fleet Reserve News: Dave Rein reported that FRA Branch 269 hopes to move into their new building soon. The move will take place in two shifts. Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Chief of the Boat: First of all I have some thank-you's. Thanks to Ken Ellsworth, from the Aiken Base, for the posters of boats lost during each month. We now have a poster for every meeting. Thanks to Jim Yates for the plaques for the after battery. Alki gave us two big coolers. Thank-you. Theron Irving for the poker chips that came off the Seahorse. Mike Stuffle for the sign for the "After Battery".

I have \$200 to give back to Sub Vets from the Wednesday night social nights. Over a period of two years now we have been running these social nights, every other Wednesday. Since then we have made improvements. When we started we had 7 people show up in a hot non air-conditioned room swatting flies. Now we are climate controlled and averaging 30 to 35 people. We have a bar that Donald Trump would be extremely envious of. Buddha especially wanted to thank everyone for all the work, participation and support over the past 2 years. So two weeks ago we had a special social night. We invited everybody to come, there was no cover charge, and everything was free.

line. The vote was held. The motion for a uniform for funeral services as presented by Stacy Powers was opposed.

Christmas Party

Carl Chinn and Paul Vierung have been working on Christmas Party planning. 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 at tonight's meeting. We have a deadline, November 9. 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 is traditional Christmas fare. Please plan ahead, there will be no ticket sales at the door and no one admitted without a ticket.

New Business: Votes were turned in for the 2006 USSVI National candidates, Eastern Regional Director and proposed amendments to the USSVI constitution & bylaws.

Good Of The Order: Downtown Charleston Veterans Parade will be held on Sunday afternoon Nov 5th. The Summerville Veterans Day Ceremony will be on Saturday Nov 11th.

Clyde Peters had two shirts embroidered with dolphins. If anyone is interested in this see Clyde.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2045.

**** End of the minutes for August 2006 ****

****September Happenings!****

September 16 - Dedication of the Osborn Family Wellness Center 11:00 am at the Presbyterian Home in Summerville, SC.



Bowles	Chaplin	Curtis	Gravley
Hartley	Hutchinson, K	Ingebretson	Katen
Knutson	Lanier	Law	McRae
Sims	Stump	Villegas	Votta
Wardean	Willis	Wilson, L	Wilson, W

Membership and Dues Information:

We're up to **231** 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 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.

Terminology Trivia

"To Be Three Sheets in the Wind"

In the days of sailing ships, this is a phrase which refers to the lines used to control the sails of sailing vessels. When these sheets are cast to the wind (let go), it would cause the old sailing ships to shudder and stagger. The resulting track would be the same as that of a drunken Sailor, out of control, and hence "three sheets in the wind."

The Lucky Bag

The so-called Lucky Bag was really a huge locker in which articles lost aboard ship were deposited. Once a month these articles were produced and handed back to their respective owners. But there was a catch to it...each lucky recipient of a lost article was then given three strokes from the cat-o'-nine tails to teach him not to lose anything again.

Lost Submarine Found

September Submarines Lost:

USS Grayling	SS 209	September 9, 1943
USS Cisco	SS 290	September 28, 1943
USS S-5	SS 110	September 1, 1920
USS S-51	SS 162	September 25, 1925

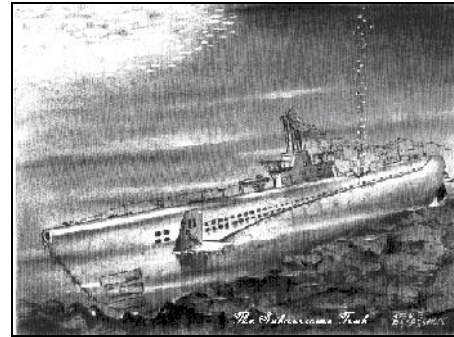
The Final Patrol

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.



Christmas Party Information

Tickets are on sale now. Get your tickets at the next meeting or contact Paul Viering at 797-2623 or Carl Chinn at 875-3098.

You **MUST** have a ticket to get in. No sales at the door; no late sales. Deadline for ticket sales in November 9, please plan and buy your tickets early. Cost is \$5 each for member and 1 (spouse, girlfriend, etc.) \$10 each for all other non-member guests.

Dedication of new facility

Dedication of the Osborn Family Wellness Center will be on Saturday, September 16 at 1100. All Sub Vets are cordially invited. This invitation has been extended by the family of Admiral Osborn to those who attended the ground breaking plus any who could not attend the previous ground breaking. Please RSVP by August 23, 2006 to Jim Eckles, (843) 873-0537 or e-mail sueckles@netrockets.com (too late)

Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency reported that a diving team from the Far Eastern State Technological University in Vladivostok found the USS Wahoo in the La Perouse Strait and took pictures of it during a recent expedition. The Wahoo was sunk by the Japanese navy on its return journey from its seventh patrol on Oct. 11, 1943. All 79 crewmen died.

A sub-sea survey conducted by Russian divers out of Vladivostok, utilizing the Project Group's information, confirmed the findings as a submarine at the end of July. The search project for the World War II United States submarine USS Wahoo (SS-238), taken to a new level with the assistance of major energy contractors and Russian authorities, has since confirmed what the USS Wahoo Project Group believes may be the final resting place of America's most famous WWII submarine...

Under the command of Dudley "Mush" Morton, the Wahoo became one of the most famous U.S. submarines of World War II. With 19 Japanese ships sunk, Morton was ranked as one of the war's top three sub skippers. USS Wahoo Project Group received U S Navy approval for their South China Sea Project, the search for five lost US WW II submarines and several other vessels in 2003 after their approach to the US Secretary of the Navy, following many years of development.

The Project Group has received continual support and assistance from Russian and Japanese authorities, sponsors, veterans and researchers from several countries. The USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, the project's scrutineers, research custodians and project curators, will be the official recipient of the project on behalf of those who were lost, their families, and their comrades. The Museum will work closely with the USS Wahoo Project Group and US Navy, Russian, and Japanese authorities. The Wahoo Project is an independent, multinational project for the greater good to locate the USS Wahoo (SS 238) and management of the confirmation identification project. Specialist Archaeologists and Anthropologists have been appointed to oversee the identification project, and work with Ocean Wilderness Group divers to document the site.

The project, which has been an epic of research and beauracratc negotiation, has brought together several nations, individuals, private organizations and companies in support of veterans and families of the lost from previously opposing nations.

The generation of goodwill and the prospect for closure, historic documentation of the site and the commemoration of the brave by the United States, Japanese and Russian governments is remarkable. The support of the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Department, and the assistance provided to the Project Group by the Russian Federation Embassy to Australia has been exceptional. Managed by Bryan MacKinnon, grandnephew of Wahoo Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton, the Project Group, now preparing

Military Care Package Kit

The USPS has a program for military family members and friends to supply them with packaging materials to send packages to troops overseas. If you call 1(800) 610-8734 and select option # 1, ask them for the "Military pack" they will send you boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels at no charge to you or the recipient. They will also give you an I.D. number so if your supply runs low, you just call them up and they'll send you more supplies. The materials take about four to ten days to receive. USPS web site

www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/ has guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops. The kit contains:

- Three (3) each of flat rate boxes O-FRB1 and O-FRB2
- Two each of Cube boxes OBOX4 and OBOX7
- Address labels - Label # 228 10 each
- One roll of Priority Mail tape
- 15 customs forms with envelopes.

The Youngest Chief Petty Officer in the Navy

Diego Enrique Santiago stands at attention, his small fists clenched at his side. Dressed in size 6, custom-made dress blues, Diego's brown eyes scan the Jacksonville USO. In the large hall, he's surrounded by Navy chief petty officers, family and friends. They've come to watch 5-year-old Diego realize one of his dreams -- to become a chief petty officer just like his dad, Chief Hospital Corpsman Jesus Santiago. It's something he is unlikely to have the chance to do as an adult.

Wish come true

Diego has been battling lung cancer for the past several months, and his immune system has weakened in recent weeks. In January, his doctors gave him three weeks to live, his mother said. His family — mom, dad and sisters Brandi, Ali and Samara; plus others have worked to make as many of Diego's wishes come true as they can. Becoming a chief petty officer was the ultimate, Jesus Santiago said. "This is his wish come true", he said after the ceremony. "He's always wanted to emulate me, and he has finally gotten his wish. That means more to me than his weight in gold."

Chief Hospital Corpsman Charles Clements, a coworker of Santiago's and the man who organized Thursday's event, had never met Diego until the pinning ceremony. Before it could happen, Clements had to get the permission of Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Perry D. Scott. "I knew that Diego has grown up thinking he is in the Navy all of his life," Clements said. "Becoming a chief was just the next step. To my knowledge it's never been done before. There have been honorary

a complete, non-intrusive sub-sea survey, has a thorough understanding of their responsibilities with regard to the USS Wahoo site and other sites. The group has no intention of either releasing the location of, or interfering in any way, with the site.

Their primary aim is to verify, document, and to provide record of the USS Wahoo and her resting place as the tomb of eighty brave souls, entrusting all gathered materials to the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and the appropriate authorities for historic and commemorative purposes, and to close another mystery in the chapter of events known as World War II.

This effort follows up the June 2006 final identification of the USS Lagarto (SS-371) located in the Gulf of Siam in the summer of 2005. These two identifications are the first in a series that may result in several identifications of submarines lost in World War II and provide closure to relatives and loved ones. Critical is ensuring that the locations, while identified, remain undisturbed as fitting resting places for these World War II submarine heroes. The identifications are made possible through improved search technologies that use remote search techniques and computer analysis. The Project Wahoo Group has also offered its assistance to the government of the Russian Federation in the location and documentation of the USSR L-19 submarine lost in the final stages of WWII.

Sub Vets on Stage at the new "Fleet"!



After Battery News

Look at that cool ceiling!

chiefs, but they have all been adults.”

Meeting hurdles

Clements calls Diego and his parents to the front. His mother and father stand by their son's side as Clements begins. “Today Chief Select Santiago is joining a proud and strong, 113-year-old tradition of chief petty officer leadership in our Navy,” Clements says. “We are proud to welcome him to our ranks.” Jesus and Cookie Santiago take turns pinning the golden anchors on the lapels of their son's uniform. “They have successfully guided their charge through the challenging last few months and stand with him today as he joins our ranks,” Clements says. Throughout the reading of the certificate, little Diego maintains a serious expression. His eyes are focused straight ahead. Chief Santiago, remember who you are now, you must wear these anchors with pride and behave in a way that will always protect them from any dishonor or stain,” Clements says. After the pinning, Chief Diego is presented with his cover, a symbol of the Naval community, while Clements reads the official creed. All chiefs and master chief petty officers are asked to rise to the occasion. About 50 men and women in the audience, all in uniform, duplicate Diego's attentive stance. “During the course of this day you have been caused to humbly accept challenge and face adversity,” Clements reads. “This you have accomplished with rare good grace. Pointless as some of these challenges may have seemed, there are valid, time-honored reasons behind each pointed barb. It was necessary to meet these hurdles with blind faith in the fellowship of chief petty officers. The goal was to instill in you that trust is inherent with the donning of the uniform of a chief. You must face each challenge and adversity with the same dignity and good grace you demonstrated today. By experience, by performance and by testing you have been this day advanced to Chief Petty Officer.”

Just like dad

Clements told the crowd that Diego wasn't merely being promoted by a pay grade but joined an exclusive fellowship. Diego will share a special responsibility with his comrades. “New responsibilities and privileges that go along with becoming a chief petty officer do not appear in print. They have no official standing; they cannot be referred to by name, number, or file. They have existed for more than 100 years,” Clements said. “Chiefs before you have freely accepted responsibility beyond the call of printed assignment,” he said. As the ceremony came to an end, Clements proclaimed Diego as Chief Diego Santiago. At that point Diego's serious expression turned to an ear-to-ear grin as he and his parents walked hand-in-hand down the aisle among the other officers. Everyone in the room cheered and gave him a standing ovation. Once the official ceremony ended, Diego walked over to



the cake table and cut the first piece. His mother fed him while all the officers waited in line to shake their new comrade's hand and give him a salute. More than a dozen handed him coins from their squadrons. "This is more fun than playing video games," Diego said. "I liked the coins because they have eagles on them." Later when asked why he wanted the position as chief petty officer, Diego told his mother it was so he could ask someone to go get him doughnuts and he would not have to say thank you. "So I could be just like my dad," he said.

Our Youngest Chief transferred to the Supreme Commander for final duty station 8/2/06.



Navy to Commission Attack Submarine Texas

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy will commission the USS Texas, second ship of the Virginia attack submarine class, Sept. 9, during a 10 a.m. CDT ceremony at the Port of Galveston piers in Galveston, Texas.

As the Navy's next-generation attack submarine, the Virginia-class submarine is the first class specifically designed to counter post-Cold War threats, providing the Navy with the capabilities required for safeguarding the nation's interests in the 21st century.

Texas has improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that enable it to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements. With a modular design, Texas along with its other sister submarines of the Virginia class, will be able to accommodate technology upgrades throughout its life.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas will deliver the ceremony's principal address. Laura Bush, first lady of the United States, serves as the ship's sponsor. In the time-honored tradition of commissioning U.S. naval ships, she has been invited to give the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

This is the fourth ship of the Navy to carry the name Texas since the original ship was commissioned in 1895. The second USS Texas (BB 35) was a battleship, which took part in both World Wars. The most recent ship named Texas was a nuclear-powered guided missile

USS Texas SSN 775 on television

On October 4, at 4:00 PM there will be a show on the National Geographic channel about the USS Texas, a Virginia class SSN.

It is a very interesting show if you have not seen it. The Navy has some pretty amazing technologies now days!

This show aired on August 30, and was very interesting.

You can visit the boat's web site at:

<http://www.usstexas.org/>



We Are Submarine Sailors

by Mike Hemming

We are not the first of them and we will not be the last. Our heritage runs back to the first submarine. This heritage line continues forward into an unseen future. Each generation is trained by the one before. This will remain so until there is no more use for submarines, which will be never.

cruiser (CGN 39), which was decommissioned in 1993. Texas can attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters and other sea forces. Texas also has superior anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare capabilities, is able to provide special forces delivery and support, and can conduct mine delivery and minefield mapping. With enhanced communications connectivity, Texas will also provide important joint task force support and full integration into strike and expeditionary group operations.

Capt. John Litherland, a 1982 graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, will become the first commanding officer of the ship, leading a crew of approximately 134 officers and enlisted sailors. Texas will be homeported in Groton, Conn., as a unit of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Texas is 377 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 34 feet, a navigational draft of 32 feet, displaces approximately 7,800 tons submerged, can dive to depths greater than 800 feet, and can sustain speeds of more than 25 knots when submerged.

The ship is also designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship - reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

The superior capabilities of Texas and other Virginia-class submarines will help ensure the Navy maintains undersea dominance well into the 21st century.

For more information regarding the commissioning ceremony, please contact the commander, Submarine Force Atlantic Public Affairs Office (757) 836-1650. For more information about Virginia class submarines, visit www.subforce.navy.mil/html/texas775.html.

If one of us goes aboard a new or old submarine, we are comfortable with the men there. For they are us and we are them. Stand us in a line in all our dress uniforms or naked in our coffins, we are the same. We are and forever will be submarine sailors. We are one.

We can have everything taken from us, uniforms, medals, our sanity and our lives, but we will always be recognized by others and ourselves as a submariner.

This status cannot be removed from us. Our Dolphins worn on our chests then, hung on our walls now, or later pinned on moldering uniforms in our graves mark us forever. We are first, last, and always men that stepped forward and worked long and hard to become what we are. We are unique among sailors for we sail down deep into dark and always dangerous waters. We do this not with foolhardy go-to-hell bravery, but with cool calculation and care. We challenge the dangers with training and practice. We know that the time for bravery will come when two shipmates close themselves in a flooding compartment, knowing that the whole boat and crew depends on them to control the flooding.

We believe in each other, because we must. Alone at sea, the crew and a pressure hull are all we have to reach the surface again. Men with confidence in each other dive and surface submarines countless times. Each man trained by others holds the lives of those shipmates in his hands. Dolphins are the symbol of this tradition. Submarine hulls have numbers and men have hearts and souls. We carry those numbers in our hearts in life, and they mark our souls in death. Silver or Gold, Dolphins are the symbol of this.

To us Dolphins are it; no other symbol matters or means anything as important as they do.

