

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 4

April 2007

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.ussvich.org

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

Thursday, April 12, 2007
Social hour 1800, General Meeting 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home
99 Wisteria Rd.
Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
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 Vierung	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

Minutes of the March 2007 meeting

March 8, 2007, first meeting held at new location (Goose Creek FRA Branch 269)

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms was not present, Carl Chinn Vice Commander called the meeting to order. A Quorum was present

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler thanked Sy Mabie and Charlie Rook for the great job with the H. L. Hunley / USS Housatonic memorial service. A very impressive anniversary was held at Breech Inlet on February 17th. "For those who did not attend, don't miss next year's service". Marty thanked Richard Sparger for cooking oysters at our roast and everyone that helped with all the set-ups,

and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: New persons were introduced; Ben Woellert, John Camp, David Wood, John Mackey, Leroy Whirley, Ron Litzenberger, Ed Feidt. Welcome aboard.

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

Secretary: Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

Storekeeper: Paul Viering has nice windbreaker jackets for sale with your name on front and Charleston Base on back. Also new patches are available for purchase.

Chaplain: Bill Kennedy presented the binnacle list. Larry Cox's granddaughter, Kyla Lynn Singletary, age 15 that resides in Beaufort SC was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Keith Schnebel has lost weight and is home. Bill Roup is in Health South and is having trouble getting around. Please call and visit him. Ron Willis had knee replacement surgery at Trident Hospital and is home. Robert Chinn will have surgery at Trident tomorrow, March 9th to clear blockages in both legs. Arthur O'Meally is at home after brain surgery. Jim Eckles is recuperating at the Palmetto Nursing Center in North Charleston. Please keep these families in your prayers. Calls and visits will be much appreciated. If anybody is sick or needs help contact either Bill Kennedy or Marty Sessler.

Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has more pictures posted on the website. See Richard for any changes or additions to our web site.

Sub Vets WWII: Sy Mabie reported that the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting will be at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville, SC on Thursday April 19th, at 1200 (noon). Any Sub Vets member can join the Sub Vets WWII as an associate member and are encouraged to do so. They hold a lunch meeting every other month at Ryan's. "A record number turned out for this year's H.L. Hunley anniversary service. This is where the submarine service started".

The USS Amberjack Memorial Ceremony will be held 11 am Saturday, March 24th, at the monument in White Point Gardens (The Battery) in downtown Charleston.

Veteran's Affairs: No report

Membership: Carl says that we currently have 270 Charleston Base members. We still have 19 Dink's. We have gotten 26 new members since the first of

clean-up, etc.

2007 Eastern District 4/6 & Sub Vets WWII Conference Wednesday April 25 – Sunday April 29, 2007 Daytona Beach, FL, at the Holiday Inn Express Speedway Resort. Registration forms and information on convention available on the national website:

<http://www.ussvi.org/Conventions.asp>

Amberjack Memorial will be held at White Point Gardens (the Battery) downtown Charleston on March 24th at 1100, which is a Saturday morning. Next month is the St. George grits festival parade, April 14th in the morning.

Base Commander: Buddha was not present. Carl Chinn, Base Vice Commander thanked everyone for the success of the Oyster Roast that was held February 24th. The pole barn and storage shed still need lack about 5% to be complete. A working party will be held soon to finish these tasks.

District Four: No report.

Old Business: We are in the process of establishing a parade committee. Their duties would include rigging the parade float, maintenance, help in pulling, etc. Need someone to head this up and a committee of 3-5 guys. Let Buddha or Carl know if you are interested.

Bill Kennedy is in the process of restarting a flag folding group. These men would fold flags at funerals. If interested drop Bill Kennedy an e-mail.

The Bylaws committee has completed some overdue revisions for the Charleston Base. The proposed changes in Bylaws will be mailed out in the next two weeks for your review. We will vote on the proposed changes at our regular April meeting.

A memorial is being planned for Riverfront Park in North Charleston. Ground was broken in March with the opening planned for July 2007. Don Wolfe discussed the memorials and contribution drive. Engraved pavers can still be purchased. For more information on the memorial, the web site is www.northcharleston.org

Several programs are a possibility for us to be involved in:

- Lazy eye test for pre-school kids, age 4 and 5
- Caps4Kids, giving hats to little kids that loose hair due to chemotherapy.

If you are interested in getting these programs started contact Buddha. Need volunteers to get

January. The Charleston Base is currently the #3 base in the nation for the number of members. Lets all keep recruiting. If you change your home address, phone number or e-mail notify Carl Chinn, our membership chairman, so that he can make the revisions. If you have not gotten your membership card after 2 months let Carl know. Also Carl has the 2007 stickers for the membership cards.

Scholarship: Jim Yates was not present. Need more students to apply for our scholarships. Let's get the word out so that we can give more money to help support students.

Alcohol & Gaming: Dave "No Neck" Mueller introduced himself to the group. Social nights are held each Wednesday night at the After Battery. Five dollars to get in. We have beer, wine, bottled water, soda, and non-alcoholic drinks. A good meal is served at 1730 until 1830. Whoever cooks, we reimburse for the food costs. All profits go into improvements for the After Battery and back to Sub Vets. The room is heated and air-conditioned. Who can attend? You and anyone that you want to bring. We average 21 members on Wednesday nights. Why do we do this? To promote camaraderie among submariners. We need your support. The After Battery is located 14.538 miles from Summerville.

Fleet Reserve: Dave Rein welcomed the Charleston Base Sub Vets monthly meetings to the fleet. "We are so glad that you are meeting here". Upcoming events Saturday, March 10th, 11am-3pm fundraiser bar-b-que dinners, five dollars. April 14th Elvis show in this room, fifteen dollars, tickets available behind the bar. Applications are available to join the Low Country Fleet Reserve.

these programs off the ground. Would like to see more members involved, we are a growing base.

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: Theron Irving read a heart felt appreciation for all the support given to the troops in Iraq. He then presented a flag flown on 30 November 2006 by the marines in Iraq to the Charleston Base. A video will be adapted for the web site with pictures from Iraq.

Nick Nichols presented two brass plaques for the After Battery. AFT BUOY from the Henry L. Stimston and a Group Six with 4 Polaris missile launches from the George Washington.

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was John Gnodle. Bill Roberts suggested that the Sub Vets flag be posted at our meetings. Ricky Collins has a dining room table and chairs, he is only asking for a donation to the scholarship fund for the furniture. Please let Carl Chinn know about any up coming boat reunions so he can get the word out. Rick Wise has checked on the Little David at the Berkeley Museum in Moncks Corner. A working party will be held to complete some painting on the wood and upkeep for this project. The group gave a hymn salute for Jim Eckles who could not be here tonight.

The Base Vice Commander adjourned meeting at 2007.

**** End of the minutes for March 2007 ****

"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a whorehouse."



Carlson	Cochrane	Comp	Detwiler
Erickson	Giannetto	Gibson	Hill
Hyatt	Little	Oser	Pepper
Rummans	Shoemith	Smith	Sparger
Vacher	Vlam	Walsh	Wood

Grit Festival Parade



Charleston Base will participate in the annual World Grits Festival Parade on April 14, in St. George. Parade will start at 1100. Line up is at 1000 on Highway 15, far side of town. The float will leave the After Battery at 0930. We need some guys at the line up site when the float arrives to assist in the rigging. Come out and enjoy riding on the float! If you are really adventurous, you can even ride the float to St. George, with Buddha pulling!

Membership and Dues Information:

As of 1 April we're down to **261** members from a recent

high of 276. That drops us back to number 4 in base size, behind Groton (2459), San Diego (331) and Bremerton (266). Keep on recruitin'!

We lost the following 15 members for non-payment of dues:

(13 regular and 2 National Life)

Budde, Jason	Campbell, Gary
Colitte, N. John	Curtis, Robert
Harvey, Manning	Jones, Rick
Lester, Charles	Lucas, Steve
Martinoli, Leonard	Papineau, Larry
Presley, Dale	Radd, Lucian
Siebert, Jacob	Sosa, Howard
Valdez, Bernard	

If you have any changes to your membership info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.) you can now make those changes directly on-line in the Sub Vets national database. If you make changes, please let me know at chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com or carlc@sc.rr.com or call 875-3098. This is so we can keep our local information current and accurate. If you want, I can make the changes for you...just let me know.

Membership Drive

Started in November was a membership drive for 2007. The numbers are in!

Since 1 November we gained 37 new members. Several were transfers from Member-At-Large status, some found us and some were actually recruited. Not counting the MALs since that was a joint effort by Buddha, Ronnie Kerstetter and myself it makes Dave Rein the winner with 3 new members. Congratulations Dave!

Here was the deal: Recruit as many new members as you can. The guy who recruits the most new members before 1 April 2007 will get 2 years Charleston Base membership dues paid. Make sure that you let me know when you recruit a new guy, if he joins you get credit and I can track the numbers.

Carl



April 14 – World Grits Festival Parade
St. George, Line-up at 1000, starts 1100

April 25-29 – Eastern Region Districts 4&6
Combined Conference, Daytona, FL

Annual Elections

Officers are elected at the regular meeting in May each year. If you desire to run for one of these positions:



<http://www.worldgritsfestival.com/index.cfm>

April Submarines Lost:

USS Pickerel	SS 177	April 3, 1943
USS Grenadier	SS 210	April 22, 1943
USS Snook	SS 279	April 8, 1945
USS Thresher	SSN 593	April 10, 1963

*There is a port of no return, where ships
May ride at anchor for a little space
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*

Submariners Bring Cheer to Atlanta Hospital

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (SW) Terry W. Matlock, Navy Office of Community Outreach Public Affairs

Sailors from USS Georgia (SSGN 729) visited Scottish Rite Children's Hospital here March 14, delivering caps and smiles in support of the Navy's "Caps For Kids" Program.

The Sailors of the Kings Bay, Ga.-based, Ohio-class guided-missile submarine presented command ball caps as well as other donated ball caps from commands around the fleet while visiting more than 40 enthusiastic hospitalized children.

"I think that this is a great program," said Kate Carpenter, a Scottish Rite Children's Hospital internist for volunteer services. "Kids love visitors, and sometimes it takes their mind off things, when they are having a bad day, to get a knock on the door and receive a gift to know that someone from the outside really cares and is thinking about them."

The Caps for Kids visit was one of many community relations events during the Atlanta Navy Week, March 12-18. The Navy week is designed to increase Navy awareness by providing heartland communities opportunities to meet Sailors first hand, and strengthen the rich and diverse relationship between the community and the U.S. Navy.

"I think that the 'Caps for Kids' program is beneficial to both the kids and the Sailors alike," said Machinist Mate 3rd Class (SS) Kenneth Ridley. "I think the children

Commander, Vice-Commander, Treasurer or Secretary, please get your nomination to Stan Standrich as soon as possible so your name will be on the ballot!

From District 4 Commander

What may be the last combined District 4/6 Convention will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida from April 25th to 29th. Hotel Rooms are still available and currently only a handful of Charleston Members are attending. In the past, I have shrugged off attending these events as I had thoughts of "Who would I know and would I have a very good time"? Well, the convention that Charleston Base put on last year changed my opinion. Since then, I have attended several others out of the area events and have always had a great time. This convention is shaping up to be the same. If you have never attended, I am positive each shipmate would have interesting stories to tell and interesting people to listen to. The food is great, including the Hospitality Room. During the convention, I will be proposing to split off from our Southern District 6 and will plan to hold our own event, but on a smaller scale in 2008. See the Web Site for the application or call me at 871-9533.

Next is the USSVI Calendar that is on the National Web Site, a very useful and powerful tool. This tool is on the USSVI.ORG and can be updated. All base events can be listed and are reflected on the District Commanders Calendar, as well as the Regional Calendar. If the Regional Director or the District Commander puts something on their calendars, it gets pushed down to local base calendars. This helps in coordination and scheduling of events and is especially very useful when scheduling things that will impact on other bases. These Calendars are viewed by any one who looks on the USSVI web page at <http://ussvi.org/calendars.asp>. The Web Master has indicated that the USSVI calendars are very under utilized. The more information we as Charleston Base/District 4 place on the calendar, the more in the know our members will be of our events and the events of other bases around them.

SUBVETS Anniversary Celebration will be held in Groton CT. There are still have many slots open for the Return to Submarine School and Boat Tours as well as the Golf Tournament and grand Banquet. Also, Tommy Cox will be performing all of his Submarine Songs in what he is saying is going to be his last public performance. If you want more information about these events for the Anniversary Celebration the registration:

http://subvetsgroton.org/Base Documents/Anniversary_Registration_2007.doc

Terminology Trivia

"Slush Fund"

Slush, a watery mixture of fats made from scraping empty meat storage barrels, was often sold ashore by the ship's cook, who would pocket the profit. This money became known as a slush fund.

enjoyed it just as much as I did and I would encourage anyone who has this opportunity to participate in this program."

Since "Caps for Kids" became a Navy national outreach effort in 2000, more than 300 commands and thousands of Sailors have donated ball caps and other Navy memorabilia, along with their time, to more than 500 hospitals across the country.

Two sailors killed on submarine

One injured sailor was airlifted to hospital in Alaska

Two British sailors have died in an accident on a nuclear submarine.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed there had been an explosion on HMS Tireless during an exercise under the Arctic icecap at 0420 GMT on Wednesday (21 March).

One other member of the crew of the Devonport-based submarine was injured and is receiving medical treatment. Failed air-purification equipment is thought to have caused the explosion. The MoD expressed its "deep regret" and said an inquiry would be carried out.

The SSN Attack Submarine was on a joint British-American exercise off the coast of Alaska when the incident happened. The MoD said a small explosion had caused "a small amount of smoke", which had been contained in the equipment and the immediate area.

A spokesman said the reactor was unaffected by the accident and stressed Tireless was not one of the submarines that carries Trident missiles. The submarine was safe and on the surface, it confirmed.

The dead sailors' next of kin have been informed and a statement is expected to be released on Thursday. An injured sailor was airlifted to a military hospital at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage with non life-threatening injuries and is expected to make a full recovery.

In a statement, the MoD said: "The two members of the crew died as a result of the initial accident.

"Their next of kin have been informed and our sympathies are with them and their friends at this difficult time." The MoD said the ship's company dealt with the incident "quickly and professionally" and, as a result, there was only superficial damage to the forward compartment.

"The submarine was never in any danger, its nuclear reactor was unaffected, it quickly surfaced and is completely safe," the MoD added. A Board of Inquiry investigation will follow, with military

“Wallop”

Admiral Wallop of King Henry VIII's navy gained notoriety after he and his ships were sent to the French coast to retaliate for the burning of the town of Brighton, England. He so thoroughly destroyed his enemies that his name now indicates a mighty blow.

Tricare Help While Traveling: If you are planning a trip or move it would be prudent to determine in advance where you will be able to obtain health care. One option is to go to the nearest Military Treatment Facility (MTF). You can locate the locations of all of the 237 existing MTF's at www.tricare.mil/mtf/. Retirees and/or dependents should verify the MTF will provide them non-emergency treatment if needed. Depending on geographic location and available capacity, routine care may be restricted to active duty or local residents only. If there is no MTF available in the U.S. geographic area you plan to be in you can use any physician or facility that accepts Medicare. In the Philippines and Puerto Rico you will have to locate a Tricare authorized physician or facility for routine care. If you do not use one that has been already certified by Tricare do not expect to have your Tricare claim to be paid. For more specific info on the overseas area you will be in refer to: www.tricare.mil/overseas/Overseas. Most likely you will be expected to pay the bill in full and submit your own claim.

For overseas emergency care Tricare beneficiaries may seek medical treatment from any host nation provider and file a claim with the exception of those in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. If Tricare agrees it was a valid emergency situation beneficiaries can expect reimbursement. For the Philippines a complete listing of all Tricare authorized facilities and physicians in the country are available at <http://tpaoweb.oki.med.navy.mil>. For other countries contact your Tricare regional office (North, South, or West) for advice on where to go. If unable to obtain a plausible recommendation you can always refer to SOS international at www.internationalsos.com. This site will provide contact information on SOS offices throughout the world which should be able to give you a qualified and safe physician/facility referral. Be sure to inquire if the medical care providers they recommend are Tricare authorized if you intend to submit a claim for reimbursement.

investigators examining what happened to see if there are any wider implications and lessons can be learnt.

Tireless was launched in 1985, but the piece of air-purification machinery thought to have failed was fitted as part of an update in 2001. The piece of equipment which malfunctioned is fitted to all Trafalgar Class submarines. The MoD said it had a 100% safety record to date but, as a precaution, its use on other boats would be restricted until safety checks could be carried out.

MoD inquiry

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, Commander-In-Chief Fleet, said: "I very much regret that this incident has occurred and my thoughts go out to the family and friends of the men who have lost their lives. I also wish to pay tribute to the crew of HMS Tireless that this incident has been dealt with and contained so professionally."

Submarine expert Mike Critchley said it was easier for submarines to surface in the sea rather than in the Arctic, noting that it was fortunate that the ice in that region was thin. He said: "Other areas of the Arctic [ice] can be extremely thick and they could never have got up through it."

The Tireless has suffered a number of problems over the years.

Military fact file

In 2000 a fault was discovered on board, forcing all 12 hunter-killer nuclear submarines in the UK fleet to undergo intensive inspections. The submarine became stranded in Gibraltar in May of the same year with a leak in pipework leading from the nuclear reactor system. Her presence there for nearly a year while repairs were carried out put a strain on relations with Spain and caused outrage among environmentalists.

In May 2003 she was taken to Scotland for repairs and prompted a MoD inquiry after colliding with an object at sea. The vessel normally carries a crew of 130. Since her launch, the submarine has completed a number of patrols from the North Atlantic to the Mediterranean, including several under-ice expeditions.

Tricare For Life Prior To Age 65:

The Tricare program is essentially a modernized and upgraded version of the program called CHAMPUS from 1966 until 1995. To a great extent, they are the same program. Tricare is governed by the same law (now amended) as CHAMPUS was in 1966. Before 1 OCT 01, all Tricare beneficiaries lost their Tricare eligibility



Reunion News

All Hands Reunion for the USS Sennet SS-408. April 22-26 at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant/Patriots Point
POC: Ralph Luther
843-851-7064 email: rluther@bellsouth.net

Thank You Received

Charleston Base recently received a card from Howard and Stella Sparger. They wanted to thank us for the oyster roast and say "they had a great time and that we have a great bunch of guys". Howard is Richard Sparger's brother.

USFSPA Reform

The Defense Department has unexpectedly sent recommendations to staff of the House and Senate Armed Services Committee to be considered as amendments to the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act including:

- Base former spouse award amount on member's grade/years of service at the time of divorce (and not retirement),
- Prohibit award of imputed income while still on active duty
- Permit designation of multiple SBP beneficiaries

FRA hosted a strategy meeting of the Military Coalition's Retired Affairs Committee on the recommendations at National Headquarters today, and continues to work toward the introduction of legislation to address the inequities in the onerous law.

USS S-28 Memorial

The granite monument was recently set in place for the USS S-28 memorial in Battleship Park near the USS North Carolina BB18, in Wilmington, NC. A dedication ceremony is planned for May 5, 2007, at 1000. This will be in conjunction with the Joint USSVWWII SE Regional / USSVI District #3 Meeting. POC is Wayne Powell, Tarheel Base.

automatically if they became entitled to Medicare Part A at age 65, even if they were enrolled in Part B. That was a result of the 1966 law that created CHAMPUS as an interim program. Congress never intended CHAMPUS to provide lifetime coverage. It was intended to provide health care coverage between the young age when most uniformed service members retire and when they become entitled to Medicare at age 65. That changed when Tricare for Life began on 1 OCT 01. For the first time, Tricare beneficiaries could retain their Tricare eligibility after gaining Medicare coverage at age 65. They were required to enroll in Part B of Medicare in order to do that.

Active-duty family members, as well as retirees and their families, were treated differently by the 1966 CHAMPUS law. Their benefits were described in two separate sections of the law. The 1966 law provides that a CHAMPUS beneficiary who becomes entitled to Part A of Medicare at any age or for any reason may not retain CHAMPUS eligibility. There was no mention of a Part B enrollment requirement in the original legislation. It was not until 1991 that Congress amended that provision of the 1966 law to allow a beneficiary of Medicare Part A to retain CHAMPUS eligibility, provided he was enrolled also in Part B of Medicare. With that amendment, a CHAMPUS beneficiary who became disabled, as defined by Medicare law and regulations, could have Medicare parts A and B, plus CHAMPUS. Such people were initially referred to as dual eligibles. There was no "CHAMPUS for Life". With the subsequent advent of the Tricare for Life (TFL) program it was decided to refer to them as TFL members even though it is possible they could recover from their disability and revert back to ordinary Tricare status. As it stands now, a Tricare beneficiary who qualifies for Medicare disability benefits has exactly the same coverage as the person entitled to Medicare because he has reached age 65.

However, the legal requirement for Medicare Part B enrollment still stands for all but active-duty family members. Thus:

- A retiree or a retiree family member who becomes entitled to Medicare because of disability is eligible for Tricare for Life, provided he is enrolled in Medicare Part B.
- A disabled active-duty family member becomes eligible for Tricare for Life in the same way, but without the requirement for enrolling in Part B. Under Social Security rules an individual who becomes disabled and is unable to work can draw



USS S-28 (SS 133), July 4, 1944 - 49 Men Lost

On June 20, 1944, LCDR J.G. Campbell assumed command of S-28, his first command. The ship had finished a normal upkeep period on June 12 and continued on her assigned duty of training enlisted personnel and engaging in sonar exercises with ships under control of COMDESPAC.

On July 3, S-28, in accordance with orders from COMDESPAC, got underway from the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, to conduct a week's normal operations. During the day on July 3, S-28 acted as a target for anti-submarine warfare vessels until about 1700 local time. At that time she made two practice torpedo approaches on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter RELIANCE. On July 4 S-28 again carried out sonar exercises as on the previous day, and at 1730 again undertook a practice approach on RELIANCE.

At 1730 S-28 dived about four miles distant from RELIANCE. At about 1805 RELIANCE made sound contact with S-28 at a range of 1700 yards. The range decreased to about 1500 yards and then steadily increased, as the bearing drifted aft.

Although sound contact was temporarily lost by RELIANCE at 3,000 yards, she picked up the submarine again at 3,300 yards. At 1820, with range 4,700 yards, RELIANCE permanently lost sound contact with S-28. At no time during the approach or the ensuing sound search were distress signals from S-28 seen or heard, nor was any sound heard which indicated an explosion in S-28.

When by 1830, S-28 had not surfaced or sent any signals, RELIANCE retraced her course and tried to establish communication with her. Although previous tests had showed that no difficulty would be experienced in exchanging messages by sound gear at ranges up to 2,000 yards, RELIANCE was unable to contact S-28. The Coast Guard vessel called in other vessels from Pearl Harbor at 2000, and a thorough search of the area was instituted, lasting until the afternoon of July 6, 1944. A slick, which was unmistakably made by diesel oil, was the only sign of S-28.

The Court of Inquiry which investigated the sinking

social security benefits upon approval of their application. At that point they would retain their previous Tricare status and be subject to any associated deductibles and copays for their medical care. If after two years they are still unable to work they can apply for Medicare Part B and upon approval become eligible for TFL provided they have updated their DEERS status. At that point Medicare will cover 80% of most medical expenses and TFL would pick up the balance. For services that are covered by Medicare and not by Tricare (such as chiropractic care) Tricare will not make a payment and the beneficiary will be responsible. Services covered by Tricare but not Medicare (such as overseas claims) should be billed directly to Wisconsin Physicians Services (WPS) and Tricare will pay as primary insurer with beneficiaries responsible for any cost shares. Payments for services that are not covered by either program remain individuals sole responsibility. TFL beneficiaries may continue to use any of the Tricare pharmacy programs. Prescriptions can be filled at any military treatment facility pharmacy, through the Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) or through any Tricare network or non-network pharmacy. As is the case with those who become eligible for Tricare for Life because of age, only the beneficiary will be affected by transition from ordinary Tricare to TFL. Their family's Tricare eligibility will not be affected in any way. Source: Tricare Help, Times News Service James Hamby article 12 Mar 07

"The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" Needs Support

Rep. Walter Jones (N.C.) has issued a "Dear Colleague" letter asking for co-sponsors for H.R. 657, "The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act," that authorizes the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse (or other designated survivor) of a military retiree for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours. Rep. Jones introduced this legislation at the request of FRA and shipmates are encouraged to use the FRA Action Center, located on www.fra.org to contact their representative to ask them to co-sponsor the bill.

Predatory Loan Protections Discussed

FRA staff met this week with staff from the American Bankers Association to discuss their concerns with the Association-supported predatory

determined that S-28 sank shortly after 1820 on July 4, 1944 in 1400 fathoms of water. Because of the depth of the water, salvage operations were impossible. The Court recorded its opinion that S-28 lost depth control "from either a material casualty or an operating error of personnel, or both, and that depth control was never regained. The exact cause of the loss of S-28 cannot be determined." The Court found, further, that, "the material condition of S-28 was as good or better than that of other ships of her class performing similar duty," and that "the officers and crew on board S-28 at the time of her loss were competent to operate the ship submerged in the performance of her assigned duties."

It was stated that the loss of S-28 was not caused by negligence or inefficiency of any person or persons.

loan protections in the FY 2007 Defense Authorization Act that takes effect 1 Oct. 2007. DLP John Davis learned that the bankers are asking for an exemption from the regulation implementing the predatory lending regulation, however FRA believes and sources indicate that all financial institutions will be included in the implementing regulations.

For Sale

2005, 14'8" Aquarus Skiff

I would like to sell due to the fact that I am no longer able to launch it by myself. It has a side console and running lights. It is powered with a 1987 Evinrude motor which is in good shape and includes tilt control. It also has a Minn Kota all terrain electric motor with foot control. The motor has 55 ft pounds of thrust. It is on a 2004 galvanized custom trailer which is equipped with boat guides. I will sell it for \$ 3,000.00. There are quite a few extras such as life jackets, first aid kit, smokes/flares and such that go along with it.

George Wells

1503 Mulberry Street

Charleston

Phone 766-0145

GeowellE8@aol.com