

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 5

May 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, May 10, 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

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	John Nichols	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
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775

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

Minutes of the April 2007 meeting

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

Introductions: New persons were introduced; Dave Hanson, Madison, Boyce Williams, Larry pepper, associate member, Chuck Hines, Ernest Culbreath. Welcome aboard.

Fleet Reserve: Parking is still a problem. Just push the entry button and get buzzed in. A way to resolve this is join the FRA, but David Johnson will hold the door open. The FRA Branch 269 President gave all hands a welcome.

Chief of the Boat: Keith is still having problems, please keep him in your prayers. Good to see Rodney walk into the meeting. It was a hard battle and he won along with Bill Roup who is still

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

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

Storekeeper: Hats are in. Available: gold dolphins, magnet for cars, gold dolphin ties, one jacket left \$40.00.

Chaplain: The flag we received last meeting from Mark in Iran will be hung in an appropriate place. Our thanks for the flag and your sacrifice for our freedom, please sign the card that is being sent around, there is also an invite for him to stop and visit us, and if you want to email a response send it to Bill Kennedy.

Nick Nichols will step in and relieve me as Chaplin. We are not getting much response in flag folding, "0" is where we stand - need more input.

Public Affairs: Web page, check on the links, If you go to one of our functions and take pictures, send them to me so I can publish them on the web. Remember our web page is www.ussvicb.org

Sub Vets WWII: Amberjack memorial service went good, our thanks to all who helped.

Lee Allison: I have some 2007 WWII calendars for sale and also some Polaris magazines.

Veteran's Affairs: Nick covered some topics, medical fraud for TriCare For Life, check your billing and question what you don't understand. Base decal will no longer be issued at the air base. Check the web site for other services. With the web site you can find just about any information you want. Since I'm taking over the Chaplin duties we will need a new VA Officer.

Membership: Membership as we stand now is 262. Dave Rein won the new member recruiting drive. He received 2 years Base membership dues. Congratulations Dave! National issues membership cards, if you are having problems see Carl Chinn.

Scholarship: Jim Yates was not present. Scholarship award is on May 22, at Summerville School at 1900.

Alcohol & Gaming: Wednesday social, April 18, for new members, a free ticket and one beverage. Come out and join in the camaraderie, dinner 1730-1830. Walt Deal donates a lot of goodies along with Smitty and his "Twinkie" run
Next meal is Buddha burgers and hot dogs. One time

recouping.

Working party this week, our thanks to all who helped out, all went well and everything was accomplished, the pole barn and shed are now electrified.

Grits Parade - St George-leave the barn at 0930, line up at 1000, spot 36-37, parade at 1100 hours.

Pole Barn electrical and odd and ends, we need \$137.00 appropriated, motion made and seconded. Motion carried.

Does any body know anyone that does specialty painting? We need an artist that could paint a submarine on the pole barn.

Base Commander: Mike Emerson, Ben Heber are helping with the float. Contact Mike if you are willing to help on our continual PMs that have to be done.

American Submariner magazines are being sent to the nuclear power school. They are receiving 18 of them and are getting distributed to the right people.

District 4 - 6 convention in Daytona, Florida, April 25- 29

Plaques: Had a box of them donated to the base, so we have more of them.

District Four: No report.

Old Business: Bylaws discussed first, changes and wording, everyone has had a chance to review all changes put forth and had ample time to notify the board of any issues the changes were covered. Motion was made by Bill Kennedy that we accept this revision, this was seconded by Ed Simokat, motion carried.

Frank Evans is the Lazy Eye Screening Program chairman. Please volunteer to help Frank.

New Business: June 9th, picnic, hot dogs hamburgers, bring a covered dish. More info to follow.

Good Of The Order: Memorial for the Hobson at Patriot's Point.

Jim Eckles is doing good, using a cane now.

John Mc Cain at the VFW at 1800 Wednesday.

Rodney - Thanks to all for showing thoughtfulness and kindness during recovery. Along with him was Bill Roup who is recovering from his accident.

Neck, April 11th we need to do something for our submarine birthday. Rodney McKanna appointed chairman for submarine birthday.

December 15th is our Christmas party, more info to

Buddha was sick I went to the house and got \$5.00 from him.

Attendance: best we had is 28, we would like more. Our average is 7.63% from our base, math class is one hour prior to social night. Cans, so far around 403 dollars Other items discussed: Dept head parking, verbiage on how to talk to some one with a better education than you and how to read poetry. This falls under this department head responsibilities.

come.

Don't forget the elections next month; let Stan know if you want to run for an elected office: Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer.

Depth Charge drawing winner: Larry Pepper.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2007.

**** End of the minutes for April 2007 ****

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



Birdwhistel	Clarkin	Cline	Conrey
I			
Fuhr	Fuqua	Gallagher	Habhegger
Heber	Houck	Houston	Lufkin
Mullins	Nichols	O'Meally	Paris
Sparks	Sutton	Upchurch	Wieda

Membership and Dues Information:

We are currently the third largest base in size. We have 269 members behind Groton (2,199) and San Diego (329). Keep on recruitin'!

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 want, I can make the changes for you...just let me know. If you have 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. I update the COB and others with contact/personal information.



May Submarines Lost:

USS Runner	SS 275	May 28, 1943
USS Lagarto	SS 371	May 3, 1945
USS Squalus	SS 192	May 23, 1939
USS Scorpion	SSN 589	May 27, 1968

*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.*

Oklahoma City First Sub with New VMS

NORFOLK (NNS) -- USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) took the next step in technological advances this April, adding the Navy's newest navigational tool to its arsenal.

The Voyage Management System (VMS) -- a combination of digital charts, constant global positioning system fixes, environmental sensors and electronic command and control -- will allow the submarine to eliminate many of the constraining aspects of navigation when using paper charts.

ETC (SS) Robert Jacques, Submarine Force assistant navigator, explained VMS will provide greater benefits than paperless navigation.

"VMS will reduce manpower workload by almost 40 percent and it will allow for plans to be utilized at a future date or shared with other units in the same ports," said Jacques.

"The computerized voyage plan safety checker assists the operator in finding hazards to navigate around and the integration of contact data from various sources including BPS-15 Radar, fire control, Automatic Identification System (AIS) onto the electronic chart will allow for easier situational awareness for the contact management process," he continued.

The new system will save space, which is a valuable commodity on submarines. All charts are stored on

May 5 – Dedication of the Uniformed Services
Memorial
1000 at 1255 Yeamans Hall Rd.

Annual Elections

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

Terminology Trivia

“Irish Pennant”

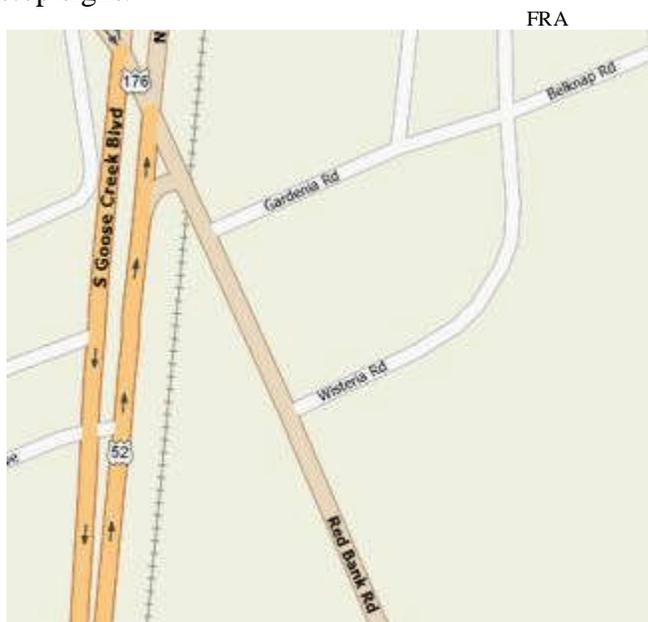
A stray or unnecessary piece of line, fabric, or anything else of an untidy appearance. The Navy's insistence on neatness is sometimes irritating to the uninitiated.

Parking at the Fleet

Below is a map to show where parking is allowed at the Fleet Reserve for our meetings.

Basically there is the Fleet parking lot and the streets around it. You can park on *both* sides of Wisteria Rd. *and* Gardenia Rd. Gardenia Rd is the street in front of the 84 Lumber.

Just be sure to leave about 3 car lengths in front of stop signs.



compact discs.

"Imagine the entire world's charts in your CD holder," said Jacques.

A wide range of associated publications such as sailing directions and an atlas of pilot charts, normally kept on subs, will also be converted to CDs. The digital nautical charts can be downloaded or ordered from the National Geographical Intelligence Agency (NGA) web site along with other data provided by NGA which add needed bottom contour features necessary for safe navigation.

Capt. Mike Brown, force navigator for Submarine Force, says the many different features VMS offers will be vital to efficient navigation.

"In the past the quartermaster would do all of this work that could take anywhere from 10 minutes or more just to plot our position. By the time you completed that task you would already be 10 minutes beyond that plot. With VMS, it's plotting for you as you are moving along which allows the quartermaster to look ahead more," said Brown.

Brown describes the whole process of VMS much like that of using newer computer software, saying that at first many will be frustrated at the newer technology.

"I would compare it to using Mapquest instead of conventional maps. In the past you would get out your map and physically plan the route you were going to take. These days you can just pull up Mapquest, type in where you want to go and follow the directions given by the computer," said Brown. "It just takes a different way of thinking. I happen to think this way is much easier."

Brown says training is a key factor to get the submarine crews ready for the implementation of the VMS.

"There [are] really two steps to certifying the sub.

Making sure the submarine meets the requirements and training the crew for certification," said Brown.

Training for VMS is well underway said Jacques.

"There is a formal two-week school taught by Submarine Learning Center (SLC) for the VMS operator and a weeklong school for the assistant navigator," he said. "The navigator pipeline school at SLC is also dedicated to VMS operation. Of course there will always be on-board training. It's conducted as part of qualifications as quartermaster of the watch." According to Brown, once the system is installed and the crew is fully trained it's really up to the squadron to clarify it certified for use.

"The process is really given to Fleet Forces Command but they delegate the process down to the Submarine Force. Once the crew is certified the submarine is deemed ready for paperless navigation," said Brown.

Oklahoma City is the first submarine to operate on this version of VMS. USS Cape St. George (CG 71), the first naval vessel to use the system, has been navigating paperless since May 2005.

Brown believes the system could be fully implemented on all submarines by 2009. USS Norfolk (SSN 714) is the next submarine scheduled to implement the

If you have information about a boat reunion that you want posted in the newsletter, please give me the details. Last meeting I received some information from someone, but I lost the scrap of paper it was written on. E-mail may be better, but I will strive to keep all info given to me. The boat may be the James Madison.
USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627 Jun 20-23, 2007
Location: Groton, CT
POC: Fred&Charline Huwe Phone: 715-794-2842
Email: fchuwe@cheqnet.net
POC: Gil Raynor Phone: 800-424-8372 Email: fchuwe@cheqnet.net

From the District Commander

The combined District 4/6 Convention was held in Daytona Beach, Florida from April 25th to 29th. All who attended from Charleston Base had a great time with all the activities and socials that were occurring. There were in excess of 150 shipmates in attendance. I finally met with John Carcioppolo, the Eastern Region Director. He spoke at the Men's Luncheon and gave feedback from the National Level. In June, I will be attending a ERD conference in Groton, CT. If any members have other issues, other than retention, recruitment and meeting management, I will be happy to take your input. At the D4/D6 Convention, we covered several subjects that all members will be receiving feedback on.
New Business: As will be promulgated during the next regular meeting of Charleston Base, the Eastern Region Director will be soliciting all members that desire to be nominated for District Four Commander. As the National Bylaws read, this position must be elected each year. My last year has been a great learning experience and I will desire to nominate again for another year term. I have enjoyed representing the 12 bases in District Four and am very proud to be part of the Charleston Base!

Worlds Largest Commissary Opens

SAN DIEGO -- The world's largest commissary opened April 20 after a grand opening ceremony at Naval Station San Diego. The new commissary has two entrances, one for the Grab-N-Go shopper and one for the pantry loader. According to Patrick Nixon, director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), the new store signals a paradigm shift for commissaries.
"Today, we're all about the health and wellness of our customers," he said. " And San Diego, with its health-minded population, seemed the perfect place to roll out our new health and wellness initiatives."
Produce is the store's signature department, offering an enormous variety of fresh fruit and vegetables -- with a

program, and is scheduled to be certified later this year. In May, USS Florida (SSGN 728), in conjunction with Operational Test and Evaluation Force will begin the first phase of testing followed closely by USS Virginia (SSN 774) later in the summer.

Navy Announces Christening of Submarine North Carolina

WASHINGTON -- The Navy's newest attack submarine, North Carolina, was christened Saturday, April 21, during an 11 a.m. EDT ceremony at Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard, Newport News, Va. The fourth submarine of the Virginia class, SSN 777 will bear the name North Carolina to honor the Tar Heel State.

The submarine will be the fourth ship of the U.S. Navy to bear the name North Carolina. The first was a 74-gun ship-of-the-line that served from 1820 to 1836. The second North Carolina was a Tennessee-class armored cruiser that was also built at the Newport News shipyard and served from 1908 to 1921. The third North Carolina was the first of the Navy's modern battleships, serving from 1940 to 1947, earning 12 battle stars for service during World War II. The battleship now serves in Wilmington, N.C., as a memorial for all North Carolinians killed in World War II.

Vice Adm. John J. Donnelly, commander, Submarine Force, Atlantic, commander, Submarine Force, Atlantic, commander, Allied Submarine Command, will deliver the ceremony's principal address. Linda Bowman, wife of retired Adm. Frank "Skip" Bowman, former director, Naval Nuclear Reactors, will serve as sponsor of North Carolina. The ceremony will be highlighted by a time-honored Navy tradition when Mrs. Bowman christens the ship by breaking a bottle of champagne over the submarine.

This next-generation attack submarine, the Virginia class, will provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. North Carolina will have improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that will enable it to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

Virginia class submarines are able to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces.

Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; special forces delivery and support; and mine delivery and minefield mapping. With enhanced communications connectivity, the submarine also will provide important battle group and joint task force support, with full integration into carrier battle group operations.

Cmdr. Mark E. Davis, a native of upstate New York, will become the ship's first commanding officer and will lead a crew of approximately 134 officers and enlisted

special focus on Hispanic and Asian products. Continuing the emphasis on nutrition is the ample and well-stocked health and wellness center, located next to the produce section. A special information kiosk provides customers with science-based information on diet and nutrition. Nearby is a "mini cooking school" where customers can watch cooking demonstrations.

With 75,000 square feet of sales area, the San Diego commissary offers plenty of room to spread out and shop. There is a vast meat and seafood department. The deli and bakery has a special gourmet olive bar. There is even a special self-contained Grab-N-Go store for customers who want to pop in and grab a few necessities.

Die-hard commissary customers know the best reason to shop the commissary is the average savings of 30 percent or more as compared to retail grocery stores.



Eastern Region Districts 4 and 6 Combined Conference
Charleston Base was represented at the conference by several members. The conference was OK, but was nowhere near as fun and successful as the one last year in Charleston. Almost everyone at this year's conference made that same comment over and over again. Imagine the Hospitality Room closing at 1600 on Saturday afternoon!

In addition to the Commander, Vice Commander and COB, attendees included Rick Sparger, Clyde Peters, Bill Roberts, Dave Mueller, Ed Simokat, Beetle Bailey, Jerry Stout, Marvin Miller, Sam Vlam and Jim Williams.

There was a contest for the best ad for the conference booklet. Votes were submitted by attendees and Charleston Base came out on top as the winner, just like we planned!

personnel.

The 7,800-ton North Carolina is being built by Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard, and is 337 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. North Carolina is also designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship-reducing lifecycle costs while increasing operational availability.

Dedication

The City of Hanahan, Mayor, and Council has invited all Submarine Veterans to the dedication of the Uniformed Services Memorial to be held on May 5th at 1000 at 1255 Yeamans Hall Rd. Refreshments will be provided. If you plan to attend please RSVP at 554-4221.

Uniform of the Day will be khaki pants, brown shoes, blue shirt, vest and blue ball caps. If you do not have a vest please come and join us using the above attire.

Canes For Veterans

Can-Am Care, LLC, announced in April, the "HUGO Salutes Our Veterans" program to provide folding canes to World War II and Korean War Veterans. The HUGO folding canes with interchangeable handles will be provided at no charge to veterans who may be in need of mobility assistance. According to Can-Am Care, the program is instituted to recognize the support and efforts members of the United States Armed Forces made for our country during World War II and the Korean War. Can-Am manufactures the HUGO Folding Cane and a number of related mobility assistance products. Veterans are encouraged to contact Can-Am Care at 1(888) 412-4992 M-F 08-1600 EST or refer to www.HUGOSalutes.com. Proof of service may be required.

DFAS Website Update

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is returning to its original World Wide Web location on 1 MAY. The DFAS Web site will shift to <http://www.dfas.mil> from its current location within the Department of Defense domain at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas>. DFAS officials believe the change will make the Web site easier to find for its customers and partners. The information available on the site, which includes topics such as military and civilian pay, retiree and annuitant pay, and vendor pay will remain current and relevant for the site's visitors. Visitors who have bookmarked the old site address at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas> to access the DFAS site should update their Web browser bookmarks with the new



VA Veterans Pride Initiative

Wearing earned medals reflects the deep pride veterans have in their military service and reminds all American citizens of the sacrifices our veterans have made. Veterans are again being encouraged to wear their wear their medals or miniature replicas on Memorial Day 28 MAY, the Fourth of July, and Veterans Day 11 NOV. Information about the Veterans Pride initiative is available on the VA Web site at www.va.gov/opa/veteranspride , as well as where veterans can obtain information about how to replace lost or mislaid medals, how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled, the manner in which they should be displayed, and the precedence by service of how they should be worn.

address. Anyone using the old address will be redirected to the new address automatically. This redirect service will be available for the foreseeable future. This change affects the DFAS public Web site only. Other DFAS-sponsored online applications, such as myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>, remain unaffected and can be accessed at their current online address.

According to the DFAS, questions concerning specific pay account information should be directed to the servicing payroll office or to your normal customer service representative. Additional phone numbers and websites for sending email to redirect your specific pay inquiry are:

- Military Retirees: 1(888) 321-1080 or <https://ca.dtic.mil/dfas/s-retired/ret-pay.htm>.
- Annuitants: 1(888) 321-1080 (US) or (216) 522-5955 (Outside US) or <https://ca.dtic.mil/dfas/s-retired/ret-pay.htm>.
- Military Former Spouses: 1-888-332-7411 or <https://ca.dtic.mil/dfas/s-garnish/garnishinquiry.htm>.
- Air Force Active - Local finance office, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Air Force Reserve - Local Reserve center finance office, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Army Active - Servicing defense military pay office, finance battalion or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Army Reserves - Local administration unit, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Army National Guard - Local administration unit, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Army Separates - 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Marine Corps Active - Local administration office.
- Marine Corps Reserves - Local administration office.
- Navy Active: Local personnel support Det, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.
- Navy Reserves - Local Reserve personnel support Det, 1(888) 332-7411 or Ask Military Pay at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askMilPay.jsp>.