

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 3, No. 6

June 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, June 14, 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	John Nichols	843-873-5897
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

Minutes of the May 2007 meeting

Attendance for the May 10, 2007 meeting was 79

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

Introductions: Five new people were introduced; Bill Bates, Travis Douglas, Tim Stevenson, Bob

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler thanked all who came out for the working party to help make the After Battery galley/scullery compartment and to eventually give us more room for socials. Thanks to all who showed up for the Grits Parade. Thanks also to all who showed up for the City of Hanahan Uniformed Services Memorial dedication ceremony. We had a good turn out. Follow-up with Carl Chinn on e-mail, address changes etc. A base picnic will be held on Saturday, 9 June, at

Turner, and Andy Velez. 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 presented a check for \$200 to the base treasurer. This money is profit from ship stores items sold.

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the binnacle list. Jim Eckles was in Summerville Medical for a couple of days in late April with leg problems. Paul Viering was in Trident in early May for a couple of days due to a rapid heartbeat and blood pressure problems. ICCM(SS) Waite Lewis "Pat" Patton passed away May 2nd. He qualified on Cavalla and rode Patrick Henry along with surface units. A card was passed around for signatures and will be mailed to his wife, Helen. Bill Burke's wife, Lynn, had major surgery yesterday. Bill asks that we continue to remember Lynn in prayer. A signed card will be mailed to Lynn. If anybody is sick or needs help contact Nick, our Chaplain. Some important dates in May: Victory in Europe, VE Day, was May 8, 1945. The United States Submarine Veterans Inc. was chartered on May 24, 1964. Confederate Memorial Day is today.

Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has some new pictures posted on the website. See Richard for any changes or additions to our web site (USSVICB) which can be accessed at <http://www.ussvicb.org>

Sub Vets WWII: Lee Allison reported that the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting will be at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville, on Thursday June 21, at 1200. 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 on the third Thursday at Ryan's.

Veteran's Affairs: Nick Nichols noted that the VA website is changing. Our local base website link to the VA will be updated.

Membership: Carl reports 269 members coming into the meeting tonight. Charleston Base is currently #3 in the number of members of any base in the country. We are only 60 behind the #2 base. Our goal of becoming the #2 base is within our grasp. Lets all keep promoting the Charleston Base Sub Vets organization. Dues are due and payable no later than 1 Jan for the next year. Keep your dues current to remain in good standing.

1130 out at the Barn. We will eat 1230 -1300. Cost is \$5 a head; bring a side dish or dessert. (We will celebrate the ten-year anniversary of Charleston Base Sub Vets, which is July 10, 1997). Contact the COB (e-mail or phone) with RSVP's so that we can get a good head count.

Base Commander: Buddha reminded everyone to attend the Memorial Day Service at Parks Cemetery in Summerville. Set-up is at 0930, Charleston Base is the host for the Memorial Service this year on Monday May 28th 2007 at 1000. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Frank Evans will head up the Lazy Eye program. This is a once per quarter program for testing preschool children. More volunteers are needed to help Frank.

The Wahoo reunion committee sends their appreciation for the use of chairs, bell and sound system from the Charleston Base. The USS WAHOO SS-565 held their reunion May 3-5, 2007 in Charleston, SC at the Radisson Hotel. Buddha has offered this same support to help out any boat holding reunions in Charleston.

District Four: Jerry Stout, Eastern District Four Commander, introduced himself. Jerry was appointed in May 2006 by George Boyle and represents 12 bases in the Eastern Region USSVI. Jerry has expressed an interest to continue in his present position and asks for your vote for Eastern District Four Commander for the next term. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate for ED-4 Commander should submit your name to the Base Commander who will forward candidates to the Eastern Director.

Old Business: May is the month that we vote on elected officers: Base Commander, Base Vice-Commander, Base Secretary and Base Treasurer. Stan Standrich was appointed to solicit nominations. Stan reports that he did not receive any new nominees and that the existing slate of officers are willing to serve another term. Stan asked for a motion to approve the existing elected officers for another one-year term. Motion was seconded and approved by a majority vote.

Thank-you letter from the City of Hanahan presented by Councilman Tim Baker:

To the Sub Vets,

On behalf of the mayor and council of the city of Hanahan I would like to thank you for coming out

If you change your home address, phone number or e-mail notify Carl Chinn, our membership chairman, so that he can make the changes to both the national and local databases. Buddha mentioned that pushing membership and voting when the time comes on critical issues are important to keep Sub Vets a good organization. Only 16% of all USSVI members voted last year. Charleston Base had nearly 50% of our members voting.

Scholarship: Jim Yates reported that our base will present a scholarship check to a deserving student at our next monthly meeting.

Jim noted that Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the SC House of Representatives, has gotten wind of the flag raising event that took place last year at the Academic Magnet High School where we recognized a couple of kids who raised the flag everyday, and has given a flag that flew over the capital.

Alcohol & Gaming: “No Neck” Mueller welcomed new members to the group. All new persons received a free \$5 dinner ticket with directions to The After Battery. Social nights are held each Wednesday night at the After Battery in Dorchester. A good meal is served at 1730 until 1830. Dave turned in \$500 to Sub Vets from social night profits. Aluminum can recycling has returned \$162 this year back to Sub Vets. Next Wednesday is cook-your-own steak night and COB salad. Come out with us to social nights, we appreciate your support.

Holland Club: Stacy Power reported that there are 7 to 9 eligible for induction into the Holland Club for the month of June. This honor is for those qualified in submarines over 50 years.

Vice Commander Report: Carl Chinn held up the 2007 Combined Conference booklet and presented a check for \$150 to Treasurer George Lisle. Charleston Base was the contest winner for the best looking ad at the 2007 Eastern District 4/6 & Sub Vets WWII Conference held Wednesday April 25 – Sunday April 29, 2007 at Daytona Beach. Carl noted the many comments in Daytona that “nothing compares to as well as we did it last year in Charleston.”

Fleet Reserve: No report

in force for the dedication of the Uniformed Services Memorial.

This Memorial has special meaning for each of us and for our City and we wanted to make sure that the dedication ceremony would show the honor and appreciation that we hold in our hearts for our fallen veterans. Due to announcement and scheduling issues, it was uncertain whether there would be much of a turnout. So, it was with great pride and no small amount of relief, that I noticed that the largest single group present for the ceremony was none other than the Charleston Base United States Submarine Veterans.

Bravo Zulu Sub Vets!

Respectfully,

Tim Baker, Chairman and fellow Sub Vet
Uniformed Services Memorial Committee,
Hanahan City Council.

New Business: Ben Heber noted that the Little David poster with the names has been removed at the park. Where is the poster?

Good Of The Order: A floor sander is needed, see Buddha if we can borrow or have access to one. Ricky Collins informed us that this is the last meeting for “Moon” Mullins, who is moving to Virginia. The group gave Moon a hymn salute. Rick Wise has 5 working computer monitors that he would like to get rid of for free. Richard Sparger noted Clyde Peters’ absence from the meeting tonight and his normal good help with the depth charge drawing sales.

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Lee Allison. Bill Kennedy dedicated and led the group in a hymn salute for Jim Eckles who was back with us tonight at the meeting. Welcome back James!

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for May 2007 ****

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

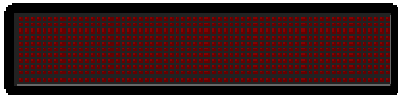


Becker	Brown	Burton	Coy
Grabowski	Hance	Heinle	Kratz
Low	Miller	Murphy	Rein
Smith, P.	Suddeth	Williams, J.	Willis, D.
Yates, J.			

Membership and Dues Information:

We are currently the third largest base in size. We have 274 members behind Groton (2,233) 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. PLEASE send changes to me! I update the COB, Chaplin and others with contact/personal information.



June 9 – Sub Vets Annual Picnic at “The After Battery”
Starts at 1130

Submariner’s Angel at the VA Hospital

When I was admitted to 4B South in the VA hospital I noticed a registered nurse running around making sure every veteran’s needs were addressed and taken care of. She went above and beyond the VA nurse I was accustomed to during previous visits and I was just learning.

Soon after I was in my rack this RN paid me a visit. She welcomed me and asked me if I was a submarine veteran. From the time I said yes until the end of my stay, not only was she a terrific nurse, but also she was what I consider a very good friend. She checked on me several times a day whether I was assigned to her or not. She would stop by before and after her shift to ensure was all right. She would stop by to watch a game and I enjoyed her company despite the fact that she is an Ohio State fan.

During this visit I was about as low as a person can get. I was paralyzed, barely able to talk and about at the end of

June Submarines Lost:

USS S 27	SS 132	June 19, 1942
USS R 12	SS 89	June 12, 1943
USS Herring	SS 233	June 1, 1944
USS Gudgeon	SS 211	June 7, 1944
USS Golet	SS 361	June 14, 1944
USS Bonefish	SS 223	June 18, 1945
USS O-9	SS 70	June 19, 1941

*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.*

Help for Navy Relief

I recently was sent this information from an old shipmate. If you can donate anything for Navy Relief it would be greatly appreciated!

If you can spare something from your navy uniform cache from the old days - please send it to me and I'll auction it off on eBay for Navy Relief.

Suggested items:

Shoulder Boards

Collar Devices

Hat Devices

Hats

Complete Uniforms

Belt Buckles (especially boat or ship buckles)

Zippo Lighters

Patches

Poopy Suits

Old ID Cards

(you get the idea)

And...if you can, include a short, signed "letter of authenticity" telling when and at what command(s) and by whom the article was worn, that would be even better.

And...if you would pass this email along to your shipmates and friends - I would very much appreciate it. Please send your items to me at this address:

Steve Morawiec

Lieutenant, U. S. Navy (Ret.)

10896 State Highway 21

Sparta, WI 54656

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks very much.

Steve

And The Steinke Hood Slides Off Into History...

my rope. She made all better. She would stop by to chat or when she could see I was really down, she would sit on the edge of the bed and talk about happier things.

Well, I could write pages about the nice things she did simply because I was a submariner. She truly is an angel for me or any submariner.

By this time I am sure you are asking yourself, "who is this special RN and why does she have such a special interest in submariners". Well, her name should give you a clue...Lauryn Sessler. Yes, she is Marty Sessler's daughter.

At this point I would like to thank Marty for having such a special daughter. Lauryn does this for submariners because of the good time she had during her father's career.

Again, if you are ever admitted to the VA hospital be assured you will have an angel looking over you.

Keith Schnebel

Terminology Trivia

"Let the cat out of the bag"

(Reveal a secret)

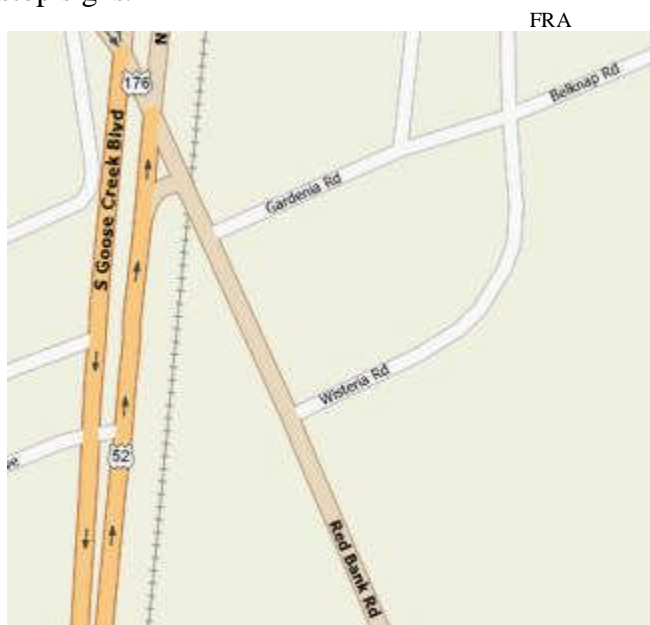
The cat (cat o' nine tails), the whip used to flog sailors, was usually kept in a cloth bag.

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.



Navy News Service for Monday, May 21, 2007
USS Michigan Undergoes Submarine Escape Training
By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class
(AW/NAC) Eric J. Rowley Fleet
Public Affairs Center Det. Northwest

SILVERDALE, Wash. (NNS) -- Sailors from the USS Michigan (SSGN 727) underwent training on the MK-10 Submarine Escape and Immersion Equipment (SEIE) at the Naval Base Kitsap Bangor Fitness and Aquatic Center on May 17.

The training showed Sailors safe procedures on escaping from a submarine in distress at depths reaching 600 feet.

"We are doing this training because our submarine just received the MK-10 SEIE to replace our old suits," said Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SS) Nicholas Sharp, Michigan electrician leading petty officer. "I think these suits are a lot better than the ones we had before because they keep you dry and out of the water, which will increase survivability."

The training covered the physics and medicine involved with submarine escape, as well as parts and components of the MK-10 SEIE and raft.

The MK-10 SEIE is designed to enable a free ascent from a distressed submarine and provide protection for submariners reaching the surface. It is comprised of a submarine escape and immersion suit, an inner thermal liner, and a gas inflated single seat life raft, which is all contained in an outer protective stowage compartment. "This equipment is the last survivability defense," said Navy Diver 1st Class (DSW/SW) Jason Tangalin, instructor at the Center for Diving and Explosives Ordinance Disposal Detachment Pacific.

Tangalin described the procedures a diver is expected to follow if the need to escape arises.

"The first thing you do if you have to escape using this equipment is put on the suit and go into the rescue chamber on the submarine. Once you're in the chamber, you signal you are ready by tapping on the inside of the chamber with a ball-peen hammer. Then the chamber is flooded which takes about 90 seconds at 600 feet.

When the pressure in the chamber is equal to the water on the outside, the outer door to the chamber opens and you shoot to the surface, because of the buoyancy of the suit," said Tangalin.

The assembly was tested from 130 feet deep by six U.S. Navy divers and one diver from the Royal Navy in December. The divers left the hull of the USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) wearing the suits and ascended to the surface with no complications. It was also successfully tested from a depth of 600 feet by the Royal Australian Navy.

The MK-10 SEIE is the last resort to use in an escape situation. The other options for submarine escape are a deep submergence recovery vehicle (DSRV) or a submarine rescue chamber (SRC).

"I can't swim and I'm not comfortable in the water, but



Reunion News

If you have information about a boat reunion that you want posted in the newsletter, please give me the details.

USS Trumpetfish SS425

OCT 30 to NOV 4, 2007

Kingsland, GA, at the Hawthorn Suites & Inn

POC: **Terry Trump** at 843-873-9563 or

e-mail: terminole@hotmail.com

From the District Commander

Over the past few months, I have visited several bases, attended quarterly functions and participated in our recent convention in Daytona Beach. Each time I make these visits, I find that we are all alike, no matter what state or base we belong or what age we are. There is always a great sea story to tell, sharing a beer with an old shipmate, or showing off our new grandchildren photographs and bragging about our kids' accomplishments. As I get older, material items become less important and as a Submariner, I place much more importance on the relationships I have with other submariners.

Recently I was asked by a neighbor, 'who I hang around with and spend time at breakfast or other activities other than my wife'. The answer came up to be fellow dolphin wearers! Interestingly, after retiring from the Navy almost 10 years ago, I moved into an affluent neighborhood, attended a high profile school in Charleston and secured a great job in Florida. During an evening of entertainment, I had the opportunity to schmooze with, speak to, socialize with and mingle with civilians of the corporate world. But the truth is: they are boring. They do not understand me, the submariner, who went to sea in a black cylinder ship for lengthily periods of time. Eating, sleeping, standing watch, watching movies, hunting commies, and visiting ports of call that they never heard of. There becomes a bond that very few can understand.

This is why I appreciate USSVI so much and why I have decided Sub Vets to be my primary social outlet. Yes, I have other activities, i.e. own and operate a home based travel business, active in my church, maintain a forest laden yard, grow a garden, fish and stay active in my two teenager girls' lives at home.

this system is easy to use," said Sonar Technician Submarine (SS) 1st Class Stanley Lowe, Michigan sonar technician. "It felt good to prove that the equipment does work. This training helps you realize this equipment can save your life."

5 COs Fired In 5 Weeks, And More May Follow

Navy Times

By Zachary M. Peterson - Staff writer

Saturday May 19, 2007 15:57:30 EDT

It's been a rough month for the sea services.

Cmdr. Thomas C. Graves, fired as CO of the USS Constitution; Cmdr. Jeffrey P. Menne, fired as CO of the USS Higgins; Cmdr. Marc Weeks, CO of USS Samuel B. Roberts, which needed a tow into port; Cmdr. E. J. McClure, CO of the USS Arleigh Burke, which ran aground this week; and Cmdr. Michael S. Sabellico, CO of Coast Guard cutter Escanaba, who was reassigned after a bar fight.

The Navy's recent troubled waters got even more turbulent May 11-16 as news got out of a destroyer grounding, a frigate apparently going dead in the water and a sub skipper being fired. The commanding-officer sacking was the fifth in as many weeks. What's more, the Coast Guard "temporarily reassigned" the CO of a 270-foot cutter after he was arrested on charges of assaulting a bartender in Key West, Fla.

The troubles began May 11, when the frigate Samuel B. Roberts was coming into port in Argentina after completing the annual UNITAS Atlantic exercise with other Navy and foreign ships. The Roberts experienced "engineering difficulties" and had to be pulled into port by tugboats, said Lt. Cmdr. Jon Spiers, a Naval Forces South spokesman.

The frigate is commanded by Cmdr. Marc Weeks. It's unclear exactly what caused the frigate to apparently go dead in the water. Spiers would not comment on the specifics of the "engineering difficulties." He did note that tugboats pulled the ship into port at Puerto Belgrano.

There were no injuries onboard, he added. Navy investigators are in Argentina assessing the ship's condition and reviewing the incident. A few days later, the guided-missile destroyer Arleigh Burke ran aground off the coast of Norfolk, Va. Cmdr. Herman Phillips, a 2nd Fleet spokesman, described it as a "soft grounding," noting the ship was able to arrive in port May 15 under its own power.

There was no apparent damage to the vessel, Phillips added. Cmdr. E.J. McClure commands the Burke. Capt. Ralph "Larry" Tindal, commodore of

As your District Four Commander for the past year, I have learned a great deal about USSVI. In 2008, I will continue to have the same drive in ensuring the “preservation of the brotherhood” and recruiting those submariners in the next generation to join USSVI in order to carry on our creed.

I have been extremely proud to represent all of you as District Four Commander and have appreciated the support. I enjoy this position and if you desire, I would like to continue into the next year. I am extremely proud of it and I can take great pride in the fact that: “We all have earned and wear proudly the Submarine Dolphins.”

Sincerely,

Jerry K. Stout

Eastern Region District Four Commander

USS Los Angeles Embarks With a Piece of Submarine History

Pearl Harbor -- The United States Navy is steeped in customs, courtesies and rituals. One of the U.S. submarine traditions that few, other than submariners, know about is the guardian of the cribbage board.

The nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor on May 7 for deployment. This time the submarine deployed with a cribbage board that belonged to Medal of Honor recipient and World War II prisoner of war Rear Adm. Richard H. "Dick" O'Kane.

O'Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his daring attacks on two Japanese convoys while in command of the World War II submarine USS Tang (SS 306) during its fifth and final patrol in 1944.

"With ships bearing down from all sides, he charged the enemy at high speed, exploding the tanker in a burst of flame, smashing the transport dead in the water, and blasting the destroyer with a mighty roar which rocked the Tang from stem to stern.

Expending his last two torpedoes into the remnants of a once powerful convoy before his own ship went down," states O'Kane's citation.

After his submarine was sunk, the Japanese captured then-Commander O'Kane who spent the rest of the war in secret captivity.

After it was cleaned and restored, the more than 60-year old cribbage board came into the possession of the Pacific Submarine Force and the tradition of passing the cribbage board from the oldest submarine to the next was started.

O'Kane's wife Ernestine was the sponsor of the

Destroyer Squadron 2, was also onboard at the time of the grounding, according to the Navy. The Norfolk grounding is especially odd given the well-charted waters. The Navy declined to provide specifics and is investigating.

The service reported no injuries. In the fifth skipper dismissal in five weeks, the Navy announced May 16 that Cmdr. William A. Schwalm was relieved of command of the fast-attack submarine Helena. Capt. Paul N. Jaenichen, commodore of San Diego-based Submarine Squadron 11 and Schwalm's boss, said he had lost confidence in the commander's ability to “maintain the Helena crew's proficiency and level of readiness.”

Jaenichen assigned Cmdr. Daryl L. Caudle, his deputy at the submarine squadron, as the temporary commander of Helena until a permanent skipper is named. Caudle most recently had command of the fast-attack boat Jefferson City. The latest firing comes on the heels of four others in the past month:

- The captain of an electronic warfare squadron, just nine days after he took command.
- The head of a major recruiting district.
- The commanding officer of a destroyer headed for the Persian Gulf.
- The commander of the historic ship USS Constitution, “Old Ironsides,” in Boston.

None of the firings was related to mishaps or operational errors. The Navy has not released much information on the dismissals, but sources have suggested causes range from incompetence to fraternization to an allegation that a captain struck an enlisted crewmember. The Coast Guard reassignment is more straightforward, however. Cmdr. Michael Sabellico, skipper of the 270-foot medium-endurance cutter Escanaba, was arrested in Key West on May 15 after an apparent bar brawl. According to the police report, Sabellico and several crewmembers were drinking at bars along the island's famed Duval Street when they argued with a bartender at an Irish pub. Sabellico and the crewmembers allegedly were loitering in an alley when the bartender at Irish Kevin's asked them to leave.

They left as requested, but according to the report, Sabellico returned and scuffled with the man. He then left the scene. Sabellico was apprehended later and charged with simple assault. Sabellico remains the Escanaba's skipper, but he was temporarily reassigned to the Coast Guard's 1st District. Cmdr. Chris Austin has assumed temporary command of

second submarine named USS Tang (SS 563), the original keeper of the board. Tang was stricken from the Navy Vessel Register in 1987.

USS Kamehameha (SSN 642) was then the longest commissioned of the oldest submarines to safeguard the board. Kamehameha was decommissioned in 2002 after nearly 37 years of service, and the game board then went to USS Parche (SSN 683). Parche was the namesake of one of the most highly decorated subs to serve in the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Although Parche decommissioned in July 2005, the cribbage board was finally sent to Los Angeles this year.

"It's an honor to deploy with O'Kane's cribbage board," said Los Angeles Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Erik Burian. "Embarking with a piece of submarine history is a constant reminder of the legacy that we will continue. My crew and I enjoy passing time playing cribbage while not on duty and we are proud that we can carry on the tradition."

Card games were a favorite form of entertainment for submariners while on deployment during World War II and cribbage was a popular game on USS Wahoo (SS-238) with executive officer O'Kane and his commanding officer, World War II legend Dudley "Mush" Morton.

Cribbage lore among submariners is that while patrolling in the shallow waters of the Yellow Sea during its fourth war patrol, Morton dealt O'Kane a perfect 29, the highest possible score for combinations in a single cribbage deal. The crew felt that it was a lucky omen and Wahoo sank two Japanese freighters that night.

Three days later, while patrolling off the Korean coast south of Chinnampo, Morton dealt a 28-point hand to O'Kane. They sank two freighters that day and another one the following day.

During its deployment, Los Angeles will honor the traditions of American submarine fleet in the Western Pacific while carrying out its mission.

"We have the newest technology on the oldest U.S. submarine," said Burian. "I have complete confidence in my crew to get the job done."

Every time a Sailor earns a special qualification, Burian reads a different passage from Theodore Roscoe's United States Submarine Operations in World War II.

"It helps to keep the crew grounded and to stay focused on the big picture," said Burian.

Los Angeles, the fourth naval ship to be named after the City of Los Angeles, is the lead ship of her class. Designed as a follow-on to the Sturgeon class

the cutter.

USS Helena Commanding Officer Relieved of Command

From Submarine Force Representative West Coast Public Affairs

POINT LOMA, Calif. -- Commodore of Submarine Squadron 11, Capt. Paul N. Jaenichen, relieved the commanding officer of USS Helena (SSN 725), Cmdr. William A. Schwalm, due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command May 16.

Cmdr. Daryl L. Caudle will serve as the temporary commanding officer of Helena. Caudle commanded the USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) and currently serves as the deputy commander for Submarine Squadron 11.

Schwalm will be temporarily assigned to Navy Region Southwest.

Helena, the 37th submarine of the Los Angeles class, is assigned to Submarine Squadron 11 and homeported in San Diego. It is named for the city of Helena, Montana, and is the fourth U.S. ship to bear the name.

Helena was commissioned July 11, 1987.

submarines built during the 1960s, the Los Angeles class incorporated improved sound quieting and a larger propulsion plant than previous classes. Its many capabilities include wartime functions of undersea warfare, surface warfare, strike warfare, mining operations, special forces delivery, reconnaissance, carrier battle group support and escort, and intelligence collection. Her missiles can reach targets on 75 percent of the Earth's land surface.