

To: <chasbasemembernews@sc.rr.com>  
 Subject: Charleston Base March Newsletter



Vol. 4, No. 3

March 2008

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](http://www.ussvich.org)  
 National web page: [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)

**Base Meeting:**

March 13, 2008  
 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
Publicity	Larry Starland	843-863-8474
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843-875-4030
Veterans Affairs	Jim Morrison	843-832-9716
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 February 2008 meeting**

Attendance for the February 14, 2008 meeting was 83

**Opening Ceremony:** Base Commander called the

**Membership:** Membership dues are due 1 October for 2009 (you can pay anytime before that). We lost 26 members this year (for non renewal of membership). Carl encouraged us to help out any guys that cannot come to the meetings. One guy lives in Foxborough and needs a ride (wheelchair bound),

meeting to order. A Quorum was present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

**Introductions:** New people were introduced; Carl Miller (new member), and David Bonow. Welcome aboard.

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

**Treasurer:** George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

**Storekeeper:** Paul Viering says that the silver dolphin magnets are here. Paul still has calendars. Jackets are \$54 and can be ordered. District 4 patches will be available.

**Chaplain:** February Report: Cards were sent to the following people since the last meeting:

Ernie Barwick is having cancer issues.

Gary Semler had the flu.

Arthur O' Mealy has been having some health problems.

Keith Schnebel was medically evacuated to the hospital and unable to walk.

Connie Chinn's mother passed away in January.

Jim Eckles had successful brain surgery on 29 January to relieve bleeding and pressure on the brain. He is now at Heartland Health Care Center of Charleston on 1800 Eagle Landing Blvd. off of Rivers Ave. The phone number is 553-0656 and he is in room 201A. Sue said he can have guests but they should come by later in the day after his therapy.

Sue Eckles as she continues to support Jim in the nursing home.

COB Marty Sessler had knee surgery.

Bill Kennedy had knee surgery.

Base Commander Buddha is undergoing additional tests in preparation for his spine surgery.

Dave Rein had a successful 5-way bypass heart surgery on Feb. 1st and is at home recovering and by last report is doing well. Dave is here tonight.

Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Bob Chinn sick

Soupy Campbell has pneumonia.

**Scholarship:** Jim Yates was not present. Julian Villegas has scholarship coins for sale tonight. Coins have the Charleston Base logo on one side and the back side has dolphins and the US submarine service.

**Public Affairs:** Any member that has not gotten their picture taken, see Richard Cleeve tonight so we can have your mug shot for the Charleston Base records.

**Sub Vets WWII:** Lee Allison invited everyone to the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family

and some can't drive at night, etc.

**Little David:** No report

**Newsletter:** No report

**Alcohol & Gaming:** No-neck Mueller talked about the need to always have a cover story and suggested that Buddha's hospital stay was really a cover for something other than spine/neck surgery.

\$72 in recycled can money was turned over to the base from social nights.

Neck presented 3 nominations for the loudest #\$\$%& whiner award. As an example of a #\$\$%& whiner, Neck mentioned the all meat Oscar Mayer wieners that are sold with condiments at the after battery for \$1.25 (someone said to Neck that you are gouging the troops at this price). The nominations were: #1) Edward J Simokat, #2) Ed Simokat, and #3) Ed J Simokat. And the winner of the loudest #\$\$%& whiner award was Ed Simokat. Neck also said that an award should be presented to Clyde Peters for putting two sets of brake shoes on his wife's car backwards. Neck asked the group - how do we get our money? Richard Sparger answered with social night and depth charge funds. Neck added another \$100 from the social night profits to tonight's depth charge drawing winner.

**Chief of the Boat:** The 23rd annual World Grits festival will be held in St George on 12 April. We will pull the float. Float leaves the after battery at 0930, line-up at 1000, the parade starts at 1100.

Hunley memorial service - You need to go if you're never been. Please join us at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church, 17 Feb @ 1900. There will be Bag Pipe music this year at waterfront/breach inlet area as part of the events.

CB has submitted an application to be in the Savannah St. Patrick's Day parade.

Tim Baker is looking for someone with the job skills of an EM, some fabrication, electronic, electrical, and mechanical skills for a 7-4, 40-hr/week job at the Comings Plant on Leads Ave. See Marty for details if interested.

Oyster Roast Saturday 23 Feb at the after battery. Bring side dish or dessert, lawn chair and oyster knife. Set-up for the roast will be held at 0830 on Wednesday 20 February. Take down on Sunday following roast at 0830. Come out and help us with this task.

**Base Commander:** Buddha discussed the following items:

Annual base elections. Charleston Base officers are elected at the regular meeting in May each year. If you desire to run or have a nomination for one of these positions: Commander, Vice-Commander, Treasurer or Secretary, please get your nomination to Stan Standrich soon so your name will be on the ballot.

Buddha asked us to think about some new ideas and or insight that anyone can come up with to attract younger members into our organization. We are

Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday February 21st, at 1200 (noon). The meal cost has been reduced to half price by the manager to compensate the Sub Vets WWII group for the mix up in meeting rooms at the December meeting.

Sy Mabie reminded everyone to come out for the Hunley memorial service at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivans Island. This service is in honor of the first successful submarine attack that occurred at this same location and same approximate time in 1864.

**Veteran's Affairs:** Jim Morrison is our new VA contact but was not here tonight. We will update the webpage with Jim's contact information. Nick Nichols highlighted some updates which include; mileage reimbursement, VABS (volunteers), shingles immunization now covered, tri care forms only once per month. Medicare - eye care. Caregiver information. Details and other information on the VA web link.

**Hunley Memorial Service:** Charlie Rook discussed the annual H.L. Hunley memorial service to be held on Sunday February 17, 2008 @ 1900 hours. The Confederate Trust committee invites CB Sub Vets and WWII submarine veterans to attend a memorial service honoring the 8 man crew lost on the confederate submarine H.L. Hunley along with the 5 crewmen lost on the USS Housatonic during the night of February 17, 1864. The service will be held at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivans Island. Please make an effort to be there and bring your wives, girlfriends and children.

**District Commander:** Jerry Stout Eastern Region District 4 Commander introduced himself. His January visits included the Grayback meeting in Atlanta and the Tulibee gathering. February visits included the Huntsville, AL base with 12 members and a visit to Florence, AL with Floyd Skipper Mathews for his birthday. Floyd qualified in 1925 and is 105 years old. The Palmetto Base was chartered in Lexington, SC with 18 members (they have a web site). Several bases were represented at the chartering ceremony. The guest speaker was Lee Allison, State Commander of Sub Vets WWII. Jerry has hard copies of the upcoming District 4/6 convention to be held in Kings Bay. Dates are Wednesday April 23 – Saturday April 26, 2008. Registrations for the boat tours must be in by April 1st to get your name on the base access list. The convention will be held at the Ramada off I-95 and Georgia Exit 3. Registration fee is \$30 (this will include some food). Room rates are \$49 a night, nightly entertainment, boat tours, BBQ, shrimp boil, banquet, submarine museum/swamp tours are planned. The memorial service will be held outside of the St. Mary's submarine museum along the waterfront. See Jerry or Buddha for Registration form hard copies. Forms also available on the computer.

**Vice Commander Report:** No report

**Fleet Reserve:** No report

**Holland Club:** No report

getting older and we will be in the same shape as the WWII Sub Vets group unless we can recruit and keep younger guys involved.

Holland Club changes are in the works with National. We are getting support from other bases. There are so many hoops to jump through to be the National Commander of USSVI. We need some common sense to keep the USSVI organization afloat.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson made his way to the podium (he is even starting to walk and swing his arm like No-neck after working with him for so long). --- Rick told a story about the Buddha and how he almost went belly up and the doctor explaining where Democrats come from.

**Old Business:** Taking nominations for Base Officers election in May. Give all nominations to Stan Standrich.

**New Business:** Rodney McKanna talked about Submarine Day events that will take place on Friday 11 April, at the Cold War Memorial in Mt. Pleasant 1000-1200 with the ceremony @ 1100-1200. Lunch buffet will follow at Point Grill at the Shrine Club. We will need to provide our PA system and chairs. Motion was made, seconded, and approved for CB to pay cost of meals for the Chaplin and the Color Guard from the Nuke school (estimated to be under \$50). Rusty Picket has requested help from the CB to help fund the granite base for the new British Sub etched glass monument to be installed at the Cold War Memorial. The board of directors has recommended approving \$250 for this purpose. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to provide this money for the granite base set-up.

**Good Of The Order:** The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Harry Kirk. Harry gave \$100 back to Sub Vets. Lee Allison is collecting old eyeglasses for the Summerville Lions Club. Any old glasses if you don't need them, give them to Lee so they can be fixed up for the needy. Nick Nichols reminded us of shipmates helping shipmates on the web. Also the Old Fort Baptist Church will be holding their 21st annual Passion Play, dates are March 14,15,16,and 21,22,23. Nightly @ 7 pm and 3 pm on the weekend afternoons. This is a great presentation; you must call the church for your free ticket which is required. Dave Rein asked if the Gaming Position is an appointed job, what could he be suggesting? Stacy Powers mentioned the nice form in the calendar that came in the mail (this is the form put out by National for Chaplin services)

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**\*\* End of the minutes for February 2008 \*\***

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



Allegretto	Anderson, H	Baciocco	Corcoran
Dale	Hix	Hodges	Horton, R
Johnson, D	Kopacka	Luther	McLuskey
O'Saben	Przyborowski	Rosselot	Sessler
Smith, M	Snyder, Robert	Spear	Wieland
Yates, G			



### Need a Ride to the Meetings?

If you need help getting to a meeting please let The COB or Carl Chinn know. We should be able to arrange for someone to pick you up and take you home.

## March Happenings!

March 13 – Regular meeting

March 14 – St. Patrick's Parade, Savannah, GA. Parade starts at 1015

March 22 – Amberjack Memorial, starts 1100, White Point Gardens, Charleston

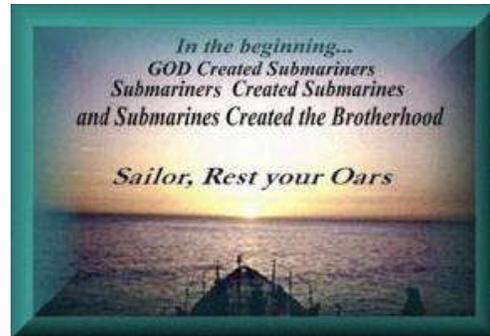
### Eternal Patrol — LAW, Myron (John)



**CPO Myron Wilbur Law, USN (Ret.), 71, of Ridgeville, SC, husband of Toshiko Hamada Law, died suddenly Sunday, February 24, 2008 in Dorchester, SC. He was born on September 19, 1936 in Yorkshire, NY the son of Woodrow Wilson Law and Lucy Kettle Law. He was known by all his friends as John Law. He was a lover and fan of Bluegrass Music. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Toshiko Hamada Law, of Ridgeville, SC; daughter, Joann R. Law-Champine of Summerville, SC; brothers, Gerald Law of Doven, NY and Ricky Law of Mt. Juliett, TN; and sister, Sally Law Quinter of Geneva, NY. The funeral**

### March Submarines Lost:

USS Perch	SS 176	March 3, 1942
USS Grampus	SS 207	March 5, 1943
USS Triton	SS 201	March 15, 1943
USS Tullibee	SS 284	March 26, 1944
USS Kete	SS 369	March 20, 1945
USS Trigger	SS 237	March 26, 1945
USS F-4	SS 21	March 25, 1915
USS H-1	SS 28	March 12, 1920



### 105 yr old Floyd 'Skipper' Matthews, Departing!

Drum Base & SVWWII member Floyd Matthews of Florence AL departed on Eternal Patrol Sunday, February 24th 2008.

Floyd qualified on the USS S-44 (SS-155) in 1925. He was the oldest member of USSVI and celebrated his 105th birthday on February 3rd.

Arrangements are being made for Floyd to be buried at Barrancas National Cemetery, NAS Pensacola, in the coming week.

Although Floyd joined the Navy in WWI to fight the Hun, he was too late to get to Germany before Armistice Day. Floyd later volunteered for the Submarine Service, serving in boats without names, identified by Letter & Number only; i.e. O-6, S-12, S-4, R-13, O-4, R-14, S-43, & S-46.

Although eligible for retirement prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in WWII, Floyd remained in the Navy and subsequently accepted a commission. During WWII, among other assignments, he served as Commanding Officer of USS Chickasaw ATF-83 and USS Diver ARS-5. Floyd attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander prior to his retirement in 1949. Floyd is preceded in death by two wives and is survived, among others, by his son John and Daughter Priscilla.

Bill Matthews asked me to "thank all your fellow submariners for all they've done for "Skipper" over the past many years. The family will never forget their kindness."

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in remembrance of 'Skipper' to the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, PO Box 3870, Silverdale WA 98383 or via the internet at the "Just Give" link below.

**service with military honors will be held Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 11:00 AM at J. HENRY STUHR, INC., NORTHWOODS CHAPEL, 2180 Greenridge Road, North Charleston. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Frances R. Willis, SPCA, 136 Four Paws Lane, Summerville, SC 29483. A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com). Visit our guestbook at [www.charleston.net/deaths](http://www.charleston.net/deaths).**

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### TriCare as Secondary Insurance

If you have other company provided health insurance, TriCare becomes your secondary insurance. If your primary insurance does not cover all of a claim, TriCare will pay its share after the primary insurance pays. Here's where there could be a problem. Not all health care providers automatically submit secondary claims to TriCare. Make sure you read in detail your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) when you receive it from TriCare to insure they have paid the remainder up to their limit. If they have not paid you will be paying out of pocket if a claim is not submitted. Also, check with your health care provider to see if they are submitting claims to TriCare.

This is not a concern if you are on TriCare for Life.

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### Passport Fee Increase

On 1 FEB 08 the U.S. Government increased its fees for their U.S. citizen passport services. For adult applicants renewing a passport, the total fee is now \$75. For first-time, applicants age 16 and over, the total fee increases to \$100. The fee for minors under 16 years of age will be \$85. Effective 1 FEB 08 passport applicants who are U.S. citizen minors under the age of 16 must appear personally with their parents to establish identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship. For parental application permission, both parents must appear together and sign or one parent may appear to sign and submit the other parent's notarized statement, or one parent may appear, sign, and submit primary evidence of sole authority. Minors age 16 and 17 may apply in person with their own identification, but for security reasons, parental consent may be required. If your child does not have identification of their own, a parent will be required to accompany the child and present identification.

Refer to the Department of State's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for complete information on all new requirements, including downloadable revised forms that must be used as of 1 FEB, and the U.S. Embassy website at [manila.usembassy.gov](http://manila.usembassy.gov), for complete U.S. passport application instructions.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor their Embassy's and the U.S. Department of State's travel website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1747.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html), which includes valuable security information for those

<http://www.guidestar.org/pqShowGsReport.do?npoId=1156727&partner=justgive>

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### St. Patrick's Parade, Savannah, GA

If you are interested in riding the float in the parade on 14 March, give Ben Heber a call. If there is enough interest and accommodations can be found, our float will participate in the parade. The parade starts at 1015 on 14 March. Float will probably travel down on 13 March.

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### USS James K Polk to resurface in New Mexico... with your help

The National Museum of Nuclear Science and History in New Mexico has acquired the USS James K. Polk sail for incorporation into a display on its museum grounds. The museum, a congressionally chartered Smithsonian Institute affiliate, has asked the help of the USS James K. Polk Veterans Association in raising the money necessary to transport and refurbish the sail and develop this memorial. We have agreed.

To this end we have begun collecting tax-deductible contributions for the project. We are acting as the primary collection point for these contributions. 100% of the collected funds will be disbursed to the museum for this specific project.

Click on the link for all the details...

<http://www.ussexameskpolk.com/polksail-ck.htm>

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### From Richard Cleeve

I have added new pictures from the Hanahan Christmas Parade supplied by Nick Nichols to the web.

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### Need a copy of your DD-214?

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online:

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Click on the link for the rest of the details...

[eVetRecs: Request Copies of Veterans Military Personnel Records](#)

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### Military Retiree Alert

Military retirees need to check their beneficiary information on the reverse side of their Military Retiree Account Statement. Some retirees have reported an unauthorized beneficiary name change. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service said it has no way of ascertaining whose identity may have been stolen, resulting in a beneficiary change. If this becomes a widespread issue, they most likely will put out at notice. Those retirees that have the wrong beneficiary on their statement should contact DFAS immediately to change their beneficiary, and let them know it was changed without their authorization. The DFAS number is: 1-800-321-1080.

both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1 (888) 407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at (202) 501-4444.

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### **Makin Island Sailors Prepare WWII Sub for Big Screen**

MOBILE, Ala. (Jan. 29, 2008) – Information Systems Technician 1st Class Joshua Shepard works inside a torpedo tube aboard the decommissioned World War II-era diesel submarine USS Drum (SS 228) to help prepare the submarine for the upcoming film "USS Seaviper." Mighty Moments Motion Pictures will begin filming in March 2008 and later plans to highlight Drum in a documentary. U.S. submarines – which made up only 2 percent of the U.S. fleet during the war – were responsible for 65 percent of all Japanese ships sunk. Drum sank 15 enemy ships.

MOBILE, Ala. (NNS) -- Sailors from the Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Makin Island (LHD 8) continued to restore one of the oldest existing U.S. submarines at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., Jan. 30 in order to prepare the World War II era vessel for its appearance in an upcoming film.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jonathan Davis and Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Levi Miller took the lead on the restoration project several months ago after hearing that the decommissioned USS Drum (SS 228), which sank 15 Japanese ships during World War II, would be used for filming in March 2008.

"It's rewarding to help return a World War II vessel to its original seagoing condition -- especially since there is only one worker and volunteer working at the moment," Davis said.

When the pair found that there was little funding for repairs and only one staff member assigned to maintaining Drum, they led a group of Makin Island Sailors in donating their time to bring the submarine back to her former glory through sanding, painting, and general cleaning so the whole world might see the submarine in a way that no one has in more than 30 years.

"I wanted to contribute my time and energy to restore a historical piece of our military and assist my community," said Information Systems Technician 2nd Class George Kraynak, one of the Drum volunteers assigned to Makin Island. "I found the experience very rewarding and would recommend anyone to donate some of their time and come out to see a piece of history."

Makin Island is currently under construction at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems with a planned delivery date to the U.S. Navy of Nov. 14, 2008.

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**H.L. Hunley Memorial – 17 February 2008**

### **USS Augusta Inactivated After 23 Years of Protecting the Frontier**

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS Augusta (SSN 710) conducted an inactivation ceremony at the Naval Submarine Base New London's Shepherd of the Sea chapel Feb. 7.

Augusta lived up to its motto, "protecting the frontier" for more than two decades. Most recently, she returned from a six-month deployment to the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility September 2007, where she completed a wide range of joint requirements supporting national security.

Retired Capt. Thomas Turner, Augusta's first commanding officer, was the guest speaker and relived his experience in bringing the ship to life.

"The feeling as the crew ran aboard at the commissioning was incredible," said Turner. "The crew is what makes the ship a ship. Everything else is just an empty hull."

Cmdr. Chad Brown, Augusta's current commanding officer, expressed his feelings regarding the decommissioning.

"Augusta will not be forgotten," said Brown. "The tradition and spirit of excellence will live on in the Sailors who proudly served aboard her."

Numerous plank owners and Augusta Alumni Association members attended the ceremony. The alumni association plans on forming a nonprofit organization to promote the purchase of Augusta's sail as a memorial for the state of Maine.

"I feel blessed to have been an Augusta crew member," said Malcolm Milligan, alumni association founder. "Our experiences as crew members give us a lot in common and many stories to share and we wish to share those experiences with the residents of Maine."

Augusta is the fifth ship of the fleet to bear the name Augusta, and the first to be named for the capital of the great state of Maine. Others include a 14-gun brigantine commissioned in 1799; a side wheel steamer that participated in the Union forces capture of Port Royal, N.C. in 1861; a motor patrol boat used for maritime patrol of the U.S. coast in World War I; and a heavy cruiser commissioned in 1931 and built specifically as a command ship.

Augusta will transit to Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va. later this month to commence its inactivation process.

With stealth, persistence, agility and firepower, fast-attack submarines like Augusta are multi-mission capable – able to deploy and support special force operations, disrupt and destroy an adversary's military and economic operations at sea, provide early strike from close proximity and ensure undersea superiority.

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**Oyster Roast – 23 February 2008**



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### Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund. Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule. To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn. Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"! Buy several for great gifts!

