



Vol. 4, No. 5

May 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
National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

May 8, 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

Don't forget Mom
 on Mother's Day!



Minutes of the April 2008 meeting

Attendance for the April 10, 2008 meeting was 108

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

Introductions: New people were introduced; John (Jack) Ilgenfritz, Rodger Dalton (skimmer who worked on subs), Mike McLochlin, George Scharf, Doug Huffman, Steve Morris. Welcome aboard.

Guest Speaker: Ken Sewell, author of Red Star Rogue and All Hands Down, spoke at the meeting. He had copies of his two books with him. Ken was a very

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	Terry Trump	843-873-9563
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

Fleet Reserve: No report

Holland Club: Bobby Lowe presented the Holland Club awards to boat sailors qualified in 1958 to get their certificates on April 10th. George Burton, John Camp, Fredick Daughtery, Roger Gibson, Henry Gilmer, Sylvester Mabie, William Roberts, John Spear (not present), and Frank Young. This represents 450 years of qualification between the 9 men. After 2 years and 8 months service Bobby Lowe was relieved by Terry Trump as the new Holland Club coordinator.

Membership: 288 members

Little David: Working party set up for April 15 and 16 for prep and painting at Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner of the replica torpedo boat. Rick Wise will need 3 or 4 men at 10 am April 15 to prep and as

interesting speaker and he signed copies of his books.

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: Ken Sewell's books are for sale at the meeting.

Chaplain: April Report: Cards were sent to Bob Chinn during his hospitalization and blood transfusion wishing him well and a quick recovery.

A card was sent to Richard Cleeve wishing him a speedy recovery from surgery to replace both his knees. Note from Richard: "I'm getting better each day and using a cane now but can't go a long time yet because then the knees start hurting. This is a good way to loose weight as I lost 18-20 pounds so far. Don't recommend it unless you're a sadist and enjoy pain."

Jimmy Williams informed us that Steve Obermann who is not a base member was having surgery to relieve an aneurysm and he came through the surgery with no problems. The base sent him a card wishing him a speedy recovery.

The base received a card from Bill Roberts' wife, Becky, thanking us for our thoughts and prayers during her hospitalization and recovery.

Buddha continues to have some health problems. Continue to remember him in your prayers.

A condolence card was sent to Gloria and Julian Villegas on the death of Gloria's niece.

A card was sent to MTC Dennis Barto in North Carolina wishing him a speedy recover from hip surgery and quick healing for his upcoming eye surgery. Dennis is not a member of our base but his name was given to me by Rick Collins.

George Munoz who served on the USS Grampus 523 had back surgery on April 8th. The operation included replacing rods and screws and extending his fusion up to L-2 and down to the sacrum. His back had actually been in two separate pieces with spinal cord exposed with no bone to cover it. The surgery went well and George is doing well. He sends his love and thanks for all your prayers and calls.

Ralph Smalls pasted away (not a member of the base)

Carol Hix has a hard time getting up.

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.

Scholarship: Jim Yates was not present. Julian Villegas said that applications have been sent out to schools in the area with only two inquires, we may need to extend the deadline. Challenge coins are being sold by the base to support the scholarship fund.

Public Affairs: No report

many as can turn out for the painting on April 16 starting at 11am at the park.

Newsletter: If you are not getting your newsletter call Carl Chinn. Paper copies to non e-mailers were not sent out this month.

Alcohol & Gaming: No-neck welcomed back Beetle Bailey and Gary Semler and congratulated George Lisle on his computer skills. No-neck told a story on having to pump Buddha back with up a Red Devil Blower at the hospital with a 7 inch hose to bring him back. Neck noted some good things that we do as an organization, but noted they we are not always good listeners to the new guys that are speaking. He noted that we should let the guy speak and be polite. Sometimes good manners do apply.

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler gave the following report: 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. Submarine Day April 11 Memorial service at Patriots Point 1130. A Color Guard will be there. It will include in invocation, tolling of the bells, and speech. Lunch will be available at the Point Grill. The buffet is \$6.50 sign up tonight so that we can get a head count.

Upcoming District 4/6 convention to be held in Kings Bay. Dates are Wednesday April 24 – Saturday April 26, 2008. The convention will be held at the Ramada off I-95 and Georgia Exit 3. Registration fee is \$35 (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.

April 11 Submarine Day Memorial Service at Cold War Memorial (National Submarine Day), lunch afterwards. Cost about \$6.50 per head

April 12 St. George Grits Festival Parade line-up at 1000

April 15 Little David working party to prep

April 16 Little David working party to paint

April 17 WWII Lunch at Ryan's 1200

April 23-26 D4/D6 Convention at Kings Bay

May 10 base picnic.

Base Commander: Buddha said that we would be taking the float and cooker to the VA home in Walterboro to serve the Victory House guests a meal and provide entertainment sometime after the picnic and before the end of the month of May. Details to follow.

Nuclear Historian: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good Of The Order: The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Terry Trump. Terry gave \$100 back to Sub Vets scholarship fund. George Wells won the 2nd drawing for \$100. Jim Eckles was given hymn salute

Sub Vets WWII: Sy Mabie invited everyone to the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday on April 17, at 1200 (noon). The Amberjack memorial held on Saturday March 22nd @ 1100 at White Point Garden downtown Charleston at the Battery went very well.

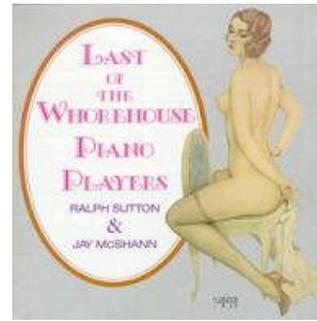
Veteran's Affairs: Jim Morrison is our VA contact but was not here tonight. Nick Nichols talked about the DD2860 claim form for those with VA pensions. Need to organize paperwork in the right place. Shift Colors has a good section on this. Details and other information on the VA web link.

District Commander: Jerry Stout said that 149 members were signed up for the District 4/6 meeting in Kings Bay. Jerry Stout will appear as a candidate on the ballot for the Eastern Region Director.

Vice Commander Report: No report

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2030.

**** End of the minutes for April 2008 ****



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



Birdwhistell	Clarkin	Conrey	Douglas
Fuhr	Fuqua	Habhegger	Heber
Houck	Houston	Job	Lufkin
McCollem	Medert	Mullins	Nichols
O'Meally	Paris	Pickett	Sparks
Steffen	Sutton	Upchurch	Wieda



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.



May 8 – Monthly meeting

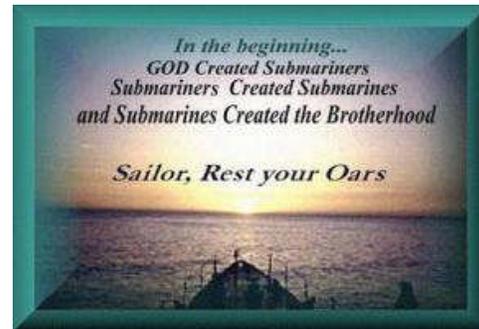
May 10 – Picnic at the After Battery Bring side dish or dessert plus lawn chairs. \$5.00 per head

May 16 – Dedication of glass sculpture honoring Royal Navy submarines for the Cold War. 1400 at the Cold War Memorial, Mt. Pleasant

Military Treatment Facility & TRICARE Service Center Locator

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 Stickleback	SS 415	May 29, 1958



Burial At Sea Update 02

The National Cemetery Administration cannot provide burial at sea. Burial at Sea is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on United States Navy vessels. The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed. Therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and, longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

Individuals eligible for this program are:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services
- Retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged
- U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and
- Dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services

After the death of the individual for whom the request is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) should print out and complete a Burial at Sea Request form available online at <http://www.navy.mil/navydata/questions/bas-form.pdf>.

Supporting documents which must accompany this request

Click on the following link:

<https://www.hnfs.net/TSCLocator/search.aspx>

Find a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) or TRICARE Service Center (TSC) and get driving directions from your location.

Simply enter your address information, search and locate your destination.

You can view maps, driving directions and additional clarifications where available.

Meeting Night Parking

Linda Bailey, the director of the rehab center across the street from the FRA, will allow the Sub Vets to use their parking lot as overflow on our meeting nights.

Please, no parking on the grass and she pointed out that it is a children's rehab center.

Tricare Provider Availability Update 01

According to the DoD Survey of Civilian Physician Acceptance of Tricare Standard, findings show that in fiscal 2007, almost 93% of responding physicians in 53 hospital service areas were aware of the Tricare program, with 84% of physicians in those 53 HSAs accepting new Tricare Standard patients. Overall this indicates the number of providers in the program is increasing. The 2007 survey was the final installment of a three-year national effort to measure awareness of Tricare and to determine the number of physicians who accept new Tricare Standard patients. DOD officials randomly surveyed physicians in 20 states in both FYs 2005 and 2006. The 10 remaining states and Washington, D.C., were surveyed in FY 2007. Physicians in local HSAs also were surveyed each year. Approximately 40,000 physicians from a variety of medical specialties were randomly picked. The aggregate results show that civilian provider awareness and acceptance is generally high, but may vary depending on location. In addition, the survey revealed a need for increasing both Tricare awareness and acceptance among psychiatrists; a specialty critical in meeting the behavioral health needs of veterans of the war on terrorism. Specifically, the three-year findings across all states and HSAs show:

- Approximately 87% of all physicians surveyed are aware of the Tricare program.
- About 81% of physicians that accept new patients also accept new Tricare Standard patients.
- Of those accepting new Tricare Standard patients, almost 91% do so for all patients, rather than on a case-by-case basis.
- Reimbursement rates were among the most commonly cited reasons for not accepting Tricare Standard.

Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity (TMA) said, "In some locations, access to Tricare Standard providers remains a major concern for family members and retirees. Some doctors limit the number of Tricare patients they see or refuse to see them altogether. This leads to fewer choices for beneficiaries. While active duty service members receive the bulk of their medical care at one of the more than 500 military treatment facilities, family members, National Guard and Reserve members, and retirees often rely on civilian physicians for their health care needs." The survey findings exceeded TMA's expectations. The

are:

1. A photocopy of the death certificate;
2. The burial transit permit or the cremation certificate; and
3. A copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

The Burial at Sea Request Form and the three supporting documents make up the Burial at Sea Request package. A Burial Flag is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, except family members, who are not authorized a burial flag. Following the services at sea, the flag that accompanied the cremains/remains will be returned to the PADD. If the PADD does not wish to send a burial flag for the service, a flag will be provided by the Navy for the committal service, but will not be sent to the PADD. (Note: For deceased veterans, a burial flag can be provided at no charge from the Veterans Administration).

Cremains must be in an urn or plastic/metal container to prevent spillage in shipping. The cremains, along with the completed Burial at Sea Request package, and the burial flag will be forwarded to the Burial at Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation which can be viewed at <http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/blburialatsea.htm>.

Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. It is also recommended that the cremains package be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. For intact remains specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. After this selection has been made and notification has been provided to the coordinator, the casketed remains, the request form, supporting documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. The coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended those funeral homes responsible for preparing and shipping intact remains contact Navy Mortuary Affairs at the Military Medical Support Office in Great Lakes, Ill., to receive the preparation requirements.

If you have any questions about the Burial at Sea program, contact the United States Navy Mortuary Affairs office at 1(888) 647-6676, and select option 4.

From District Commander

Charleston Base Members,

Our District 4/6 Combined Convention was held last week in King's Bay, Georgia. Most of the Convention was socializing, however at the Business Meeting; the Eastern Region Director gave a presentation of the realignment of the Region and the Districts within the South. None of these changes will affect any specific Base and or member. The only ones affected are the current District Commanders of the Region. On May 1, the States of South Carolina and Georgia will be in Eastern Southern District 2. I will continue as the

surveys provide TMA with a reliable measurement as to our effectiveness in expanding access to Tricare providers and the challenges of getting more doctors on board. Congress has given additional guidance to continue the survey process through 2011. States showing a need to increase acceptance and awareness of Tricare include Alaska, Maryland, Colorado, Hawaii, Oklahoma, New York, New Jersey and Texas. Hospital service areas with lower than average Tricare acceptance include Washington DC; Raleigh NC; Seattle & Olympia WA; Lihue/Kealahou/Wailuku HI; Dallas TX; and Falls Church VA. Tricare officials, with support from their managed care support contractors, are working to overcome these challenges.

TMA has an outreach program that reaches out to state officials, medical associations and individual physicians to educate them and appeal to their sense of patriotism in accepting Tricare. One positive result of the program is that the Oregon legislature approved incentives including a one-time tax credit for new providers in the Tricare network, plus an additional annual credit for treating patients enrolled in Tricare. Since 2004, Oregon's Tricare provider network has increased by 35%. In addition, the governors of 20 western states have supported TMA's efforts to encourage more health care providers to accept new Tricare patients. Their combined efforts led to an overall increase in western region Tricare network doctors from approximately 80,000 in 2004 to more than 125,000 today. Overall, there are presently more than 220,000 men and women Tricare providers.

ID Card Numbers Update 02

On 2 APR a senior DoD official said as a means of combating identity theft, the Defense Department will issue identification cards without full Social Security numbers printed onto them. Mary Dixon, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center based in Arlington VA told Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters, "The Defense Department cares about protecting personal information as well as increasing database security, identity theft is a very real problem today. Criminals who pilfer SSN-bearing identity cards can virtually assume someone's identity through a few computer keystrokes and clicks of a mouse." Tricare, the military services' health maintenance organization, already has removed Social Security numbers from its members' identification cards, Dixon said. Plans are to remove the Social Security numbers from identification cards issued to military family members by the end of this year, Dixon said, noting that those cards still would display the sponsors' SSN, for now. Between 2009 and 2010, all department-issued identification cards will feature only the last four digits of a holder's Social Security number. About 3.4 million people now have department-issued common access cards. Around two-thirds of those card holders are military members, and some civilians who deploy overseas, who have full Social Security numbers printed onto the back of their CACs. Dixon pointed out that modern information technology precludes the need to have full social security numbers printed onto employee and family member ID cards. Today, all of our (computer) systems can 'talk' to each other, so we don't necessarily need to know all of that information printed on your card. New identification cards will be issued as they reach their expiration dates, Dixon said.

District Commander over these bases and will also have the other states, LA, AL, MS and portions of Florida, until a new District Commander can be elected.

Ten of 14 Bases within District Four were represented at the Convention. The 2009 Convention will be held in St. Augustine, Florida the last week of April, beginning May. This will be an Eastern Southern Regional Conference. Thank you to Charleston Base for bringing the float to the convention and additionally, Charleston Base is the Eastern Region Nomination for the Golden Anchor Award for USSVI. Well Done!

Jerry Stout

District IV Commander

Perspective Eastern South District II Commander

Candidate for Eastern Region Director

Va Hiring Update 03

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced creation of a Veterans Employment Coordination Service (VECS) to oversee the Department's program to recruit new veterans into the VA workforce, especially recently disabled combat veterans. The new office will work with military transition programs, veterans' service organizations and other VA programs to promote careers in the VA workforce. The program will also work with VA managers and human resource offices to ensure supervisors are aware of programs for hiring veterans. Efforts to assist severely injured veterans have already begun with the Department's participation in local career fairs targeting veterans of the Global War on Terror. In NOV 07 VA announced plans to hire 10 full-time regional veterans employment coordinators who provide hands-on assistance to veterans interested in careers at the Department. The new office will oversee the regional coordinators. About 31% of VA's 260,000 employees are veterans, and nearly 8% are service-connected disabled veterans. VA ranks first among non-Defense agencies in the hiring of disabled veterans and is second only to the Department of Defense in the overall number of veterans on the workforce. Last fiscal year, VA hired more than 9,000 veterans.

Senior Moments

All of us have "senior moments" at one time or another. Perhaps you forgot where you placed your car keys, or you returned from the grocery store only to realize you forgot to purchase milk. These small "brain glitches" are normal at any age and become more frequent with age. But how can you tell if your loved one is crossing the line from normal forgetfulness to true dementia? The key to recognizing early warning signs of dementia is to be aware of the pattern, consistency, and type of forgetfulness displayed by those you're concerned about. If these senior moments are increasing in frequency and affecting their ability to carry out day-to-day functions, you have cause to be concerned. Ask a health care provider to evaluate your parent if you spot any of the following telltale signs:

- Repeating the same conversation each time you talk
- Forgetting to take medications or taking extra pills

Armed Services Blood Program

Blood and blood products are used for patients of all ages for many reasons – from those undergoing cancer treatments to those with battlefield injuries. Military members depend on blood donors every day and rely on the he Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) to fulfill these needs. To schedule a donation appointment or to contact your local blood donor center visit the ASBP website <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil>. Donors can select a location from more than 20 ASBP blood donor centers (BDCs) on the website's drop down menu, or click on their location on a map. The nearest donor center will appear, as well as scheduled blood drives for the next two months. If an online appointment is available you will be able to select the blood drive and sign up to give blood on any of the dates listed. If a blood drive does not appear after choosing a donor center, the drive dates have passed and new dates will be added as drives are scheduled. Many centers conduct mobile blood drives at nearby installations. ASBP has implemented a new policy regarding tattoos on 30 NOV 07 that may allow more donors to give blood to the military. This new policy allows donors with new tattoos to give blood again after just one week, instead of the previous one-year deferral period, provided the tattoo was acquired in a state-regulated tattoo parlor. A total of 20 states regulate tattoo facilities and donors are encouraged to contact their nearest military blood donor center for more details.

In addition to whole blood donation, some BDCs offer platelet apheresis donation. Apheresis takes longer than whole blood donation; however, one apheresis donation provides as many platelets as six to ten whole blood donations. In addition, donors can give platelets more frequently than the 56 days required between whole blood donations. Most healthy adults are eligible to give blood. However, there are some reasons a person may be deferred from donating — temporarily indefinitely, or permanently. Deferral criteria have been established for the protection of those donating and those receiving transfusions in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines, AABB standards, and Department of Defense (DoD) policies. A temporary deferral should not discourage donors from coming back. Donors are always needed. In general, to donate blood you should:

- Weigh at least 110 pounds
 - Be at least 17 years of age
 - Have been feeling well for at least three days
 - Be well hydrated
 - Have eaten something prior to donating
 - Conform to travel and medical restrictions listed at www.militaryblood.dod.mil/Donors/can_i_donate.aspx
-

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.

because of forgetfulness

- Paying bills late or missing payments
- Getting lost while driving familiar routes
- Difficulty balancing the checkbook
- Unexplained purchases (including large quantities or unusual items)
- Unexplained weight loss (perhaps because of forgetting to eat)
- Change in appearance (wearing the same outfit everyday, an unkempt appearance)

An evaluation will rule out any physical cause for behavioral and mental changes. Physical causes can include infection, low vitamin B or iron levels, depression, strokes, and seizures. A doctor also can give a presumptive diagnosis of dementia based on a physical exam, laboratory tests, a CT scan or MRI of the brain, and a mini mental exam (a set of questions and simple tests for cognitive function). A definitive diagnosis is more difficult, because brain structures affected by dementia are not always indicated on a scan. In addition, there are many forms of dementia:

- Alzheimer's disease. This is the most widely recognized form of dementia and is characterized by the formation of plaques and tangling of nerve fibers in the brain. The decline that occurs as the condition progresses follows a distinct pattern, referred to as stages. Each stage marks a specific decline in memory and brain function.
- Vascular or multi-infarct. This form is caused by "mini-strokes," which disrupt the blood flow to specific parts of the brain, rendering them useless. This condition might present itself more subtly than Alzheimer's and doesn't always follow prescribed stages.
- Lewy-body. Signs of dementia and Parkinson's disease characterize this disease. In addition to the cognitive and memory problems, Lewy-body patients often have trouble maintaining balance and experience a shuffling gait, tremors, and stiffness of the arms and legs.
- Mixed dementia. This is a combination of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia.
- Alcohol or drug-induced dementia. This form of brain damage often is seen in younger people, generally as a direct result of alcoholism or drug use.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for dementia. Treatment focuses on slowing the progressive nature of this disease. Your health care provider can tell you if one of the currently available drugs (such as Aricept, Exelon, Namenda, and Razadyne) is right for your loved one. Medications to treat dementia-associated depression, anxiety, and behavioral issues (agitation, paranoia, and delusions) also might be prescribed if appropriate. Dementia is not a diagnosis to wish on anyone, but erroneously attributing its warning signs to normal aging or senility can rob loved ones of years of improved function and quality of life. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential. For additional info on the subject refer to the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org and/or the Alzheimer's Education and Referral Center

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!



Woodstock Redneck Style...

Recently some Charleston Base members had the pleasure of playing at a party on Wadmalaw Island. The guest of honor was Lauren Hutton.



In the photo (l. to r.): Carl Chinn, Christopher Johnson, Larry Pepper, Lauren Hutton, Dana Johnson.



Remember Mom!

More Information Than You Need?



Here's something to picture in your mind...

Our illustrious leader, Buddha, and his trusty sidekick Ed Simokat were roomies at the recent District 4 and 6 combined conference in King's Bay. The motel was not

www.alzheimers.org websites.

TriCare User Fee Update 25

Faced with a rising tab for Tricare, military health insurance, Pentagon officials are angling to raise out-of-pocket costs for retirees in the 2009 federal budget. Under fire in a congressional hearing, Assistant Defense Secretary Ward Casscells said, "Advocates I've spoken with would accept gradual out-of-pocket increases to help the military keep costs down. They know that at some point, this will eat into theater care or force readiness." Legislative Director Rick Jones of the National Association for the Uniformed Services (NAUS) said many, but not all, veterans organizations have broken ranks on the heated issue of ratcheting up Tricare costs for retirees. However, NAUS hasn't budged on its stand against fee increases. Military retirees already sacrificed for their country and shouldn't be asked to give more out of their own pockets. "It is a cost of our service," Jones said. The National Military and Veterans Alliance is writing Congress to combat misperceptions the organization supports raising fees, Jones said. Proposals on the table double or triple what retirees younger than 65 pay. "It's sort of like, 'Here's your benefit. Here's your bill.' Thank you for your service," he said. The veterans alliance is an umbrella organization made up of 31 military and veterans service organizations with 2.5 million members altogether. But the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) legislative director Capt. Marshall Hanson worries the DoD might find the present program too expensive to sustain. "On a practical side, if the benefit goes away, that's going to cost retirees more in the long run than trying to adjust to paying a fair share for a program that has a good basis for increases," he said.

Casscells testified before a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee retirees don't want fee increases making up for 12 years of flat fees, but they'll accept increases tied to the cost of living. Dr. Gail Wilensky, co-chairwoman of the DoD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care testified before the Subcommittee on Military Personnel that they have recommended raising out-of-pocket costs for health care on retirees younger than 65 and for prescription drugs. The changes would phase in over four years. The task force doesn't recommend increases for active-duty members and their families. She said, "We mostly focused on under-65 retirees. Most work and have access to employer-sponsored health care plans". U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, a member of the House Armed Services, noted that the administration has aimed to raise retirees' Tricare fees before. "My guess is that nothing much will change this year". Congress squashed Bush's 2008 proposal to save an estimated \$1.9 billion from increasing Tricare fees. His plan called for aligning Tricare out-of-pocket costs for military retirees younger than 65 years with private health insurance. The moratorium on Tricare fee increases ends in October.

quite up to the five star level that is usually expected by diesel boat torpedomen.

One of the tales that came out is like something out of a poorly financed B movie. Picture this...

The toilet in these two comrades' room was, to say the least, a bit loose in its connection to the floor. Now you have to understand that our legendary leader Buddha has not yet (even in his advanced years, or maybe due to his TM training and background) been able to train his right hand to handle the portentous task of swabbing his derriere in the manner that it deserves.

On the other hand, "Big Ed", as he is so lovingly called, has mastered the swab process so well that he is considered the champion ambidextrous swab jockey of the southeast and possibly the whole country. As he is so eloquently quoted, "Boys, in this world sometimes you gotta be able to sway both ways."

Now to the crux of what happened and to burn this image in your mind forever. When Big Ed had to use the facilities in a womanly manner (i.e. he had to sit down relieve a certain portion of his alimentary canal), he was OK until he had to finish his business. However, since he is ambidextrous in performing this mission he had no problem assessing the situation and making the decision to use his right hand so he would fall into the wall next to the toilet rather than the alternative.

Buddha the Rocket Surgeon, however, could not partake of this procedure since he is only half trained as a swab jockey. He had no choice but to use his left hand and suffer the inevitable consequences. With paper in hand he took on the momentous task on a regular basis and braced himself for the inescapable outcome. As all of us know, in a typical facility at a motel the layout is that the toilet sits between a wall and the bathtub. Since Ed fell into the wall wiping with his right hand it obviously follows that Buddha was destined to go the other way. Look out tub, here I come!

TM Division Working Party



Little David Maintenance

Some annual maintenance was completed on the Little David, located at the Berkeley County museum. Several base members helped coordinator Rick Wise get the boat "ship-shape" for the tourist season.



In the photo, l to r: Jerry Farr, Marty Sessler, Rick Wise, Bill Freligh, Carl Chinn

District 4 & 6 Combined Conference

Sixteen members represented Charleston Base at the combined conference held in King's Bay, GA, April 23 thru April 26. Ben Heber towed our float to the motel and had it prominently displayed at the front of the motel so all participants and passersby could see.

A good time was had by all and only a few adult beverages were consumed.

The next conference will be held at St. Augustine Beach, FL, April 29 thru May 2, 2009. Start planning now to attend. Charleston always has the most attendees, but we could really make a statement with 40-50 guys showing up.



If you are not in the photo below, you are not a hacker! Please note...not a Torpedoman to be found!



If you have any questions or would like more information on how not to be a pussy, please see our “*Those Who Can Hang In*” club president Clyde “Last Man Down” Peters. Clyde has informed us that he will be conducting classes for non-hackers, especially TMs.

From Merriam-Webster:

wimp: a weak, cowardly, or ineffectual person : one who will not hang in with his shipmates

wimpy: to behave like a wimp : chicken out; especially : to choose the easiest course of

action : not acting like a brother of the dolphin

pussy: a weak or cowardly man or boy : one who abandons his shipmates
