

# TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 10, No.10

October 2014

## Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: 6 November, 1800

Membership: 13 November, 1900

**Location:**

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.

Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962



Base Commander	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843-568-2148
Vice Commander	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Secretary	<u>Rick Wise</u>	843.875.5559
Treasurer	<u>Steven Morawiec</u>	360.473.8883

Chief of the Boat	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Veterans Affairs	<u>Ken Curtis</u>	843.797.1268
Membership	<u>Don Mook</u>	843.499.5727
Scholarship	<u>Julian Villegas</u>	843.871.6135
Storekeeper	<u>Ken Hutchison</u>	843.553.0935
Historian	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	<u>Mike Knaub</u>	843.795.6665
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Newsletter	<u>George Fuchs</u>	360.473.8883
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	<u>Walt Deal</u>	843.871.4143



## BOATS LOST IN OCTOBER

BOAT	HULL	LOSS DATE	SOULS LOST
USS Sea Wolf	(SS-197)	03 Oct 1944	102 Officers & Men
USS S-44	(SS-155)	07 Oct 1943	56 Officers & Men
USS Wahoo	(SS-238)	11 Oct 1943	79 Officers & Men
USS Dorado	(SS-248)	12 Oct 1943	78 Officers & Men
USS Escolar	(SS-294)	17 Oct 1944	82 Officers & Men
USS Shark	(SS314)	24 Oct 1944	90 Officers & Men
USS Darter	(SS-127)	24 Oct 1944	No loss of life 83 Officers & Men.
USS Tang	(SS-386)	25 Oct 1944	9 Crew taken prisoner & survived the war.
USS O-5	(SS-66)	29 OCT 1923	2 Officers & Men

### Chaplain's Corner—CHARACTER COUNTS

*Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Colossians 3:12*

The writer's instructions are explicit; we are to be compassionate, humble, gentle, and kind. But sometimes, we fall short. In the busyness and confusion of daily life, we may neglect to share a kind word or a kind deed. This oversight hurts others, but it hurts us most of all.

Today, slow yourself down and be alert for those who need your smile, your kind words, or your helping hand. Make kindness a centerpiece of your dealings with others. They will be blessed, and you will be too. Today, follow the Golden Rule. Your family and friends deserve nothing less.

*When you launch an act of kindness out into the crosswinds of life, it will blow kindness back to you. Dennis Swanberg*

--A Prayer for Today--

*Dear Lord, help me see the needs of those around me. Today, let me spread kind words to honor You. Let forgiveness rule my heart, and let my love for You be reflected through the acts of kindness that I extend to those who need the healing touch of the Master's hand. Amen.*

### USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the September 2014 meeting was 108.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in September was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** There were two guests at the meeting but I have no information on them.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Base Commander Ed Stank gave a Treasurer's report since Base Treasurer Steve Morawiec was in the VA Hospital. Since he was not sure if the minutes from the August Base Meeting had been published no motion was made on those minutes.

**Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman:** Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 336 members of Charleston Base. He reminded members that 2015 dues are to be paid starting 1 October. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. If you cannot pay your dues please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

**Chaplain and Webmaster:** Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

## September Report

### Highlighted boat of the month:

CISCO departed on her 1st war patrol, but never returned. Japanese records tell of sighting a submarine leaking oil in the area where the Cisco was known to have been on duty. Japanese records state she was sunk by bombs and depth charges with the loss of 76 men.

**LT(SS) Clyde V. Peters** departed on EP on 22 August. His service was held with over 70 SUBVETS attending. Sue was very appreciative of the great turnout.

**SKCS(SS) Denny Keane** departed on EP on 31 August. His service was held this past Saturday. Charleston Base did not participate due to many of people being out of area or already having commitments for that day. During the October Holland Club presentation, Denny will be inducted and we will then have our Bell Tolling Service with presentations to his daughters.

**Steve Everett** is back in the VA Hospital. More chest pain, waiting right now (3 PM) for a CAT scan. He went to the CPO breakfast this morning and went down from there. Will know more when the diagnostics are complete.

**Steve Morawiec** had a mitral heart valve repair on Monday. Margie says he is doing well. He has to stay in the ICU for a couple of more days and then go to a ward. Once there he can have visitors. She is going to let me know when this happens.

**Joe Hayes** had a heart valve replacement today at Roper Hospital. Betty called around 3pm to let me know the surgery went well and Joe is doing fine. He will be in ICU for at least two days. When he moved to a room she'll let me know so he can have visitors.

**Don Meadows** is in the VA hospital with a growth on his neck. Doctors are afraid that if they cut it, cancer may spread further in his body. He would love to have visitors and is in ward B4 bed 20.

**Gary Williams (aka GW)** had back surgery on 18 August. He has had some rough time in the last several weeks. I saw him at the clinic yesterday and he said he is really missing everyone and hopes to get back soon.

**"Frenchy" Fuqua** is doing better. He is in Health South Rehab and Barbara tells me that he's had many visitors from the base. She also told me the doctors are talking about letting him go home on the 19<sup>th</sup> if things continue going like they are.

**Ronnie Kerstetter's** father passed away in PA on 5 September.

**Glenn Fleming** has completed his second chemo. He has one more treatment in 3 weeks and then another scan to see how good it's working. No visitors unless they wear a face mask and he can't go out in crowds without a mask. He says to give all his shipmates a big hello.

**Abe Jenkins** gave us a scare but is doing better now.

**Anna Emerson**, Mike's wife, fell while on their trip and broke her ankle. She had to stay in W. VA for longer than expected but is home now.

**Gary Semler's** cremains are onboard the USS Newport News for burial at sea. Some of the members said

**Ken Curtis** has recovered from his bout with walking pneumonia. Says it wasn't high on his list to have again.

**Charles Wood** had surgery on his neck 21 July and is doing well.

**Art Hance** will be going into Roper on Friday 19 September for a heart procedure.

**Colleen**, one of the cooks at the FRA, fell before the meeting started and broke her arm and knee.

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.

### WEBMASTER NOTES:

Website is updated constantly.

**Public Affairs Officer (PAO):** Base Commander Ed Stank reported Tom Clark has taken the position as PAO. Tom had no report.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis reported that the Mobile Service Office van will be at the Publix parking lot on St. James Avenue in Goose Creek on Thursday, October 9 from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be two national service officers to help answer your questions on submitted claims.

**Storekeeper:** Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison reported that the 2015 calendars are available for \$9 each. This year the calendars features attack submarines.

**FRA:** Larry Cox told the base that the FRA was holding another Old Time Navy Breakfast on Sunday, September 21 from 0900 to 1130.



**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** Swamp Fox President George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 1200 at Ryan's in Summerville. Arrive by 1130 for choice seating. George also reported that the Associate Members dues currently have been reduced to \$10/year and are now due.

**Recreation Committee:** Gary Williams reported that the Butt Roast is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at the Cooper Rivers Partners facility at Bushy Park. The charge is \$5/person.

**Nuclear Historian:** Rick Carlson related the following report:

One afternoon a retired submarine officer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass.

Disturbed he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"

"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."

Well, then come with me to my house and I'll feed you," the bubblehead said.

"But sir, I have a wife and two children with me.

They are over there under that tree."

"Bring them along," he replied.

Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You can come with us, also."

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and six children with me."

"Bring them all, as well," The bubblehead answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even with a car as large as the limousine. Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the bubblehead and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The bubblehead replied, "Glad to do it. You'll really like my place. The grass is almost a foot high!"

**The After Battery:** Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base of the After Battery in Dorchester, SC. The website with a map and information is [www.theafterbattery.com](http://www.theafterbattery.com).

**District Commander:** District Commander Paul Viering congratulated Charleston Base for having more members voting in the National Election than any other USSVI base. The results of the National Election are as follows:  
National Commander – Al Singleman,  
Senior Vice Commander – John Markiewicz,  
Junior Vice-Commander – Bill Andrea,  
Secretary – Ray Wewers,  
Treasurer – Paul Hiser,  
SE Regional Director – Dick Kanning.  
All of the amendments passed.

Charleston Base received the award for the best newsletter of large bases.

Base member Thom Beach won the Silver Anchor award.

He also reminded the base of the WWII Memorial Service to be held at King's Bay, November 5 -9. Applications area available on our website ([www.uusvi-cb.org](http://www.uusvi-cb.org)) and must be submitted by October 31.

**Chief of the Boat:** Rick Sparger reported that we will be picking up the float Friday, September 12. It will be stored at Terry Trump's house in Summerville. He will send out a call for a working

party to get the float parade ready when it's cooler. He also asked for volunteers to help with the Butt Roast. He turned over a supply skivvies to turn over to Rodney McKenna for the Undies 500 drive.

**Base Commander:** Base Commander reminded the base that the Christmas party will be held at the Red Bank Club on December 13.

He announced the Navy Birthday Ball will be held October 10 at the Marriot Hotel on Lockwood Blvd., Charleston. Information is available at [www.charlestonnavyball.org](http://www.charlestonnavyball.org).

Ed also presented the Silver Anchor Award to Thom Beach. He also showed the award for best large base newsletter.

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, DC on Oct. 4-5.

**Old Business:** Gordon Long is still looking for members of a barbershop quartet.

**New Business:** Base Member Jim Lewis made a motion to donate \$250 to the Victory House for their canteen. After some discussion the motion was amended to donate \$250 to the Victory House for use of the veterans. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. A motion was made by Jim Lewis to make the donation annually. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Base Member Rusty Pickett discussed the restoration of the Cold War Submarine Memorial. Rusty made a motion for Charleston Base donate no more than \$475 to the restoration. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**Good of the Order:** Base Member Jeff Reuer announced he is running for Berkeley County School District 4.

**Depth Charge:** The depth charge was won by Jim Higgins. He donated \$200 to the Scholarship Fund.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2013.

## [The U.S. Navy's Nuclear Submarine Force: A 60-Year Legacy Of Excellence](#)

In the 60 years since Nautilus, her successors have all been technological marvels that embody the very best in American engineering, ship design, and construction; each has progressively improved, keeping the U.S. Navy's submarines the best in the world. The Virginia-class is nearly twice the size of Nautilus, yet is significantly faster, can dive deeper, and are immensely quieter.

That constant improvement is especially true where the power plants are concerned. While Nautilus improved the distance she could steam with each of her four cores during her service, North Dakota's propulsion plant will sail her farther than all four of Nautilus' combined with fuel designed to last the entire 33+ year life of the ship. All of this in a propulsion plant that is more powerful, simpler to maintain and operate, and safer. Those submarines represent a 60 year legacy of operational excellence that began when the world's first nuclear powered vessel, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), was commissioned on Sept. 30, 1954. The advent of a nuclear-powered submarine was brought full circle from concept to completion in a mere 10 years, thanks to the driving force behind the project, then-Rear Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

Additionally, more efficient use of space provides payload flexibility and even the possibility of deploying unmanned aerial or undersea vehicles.

What has not changed in the 60 years since Nautilus is the training expected of the people who operate our submarine fleet. They are among the most intelligent and highly-trained people in the Navy. All nuclear-qualified submarine officers and enlisted crew members must receive more than a year of intensive, advanced technical training that before assignment to their first boat. The history of this training began with first Nautilus crew at national laboratories and the S1W prototype in Arco, Idaho. The choice not to separate the nuclear engineering officers from the navigation and tactical officer positions of the submarine's wardroom also began with Nautilus. While most nations separate the career paths of the ship's nuclear engineers from the ship drivers;



every successful U.S. nuclear submarine line officer qualifies to operate and lead both the engineering plant and the combat, navigation, and ship control teams. The philosophy behind this decision is simple: the best submarine officers understand every capability of their With the Virginia-class submarines' superior performance, the legacy that began with Nautilus continues crew and ships today providing undersea dominance, and sustained capabilities to operate forward, across the full range of conflicts.

The submarine force provides the capability to ensure stability and security not only our nation, but our allies as well. It is a lasting tribute to that technological marvel from 1954 that our nuclear-powered submarines continue to deter potential adversaries from acts of aggression.

### [Chinese submarine on its way to Somalia for anti-piracy patrols](#)

China is sending a submarine to East Africa.China is for the first time sending a submarine to the coast of East Africa to take part in anti-piracy patrols and escort tasks there.

The submarine docked at the port of Sri Lanka's capital Colombo on September 15 on its way to the Gulf of Aden, becoming the first Chinese submarine to visit Sri Lanka.

The vessel that stopped at Columbo International Container Terminal was a diesel electric Type 039 Song class submarine, commissioned in 2006. It is being accompanied by the Type 925 class submarine adjust and adapt to global threats, providing unmatched nuclear-powered Stealth, Endurance, Agility, and Firepower to the fleet.support vessel Changxingdao, according to IHS Jane's Navy International.

This is not the first time that submarines have been used on anti-piracy deployments. Between August and December 2010 the Dutch Walrus class submarine HNLMS Zeeleeuw joined the NATO anti-piracy task force in the Gulf of Aden and between June and December 2012 the Dutch Navy deployed its submarine HNLMS Bruinvis to the Gulf of Aden.

It is believed that Iran has also used submarines to

patrol for pirates in region over the last several years and the United States has also had submarines active off the Somali coast since 2008.

China has deployed anti-piracy task forces to the Gulf of Aden since December 2008 and has escorted 5 670 Chinese and foreign ships and assisted over 60 vessels. Since the first task force arrived off East Africa in January 2009, Chinese navy task forces have been typically rotated every four months.

The 18th People's Liberation Army Navy escort task force set sail for East Africa at the beginning of August. It comprises the amphibious dock landing ship Changbaishan, the guided missile frigate Yuncheng and the supply ship Chaohu Lake. The task force also includes three helicopters and 100 special operations members.

### [First Trailer for Jude Law's 'Black Sea' Variety.com, Oct. 2](#)

"One of Hitler's U-boats is just sitting on the sea bed, full of gold," Law's character intones. He recruits a ragtag group of of men who decide to change their luck. Greed and desperation soon take over.

Law's costars include Grigoriy Dobrygin, Konstantin Khabenskiy, Scoot McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn and Michael Smiley.

"Black Sea" is directed by Kevin Macdonald, who previously directed "The Last King of Scotland," "The Eagle" and "State of Play."

Focus Features opens "Black Sea" on Jan. 23 in the U.S.

### [US in Submarine Arms Race with Russia and China](#)

[WantChinaTimes.com, Oct 7](#)

The United States is launching a submarine arms race against China and Russia, Kalyan Kumar, a political analyst from New Delhi, writes in a comment piece written for the Australian edition of the International Business Times on Sept. 27.

As Vice Admiral Michael Connor, the US Navy's Atlantic Submarine Force commander, had told

Fox News previously, the rapid development of ballistic missile submarines by Russia and China will require a matching deployment of US submarines. Russia announced its decision to upgrade its submarine fleet and even released photos of the Akula II-class nuclear submarines last week.

Kumar said that the United States is concerned about Russia as it retains its nuclear capability from the Soviet era. Russia is cultivating this capability and appears to harbor aspirations for greater territory and influence. China is also working to increase the number of its ballistic missile submarines, according to Connor. A report by the Office of Naval Intelligence noted that the PLA Navy has evolved from a littoral force to a force capable of a wide range of missions. Chinese anti-piracy task forces visit ports in the region, such as in Djibouti, Oman and Yemen, to take on supplies but have also embarked on friendly visits to countries in the area. Earlier this year the 16th escort task group visited eight African countries, including South Africa, after concluding its anti-piracy duties.

The Type 054A missile frigate FFG-546 Yancheng, the Type 053H3 missile frigate FFG-527 Luoyang and the new Type 903 replenishment ship AOE-889 Taihu stopped in Cape Town in June after visiting Tunisia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, Angola and Namibia.

Although warships of the Chinese Navy have been to South Africa before, this was the first time that they had visited the seven other nations. The last occasion was in April 2011, when the 7th Escorting Flotilla paid a goodwill visit to Durban. LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) - Focus Features has released the first trailer for thriller "Black Sea," starring Jude Law as a rogue submarine captain seeking treasure at the bottom of the Black Sea.

China is working to strengthen its capability to strike targets hundreds of miles away from the Chinese mainland, the report said. It stated that the PLA plans to soon commence deterrent patrols with its Type 094 Jin-class ballistic submarines. Equipped with the JL-2 intercontinental-range submarine-launched ballistic missile, the Type 094 gives China second-strike nuclear capability against the United States.

In the 1960s, the United States had 41 nuclear-powered ballistic submarines, more than any other nation in the world; it now has 14. With the release of the new-generation Ohio-class nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines in 2021, Connor said that a new scenario will become clear. The United States has also awarded a major contract to General Dynamics Electric Boat to build new nuclear submarines.

### **TRICARE Website: Easier to Use** **8/5/2014**

On July 24, TRICARE.mil unveiled a new design to give TRICARE's 9.6 million beneficiaries clear and easy access to benefit information. Users now have more ways to browse our site. We've added easier navigation, a login button for quicker access to our partner's secure services, and a section on the homepage dedicated to life-changing events. We've also streamlined and reorganized our content so users can find what they're looking for in the way they're expecting. We're listening to our beneficiaries. Our new design is the result of an ongoing review about what beneficiaries are looking for when they visit TRICARE.mil. We are using satisfaction surveys, analytics, and user feedback to highlight key information. We are also closely monitoring our most visited pages and our most frequent search terms on TRICARE.mil. Some of the most popular things that beneficiaries look for include:

- What plan can I use?
- What's covered?
- How do I find a doctor?
- How much will I pay?

We paired these findings with an extensive review of 34 government and private sector health insurance plan websites. This allowed us to apply common industry practices of website navigation, organization, content, naming convention, and readability.

TRICARE.mil is a powerful educational tool for beneficiaries to learn about their health benefits and stay updated on the latest changes.

Visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) to see the new design and explore the TRICARE benefit.

SOURCE: TRICARE News Release at <http://www.tricare.mil/webupdates080514>