

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 12 No. 5

May 2016

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: 02 May 1800
 Membership: 12 May 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.



| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Base Commander | Rick Wise | 843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C) |
| Vice Commander | Mike Knaub | 843.795.6665 (H) 843.696.7555(C) |
| Secretary | Mike Ciesielko | 843.324.0011 |
| Treasurer | Mike Welch | 843.300.9022 |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Chief of the Boat | Ken Hutchison | 843.553.0935 |
| Veterans Affairs | Ken Curtis | 843.797.1268 |
| Membership | Larry Knutson | 843.553.5594 |
| Scholarship | George Scharf | 843.873.3318 |
| Storekeeper | Ron Chambers | 843.821.2268 |
| Historian | George Scharf | 843.873.3318 |
| Public Affairs | Ronnie Kerstetter | 843-367-1026 |
| Chaplain | Nick Nichols | 843.452.3189 |
| Holland Club | Bill Freligh | 843.553.1115 |
| Newsletter | Vacant | |
| Webmaster | Nick Nichols | 843.452.3189 |
| Kaps for Kids | Bill Kennedy | 843.875.3109 |



Submarines Lose During the Month of May

USS Lagarto (SS-371) May 3, 1945 – 2nd war patrol Lost with all hands – 88 souls
USS Scorpion (SSN-598) May 22, 1968 Lost with all hands – 110 souls
USS Squalus (SS-192) May 23, 1939 Loss of 26 souls
USS Stickleback (SS-415) May 30, 1958 No loss of life

A Plea from Your Base Commander

I'm sure most of you remember when you were serving on a sub that there was Ship's Crew that did all the work and then sometimes riders that were there for various reasons. Most of what the riders did was eat the food, watch the movies and play cards. They certainly didn't get involved with running the ship. **Well at lot of you are riders! Come on and join the crew!**

We still need a Newsletter Editor as well as one or two new members of the Recreation Committee.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the April 2016 meeting was 101 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1858. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in April was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Base Commander: Rick Wise introduced Ed Stank to present the Distinguished Submariner Award for the Charleston Base to our Chief of the Boat, Ken Hutchison

Holland Club Induction: Rick Wise introduced Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh. Bill explained the meaning of the Holland Club and read the certificates that would be presented to each of the inductees. With the aid of Rick Wise, Bill presented the certificates

LT Howard J. Anderson, CDR Walter M. Bailey, FTTCM/SS Thomas Clark, EMC/SS Thomas Cyrek
LT Joseph Giannetto, TM1/SS Robert Gillitzer, MMCS/SS Herman Maula, YNC/SS Roger Rader
LT William Rumer, YNCS/SS Carl E. Smith, STC/SS

Walter F. Zeigler

The following received their 55 year Rocker:
FTCM/SS Richard Alkire, TMC/SS Robert K. Curtis
TMCS/SS Miguel Emerson, TMC/SS Richard E. Koehler, MMCS/SS Herman Maula, TMCS/SS Gordon E. Williams.

The following received their 60 year Rocker:
EMCM/SS Terry L. Trump, CS1/SS William H. Weaver
The following received their 65 year Rocker:
CSCM/SS Stacy Power
The following received their 70 year Rocker:
QM1/SS Walter Curtis, STM1/SS William L Jones

Following the presentations photographs were taken to be posted on the base website www.ussvicb.org. The guests were thanked for attending and the asked to leave so that the business meeting could be held. After the guests left the meeting continued.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: EMCS (SS) Kwock G. Kam Qual Boat: USS Sea Leopard SS 483. ETC (SS) Ronald Lazor, Qual Boat: USS John Adams SSBN 620

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the March meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Butch Bryar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Jay Pierce

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List

Vice Commander: Rick encouraged everyone to attend next year's Amberjack ceremony. The attendance this year was horrible.

Special Events: SUBVETS Picnic is scheduled for May 7th. It will be a joint FRA & SUBVETS Picnic held at the CRP area.

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

April Report

**Master Chief Fire Control Technician,
Submarines, Robert Grabowski,
United States Navy Retired
Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – April 13,
2016**

Highlighted boat of the month:

Gudgeon was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk on May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

- **FTCM(SS) Bob Grabowski** departed on Eternal Patrol yesterday. His daughter has informed me that his plans were to be buried at sea. It seems that Bob might have had a stroke sometime the week of March 21st. When discharged from the hospital, he went to Spartanburg to stay near his daughter and passed away there. If there is a local memorial service I will issue my standard email with the info.
- **Karen Ilgenfritz** passed away on April 7th. Her funeral was this past Monday and several SUBVETS attended.
- **Jim Lowman's** grandson has cancer.
- **Beetle Bailey** is still at the campground doing well. Has a doctor appointment next week and should head home after that.

- **Luke Murphy** is at LifeCare Morningstar rm 104. He expects to be able to go home toward the end of the month.
- **Fred Woodley** is having problems with his right shoulder. The Orthopedic surgeon says shoulder is worn out. He is on restricted duty at work. The problem is affecting his sleep.
- **Ray Bryant** is home - cell phone - 843.817.9510 - please call before going to visit
- **Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well but would like to have visitors and short calls. Please call Catherine before visiting.
- **Lynn Cousino** continues undergoing a more aggressive treatment regimen.
- **Larry Cox** is doing well after his stay in the hospital with pneumonia.
- **Thom & Linda Beach** are both doing well. Thom's liver transplant was a great success and Linda is recovering from her emergency appendectomy.
- **Roy Robertson** is having rehab for his broken hip.
- **Audrey Bognar**, Randy's mother, passed away March 15th. Service was held in Illinois.
- **John Thorston's** grandson, Matthew, passed away on Thursday, 17 March. John is a member of Charleston Base but currently lives in Virginia. The funeral was held on March 22. Not sure if anyone from the base attended.
- **Mary Wood** had knee replacement surgery and is home doing well.
- **Kathleen Smith** had surgery on her back and is home receiving physical therapy.
- **CC Cager** is still recovering from the motorcycle wreck. He is here tonight with us. They are trying to sell their house in Bonneau which is listed http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/112-Woody-Ln_Bonneau_SC_29431_M52034-66121
- **Ernie Barwick's** brother passed away this afternoon at the Victory House.

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 constantly updated.

District Commander: Ed relayed that the Victory House Picnic last Tuesday was a success.

Membership: Membership is now 315 members.

Newsletter: We need a volunteer for this position.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA will be hosting an old fashioned Navy Breakfast June 12th.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers has Submariner Car decals.

Rec Committee: (Al Dempster, Mike Knaub and Elmer Feester) Al Dempster said Picnic is 7th May more info provided at the next meeting.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis informed us that the Miracles will be at the performing arts center May 7th at 1830 veterans have free admission.

KapSS for KidSS: Bill Kennedy reported on the success of the KapSS for KidSS visit.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that we finally found a place to hold the car show. It will be held on 1 Oct at the Publix parking lot on St James Avenue in Goose Creek.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf encouraged everyone to join the WWII vets at the Golden Corral 21st April.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar had no report.

Election Coordinator: Joe Lunn asked the secretary if he is running again and Mike Ciesielko said yes. He then asked Rick Sparger if he was running again for Vice Commander and he respectfully declined. Elections are next month.

Chief of the Boat: Patriots Point POC is Richard Cox.

Ray Sparks announced the NTPU Legacy Awards will be presented 22 April.

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team plays on the 23rd of April. The game starts at 9am at the College of Charleston ballfield at Patriot's Point.

Base Commander: We need help from the base. Volunteers for officer positions and flag folders.

Old Business: There was a discussion that we have a sign on Old Orangeburg road that states this road kept clean by Charleston base SUBVETS. The discussion was to either man working parties to keep

it clean or take the sign down. Rick Sparger made a motion to take the sign down and Ken Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mike Emerson volunteered to contact the Highway Department to get the sign taken down.

New Business: Joe Hayes brought up a discussion about a board function that was posted in the Board of directors meeting minutes. It was a heated discussion.

Good of the Order: Mike Ciesielko won the free year membership to the FRA.

The After Battery: No Report

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson reported:

NUCLEAR HISTORIAN 14 April 2016

As we all know Nuclear Power deals with "Science", and this is a science story.

A female instructor at Nuclear Power School, possibly a future submarine sailor was talking to her other half. With a seductive voice she asked her husband, "Have you ever seen Twenty Dollars all crumpled up?"

She gave him a sexy little smile, unbuttoned the top three buttons of her blouse and slowly reached down in her cleavage, crafted by a soft, silky, push up bra, and, pulled out a crumpled Twenty Dollar bill.

He took the crumpled Twenty Dollar bill from her and smiled approvingly.

She then asked, "Have you ever seen Fifty Dollars all crumpled up?"

"No I haven't," he said with an anxious tone in his voice.

She gave him another sexy little smile, unzipped her skirt, letting it drop to the floor and seductively reached into her panties and pulled out a crumpled Fifty Dollar bill.

He took the crumpled Fifty dollar bill and started breathing a little quicker with anticipation.

"Now," she said, "have you ever seen \$50,000 Dollars all crumpled up?"

"No way!" he said, becoming even more aroused and excited to which she replied:

"Go look in the garage."

The depth charge was won by Lee Young. He donated \$60.00 to the Scholarship fund

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the

meeting at 2024.

How to lock in your free Windows 10 upgrade and keep using your old Windows version

If you haven't upgrade to Windows 10 from Windows 7 (which will be supported for another 2 ½ years) or Windows 8. There is information on how to continue using your OS while maintaining the ability for a free upgrade to Windows 10.

The year-long free upgrade offer for Windows 10 ends on July 29. But what if you're not ready to upgrade yet? Here's how to claim your upgrade so it's available



The Cooks

We Spent The Night On A Nuclear Submarine. Awesome Sonar, Lousy Email.

Wilson Sayre & Sammy Mack, WLRN, May 3

You are always in someone's way on the nuclear submarine USS California.

People can only pass in the hall sideways. Head clearance isn't very generous, either. Most of the crew sleep in "racks" of three bunk beds that are hardly ever unoccupied. They call it "hot racking," where men on different shifts rotate through their precious sleep time.

But this submarine looks almost exactly the way subs do in the movies. (OK, minus the periscope, and it's all digitized now.) The control room is dimly lit from glowing screens; men huddle around a chart of the sea floor with their course mapped out.

This week a small flotilla of Navy vessels—including the USS California—is docked at Port Everglades for Fleet Week. Civilians can tour the boats while sailors get a bit of down time. One officer, on the way down from Port Canaveral, said Fleet Week gives the public a chance to see

at no cost when the time comes.

http://www.zdnet.com/article/how-to-lock-in-your-free-windows-10-upgrade-and-keep-using-your-old-windows-version/?tag=nl.e539&s_cid=e539&ttag=e539&ftag=TRE17cfd61

2016 Charleston Base – FRA Branch 269 Combined Picnic

The 2016 Picnic was held at the Cooper Rivers Partners Area at Bushy Park. We had about 110 attendees.



The Food

A good time was had by all!

the boats it owns.

Other than the fact that people walk around with mini-radiation detectors on their belts, one of the first things you notice about being on a nuclear submarine is how compact and deliberate everything is. The cramped hallways are lined with hoses and wires and knobs and buttons.

It looks like the inner workings of a factory, and in many ways it is one.

The USS California is a warship. It's a Virginia Class submarine, which means it contains a small nuclear plant that can power the ship indefinitely. No need to refuel.

Much of what the sub does is intelligence-gathering, and it's capable of launching missiles. Its biggest advantage compared to surface destroyers and aircraft carriers is its stealth. Boats on the water's surface have trouble detecting this kind of submarine.

The flip side: There are no portholes or periscope on the submarine when it's underwater. The crew can't see out, so they navigate with maps and sonar, using complex algorithms and years of experience to predict where the submarine is at any given moment.

When the ship resurfaced after one night of traveling south, it was a few yards off where the command had predicted. It's part of what makes a boat like this a bit scary and a bit miraculous at the same time.

Life on a ship like this is equally fascinating for newcomers. Here are a few snapshots of life on the USS California.

A Sub In Florida?

The USS California will soon be deployed at sea, a six-month secret mission to an undisclosed place. In the meantime the crew is constantly doing various types of training, which is presumably why the boat is heading to South Florida.

Say a submarine is setting out for a place like the Strait of Hormuz, in between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, one of the busiest stretches of water in the world. You've got to practice maneuvering and tracking; and with its shipping traffic, commercial fishermen and the occasional drunk party boat, South Florida is a great training ground.

Because these submarines have no eyes, they rely pretty heavily on their ears. Senior Chief Erik Gemaly has spent years listening to sonar.

Food

When the submarine dives however many hundreds of feet underwater, it leaves the crew cut off from the ebb and flow of life on land. You don't get to talk to family or get email. There's very little news or sports--the only TV is what people bring on board on DVDs. Even when the boat surfaces, the email system works at "AOL dial-up speed," one officer said.

So food is really important to keeping morale up and to building community around chow time.

Submarines like this are completely self-sufficient. The USS California has systems that can make everything it needs, including oxygen, drinking water and electrical power.

The only limiting factor is food, and Culinary Specialist Chief Joseph Appold is in charge of it.

"Our number one mission as culinary specialists is to sustain the ship out to sea as long as possible," said Appold. "So how we load food, how we order food, how we plan to serve that food contributes to the ship staying out for, say, 90 days versus 95 days."

The Navy sends those culinary hands to school, which gives them fundamentals on cooking and planning, but it's hardly the Cordon Bleu.

"Really what I operate on is pure unadulterated experience," says Appold. "Just the things that I've seen

New 30-Year Shipbuilding Plan Falls Short Of Navy Goal

The Navy's new 30-year shipbuilding plan projects a fleet of 292 ships in 2046 - a fleet that is short of the service's 308-ship goal, is down from the 305 ships projected last year

work on a submarine, what we can actually get in terms of the catalog [of] what we order from and then how that translates to the moving target called lunch and dinner."

Moving target because the mess hall isn't just used for eating. It is also host to trainings and briefings, so mealtimes move around a lot.

The catalog he mentioned is essentially a list of food you can get and it varies based on the port. Florida is known for offering an unusually large selection of fresh fruit, especially citrus. Buying coffee in particular ports is also key, in order to get the better tasting brands. Having ice cream on board—hard pack, not soft serve—is a particular priority for the commander.

On big deployments the boat can stock up to 120 days of food supplies. To pack in more, they line the floor in some places with cans that the crew walk on.

And, especially on a vessel with shifts running 24-hours, the coffee flows constantly.

As for the food, it's not exactly Zagat-rated. Bulk, frozen meat; lots of canned and dehydrated stuff. "There's no fresh stuff when we are out on deployment," Appold said. "Taking that and making that good without fresh ingredients, that's our challenge."

Laundry

Crew on board have very little space for their personal belongings—really just the three inches under their bed—so laundry day is very important. You get one shot a week or else it's dirty shirts and undies week until your next chance at the washer.

And wouldn't you know, the thing on a nuclear submarine the head electrician has to fix most often is the dryer.

"We're pretty proficient at tearing them down and putting them back together," said electrical division Chief John O'Donnell. "In fact it works out because my wife likes--it because I tear our washer and dryer apart and fix it at home as well."

Silence Is Golden

All over the submarine are little gold plaques that say, "Silence is Golden" in English, Russian, Arabic, Mandarin and Latin.

The Latin, *Silentium est Aureum*, is the ship's motto, playing on the boat's California namesake, the Golden State. But it also plays off the unofficial name of the submarine fleet, the silent service. Because sonar is the way submarines of any nation detect surrounding vessels, being quiet on board is part of the deal. Translating the motto into other languages reminds the crew that other nations - and potential foes - could be listening, even at these depths.

Austin Wright, Politico, May 6

and raises questions about the Obama administration's vision of a larger Navy.

The projected 292 ships would be a 20-ship increase

from today's battle-force fleet of 272. But the shipbuilding plan - obtained by POLITICO ahead of its planned delivery to Congress in the next few days - acknowledges that getting to that number would require "funding that exceeds levels the Navy has historically committed to new ship construction."

The size of the Navy has been an issue on the presidential campaign trail, both in 2012 - when President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney famously tangled over the issue during a debate - and in the current cycle, with several of the now-vanquished Republican contenders calling for big shipbuilding boosts.

This latest annual shipbuilding plan shows the impact of Defense Secretary Ash Carter's decision in December to order the Navy to cut its total planned purchases of Littoral Combat Ships from 52 to 40, saying the Navy was too focused on ship quantity and should instead invest more in ship lethality.

Carter has butted heads over the issue with Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who has defended the service's emphasis on quantity as key to providing "presence."

"That unrivaled advantage, that presence - on, above and beneath the seas - reassures our allies and deters our adversaries," Mabus said in a speech earlier this year, blasting politicians who've described the Navy as shrinking. "In the seven years following 2009, we will have contracted 84 ships, more than the last three Navy secretaries combined."

Under the new shipbuilding plan, the Navy would not shrink - as a number of prominent Republicans have charged - but it also wouldn't grow as much as projected just a year ago.

The plan projects the Navy getting to 300 battle-force ships in fiscal 2019 and peaking at 313 ships in fiscal 2025, achieving a milestone of reaching a 300-ship force. But the size of the fleet would then begin dropping, reaching 292 ships by 2046, the result of aging ships being decommissioned and fewer LCSs than previously envisioned to replace them.

Navy to Deploy Submarine-Launched

Drones

Sandra I. Erwin, National Defense, May 16

The Navy is moving ahead with plans to deploy small drones from submarines and undersea robotic vehicles, further advancing the military's push toward autonomous weapons systems.

Underwater-launched drones have been tested for at least a decade by the Navy and U.S. Special Operations Command. After experimenting with several vehicles, the Navy selected the "Blackwing" miniature tube-launched unmanned aircraft and will begin deploying them from manned submarines and from underwater robots, Blackwing manufacturer AeroVironment announced May 16.

The drone can be launched from fully submerged undersea platforms, including attack and guided missile submarines, and unmanned underwater vehicles.

The Blackwing is an offshoot of the company's Switchblade miniature kamikaze missile that AeroVironment has produced for U.S. ground forces. The California-based company developed the Blackwing under a 2013 Navy and U.S.

Under last year's plan, the Navy would have peaked at 321 ships in fiscal 2028 and then declined to 305 ships in 2045.

The report, however, notes the Navy faces a number of challenges getting to even the reduced total, including how to pay for a new fleet of Ohio-class replacement ballistic missile submarines. The service's answer: more money.

The Navy "contends that the only way to effectively overcome these challenges while supporting the defense strategy is with increases in [Navy] topline funding," the report says.

Navy advocates in Congress have been pressing for a military-wide fund, separate from the Navy's normal shipbuilding account, to pay for the new ballistic-missile submarines - a plan opposed by some senior appropriators because it would effectively force the Army and the Air Force to subsidize a shipbuilding program.

Ultimately, according to the report, the Navy will be able to carry out all its highest-priority missions even with the reduced number of ships. The Navy, the report says, "can and will achieve the requisite mix of ships providing this shipbuilding plan continues to receive stable and sufficient funding over the long haul."

A Navy official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said long-term shipbuilding projections should be taken with a grain of salt given all the things that could change between now and 2046.

"Most 30-year shipbuilding plans are not worth much beyond three to five years," the official said, explaining that the Navy was doing a new force structure assessment this year to update the previous one from 2014. And that could have a big impact on its long-term shipbuilding goals.

Also, the official noted, a new presidential administration next year could decide it wants to change the current shipbuilding trajectory.

SOCOM sponsored technology demonstration called "advanced weapons enhanced by submarine UAS against mobile targets."

The demonstration was completed in September 2015 with a "strong recommendation to transition the capability into the fleet," AeroVironment said in a news release at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space exposition at National Harbor, Maryland.

Weapons like the Blackwing — autonomous systems that can provide "eyes and ears" to the fleet and also can be used in killer roles — are viewed as central to the Pentagon's broad strategy to fight wars in highly defended waters and coastal areas. The thinking is that U.S. adversaries increasingly are developing "anti-access area denial" weapons that would limit the U.S. military's freedom of movement, its ability to identify distant targets and prevent it from gaining air, space and maritime superiority. Of special concern to the Pentagon are China anti-access, area denial weapons designed to disrupt U.S. forces in Asia Pacific.

The Blackwing is small but comes with advanced electronics typically found in much larger missiles — electro-optical and infrared sensors, selective availability anti-spoofing module GPS and a secure digital data link. The Navy has requested funds in its fiscal year 2017 budget to buy 150 Blackwings.

“In addition to operating from undersea vehicles, Blackwing can also be integrated with and deployed from a wide variety of surface vessels and mobile ground vehicles to provide rapid response reconnaissance capabilities,” said Kirk Flittie, AeroVironment vice president and general manager of unmanned aircraft systems.

The Navy’s decision to acquire the Blackwing is a big win for AeroVironment, a company that has become known for its miniaturized drones. For years it has supplied small UAVs such as the Raven, the Wasp, the Puma and the Switchblade to U.S. infantry units. They all operate with a common ground control system. The company said it has delivered thousands of new and replacement small unmanned air vehicles to the United States and to more than 30 foreign governments.

The Switchblade is battery powered, equipped to carry surveillance cameras and also small warheads. It folds its wings back and slams into a target like a missile. After finding a target, Switchblade can be guided in to strike it. It detonates a small explosive charge on impact.

“Infantrymen can take it out of a backpack, put it in the tube and use it as a weapon immediately,” an AeroVironment spokesperson told National Defense in 2010. Switchblade was launched from U.S. Navy submarines tubes during Trident Warrior 2010. In another test last year, the Switchblade was launched from a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey.

Financial commentator Rich Smith reported that in just 10 years as a publicly traded company, AeroVironment has sold more than 25,000 drones to military and other customers, and 1,500 of those drones are Switchblades.

This is an abbreviated Newsletter put out by the Base Commander because the Newsletter Editor position is vacant.



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