

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 13 No. 4

April 2017

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: April 6 1800
 Membership: April 13 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Vice Com- mander	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	843.860.1155
Scholarship	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Storekeeper	Ron Chambers	843.821.2268
Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



Submarines Lose During the Month of April

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	April 3, 1943 – 7 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	April 8, 1945 – 9 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 84 souls
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	April 10, 1963 – sea trials	Lost with all hands – 129 souls
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	April 18, 1944 – 12 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 79 souls
370 Men Lost		

Table of Contents

From the Base Commander	2
From USSVI National	3
Charleston Base March Minutes	5
Submariners' Legacy Award Class 1701	9
Victory House Cookout	10
Holland Club Induction	10
Hog Roast in the Swamp	12
Submarine Birthday-USS Amberjack SS-219 Ceremony	13
Submarine Birthday Ball	14
Expanded Audiology Hours at VA	15
Advertisements	16

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, May 4	1800	FRA Branch 268, Goose Creek
Charleston Base & FRA Picnic	Saturday, May 6		CR Partners Picnic Area
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, May 11	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Victory House Visit	Tuesday, May 16	1000	VFW Ladson to carpool
Memorial Day Service	Monday, May 29	1100	Summerville Cemetery, Summerville

Other Events of Interest

FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

I am happy to report that two base members have stepped up to run for the positions in next month's election. Ralph Rohrssen has agreed to run for Base Commander and Gordon Williams has agreed to run for Treasurer.

April has been a very busy month as attested by the events in this newsletter.

Here is a message from Base Member Larry Rosselot about Space Shop Self-Storage he manages.

I want to give you \$100.00

ETCM(SS) Larry Rosselot has a special offer to all SubVet members which will reward you \$100.00 for a referral to Space Shop Self-Storage located at 208 Saint James Avenue, Goose Creek. This offer is for the month of May ONLY.

For more information, [click here](#) or call Larry direct at 843-813-9676

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published each month in the newsletter. If the message is of immediate interest to the membership it will be sent out by the Base Secretary.

SUBVET NEWS #2017-09: 2017 USSVI CONVENTION INFORMATION

Submitted by: Ray Wewers on 3/15/2017

Below is information for registering at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel and for the 2017 Convention

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

1. 2017 USSVI National Convention in Orlando, Fl

Rosen Shingle Creek is a 4-star hotel with tons of amenities, including:

- Rooms for \$105.00 per night
- Free parking for hotel guests
- Free valet parking for handicapped guests with handicap license/sticker
- \$2.00 beer and reduce price mixed drinks in the hospitality room
- 25% discount at various hotel restaurants for guests

Note: Hotel and Convention Registration can be done on line

- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
 - Click on the "Hotel Registration" or "Convention Registration"
2. Buying an ad in the convention magazine is a great way to promote their base and to support the convention
- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
 - Click on "Vendor Information" and "Magazine Ad Order Form"
3. Convention sponsorship is another way to support the convention
- Enter "<http://www.ussviconvention.org/2017/>"
 - Click on "Vendor Information" and "Sponsor Cover Letter" or "Sponsor Contribution Form"

Respectfully,

Russ Kraeger

2017 Convention Treasurer

(803) 439-3064

SUBVET NEWS #2017-11 Associate Membership

Submitted by: William C. Andrea on 4/3/2017

IMPORTANT! In order to regain War Veteran status for USSVI, we will no longer be accepting Associate members UNLESS they have been military members from any of the services, and they served during the specified war dates the IRS, which are: Dec 7, 1941 to Dec 31, 1946; June 27, 1950 to Jan 31, 1955; A 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975, or Aug 2, 1990 to present. This is a TEMPORARY moratorium until we qualify for War Veteran status again, which is: 90% of our membership must have served during those specified periods. We will then again open up membership for associates.

Until that time, donations or contributions made to USSVI will not be "tax deductible" for the donors, but any donations or contributions made to the USSVCF (USSVI Charitable Foundation) will be "tax deductible" for the donors.

Again, this is a TEMPORARY moratorium.

SUBVET NEWS #2017-12: REQUEST FOR AMERICAN SUBMARINER EDITOR BACKUP

Submitted by: Ray Wewers on 4/7/2017

The editor of the American Submariner needs a backup assistant that is proficient in the

use of Adobe InDesign 2017C software. You do not need to HAVE this software, USSVI will provide it to the individual chosen as assistant. But the successful candidate must be able to use this software to produce the magazine should the current editor need this help.

SUBVET NEWS #2017- 14 2017-14: 117TH SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY

Submitted by: National Officer on 4/11/2017

For all those who qualified in Submarines during the past 117 years I commend you and congratulate you on this, the 117th birthday of the United States Submarine Force.

JOHN MARKIEWICZ

USSVI NATIONAL COMMANDER

Here are the results of the Mid-term Business Meeting in Dallas. Some of these will effect Charleston Base.

We had both a USSVI meeting as well as a Charitable Foundation meeting. Some of the results are:

1) The Rust Insurance that USSVI has purchased the last couple of years was voted to be allowed to lapse this summer when it runs out. Reason is it really does not provide the coverage that most of us thought it did. Since an overwhelming amount of the bases meet at places that have their own insurance for whatever goes on there (i.e., VFW, American Legion, restaurants, etc.) it was felt that we are covered there. Regarding the coverage for a parade, the towing vehicle provides the minimum necessary insurance in most cases. You were not covered in the transport to and from the parade in the first place. Each state/parade has different requirements so if you are to participate in a parade, I suggest you check to make sure you are covered. A base can purchase a one-time insurance to cover a given parade if you find that it is necessary. As far as base outings, such as a picnic, I make the same suggestion to you. When talking District and/or Regional Conferences, I feel it is a cost of that meeting to have the appropriate insurance for that event. And remember, once you included liquor/beer, the game can changes on you. Just do a little homework to make sure you are not putting yourself into a bad position.

2) Base Ownership of titled or deeded property: The USSVI Ways and Means Committee will be looking into that and coming back at some point in the near future with a recommended way forward on that. The biggest issue here are floats and who they should be titled to. Since a base is not normally a "legal entity" there is a possibility that a base should not have a float/trailer titled in the base name. That would really mean it is titled to USSVI and the BOD really is not interested in dealing with those associated responsibilities. But before you get too excited about that, just wait and see what the committee comes back with.

3) Holland Club Funding. The NSVC will not put in the budget a given amount each year for all the Holland Club expenses (this does not include this year). That should eliminate the call each year for funds to be contributed. I know my base gives \$2/per year for each of our Holland Club members and we provide that in January each year. Now that does not mean you cannot contribute as in the past, just means it will not be necessary.

4) Conventions. Check the website for information regarding the convention this year. I know it is being continuously updated with good information, but I see not notice go out to the membership as such. Recently a tag was added for discount tickets to Disney World was put in there as an example. So check in there for any/all information you may need. I also recommend that you not wait until the last minute to make your reservations. 2018 Convention: will be a cruise. Now I find out we are not sure of a whole lot of information regarding it. And don't expect any until sometime this summer. Prices are just not available. Last word I had was it would be out of Fort Lauderdale (but that might change). Stay tuned on that one and once I get anything, I will get it out to you for planning purposes. But It is planned for the October 2018 timeframe. 2019 Convention. The Bod approved a convention in Austin, TX. Dates are 15 Aug – 20 Aug 2019. Room rates are \$119 (with a 15% tax, currently). They currently plan only two tours, one to the Alamo in San Antonio to the south, and one to Fredericksburg to the east. The rest will be up to you. The bases associated have done a good job on their homework and this looks to be a good one. As usual, there are some negatives , like transportation from the airport,. They are working on making it as best they can, but it just is not like some have been at other hotels. If you want to look it up, the hotel is the Renaissance Austin Hotel (www.renaissanceaustin.com). Convention 2020: the committee is looking at the Kansas City area, but we will see on that one.

5) War Veteran Status. We are around 137 members short as of sometime last week. As most know, the impact of not being considered a war veteran organization is that outside organizations/individuals cannot contribute tax deductible money to the base

(generally speaking). The best way to fix that problem is to get more war veterans to join. There are some strange percentages that we must maintain for both the organization to exist in general, and one for the war veteran status. For you folks, just recruit us a few war veterans at each base and we will be good.

6) Associate Membership. Along with the war veteran status, this type of member comes into play. Having associate members does not help us out unless that happen to be a war veteran. Consequently, the NJVC has placed a moratorium on new associates. If they are a relative (IAW C&B) then that is okay. If they are a war veteran themselves, that too is okay. Anything else will probably be denied for a while. There will be an article put in the American Submariner and a POC (USSVI Official Business) e-mail sent out on this shortly.

7) There will be a Base Handbook developed this year. I will be contacting the District Commanders and Base Commanders regarding this. But the plan is to have it on the street prior to the end of the year.

8) A new C&B for the organization is also in the works. The Parliamentarian has rewritten our C&B . First the BOD will review (and provide comments) and then will approve it. Then it will be put out to the organization for review. The new version will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in Orlando this summer. Now don't get excited just yet. For the most part, it is still the same document. The wording was cleaned up mostly. I have no idea if there are any major changes in it, that is why I will sit down and not only review it, but compare it to the old one to make sure we don't have some major (unknown) change in it. We will see how that goes.

9) New Website. It should be completed within the next month or so. Once that is done, the BOD will get a chance to play with it (kind of like a document review) and comment on areas that are of concern. Once that process is complete, then we may be implementing it. I say "may" because as any major change with software, it might have more corrections/additions to be made once it really gets looked at. There is some question as to how certain statistical data is calculated and things of that nature. But the reports are a little promising for a change. We will just have to wait and see. Once of the enhancements made will allow you to pay your National Dues online with a credit card. That can make is much easier for the membership. Base dues will still have to go to the base as that is just not a simple process aa one might expect. You will also be allowed to make contributions to the CF using your credit card on the website.

10) CF meeting. The CF is in the process of finally getting around to making that organization function a little tighter. By that I mean documentation is being developed to better guide the leadership and even membership as to what goes on there. Please remember, this part of our organization (even though it is really a separate organization) is a place where charitable functions go on, such as the scholarships we issue each year, assistance provided for our memorials, and assistance to members needing financial assistance, just to name a few. It depends on contributions for outside sources. Yes, it has a lot of money invested and the money earned on those investments is distributed throughout the various funds, but it can always use more contributions. One way is for those that shop on Amazon is to use Amazon Smile instead and designate the USSV-CF as the one for them to contribute to. This does not cost you anything and yet the CF can gain funds. Nothing really changes for you. Check it out. If you need more help on that, just let me know. And if you just want to contribute directly to the CF, send your check to the National Office, made out to USSV-CF and note on the check (and maybe even a note in the envelope as well) which fund you want your money to go to. This is us taking care of us.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes 13 April 2017

The attendance for the April 2017 meeting was 76 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. 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 April was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Mike Knaub. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

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

- RMCM/SS Leonard Chilton Qualified on USS Darter SS-576, in 1967
- ENCS/SS James Flannery Qualified on USS Carbonero SS-337, in 1957
- LCDR Robert Kirtley Qualified on USS Sealion SS315, in 1967
- QM2/SS Ron Kozlowski Qualified on USS Picuda SS-382, in 1967
- RMC/SS Gorden Smith Qualified on USS Lewis and Clark SSBN-644, in 1967

- MMCM/SS Edward Stank Qualified on USS Shark SSN-591, in 1967
- LCDR Richard Walsh Qualified in USS James Madison SSBN-627, in 1967

Following the presentations photographs were taken to be posted on the base website www.ussvicb.org. These photos are now posted at http://www.ussvicb.org/activity-pics/170413_CB_HC/index.html. The guests were thanked for attending and then asked to leave so that a short business meeting could be held.

After the guest left the meeting continued.

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. Rick Sparger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Walt Deal.

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: Mike Knaub had nothing to report.

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

**Master Chief Electronics Technician, Submarines, Phillip E. Euper
United States Navy Retired
Shipmate Departed on Patrol – April 2, 2017**

April Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS PICKEREL SS-177 was lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men, while on her 7th war patrol. Pickerel departed Pearl Harbor, HI, and after topping off with fuel at Midway Island on 22 March, headed for the Eastern Coast of Northern Honshu and was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.

****Interesting Submarine History on this date, April 13th:**

1942 | USS Triton (SS 201) departed for the East China Sea on her 3rd war patrol, under the command of C.C. Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick received the Navy Cross for Tritons successful war patrol.

1964 | USS Triton (SSN 586) became the flagship for the Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet.

- **ETCM(SS) Phillip E. Euper USN Ret.** Departed on Eternal Patrol on April 2nd. His memorial service was held Friday, April 7th at 1100 at the McAlister-Smith Funeral Home Chapel Goose Creek. FRA and Charleston Base participated.
- Phil had contacted me via email on March 20th that he was in the hospital in ICU and no visitors. He contacted me via email again on March 26th via email that he was being treated and feeling better. Still in ICU with no visitors. He passed on April 2nd. I was never able to go see him due to no visitors.
- Shipmates, I say again. Phil had not completed a page 2 so his passing caused some minor confusion for the family. When I called to offer condolence and see it Toni wanted a bell tolling she said yes they wanted the two bell. (discuss)
- **LT (SS) John C. Fletcher, USN Ret.,** departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, April 6th. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Connie Roup** passed away Sunday, April 2nd. I am not aware of any arrangements at this time. The newspaper notice said that arrangements were being handled by Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation and Burial Services of North Charleston.
- **Lee Young** had successful cancer surgery but has been in and out of the hospital a couple of times since the last meeting. He is home now after being treated for infection.
- **Tom Skorepa** had successful lung surgery and is doing well. He reports no cancer. No TB. Will continue to monitor as determined by lung specialist. The prayers of all and the will of God has been heard and felt. Thanks to all who placed their love and hands on me.
- **Don Petersen** has been diagnosed with throat cancer and is having both chemo and radiation treatments.
- **Andrew Meadows**, Don's son, is scheduled to have a transplant on March 4th. Donnie's testing is complete and he is cleared to donate. Andrew must remain at Walter Reed for 2 months and a family member has to be there to ensure med compliance.
- **Rick Sparger** had successful back surgery and is doing much better.
- **Barbara Lynn Curtis**, Ken and Barbara's daughter-in-law, was in the ICU at MUSC for several days - following a kidney and pancreas transplant. She had been on the transplant list for several years. She is now home and doing ex-

tremely well. Blood sugar is in the green band and her kidney is working very well.

- **Lorraine Curtis**, Walt & Maureen's daughter, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and began chemo in early March.

Charlotte Loveday, Jim's wife, has hospice care assisting her.

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:

- Currently there are 6 ads on the Web site. I would like to encourage anyone that has a business to consider advertising through the base website and newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 for 12 months. If you would like to know more please see me or the Base Commander.

- Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

District Commander: Ed relayed that the Southeast Regional Convention was cancelled due to lack of attendance. National has decided that The Holland Club will no longer be funded as of next year.

Ed informed us that next year's National convention will be a cruise out of Orlando.

The new National Website is under development.

We are looking for a new regional Commander.

Ed gave thanks to Mike Emerson, Mike Welch, Charlie and Pam Hudson for the wonderful help they gave to the Victory House Picnic.

Membership: Membership is now 302 members.

Newsletter: Is alive and well.

Rec Committee: Rick Sparger Picnic is 6th May We need volunteers to help.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf encouraged everyone to join the WWII vets at the Fleet Reserve 27th April. George thanked the WWII vets for attending the Amberjack Ceremony.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that the Applications need to be turned in by Saturday.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA will be hosting an old fashioned Navy Breakfast June 11th.

The AED defibrillator is in the Fleet reserve and training will be held.

The FRA will be holding a USS Hobson memorial service 23 April. White Point Gardens Downtown

The FRA is holding a yard sale 0800-1200 April 29th. They will hold a bake sale and selling hot dogs

Election Coordinator : Joe Lunn reported that Ralph Rhorsen will be running for Base Commander and Gordon Williams will be running for Treasurer.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers has Chief patches for 7 dollars each.

Veterans Affairs: No Report

Kaps for Kids: No Report

CRAMA: No Report

Chief of the Boat: The COB gave thanks to the Awesome Amberjack ceremony.

Base Commander: Rick Wise is our new Public Affairs Officer.

The Little David Working Parties will be the 28th and 29th of April.

Walt Curtis won the depth charge last week and donated 70.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

There was a donation of \$50.00 from W.M. Lindler, son of Quartermaster W.M. Lindler. It goes to the Scholarship fund.

Andrew Meadows is scheduled for the Transplant surgery on May 4th.

The Sub Ball is April 22nd.

Old Business: None

New Business: Sub Ball tickets Rick Wise \$30.00 for one ticket.

Mike Ciesielko \$40.00 for two tickets, Mike Welch \$20.00 for one ticket, Ed Stank \$40.00 for two tickets.

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: We have a week-long event of the Annual Hog Roast this Sunday until Saturday

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank Reported:

The Chief and the Pope In Heaven

The Pope dies unexpectedly and finds himself at the gates of Heaven at 0300. He knocks on the gate and a very sleepy eyed watch opens the gate and asks, wadda you want. I'm the recently deceased Pope and have done 63 years of Godly works and thought I should check in here. The Heaven's Gate Guardian Angel checks his clipboard and says, I haven't got any orders for you here, just bring your stuff in and we'll sort this out in the morning Off they go to an old WWII barracks, 3rd floor, open bay. All the bottom racks are taken and all empty lockers have no doors. The Pope stows his gear under a rack and climbs into an upper bunk. The next morning he awakens to sounds of cheering and clapping. He goes to the window and sees a shiny Cadillac convertible coming down from the golden headquarters building on the hill. The sidewalks are lined with Angels cheering and throwing confetti. In the back seat of the convertible is a Navy Chief, ESWS pin shining on his chest, a cigar in his mouth, a can of beer in one hand and his other arm around a beautiful blonde Angel. This upsets the Pope greatly and he runs downstairs to Heavens Gate and says to the Guardian Angel, Hey, explain this to me, here I am, the recently deceased Pope, and I have spent 63 years doing Godly deeds on Earth and am here in open bay barracks, and I see this Chief that I know has committed every sin known to man, staying in the mansion on the hill and getting a hero's welcome. How can this be. The Guardian Angel calmly looks up and says, We get a Pope up here every 20 or 30 years, but this is the first Chief we've ever had.

Fifty-one years ago today, on the morning of 10 April 1963, USS THRESHER (SSN-593), less than two years old and the lead boat in a new class of nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarines, began deep-diving tests about 200 miles to the east of Cape Cod, MA. The submarine-rescue ship USS SKYLARK (ASR-20) stood by overhead. At 0903 SKYLARK received a garbled transmission over the underwater telephone: THRESHER reported "Experiencing minor difficulties. ...Have positive up angle...attempting to blow." But THRESHER and the 129 men she carried—including 17 civilians—never returned to the surface.

The remains of the sub, broken up into six major sections, were eventually found scattered over a large area in more than eight thousand feet of water. After a thorough examination of photographs, objects recovered from the bottom, and records of the sub's construction and maintenance, a Court of Inquiry concluded that THRESHER's troubles likely began with the joints in her saltwater piping system, many of which had been brazed rather than welded. (Welding involves the heating to melting and direct joining of two pieces of metal, whereas brazing uses another material, one that melts at a lower temperature, to "glue" two pieces of metal together. In THRESHER's case, a silver alloy was used as "glue.") It has been theorized that at least one of those joints failed, permitting seawater to leak into the boat and short out an electrical panel which in turn triggered a scram, or shutdown, of the reactor. Without a means of propulsion, THRESHER, gaining weight as water flooded in through the failed joint, began to sink. THRESHER's crew then tried to blow their main ballast tanks to propel the boat to the surface. They may have been hampered in their efforts by moisture freezing in strainers installed in high-pressure air-reducing valves in the blow system. Without that air there was no way to clear the water from the ballast tanks; without the reactor there was no way to fight the weight of the water and drive the boat to the surface.

Onboard SKYLARK, there was initially little cause for alarm. The two vessels met up at 0635 and THRESHER indicated that she was beginning her deep-dive test at 0747. As planned, the boat checked in with SKYLARK every fifteen minutes. All was well until just after 0900 when THRESHER sent a muddled message: "Have positive up angle," LT (jg) James Watson, SKYLARK's navigator, recalls hearing. "Attempting to blow up [execute an emergency blow]." But transmissions over the underwater telephone were often difficult to understand and the C.O. did not sound panicked. SKYLARK cleared the sub to surface at 0914. There was no reply. A minute later SKYLARK asked the sub to report her course and position relative to the rescue ship. Again, silence. The C.O. then asked several times, "Are you in control?" Nothing came back until a few moments later when another garbled message came through. The SKYLARK crew could discern only two words: "test depth." Watson would later testify that he believed the word preceding those two was "exceeding."

"What then did you hear?" the questioner asked.

"We heard sounds that are familiar to me, from having seen ships blown up by torpedoes in World War II—the sound of a ship breaking up—like a compartment collapsing...a muted, dull thud," Watson replied. SKYLARK's sonar operators would liken the sound to that of "air rushing into an air tank." Nothing more was heard from THRESHER. SKYLARK's crew dropped several small grenades into the water starting at 1058; the sound of their explosions was supposed to indicate to the boat that the surface vessel had lost contact with her and wanted her to either check in via the telephone or surface. But she never called or came back up.

This first loss of a nuclear-powered submarine devastated the naval community, including Groton, CT, where the sub was home ported, and Portsmouth, NH, where she was built. The men who went down on THRESHER did not die in vain. The tragedy prompted the navy to reexamine deep-diving submarine design, institute a quality-assurance program known as SUBSAFE which "provides a maximum reasonable assurance of the integrity of submarine de-

sign, systems and materials via Design Review, Shipboard System Testing and Objective Quality Evidence (OQE) that all materials and components meet drawing and specification requirements.” Operating procedures for submarine reactors were changed to allow use of heat energy stored in plant components to provide propulsion while the reactor plant was restarted following an emergency shutdown.

It is impossible to know how many lives have been saved by the changes that were made after THRESHER’s loss, just as it is impossible to know exactly what happened on board the boat that spring morning. But it is safe to say that submariners are safer now because of the sacrifice that was made by their shipmates half a century ago.

The FRA red ticket drawing was won by Al Dempster

The depth charge was won by Rick Wise. He donated \$100.00 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 2023.

Charleston Base Presents Submariners’ Legacy Awards to Nuclear Power School Class 1701

The Charleston Base Submariners’ Legacy Award fro NPS Class 1701 were presented to ENS Alexis Clark and MMN3 Daniel Ten eyck on March 31. Attending were Base Commander Rick Wise, Base Vice-Commander Mike Knaub, District Commander Ed Stank, and NPS Awards Coordinator Ray Sparks.



Second Annual Veterans Victory House Cook-Out

Under direction of Ed Stank several members of Charleston Base held a cookout at the Veterans Victory House in Walterboro on April 11. The menu included hamburgers , hot dogs, chicken, beans and the fixings. The members visited with the veterans there and presented Base Member Andrew Neal with his induction into the Holland Club.



Holland Club Induction

At the start of the April Charleston Base meeting the following members were inducted into the Holland Club. The Holland Club marks 50 years of being "Qualified in Submarines". A free buffet was provided for members and guests.



Leonard "Skip" Chilton



James D. Flannery



Robert B. Kirtley



Ron Kozlowski



Gordon Smith



Ed Stank



Richard Walsh



April 2017 Holland Club Inductees

The After Battery Hog Roast in the Swamp

The After Battery Hog Roast week ended with a feast on Saturday April 22. Well over 200 Submarine Veterans, families and guests attended. If you didn't go because you felt you would not be welcome then that's on you! To say a good time was had by all is an understatement!



From Tom Clark: **Hog Roast:**

For those who came, you know it was a great week and a great time on Saturday. Kudos and thank you to all those whose effort made this the great Submarine event that was. For fear we'll screw up or miss someone, we don't generally mention names – but John Paul Pardo and his crew did a most excellent job with putting on Friday night's Prime Rib and then roasting the hog and preparing Saturday's Hog Roast meal.

Thanks too to those who brought desserts for our meals throughout the week and on Saturday – we probably put on a few pounds enjoying your handiwork and choices.

Finally thanks to all those brought raffle baskets – we made a lot of money and for sure was an essential element of making this financially possible.

To those nearly countless people who “stepped up” and “pitched in” with all the other activities that made this a great Submariner event Thank You – This would not have worked with your efforts. Again we avoid going to more specifics because we’d surely either have a plain CRS moment or just not even be aware of many of those who just saw something that needed to be done, did it and went on without drawing attention to themselves and continued their party - - - like most Submariners we know. It is an attitude, if you share it you are with us, if you don’t move on out and no one gives a shit.

Continue to - ***"Always Act Like a Submarine Sailor"***

Charleston Base Holds Combined Submarine Birthday and USS Amberjack SS-219 Remembrance Ceremony

On Saturday, April 8 at 1100 Charleston Base held the ceremony at the Cold War Submarine Memorial in Mt. Pleasant SC. Here is the coverage given by the Post and Courier:

As South Carolina pauses to remember its lost submarine, actions in Syria spur talk of renewed military strength

[By Caitlin Byrd cbyrd@postandcourier.com](mailto:cbyrd@postandcourier.com)

• Apr 8, 2017 Updated Apr 8, 2017

[\(0\)](#)

She was on her third and final war patrol, circling the waters near the Solomon Islands and staying ever watchful for the enemy.

During her service, the U.S. World War II submarine known as the Amberjack took down a ship with gunfire and, in a two-hour attack, destroyed a 5,000-ton freighter strapped with explosives.

But on Valentine’s Day 1943, her final radio transmission came over the airwaves: She had been forced down one day earlier by two destroyers of the Imperial Japanese Navy, but she had also taken an enemy aviator prisoner.

After that, she was never heard from again.

But the submarine was never forgotten.

During a dual ceremony Saturday morning at Patriots Point, about 50 people paid their respects to South Carolina's honored lost World War II boat and commemorated the 117th birthday of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service.

All told, 52 American submarines like the Amberjack, SS-219, were lost in WWII. According to military records, 72 men died aboard the sub.

Retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Charles Young, who served as the guest speaker of the event, discussed the importance of submarines in the military might of the United States.

Citing the recent missile strike ordered by President Donald Trump on Syria, Young said the need for a strong military is needed now more than ever. It was, Young reminded the audience, a U.S. Navy ship that fired 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Syrian military airfield Thursday night.

"What we don't want to do is go to war. How do we do that? We stay strong," Young said, urging the audience to tell their lawmakers to invest in submarines for their strength and concealment capabilities.

"If you give up stealth, you're no longer a submariner," he said. "We only let people know where we are when we want them to know where we are."

In the crowd Saturday was WWII veteran Stacy B. Power. Power, who lives in West Ashley, served in amphibious operations in the Pacific Theater. He would later join the U.S. Navy Submarine Service in 1950 and would stay in it for 20 years.

Staying a submariner, Power joked, was easy.

"The food was better and the pay was better," the 90-year-old said.

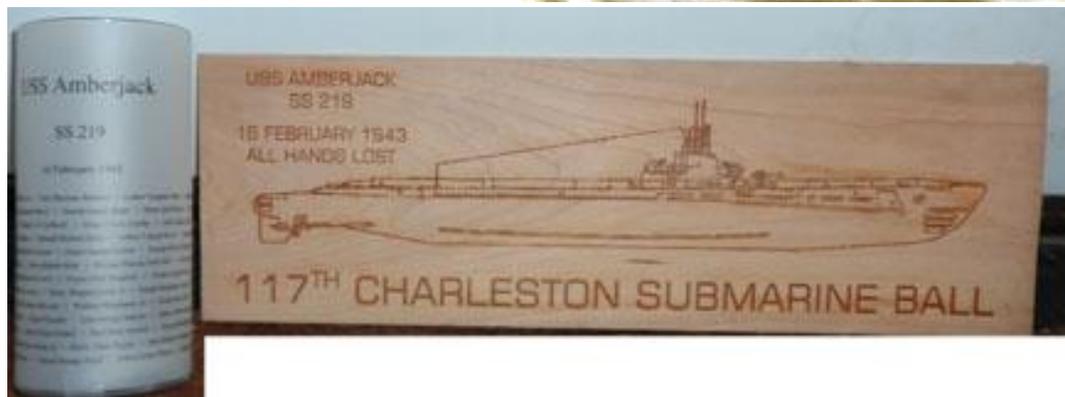
Taking a more serious tone, Power said he agreed with Young and would like to see more resources put into submarines.

"Nobody attacks a bully, you know," Power said. "We don't want to be a bully, but we want to be strong."

Reach Caitlin Byrd at 843-937-5590 and follow her on Twitter @MaryCaitlinByrd.

Members of Charleston Base Attend 117th Submarine Birthday Ball

Several members of Charleston Base as well as some members from Palmetto Base attended the event at the Trident Technical College on Saturday, April 22. We were warmly received and had a great time! Walt Curtis cut the cake as the oldest qualified Submariner.



We left with the USS Amberjack SS-219 decoration as well as a candle holder that lists the crew of of USS Amberjack on her 3rd patrol when she was lost. We will incorporate these into the ceremony next year.

Expanded audiology hours at Charleston VA



Charleston has recently added walk-in clinic hours for audiology diagnostics and hearing aid services.

By Lanelle W. Strawder

Monday, April 17, 2017

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent service-connected disabilities reported among returning Servicemembers. Years of exposure to high noise levels in combat, across work environments, and even during training activities have led to a considerable increase in the number of Veterans with hearing difficulties, especially among Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center has long offered audiology services to Veteran patients. The Audiology Department provides comprehensive hearing tests and balance studies, prescribes and repairs hearing aids, and performs Compensation & Pension hearing exams right here at the medical center. The Charleston VA is also the only VA facility in South Carolina that performs cochlear implant surgery and programming. However, in the last few years, Charleston VA has seen a steady increase in the number of audiology patients. To help meet the growing demand, Charleston VA has made a concerted effort to increase the number of audiology clinic hours being offered across the hospital and its outlying clinics. Chief of Audiology Dr. David Chin has been instrumental in this effort.

“This is something we’ve wanted to do for a long time,” Chin says of the increased hours. “We’re very excited to have gotten to the point where we could offer walk-in service.”

Earlier this year, the audiology clinic at the Charleston site began offering Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to the regular hours where audiologists see patients by appointment, Veterans can now get diagnostic audiology exams without an appointment during its new walk-in hours in Charleston, at the Myrtle Beach Specialty Care Annex and at the Savannah VA outpatient clinic. In Savannah and Myrtle Beach, Veterans without an appointment can also walk in for hearing aid repairs.

The new hours are listed below and on the [Audiology web page](#). There you can also find some Frequently Asked Questions about hearing loss and hearing aid maintenance.

Ralph H. Johnson VAMC

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (*New Saturday hours!*)

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

No Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours

Myrtle Beach VA Specialty Care Annex

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NEW! Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours, Tuesday and Thursday ONLY, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Savannah VA Outpatient Clinic

Regular Clinic Hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NEW! Diagnostic Walk-in Clinic, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NEW! Hearing Aid Walk-in Hours, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you are a Veteran who is concerned about your hearing and believe you are experience hearing loss associated with your military service, start by placing a formal claim with Compensation & Pension. Once the claim is processed, C&P will schedule a hearing examination for you if they feel a test is warranted.

**Certified GSA Container Inspector
Past President of SC Locksmith Association
2004 Locksmith of the Year**



Crackerjack Locksmith



Robert Temple
Journeyman Safe Cracker
Summerville, SC 29483

843-873-0767
H8SPVMT@GMAIL.COM

Robert Temple - Crackerjack Locksmith

Locked Out? Call Crackerjack!!! 843.873.0767



RT2BR Arms LLC

Firearms Transfers and Sales

Tom Clark
308 Mendenhall St
Summerville, SC 29483

Hours by Appointment
(843) 277-5309
Info@RT2BRArms.com
www.RT2BRArms.com

FIREARMS TRANSFERS

www.rt2brarms.com

Info@RT2BRArms.com Standard

Transfer Fee: \$20 USSVI Member \$15

SC CWP Holders: \$5 discount

MC SQUARED CABLES, LLC



MC SQUARED CABLES, LLC
MELISSA A. GORDON, CEO/OWNER
EDWOSB/EDVOSB/DAVOSB
101 KILKENNY AVE.
GOOSE CREEK, SC 29445
OFFICE: (843) 327-8967
FAX: (843) 569-1438

MC SQUARED Cables, LLC is an Economically Disadvantaged Woman/Veteran/Minority and Disabled Veteran-owned small business. We provide our customers with reliable cables that are physically and electrically appropriate for their applications, and conformant to the most demanding industrial requirements and military specifications. See [Flyer](http://www.ussvicb.org/business-discounts/MCSQUARED Business Description.pdf) at <http://www.ussvicb.org/business-discounts/MCSQUARED Business Description.pdf> for more information



Swamp Fox Utilities, LLC

Tim Curtis

Senior Estimator

Clearing * Grading * Water/Sewer *

Asphalt Paving

2080 Mendel Rivers Rd

PO Box 14

St. Stephen SC 29479

Phone: 843-567-3170

Fax: 843-567-6709

swampfoxutilities@cs.com



CHRIS CURTIS CONSTRUCTION LLC
NO JOB TO SMALL

CHRIS CURTIS
LICENSED AND BONDED

8539 LAKE MARION DR.
N. CHARLESTON SC, 29406
(843)514-0305

SCHB LICENSE# 20188
BEAGLE305@COMCAST.NET



Store Manager
Larry Rosselot ETCM(SS) Ret

208 Saint James Ave. Ste C, Goose Creek, SC 29445
Office: 843.633.3208 * 208@spaceshopselfstorage.com

Earn \$50.00 Each Time You Send Us a New Tenant

- * All Units Environmentally Controlled
- * Moving supplies (Unused returnable)
- * Access 7/24 from 0600 - 2200
- * 24-hour Security Surveillance

10% Military Discount
Warm Cookies & Coffee
Mon-Sat 0900-1800



The Space Shop Self Storage
Larry Rosselot, ETCM(SS) Ret.
208@SpaceShopSelfStorage.com