



**Vol. 15 No. 3**

**March 2019**

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: March 7, 1800  
 Membership: March 14, 1900

**Location:**

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



Acting Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordinator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			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 Lost During the Month of March

USS PERCH (SS-176)	3 March 1942	1st war patrol	59 POWs; 53 survived the war; 6 died as POW
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	5 March 1943	6th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 71 souls
USS H-1 (SS-28)	12 March 1920		grounding Loss of 4 souls
USS TRITON (SS-201)	15 March 1943	6th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS KETE (SS-369)	20 March 1945	2nd war patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS F-4 (SS-23)	25 March 1915		foundered Lost with all hands – 21 souls
USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)	26 March 1944	4th war patrol	Lost with 79 souls – 1 POW survived the war
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	26 March 1945	12th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls

**Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost**

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### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Base BOD Meeting	Thursday, April 4, 1800	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Base Meeting	Thursday, April 11, 1900	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
NPS Class 1901 Graduation	Friday, April 12, 0900	Carpool from NEX Parking Lot 0800
USS Amberjack/Submarine Birthday Services	Saturday, April 13, 1000	Sub Cold War Memorial, Mt. Pleasant

Information on all these events are on the base website [www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html](http://www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html)

### Other Happenings of Interest

Hog Roast in the Swamp	People will start arriving on April 7. feel free to come out every day. The Hog Roast will be on Saturday April 13.	
Submarine Birthday Ball	Saturday, April 13 1830-2230	Charleston Marriott, 170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston SC 29403

## From the Editor

On Saturday, March 17, I gave my new heart valve a test. While visiting Table Rock State Park near Pickens, SC I climbed Table Rock Mountain, a 3.5 mile trek. I guess it passed!



The two areas marked are the summit on the left and the overlook on the right.



Summit



Overlook

As promised this edition has the meeting minutes for both the February and March Base Meetings. Because of that it doesn't have a lot more since the minutes take up 8 pages.

A special thanks to Carl Chin for his input for the Scholarship Committee and the Humor page.

### **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. Messages are arranged in the order received

Nothing Received

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

As a reminder to all members who have children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces or nephews that qualify, the Charleston Base James B. Osborn Scholarship application deadline is fast approaching.

Deadline for submission is 19 April 2019. The application and scholarship requirements are on our web site, [ussvicb.org](http://ussvicb.org) If you have eligible high school seniors that desire to be considered, tell them to "get hot".

Carl Chinn, Chairman  
James B. Osborn Scholarship Committee  
Charleston Base, USSVI



## Be a Charleston Tourist For Cheap!


The Scholarship Committee is here to help! We are raffling a *“Be A Tourist In Charleston”* gift basket starting at the April meeting with drawing to be held at the end of the May meeting.

The basket will provide everything for the complete Charleston experience.

Basket includes:

- One night stay at the Embassy Suites Historic Charleston Hotel (the original Citadel)
  - ✓ Two room suite
  - ✓ Full breakfast
  - ✓ Complimentary cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres
  - ✓ Valet Parking
- \$50 gift card to Hyman’s Seafood restaurant for dinner or lunch
- \$25 gift card to Kaminsky’s Dessert Café
- Horse Carriage Tour for two with Palmetto Carriage Works
- Tour for two of the historic Aiken-Rhett house
- Bottle of Pippo Blue, Italian Prosecco

The **\$400.00 value** of this great raffle can be yours; tickets only \$1 each or 6 for \$5!

Take your sweetie for a romantic getaway!  *She doesn’t need to know you didn’t pay full price...*

Help with the continued support of our Admiral Osborn Scholarship fund by buying some tickets or even a few dozen!



Embassy Suites Historic Charleston

## **Navy: Lack of Submarine Parts Slowing Down Maintenance, New Construction**

*Megan Eckstein, USNI News, Mar. 26*

**CAPITOL HILL** – A competition for material between submarine construction and submarine maintenance is contributing to slowdowns in both, the Navy's acquisition chief told USNI News today.

The Navy has more submarine maintenance to conduct than its four public shipyards can accommodate. As a result, the service has been shifting maintenance availabilities of its older Los Angeles-class attack boats to General Dynamics Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding.

However, maintenance work at both yards has run long. Three boats in maintenance now are running behind schedule and are creating unbudgeted expenses for the Navy. The unforeseen cost overruns were included in the Navy's unfunded priorities list released this week to supplement the official Fiscal Year 2020 budget request.

At the same time, new-build Virginia-class submarines are struggling to meet their delivery dates. Modules are being moved between co-builders Newport News Shipbuilding and Electric Boat behind schedule due to a variety of issues.

One factor is late delivery of material and parts from the supply base, USNI News understands.

After a House Armed Services seapower and projection forces subcommittee hearing today that covered both delays in submarine maintenance and construction, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition James Geurts told USNI News that competition for material between construction and repairs is challenging the service. Asked about the root cause of delays of sub maintenance work at the private yards, Geurts told USNI News, "I think it's a combination of getting a skilled workforce up and operating, getting the planning available across both private and public yards to the level of detail needed, and then it is contending for material – because as we bring these maintenance availabilities in, you're contending for material that's also going to Virginia and now Columbia (ballistic missile submarine program). So we've got to look at it as a whole ecosystem, and that's what we're doing right now."

The Navy had previously framed sub maintenance work at private yards as a risk-reducer ahead of the top-priority Columbia SSBN program: the shipyards needed to build up their workforce ahead of the start of the first SSBN, and the public naval shipyards couldn't keep up with demand, so moving a couple LA-class subs to Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding would allow them to grow the workforce early and help reduce the maintenance backlog at the same time. Now, as is evident in last week's long-range ship maintenance plan, the service will struggle to keep up with submarine repair work even while leveraging both public and private yards – making SSN repairs at the two private yards not just a Columbia risk-reducer anymore but a pivotal part of keeping sub maintenance backlogs from getting out of control.

Geurts said during the hearing that sub maintenance is "something we're really working on hard."

"We've seen improvement on the public yard in terms of reducing idle time and buying back maintenance days. Right now we have three subs that are in idle time waiting to get in, Boise (SSN-764) is one of them. The challenge with Boise has been delays – we've had other submarines in private yard maintenance (that saw delays), and quite frankly we just can't get Boise in until we get the current submarines in the docks at Newport News out. That slipped Boise into 20 – we planned to do it this year, that slipped it into 20 – that occurred after the 20 budget was put together, that's why it showed up on the unfunded list."

USNI News previously reported Boise was set to enter maintenance at Newport News Shipbuilding as early as January 2019, but the sub is still unable to move from Naval Station Norfolk to nearby Newport News. Geurts said the Navy is focused on this "idle time," where ships are no longer certified to operate but cannot get started on their maintenance, and said his goal is to eliminate idle time by 2023.

"We're better than we were, but we're not where we need to be yet in terms of having ships with idle time, not certified, waiting to get into maintenance," he said during the hearing.

"At macro, we're not where we need to be; the number of ships that are in idle time has been going down, so we've got a plan to continue to drive that down," he told USNI News after the hearing.

"My goal is that we have no backlog whatsoever for Los Angeles-class submarines by 23: that will be a combination of continuing to get improved performance in the public yard and working with the private yards – it's taken them a little while to restart, get the workforce trained, and continue to work with them to improve their effectiveness."

On the submarine-building side, Geurts said during the hearing that "Virginia continues to be our most successful acquisition program" in the Navy, but he added that, after reducing the build time from 84 months to 66 months already, the service is struggling to further reduce that time as planned.

"Our goal is still to continue to shrink that span time, we've been a little bit challenged getting below that 66-month span time," he said.

Despite ongoing challenges to conducting submarine construction and maintenance on time, the Navy added a third submarine into its request for FY 2020 – something industry had previously asked for, before production schedules started to slip and supplier challenges became more widely talked about.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson previously told USNI News that the Navy had the biggest requirement gap in attack submarines – it has just 51 today compared to a requirement for 66 – and that that gap was the driver to add a third sub in 2020.

Geurts said at the hearing that the Navy determined that gap was worth adding in another submarine, but the third sub in 2020 would be handled a little differently than the others, if Congress chooses to fund it. The Navy already awarded a



an economic order quantity contract for advance procurement of materials for just 10 subs. The third 2020 boat would cost a little more, since the parts wouldn't be subject to the lower rate for buying in volume, and the Navy would pay for the sub entirely in FY 2020 instead of spreading out some advance procurement costs in the preceding year.

"The challenge for us is finding the right spot in the production cycle, and our sense right now, it will look about as a 2023 ship," Geurts said, noting another difference with this ship – that there would be a lag between the time the Navy buys it and the time the shipyards start working on it in earnest.

"The other thing that's important ... is keeping in mind Columbia coming along and making sure, as we look at it, by loading it now it gives us the most time to figure out how to use that efficiently as a risk-reduction element for Columbia, i.e. we can get some of the additional workforce trained up, get some more of the supplier base and get some of those supplier bills out of the way before Columbia gets here. So we're working to put all of those together. Our analysis last year wasn't mature enough to commit to [buying a third SSN]; this year we felt more comfortable, recognizing both the state of the program and the urgency of the requirement."

## **Vladimir Putin's so-called missile with unlimited range is too expensive for the Kremlin – and has yet to fly farther than 22 miles**

*Amanda Macias, CNBC.com, Mar. 22*

**WASHINGTON** -- Russian President Vladimir Putin bragged a year ago that his country had a new nuclear-powered missile with unlimited range. But the Kremlin will only produce a few of them because the weapon has yet to complete a successful test and is too expensive to develop, according to sources with direct knowledge of a U.S. intelligence report on the weapons program.

Russia's cruise missile Burevestnik, referred to as "Skyfall" in American intelligence reports, was tested once earlier this year. Prior to that, the weapon was tested four times between November and February in 2018, each resulting in a crash, according to sources who spoke to CNBC on the condition of anonymity.

The U.S. assessed that the longest test flight lasted just more than two minutes, with the missile flying 22 miles before losing control and crashing. The shortest test lasted four seconds and flew for five miles. The tests showed that the nuclear-powered heart of the cruise missile failed to initiate and, therefore, the weapon was unable to achieve the indefinite flight Putin had boasted about.

The weapon, which has been in development since the early 2000s, is believed to use a gasoline-powered engine for takeoff before switching to a nuclear-powered one for flight, sources explained.

One U.S. intelligence report assesses that the Burevestnik will not be combat-ready for another decade, despite Putin's claim that the "invincible" weapon has a proven capability.

Putin's push to develop weapons of this caliber has sparked concerns of a budding arms race among China, the U.S. and Russia.

What's more, the latest revelations come a little more than a year after the Russian leader touted his nation's growing hypersonic arsenal. Of the six new weapons Putin unveiled last March, CNBC learned that two of them, a hypersonic glide vehicle and air-launched cruise missile, will be ready for war by 2020.

The hypersonic glide vehicle, dubbed Avangard, is designed to sit atop an intercontinental ballistic missile. Once launched, it uses aerodynamic forces to sail on top of the atmosphere.

One U.S. intelligence report, according to a source, noted that the hypersonic glide vehicles were mounted to Russian-made SS-19 intercontinental ballistic missiles — and one test featured a mock warhead.

Previous intelligence reports, which were curated last spring, calculate that Avangard is likely to achieve initial operational capability by 2020, a significant step that would enable the Kremlin to surpass the U.S. and China in this regard. The hypersonic cruise missile dubbed "Kinzhal," which means "dagger" in Russian, has been tested at least three times and was mounted and launched 12 times from a Russian MiG-31 fighter jet.

Additionally, work is underway to mount the weapon on a strategic bomber.

On Thursday, CNBC reported that nearly 20 of these Russian missiles were recently moved to a military testing site, signaling another milestone for the Kremlin's hypersonic weapons program.

Currently, the United States does not have a defense against hypersonic weapons, which can travel at least five times the speed of sound, or about one mile per second.

# Humor

## Jest For Fun...

### Historic Investigation Conducted

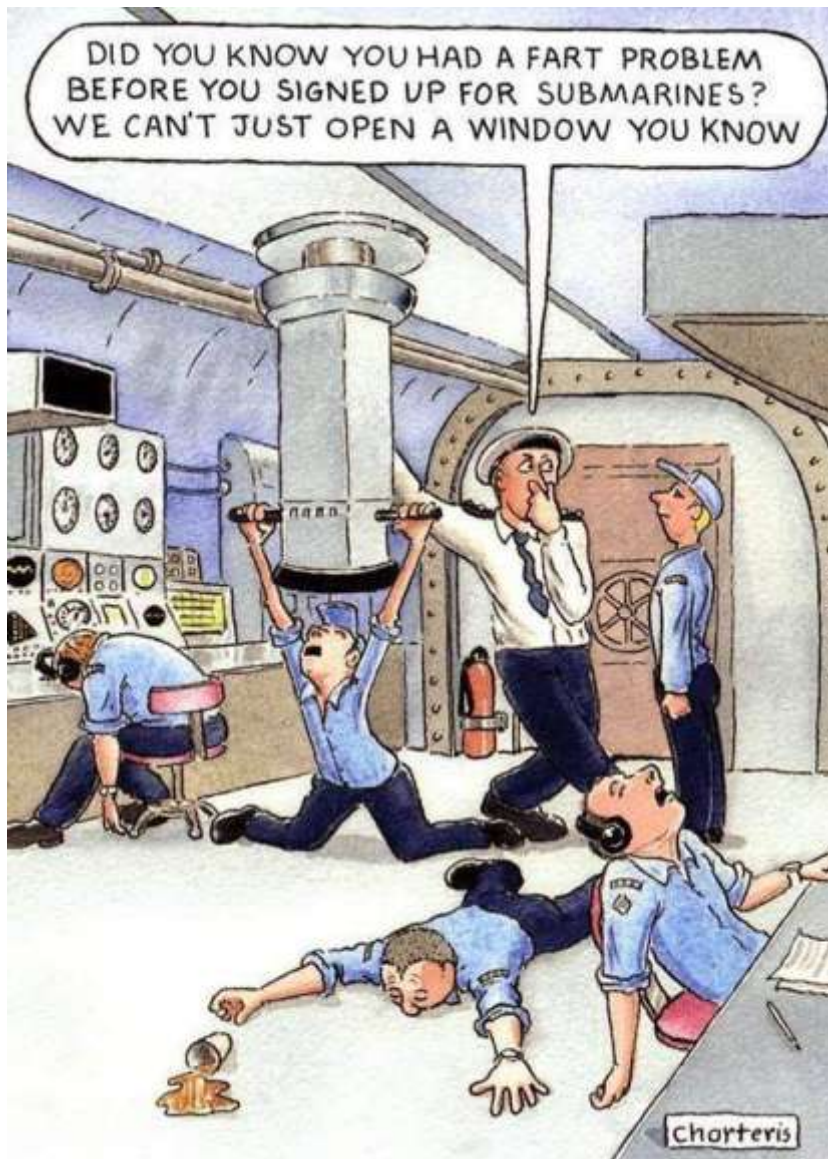
Yesterday, in a historic joint investigation by both DoD and VA, a decision has been reached to hold Submarine Veterans liable for a massive and record-breaking payback to both organizations.

Upon an intensive and careful review of both military records and personal history questionnaires, it has been determined that crews of submarines “never went anywhere and never did anything”. This has led authorities to an overwhelming revelation determining submarine crews received “free ocean cruises to exotic destinations, while dining on luxury foods including steak and lobster”, all at government expense.

To recover costs of these free cruises, the DoD is now requiring all Submarine Veterans to pay back associated ticket and accommodation ‘fees’ based on current market value for such luxury cruises.

The VA says that any and all submarine veteran claims of injury and disabilities while on such cruises will be considered to be of ‘personal injuries’ and therefore not related to military service.

Any disability compensation or pensions based on these non-service related claims will be immediately and retroactively nullified and ordered to be paid back by affected submarine veterans, by either lump-sum or established payment plans to be set up on an individual basis.



# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 14 February 2019

#### Opening Ceremonies:

The February 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 66 (2/14/19) members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander and recited by the members in attendance. The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of February was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Dean Hunt – ETR2 (NAVET) – Qualified on USS John C. Calhoun SSBN-630 in 1965

Mike Morris – MMC (A-gang) – Qualified on William H. Bates in 1973 – Also served aboard USS George Washington Carver SSBN-656 and USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN-655

Bobby Boley – RMC – Qualified on USS Lapon SSN-661 in 1969 – Plankowner

#### Old Business:

**Distinguished Submariner Award** – Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko reminded members about providing inputs for the award. So far, he has only received one nomination. Blank forms have been provided on the tables tonight. This award is normally presented in March but has been delayed until April. The form is also available on the Base website.

#### New Business:

**Flag Folding Class** – Jeff Brewer requested that a few men bring flags and join him as they hold a flag folding class for a Cub Scout troop on Monday night. This will be held at Ridge Baptist Church in Summerville. Please see him after the meeting.

**Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony** – Harry Nettles has a sign-up sheet for the Hunley/Housatonic ceremony. He has invited a local radio talk show host, a high school principal among others and would like a good showing at this event. Please be sure to wear the “Charleston Tuxedo” or your vest. Ed Stank noted that some SubVets from North Carolina and Augusta bases may be at the ceremony.

#### Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the USSVI Charleston Base January Business Meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no additions or deletions. The minutes were approved.

#### Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer’s Report for January have been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

The audit of the Base financial records was completed by Ken Hutchison and has been submitted to the National USSVI treasurer. The report was accepted at National.

#### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

##### Highlighted boat of the month:

USS TROUT SS-202 was lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.

In the interest of saving time in the meetings, beginning this month Nick will not be rehashing everything that’s been put out on the email binnacle list. Only new/recent information will be given along with a very short note on the emailed information.

**USSVI National Chaplain, Bill Dixon**, is doing much better after his heart attack.

**Jerry Stout** is here tonight. He informed me that he has been diagnosed with a rare form of aggressive skin cancer, Merkel Cell Carcinoma. It was found during the removal of a growth on his right knee. He’s currently scheduled for a wide local excision, Sentinel lymph node biopsy on 2/26/2019 (Day Surgery) at the VA with MUSC Oncology Doctor. Additional Immunotherapy, Radiation and/or Chemotherapy may be necessary after surgery.



**Jack Harden** is at home with hospice and home nursing.

**CC Cager** is here tonight. He had the skin graft on his ankle and, even though it didn't take, the surgery activated some wound self-healing. He has a rib that has not healed properly and is causing significant pain. Also a routing CAT scan was taken which showed a brain abnormality. He will be going in for a MRI in the near future.

**Ken Curtis'** last VA appointment showed that he is not having a pulmonary (breathing) problem but a cardio (blood oxygenation) problem. He'll be having further tests.

**Pat Davis** is doing well after surgery on both eyes.

**Jimmy Kimbrell** is home and doing better.

**Rich Alkire** is home with a health care nurse twice per week, also doing PT and speech therapy.

**Joe Lunn** is doing well after being in the hospital in January.

**Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned.

**Lee Young's** is home at The Crossings after a bronchitis problem sent him to the hospital.

**Art Hance** is here tonight. He is recovering from his surgery.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

I still need page 2s from a lot of you. I will be sending out the form via individual emails this month in hopes that I get some of them back.

#### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

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.

Lewis Leal is putting together a Social Media presence (Twitter/Instagram) for the Base. The app is currently under production. This takes time to assemble but we should see the results soon. These platforms are intended as a recruitment tool for younger Base members.

#### **Recreation – Ed Stank**

The Christmas Party will be held on December 7 at the Air Force Base Club, same location as last year. Everyone can appreciate the significance of that date.

Ed is trying to set up a River Dogs baseball game. He asked for a show of hands and received a satisfactory response as at least 25 are needed.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

USSVI Charleston Base membership we currently have 275 members. We are down 23 members because these have not yet renewed. Larry polled the men at the meeting concerning whether they are Life Members. A significant number in the room are Life Members.

#### **Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy**

The next Kaps for Kids trip will be February 19 – 10AM at McLeod Children's Hospital in Florence. See Bill for more information if you would like to go.

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

There is a new link on the Base website if you need to find out about your VA benefits. It took Tom less than 20 minutes.

#### **Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton**

This Saturday is the Valentines Party. \$20 per person and Elvis will be in the house.

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf**

Ed received a Thank You card from Walt Curtis' wife, letting everyone know how much she appreciated the attendance at his burial ceremony. Ed read the card aloud to the members.

We have Stacy Power with us tonight.

#### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

2019 Scholarship Application is on the Base website. Any Base member who has children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, please get the applications in soon. The deadline is April 19.

The raffle for a group of 76 Navy/USMC/USCG related DVDs will be held at the end of the March 14 Base meeting. The group covers WWII/Korea and other times.

There is a raffle for a Valentine Gift Bag which will happen at the end of the meeting tonight. Carl briefly mentioned the contents of the bag, which was quite extensive.

Carl also has new Base Challenge Coins available.

**NPS – Rick Wise**

Then next graduation at Nuclear Power School for Class 1806 is tomorrow. Leave from the Navy Exchange parking lot at 0800. Carpooling is necessary due to the availability of parking.

**Public Affairs – Rick Wise**

Rick requested that if any member has something that he would like published in the Base newsletter, please send it to him.

**CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

Butch has two law firms working to save the Clamagore.

CRAMA dues are \$20 per year. Butch has membership cards available. See him after the meeting.

**Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

Nothing to Report

**Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**

The next Charleston Base election will be held in May. The offices of Base Commander and Base Treasurer are up for election this year. Ken is asking all members to consider each of these roles and contact him at the end of the meeting, call, email etc. regarding willingness to take one of these positions. He would like more than one name on the ballot for each office.

**Special Events – Rick Sparger**

Nothing to Report

**COB – Joe Lunn**

Joe reminded everyone about the upcoming Oyster Roast on March 2 and polled the room for a number expected to be there. A show of hands was about 40 percent of the room. This event is to be fully catered.

A Chili Cook-Off will be held at the same time. The prize for the Cook-Off is still yet to be determined by Mike Knabb.

Joe said that appreciated all that prayed for him while he was laid up in the hospital.

COB has tickets available for the Oyster Roast, but would rather just take money at the door.

COB is assembling a Watch Quarter Station Bill for the Oyster Roast and needs watchstanders. Please contact COB after the meeting.

**Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko.**

Following the COB's report, Mike boasted about his chili-cooking ability [either to encourage or discourage participation – we are not sure]

Wayne Phillips – USSVI Regional Commander will be at the Hunley/Housatonic Memorial.

Mike informed the Base that Ralph Rohrsen has submitted his resignation as Base Commander. Mike, as Vice Commander, is now also Acting Base Commander until the election in May.

Mike reminded each of the members in the room to get one of the available Distinguished Submariner Award forms that are on the tables and to submit a name and explanation for why that member should get this year's award.

**Good of the Order**

**Next Meeting** – Nick Nichols let members know that we will have a guest at the next meeting. Steven Brock from DENIZONS OF THE DEEP will speak for only a couple of minutes and will sign books at the end of the meeting. His book "Bubbleheads: The Med Run" will be available for \$15 and Charleston Base gets half for the Scholarship Fund. He has also provided the Base a copy for the Scholarship Committee fund raising.

**After Battery – Ray Sparks**

The Annual Hog Roast will be in April. People start arriving on April 7, with breakfast and dinner being served daily. The actual roast will be on April 13. All are welcome. Food and drinks are free but donations are, of course, accepted. There will be several really nice raffles as outlined.

**Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

Mike talked about the most recent gun shoot. While he, Lewis Leal and Glenn Little had a good time, he would like to see more members next time.

### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

Wished a Happy Valentines Day to the Nukes and other “Non-Watchstanders” – “Sonargirls, Yeoman, Radiomen and Auxiliarypersons” [Having been numbered with this list – the Base Secretary disagrees with the assessment of Non-Watchstander]

For all of you non-news-watching people, our president has asked for a wall between the United States and Mexico. Many of you may not be aware of a citizen who asked to help with the wall and the logistics involved. He wants to have a veto government. Yes, he is an Italian-American. His contribution to the wall is that any illegal should be brought to the wall at the tallest point and thrown over the wall. The same holds true for Muslims, Democrats and ISIS members also. So instead of Make America Great Again – which it is already, the new 2020 campaign slogan will be, “Thrown him over the F-in Wall!”

Rick told a story of a female paratrooper that – due to content – will not be published. Anyone wishing to know further information will need to contact him personally.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

FRA Drawing – Rodney McKanna

Scholarship Valentines Package – Theron Irving

Depth Charge – Don Ort

### **Closing Ceremony**

Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction. Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 1954.

## **United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting 14 March 2019**

### **Opening Ceremonies:**

The March 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Acting Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 75 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.

The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko, who then welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

### **GUEST SPEAKER: Steven Brock - Denizens of the Deep Base**

Steven spoke briefly about his book *“Bubbleheads: The Med Run”*. He remained after the meeting to sign books and donated half of the price of each book back to the Base to be included in the Scholarship fund.

### **Introductions of New Attendees:**

Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Steven Brock – EM2 – Qualified on USS Lapon SSN-661 in 1982

CHARLES Spence – ICC – Qualified on USS Barbero SSG-317, in 1956 – Also served aboard USS George Washington SSBN-598, USS Nathan Hale SSBN-623, USS Nathaniel Green SSBN-656 and USS Tecumseh SSBN-628

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

See Recreation and Victory House below

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

The Minutes from the February Base meeting were completed too late in order to have been published in the Base Newsletter but were emailed to Base members (Thank you, Nick) and promulgated on the Base website. The February Base Minutes will be published the March Newsletter. There was one correction to the date when the USS TROUT was lost. There were no other additions or deletions to the February minutes. The minutes were approved.

There was a request from one member, Joe Hayes, about having the Minutes from the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting posted on the website. Gordon informed all members that the BOD Minutes do get published to the Base website, but the most recent BOD meeting Minutes may not be completed in time for posting prior to the Base meeting, as Joe requested.

**Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

The Treasurer's Report for February have been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Gordon summarized the expenses of the recent oyster roast. The net cost to the Base was \$315.69.

Gordon explained the updated format of the Treasurer's Report. Contained within the amount shown on the Base checking account balance are categories that are not accessible as discretionary funds: 1) The Scholarship Fund and 2) The Cold War Memorial Maintenance & Preservation Fund.

**Chaplain – Nick Nichols:****Highlighted boat of the month:**

USS KETE SS-369 was lost on March 20, 1945, with the loss of 87 officers and men at the end of her 2nd war patrol. While steaming eastward, she sent in a weather report from a position south of Colnett Strait. Scheduled to arrive Midway by 31 March, she was neither seen nor heard from again. Probably sunk near Okinawa by a Japanese submarine, that itself was subsequently lost.

**CDR Tom Conrey** departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, 2 March. His service was held on Saturday, 9 March with a few Charleston Base members attending. Charleston Base did not participate in the service.

**RMC(SS) Jack Harden** departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 19 February. His service was held on Friday, 22 February. A large number of Charleston Base members attended.

**Jimmy Legg** is back in the VA. He is having some problems with his breathing and also with his walking. Expects to be there 2-3 days as of Tuesday.

**Warren Alkire**, son of Richard and Nancy Alkire, passed away on March 10, after a battle with cancer. Warren's memorial service will be on Friday, 15 March, 1100-1200 at Simplicity Cremation and Burial Services, 281 Treeland Dr. Ladson SC 29456

**Ken Curtis** is home after being in VA for 11 days beginning the last week of February. He will be on antibiotics for a couple of weeks to help with the blood infection.

**Jerry Stout** had surgery for his cancer and is now home. He was with us tonight. The latest pathology report is not good. Cancer has attached to nearby lymph node in groin. He has completed his PET scan and it is clear. Surgery has been scheduled for 3.19.19 where they will remove all tissue/lymph nodes in the area. A 2-3 day hospital stay in the VA and a one month recovery. This is followed by immune therapy trial at MUSC. He thanks everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers.

**Moon Mullins** was called by Rick Sparger on Monday, 25 February. He is doing very well as we speak. With the operation he had in the front of his skull, he was having to return to MUSC weekly but now it has been extended to every 6 months.

**J.J. Fortier** had a complete hip replacement the last week in February and is now home. He has some pain and stiffness but otherwise doing well. Said he plans on making it to the Hog Roast.

**Rodney McKanna** has been declared clinically blind due to another detached retina. He cannot see email or text. If you want to contact him it is phone calls only. He promises to answer his phone.

**Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned. Nothing can be done at this point. Good to see him here tonight.

**Art Hance** has been diagnosed with stage 2 aggressive prostate cancer. He had surgery in January and is recovering well. He will be going in at a later date for blood work to check if all the cancer was removed.

**Don Peterson** had cataract surgery and is now blind in the left eye. It is a correctable condition but he has to wait until May for it to be done.

**Thom Beach** is here tonight. Good to see him.

There are several shipmates and family members who have provided information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Nick still need page 2s from a lot of Base Members.

**Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

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.

Thanked Steven Brock for being here for a book signing. His book is: "Bubblehead: The Med Run" which sells for \$15.00. Also, \$7.50 for each book sold tonight will be donated to the Base Scholarship Fund.

The 2019 Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday April 13 - 1830-2230. Guest Speaker is Admiral John M. Richardson, CNO. It will be at the Charleston Marriott, 170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston SC 29403. SUBVET tickets are \$35.00 each w/WWII Vets and guest being free. I'm hoping there will someone from the committee at the meeting.

Navy Week in Charleston is March 11-16. Check the website for more info on planned events.

## **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

Lewis gave an update about Twitter and Instagram. The purpose of these accounts are to promote new membership. If members have a picture or a link to post or have an event to promote, please send it to Lewis. His email address is on the Officers section of the Base website.

Nick Nichols also gave a status update about the Base Phone APP currently under development.

## **Recreation – Ed Stank**

Ed has contacted Charleston Riverdogs for a tentative date of Friday, May 10 for SubVets to attend. The cost will be \$16.50. This includes a \$7.00 food voucher. We will be in a covered area of the stadium. The name of our group will be on the bulletin board. He is not collecting money for tickets tonight but will be at the April Base meeting. Since the seats are guaranteed, the price will be nonrefundable.

Ed requested a decision from the Base members regarding the location for the 2019 Christmas party. After a brief discussion about the pros and cons of both the FRA and the AFB, the vote was taken by a show of hands. The 2019 Christmas party will be held at the Air Force Base.

## **Victory House – Ed Stank**

Ed stated that Victory House in Walterboro is under investigation and we had discontinued relationship with them. There is a provision in the Base By-Laws regarding Charleston Base providing donations to Victory House. Ed made a motion with Nick Nichols seconding to remove this provision from the Base By-Laws. In discussion, a member inquired if there were any Submarine Veterans still there. The answer was "Yes". Rick Sparger suggested that we support Patriot's Village in North Charleston. Ed will talk with the management of that organization. The motion to remove this provision was passed by unanimous vote. [Secretary's note: This business item was discussed at the February 7 BOD meeting. The following excerpt from that meeting is the pertinent information regarding action taken at that time.

Rick [Wise] talked about Charleston Base Standing Rule 6-14, being also read by Nick Nichols for clarification, which states that the Base shall provide annual donations equal to at least \$250 to Victory House for the use of the veterans. Rick said that money given cannot actually be guaranteed that it will be used for the veterans. Ed Stank, who had been going to the Victory House each month for the last several years, stated that no money has ever been given, but rather supplies of various kinds. Carl Chinn made a motion, with Ken Hutchison seconding that we should remove this Standing Rule 6-14. In discussion, it was noted that this change does not keep Charleston Base from making Victory House donations in the future, but removes the annual requirement to do so. The motion was passed by a vote of the Board. The Base membership shall be notified of this change.]

## **Membership – Larry Knutson**

USSVI Charleston Base membership currently has 274 members.

## **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson for Bill Kennedy**

Six Base members went to McLeod Hospital where they were able to visit with twelve children. The group also presented the hospital staff with a Certificate of Appreciation from Charleston Base. While Bill has intentions of making visits every two months, members of the staff said that the Kaps for Kids group can visit every two weeks. Bill is planning to make a visit to Greenville. When Bill called the hospital, he was informed that the hospital had been waiting for his call as they want Kaps for Kids to come back. Greenville though, is an overnight trip. They normally drive up the night before to be ready for a visit at 1000 the next morning.

## **VA – Tom Lawson**

In the latest issue of American Submariner, there was an article claiming that if you served in submarines during the 100 year period between 1900 and 2000, then you have been exposed to asbestos. You are recommended to see a pulmonologist.

## **Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton**

This Saturday March 16, the FRA will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. The menu includes Corned Beef and cabbage all day. Salty Dogz will be playing from 1900 to 2300.

## **Submarine Veterans of WWII – MIKE EMERSON FOR George Scharf**

We recognized Stacy Power with us this evening.

WWII Lunch will be at the FRA next Thursday, March 21.

A donation by Swamp Fox Chapter was recorded in Polaris magazine.



### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

Three donations to the Scholarship fund, totaling \$250, were received in memory of Jack Harden. Carl announced the name of each benefactor.

The Scholarship Application is on the Base website. Any eligible family members need to get their applications in. The deadline for receipt of forms is April 19.

New Base Challenge coins are available for \$12 each.

There are only three bolo ties left. They were on fire sale – they are now on napalm sale – they won't last.

The raffle for a group of 76 Navy/USMC/USCG related DVDs will be held at the end of the meeting tonight. The group covers WWII/Korea and other times.

Two books will be auctioned tonight: Steven Brock's "Bubblehead: The Med Run" – which he graciously donated for this purpose. The other one will be identified when it is time for the auction.

### **NPS – RAY SPARKS**

Then next graduation at Nuclear Power School will be April 12 for Class 1901.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

Tom Lufkin wrote a Letter to the Editor which was posted in the Post & Courier on Wednesday, March 6 regarding the Clamagore and Mac Burdette (Executive Director of Patriot's Point) making a trip to Columbia where spoke to the Finance Committee before Thanksgiving last year. He got \$2.5million added to his budget to reef the Clamagore. That money could instead, be used to fix the boat. Every USSVI member, especially those in SC need to call their representatives NOW because that \$2.5million is being sent to Florida and not being used in South Carolina. The big question in Tom Lufkin's letter is, "Why is the South Carolina taxpayer paying \$2.5million to bolster Florida's tourism?"

Butch is working two law firms. Both are in court on other cases.

Butch has talked with NUCOR Steel.

Butch is also talking with Detyens Shipyard to find out what it will take to put the Clamagore in drydock.

As soon as Butch has more information, he will pass it on the Base members.

### **Public Affairs – Rick Wise**

Maintenance on the Little David memorial – at this point – is expected to happen either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April. It is possible that the working party may be delayed until the latter part of April if weather restricted. When Rick sends out an email requesting help, please respond and help in this effort.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

Nothing to Report

### **Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**

At the May Base meeting, we will hold regular elections for both Base Commander and Treasurer. We need more men to step up and be willing to take these offices. There are currently two nominations for Treasurer and only one for Base Commander.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

Nothing to Report

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### **COB – Joe Lunn**

Joe thanked everyone for participation at the oyster roast. The group ate 14 bushels of oysters. He also thanked those who brought chili for the cook-off. There were only four entries for the competition.

Bill Roberts has brought in issues of The American Submariner dated from 1999 to present. There are only about 4 or 5 missing out of all these years. Certainly, someone here, especially if one is a new member, may interested in the articles and the history recorded here. They are at the storekeeper's table.

#### **Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko.**

In April, we have a lot of activity scheduled. At the Base meeting, we have the Holland Club induction ceremony. At that same meeting, we will also present the Distinguished Submariner Award. Saturday, April 13 will be especially busy with the Amberjack Ceremony in the morning followed by the Hog Roast at the After Battery during the day and the Submarine Birthday Ball that evening.

Mike addressed the Joe Hayes' earlier concern about the Minutes from the BOD meeting.

Joe Hayes questioned the presentation of the Treasurer's report on the Base website as only the most recent report is shown. Nick Nichols – Base Webmaster – stated that he has all of the reports and will send them to him if he would like. Mike thanked Joe for actually taking the time to look at the information being placed on the Base website. It is good to know that the work is appreciated.

#### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

The Annual Hog Roast will be starting on April 7, with breakfast and dinner being served daily. The actual roast will be on April 13. All are welcome. There will be several raffles also.

The After Batttery has a collection of "41 For Freedom" plaques but is short three of having a complete set: USS Patrick Henry SSBN-599, USS Abraham Lincoln SSBN-602 and USS Thomas Edison SSBN-610. If anyone has one of these that they could donate, please contact Ray.

The After Battery also has a model – built by EB – of the Ethan Allen SSBN-608 on display. FBM sailors will especially appreciate the work that Don Meadows put into completing the model.

#### **Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko**

Mike wants to schedule a Gun Shoot in both April and May. Rick Sparger requested that information be sent via email to the entire base; to which Mike agreed to do, in order that everyone will know what the date will be.

Mike normally meets at the FRA with whoever is going and then they caravan to the Twin Ponds range which opens at 9am. He prefers this location because it is managed by a rangemaster. Boggy Head is literally quite dangerous with the way it is operated.

#### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

Not here tonight

#### **Special Invitation – Theron Irving**

Jack Harden – recently on Eternal Patrol – had a large workshop; full of woodworking tools. Joyce is likely going to

move from the area. Please see Theron if you would like to see what is available and make a fair offer on any of these items.

#### **Drawings & Auctions**

FRA Drawing – Ken Lux

Scholarship DVD Package – Theron Irving

Scholarship Book Auction "*Bubbleheads: The Med Run*" – Gordon Williams

Scholarship Book Auction "*Poopy Suits and Cowboy Boots*" – Terry Trump

Depth Charge – Roger Gibson

#### **Closing Ceremony**

Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction. Acting Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 2009.

## **FOR SALE**

Charleston Base members who have items they wish to sell may send me the information for inclusion in the newsletter. Items will run for three issues or until I'm notified by the person submitting the ad that it is no longer needed.

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**Patrick Villegas**  
Loan Officer     *"Specializing in VA Loans and VA Refinances"*  
2000 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Ste. 2020, Charleston, SC 29407  
[Patrick@tabormortgage.com](mailto:Patrick@tabormortgage.com)  
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