



Vol. 16 No. 3

March 2020

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: March 5, 1800

Membership: March 12, 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
			Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Jerry Stout	843-568-5923
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordinator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843-270-8870
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



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)	1 2 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

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Information on all these events are on the base website www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html

From the Editor

I remember an old curse: ‘May you live in interesting times.’ Well I think we can say we are there.

I don’t know how long the current restrictions will last but if the experience in Wuhan Province in China is a good indicator the restrictions will probably be reduced in middle to late May. AS I look at the numbers that are posted each day (today being April 10) I don’t think we’ve started down from the peak or plateau which will be the point in time when we will be able to get the infection rate under control.

Our members represent the most at risk portion of the community, elderly with other medical conditions. But we also are a group that knows how to follow direction to reduce our risks.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR BROTHER SUBMARINERS! WE STAND READY TO HELP WHERE WE CAN.

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published on the Charleston Base Website www.ussvicb.org . If I see anything that should be brought to the notice of our non-computer members I will post it here.

Nothing Received

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting 12 March 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

The March 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 52 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

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

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

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

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Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

First Class Mess Specialist, Submarines, Stephen S. Morris, US Navy – Shipmate departed on Eternal Patrol – March 4, 2020

The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Greg McCallum – EM1 – Qualified on USS George Washington Carver SSBN656 – 1971 – Currently COB of Denizens of the Deep Base – QM, Savannah River VFW Post, Aiken – made note that Charleston Base sponsored his Base.

Old Business:

2020 Charleston Base Elections – Ken Hutchison

Nominations for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are scheduled for next month (April) with election in May.

New Business:

None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the February Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. A Base member noted a date error in the Lost Boat section of the Minutes. The correction was made and resubmitted for publication on the Base website. There were no other additions, changes or deletions to the February Base meeting minutes and were approved with the correction.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for February has been published and promulgated on the website. Due to the turmoil in the markets, the Base Investment Fund lost \$2007 as of this meeting date. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided. Treasurer reported that Charleston Base donated \$250 to the Submarine Birthday Ball.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

TULLIBEE was lost on March 26, 1944 with the loss of 79 officers and men, on her 4th war patrol. It's believed she was a victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. The lookout was the only survivor and he survived the war as a Japanese prisoner. There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

MS1(SS) Stephen S. Morris departed on March 4, 2020 at his home. Steve would have been 75 in June. He joined the Navy in 1963 and left in 1967, reentered the Navy in 1979 and left in 1987. Steve was a Life Member of USSVI National (2009) and Charleston Base (2009). He qualified on USS STURGEON SSN-637 in 1983 and also served on JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. Prior to entering the submarine service he served on USS INVESTIGATOR AGR-9, USS FLOYD COUNTY LST-762 and USS KITTYHAWK CV-63 in addition to serving at USAMPHIBASE SAN DIEGO and CHARLESTON NAVAL BASE.

On Friday, March 6, Walt Deal and Gary Williams conducted a welfare check on Steve. He was not at breakfast on Wednesday morning and after calling him without an answer, they went to his house and found him deceased in his bedroom. The Coroner reported natural causes. There will be no service. Walt notified the family and found out that no one was planning to come into town so he and Margie took responsibility and paid for Steve's cremation. As GW said in his email, Walt took care of everything, and he took care of Walt and Margie.

For all the Base members who live alone, it is important to have something available with your Next-of-Kin information. This could be papers left visible for someone to see. It could be left in your smartphone outside of the screen lock as an emergency contact.

A.C. Mitchum, Walt Deal's brother-in-law, passed away March 8 at his home. He was in the Navy during the Korean War. The funeral was today at 1400.

Don Ort has been diagnosed with pneumonia.

Steve Curry has been battling pneumonia for almost 4 weeks and spent two days in the hospital.

He is trying to get strength back and only working half days another week, hoping things will return to normal.

Darlene Graham, James' wife, is recovering from a stent procedure and is doing well.

John Furst has recovered from his bronchitis and is here tonight.

Ed Stank is recovering from his neck surgery early last month and is here tonight.

Ed Simokat is recovering from his broken back.

Stacy Power is recovering from his toe amputation but had another infection that is being treated.

Jim Loveday is recovering from his fall around Thanksgiving last year.

Don Londergan is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938. Don was at the February Base meeting.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Please complete your page 2 if you have not done so. [Secretary's Note: Nick has them in print form if needed, but they are available from the Base website at <http://ussvicb.org/documents/index.html>. Click on PDF or DOC file – your preference.]

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. If you are responsible for an event, please keep Nick updated on any changes, so that he can get the update onto the Base website.

Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.

2020 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the Marriott Downtown on Lockwood Blvd., same place as last year. Tickets for WW2 vets are always available at no cost, and tickets for SUBVETS & Spouse are \$35 each. The theme is will be the USS Clamagore SS-343. Tickets are now on sale. Challenge coins will be numbered by boat hull numbers with no more than two coins for each hull. Be sure to send Nick an email letting him know the numbers you want after buying your tickets. [Secretary's Note: The Submarine Birthday Ball in April has been cancelled due to virus concerns.]

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Scharf:

We recognized Stacy Power is here tonight.

We plan to start lunches with Stacy again soon and are looking for a location in West Ashley.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

If any Base member has something that needs to be promoted, please send it to Lewis.

Facebook – Instagram – LIKE IT / SHARE IT. If you don't know what that means, ask your grandkids.

Lewis said that the Scholarship Rummage sale is being promoted on the social media pages.

Nick Nichols pointed out that he had run into a young sailor at the mall who stated that he liked our Base Facebook page.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

Last month (February) the KAPS FOR KIDS team visited fifteen children at McLeod Hospital in Florence. Mike emphasized that they never see a sick child, but rather children and families that need to be cheered up. That is what they do during these visits.

Last month, Mike asked for contributions to get "Charleston Base" put on the hats that we are purchasing now. So far, just over \$400 has been donated for this and the cost will be about \$5.50 per hat.

Mike hopes to go to Florence again next month. They have been going every two months, but the nurses and the director have asked them to come more often. They are now planning a 6-week interval.

Base members are invited to make these trips. The usual plan is to meet at the hospital at 1000, visit the children's ward, and have lunch at about 1130. Most everyone is back in the Charleston area by 1500.

Any questions, please see Mike.

Our guest from Georgia reported that the hospitals there cancelled all Kaps for Kids visits until further notice.

Membership – Larry Knutson

Charleston Base currently has 276 members. Nothing else to report.

VA – Tom Lawson

Because of the virus, the VA Hospital has implemented new procedures regarding entry to the building. Everyone will be questioned about their health.

Scholarship – Marty Sessler for Carl Chinn

The Rummage Sale is set for Saturday, May 2 to benefit the Scholarship Fund. The location will be on Old Trolley Road in the parking lot of Rodney's Rockets. Global Storage nearby has donated a small storeroom for items to be staged. This includes small items placed in cardboard boxes. Please hold your larger bulky items (sofas, lawn mowers etc.) until the sale. Setup will begin at 0500. The sale will run from 0800 to 1300. At the end of the day, any remaining items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation truck and taken to their Thrift Store nearby. [Secretary's Note: The Rummage Sale has been postponed. Carl Chinn will advise when the new date has been determined.]

There is a raffle tonight called "Grits and Groceries" which includes a \$50 gift certificate from Harris Teeter.

The committee also has a \$30 gift certificate from Top Dawg Tavern located in the same shopping center as Harris Teeter on Dorchester Rd at Wescott Blvd.

The committee has Base Challenge coins for sale. There are a few bolo ties still available.

In addition, there will be a drawing for a one day pass from ATP Gun Shop at the end of the meeting tonight.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

Rick is attempting to enter our float in the parade at the Grits Festival in St. George on April 18. We need Base members to participate. [Secretary's Note: This event has been cancelled due to virus concerns.]

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Not Present

NPS – Ray Sparks

The next Nuclear Power School graduation is next week 20 March. Rick Wise will make the presentation

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

The FRA Annual Branch Picnic is planned for May 9. The expected location is at Short Stay. The cost will be \$5 each with a raffle at the end. Entertainment has yet to be determined. There will be prizes for those bringing desserts or side dishes. A flyer for the event is still being assembled.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

No Report

Newsletter – Rick Wise

No Report

Recreation – VACANT

No Report

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report.

COB – Joe Lunn

Received a call from Dave Del Duca of the Louisville Naval Museum regarding the USS Clamagore.

They are currently refurbishing the USS Ling which had been severely vandalized and flooded.

They are offering to refurbish the Clamagore as well. It will cost far less than the Ling. COB has provided the information to Butch. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko provided more details. The group is asking all Base members to sign a letter that they will provide in an effort to get the Clamagore from Patriots Point.

COB commented on the Charleston Base oyster roast which was held at the FRA.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

Be sure to do a good cleanup tonight of your tables.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

Mike reminded everyone that nominations for Secretary and Vice Commander are currently been accepted. If any base member would like to run for either position, to let Ken Hutchison know.

Good of the Order**After Battery – Ray Sparks**

Open every Wednesday.

The Hog Roast in the Swamp will be April 19-25, 2020. [Secretary's Note: This event has been cancelled due to virus concerns.]

Gun Shoot – Mike Ciesielko

Scheduled a shoot for Saturday, March 21. Meet at FRA at 0830, then drive to Twin Ponds Range.

If any of the retired Base members would like to organize a weekday shoot, Mike encouraged them to do so. He will provide information – including a map – about the location.

National Awards – Rick Sparger

Rick addressed the 2019 awards in The American Submariner. More than 50 awards were presented at the National Convention. Charleston Base did not receive any of these. We should get recognized for what we do. Rick will help to get the Base recognized, but he can't do it by himself. Don Ort was appointed as National Award Coordinator, but his health has not allowed him to be very active.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Not Present

Drawings & Auctions

FRA Drawing – Greg Landry

Scholarship Drawing – GRITS/GROCERIES – HARRIS TEETER – Ed Stank

Scholarship Drawing – TOP DAWG TAVERN – Dave Menefee

Depth Charge – Chuck Gravley

Closing Ceremony

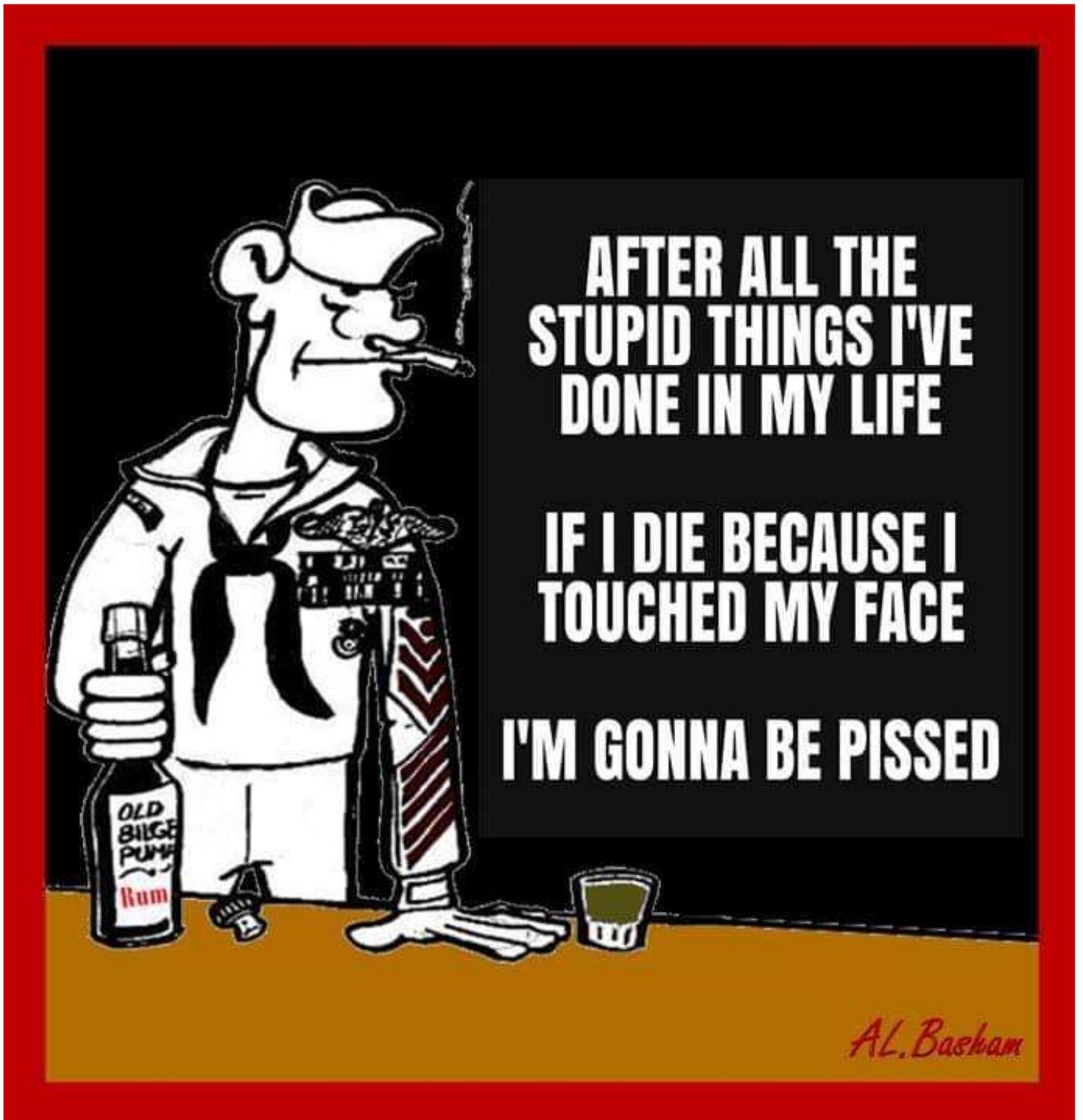
Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.

The meeting was closed at 2006.

HUMOR (and Boy! Do We Need it!)

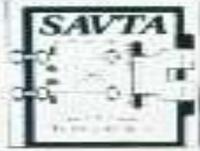
- Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
 - I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
 - I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
 - Still haven't decided where to go for Easter ----- The Living Room or The Bedroom?
 - PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
 - Home-schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
 - I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
 - This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog . . . we laughed a lot.
 - So, after this quarantine . . . will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?
 - Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
 - My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
 - Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
 - I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
 - I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to "Puerto Backyarda". I'm getting tired of "Los Living room".
 - Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year" . . . I'm offended.



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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