

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 16 No. 8

November 2020

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: November 5, 1800

Membership: November 12, 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.

Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn Rick Sparger (act)	843.747.5368 843.553.5594
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	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	Jerry Stout	843.568.5923
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freiligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870 social@ussvicb.org
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



Submarines Lose During the Month of November

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 – 11th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 – 12th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 – 8th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 – 1st War patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 – 9th War Patrol	Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs – 21 survived the war

Five Boats and 399 Men Lost

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Tuesday, Dec. 1	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Harleyville Christmas Parade	Thursday, Dec. 3	1700	Main St. Harleyville, SC
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, Dec. 10	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Goose Creek Christmas Parade	Saturday, Dec. 12	0800	Westfield Middle School, Goose Creek

From the Editor

After much thought I have decided that I can no longer serve a Newsletter Editor. I would like the December 2020 newsletter to be my last but have offered to do the January 2021, if necessary. I have been the Newsletter Editor since March of 2016 so its time for some new bold. With the medical situation I am experiencing and the fact that we will be taking care of our 2 year old great granddaughter from 7 am until 5 pm 4 days a week for the foreseeable future, I no longer have the time. It is not a difficult job and usually takes less than 6 to 8 hours a month. I will be sending out a plea to the base for someone to take over the position. If needed I can still print and mail out the newsletter.

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 to report

Charleston Base Challenge Coins

As always, remember the Scholarship Committee has challenge coins available for \$12 each. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.



SHOTGUN RAFFLE

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Fund

Scholarship is available to tri-county high school seniors with a relationship to a qualified submariner



- SYNTHETIC STOCK WITH IMPROVED ERGONOMICS, SMALLER PISTOL GRIP AND TEXTURED GRIPPING SURFACES give your hands a sure, non-slip grip. Full coverage Mossy Oak® Shadow Grass Blades camo finish
- BACK-BORED TECHNOLOGY provides optimum shot patterns that are dense and even
- INVECTOR-PLUS CHOKE TUBE SYSTEM offers consistent patterns to match your target situation
- HARD CHROME-PLATED CHAMBER AND BORE make these surfaces highly resistant to corrosion and wear from steel shot
- VENT RIB gives you a smooth, clean sighting plane
- TRUGLO® LONG BEAD™ FIBER-OPTIC FRONT SIGHT offers a true, precise sight picture
- ACTIVE VALVE GAS SYSTEM cycles a wide variety of loads while reducing "felt recoil"
- QUADRA-VENT™ PORTS vent excess gases for cleaner operation
- DROP-OUT TRIGGER GROUP allows for easy cleaning
- AMBIDEXTROUS CROSSBOLT SAFETY is easily reversible
- LARGER BOLT HANDLE AND BOLT RELEASE BUTTON are faster and easier to operate
- LENGTH OF PULL SPACERS allow stock adjustments to achieve a perfect fit
- INFLEX TECHNOLOGY RECOIL PAD directs "felt recoil" down and away from your cheek to reduce flinch and fatigue

Gauge 12

Chamber Length 3 1/2"

Barrel Length 26"

Overall Length 47"

Length of Pull 14 1/4"

Drop at Comb 1 3/4"

Drop at Heel 2"

Weight 7 lbs 0 oz

Magazine Capacity 4

Rib Width 1/4

Barrel Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Stock Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Chokes Included Full, Modified, Improved Cylinder Receiver Finish Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

Dura Touch Finish No

Chamber Finish Chrome Plated Chamber and Bore

Front Sight Fiber Optic

Choke System Invector-Plus Flush

Barrel Material Steel

Stock Material Composite

Recoil Pad Inflex 1, Small with Hard Heel Insert

Checkering Textured Grip Panels

Sling Swivel Studs Matte Blued

Receiver Material Aluminum Alloy

Trigger Finish Matte Black

Trigger Guard Finish Matte Black

Bolt Slide Finish Matte Blued

Magazine Type Tubular

Trigger Material Alloy

Trigger Guard Material Alloy

Trigger Guard Engraving None

Choke Wrench Included Flat Wrench

MSRP \$1,069.99

**Ticket price: \$10 each
Drawing to be held February 11, 2021**

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

12 November 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

☒ The November 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 31 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present.

☒ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.

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

☒ Submarines lost during the month of November:

- **USS ALBACORE (SS-218) November 7, 1944 – 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 85 souls**
- **USS GROWLER (SS-215) November 8, 1944 – 12th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 86 souls**
- **USS SCAMP (SS-277) November 16, 1944 – 8th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 83 souls**
- **USS CORVINA (SS-226) November 16, 1943 – 1st War patrol Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
- **USS SCULPIN (SS-191) November 19, 1943 – 9th War Patrol Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs – 21 survived the war**

- **Five Boats and 399 Men Lost**

☒ The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

☒ Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

☒ None present.

Old Business:

☒ NONE

New Business:

☒ NONE

Secretary – Gordon Long:

☒ The Minutes from the October Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:

☒ The Treasurer's Report for October has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved as provided.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

☒ Highlighted boat of the month:

☒ USS GROWLER was lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.

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

☒ **Jim Loveday's wife, Charlotte** sent an email thanking everyone at the Sub Vets for all their help for Jim's funeral and asked that it be passed along to everyone.

☒ **SCPO(SS) Robert J. McIntyre**, 68, departed on Eternal Patrol on Oct 25, 2020 in Goose Creek, SC. Bobby honorably retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy after 22 years of service in the submarine service. His final resting place will be a Navy burial at sea. He was not a member of USSVI.

☒ **Wayne Bohon, Bruce Bohon's brother**, is suffering from acute liver failure and is in hospice care.

☒ **Sonny Rash** was diagnosed with cancer in his left big toe and it was amputated on Monday. He is recovering at home and very bored. If you would like to give him a call to talk his number is 843.345.1430.

☒ **Rick Wise** is having some intestinal and bladder problems associated with the radiation exposure from the seeding. May last a few weeks up to a few months.

- ☒ **Dennis “Frenchy” Fuqua** is not doing well. About a month ago he was admitted to Trident with pneumonia. While he was being treated they discovered he has Lung Cancer. He is home now under Barbara’s care (843)797-3230. His treatment plan has not been completed as yet. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions
 - ☒ **James Graham** is recovering well from his September knee surgery. His wife, Darlene, has had some health issues.
 - ☒ **Gary Williams** had lengthy back surgery on 10 September. Charlie Hudson reported that he is doing well.
 - ☒ **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
 - ☒ **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
 - ☒ Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.
- 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.
 - ☒ Member pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
 - ☒ DAV Monthly Meeting Nov 14th @1000. At this month’s meeting we will be having a guest speaking about Tricare and Tricare for Life, how it works, who qualifies and how it interacts with Medicare.
- Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:**
- ☒ Stacy Power is not present tonight
 - ☒ Nothing to report
- Social Media – Lewis Leal:**
- ☒ We want to make the Base Meeting available via the internet.
 - ☒ There were some privacy concerns expressed about video of the meeting. These will be discussed at the Board meeting in December.
- Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**
- ☒ Not present.
 - ☒ [Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.]
- Membership – Larry Knutson**
- ☒ 277 Charleston Base Members – There are about 60 members who owe dues at this time.
- Public Affairs – Jerry Stout**
- ☒ Not present
- VA – Tom Lawson**
- ☒ Not present
- Scholarship – Carl Chinn**
- ☒ Challenge Coins are available.
 - ☒ The committee has a few submarine lighters that were donated – Bancroft, Polk and CSS-16. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.
 - ☒ The previous raffle for Top Dawg Tavern raised \$209 for the Scholarship Fund.
 - ☒ The Committee has a shotgun raffle. Carl had won this from the FRA and donated it to Charleston Base as a fund raiser for the Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$10.
 - ☒ The Rummage Sale will be held on November 14 from 0800 – 1300 at Halloween Express on Old Trolley Road near Dorchester Rd. Please bring all of your items early that morning. Carl will be there at 0500 to set up. Some items which would sell for more than they would at a rummage sale were sold on Craig’s List and Facebook Marketplace thanks to Carl’s wife setting that up. Those items have already garnered \$740. Help with traffic and security (making sure that items do not sprout legs and walk) is needed. As it turns out, the Kidney Foundation truck will not be picking up the unsold items, but the Thrift Store is only a block away.
 - ☒ Carl asked if someone could bring the float to the Rummage Sale for static display.
 - ☒ The Scholarship Committee received an anonymous donation of \$250. If the donor reads these minutes, THANK YOU!
- Special Events – Rick Sparger**

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks

The next NPS graduation is mid-December. Charleston Base is still not attending because of COVID restrictions.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger

The General Assembly meeting is coming up if anyone would like to attend.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick.

LITTLE DAVID – Rick Wise

Work on the Little David will wait until spring. Berkeley Museum has been informed.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

Rick will have the budget for next year submitted soon. It will be provided to the Board via email for vote and then to the Base in advance of the meeting in December.

Recreation – Bill Hayes

Not present

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report

COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)

We had a great picnic. The weather was just perfect. Those who were not present missed an excellent day together. We had some fabulous help. Mike cooked on the grill for us. Leo was in charge of the kitchen. Carl took care of the music using our new sound system. Ed collected the admission fees and money for the drawing. Rick apologized for anyone that he may have missed. Again – thank you for the help.

We have ordered more shadow boxes.

The Board meeting for December will be Tuesday 12/1 at 1800 instead of Thursday. The FRA has an activity on the evening of 12/3. **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

It is time for members to submit nominations for Distinguished Submariner Awards. Forms are available. Please fill one out for your recommendation.

Mike reminded everyone to clean up the tables before departure.

Good of the Order**Friends of the Hunley – Lindsay Nelson**

Last year the Base voted to support Friends of the Hunley. There is a time capsule display at the Hunley with plaque stating that the Hunley is supported by Charleston Base SubVets. Lindsay will be at the next Board meeting to discuss continuing support.

Living Christmas Story – Rodney McKanna

On December 10-12, the Living Christmas Story will be on display at Bethany UMC in Summerville. Drive through "Bethlehem" this year from 1830 - 2030 on Thursday/Friday and three hours on Saturday.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

Open every Wednesday

The Hog Roast is scheduled for April 11-17. Mark your calendars.

Gun Club

Lewis was the only one to join Mike Ciesielko at the Gun Shoot, but both of them had a great time. While ammunition is currently hard to get, Mike informed the group of a location where you can obtain one box of each caliber you want each week. See Mike for more info.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Not present

Drawings & Auctions

There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize based upon the sign-in sheet. The Base Treasurer would have won if he had had a Challenge Coin. He did not, so the prize will be held until next month.

Depth Charge – Ed Stank [The Treasurer pulled the ticket from the container and made the announcement.]

This is the COB's responsibility. We will make sure that the COB is allowed to do his job next time.]

Closing Ceremony

- ❑ Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- ❑ Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.
- ❑ Meeting closed at 1947.



IT ALL DEPENDS

If you're a gambler, you know how rare it is to go on a prolonged winning streak. A sailor hit an amazing winning streak one night at a Las Vegas craps table. He made twenty-seven straight passes with the dice, throwing twenty-seven winners in a row.

He could have one up to \$268 million if he had bet the maximum. As it was he only won \$750. This doesn't seem like much to us but when you consider the average annual income in 1950 was \$3300 and the sailor's income was probably much less, I'm sure he was very happy with the \$750.

The Meaning Of 'Oorah' Traced Back To Its Roots

By Lance Cpl. Paul W. Hirseman III

Marines hear it each and every day. Ingrained into Marine minds since boot camp, this distinctly Marine call is barked back and forth in an almost endless stream of motivation. However, take a step back and ask that Marine, "where did 'Oorah' come from exactly?"

The answer is rarely the same. Countless stories abound regarding the mysterious origins of our beloved phrase.

However, unlike many Marine traditions, "Oorah" is rather new. As any veteran of the past 50 years would say, no Marine before 1950 could be found saying it. The true popularization of the word came in the '80s and '90s, when it fully emerged from the murky secrecy of Marine reconnaissance through drill instructors and by other means into use by Marines around the world.

"As far as I had been told, 'Oorah simply means 'let's kill,'" said Staff Sgt. Hugo Monroy, drill instructor for Platoon 1094, Delta Co., 1st RTBn. "As far as its origin, I really don't know. I always assumed it was simply a Marine tradition that was passed down from Marine to Marine."

The stories of "Oorah's" origins range from the logical to the absurd, including stories such as it being Turkish for kill, which is in fact öldürmek, or even simply a direct counter against the Army's "Hooah."

But where did the word really come from?

Marines and historians have determined the true origins of "Oorah" lie with recon Marines stationed in Korea in 1953. During this time, reconnaissance Marines in the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Co., found themselves traveling via submarine to where they were needed. The memorable call of "dive, dive!" would be called on the intercom and a klaxon alarm, which made a very distinct "Aarугha" sound, would announce the descent of the sub below water.

The recon Marines, who heard this sound often, started using it as a motivational tool during runs and physical training. Over time, the word "Aarughha" came to be too much of a mouthful, and eventually molded itself into the familiar "Oorah," according to Maj. Gary Marte, a retired Marine.

Confirmation for this version of the story rests with the official Marine Corps Training Reference Manual on the history of Marine recon, titled "Aarughha," the manual gives credence on the origination of the phrase with reconnaissance Marines.

"Oorah" is just one of the things that separates Marines from any other branch of service, and has become a part of our lasting history.

"It is the traditions, the history, that makes Marines stand out," said Aulton Kohn, Parris Island Museum information receptionist. "The stories passed from drill instructor to recruit, and from Marine to Marine, they add the color to the Corps."

NDAA Passes with Veto Threat

As NewsBytes goes to press, the House passed and the Senate is expected to pass the final version of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.6395) despite a veto threat from President Trump. The president has indicated he will veto the bill unless Congress abolishes a law that protects technology companies from liability over most user content. President Trump had also previously threatened to veto the must-pass legislation over provisions that would require changing the names of military bases honoring Confederate generals.

Both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA contain provisions related to changing the names of military installations named after Confederate generals but did not include anything related to eliminating liability protections for certain social media platforms. Leaders in both chambers have resisted the inclusion of such a massive change to an unrelated issue in the annual NDAA.

In addition, a last-minute objection from Senator Rand Paul (KY) opposing provisions in the NDAA that would limit President Donald Trump's ability to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Germany could derail passage of the bill.

The final bill includes several FRA-supported provisions that include:

- Expanding the list of service-connected presumptions under the Agent Orange statute to incorporate bladder cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism;
- Prohibits scheduled cuts in military medical staff for 180 days after NDAA is enacted;
- Requires DoD to certify to Congress that any restructuring of Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) will continue to provide access to care for all beneficiaries or 180 days after the date of enactment of the FY2021 NDAA, whichever is later;
- Explicitly requires post-health assessment to ask whether a service member was exposed to an burn pit during deployment;
- Allowing appointment of retirees to civilian DoD positions GS-13 and below, without a 180-day delay, to military depots only. The provision expires in three years;
- Providing annual active duty pay increases that keep pace with civilian pay (three percent) and increases Hazardous Duty Pay;
- Improving military family housing with remediation for environmental hazards, and support for displaced families because of mold and other exposures;
- Reforming programs that assist military families who have children with special needs; and
- Authorizing \$70 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

This is the 60th consecutive year that Congress passed an annual defense authorization bill. The 4517-page bill authorizes \$194.8 billion for personnel programs, which is \$1.7 billion less than the Trump Administration requested. It increases overall active-duty end strength by 12,000, including 7,300 more for the Navy and 5,200 less for the Marine Corps.

Biden Selects New SecDef and VA Secretary

Presumptive President elect Joseph R. Biden announced that he has selected retired Army General Lloyd Austin as his nominee for Secretary of Defense. General Austin, who would be the first African American to lead the Pentagon, needs a congressional waiver to serve because he has not met the required seven years of being removed from the military to fill the Pentagon's top civilian job. Austin led the U.S. Central Command until he retired in 2016 and has served in the military since graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1975. His appointment has run into bipartisan resistance on Capitol Hill, where there are growing concerns about another former commander leading the Pentagon in a nation that has a long tradition of civilian control of the military.

Presumptive President elect Biden also announced he will nominate Denis McDonough, who served as White House chief of staff under President Obama, to head the Department of Veterans Affairs. McDonough, a longtime Senate staffer, also served as a Deputy National Security Adviser during the Obama administration.

U.S. Navy's Ohio Class Submarine to Get New Hypersonic Weapons

H I Sutton, Naval News, December 2

They are by far the most heavily armed conventional strike platforms in the undersea battlespace. The U.S. Navy's four Ohio Class cruise missile submarines (SSGNs) can carry a total of 154 Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles (TLAM Block-IV) in their missile silos. When added to the torpedo room, this gives a total of 176 full-size weapons. This quantity of weapons is already unparalleled, even by the latest Russian Navy SSGNs.

And the submarines may soon receive new hypersonic missiles which could transform their capabilities. The new missile, being developed under the Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) program, will also reaffirm the U.S. Navy's lead at a time when other navies are also rearming with hypersonic weapons.

The new missile will be able to hit targets with cruise-missiles like precision at extended ranges. And because of its incredible speed, greater than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5), it can do so within minutes of the target being identified. Its speed and maneuverability will also make it much harder to counter.

The U.S. Navy expect to deploy the new hypersonic weapon on Ohio-class SSGNs. The head of the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs, Vice Admiral Johnny Wolfe, recently said that submarines will get the hypersonic strike weapon by 2025.

It will employ the Common Hypersonic Glide Body (CHGB) which is the same design as the U.S. Army will use. This will be married to a booster which can fit within the Ohio Class' vertical launch tubes. These tubes are left over from when the submarines performed nuclear deterrence patrols with the Trident missile. Each of the massive silos can carry seven Tomahawk cruise missiles.

It is currently unclear how many of the new missiles will fit in each silo, but a reasonable assumption at this stage is two to three. Provided all 22 tubes currently used for missiles are able to accept the weapon, this would give a maximum load of 44 or 66 missiles. The Tomahawk will still remain relevant, maybe preferable in many scenarios, so a mixed load is likely to be carried. So the new missiles will not increase the number of weapons, but they do increase the potency and versatility.

Russia is also developing hypersonic missiles for its submarines. The new 3M22 Zircon missile (also Romanized Tsirkon) is an anti-ship weapon which fits into the same space as a cruise missile. The Mach 8 missile will equip the Pr. 855M Severodvinsk-II Class submarines and possibly upgraded Oscar-II class boats. Maximum weapons loads would be 32 and 72 respectively. There are indications that the test program for Zircon has suffered some complications but a November 30 test launch from a surface warship was reportedly successful.

China's plans for submarine launched hypersonic weapons are less clear. They already have ground-based and air-launched weapons, and a version for surface ships is expected. It has to be considered within the Chinese Navy's (PLAN) capacity to develop submarine launched versions if they make it a priority.

The Navy version of the CPS missile is likely to find itself onto the enlarged Virginia Block-V submarines and surface ships. But thanks to their incredible missile payload the Ohios will remain a major platform until they are retired. The new generation of weapon will greatly increase the tactical and strategic options available to U.S. commanders.

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