



Vol. 16 No. 9

December 2020

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

**Base Meeting:**

BOD: December 1, 1800  
 Membership: December 10, 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	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870 social@ussvich.org
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



## Submarines Lost During the Month of December

**USS CAPELIN (SS-289) Dec 2, 1943 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – Loss of 76 souls**

**USS SEALION (SS-195) Dec 10, 1941 Bombed in Philippine Shipyards  
First submarine lost in World War II – Loss of 5 souls**

**USS F1/CARP (SS-20) Dec 17, 1917 Collision with USS F3 (SS-22) – Loss of 19 souls**

**USS S4 (SS-109) Dec 17, 1927 Rammed by USCGC Paulding Lost with all hands –Loss of 40  
Souls**

**Four Boats and 140 Men Lost**

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### Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, Jan 7	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, Jan 14	1900	FRA Branch 269, 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 blood. With the medical situation I am experiencing and the fact that we will be taking care of our 2 year old great granddaughter and 8 year old great grandson 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



### WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS SUPER X4 WATERFOWL HUNTER – MOSSY OAK SHADOWGRASS BLADES

- 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

**Barrel Length** 26"

**Length of Pull** 14 1/4"

**Drop at Heel** 2"

**Magazine Capacity** 4

**Barrel Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Chokes Included** Full, Modified, Improved Cylinder

**Dura Touch Finish** No

**Front Sight** Fiber Optic

**Barrel Material** Steel

**Recoil Pad** Inflex 1, Small with Hard Heel Insert

**Sling Swivel Studs** Matte Blued

**Trigger Finish** Matte Black

**Bolt Slide Finish** Matte Blued

**Trigger Material** Alloy

**Trigger Guard Engraving** None

**MSRP \$1,069.99**

**Chamber Length** 3 1/2"

**Overall Length** 47"

**Drop at Comb** 1 3/4"

**Weight** 7 lbs 0 oz

**Rib Width** 1/4"

**Stock Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Receiver Finish** Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades

**Chamber Finish** Chrome Plated Chamber and Bore

**Choke System** Invector-Plus Flush

**Stock Material** Composite

**Checkering** Textured Grip Panels

**Receiver Material** Aluminum Alloy

**Trigger Guard Finish** Matte Black

**Magazine Type** Tubular

**Trigger Guard Material** Alloy

**Choke Wrench Included** Flat Wrench

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

## Charleston Base Acknowledged at Hunley Display

USSVI-Charleston Base is a Sponsor of Friends of the Hunley and as such we have some materials that our Storekeeper is selling such as hats, pins and stickers. In addition we are recognized at the H. L. Hunley Display at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center.



# THE H.L. HUNLEY AS A TIME CAPSULE



**NEW DISCOVERY**  
**Pump System**  
 The Hunley's pump system was a critical component of its operation, allowing the crew to maintain buoyancy and control the submarine's depth. Recent excavations have revealed the intricate details of this system, providing valuable insights into the vessel's engineering and the challenges faced by the crew.



## THREE HULL PLATES REMOVED

The exterior of the Hunley was opened for the first time in 127 years. When the plates were removed, the submarine kept its structural integrity, ensuring the vessel was sturdy enough for a more thorough archaeological exploration.

This exhibit is endorsed by  
**Charleston Base,  
 United States  
 Submarine Veterans, Inc.**



## UNION ID TAG

An unexpected find in a secret Confederate submarine: a dog tag from a Union soldier. The tag belonged to John Chamberlin of Connecticut. The discovery led many to speculate there may have been a spy onboard the Hunley. Further research showed Edw was not aboard but the ID tag was being worn by Henry Greenman, Joseph Kitting, which he likely picked up as a battlefield souvenir.

## THE FIRST SKULL

The team found the first human skull in the Hunley, ultimately locating the 127 crewmembers that perished.

Year	Event	Location	Significance
1862	Construction of the Hunley	Charleston, SC	First Confederate submarine
1863	First successful attack	USS Housatonic	First sinking of a Union warship
1864	Discovery of the wreck	Charleston Harbor	127th anniversary of the attack
2000	Excavation of the crew compartment	Charleston Harbor	First human remains recovered
2002	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the pump system
2003	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the dog tag
2004	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2005	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2006	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2007	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2008	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2009	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2010	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2011	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2012	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2013	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2014	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2015	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2016	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2017	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2018	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2019	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower
2020	Excavation of the hull	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the hull
2021	Excavation of the deck	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the deck
2022	Excavation of the conning tower	Charleston Harbor	Discovery of the conning tower

## Excavation of the Crew Compartment Begins

The excavation of the crew compartment was a major milestone in the Hunley project. It allowed researchers to study the living conditions of the crew and the layout of the interior. The discovery of human remains was a particularly significant find, providing a glimpse into the lives of the men who perished on the vessel.

## CLUES TO THE FINAL MYSTERY

The discovery of the dog tag and other personal items provided valuable clues to the identity of the crew members. These items, along with the human remains, have helped researchers piece together the final moments of the Hunley's voyage. The tag, in particular, has become a focal point of the investigation, as it suggests the presence of a Union spy on board.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On December 19, 2020, Harry and Lee Nettles participated in the Wreaths Across America at Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort SC. They ensured that our Charleston Base SUBVETS buried there had a wreath on their grave. It was a great day with almost 15,000 wreaths laid in just a little over two hours by hundreds of volunteers. Harry Nettles, QMCM(SS), 655G COB 91-92



**EMC(SS) William E. Pruitt**  
EP 9.29.2012



**RMCM(SS) Larry L. Cox**  
EP 10.21.2018



**QM1(SS) Walter James Curtis**  
EP 2.10.2018



**MMCM(SS) Glenn Francis Fleming**  
EP 3.30.2015



**LT Clyde Virgil Peters**  
EP 8.22.2014



**CDR Albert A. Wood, Jr.**  
EP 1.5.2011

## Here Comes the Navy's First New Torpedo in Decades

The CRAW will really ... stick it to enemy subs.

Jan 1, 2021



The U.S. Navy's new Very Lightweight Torpedo (VLWT) will be both an offensive and defensive torpedo.

The torpedo can attack submarines or torpedoes.

Unlike previous lightweight torpedoes, the VLWT will be used by aircraft, surface ships, and submarines.

The U.S. Navy plans to field its first new torpedo in decades, and one candidate is Northrop Grumman's Very Lightweight Torpedo (VLWT).

Originally designed to protect aircraft carriers from incoming torpedoes, VLWT could be used by aircraft, surface ships, and even submarines. The weapon can be used both as an offensive weapon against enemy submarines, or a defensive one against inbound torpedoes.

The VLWT, according to *National Defense*, was originally designed to defend the Navy's aircraft carriers from submarines. Installed on carriers, the mini-torpedoes would be launched at the first sign of enemy attack, homing in on the incoming torpedoes.

The Navy killed the carrier defense system, but Northrop Grumman decided to continue development. The company is now marketing the VLWT as a multi-mission torpedo, capable of both attack or defense, with specific mission software loaded into the weapon's electronic brain just before firing.

The torpedo's offensive mode, known as compact rapid attack weapon (CRAW), is designed to give even the smallest platforms the capability to hunt submarines. The small torpedo could be carried by helicopters, maritime patrol aircraft, small crewed or uncrewed surface ships, and even other subs.

Once the sub-hunter detects the presence of an enemy submarine, it drops a CRAW in the vicinity. The tiny torpedo's onboard sensors immediately start hunting the enemy submarine, forcing it onto the defensive.

The VLWT's defense mode, known as countermeasure anti-torpedo (CAT), turns the torpedo into a torpedo interceptor. A ship or helicopter protecting an aircraft carrier or other capital ship could position itself in the path of an enemy torpedo, then launch a CAT. This is likely a better, more flexible defensive scheme than the now-canceled carrier defense system, allowing it to protect more ships.

Northrop Grumman believes the VLWT could be ready for production in as little as 4 years.



# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 10 December 2020

#### Opening Ceremonies:

The December 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 45 members. The meeting started at 1901 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 December:

<b>USS CAPELIN (SS-289)</b>	<b>December 2, 1943 – 1<sup>st</sup> War Patrol</b>	<b>Lost with all hands – 76 souls</b>
<b>USS SEALION (SS-195)</b>	<b>December 10, 1941 – Bombed in Philippine Shipyards –</b>	<b>First submarine lost in World War II – Loss of 5 souls</b>
<b>USS F1/CARP (SS-20)</b>	<b>December 17, 1917 – Collision with USS F3 (SS-22) –</b>	<b>Loss of 19 souls</b>
<b>USS S4 (SS-109)</b>	<b>December 17, 1927 – Rammed by USCGC Paulding –</b>	<b>Lost with all hands – 40 souls</b>

Four Boats and 140 Men Lost during the month of December

#### THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE DEPARTED ON THEIR ETERNAL PATROL DURING 2020

Chief Radioman, Submarines, Jimmy J. Legg, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol January 28  
First Class Mess Specialist, Submarines, Stephen S. Morris, US Navy  
Departed on Eternal Patrol March 4  
Chief Radioman, Submarines, Barry Tackett, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol April 23  
Master Chief Electronics Technician, Submarines, Stan Yoakum, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol April 29  
Master Chief Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Danny L. Leonhardt, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol May 21  
Chief Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, William G. Hayes JR, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol May 29  
Chief Engineman, Submarines, Billy H. Buntin, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol July 20  
Chief Interior Communications Electrician, Submarines, Charles F. Spence JR, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol August 4  
First Class Machinist Mate, Submarines, David R. Saari, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol August 13  
Senior Chief Engineman, Submarines, Linn R. Rogers SR, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol September 15  
First Class Torpedoman's Mate, Submarines, Robert J. McCollem JR, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol September 21  
Chief Quartermaster, Submarines, James F. Loveday, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol September 28  
Master Chief Electricians Mate, Submarines, Richard W. Cleeve JR, US Navy Retired  
Departed on Eternal Patrol November 28

The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

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

Matthew Simpson – FT – CMDCM – Qualified on USS James Madison SSBN627 – 1986 – Also served aboard USS Nathaniel Greene SSBN636, USS Chicago SSN721, USS San Juan SSN751, USS Minneapolis-St. Paul SSN708 and COB while aboard USS Alexandria SSN757. He served aboard two targets – USS San Jacinto CG56 and USS Iwo Jima LHD7 as CMC, earning the SW and AW designation. His shore commands were SUBTRAFAC SAN DIEGO, SUBRON-6, SUBSCOL NEW LONDON and retired from NAVHOSP BEAUFORT in

2012.

Timothy Domrose – STS – CMDCM – Qualified on USS Sand Lance SSN660 – 1981 – Also served on USS Narwhal SSN671, L. Mendel Rivers SSN686, returned to USS Narwhal as COB, USS Pasadena SSN752 as COB and completed his career as CMC at NWS Charleston in 2007

Bill LaTorre – CWO4 - Qualified on USS Lewis & Clark SSBN644 – 1982 – Also served aboard USS Mariano G. Vallejo SSBN658, USS Key West and others on both east and west coasts. He was part of the NPS move from Orlando to Charleston before going to work at Naval Reactors.

#### **Old Business:**

Since the Vice Commander is not present, swearing in of Vice Commander and Secretary will occur at the BOD Meeting in January.

#### **New Business:**

The Charleston Base budget had previously been presented to the membership. Rick Wise made a few comments and presented the motion to accept with Ed Stank seconding. The motion passed without objection.

#### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

The Minutes from the November Base meeting were emailed directly to each Base Member and promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved as written. The November Base Minutes will be printed in the next Base Newsletter.

#### **Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:**

The Treasurer's Report for November 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:**

79 years ago today, USS Sealion was lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.

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

**EMCM(SS) Richard W. Cleeve, Jr., USN Ret**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. He fell in October and broke his hip, had surgery and when to a rehab facility where he contracted COVID. He was taken to the hospital and passed away there without any of his family. There will be a small service in Pinopolis with family but no visitation. James Cleve, **Richard's son**, said the family is asking in lieu of flowers to make donations to the Charleston Base Scholarship Fund.

**June Reuer, Jeff's wife**, passed away on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Her service was held on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Roger Gibson's sister, Pat Tobasko**, passed away on Nov. 30 at age 93.

**Wayne Bohon, Bruce Bohon's brother**, passed away on Nov. 30 at his home in FL. He was 68. Bruce's mother passed away Oct. 7 here in Summerville.

**Edith Carol White Weaver**, widow of WWII SUBVET **Bill Weaver** (EP 2016), passed away Dec. 4 in Miamisburg, OH. Her funeral was today in Cross SC.

**Rodney McKanna** will have surgery on his right knee of January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Don Ort** has a severe heart blockage and a bad heart valve. He now has a date for surgery. It will be on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 0800.

**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. He has decided not to have treatments. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions. He now has a hospital bed and hospice at home.

**Ken Hutchison** fractured two ribs the day of the Rummage sale.

**Brian Sparks, Ray's son** had a stroke and was in the hospital. He is now back at work.

**Sonny Rash** is doing well after having his toe amputated.

**Rick Wise** is having some intestinal and bladder problems associated with the radiation exposure from the seeding. He is feeling much better now.

**Ken Lux** had pneumonia and it has cleared up.

**George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. He is on IV Chemo and will have a PET scan soon. Also having a problem with his blood sugar spiking extremely high.

**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.

Lewis & Clark Association has changed from Yahoo.Groups to **USSLewisandClark.groups.io** and they are trying to contact as many L&C shipmates as possible. If you want more info please send an email to webmaster@ussvicb.org.

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

Stacy Power is not present tonight.

Rick Sparger reported that Stacy has 65 years as an FRA Member.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

Not Present

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

Mike has called the two hospitals which we go to. They acknowledged that we cannot visit right now. Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

277 Charleston Base Members – There are still about 60 members who owe dues at this time. They will soon be dropped

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

Not present

#### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

Carl gave report of the Rummage Sale. Of the items contributed, \$740 was made using Craigs List during the sale date delays. At the sale, the committee earned \$1597 and items retained for sale after the sale have brought \$120 so far, for a total of \$2457. The scholarship fund now has more than \$5200 and the effort is ongoing.

Carl expressed his gratitude to those who helped in the Rummage Sale effort. His wife helped greatly in the presale earnings. At the sale location were Rick Sparger, Marty Sessler, Ken Hutchison, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Ed Stank and Rick Collins.

After the end of the sale, a large donation was made to the Kidney Foundation Thrift Store comprised of a trailer and loads from a couple of pickup trucks.

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 Committee has a shotgun raffle. Tickets are \$10. The drawing will be at the February 11 Base Meeting.

#### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

Rick gave a brief report about the Harleyville Christmas Parade making note that it was a good event but cold. He thanked Mike Emerson and Glenn Little for each of their contributions to the event.

Rick has cancelled Charleston Base participation in the Summerville Christmas Parade for this year. Although we have pulled the float in this parade for at least fifteen years, we did not receive notice of this year's event. Rick called the coordinator's office and found that there have been policy/personnel changes made. Previously, there was no entry fee, but now they wanted \$150. They said that they would waive the fee for this year but would have to revisit this subject next year. Even though the fee was to be waived, Rick received a \$150 invoice in the mail the next day.

Rick is making arrangements to pull the float Saturday in the Goose Creek Parade. This will be the first time that Charleston Base has been in this parade. Rick provided parking details for those attending.

#### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

We are still waiting on the judge's ruling.

CRAMA membership is due.

Butch is working on a maintenance schedule to provide the legal team. They asked for a quarterly schedule of what work the volunteers would be doing broken down by each week and compartment.

#### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

The next NPS graduation is December 18. The school will provide the two performance awards from Charleston Base SubVets to the top officer and enlisted submarine designated individuals.

The event is still closed because of COVID restrictions.

#### **Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger**

The FRA will be redoing their raffle pill bottles and requested assistance from all volunteers.

There FRA will be holding a Christmas Dinner on 18 DEC. Price is \$5 each.

Glenn Little reported that, at the dinner, there will be an Ornament Exchange if you would like to bring one.

#### **Newsletter – Rick Wise**

The November Newsletter will go out Friday, 11 DEC.

Rick, again, requests a relief from duties as Newsletter editor due to his medical situation.

#### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

The only item was the 2021 Charleston Base budget. This was taken care of earlier under NEW BUSINESS.

#### **Recreation – Bill Hayes**

Since this is the first time that many Base members have seen him, Bill introduced himself. He had originally volunteered to help but was asked to chair the committee.

At the Board Meeting we decided to arrange some type of event each quarter.

He is working on having a spaghetti dinner in either February or March. We have a location right now, but the time is not yet confirmed.

Bill lives a good distance away, so he requested someone in the local area to assist him with the recreation efforts. Also, if anyone has suggestions, please let Bill know.

#### **Public Affairs – Ed Stank**

Ed contacted Post & Courier and the Joint Base Charleston weekly paper about Charleston Base.

He is working on the article regarding our participation in the Harleyville parade and will do the same for the Goose Creek parade.

Ed is also writing articles for submittal to American Submariner

#### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

Charleston Base has some Friends of the Hunley hats, pins and bumper stickers because of our sponsorship of the Hunley. The money for these items will be provided back to the Base general fund.

The Storekeeper has received 2021 calendars. These are \$10.

#### **COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)**

In the month of December, we normally have our Christmas Party instead of a Base Meeting. Rick thanked all those who attended the Base Meeting tonight.

#### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**

Noted that, during this time of the year, folks mostly want to be with family. Thanked the membership for being here tonight and noted that we have made some personnel changes in Recreation, PAO and COB. We also need a new Newsletter Editor. Rick Wise is unable to continue.

Mike has asked all officers – whether elected or appointed – to review their duties and responsibilities.

Mike asked all members to contact any of the Base Officers if you know of a Base Member deserving of the Distinguished Submariner Award.

#### **Good of the Order**

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

##### **WORDS TO THE WISE!**

“**EXPERIENCE**” is a wonderful thing! – It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again!

“**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**” is no match for natural stupidity!

When I joined the Navy, I met a bunch of second class and first class petty officers with 20 years or more in the Navy.

Just as many of you have, these were some smart individuals, or so I thought. These guys could not make Chief!

So, before I ever made third class petty officer, I resigned myself that I could not, ever make Chief. But, by a stroke of luck and wisdom of “my Chief”, I made it!

A couple of years later, I made Senior Chief with the guidance of “my Chief”. Then, a couple more years and the “Chief” told me that if I listened to him, followed his lead and drank from the silver chalice, I would make Master Chief! But I had to do exactly as directed! Drink from the chalice only as directed! And so, he drank!

[Secretary’s Note: At this point, Rick demonstrated the incorrect way to drink; only to pour it down his shirt].

## **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

Not present

## **Gun Club**

Nothing to report

## **Drawings & Auctions**

Scholarship Committee Auction – ATP Range – Greg Landry

There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize using a random number chosen from the sign-in sheet. The associated member did not have a Challenge Coin, so the prize will be held until next month.

Depth Charge – Terry Trump

## **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 2004.

## **Admiral: New Maritime Strategy's 'Control of the Seas' Compares Well to Cold War Maritime Strategy**

*Richard R. Burgess, SeaPower Magazine, December 17*

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — The new tri-service maritime strategy released Dec. 17 by the chiefs of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard pivots toward the great power competition that has been building up in recent years, and aspects of the strategy bear substantial resemblance to the Maritime Strategy of the 1980s put in place by the Navy at the height of the Cold War, a Navy admiral said.

The new strategy, Advantage at Sea, “places particular focus on China and Russia due to their increasing maritime aggressiveness, demonstrated intent to dominate key international waters and clear desire to remake the international order in their favor,” the three service chiefs, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael M. Gilday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David H. Berger, and Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl L. Schultz, wrote in the strategy’s forward.

“China’s and Russia’s revisionist approaches in the maritime environment threaten U.S. interests, undermine alliances and partnerships, and degrade the free and open international order,” the service chiefs said. “Moreover, China’s and Russia’s aggressive naval growth and modernization are eroding U.S. military advantages.”

With nearly 20 years of U.S. active combat in counter-insurgency warfare – mostly on and overland in Southwest Asia – apparently winding down, the U.S. military is now focusing on the growing military prowess of China and increasing activity by Russia. China’s navy, plus a large coast guard and a naval militia, have grown in size and capability and are increasingly assertive, particularly in the waters adjacent to China, the East and South China Seas. China and Russia have developed and continue to develop missiles that threaten U.S. and allied naval forces in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean and island bases such as those in Guam and Okinawa.

One of the five major aspects of the new strategy is “focusing on controlling the seas — which is returning to our past,” said Rear Adm. James Bynum, acting deputy chief of naval operations for Warfare Development, speaking to reporters during a Dec. 17 teleconference on the new strategy.

Asked by Seapower to compare the new strategy to the Maritime Strategy put in place in 1987 by then-Navy Secretary John Lehman, Bynum said “They compare very well, better than [they] contrast.”

Lehman’s Maritime Strategy emphasized maritime power as a key counter to the Soviet Union during the Cold War. With Soviet military power focused on a potential land campaign in Europe, Lehman proposed using the Navy to be ready to strike the Soviet homeland from the peripheral seas, greatly complicating and widening — encircling — the Soviet Union’s defense of its territory. With Soviet naval might also growing, Lehman also began a build-up of a 600-ship navy, a growth that was nearly achieved in full — 594 ships — before the fleet began to decline in number of ships after the end of the Cold War.

One of the key tenets here is the return to the thought process of control of the seas,” Bynum said. “We were just coming out of the Vietnam era where we had free, unfettered access to support operations in land-based warfare. We’re coming off of a similar though much more prolonged set of time in the Middle East. As we look away from that and acknowledge there are global comprehensive actors out there where we no longer enjoy assured access in the sea, and assured access to the sea today because of those places where we need to go to confront those malign actors.

“I think that compares greatly with secretary Lehman’s thought processes and, frankly, some of that mindset shifted after what [then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo] Zumwalt endured at the tail end of the Vietnam era as he had to re-shape the forces,” Bynum said. “So, I think you will see in a lot of those strains that the power of the naval services is to provide access to the joint force.”

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