

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 July 2026

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Art Sattler with a quorum of three officers and a total of 54 members. Base Commander Dave Harvey was not present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - o **USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls**
 - o **USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls**
 - o **USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls**
 - o **THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost**

Torpedoman's Mate Chief, Submarines
Steven H. Curry, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 4 July 2026

Torpedoman's Mate Chief, Submarines
Edward J. Simokat II, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 7 July 2026

Charleston Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

EM1(SS) Blase Ferdinand Wagenbrenner – WWII SUBVET – 14 July 1999
PNCM(SS) Varnell Poss – WWII SUBVET – 25 August 2002
LTJG(SS) Hugh Oliver Gill – WWII SUBVET – 3 August 2003
EMP2(SS) Lawrence Vincent – WWII SUBVET – 16 September 2003
Samuel Gerard – 5 January 2004
RADM(SS) James Butler Osborn – WWII SUBVET – 30 March 2004
MMC(SS) Donald C. Kopp – 4 April 2004
Chief Petty Officer (SS) Charles Alfred Amole – 3 December 2004

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There was one shipmate in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - o Leroy Chase – QM2 – Qualified on USS John C Calhoun SSBN630 -- 1971

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the June Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, the Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for June was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

- o **GRUNION (SS-216)** was lost on **July 30, 1942** with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in August 2007 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska. The discovery was confirmed by the U.S. Navy in October 2008.

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

ETERNAL PATROL

- **Jerry Stout** departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 9 June 2026. Family visitation will be held on Wednesday July 15 at 1100 at John the Beloved at 28 Sumter St., Summerville. His funeral will follow at 1200 at the same place. His burial with full Military Honors is Friday July 17th at 12:00 PM at Beaufort National Cemetery.
 - o A luncheon will follow the service in Madden Hall and that's where we will conduct the EP service along with the FRA Two Bell at 1330. Muster for those not attending the service will be at 1300 in the Madden Hall (fellowship hall).
- **TMC(SS) Steve H. Curry, USN Ret., 72**, departed on EP on the morning of 4 July 2026. He joined the navy in 1972 and retired in 1994. Steve was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2008. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1974 on USS TUNNY SSN-682. Other duty stations were USS SUNFISH SSN-649 and USS BILLFISH SSN-676. Additionally, he served at NAVMAG HI, SUBTORPFAC/NWS Charleston, NWS Yorktown VA, and POMFLANT Charleston.
 - o **Steve's daughter is handling the arrangements and has asked for the SUBVETS to conduct the service and the EP Bell Tolling. When more info is available it will be put out via email.**
- **TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, USN Ret., 82**, departed on EP on the evening of 7 July 2026 at home. He joined the navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. Ed was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 1999. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1963 on USS WAHOO SS-565. Other submarine duty was USS IREX SS-482.
 - o The family has indicated his services will be held in the fall.
- **MMCS(SS) John Glave Jr., 82**, departed on EP on 22 June 2026. He joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1986. He served on USS Irex, USS Skipjack, USS James K. Polk, USS Bluefish, USS Daniel Boone, and USS Ray. He was a member of the Denizens of the Deep Base since its founding in 2000. His services will be private.
- **END2(SS) Edward Wolf:** I have received a request for SUBVET attendance at a funeral service on Saturday 18 July at 1100. Mariam Wolf is asking us to attend Edward's funeral mass to help honor him. Edward was a END2(SS) on USS RAY SS-271 from 1952-1956 during the Korean War. Edward passes away in 2024 at age 89. He was a member of the Perch Base in AZ but due to moving around after his death he never had a final mass service. It will be on Saturday, July 18th at 1100 at St. Benedicts Catholic Church, 950 Darrell Creek Trl, Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

BINNACLE LIST

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- **Pete Garrison** has been having heart issues, like faster pulse and elevated blood pressure. He has an appointment with a cardiologist tomorrow (Friday 10 July) to find out what it is.
- **Rick Wise** reported the results of the PET scan he had on 29 June were not promising. It showed a new enlarged lymph node that will be biopsied through a Bronchoscopy on July 14. There are some questionable areas in my lungs that will need to be watched. The lesions in my spine and pelvis have increased in size but since these are adding material and not bone loss I'm not very concerned. I will be

taking a break from chemo to see if that may be causing some of the problems. Please keep me in your prayers. [843.276.0899]

- o **Johnny Brown** is going to take him for the Bronchoscopy on July 14. He needs to be there at 0830 and the procedure will take about 3 hours.
- **Bill Hayes** had a heart cath on Monday 22 June. One artery was 70% blocked and he was told he needed a 3x bypass. On Thursday 25 June he had surgery and only needed a single bypass. He is recovering at home with very little pain.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. [843.475.7043]
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is **cbussvicob@yahoo.com** and his cell phone is [843.509.3962]

Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- You should have received an email stating voting began on July 7th. Check you spam folder if you didn't. We will be voting using "Election Buddy". The email you receive will include a personal link to vote. Several of us have already voted. It's very easy. Associate members cannot vote in this election even though they received an email. Everyone is asked to vote and give a good showing for Charleston Base.
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or me to get it updated on National and local.

USS Groton Sail Monument – Nick Nichols:

- The sail from the USS Groton is going to be placed in Groton, CT. The Groton Base has sent an email requesting base and individual donations. If you served aboard SSN-694 or you would like to donate to this effort, the info is in the email. Nick will forward this to the Base members.

Base Contacts – Nick Nichols:

- You should have the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all BOD members in your phone contacts or use the link to the officers' page to get contact info.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Always carry a couple of the new base business cards at all times. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the base and one for national.

FRA Rules – Nick Nichols:

- Continue to remember the rules for entering the bar at the meetings.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- We still have a raffle for a SubVet Flag. The flag cost the Base \$150, so this will be paid back before any money is provided to the Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$2 each. Currently expecting to raffle the flag at the August Base Meeting.
- Challenge Coins are available.
- Ed Simokat's grandson Anders Brewer has received the Scholarship check. He was travelling and unable to attend the Base Meeting last month.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 241 Members.
- Larry welcomed Leroy Chase as a new member tonight.
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1049 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 299 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 268 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 241 w/19 AM

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- With ideal weather (about 72 degrees), we attended the Manitowoc, WI July 4 parade with the float, which won the Patriotic Award. What the award entails, we shall find out. We had a bunch on the float.
- Dave Harvey towed the float all the way to WI. Tom was not interested in a 2,000 mile pull.
- We'll see what happens next year.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

Fleet Reserve Association – Art Sattler for Ken Hutchison:

- We had a great July 4 indoor picnic at the FRA including Lowcountry Boil.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is Friday, July 17. Meet at the NEX at 0800.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Charleston Base received its charter on January 24, 1997. This means that we are soon approaching the 30 year anniversary of the Charleston Base Charter. We still have six Charter Members of Charleston Base on the Sailing List. One – Bill Freligh – is here tonight.
- Phil had been traveling of the past few weeks and visited several veteran's memorials. He will include information about these in upcoming Newsletters.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing reported.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Nothing reported.

PAO – OPEN

- Vice Commander Art Sattler reminded everyone that we are in need of a Public Affairs Officer. If interested in this job, come see us about it.

Recreation – OPEN

- Ed has resigned as Recreation Committee Chair.
- The Charleston Base Christmas Party is currently scheduled for Friday, December 4.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler voiced the same request for someone to fill the open chair.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- As of the last reported number, 130 Submariner license plates have been issued. One of the members in attendance reported that the count is up to at least 137.
- If you need help ordering your SV (SubVet) license plate, please see Ed.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has the following items available:
 - o Flag pins with “Silent Service” and dolphins
 - o A few more 250TH Freedom patches
 - o Dolphin and Holland Club Ties
- These items can be ordered
 - o Dolphin ties with black background can be ordered.
 - o Gold Dolphin (O-Gang) ties can be ordered.
- Other items can be ordered also. Just see Woody about it.

VA – Fred Bolz

- Fred explained a VA benefit that is available for those using a CPAP machine

COB – Greg Landry

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Associate Members are allowed to be on and even serve as chair of any Charleston Base committee. The only offices that Associate Members cannot hold are the four elected positions and COB. At the end of the meeting last month, Fred Bolz asked about being the VA Representative for Charleston Base. Likewise, if an Associate Member is interested in Recreation, PAO or any other committee, please let us know.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Not present

SER Conference – Dave Harvey

- Not present

Base Commander – Art Sattler for Dave Harvey

- The Fish Fry held at the FRA had only 35 Base Members (including Associates) with a total of only 51 people attending. He was expecting 150 present. There was a lot of food wasted. Dave will discuss this at the August Base Meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Adrift 500 Feet Under the Sea, A Minute Was Like Eternity – by Christopher Drew
 - o APRA HARBOR, Guam – Blood was everywhere. Sailors lay sprawled across the floor, several of them unconscious, others simply dazed. Even the captain was asking, “What just happened?” All anyone knew for sure was that the nuclear-powered attack submarine had slammed head-on into something solid and very large, and that it had to get to the surface fast.
 - o In the control room, a senior enlisted man shoved the “chicken switches,” blowing high=pressure air through the ballast tanks to force the vessel upward. Usually, the submarine would respond at once. But as the captain, Cmdr. Kevin G. Mooney, and top officers stared at the depth gauge, the needle refused to budge.
 - o Moments before, they had been slipping quiet and fast through the Pacific. Now, they were stuck, more than 500 feet down. Ten seconds passed. Then 20, 30.
 - o “I thought I was going to die,” Commander Mooney recalled.

- o It would be close to a minute, but an excruciatingly long minute, before the submarine's mangled nose began to rise, before the entire control room exhaled in relief, before the diving officer, Chief Petty Officer Danny R. Hager, began to read out a succession of shallower depths.
"I don't know how long it was," Chief Hager said, "but it seemed like forever."
- o Last week, Navy investigators reported that a series of mistakes at sea and on shore caused the 6,900-ton submarine, the San Francisco (SSN-711), to run into an undersea mountain not on its navigational charts. One crewman was killed, 98 others were injured, and the captain and three other officers were relieved of their duties as a result of the Jan. 8 crash, one of the worst on an American submarine since the 1960's.
- o What is becoming clear only now, from the first interviews with Commander Mooney and 15 other officers and enlisted men, as well as a review of Navy reports, is how much worse it nearly was, and how close the San Francisco came to being lost. The submarine crashed at top speed about 360 miles southeast of Guam. The impact punched huge holes in the forward ballast tanks, so the air being driven into them was no match for the ocean pouring in. The throttle shut and the vessel briefly lost propulsion. The Low Pressure Blower ran continuously for four days!!
- o When a ship goes on deployment, the quartermaster gets all the charts for where they are going. They update them and use them for the whole run. The ship's control party drives the boat at the required course, depth and speed. The diving officer has the responsibility to control the ship and maintain it within the safe operating envelope. The ship was outside of the SOE – too deep, too fast, and old, not updated charts.
- o MM2 Joseph Allen Ashley – 24 – died in the Engine Room Lower Level when he slid forward due to the impact. 98 men were injured. The San Francisco had one Hospital Corpsman, however they were fortunate because one officer onboard – previously a Hospital Corpsman – helped to assist with the injured. Some of those men had been knocked unconscious. The crash occurred on January 8, 2005, and the final report was published by the NY Times on May 18, 2005.
- o The San Francisco is now at the Navy Nuclear Power School at NWS Charleston as MTS 711 (Moored Training Ship). The reports at that time were that all 688s were identical!! They could cut the bow off one submarine and put it onto another one. The thought was that the 711 had just completed a refueling overhaul – many millions of dollars spent. So since all of the 688 class submarines were "identical," they looked for a donor front and the USS Honolulu (SSN-718) was available. Well, they found out that this would not work after all, so they just had to rebuild the outer portion of the 711 and put a new dome on her.
- o We are extremely fortunate that the San Francisco is still here today. Although she is not operational any longer and doesn't go down river, at least she still is able to serve as a training ship, replacing the Daniel Webster (MTS-626).

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Ken Farrell
- Depth Charge Drawing – Herb Anderson

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Art Sattler announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1951.