

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 12 No.3

March 2016

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: 04. Feb. 1800

Membership: 11 Feb. 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559
Vice Commander	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
Secretary	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011
Treasurer	Mike Welch	843.300.9022

Chief of the Boat	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
Veterans Affairs	Ken Curtis	843.797.1268
Membership	Larry Knutson	843.553.5594
Scholarship	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Storekeeper	Ron Chambers	843.821.2268
Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
Newsletter	Vacant	
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



Submarines Lost During the Month of March

USS PERCH (SS-176)	3 March 1942 – 1st war patrol	61 POWs; 55 survived the war; 6 died as POW
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	5 March 1943 – 6th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 71 souls
USS H-1 (SS-28)	12 March 1920 – grounding	Loss of 4 souls
USS TRITON (SS-201)	15 March 1943 – 6th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS KETE (SS-369)	20 March 1945 – 2nd war patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS F-4 (SS-23)	25 March 1915 - foundered	Lost with all hands – 21 souls
USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)	26 March 1944 – 4th war patrol	Lost with 79 souls – 1 POW survived the war
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	26 March 1945 – 12th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls

Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

Chaplain's Corner

RECOUPING YOUR LOSSES

Have you ever made a life blunder? If so, welcome to a very large club! Almost everyone experiences some type of pressures from time to time, and maybe so will you.

When we commit the inevitable missteps of life, we must correct them, learn from them, and pray for the wisdom not to repeat them. When we do, our mistakes become lessons, and our lives become adventures in growth, not stagnation.

So here's the big question: Have you used your mistakes as stumbling blocks or stepping stones? The answer to that question will determine how quickly you gain security and peace of mind.

If you work hard and maintain an attitude of gratitude, you'll find it easiest to manage your life every day.

--A Prayer for Today--

Dear Lord, make me a joyful servant to You. Make me a careful steward of the gifts You have given me, and let me share those gifts with joy in my heart and praise on my lips, today and forever. Amen.

A Plea from Your Base Commander

Charleston Base needs your help! It is often said that only 10% of the membership of an organization do all the work. For Charleston Base this has dropped to about 7%. We need more members to get involved in the base operations. For one thing we need one or two more members to join the Recreation Committee. Many of you have skills that could help the base. Some of you because of still working and other commitments don't have much time. Some of you because of the state of your health are limited in how you can help. That still leaves many members who can step up and help. Please we need you!

Here are some of the ways you could help.

- We need a Newsletter Editor. The previous editor had to give it up due to health issues.
- We need someone to set up and operate an online store to sell items that have been donated to the base. Right now I have two boxes of items that could be offered.
- We need to make up a few new Lost Boat posters. Some of the ones we have are pretty ragged.
- We need more volunteers to serve as pall bearers.
- We need more members of the Flag Detail.
- We need a working group to advise the base on holding elections online.
- Participate in the working parties the COB calls for various events like the picnic and the Submarine Birthday/Amberjack Memorial Service.

If you help we will give you all the support you need. And if you find that cannot do what you volunteered for you can walk away with no blame. We are brothers after all.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the February 2016 meeting was 103 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1857. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in February was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Vice Commander Rick Sparger. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Military Honors Ceremony: Nick Nichols announced the Commencement of the Military Honors Ceremony for RMCM/SS Gary Lynn Samples. Taps was played

while the Flag was folded and presented to the family.
Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: CTCR (SS) Doug Beauregard Qual Boat: USS Honolulu SSN 718. MM (SS) Kinney

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the January meeting minutes had been published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Butch Bryar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by George Fuchs.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List

Vice Commander: Recognized Stacy Powers receiving an award for 60 years of continued service with the FRA.

Special Events: Subvets Picnic is scheduled for May 7th. It will be a joint FRA Subvets Picnic.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

Submarines Lost During the Month of February		
USS BARBEL (SS 316)	Feb. 4, 1945 – 4 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 81
USS SHARK 1 (SS 174)	Feb. 11, 1942 – 1 st War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 59
USS AMBERJACK (SS 219)	Feb. 16, 1943 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 72
USS GRAYBACK (SS 208)	Feb. 26, 1944 – 10 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 80
USS TROUT (SS 202)	Feb. 29, 1944 – 11 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 81
Five Boats and 373 Men Lost		
H.L. HUNLEY	Feb. 17, 1864	Lost with all hands – 8 souls

Master Chief Yeoman, Submarines, David L. Hansen,

United States Navy Retired

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 9th, 2016

Master Chief Radioman, Submarines, Gary L. Samples,

United States Navy Retired

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 14th, 2016

Chief Fire Control Technician, Submarines, Abel ‘Abe’ Urias Jenkins,

United States Navy World War II Veteran

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 20th, 2016

**Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, David E. Rein,
United States Navy Retired**

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 5th, 2016

Lieutenant Commander, Submarines, James George Yates,

United States Navy Retired

Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – February 6th, 2016

February Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

AMBERJACK was lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. While off the coast of Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser. One additional man was killed earlier on the last patrol.

- **YNM(SS) Dave Hansen** departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, 9 January. SUBVETS conducted our Bell Tolling Service on 15 January.
- **RMCM(SS) Gary Samples** departed on Eternal Patrol on 14 January. His memorial service was held at the FRA and SUBVETS conducted our Bell Tolling Service on 16 January.
- **FTC(SS) Abe Jenkins** departed on Eternal Patrol on 20 January. His funeral service was held on 26 January. SUBVETS conducted our Bell Tolling Service and Flag Folding/Presentation.
- **LCDR Dave Rein** departed on Eternal Patrol on 5 February. His memorial service will be held here at the FRA tomorrow at 1300. FRA will conduct the Two Bell and SUBVETS will conduct our Bell Tolling and Flag Folding/Presentation.
- **LCDR Jim Yates** departed on Eternal Patrol on 6 February. His memorial service will be held Saturday, February 20th at 1400 at James Dyal Funeral Home Summerville. All hands will be notified as normal sometime the first of the week. SUBVETS will be conducting our Bell Tolling Service and Flag Folding/Presentation.
- **Mildred Wiggins** called me Tuesday to say they wanted to thank Charleston Base SUBVETS for their kindness and support, and for their attendance at the visitation for their daughter Angie. (**Chaplain note:** shipmates, your caring and compassion does make a difference in a grieving family’s life.)
- **Willie Jones** is at Pruitt Health Moncks Corner for rehab after being in the VA for pneumonia and a fall at home. He is doing well and doctor said he should be able to go home next week.

- **Luke Murphy** is at LifeCare, Dayspring rm 205 for rehab after suffering a light stroke in mid-January. Getting stronger each day. Expects to be there until the end of February.
- **Ray Bryant** has been in and out of the hospital a couple of times since last meeting. He has been approved for a liver transplant and has been called in one time already but the donor organ was not suitable.
- **Larry Cox** has been in the hospital a couple of times with pneumonia/bronchitis but is better and recovering.
- **Dot Campbell** is regaining her strength and is scheduled for open-heart surgery on the 18th. This will be a 7 hour procedure.
- **Mike Emerson** has had surgery on his right shoulder. Once recovered from that he will be having his left shoulder surgery.
- **Margie Deal's** sister, Stella Duke, passed away on January 18th.
- **Christine Stout** was had a heart cath and no blockage was found. She is home and doing well.
- **Rich Koehler** had his bladder surgery at Trident today. He is in rm 709, up walking and doing well.
- **Clell Hutchinson** is home on hospice and not doing well. Catherine told me that Clell would like to have visitors and short phone calls. Due to his breathing issues he can't talk very long before he is out of breath so if you call him please only talk for a few minutes. If you plan on visiting please call first and check that he is up to a visit. Also, if you have a cold or you're sick please don't visit. He'll understand if you just call to say hi and that you're thinking of him. Cards will also be welcome.
Needs 2 smoke detectors installed and two mirrors that need hanging.
- **Bill Hall** is recovering from his last tumor surgery and is very grateful for all of our prayers and is asking for no visitors or phone calls until further notice.
- **Karen Ilgenfritz** has been receiving treatment for stomach cancer and it has now spread to some of her bones. Jack asks that you keep his family in your prayers
- **Kathy Smith**, PM's wife, has two pins in her back. One of the pins broke and she is in great pain and must have surgery to repair.
- **Karen McKanna**, Rodney's wife, will have surgery on the 19th.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** will have surgery on the 24th.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Latest Shift Colors can be found on the base website at:
<http://www.ussvicb.org/documents/ShiftColors/2016%20Winter-Spring.pdf>

District Commander: Ed has progressed with the license plates. The Tags are going to be \$30.00 a year. The Process takes about two years.

Membership: Membership is now 311 members. About twenty members are delinquent in dues. Larry Knutson is taking over membership.

Newsletter: George Fuchs has stepped down as newsletter chairman. Steve Morawiec has relieved him. Steve will put the first one out by March.

FRA: Larry Cox gave us the following report. He announced That Elvis will be at the FRA on Saturday night. Tickets are 5 dollars a person.

February 21st the old time Navy breakfast for \$5.00 each from 0900 to 1130.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that the fund total is currently \$1704.00

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reported that Willie would love to have Visitors. Stacy couldn't make it tonight because someone has to be with his wife. We had 2 other WWII vets present. Join the WWII vets at the Golden Corral 18 Feb.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had no report.

Rec Committee: Al Dempster had no report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report.

Holland Club: Bill Freligh had no report.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar had no report.

Chief of the Boat: Dave Rein will have an eternal patrol ceremony at 12:30 tomorrow. The FRA will be performing the two bell ceremony at the same time.

Ken stated that The Victory House trip is this Tuesday 16 Feb.

Wednesday 1830 is the Hunley Memorial Service.

Friday Feb 26th NMPTC Legacy award ceremony This is awards given to the Highest academic Officer and Enlisted Submarine-designated graduates.

Base Commander: reported that Bill Kennedy is volunteering for the Kaps for Kids program. He is planning a trip to the Florence Hospital in March.

We have a new Volunteer for the Rec Committee. Mike Knaub. Our rec committee members are Mike Knaub Elmer Feaster and Al Dempster.

Rick will send out an email for The Investment Fund.

Rick informed us that the Positions for Vice Commander and Secretary are up for reelection.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order:

The After Battery: Steve Morawiec spoke for Buddah and wanted to let everyone know the annual Hog roast is April 2nd.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson reported:

The Family of a retired Master chief with 30 years in the Submarine service reluctantly decided that at age 92, he needed more care than they could provide. The only decent place close to their home was a nursing home for retired military. They approached the facility and were told that, while Army vets got first choice, they would take vets of the other services if there happened to be an opening; which by good fortune there was.

A week after placing the retired sub sailor there, his sons came to visit. "How do you like it here pop?" they asked. "It's wonderful" Said the old sailor. Great chow, lots to do and they treat everyone with great respect.

"How so pop?" Well, take Harry, across the hall, 88 and was in the Aif Force. He hasn't worn the uniform in 30 years but they still call him General. Then George down the hall, used to lead the Army Band. Hasn't conducted a note in 40 years and they still call him Maestro. And Bob used to be a surgeon in the Navy, has not operated on anyone in 20 years and they still call him Doc."That's fine for the other guys, Pop, but how do they treat you"

"Me!" They treat me with even more respect. I am 92, Haven't had sex in 10 years and they still call me 'that fucking bubblehead'

Jimmy Lynn discussed Patriot Guard Riders. They ride in memory of fallen heroes. They are invited by the family and provide a flag line. The family of the veteran are escorted to the gravesite.

Gordon Long informed us that the barbershop quartet is doing singing telegrams. They sing two songs and provide a card and a single rose. The cost is \$50.00

Fleet reserve drawing was won by Marty Sessler.

The depth charge was won by Charley Holycross.

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2010.

Charleston Base Submariners' Legacy Award

The award for Nuclear Power School Class 1506 was presented to ENS David A. Stevens and ETN3 Jason C. Dade on Feb. 26 by Charleston Base Commander Rick Wise. This award consists of a certificate which reads

*"United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.- Charleston Base takes great pleasure in presenting the **Submariners' Legacy Award** for US Naval Nuclear Power School Class to*

In recognition of your achievement as highest Grade Point Average Submarine Designate for your Class and to charge you with the responsibility of carrying on the legacy, honor and high standards of the United States Submarine Force. **Pride Runs Deep"**



Charleston Base Participates in H.L. Hunley-USS Housatonic Memorial Service

Members of Charleston Base again participated in the ceremony honoring the men lost on both the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley and the USS Housatonic. Members of the base presented 13 roses to the Lady Mourners one each for each man lost. Vice Commander Rick Sparger and base member Paul Vierung cast a wreath into the water for each ship. The text of the speech given was: "The Submarine Veterans are here tonight to join you in remembering and honoring those brave men that perished in the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley as well as on the United States Navy ship USS Housatonic. These were all men doing their duty for their countries as they understood that duty.

In remembering and honoring the men of the H.L. Hunley we remember and honor the memory of all brave men who gave their lives in submarines while defending their Country. Submariners of today share many common bonds with the men of the H. L. Hunley.

As General Beauregard required of Lt. Dixon in manning the third crew - they must be volunteers, be told of what happened to the other crews and be trained on all operations of the submarine, the United States Submarine Service of today is manned by volunteers who are taught the history of the Submarine Service and all operations of a modern submarine. These young men and women do not receive their submarine warfare pins of Dolphins until they have proven to their shipmates that they have the necessary knowledge and are able to be trusted.

The Submarine Service of today, 152 years later, is *still* an *inherently dangerous operation*. The environment below the surface of the ocean is as just deadly as the environment of space and just as unforgiving of mistakes. In the 116 year history of the United States Navy Submarine Service a total of 15 submarines and 455 men have been lost due to accidents.

Submariners have been going to sea, with all volunteer crews as the H. L. Hunley crew did, disregarding the risks that they knowingly faced, to do what was and is required to defend their country. It has been my experience that submariners of any period can recognize submariners of any other period as Brothers of the Dolphin in a very short time. I know if we met the crews of H. L. Hunley we would quickly recognize our brothers.

During a ceremony in 1958 Cdr. William R. Anderson the Commanding Officer of the USS Nautilus SSN 571 (The first Nuclear Powered Submarine) paid tribute to the H. L. Hunley;

"This little boat taught man a great deal by her short and tragic adventure, true her imperfections were many and her

success in combat scant and fatal, but she set a precedent of earth shaking consequences. By sinking that Union ship USS Housatonic the H. L. Hunley demonstrated that a ship could avail herself in the underwater world, after the element of surprise, deal the enemy a deadly blow. This was the beginning of a brilliant revolution in sea warfare.”

FROM THE CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE H.L. HUNLEY TO THE MOST MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED SUBMARINES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY---THE SACRIFICE CONTINUES.....

The men seated before you on my right are all members of the:
**Submarine Veterans of World War II -- Swamp Fox Chapter
AND United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated –
Charleston Base**

Our purpose is best explained by our creed which reads;
”To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments...Pledge loyalty and Patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution”.
We have this in common with the brave men of the H.L. Hunley --
We are all Submarine sailors.

We have this in common with the brave men of the USS Housatonic -- We are all United States Navy sailors.

We are honored to be here tonight to pay tribute to all our fallen brethren.

“May God rest their gallant souls.””

This is an abbreviated Newsletter put out by the Base Commander because the Newsletter Editor position is vacant.



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