

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 12 No. 11

November 2016

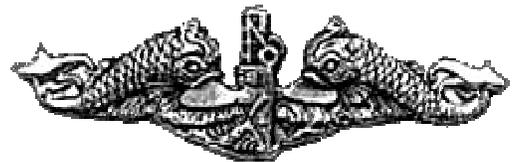
Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Base Meeting:

BOD: 3 November 1800
 Membership: 10 November 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Vice Com- mander	Mike Knaub	843.795.6665 (H) 843.696.7555(C)
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 Lose During the Month of November

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

Five Boats and 399 Men Lost

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Harleyville Christmas Parade, 1700 lineup Thursday Dec 1
NPS Class 1605 Graduation Dec 2 meet at NEX parking lot at 0800

Charleston Base Christmas Party 3 Dec 1800

Elloree Christmas Parade, 1700 Lineup Dec 10

Summerville Christmas Parade, 1100 Lineup Dec 11

Remember we will be taking gifts and donations for the Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro at the Christmas Party on Dec. 3. If you are not attending the party you may give the items to any Board of Directors member or drop it off at the FRA. Just let them know its for the Victory House.

FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

First let me wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and ask you to please consider attending one of the parades listed above. All you need do is sit and wave.

The invitation for the H. L. Hunley—USS Housatonic Memorial Service is on page 10. Please consider attending just to witness the event if not to participate.

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.

Subvet News 2016-043 CHARITABLE-01: 2017 Scholarship program

Submitted by: Alfred H Singleman Jr on 11/19/2016

Shipmates,

For all USSVI BASE COMMANDERS for further distribution From the CHAIRMAN OF THE

USSVI CHARITABLE FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The announcement of the 2016-2017 Academic Year USSVI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was promulgated on or about 15 October 2016. The application documents (and supporting information) are posted on the USSVI.org Website. Any USSVI Member may download the documents and sponsor children and grandchildren. The application package may also be requested via email or telephone or by snail mail.

Base Commanders are requested to remind current scholarship students to provide their semester grades and any thank you/feedback letters to my email address.

I encourage all members with children or grandchildren who are college bound or currently attending a University, College, Technical, School or similar pursuits of higher education to apply for this scholarship. Please log onto the USSVI website and review the program elements and application process and timeline.

Robert (Bob) E. Frick, RDML USN (Ret.) SS, Holland

Chairman of the USSVICF Scholarship Program

Subvet News 2016-044 Subject: RE: ON LIABILITY INSURANCE

Shipmates,

What we have from Rust Insurance is a Limited Liability Policy that covers 3rd Party bodily injury and property damage where USSVI is at fault. It covers parade participation, and USSVI meeting up to 150 people and events where USSVI does not sell alcohol. It covers USSVI floats while in a parade if part of the float falls off and causes injury to someone watching or marching in the parade. If the float is a stand-alone at an event and someone got hurt for some reason we are also covered. If the float is parked at a parade and someone was hurt the policy would kick in and a determination would be made as to who was at fault. For floats where the trailer is owned by a USSVI member and the float on that trailer was made by USSVI the policy would kick in and a determination would be made as to who was at fault. It covers us for all USSVI events where USSVI was at fault for injury or property damage. At USSVI events if someone gets hurt or property is damaged from displays USSVI puts up or some fault of USSVI we are covered. If someone trips going up the stairs at a meeting at a VFW they are not covered, the VFW would be at fault not USSVI. Again it only covers all of USSVI against 3rd party and member claims for bodily injury and property damage where USSVI was at fault. I have talked to various insurance agents about our policy and they have stated, for what we have and what we are paying it is a fair market value. Since there is a very limited number of companies doing master policies across the organization and all the organizational chapters like ours, it is not advisable to try to change companies to save a few hundred dollars. To cover Floats while being towed to and from a parade is an auto policy not covered by this policy. To get an auto policy to cover USSVI floats in all 50 states would more than double the cost and may not be available due the different laws that vary from state to state. If you have any questions on the policy you can call Bill Simons at 202-776-5037. I have a new event form that is a fillable PDF that can be sent directly to Rust Insurance and I'll post it up on the website and put out a POC on the Insurance policy next week.

Al Singleman, Jr. IPNC

Subvet NEWS 2016-45: 2017 Orlando Convention RV Campground info
Submitted by: William C. Andrea 11/21/2016

As you know, Orlando is the #1 tourist destination in the world. As such things get pretty busy around here and accommodations tend to fill up. We have been investigating possible campsites for the RV crowd for next year's convention. We have narrowed our search to two campgrounds that are the closest to the host hotel and would accommodate our members in an RV. The concern is that the Labor Day week-end is a maximum camping time in Orlando and the campgrounds will fill up fast. I was wondering if you could do a broadcast to all USSVI members encouraging those who are coming to the 2017 convention by RV to make their campground reservations now.

The two campgrounds that we are suggesting are:

Tropical Palms Resort and RV Park
2650 Holiday Trail
Kissimmee, FL 34746
(407) 396-4595

Orlando/Kissimmee KOA
2644 Happy Camper Place
Kissimmee, FL 34746
(407) 396-2400

Jay D Mack
Base Commander
Central Florida Base
2017 National Convention Co-Chairman

Subvet NEWS 2016-046: American Submariner
2016 Issue 4
Submitted by: William C. Andrea on
11/21/2016

The latest electronic issue of American Submariner (2016 issue 4) is now posted on the USSVI.ORG website

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

10 November 2016

The attendance for the November 2016 meeting was 79 members.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Rick Wise. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Rick Introduced Chief Schultz and announced that he would be reenlisting tonight.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: LT (SS) Christopher Ham Qual Boat: USS Tucson SSN 770. EM3 (SS) Tom Thompson, Qual Boat Henry L Stimson, SSBN 655

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the October meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rick Sparger made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Clyde Miller

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his report. 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.

Chaplain's November Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS SCAMP SS-277 was probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.

- **Ray Bryant** called to say he's back home after being in the hospital for some tests.
- **Lee Young** emailed me to say that he found out he has Colon cancer and will keep me posted as to his surgery date.
- **Tom Skorepa** had knee surgery and is home recovering.
- **Fred Woodley** will be having his shoulder surgery after the first of the year.

Chuck Bohling is now at home with hospice and is not doing well. Irene wife, says it's only a matter of time.

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:

- Currently there are 5 ads on the Web site. I would like to encourage anyone that has a business to consider advertising through the base website and newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$25 for 12 months. If you would like to know more please see me or the Base Commander.

- 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.

District Commander: District Commander Ed Stank was not present

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that base membership is now 321 members.

Kaps for Kids: No report was given.

Special Events Coordinator: Parades first one is Elloree on 10 December. Summerville Parade on the 11th December. Mentioned that the menu is Ham and Prime Rib. Rick has tickets for sale for \$20.00 each.

FRA: Dues are going up January 1. Also Veterans Day the FRA will have an indoor picnic. On November 19th The FRA will be having a Lasagna dinner. The cost is \$10.00

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf acknowledged the 2 WWII SUBVETS present.

Recreation Committee: Joe Lunn was not present.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers informed us that he has Submarine Bolo's for sale. He has the challenge Bolos for \$21.00 apiece. The new calendars are here. \$10.00 each.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had no report.

Public Affairs: Ronnie Kerstetter was not present.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar was not present..

Chief of the Boat: Ken Hutchison reported that Veterans Day we will have our memorial service. Dorchester County office building at 17A and 78. 1400 we will do the tolling of the boats at the Coffee Roasters in Summerville. The Ladson VFW will have their Veterans Day lunch.

We are trying to gather gifts for the Victory house for Christmas. They will be making a visit Tuesday 15 November. The COB wanted to point out that we will be presenting the Legacy award Ceremony on December 2nd.

Base Commander: Rick notified that the CRAMA membership expires on 31 December and he is asking for members to still join up. Membership dues are \$20.00

Old Business: None

New Business: The USSVICB proposed budget was proposed to the base and Rick asked for a motion to accept the budget as written. Nick Nichols made the motion and Ray Sparks seconded.

Good of the Order:

After Battery: Dave asked for help in saluting flags in the Lowcountry.

Nuclear Historian: Since our last meeting the world sure has changed:

The Chicago Cubs won the World Series (it only took them 108 years).

The "Wizard of OZ" top song has come back in popularity "Ding Dong the wicked witch is dead, The wicked witch, the wicked witch Ding dong the Wicked witch is dead"

The FBI has found some more emails on Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi's computers.

The election is over: Donald Trump has won the Presidential race but Hillary Clinton won the Popular Vote !

It seems that lately my life has been getting more complicated, and I want to thank those of you who are brave enough to still associate with me regardless of what ive become.

The following is a recap of my current Identity:

I was born white which makes me a racist

I am a fiscal and moral conservative which makes me a fascist.

I am heterosexual which makes me a homophobe.

I am nonunion, which makes me a traitor to the working class and an ally of big business.

I am Christian, which makes me an Infidel.

I am older than 60 and retired, which makes me a useless old person.

I think and I reason: therefore, I doubt much that the main stream media tells me, which makes me a reactionary.

I am proud of my heritage and our American culture, which makes me a xenophobe.

I value my safety and that of my family; therefore I appreciate the police and the legal system, which makes me a right wing extremist.

I believe in hard work, fair play, and fair compensation according to each individuals merits, which makes me privileged and anti-social.

I, and my friends, acquired a good education without student loans and no debt at graduation, which makes me some kind of odd underachiever.

I believe in the defense and protection of the homeland by all citizens, which makes me a militarist.

Please help me come to terms with this, because I'm not sure who I am anymore.

Newest Problem- I am not sure which bathroom I should use.

The **depth charge** was won by Ray Bryant. The **FRA red ticket** was won by Don Donofrio.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2000.

Charleston Base Toll the Lost Boats

Charleston Base held a Tolling of the Lost Boats on Veterans Day at the Coastal Coffee Roasters 108 E 3rd N Street, Summerville, SC. The entire ceremony took 25 minutes. This will be an annual event on Veterans Day.



[Honor Our Heritage](#)

Adm. Bill Moran, NavyLiveBlog, November 9

This past weekend aboard Kings Bay Submarine Base in Georgia, there was a small but powerful reminder of what it means to honor and remember our veterans. This remembrance event honored WWII submarine veterans. For years now, the numbers of vets attending this special event have been sadly decreasing, and this year 15 Sailors from as far away as California and Rhode Island made the pilgrimage.

When these veterans – most in their 90's – entered the ceremony, the packed crowd instantly rose to meet them with affirmation. Standing there, I was struck by a great sense of pride, honor and duty. Not only are their stories filled with unbounded courage, they are some of the most humble people you'll ever meet.

Tony Faella was at home with his cousin, listening to the radio when his show was interrupted with news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. They both decided right then and there that they were going to join the Navy and went the next morning to a recruiting station to enlist.

Fred Richards, who already had two brothers in the Navy, joined when he was only 15 years old. He said he was called to submarines after watching the movie *Destination Tokyo*. After enlisting, he learned about submarines on a school boat, S-28. But, while he was on a training break away from the sub, S-28 went down with his best buddy, Petty Officer First Class Anderson, on board.

These incredible Sailors, and many more like them, joined the Navy submarine force during a period of great danger and great complexity. Like the young men and women joining today, they raised their right hands, and were scattered all over the world, to the cold waters of the North Atlantic, and throughout the Pacific from Australia to the coast of Japan.

Collectively, these 15 Sailors represented 59 war patrols and 190 years in the Navy. Patrick Zilliacus made four successful war patrols with the USS *Spot*, sinking 17 enemy ships in the Pacific and surviving a harrowing surface gun fight with an armed minelayer.

Paul Casavant was an 18-year-old shipbuilder in Groton, Connecticut, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Not long after, he went from building submarines to patrolling the Pacific aboard USS *Narwhal*. He completed nine war patrols and retired from the Navy with 30 years of service. When asked how he made it through nine dangerous patrols, he said he was

“very lucky.” Keep in mind that serving on submarines during World War II was the most dangerous duty a Sailor could be assigned – 52 submarines were lost during the war. One in five submariners never made it home.

In both November 1943 and November 1944, we lost three submarines each month. Imagine that – for all today’s Sailors, three submarines on patrol that would never come back. 500 Sailors on eternal patrol – It’s unthinkable.

Legacy is an important word in our English language – to some it refers to age, to others more importantly it refers to the enduring and meaningful lessons of example. Some of the men honored in Kings Bay paid the ultimate sacrifice for generations to come. They never gave in, even when the prospect for success or survival seemed dim. That toughness, that determination to serve the guy next to them became part of their legacy and part of our DNA. Their sacrifices helped build the greatest maritime power in the world.

As we get ready to enjoy a day of liberty and remember our veterans, let us reflect on the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, and strive to live up to their example. The DNA of this greatest generation is built into our character as a Navy – every Sailor, every oath. So as we look to future challenges, let us again rise to meet these amazing men and honor their past by our actions and deeds in service to our country.

[The Navy is retiring a submarine that miraculously survived a terrifying collision](#)

[Sam Fellman, Navy Times, November 8](#)

Sailors and former crewmembers bid farewell at a Friday ceremony to the attack submarine that survived a devastating 2005 collision and would go on to serve another decade, including four more deployments.

The submarine San Francisco is being retired from the fleet after 35 years of service and will shift to Norfolk later this month to become a nuclear reactor training ship.

A look at its traumatic history:

On Jan. 8, 2005, the submarine struck an underwater mountain going nearly full speed. The violent collision slammed sailors into bulkheads and equipment. One crewmember recalled chaos and carnage from the impact, which was like hitting a cement wall at 40 mph. The shocked chief of the watch leaped back into action and actuated the emergency ballast tanks, bringing the sub to the surface from a depth of about 500 feet.

The force of impact killed Machinist’s Mate 2 nd Class Joseph Ashley and wounded dozens more. Hospital Corpsman 1 st Class (SS) James Akin and another crewmember later received the Meritorious Service Medal for setting up an emergency triage center and caring for 70 injured shipmates.

The impact crushed the submarine’s bow and caused at least \$88 million in damages. A command investigation faulted the submarine’s commanding officer, Cmdr. Kevin Mooney, and his navigation team for failing to properly chart a safe voyage plan. They transited an area filled with undersea volcanoes when they could have avoided the area and also failed to take additional precautions, like more frequent soundings to check depth changes. It would take the better part of three years to return the San Francisco to operational service.

Crews would take the submarine on at least four more deployments. They returned to cheers in San Diego from their final cruise on Oct. 14. Later in November, the submarine will head to Norfolk for a two-year conversion to become a moored training ship, where future submariners will learn to safely operate nuclear reactors and engineering systems.

"By any measure, the San Francisco has had a stellar career as an operational submarine," said Cmdr. Jeff Juergens, the outgoing commanding officer, in a Nov., 4 ceremony in San Diego. "I've been extremely fortunate to be one of the few to command this fine submarine, and especially lucky to get to command San Francisco for the last three years, which have been so successful."

[Ohio-class Replacement Submarine Program on hold for next milestone](#)

[Lee Hudson, Inside Defense, November 7](#)

The Navy's top acquisition priority -- the Ohio-class Replacement Submarine -- is on hold to pass its next major milestone decision until the program office works through two data points to satisfy the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer, according to multiple sources.

On Nov. 4, a Defense Acquisition Board meeting was held for the next-generation ballistic submarine program to clear milestone B. Once approved, the Navy can transition from technology maturation and risk reduction into engineering and manufacturing development.

However, Pentagon acquisition chief Frank Kendall directed the Navy to complete two items before signing an acquisition decision memorandum. The first task is rebaselining cost estimates from fiscal year 2010 dollars to FY-17 dollars, according to sources.

Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley, program executive officer for submarines, said during his Oct. 26 presentation at the Naval Submarine League that once the Office of the Secretary of Defense approves milestone B, an updated cost estimate would be released.

"I am very confident we will be closer to that \$4.9 billion number than the \$5.6 billion number" for follow-on ships. The cost estimate Jabaley referenced is in FY-10 dollars. The service's cost target for each follow-on boat is \$4.9 billion.

The second hurdle for the Navy is getting further along with negotiations for the detailed design and construction contract with General Dynamics Electric Boat, according to sources.

Shortly after an ADM is signed, the Navy will award a contract to Electric Boat. This changes the funding stream for the Navy from research and development to procurement dollars.

Sources estimate this could take at least a couple of weeks and it is likely an ADM will not be signed until December. The Navy did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

This 'Life-Changing' Shift Has Made Submariners Much Happier

David B. Larter, Navy Times, October 28

The 18-hour day is dead and gone in the submarine force, and junior officers who were on the front lines for the change say the change has been a revolution for morale and alertness throughout the force.

The submarine force began transitioning in 2014 from an 18-hour day, where sailors stood watch six hours and had 12 hours off for other duties and sleep. Five junior officers speaking on a panel at the Naval Submarine League's annual symposium all agreed that the change to eight-hour watches with 16 hours off had an immediate positive affect.

"It has had an extraordinary impact on a couple of areas," said Lt. Travis Nicks, who was on a fast-attack boat when his ship switched to eight-on, 16-off watches. "Mission execution and alertness. I did one deployment with six hour watches and one deployment with eight-hour watches. And on the eight hour deployment, nobody fell asleep as the contact manager standing up. The officer of the deck wasn't leaning up against the scope with both eyes closed and being slapped by the junior officer of the deck to stay awake.

"I know that sounds like whining to everyone in this room who went their whole career on six-hour watches but I wish you'd had the experience of eight-hour watches because it's life-changing," Nicks said.

The impact was also immediately apparent for crew morale, he added.

"The second part is it dramatically improves morale on the ship," he said. "When guys are sleeping, I noticed immediately that guys are complaining less. They need fewer bathroom breaks. They're dipping less tobacco. Everything gets better with eight-hour watches."

Experts such as Nita Shattuck, an associate professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, have argued for years that even without sunlight the body works best on a 24-hour clock and that the 18-hour day led to chronic sleep deprivation among sailors which has led to accidents over the years.

In 2013, the heads of the Surface Navy released a statement saying that their force should also make a priority out of sleep.

"The aviation community has long embraced the concept of crew rest as a foundation for safe operations," said Vice Adm. Tom Copeman, then head of Naval Surface Forces, and Rear Adm. David Thomas, then head of Naval Surface Force Atlantic. "It has a place in the surface force, as well."

For Lt. Jessica Wilcox, who served on the ballistic missile sub Wyoming, the benefits of sticking to a 24-hour clock underwater were written on her sailors' faces.

"We implemented them on my last patrol and it was a godsend," she said. "Mostly the way I saw it was in my [engineers] and the bags that they didn't have under their eyes anymore."

Charleston Base Christmas Party at the Fleet

December 3, 2016

Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.

Prime Rib, Baked Ham
plus all the trimmings

Dancing 8 p.m. until midnight

with *The Salty Dogs*

The Fleet Reserve 269
99 Wisteria Rd.
Goose Creek, SC



H. L. Hunley Memorial Service

Date: February 17, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 1900 hours -- (Arrive 20 to 30 minutes early)

Place: Sunrise Presbyterian Church

3222 Middle Street

Sullivans Island, S.C, 29482

Church located near intersection of Jasper Blvd. and Middle Street by

Breech Inlet Bridge (Sullivan's Island side)

Uniform: Charleston Tuxedo for presenters and wreath bearers.

Blue Blazer w/Dolphins

White or Light Blue Shirt

Dolphin Tie (or dark tie)

Kaki Pants

Black or Brown Shoes

Top Coat/Overcoat Recommended (its cold on the beach)

If attending other than presenters or wreath bearers

Please wear your vest or your Dolphins

The Charleston Base Submarine Veterans and WWII Submarine Veterans are invited to attend a Memorial Service honoring the 8 man crew lost on the Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley along with the 5 crewmen lost on the USS Housatonic during the night of February 17, 1864.

The Confederate Heritage Trust Committee has asked the Charleston Base to supply a *minimum* of 15 men to participate in the service. The more men (SubVets) involved, the better our showing of support from the Charleston Base. Please make an effort to be there and bring your wives, girlfriends and children, this is a family service.

Our job (*15* men) will be to sit in front of the church (in the choir loft just right of the pulpit as faced from the congregation) and at the appropriate time in the program, to step to the table at the front of the church, select a white rose from a table, turn to the Lady Mourners seated in the front pew and present the rose to a Lady Mourner. At the conclusion of the church service the SubVets will exit the church. Upon retrieving our coats, we will proceed in the street in front of the church, then down to Breech Inlet for the completion of the service at the water's edge.

I would also urge all SubVets to carry a mini-flashlight with them as the sandy path to the beach can be tricky to negotiate in the dark.

NOTE: It is usually very cold with sometimes strong winds this time of year so be sure to bring a heavy coat.

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING AS A PARTICIPANT OR AT LEAST ATTEND AS PART OF THE CONGREGATION IN SUPPORT OF THE H.L. HUNLEY PROJECT.

Thanks, Paul Vierung Contact for volunteering.

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