

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 13 No. 3

March 2017

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: March 2 1800
 Membership: March 9 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	843.860.1155
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	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	Bill Kennedy	843.875.3109



Submarines Lose During the Month of March

USS PERCH (SS-176)	3 March 1942 – 1 st war patrol	61 POWs; 55 survived the war; 6 died as POW
USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)	5 March 1943 – 6 th 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 – 6 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS KETE (SS-369)	20 March 1945 – 2 nd 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 – 4 th war patrol	Lost with 79 souls – 1 POW survived the war
USS TRIGGER (SS-237)	26 March 1945 – 12 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls

Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, April 6	1800	FRA Branch 268, Goose Creek
Submarine Birthday/Amberjack Memorial	Saturday, April 8	1100	Cold War Submarine Memorial
Victory House Visit and Cookout	Tuesday, April 11	1000	VFW Ladson to carpool
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, April 13	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Other Events of Interest

Hog Roast in the Swamp	April 16—22(see pg 9)		The After Battery
Submarine Birthday Ball	April 22	1730	Trident Tech

FROM THE BASE COMMANDER

I had hoped to be able to serve two tours as Charleston Base Commander. THAT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE! Someone else must step up and become the Base Commander. It does not matter if you have never served in any position with the base, in fact, that might be helpful. Maybe you can see some things that the current Board members are missing. All you need to be is a member in good standing of Charleston Base (your dues are paid). The members of the Base and the Board will give you all the help you need to be successful. I stand ready to do whatever the new Base Commander needs me to do.

There are a lot of events coming up in April. The Submarine Birthday/USS Amberjack Memorial Service at 1100 on Saturday, April 8 at the Cold War Submarine Memorial at the entrance to Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant, SC should be a good start. The Hog Roast at the After Battery on April 22 is a good way to meet Submariners from all over the country and even beyond the US. People start arriving on April 16th and **ALL Submariners** are welcome to come out all week.

With the Submarine Birthday Ball starting at 1730 on April 22 some of us will be stretched out that day but I plan on making both events.

The Charleston Base share in purchasing a portable defibullator at the FRA was \$250 and not the \$500 that was approved during the February meeting.

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 2017-08 NEWS-01: National Award Nominations

Submitted by: John Stanford on 3/8/2017

National Award Nominations

Shipmates,

We are now almost halfway through the nominations period for National Awards, and the nominations are coming in very slowly.

Please take a moment to review the Awards Manual posted on the USSVI website, and send in a nomination for your Shipmate.

There is always someone in each Base who is doing a great job, so recognize them with an Award for their service.

Remember, the nomination period ends on April 30th (except Newsletters).

v/r

John Stanford

National Awards Committee Chairman

JStan131@Comcast.net 904 - 743-3197 (H) 904 - 502-8586 (C)

CHARITABLE-01: 2017 Scholarship program Reminder!

Submitted by: Alfred H Singleman Jr on 3/6/2017

>From the Chairman of the USSVI CF Scholarship Program to all Base Commanders:

The Academic Year USSVI CF Scholarship Applications for the 2017-2018 Academic Year must be submitted on or before April 15, 2017. The competitive scholarships and the scholarship program information is available at USSVI.ORG as well as telephone or email at:

Robert E. Frick RDML USN (Ret) SS Holland

703 754 4959

Refrick1@gmail.com

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

9 March 2017

The attendance for the March 2017 meeting was 84 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 March was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice Commander Michael Knaub. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Award Presentations: Base Commander Rick Wise gave the following awards; Honorary Member was presented to Larry Pepper. Charleston Base Distinguished Submariner was awarded to Ed Stank.

Introductions: The following introduced themselves at the meeting: STS1 (SS) Dwayne Smalls, Qual Boat: USS Hammerhead SSN 663.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the February 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. Ken Curtis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Paul Viering.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave his 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

Chaplain: March Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS TRIGGER (SS-237) was lost on Mar 26, 1945 with 89 officers and men on her 12th war patrol. She was lost during a combined attack by Japanese antisubmarine vessels and aircraft. Trigger ranked 7th in total tonnage sunk and tied for 8th in number of ships sunk.

- **BM3(SS) / LTCOL Andrew Edward Palenchar**, US Army, Ret, now on Eternal Patrol. He was a CB member but was living in CO with family and also a member of Rocky Mountain base. He qualified on the FINBACK and was one that pulled George HW Bush out of the water. I passed this info on to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum and received the following back from them:

“Our thoughts and prayers at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum go out to the family of Andrew. His service to our nation will not be forgotten. I have sent this information to President Bush's Houston office.” V/R David Anaya Director of Marketing and Communications George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

- **MTCM(SS) Gary Frederick Brown**, USN Ret., now on Eternal Patrol. Gary was a member of USSVI and Charleston Base between 2009 and 2012. He was COB on SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN 641B and CMC on PHILIPPINE SEA CG58.

- **LCDR(SS) Ralph Edward Stobart** USN Ret. now on Eternal Patrol. Ralph served 30 years all in submarines but not a member of CB.

- **CWO1(SS) Charles C. Bohling, Jr., USN Ret.**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 11, 2016. The SUBVETS participated in his memorial service on Nov. 21st. We have received a note from his wife, Irene addressed to our Base Commander::

○ Mr. Wise, I apologize for my thank you note being so late. Thank you ever so much for all you do, and thank you for your service. Thank you for your spiritual counsel and services at the funeral of my husband, Charles C. Bohling. I appreciate you and all the SubVets. Sincerely and God Bless, Irene Bohling

○ **Frank Carroll** had back surgery yesterday at St. Francis. Have not heard a report on him.

Vernon Freshour is in a nursing home in Bucklin, KS. His brother, Lynn, sent us a short note to let you know Vern's new address and it is on the Sailing List. Anyone wishing to send Vern a card, please use the new address: Vernon J. Freshour, Hill Top House PO Box 248, Bucklin, KS 67834

- **Lee Young** had cancer surgery on March 6th. He is in Room 7027, Roper Hosp at 125 Doughty Street in Charleston. Roger Rader visited Lee this morning and sent me the following by text: The surgery went well. His wife Donna said Thursday morning on Facebook that she was proud of Lee, he has the most positive attitude through all of this, he is doing great and hopefully will be out of the Hospital on Friday, but will more than likely be in rehab for 10-14 days to further help his recovery. She thanks everyone for the prayers and well wishes. We had a good visit. He is

feeling good and is healing nicely. Looks like he will be discharged on Friday and probably go to Health South for a couple of weeks. **Rick Sparger** will be having back surgery at St. Francis on March 16.

- **Larry Cox** was back in Trident Hospital with pneumonia. He is home recovering.
 - **Luke Murphy** was in the VA for pneumonia. After replacing his PEG tube he was moved to rehab and is now home recovering.
 - **Ava Daughtery's** surgery has been postponed until a later date
 - **Herb Anderson** will be having nasal surgery at the VA tomorrow am, Friday, 10 Mar.
 - **Rusty Pickett's** knee replacement has been postponed.
 - **Don Meadow's** son, Andrew, is doing well. Rick Wise talked to him today and learned and the older son is close to the weight target so they hope the transplant can happen soon. They are currently home and Andrew has been medically discharged. They are hoping to be able to have the older son tested here but it looks like they will have to go back up to DC. Don's infection is gone.
 - **Stacy Power** has been in the hospital, completed rehab and is with us tonight.
 - **Richard Cleve's** son emailed us to tell us that he is moving Richard to Missouri to an assisted living memory care facility. Richard doesn't know anyone anymore. During the same week I will be disconnecting his email account so the account will no longer receive emails. For any emails that you want to send, I have setup an email account for him on my server to keep things more organized. The new email address is rwc@borgx.com. Thanks again for the prayers! I will inform you of any major changes to his health going forward as well. James Cleeve 314-795-8862 *
Chaplain Note: The Charleston Base website has been updated to indicate Richard's new address, phone number (his son) and email address (his son will print all the emails that are not SPAM and give them to him.)
 - **James Graham** had thyroid surgery and it went well. He is waiting on the results to see if there was any cancer. **Sonny Rash** had hernia surgery and is now home recovering.
 - **Beetle Bailey's** daughter, **Diane**, has had a recurrence of her cancer. They found a 1.5 centimeter growth on her liver and she will be starting radiation soon.
 - **Charlotte Loveday**, Jim's wife, has hospice helping her.
 - **Estelle Jones**, Willie's wife, is in the hospital but we don't know which one. Dave Taylor called Willie to come to the meeting but Willie declined.
 - **Lorraine Curtis**, Walt and Maureen's daughter, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her first chemo was last Thursday.
- Don Petersen** has throat cancer which is being treated with both Chemo and radiation.

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.

There will be an email coming our soon to begin a program where shipmates will pick up other shipmates who can't drive after dark and bring them to the meetings.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

- Currently there are 6 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.

Special Events: Rick reported that we will be having the Amberjack Ceremony on April 8th at Patriots Point. If we have inclement weather then we will have it at the FRA.

Veterans Affairs: Reported that there is INVITRO Fertilization to Members under the Age of 50

District Commander: Ed commented that the Southeast Regional Convention this year will be in Orlando FLA on 11 to 14 May. The National Scholarship fund ends March 15th. The Vietnam Veterans ceremony over at Patriots point is March 29th. Victory House Tuesday 14th March.

Membership: Larry Knutson reported that there are now 301 members.

Election Coordinator: Joe Lund asked the membership if anyone would like to run for the offices of Base Commander and Treasurer. Neither the Base Commander nor treasurer wish to run again for office. He also reported that the Combined FRA/Subvets picnic is May 6th.

Public Affairs: Ronnie Kerstetter introduced himself and asked if there were any questions.

KapSS for KidSS: No Report

CRAMA: No Report

Chief of the Boat: Sunday is Daylight Savings. CRAMA meeting here at 1300 on the 23rd of March. Friday the 31st is the NMPTU Legacy award graduation. Hunley Housatonic MeHhHHHHHHH

Base Commander: Talked about having a Little David working party. Rick will need a 3 man on the 24th and as many as can help paint on the 25th. Rick Wise will not run for Base Commander

Old Business: None

New Business: Rick Sparger made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the FRA towards the purchase of 2 Bricks for the Front of the FRA one for the WWII Subvets and one for the Charleston base Subvets. George Scharf seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Good of the Order: Jeff Reuer reported that there is a free day trip to Washington DC March 15th. The only cost to you will be your meals. See Jeff after the meeting.

The After Battery: Bhudda reported that the After Battery annual week long Hog roast will be 16th April. Any donations or Raffle Baskets are much appreciated.

Nuclear Historian: Ed Stank reported:

A small boy lost Grandpa at the mall. He approached a uniformed security guard and said, "I've lost my grandpa!"

The guard asked, "What's his name?"

"Grandpa"

The guard smiled, then asked, "What's he like?"

The little tyke hesitated for a moment and then replied,

"Miller Lite and women with big boobs."

War hero wins fight with Va. homeowners group over flagpole



Medal of Honor recipient Van T. Barfoot, 90, lowers the flag from a pole in his yard in the Sussex Square neighborhood near Richmond. (Eva Russo/richmond Times-dispatch Via Associated Press)

The Great Flagpole Dispute of 2009 started last summer when Van T. Barfoot, a retired Army colonel who single-handedly took on three Nazi tanks in World War II, moved to the Sussex Square neighborhood near Richmond to be closer to his daughter. Barfoot believes in flying the colors of the nation he loves, so he erected a flagpole in his front yard.

Like thousands of developments across the country, Sussex Square is governed by a homeowners association, which controls the neighborhood's aesthetics. The association ordered Barfoot, a 90-year-old Medal of Honor recipient, to remove his flagpole.

By the time the flagpole battle ended this week, after threats of litigation, accusations of anti-Americanism and indignation that spilled far beyond the development's boundaries to become fodder for a nation of talking heads and blogging

pundits, even Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine (D) and the Obama administration had chimed in.

In the end, it took the combined forces of the American Legion, members of Congress, untold numbers of sympathetic veterans and the spokesman for the leader of the free world to persuade the homeowners association to back off its threat to sue a war hero. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) finally brokered a deal that will allow Barfoot to keep his flagpole.

"All my life, from childhood to now, I have been able to fly the flag," Barfoot told supporters standing outside his house Wednesday. "In the time I have left, I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference."

The rules at Sussex Square are simple: "No building, fence, flagpole, wall, improvement or other structure" may be put up without the association's approval. Like the nearly 60 million Americans who live in communities governed by homeowners associations, Barfoot and his neighbors must seek approval before even painting their house a different color.

Still, when Barfoot erected his 21-foot-tall flagpole, said his attorney, John Honey, "he believed he was within his legal rights."

The legalities quickly became secondary to the explosion of outrage about what appeared to many to be a suppression of patriotism. After the association ordered removal of the flagpole, Richmond area news outlets reported on the controversy. Soon, there was a "We Support Col Van T. Barfoot's (Ret) Effort To Fly The U.S. Flag" page on Facebook (as of Wednesday: 48,000 members and counting). Outraged bloggers posted and tweeted the name and phone number of the association's president, urging people to give him an earful.

The American Legion issued a statement saying that the homeowners association "underestimated the fight left in this elderly veteran, and now they have to contend with the determination and persistence of Col. Barfoot's 2.5 million friends in The American Legion."

Barfoot is known in Virginia for his wartime heroism and his service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His Medal of Honor citation credits his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" while fighting in Italy in 1944. Barfoot took out two enemy machine gun perches, which led to the surrender of a third. Later, he "took up an exposed position directly in front of three advancing Mark VI tanks" and fired on one with a bazooka, scaring the other two away. Earlier this year, Virginia's legislature named a stretch of Route 16 the "Col. Van T. Barfoot Medal of Honor Highway."

So when news of the flagpole battle flared, officials rallied around the war hero. Kaine said it was "ridiculous" that the association was requiring Barfoot to take the flagpole down.

On Monday, during a briefing that dealt mainly with the environment, the economy, health care and Afghanistan, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he thought it was "silly" that Barfoot "can't have a flagpole and show the proper respect and appreciation that any flag deserves by flying that in their neighborhood."

And on Tuesday, Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.) introduced a resolution seeking to allow Medal of Honor recipients "to properly display the flag" on their property.

Mike Ciesielko announced that the Charleston Base Gun club meeting will be scheduled after this meeting

The red FRA ticket was won by Mike Knaub

The depth charge was won by Walt Curtis

Benediction: Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2007.

There was a rumor that Bill Roberts was seen working during a trip to the Veteran's Victory House this month but I pointed out that the chair he pick up was put back exactly where he got it so no work was done. Your records still intact, Robbie!

The Clamagore Can and Should Be Saved

(This started as a letter to the Editor of the Charleston Post and Courier and ended up as a Op-Ed piece in the Saturday, March 4 paper. It was submitted to the American Submariner but was determined by the editor to be political so he would not print it. It has been sent to the other South Carolina USSVI Bases)

Before the ex-USS Clamagore SS-343 was delivered to the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum a Donation Contract (N00024-79-C-0204) was signed between the United States of America, represented by the Department of the Navy, and the State of South Carolina, represented by the Patriots Point Development Authority.

There were items specified in the contract that have not been met by Patriots Point, in particular, "... maintain the Vessel in such a manner that it will not cast discredit upon the Navy or upon the proud tradition of this historic Vessel, ..." Patriots Point has failed to maintain the submarine as they should have.

If Patriots Point had maintained the Clamagore properly she would still be in very good condition. My proof of this is that two similar submarines that were commissioned within 6 months of USS Clamagore (ex-USS Cutlass and ex-USS Sealion) are still in operation with the Taiwanese Navy which is considering extending the life to 90 years! The people of South Carolina should be embarrassed that their state, which so cherishes its history, should have neglected its responsibility to this historic vessel.

One item to show this neglect is that the Clamagore was delivered to Patriots Point with an impressed cathodic system to reduce corrosion of the hull and superstructure. This consists of bars of metal, normally zinc, that are attached to the hull so they corrode instead of the steel of the superstructure and hull. By April 2008 when a survey was performed by Joseph W. Lombardi, Marine Surveyor & Consultant, no impressed cathodic system was to be found. The report states "...it is understood that Patriot's Point has engaged a contractor to design and install a new cathodic system." No cathodic system is installed!

A more easily understood example may be this. The State of South Carolina is donated an historic house. Over the years they never bother to clean off the debris that collects on the roof and then the roof starts to leak. The answer to this by the agency handling the house for the State is "Tear it down!"

Most of the damage sustained by Clamagore happened before the current Director Mac Burdette took the position. However his only answer is "Sink it!"

One thing I do find interesting with the current group at Patriots Point is that they can't keep their story straight. They tell one group in Florida that they spend \$250,000 a year to maintain Clamagore and then about three weeks later they tell a reporter in Charleston they only spend \$100,000 a year! Don't you know the difference?

The ex-USS Clamagore can be saved! It will not be easy or cheap. I belong to a group, USS Clamagore SS 343 Restoration and Maintenance Association, Inc., CRAMA, a Code 501(c)(3) non-profit charity that would like to save the submarine and would like to mount it on land as has been done with the Albacore in New Hampshire, the Drum in Alabama and the Batfish in Oklahoma. YES OKLAHOMA!

The only way to save the Clamagore is for the State of South Carolina which owns the submarine to take it from Patriots Point, a group that show they have no interest in saving the ship, and give it to a group that can save it.

Please let your state representatives and senators know you want the Clamagore to be saved! All it takes is a phone call, a letter or an e-mail. Please help.

Rick Wise, Secretary CRAMA and Base Commander United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. – Charleston Base
Summerville, SC

The After Battery Hog Roast in the Swamp

Begins on 16 April 2017, grand finale with Roasted Hog: 22 April 2017. [See our web page for detail.](#)

Raffle Baskets.

If you have made `em, thank you. Buddha says he has plenty of room to store them – please bring them by.

If you are making `em, thank you. Buddha says he has plenty of room to store them – please bring them by.

If you are considering making `em, thank you. These are a significant money maker for the Hog Roast event, and allow us to put on the spreads that we do.

Meal Change from previous years –

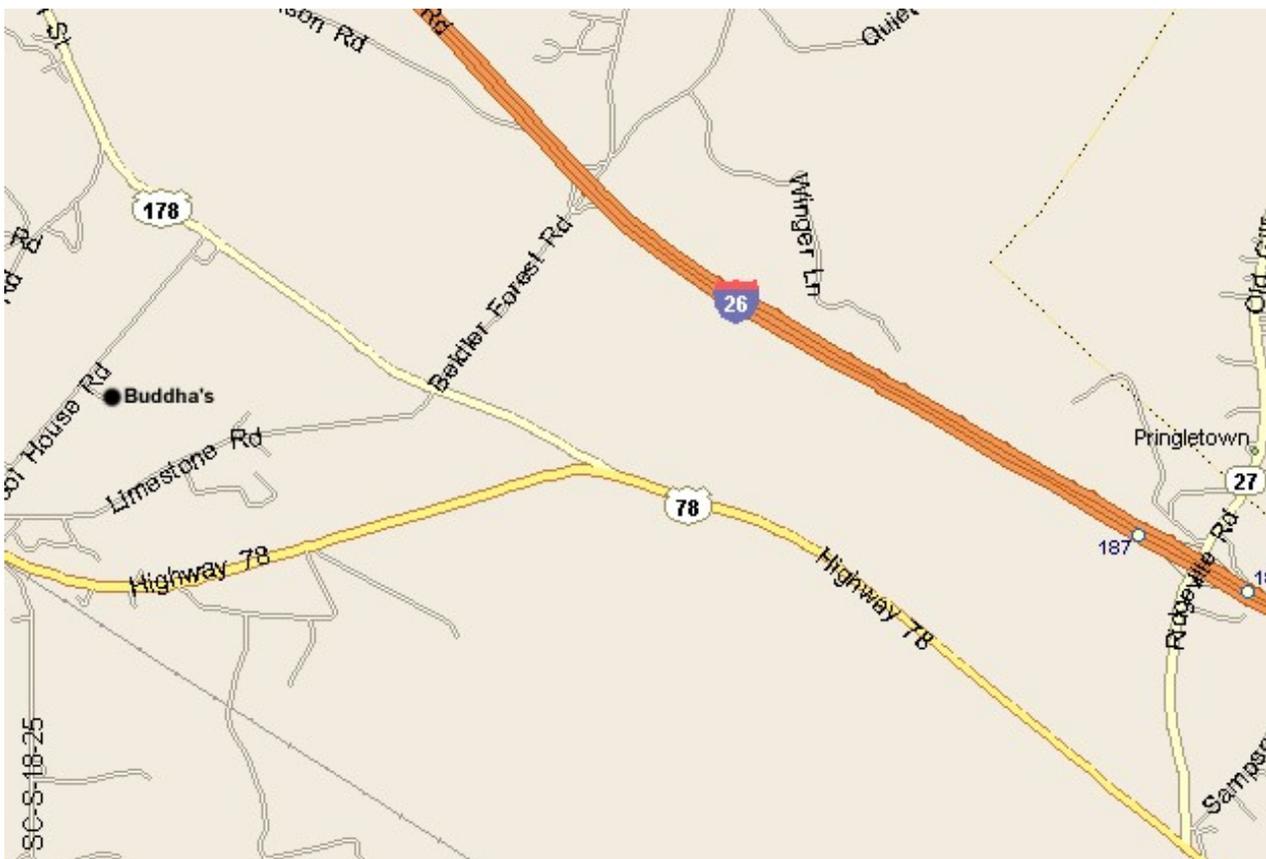
All local folks who attend Saturday's big event and care to bring food are encouraged to bring a dessert.

The main course and side dishes will be prepared at the After Battery.

The Hog Roast is approaching - it's time to get in some serious planning. This event is put on by submariners and their friends - for submariners and their friends. There is no charge - we don't charge anything - but we willingly accept donations.

Just so there's no question about the location - use this address in your gps: 120 Sawdust Lane Dorchester, SC 29437. Or, if you prefer, use these coordinates: 33.148023 N & 80.385074 W.

Important dates: The date of the actual hog roast is Saturday 22 April 2017 - but many start as early as Sunday April 16, 2017 (Easter Sunday) or anytime during the week. As always, if you have any questions just call us at (843) 709-4867 and a smiling polite Torpedoman will assist you.



Senator: The Submarine is America's 'Strategic, Decisive Edge'

Richard Burgess, Seapower Magazine, March 1

WASHINGTON – There was an air of optimism in a crowded room in the basement of the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill, where dozens of congressmen, staffers and defense industry executives gathered in a crowded room to hammer home the importance of the submarine to the U.S. Navy and the nation, and to the industrial base that builds them.

On March, 1 the Submarine Industrial Base Council (SIBC) held its annual Supplier Day, which gives the companies that build components for submarines the opportunity for their representatives to lobby their congressmen in person. Several senators and representatives of states where the components are built addressed the gathering in short speeches that sometimes gave the event the air of a pep rally.

The speakers, veterans of the Hill and new representatives, spoke of the contributions their states or districts make to building - or in one case retiring the reactors of - the Navy's submarines.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and in whose state major structures of submarines are assembled by 3,600 Electric Boat employees, recalled that the Submarine Caucus was formed in 1991 to protect the Seawolf-class attack submarine and stressed the caucus's value today.

"The submarine is the strategic, decisive edge we have, technologically," Reed said. "The [Columbia-class ballistic-missile] submarine is the most critical part of the [nation's nuclear] triad."

"We are in a century of undersea warfare and cyber," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. "That is our future."

The Navy's submarines, Blumenthal said, "make sure we will never have a fair fight."

Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., credited the SIBC with helping to get Congress to authorize the Columbia-class submarine, noting that "the Columbia class is in really good shape. That doesn't happen in a vacuum. Getting suppliers from all across the country is key to the success in getting members [of Congress] to pass the budget."

"Our submarine industrial base is critical to where the Navy needs to be," said Rob Wittman, R-Va., chairman of the House Armed Services seapower and projection forces subcommittee, noting that the current status of shipbuilding will help the Navy to grow its fleet.

"We have hot production lines with mature designs," Wittman said. "It is the submarine that is key to that Navy presence around the world."

Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., stressed the importance of training new shipyard workers and engineers to keep a "strong, highly skilled defense capacity" and expressed hope that federal funding would be applied to accomplish such training. She said that General Dynamics Electric Boat is hiring 2,000 workers in 2017, with 1,350 of them in the company's Groton, Conn., facility.

Navy Subs Still Show Issue With Stealth Coating

William Cole, Honolulu Advertiser, March 5

In 2010, when rubberlike quieting material started to peel off the hulls of newer Virginia-class submarines, the Navy said it was fine-tuning a fix for a problem occurring on the first few ships made.

Seven years later, the Navy still appears to be seeking a cure.

When the \$2 billion USS Mississippi recently returned to Pearl Harbor, its "Mold-In-Place/Special Hull Treatment" looked ragged and was missing chunks on at least one side of the hull. The sub was commissioned in 2012.

The loss of stealth comes at a time when China and Russia are making worrisome advances in submarine technology.

A photo that appeared on Facebook prompted the comment that the Mississippi looked "pretty banged up." No collision, no accident, and no hull damage, reported the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force at Pearl Harbor.

The Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington skirted questions about what happened to the Mississippi and how much of a problem the debonding remains for Virginia-class attack boats.

Asked what caused the damage, the command in an email cited the "wear and tear from the harsh environment in which the submarine operates," but would not say when or why it occurred.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser also asked how much of a problem debonding remains across the Virginia-class fleet, given past problems with the hull treatment that is applied in sections.

"Navy and industry continue to find efficiencies and improvements in the construction and maintenance of Virginia-class submarines," the command said in the emailed response. "An integrated process team was assembled to address conditions such as those reflected in the (USS Mississippi) photograph, and improvements to materials, processes and testing were subsequently identified, evaluated and implemented. The Navy is continually assessing and developing more effective solutions."

Bryan Clark, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and a former Navy submariner, said the amount of acoustic coating missing on the Mississippi "could create enough flow noise to be a sound problem at even relatively slow speeds. Also, there is enough tile missing that it could reduce the coating's ability to absorb sonar energy and make the submarine easier to find with active sonar."

Clark said it isn't clear from the photo if the tiles came off due to debonding, meaning a loss of adhesion, "or if they got stripped off from something rubbing against the submarine. Nets and cables adrift at sea can do this."

Cmdr. Corey Barker, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, said that in terms of possible abrasion, he was "not aware of anything of that nature" happening.

The 377-foot attack submarine returned to Pearl Harbor on Feb. 13 after being in and out of port for routine training, Barker said. On Sept. 1, the Mississippi came home after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

A Navy photo taken June 13 during a port stop in Busan, South Korea, shows the same side of the sub missing a few coating pieces, but not anywhere close to the degree of loss exhibited last month.

Asked if the debonding occurred during the deployment, the Naval Sea Systems Command said, "As a matter of (Defense Department) policy, we do not discuss the specifics of submarine operations."

Anechoic, or echo-reducing, tiles were used by Nazi Germany in World War II. The application helps break up incoming sound waves and reduces the sound that travels back from sonar. The Soviets adopted the use of the coating, and the U.S. Navy followed in 1988.

The USS Hawaii, Texas and North Carolina, all now based at Pearl Harbor and among the first Virginia subs to be built, were part of a group of about six of the vessels identified in 2010 as having a problem with the mold-in-place urethane coating.

"We've been made aware of the issues, we're making improvements in the process, and we're seeing results already," the Associated Press quoted Alan Baribeau, a Naval Sea Systems Command spokesman, saying at the time.

The website Next Navy posted photos from 2013, however, showing the submarines Minnesota and Missouri with some coating coming off. The Navy has been replacing older Los Angeles-class subs at Pearl Harbor with the more capable Virginia-class. Four Virginia subs are based in Hawaii now. The USS Illinois is expected to be relocated to Oahu.

Naval analyst and author Norman Polmar, who served as a consultant to three secretaries of the Navy, said it's a glue issue with the acoustic material.

"Remember, (the coating sheets) are external to a submarine, which is going from surface pressure down to, let's say, 1,000 feet occasionally," Polmar said. "In addition, the temperature changes radically."

The glue has to "take the constant changes in pressure, constant changes in temperature, and it ain't an easy thing to do," he said. Additionally, submarines periodically brush against floating debris, against a pier, or "rarely, but sometimes, against another submarine."

The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard said in 2015 that it was working on special hull treatment restoration on the USS Hawaii. Naval Sea Systems Command did not disclose when the Mississippi will receive repairs or the estimated cost.

Clark, with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said the Navy always has had difficulty keeping anechoic coatings on submarine hulls. Since the sound energy from sonar hits the whole submarine, a few missing tiles will not significantly affect the return, he said.

But he said the Navy will have to continue to improve the acoustic coating's resilience with other countries starting to use more active variable-depth sonars on ships and helicopters that can be positioned to more effectively look for submarines.

The Russians have made significant strides in acoustic technology on the Severodvinsk-class submarines, and the U.S. Navy's Acoustic Superiority Program is an attempt to stay ahead of the pack. The sub USS South Dakota, expected to be christened this summer, is being used as a test for an improved acoustic coating and noise-reducing machinery.

General Dynamics Electric Boat in 2012 said it was delivering the Mississippi to the Navy a year ahead of contract schedule and more than \$60 million below target cost. The USS Mississippi Commissioning Committee reported the sub's cost at \$2 billion.

A 2016 Congressional Research Service report said the procurement cost of two Virginia-class subs in fiscal 2017 was \$2.7 billion each.

That same year, Rear Adm. Charles Richard, director of undersea warfare, and Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley, program executive officer for submarines, told members of Congress that the need for submarines is only growing.

"As the threat from adversary advances in sensors and weapons such as cruise missiles, anti-ship ballistic missiles and integrated air defense systems grows," the pair said in written testimony, "undersea forces will be increasingly asked to accomplish missions once conducted by forces that are now held at increased and potentially unacceptable risk by the improved range, precision, and lethality of advanced systems."

VCNO Moran: Columbia SSBN On Schedule, But Margin is Tight

Richard R. Burgess, *Seapower Magazine*, March 8

WASHINGTON — The vice chief of naval operations (VCNO) said the development and procurement of the Navy's next-generation ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN) is tracking on schedule but the margin leaves little room for any disruption that could delay it.

The Columbia-class SSBN "is on time, on schedule, but I'm not satisfied with how much margin we have — the risks to delivering on time — but I'm very comfortable to where we are on the schedule and the costing today," Adm. Bill Moran

said in March 8 testimony on strategic deterrent forces before the House Armed Services Committee.

The Columbia-class SSBN is planned to succeed the Ohio-class SSBN, whose 14 hulls each will serve for 42 years, 12 years beyond their original service life. Moran stressed the need to maintain the Ohio class while the Columbia class is being built in order to ensure a robust deterrent force and a smooth transition.

The SSBN force, armed with Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles, is one of the three legs of the U.S. strategic deterrent, the other two being Air Force land-based strategic bombers and ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. All three legs of the deterrent force are in the process of being modernized.

“We are currently depending on just-in-time modernization,” Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the hearing, noting that strategic deterrent forces comprise 6 percent of the defense budget. “We have been squeezing about all of the life out of the current systems we possess.”

When asked which leg of the triad could be given up if the number were reduced, Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander, U.S. Strategic Command, supported the triad concept and said, “I can’t give up any element of the triad. I can’t decide which one is the most important.”

Selva agreed, declaring all three legs as “the foundation to deterrence” and stressed the importance of the Columbia-class SSBN being fielded on schedule.

“There is no slack in [the schedule],” he said.

During the 2030s transition from the Ohio SSBN to the Columbia SSGN, the SSBN force will drop to 10 boats until reaching the planned level of 12 boats in 2041.

“We have worked out the requirements with STRATCOM [U.S. Strategic Command] for the 2030s,” Moran said. “We believe we have enough [SSBNs] to satisfy the requirement.”

L-3 to provide electro-optical submarine sensor

John Keller, Military Aerospace, March 20

WASHINGTON – U.S. Navy undersea warfare experts are ordering additional non-penetrating electro-optical sensor submarine masts from L-3 KEO in Northampton, Mass., for Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, and for other kinds of modern submarines without traditional periscope wells.

Officials of the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington last week announced a \$14.5 million order to L-3 KEO (formerly Kollmorgen) to provide an undisclosed number of Universal Modular Mast (UMM) systems for Navy submarines. L-3 acquired Kollmorgen in 2012.

The Virginia-class is one of the first submarines without a traditional optical periscope that penetrates the vessel's pressure hull and extends upward to enable commanders of submerged submarines to view the scene on the surface.

The UMM serves as a lifting mechanism for five different sensors including the photonics mast program, high-data-rate mast, multi-functional mast, multi-functional modular mast, and integrated electronics support measures mast.

Related: Navy orders additional submarine electro-optical imaging sensors from Lockheed Martin

Rather than raising a large periscope from a well inside the submarine's pressure hull, the UMM uses fiber optic connections between sensors and the submarine. Users control the UMM with a computer game-like joystick and channel its imagery to digital displays to the submarine's control room as well as to other displays distributed throughout the vessel.

This order is an option to a \$40.3 million Navy contract to L-3 KEO awarded last June for 16 Universal Modular Masts, as well as 140,000 hours of engineering services and engineering services support. This contract has additional options that could bring its cumulative value to \$108.4 million, Navy officials say.

The UMM is built by L-3 KEO and the company's Italian subsidiary Calzoni SrL in Bologna, Italy. On the contract announced Friday, L-3 KEO and L-3 Calzoni will do the work in Bologna, Italy, and Northampton, Mass., and should be finished by August 2019.

New Navy Team Promoting Unmanned Systems Integration On Submarines

Marc Selinger, Defense Daily, March 21

The U.S. Navy has stood up a team within the past year to promote the integration of unmanned systems with submarines, a service official said March 21.

The team brings together various program offices to promote a common set of interfaces for deploying unmanned systems from submarines, said Michael McClatchy, director of advanced undersea integration at Naval Sea Systems Command. Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley, program executive officer for submarines, called for the group's formation, and the team was officially created in July.

A rendering of the Knifefish unmanned underwater vehicle which will be deployed from the littoral combat ship to sweep mines. Illustration: General Dynamics. A rendering of the Knifefish unmanned underwater vehicle, which will be deployed from the littoral combat ship to sweep mines. Illustration: General Dynamics.

Submarines have various ways of launching unmanned systems, including dry deck shelters, torpedo tubes and

smaller delivery mechanisms, and the Navy wants to ensure industry and academia know how to build unmanned systems that are compatible with those launchers, McClatchy said at a Marine Technology Society breakfast in Arlington, Va.

"By building to those interfaces, it makes it easier for us to get" an unmanned system into a submarine, McClatchy said.

At the same breakfast, Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. David Hahn revealed that Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, the Navy's oceanographer and commander of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC), plans to launch a government-industry task force to improve the nation's understanding of ocean science. Hahn and Gallaudet intend to lead a meeting later this week to further define the task force's membership, Hahn said.

"It is clear that we as a nation need to be at the forefront of [ocean science], and not just for naval applications but for lots of reasons," he said. "Generationally, we need to be interested again for the right reasons in all of the ocean."

According to NMOC's website, the command "provides environmental information to help naval and joint forces operate more safely and effectively, and make better decisions faster than the adversary."

Pacific Ocean: US Navy Submarine Fires 4 Ballistic Missiles

Franz-Stefan Gady, *The Diplomat*, February 23

The U.S. Navy conducted ballistic missile test launches from a submarine in the Pacific Ocean this month.

An Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) assigned to the U.S. Navy's Submarine Group 9 test launched a number of Trident II D5 ballistic missiles from submerged position in the Pacific Missile Range off the coast of California in February, the U.S. Navy announced in a press release.

The test launches were conducted over a three-day period from February 14 to 16 as part of a so-called Follow-on Commander's Evaluation Test (FCET). "The primary objective of an FCET is to obtain, under operationally representative conditions, valid reliability, accuracy, and performance of the missile system for use by Commander, Strategic Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff," according to a U.S. Navy statement.

All four missile test flights were deemed successful. "The missiles were unarmed and all launches were conducted from the sea, flew over the sea, and landed in the sea. At no time did the missiles fly over land," the statement reads. The Trident II D5 is a submarine-launched ballistic missile fitted with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles and was first introduced into service in 1989. The missiles range is about 4,000 nautical miles (around 7,400 kilometers). Since its introduction to the fleet, the Trident II D5 missile has completed 165 successful test flights.

The Ohio-class is the sea leg of the United States' strategic deterrent triad, and also the "the most survivable leg of the triad" providing "the national command authority with assured second-strike capability," according to the U.S. Navy. The lead boat of the Ohio-class first entered service in 1981 with the last submarine of the class commissioned in 1997. The U.S. Navy is currently operating 14 Ohio-class SSBNs, capable of carrying up to 24 Trident II D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Submarine Group 9 — based out of Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington and part of Submarine Force Pacific — consists of two guided missile submarines (SSGN) and two ballistic missile submarines. However, all four boats are Ohio-class submarines. As I reported elsewhere, from 2002 to 2008, the U.S. Navy transformed four of its oldest Ohio-class SSBNs into nuclear-powered guided missile subs. The four boats — the USS Ohio, USS Michigan, USS Florida and USS Georgia — will remain in service until the middle of the 2020s. Two of the U.S. Navy's four Ohio-class SSGNs currently serve with Submarine Group 9.

As I explained previously, a new class of SSBNs, the Columbia-class, will begin replacing the Ohio-class in 2031. (Beginning in 2027, roughly one submarine per year will be decommissioned, with the last boat set to be retired in 2040.) The new subs, designed for a 42-year service life all the way through 2085, will be the largest U.S. submarine ever to be constructed. The U.S. Navy plans to induct ten to 12 new boats in the coming decades.

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