



Vol. 17 No. 3

March 2021

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

Base Meeting:

BOD: February 4, 1800
 Membership: February 11, 1900
Location:
 FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.
 Goose Creek, SC



Base Commander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn Rick Sparger (act)	843.747.5368 843.553.5594
Base Vice Commander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Affairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Treasurer	Gordon Williams	843.553.3015	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
			Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Newsletter	Ed Stank	843.568.2148
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843.270-8870
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Mike Emerson	843.302.2650



Submarines Lost 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 1	1800	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek
Charleston Base Meeting (Social Hr starts 1800)	Thursday, April 8	1900	FRA Branch 269, Goose Creek

Information of all Charleston Base Events is on www.ussvicb.org

From the Editor

I hope you all enjoyed my first edition of the Base Newsletter. Suggestions and recommendation are always welcome to improve its quality and content. This newsletter contains an article about the After Battery in Dorchester. The After Battery has been a staple of Charleston Base for many years and contains a great deal of history about Charleston Base and the Submarine Force.

I have decided to publish this months Newsletter without the minutes of the March meeting. The Secretary is out of town on assignment and unable to complete the minutes. The April Newsletter will contain the minutes for both meetings.

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published each month in the newsletter. If the message is of immediate interest to the membership it will be sent out by the Base Secretary. Messages are arranged in the order received.

Nothing to Report

HUMOR



The "After Battery"

In August 2004, two 'smokeboat' torpedomen, Steve 'Buddha' Nelms & David 'No Neck' Mueller decided that they missed their earlier days in the Submarine Force. Gone were the card games and get togethers, the drinking of brown water and cold beer, eating good food and last, but not least, hard-assing the troops.

The next week, we had a card game with 6 people. We brought our own beer and a few bags of potato chips. We sat in a hot barn and swatted flies and mosquitoes. A fan blew the cards off the table-but we had a good time. We laughed and hard-assed everybody.

Now, over 17 years later, we have central heat and air, a bar, a huge beer cooler, a galley, a 2 hole unisex head with a urinal that has Jane Fonda's picture in it and more submarine memorabilia than a big horse can s**t. We have the ship's bells from two different submarines, a sink from the torpedo room of another submarine and all the tools to make a MK 14 Torpedo ready (like that's going to happen).

Every Wednesday morning we host a small poker game and each evening another game starts right on it's heels, we have a social - we say a blessing, pledge allegiance to the flag, eat a fine Navy supper, play poker, and bullshit. Poker not your cup of tea, let us know as we have Pinochle, Acey-Deucey, Cribbage to name just a few. We've had oyster roasts, hog roasts, and boat reunions - some with 300 people in attendance. Our brothers from the New London area, the group that puts on the Old Salts Pig Roast in Rhode Island, have supported us too. They've been putting on big sprees for 25 years - we're just rookies. Our New London area friends have their hog roast on the first weekend in August, we have ours on or about the first weekend in April. This covers the entire east coast for a yearly gathering of submarine sailors.

Between our two groups, we draw people from all over the country (even from the left coast and Canada). Many people attend both functions (with livers protesting).

This place was built by submarine sailors and their friends. 'Their friends' covers a lot of folks -Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Canadian Submariners, and all types of civilians. There are no "I's" up here - just a long butt ton of "we's". This place was built by donations and hard work by many people from all walks of life - not just we submariners.

We have an email list, and to be a member of The After Battery, click on the Contact Us link on the Home Page, and ask to be put on the email list (don't forget to include your first and last names). Also, if you are on the email list, we consider you to be a member. But a caveat...our emails may sometimes be in colorful submarine terminology that's not always fit to read in the ladies' knitting circle - If you get My drift. Now you've been advised. [The After Battery - Home](#)



Blue Angels Come Back to Charleston



The 2022 schedule includes a show at Charleston Air Force Base on April 9-10. More details about the presentation will be announced at a later date.

Last year and this year's shows were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Lt. Victor Reyes, a spokesman for the Charleston Air Force Base, said it's been a long time since there's been an air show on base and they are excited to have the famous Navy flight crew back.

"Joint Base Charleston is excited to have the Blue Angels in town next year and looks forward to hosting our first air show since 2018," Reyes said in a statement.

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE



Professionally framed print of Mort Kunstler's painting "The Final Mission" which depicts the confederate submarine H. L. Hunley and crew pier side before their final mission on the night of February 17, 1864.

Print size is 18" h x 27" w. This is an artist signed limited edition, number 128 of 950.

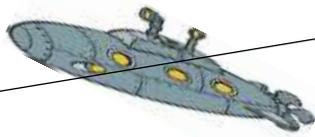
Tickets are \$10 each. Drawing will be held July 8, 2021 at our regular meeting.

Artist's comments:

"Like all of my paintings, this one required a lot of research. I went out to Sullivans Island and Breach Inlet overlooking Charleston harbor, and examined the launch site for the Hunley's last mission – the site where the scene in this painting occurred. The scene I've painted here is set at approximately 6:30 p.m. on February 17, 1864. High tide has crested, and the tide is shifting seaward again. That, of course, will help the crew propel the Hunley through Breach Inlet and toward her target -- the USS Housatonic.

I realized that this would be the first officially sanctioned image of the Hunley, so I felt a serious burden of responsibility to faithfully portray the vessel, its crew and the surroundings in the most authentic manner – based on a wealth of research. It's the first time that Lieutenant Dixon and the crew have been authentically portrayed. I have included many of the major artifacts that were recovered from the Hunley -- a signal lantern, compass box, canteens, buttons, tobacco pipes and, of course, the famous pocket watch that Lieutenant Dixon carried."

2nd Annual!



Rummage
SALE

Admiral James Osborn Scholarship Fund



The Scholarship Committee will hold a HUGE sale of miscellaneous household goods, tools, sports, toys, etc. Deals galore!

All proceeds go to the United States Submarine Veterans Charleston Base's Admiral James B. Osborn Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to a High School senior who demonstrates a familial relationship with a submarine qualified individual who is a member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. The applicant must show acceptance to a 2 or 4 year post-secondary institution. Applicants must demonstrate both scholastic proficiency and participation in extra-curricular activities that benefit either their school or community. The Scholarship will be disbursed as a one-time minimum \$500 award payable to the recipient. .

Date: Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021 (Rain date Nov. 20)
Where: 1825 Old Trolley Rd Summerville, SC
(Halloween Express / Rodney's Rockets)
Time: 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AT N. CHARLESTON VA CLINIC

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized three COVID-19 vaccines. Congress has passed a new law that allows us to offer COVID-19 vaccines to more people. VA is now able to offer vaccine to the following groups who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA facilities have enough vaccine:

- Veterans
- Spouse of a Veteran
- Caregivers of a Veteran
- Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits

The best way to stay informed is to sign up to tell us you'd like to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA. Your local VA facility will then contact you when they have a vaccine for you.

FOR YOUR CONTINUED HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING THIS PANDEMIC,

Shipmates helping each other

Health issues for Thom Beach required the construction of a Handicap ramp at there home in Monks Corner South Carolina. Base shipmates Mike Emerson, Ronnie Kerstetter, Charlie Hudson and Stan a friend of Charlie's built the ramp for them. Devoting a weekend in March the group constructed the ramp shown below. This is a good example of what submarine sailors do for each other. Bravo-Zulu.



2021 NC SUBVETS BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE

FRI 14TH - SUN 16TH May 2021

DINNER SAT MAY 15TH

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Pre-Registration Form – Cutoff Date 22 Apr 2021

Last Name: _____ First _____ Chicken _____ BEEF _____ TROUT _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Primary Base: _____ Email: _____

Guest Last Name: _____ First _____ Chicken _____ BEEF _____ TROUT _____

Telephone: _____ Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

			NO	TOTAL
Pre-Registration	Per Person	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	Per Person	\$25 if not rooming at Hotel	_____	\$ _____

Breakfast and Dinner is include in the Room Rates

CHECK # _____

Dinner count selection Chicken _____ Beef _____ Trout _____

CUT ON DOTTED LINE ABOVE KEEP THIS RECEIPTS FOR YOUR RECORDS

ARMED FORCES DAY NEXT YEAR IS MAY 15TH 2021

Please make checks payable to: ASHEVILLE BASE – USSVI

Mail check to: James A. Seacord III, 311 Colony Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791

828-458-3651

			NO.	TOTAL
Registration	Per Person	\$25	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet	Per Person	\$25 if not rooming at Hotel	_____	_____
Total Included				_____

Dinner count selection Chicken _____ Beef _____ Trout _____

Host Hotel: Big Lynn Lodge NC Hwy 226A (milepost marker 331 on the Blue Ridge Parkway), between Little Switzerland and Spruce Pine, 10860 N Carolina 226A, Spruce Pine, NC 28777 **Phone:(828) 765-4257**

Directions to Hotel: I-40, Exit 86 (Route 226). Take this bending, curving road all the way to Little Switzerland. When you see the Blue Ridge Parkway overpass, take a left turn, go 2 miles to the lodge. Reservations at the hotel are the responsibility of the individual. **DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL RATE IS 22 Apr 2020.**

Web site <http://www.biglynnlodge.com/>

USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Orlando, FL

August 30 – September 04, 2021

Welcome To Orlando, Shipmates!

Central Florida & Snug Harbor Base

are your hosts for the 2021 USSVI National Convention



We have a group rate of **\$105.00** per night per room.

Attendees can also contact the hotel reservations department directly at 866-996-6338 and use code USSVI-2021 National Convention.

The cut-off date for the Room Block is August 01, 2021.

Reservations made after this date may be made at the Convention rate based on room availability.

Our annual convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, the setting and the unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariners to exchange ideas, reminisce and keep up to date on important information. Details about the convention, available services and calendar of events can be found on this site.

Orlando, FL August 30 – September 04, 2021