



Vol. 3, No. 12

December 2007

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



USSVI Creed



"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 Government"



Base web page: www.ussvicb.org

National web page: www.ussvi.org

Base Meeting:

No meeting in December

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269, Low Country Home 99 Wisteria Rd. Goose Creek, South Carolina. Phone 843-569-2962

Base Officers		Phone Number
Commander	Steve Nelms	843-563-7115
Vice Commander	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Secretary	Ronnie Kerstetter	843-367-1026
Treasurer	George Lisle	843-559-4242

Special Officers		Phone Number
Chief of the Boat	Marty Sessler	843-871-1536
Public Affairs	Richard Cleeve	843-899-4563
Publicity	Larry Starland	843-863-8474
Sub Vets WWII	Barnwell Chaplin	843-762-6945
Nuclear Historian	Rick Carlson	843-875-4030
Veterans Affairs	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Chaplain	John Nichols	843-873-5897
Membership	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Holland Club	Bob Lowe	843-573-9045
Little David Project	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Roving Reporter	Rick Wise	843-875-5559
Scholarship	Jim Yates	843-873-0246
Newsletter	Carl Chinn	843-875-3098
Storekeeper	Paul Viering	843-797-2623
Alcohol & Gaming	Dave Mueller	843-553-2775



Minutes of the November 2007 meeting

Attendance for the November 08, 2007 meeting was 93

Opening Ceremony: Base Commander, Steve Nelms, called the meeting to order. A Quorum was

Membership: Carl reports Charleston Base has 59 dinks that still owe dues for 2008 (that's 20% of the renewals). If they haven't renewed after January 1st they will be dropped off the list from CB and will stop getting the American Submariner magazine. Carl has 2008 stickers for those who paid their dues for 2008 and want a sticker for their ID card. Membership coming into tonight's

present and the meeting was commenced at 1900.

Introductions: Mike Reilly, Walter Job, and Doug Smith (USAF). Welcome aboard.

Award Ceremony: Eleven British veterans, part of the White Ensign Veterans Group - Hull Branch, from Kingston upon Hull in northeast England, were presented a military challenge coin from the CB. (Channel 5 news was here and aired a story on the 11 o'clock news & the Channel 5 website). The Brits shared a bottle of British Navy Pusser's 109 proof rum. (The sea and rum are synonymous, and no rum more akin to the sea and the seaman than PUSSEY'S. For more than 300 years, from before the days of Nelson, wooden ships and iron men, Great Britain's Royal Navy issued a daily rum ration on board Their Majesties' ships. This tradition, one of the longest in seafaring history, continued unbroken from 1655 to July 31, 1970, on which day the Navy stopped their daily issue of Pusser's rum.) Also presented to CB an H.M. Submarine plaque from Hull and East Riding Submariner Association, a class A submarine model (the A class submarine was the backbone of the British submarine fleet for three decades from 1943 onwards), and a British flag.

Secretary: Secretary Ronnie Kerstetter asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. A motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: George Lisle gave the treasurer's report.

Storekeeper: Paul Viering has 2008 Sub Vets Inc. calendars available. Cost is \$8. Paul is getting to get his voice back.

Chaplain: Nick Nichols presented the binnacle list. Keith Schnebel had kidney stone surgery the day of our meeting last month and came through it well. The base sent a card wishing him a speedy recovery. Marvin Miller's mother passed away on 15 October at her home in Illinois. The base sent him a card with our condolences.

Roger Gibson had hernia surgery on October 19th. He came through surgery fine and is recovering. The base sent a card wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mike Smith had radical prostate surgery last Friday, November 2nd. The base sent a card wishing him a successful surgery and speedy recovery. Prior to surgery he sent out this email:

"Also, on a personal note, please thank "the crew" for the nice card and mention in the newsletter. The card really caught me off guard and that made it even more special. We are leaving Monday afternoon for Birmingham for my cancer surgery on Friday. If all goes as planned, we will be back here in Hilton Head

meeting was 294. What is important is not how many members that we have but the voting power to help keep this organization healthy. Buddha stressed the importance of paying your dues and voting when asked. Give Carl your changes in info; e-mail, address, etc., he will update both CB and the national database. Walter Job is our newest member.

Vice Commander Report: No report

Fleet Reserve: No report

District Commander: Jerry Stout Eastern Region District 4 Commander gave the ERD4 updates. Columbia has started a base called the Palmetto Base, it will be chartered on 13 December at 7 pm with 8 members.

Planning is taking shape for the 23-26 April 2008 District 4/6 Convention to be held at the Ramada Inn, Kingsland, GA. The memorial service will be held outside of the St. Mary's submarine museum along the water front. Boat tours are also being planned for this convention along with an informal country/western themed banquet. The guest speaker will be the Commander of the USS Florida. Put this on your calendar for next year.

Several CB members attended the 2007 annual Subvets WWII memorial service held 31Oct-3Nov 2007 at the King's Bay sub base. Jerry along with the Eastern Region Commander John Carcioppolo were present.

Panama City Gulf Coast Christmas party Dec 6-9. Jerry has applications if you would like to attend.

Alcohol & Gaming: No-neck presented \$500 to Treasurer George Lisle from the after battery social night group. We currently have 23 members that support it. Neck reports that there is a lot of winning going on. Of the last 6 social nights at the after battery, Neck has won the depth charge drawing 4 times. Neck went to the Hamilton reunion in Bradenton, Fl and also won the depth charge down there. Even rubbing tickets for people has produced winners. Neck left it to Dave Rein to explain that in a brand new building why we have a messed up microphone.

Chief of the Boat: Marty Sessler gave the following report. Thanks to the float committee headed by Mike Emerson and Ben Heber for installing the new carpet, painting and getting the float ready for the parades. The Charleston Veterans Day parade starts on upper King Street, heads down King and travels west on Broad Street past Colonial Lake. The float will leave the after battery at 1100 and arrive downtown at noon. You

Island early the following week. I cannot express how important it is to detect this cancer early and the impact it has had on my life, so I highly encourage all my shipmates to get the finger wave annually and monitor PSA's."

Mike Stuffle was admitted to Roper hospital on October 30th due to an infection in his other leg and went home on November 7th. Please keep Mike in your prayers. The base sent a card wishing him a speedy recovery.

Al Addington was admitted to hospital with a collapsed lung.

John Paul Pardo (honorary member) undergoing tests for some medical problems.

Several 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.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Dates to remember:

10 November	Marine Corps Birthday
11 November 1918	World War I ended
11 November	Veteran's Day
22 November	Thanksgiving Day
24 November 1945	USS MENHADEN (SS-377) flies 5-star Admiral's flag. Fleet Admiral Nimitz selected MENHADEN as his flagship during Change of Command ceremonies.

Scholarship: Julian Villegas reminded everyone to buy our military challenge coin. Charleston Base logo on one side and the backside has dolphins and the US submarine service. This will help to keep the scholarship fund going. We are selling the coin for \$7 and the case for \$1. Julian Villegas and Carl Chinn have the coins, you can buy them and give them out as gifts.

Holland Club: Bobby Lowe is preparing the list of everyone that will qualify for the Holland Club in 2008. (This honor is for those qualified in submarines for 50 years).

Public Affairs: Richard Cleeve has pictures of the convention cruise to Alaska and the 2007 Sub Vets convention on the TV monitor and the website. After battery pictures will be posted on the website shortly. Check out the new members pictures also.

Sub Vets WWII: Sy Mabie invited everyone to the next Swamp Fox Chapter meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House 1314 North Main Street in Summerville on Thursday December 20th, at 1200 (noon). Abe

can park behind the Ralph Johnson VA medical center and catch the shuttle to and from the parade. Look for us on King Street. Parade starts at 1400. Reception following the parade at the VA hospital. Dates to remember:

29 Nov Thursday night Harleyville parade

1 Dec Hanahan parade

9 Dec Summerville parade

Thank you to all who came out to the pig roast and those who cooked all night, we had a lot of help and thanks for the clean-up crew. 178 people turned out for the roast. Shipmate Gary Becker will be departing the Charleston area. Thank you Gary for all that you have done for CB, we will miss you. The group gave Gary a hymn salute. Veteran service on Monday 12 Nov in Summerville wear vest, be there at 0930 starts at 1030. Thanks to Dale Hostetter for providing and installing a fire extinguisher for the after battery kitchen. Please check your spam filter on our e-mail system, you may need to add our mail-out address in your address book to get our e-mails. Also clean out your mail box if it is full. Many e-mails are being returned.

Base Commander: Buddha reminded everyone to "pay your dues and vote when asked." On 7 Dec there will be a service at the Patriots Point Cold War submarine memorial to install a new bench. This bench will honor both the WW2 Wahoo and the Cold War vintage USS Wahoo. An e-mail will follow with details. All subvets are invited to the service. There will NOT be a regular monthly meeting in December due to the Christmas Party.

Nuclear Historian: Richard Carlson made some clarifications between nukes (the guy's back aft) and torpedo men and who is smarter. Nukes that take an IQ test or torpedo men that use common sense. To prove his case Richard pointed out that today's nukes are being educated at the Weapons Station.

Old Business: Carl Chinn mentioned the Charleston Base Christmas party on December 15th at Gatherings in Dorchester, \$15 per person for member and one other person, any other guest beyond that are \$20 a piece. Paul Viering and Carl Chinn are selling the tickets. November 8th is the cutoff date for ticket sales. No tickets will be sold at the door. Fully catered all you can drink and eat, traditional Christmas fare. Eat at 1830, social hour starts at 1700.

New Business: Dave Rein announced that the Lowcountry Home will have a pancake breakfast

Jenkins has calendars for sale with pre WWII boat pictures. Cost is \$6.

Veteran's Affairs: Nick Nichols reports that the VA section has been updated on the base website. Tricare has changed some formulary updates. Windows Vista problems (this is a VA alert), don't get a new computer with windows Vista, too many problems. It was noted that Berkeley County is moving its Veterans Affairs office to Goose Creek and planning a grand opening celebration Nov. 12. The new offices will be located in the county's satellite office facility at 303 North Goose Creek Blvd. Shipmates Helping Shipmates (a survival guide) to assist shipmates and shipmate survivors can be downloaded from the VA section. (Nick will get this PDF document to you in the mail if you need help). VA is giving flu shots.

Little David: No report

Newsletter: Carl Chinn asked if everyone is getting their newsletter. Submit any articles that you have for the newsletter to Carl.

on Saturday November 10th 0830 – 1130. The public is invited to attend this event which is part of the Charleston national veterans four day celebration. Dave demonstrated the proper way to hold the microphone with the cord curled, so that it won't keep cutting off. Stacey Power will hold a last run for flag folding practice after the meeting tonight.

Good Of The Order:

The depth charge drawing was held. The winner was Carol Hix.

Congrats to Stan Standrich for being married 50 years.

Larry Starland noted that "the British are coming, the British are coming." He had one lamp ready if coming by land, two if by sea, but they flew over and Larry did not have 3 lamps.

The Base Commander adjourned meeting at 2000.

**** End of the minutes for November 2007 ****

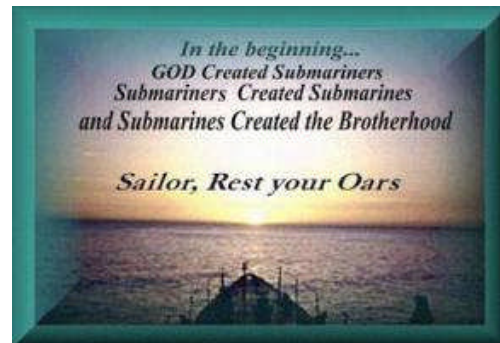
"Don't tell mom I'm a submariner, she thinks I play piano in a whorehouse."



Bailey, R	Baker	Chinn, C	Cline
Collins	Davis, P	Dygert	Eckles
Emerson	Evans	Fulton	Hayes
Hopkins	Horton, D	Humbertson	Rackley
Samples	Schnebel	Semler	Standrich
Trump	Vandiver	Werley	Williams, B
Williams, R	Zeigler		

December Submarines Lost:

USS Sealion	SS 195	December 10, 1941
USS F-1	SS 20	December 17, 1917
USS S-4	SS 109	December 17, 1927



Membership and Dues Information:

Your 2008 dues were payable by 1 October 2007. You can pay me at the meeting or send your dues to me. Not sure how much you owe? Just ask me. List posted at the meeting.

The following are on the dink list as of 29 November:

Camp	Cates	Chollet	Cline
Coy	Dentzman	Deschaine	Detwiler
Drentlaw	Dygert	Fuller	Fulton
Gallagher, G	Gallagher, R	Gawronski	Giddens
Gleason	Grabowski	Griggs	Gunnis
Habhegger	Hodges	Horton	Hubert
Ianuzzi	Jenkins	LaForce	Lavergne
Martinson	Miller, R	Mulkey	Poole
Rummans	Sanders	Schirmer	Siebert
Snyder	Stevenson, T	Tischler	Upchurch
Velez	Wickenhoffer	Willis, D	Yates, G

Send dues (payable to USSVI) to:

Christmas Card List

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please consider including the following:

A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

The Uninvited Guest

Chinese sub pops up in middle of U.S. Navy exercise, leaving military chiefs red-faced

December Happenings!

ChristmasText.com

December 1 – Hanahan Christmas Parade, line up 0900, starts 1000

December 15 – Charleston Base Christmas Party; cocktails 1700; dinner served 1830



DFAS Announces 2008 Retired, Annuitant Pay Adjustments

CLEVELAND (AFRNS) -- Based on the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index, there will be a cost-of-living adjustment increase for retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities effective Dec. 1, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services before Sept. 8, 1980 and retired before July 1, 2007 will receive a full COLA increase of 2.3 percent. The COLA increase for retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Sept. 8, 1980 will be as follows:

- 2.3 percent for those retiring before Jan. 1, 2007
- 2.3 percent for those retiring in the first quarter calendar 2007
- 2.3 percent for those retiring in the second quarter calendar 2007
- 0.2 percent for those retiring in the third quarter calendar 2007
- No increase for those retiring in the fourth quarter calendar 2007

When the U.S. Navy deploys a battle fleet on exercises, it takes the security of its aircraft carriers very seriously indeed.

At least a dozen warships provide a physical guard while the technical wizardry of the world's only military superpower offers an invisible shield to detect and deter any intruders.

That is the theory. Or, rather, was the theory.

American military chiefs have been left dumbstruck by an undetected Chinese submarine popping up at the heart of a recent Pacific exercise and close to the vast U.S.S. Kitty Hawk - a 1,000ft super carrier with 4,500 personnel on board.

By the time it surfaced the 160ft Song Class diesel-electric attack submarine is understood to have sailed within viable range for launching torpedoes or missiles at the carrier.

According to senior NATO officials the incident caused consternation in the U.S. Navy.

The Americans had no idea China's fast-growing submarine fleet had reached such a level of sophistication, or that it posed such a threat.

One NATO figure said the effect was "as big a shock as the Russians launching Sputnik" a reference to the Soviet Union's first orbiting satellite in 1957 which marked the start of the space age.

The incident, which took place in the ocean between southern Japan and Taiwan, is a major embarrassment for the Pentagon.

The lone Chinese vessel slipped past at least a dozen other American warships which were supposed to protect the carrier from hostile aircraft or submarines. And the rest of the costly defensive screen, which usually includes at least two U.S. submarines, was also apparently unable to detect it.

According to the NATO source, the encounter has forced a serious re-think of American and NATO naval strategy as commanders reconsider the level of threat from potentially hostile Chinese submarines.

It also led to tense diplomatic exchanges, with shaken American diplomats demanding to know why the submarine was "shadowing" the U.S. fleet while Beijing pleaded ignorance and dismissed the affair as coincidence.

Analysts believe Beijing was sending a message to America and the West demonstrating its rapidly-growing military capability to threaten foreign powers which try to interfere in its "backyard".

The People's Liberation Army Navy's submarine fleet includes at least two nuclear-missile launching vessels. Its 13 Song Class submarines are extremely quiet and difficult to detect when running on electric motors. Commodore Stephen Saunders, editor of Jane's Fighting Ships, and a former Royal Navy anti-submarine specialist, said the U.S. had paid relatively little attention to this form of warfare since the end of the Cold War.

He said: "It was certainly a wake-up call for the Americans."

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and retired on or before Jan. 1, 2007 but elected to receive a Career Status Bonus at 15 years of active service, will receive a COLA increase of 1.3 percent.

Retirees being paid on an account where the retiree first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Aug. 1, 1986, retired on or after Jan. 1, 2007, and elected to receive a Career Status Bonus at 15 years of active service will receive COLA as follows:

- 1.3 percent for those retiring before Jan. 1, 2007
- 1.3 percent for those retiring in the first quarter calendar 2007
- 1.3 percent for those retiring in the second quarter calendar 2007
- No increase for those retiring in the third or fourth quarter calendar 2007

The COLA increase will be reflected in the Jan. 2 payment. (Courtesy of DFAS)

The Navy Is Always Looking For IA Volunteers

Vice Adm. John J. Donnelly said he wants to improve the process for selecting the officers and sailors who will go to war as individual augmentees. "The junior officers I've talked to feel as if there is a target on their chest, just waiting for the IA assignment," Donnelly, commander of the Submarine Force, said in an interview. "There is a lot of angst about going over there at times that are inconvenient in their personal lives, and our process is such that we are constantly asking for volunteers."

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have drained the military's resources, and Navy personnel are being called on to support the Army and Marines. They are stepping out of their regular roles to train for individual augmentee assignments with ground forces. The Navy seeks volunteers whenever possible and makes assignments if necessary. "The IA program is here to stay and so we need to figure out the best way to execute the tasking without placing an undue burden on our people," Donnelly said.

Anyone in the Navy could be asked to serve as an IA, depending on what rank, rate or skill is needed.

Deployments typically last from six months to a year, primarily in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "Most of the people over there are volunteers, and there are many that want to go. We need to identify that group,"

Donnelly said. "For people that are using shore duty to start a family, to get married or to work on a graduate degree, we can remove some of that uncertainty in their lives. They may still go, but at a

"It would tie in with what we see the Chinese trying to do, which appears to be to deter the Americans from interfering or operating in their backyard, particularly in relation to Taiwan."

In January China carried a successful missile test, shooting down a satellite in orbit for the first time.

Tradition

by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

Someday, the submarine force will find a leader who will have the insight to recognize the wisdom of returning a lot of the lighthearted tradition and give back some of the little things that meant so much to the old tattered foul weather jacket and raggedy dungaree force.

A good beginning would be to return the tradition of never pinning Dolphins on a dry shirt. It was a good tradition... Oh yes, I know the arguments against the tradition... Safety... Unnecessary risk. In the world of grown men... Adult, red-blooded bluejackets, that rationale is pure bullshit. The foundation of all military service is risk... The acceptance of risk in selfless service to one's nation. Tossing a lad into the ocean he lives in, involves minimal risk. Hell, strap a lifejacket on the lad. The honor of this baptismal ritual and the effect it had on a man's personal pride and his entry to ship's company and the fellowship of proven submariners, far outweighs the risk.

If you want boatsailors to reenlist... To remain for career service... You must give them back the cocky pride that once was ingrained in the men who wore cloth Dolphins just above the cuff of their right sleeve.

That can be done... It would take one hell of a force commander but it could be done.

First, de-emphasize all the personal benefits of specialized training as enticements to retain boatsailors and instead emphasize the brotherhood of undersea service. Riding heavy steel under the sea is the common denominator... Being taken in to that brotherhood used to be all that mattered.

Wearing 'twin fish' over your pocket meant that you measured up... They marked you as a man apart...

An accepted part of a very elite Naval Force... They made you special.

In the old days before the wholesale proliferation of all the meaningless bullshit pocket hardware that the Department of Defense uses as bribes to make kids appear to be warriors... The golden calf icons of mediocrity that get handed out like Crackerjack prizes that mean nothing... The lads of today know in their hearts that they risked nothing, dared nothing and sacrificed nothing for 90% of the

better time in their personal lives.”

For Donnelly, the issue is personal too. His son will deploy to Djibouti as a Navy individual augmentee. “I’ve been very involved in trying to examine this process from all angles because I get to see it through the eyes of a lieutenant who’s living it,” Donnelly said. He added, “Our people go over there and they do extremely well because they have the skills, discipline and professionalism that makes them stand out.”

Christmas Party



For those of you who have tickets... Charleston Base annual Christmas Party will be December 15. Cocktails at 1700, dinner served at 1830. Party will again be at Gatherings in Dorchester, SC. You must have a ticket to attend.

No ticket sales at the door.



Two Submarines A Year

By Hartford Courant (Conn.) November 16, 2007
A healthy submarine industry in Connecticut is good for the state's economy and the nation's defense. Both will benefit from President Bush's signature this week on the defense appropriations bill, which includes funding to double the number of attack submarines built every year to two.
Considering that the Pentagon had tried (and failed) only two years ago to close the Groton submarine base, expanding the submarine program represents quite a victory for the state's congressional delegation.
Give much of the credit to Rep. Joe Courtney, whose district includes the Groton submarine base and who inserted the \$588 million request in the bill. Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, the chairman of the House defense appropriations subcommittee, has stood in Connecticut's corner. He passed the bill with Mr. Courtney's request intact.
The \$588 million amounts to about 25 percent of what it will cost to build the first of the two-a-year submarines by about 2010.
Most of that money will go to purchase the reactor, engine and propulsion parts of the submarine. But about \$70 million of it will pay for parts that are

meaningless chest jewelry they wear. Quit treating men like children and handing out toy horsecrap. All that the men of yesterday required was the privilege of serving in submarines.

There is something wrong with a military force where peacetime junior enlisted personnel wear more ribbons than a field grade officer who fought from North Africa to the Rhine. It is a silent insult devised and perpetuated by small-bore command leadership to diminish the deeds of the giants of what Tom Brokaw has termed 'The Greatest Generation'. The desk bound public relation hacks have missed the mark. By inflating awards and turning American decorations to ticket punch milestones, everyone got shortchanged and brave men whose valor was rewarded with the decorations that have become travel souvenirs, got their pockets picked by the feather-merchants who piss on the tradition of hard men who rode armed ships in defense of what they believe in.

Let sailors go back to crushing wings in their goddam white hats. Who in God's name came up with that toilet bowl roll white hat crap? They ought to find them and hang all of them up by their heels.

I see ships returning from overseas deployment and the bluejackets lining the rail looking like the navy has parked bidets on everyone's head... Give the lads back that seagoing cocky crushed white hat... The one worn by men that threw heavy ordinance, went in harms' way and won wars.

The world once witnessed proud American sailors rolling down streets in foreign ports with white hats rakishly cocked over one eye with a set of characteristic port and starboard wings... His wallet clamshelled in his waistband and his pack of Luckies tucked in his sock.

The brass will puff themselves up like a mating barn owl and say, "The United States Naval uniform is not meant to be a vehicle for personal expression and individual affectation." Horseshit.

It used to be. It set us apart from the chickenshit regulation of the other robot handpuppet forces. Sailors never took a pee by the numbers or spent a whole helluva lot of time memorizing Rockettes routines. It was a force of extremely proud, highly competent individuals who took pride in buying tailor-mades and looking like a damn sailor was supposed to look.

You've gotta ease up on the lads today... Give them back that means of self identification. The poor bastards look like some toy manufacturers idea of what a sailor should look like or what some fashion

manufactured at Electric Boat in Groton.

In subsequent years, more of the money will be directed to Electric Boat, which will thus preserve its highly skilled work force.

The submarine fleet, considered a crucial component of the nation's military forces, will be able to maintain a competitive edge over those of Russia and China and others.

After a rough two years, Connecticut can boast that it is back in the saddle of the submarine-building business.



Our Dolphins



If you worked for Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey at any time in your life, you were always circus people. Didn't matter if you set up the tent, showed up to shovel zebra poop or were the ringmaster... You were always 'circus people'. You knew the language of the circus... The secret handshake and how elephants smelled. Same with boat sailors. From mess cook to the skipper, you were submarines... You were always a boat sailor... It came with Dolphins.

My wife met me after I rode the boats. She knew nothing about my service days because the only evidence left by the time we married was an old, tarnished set of Dolphins in my cufflink box... A cherished photo in a silver frame of our skipper, Cdr. Edward Frothingham and my old foul weather jacket that my new bride kept trying to send off to the Salvation Army.

In 1991, I found out that the Requin was in Pittsburgh. I told Solveig that I wanted to see it again... But I realized that it would mean very little to her. So, I decided to take her to New London, the Vatican of Undersea Warfare. Not wanting to drive a helluva long way to be turned away by some jarhead at the gate, I phoned the base. I got some operator who didn't know where to route the call. The next thing I knew, I was talking to some four-striper. "Sir, I know you're busy. They should have connected me with your 'stupid questions' J.G. "

"I don't know... What's your question?" I explained that I was a qualified diesel boat sailor. I emphasized that I was NOT an officer... In fact, I had spent most of my tour as one of the lowest life forms in the submarine force. I told him I just wanted to see the base once more.

He asked, "Do you still have your Dolphins?" "Yes

designers imagined our navy should be wearing. Navy leadership should remove anyone from influencing naval uniforms who never woke up in a stretched canvas rack six hundred plus nautical miles from the nearest deep water port. Any idiot who never wore snug-nut skivvies and thirteen-button bell bottoms shouldn't be allowed within ten miles of any decision on raghat uniforms. Next, you must reconnect present-day submarine sailors with their heritage. I have talked with a number of lads riding today's technological marvels. Most of them feel no connection with any non-uranium powered submersible.

We were fortunate. We shared mess tables with the boatsailors who rode boats under Lockwood, skippered by the meateaters that destroyed more enemy ships than any American sub sailors before... Or since. They handed us our heritage... Our birthright as submarine sailors. In those days heritage was passed from the barnacle encrusted bastards to the next generation in sea stories told over coffee.

That can't be done today...

The old 'Dead air and seven knot submerged' bastards are gone. There are no more pre E-8 and E-9 red hashmark Chiefs... No guys who listened to fifty pound TNT packages detonate and bust up crockery, gauge faces and hull packing. They are history... Rickover relegated the sonuvabitches to the pier dumpster for obsolete gear. [At-Large Note: This dynamic was in full swing when it was time for me to choose my first boat -- I chose a diesel that had done five WW II patrols specifically for the purpose of taking the combat baton from these men.]

I know that the lads who make up the crews of those two hundred yard, high speed automated undersea luxury liners look on smokeboat sailors as Neanderthal relics, but like it or not, they are downline links in the hundred year chain of submarine history.

Some submarine force commander is going to wake up one day and have the spiritual revelation required to give our submarine history to our fine sailors of today. You say,

"How in hell could THAT be accomplished?"

Simple really... The History of the force exists in books... Film... Logs, records, diaries and in the graying heads of the men who lived it. The men whose deeds gave us our proud legacy.

With minimal expenditure and use of limited manpower resources, the United States Submarine Force could prepare a series of underway lectures... After chow... Talks to be read by junior officers

...sir, sure do." "Did yours come with an expiration date on the back?" "Expiration date?" "When you go home tonight, check your Dolphins and if there is no expiration date on the back, you are still as valued by the submarine force as you were the day we pinned them on you. We will expect you and your wife at the main gate at zero eight hundred on such and such a date. Plan to spend your entire day with us."

That conversation validated the brilliance of the decision we all made to ride the boats. They treated us like visiting royalty. That night, at the Mystic Days Inn, for the first time my little blue-eyed Norwegian recognized that twenty-five years earlier, the fellow she had married had once been one of a special band of men.

I'm sure somebody did something so evil they took away his Dolphins but I never heard about it. It's like a girl giving up her virginity... Takes place once and the condition lasts a lifetime.

Dolphins are unique. Officers get gold Dolphins. If you wore gold Dolphins, you must set an example... Never admit that you know games of chance take place on board.. That crosspollination occasionally took place on the bridge on duty nights... And you never stood topside watch. You lived in a nice residence and could afford personal transportation. Enlisted men get silver Dolphins. If you wore silver Dolphins, they allowed you to set an example for monkey house residents and you lived in an off-base gin mill... And you never forgot the men who accepted you as their shipmate.

Most books about submarines are written by gentlemen who wore gold Dolphins or guys like Clancy who became an expert by mystic inoculation and never saw his name on a quail card.

But there is a book... A book written by a real rag hat who wore cloth Dolphins and a combat pin... A fellow who knows what little lethal packages called Japanese depth charges sound like. His name is Ron Smith.. His book, *Torpedoman*. If you haven't read it, you should... If for no other reason than former torpedoman Ron Smith is in dire need of clean socks... And he was one of our silver Dolphin representatives in what Tom Brokaw calls 'The Greatest Generation'. I can relate a personal fringe benefit of reading Ron's literary masterpiece.

When your bouncing bride puts it down, looks at you and asks, "What is strip poker?" If you play your 'cards' right, you are in for a very interesting evening. You won't find anything like that in other books written on the topic. Silver Dolphins... We got the complete lifetime package. Not the Ginsu knife lifetime 'Where-will-they-be-when-I'm-eighty?' warranty. No expiration date... No 'Use by...'

when the boat is underway. A gentleman by the name of Theodore Roscoe wrote a book about Submarine Operations of World War II. Simply reading from that book would connect today's submariners to a very important part...The most important era in our history. The book should be a part of every boat's library the day she's launched. They spend zillions on subs, so a fifty to sixty dollar book that can be obtained from The U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis shouldn't knock a helluva dent in the developmental piggy bank... The return on investment would be measured in improved pride, elevated morale and warrior spirit. We diesel boat sailors had little or nothing in comparison to today's crew comforts taken for granted by today's submariners. But we had deep pride in what we were a part of. We didn't share our boats with follow-on crews. We were the boat. We owned our hull number... Every bolt, rivet and packing gland... And every rust stain that ran down our superstructure.

Let us pray that some saltwater admiral turns up someday with a set of deep submergence cajones and sends the word to every boat in the force to the effect that all this Top Gun, Navy SEAL horseshit is about to take a backseat to the tough seagoing bastards that make up the community of undersea sharks. He is going to elevate the visibility of the U.S. Submariner to the point where eight-year old boys want to grow up and get on a bus to New London.

Hey, I'm just an old worn-out E-3. Nobody in possession of his right mind would listen to an After Battery Rat... But if I was SUBPAC or SUBLANT, I would (a) find out what Art Smith, Ron "Warshot" Smith, Roy Ator and Capt. Slade Cutter eat for breakfast and serve it every morning and (b) I would buy Tommy Cox and Bobby Reeds's 'Brothers of The Dolphin' CD and play the damn thing every morning on every boat in the fleet until every lad knew the words by heart... And could sing it in any bar on the globe. And I would play that song at 0600 every morning at New London at a decibel level over outdoor speakers that would knock every sonuvabitch at the Coast Guard Academy out of his rack. Hell, I would have noise pollution guys from the E.P.A. skydiving on the base with tiger nets.

That is one of the many reasons that the people up forward rarely sought advice from idiots aft. But seriously... The boatservice became a dysfunctional family when Rickover's boys started considering the gravel gut service to be 'The other side of the tracks'. Officers never saw that, but we

instructions or 'Mail in by...' warning. Just a complete lifetime knowing guys who forgive your sins and accept you, warts and all.

Dolphins...The damndest common denominator ever made!



From Richard Cleeve

I have added pictures of the After Battery to the Web Site and am looking over new web site templates to improve the site and give it a different look. (PS: new free ones are hard to find). Also, the pictures from the 2007 convention cruise can be seen by clicking on the link at the bottom of the picture page.

Admiral Osborne Scholarship Fund

How about helping out the scholarship fund? We are offering a Charleston Base Challenge Coin for sale. ALL proceeds go into the scholarship fund.

Coins only cost \$7 each. Available for an additional \$1 is a protective plastic capsule.

To get your coin(s) see Jim Yates, Julian Villegas or Carl Chinn.

Make sure you have one for "when you get challenged"!

Buy several for great gifts!



HERRY CHRISTMAS

sure as hell did.

We can change that... All we have to do is do what raghats do best. Look on each other as shipmates and take back our deeply meaningful history and tradition that link us in the tightest brotherhood ever created. If you wore Dolphins 'once upon a time', then join the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (click on the link) and show your support for the lads riding steel ships under the sea in selfless sacrifice in defense of this fine nation. *They are our legacy.*

From the District Commander

Charleston Shipmates,

I had the opportunity to attend the Submarine Veterans of World War II Memorial Service in King's Bay, Georgia last month. The event included three days of hospitality, meals served by active duty Chief Petty Officers, banquet, tours of TTF and SSBN boats and the beautifully orchestrated Memorial Service. For the Five States in our District, this is a listing of the "State Boats" and locations of each Memorial (www.oneternalpatrol.com) was used as a resource.

ALABAMA State Boat USS HERRING SS-233, 85 hands lost. Alabama has a USS Herring memorial to the crew at Battleship Park in Mobile. The Herring's ships bell is mounted on top of the stone memorial. FLORIDA State Boat USS TANG SS-306, 78 men lost, 9 survivors taken prisoner. Florida has three Tang memorials to the crew, one in Brandon, one in Miami and one in Palatka. Memorial in Palatka has bronze plaques with a WWII era torpedo. GEORGIA State Boat USS SEALION SS-195, 5 men lost. Georgia has a USS Sealion memorial to the crew at Submarine Base in King's Bay. SOUTH CAROLINA State Boat USS AMBERJACK, 74 men lost. South Carolina has an Amberjack memorial to the crew at White Point Gardens in Charleston. MISSISSIPPI State Boat USS TULLIBEE SS-284, 79 men lost. Mississippi has a Tullibee memorial to the crew at the veterans War memorial in Ocean Springs. LOUISIANA State Boat USS GOLET SS- 361. 82 men lost. Currently the memorial is under refurbishment at a former Redfish Base Commanders Home in Slidell. Plans are to have the memorial to the crew rededicated at the Admiral Kidd Museum in Baton Rouge.

The following events are occurring in December on a District Level: Submarine Veterans Gulf Coast Christmas Party held in Panama City Beach, Florida from 7-10 December. Details are available



on USS Drum Base Web Site. Palmetto Base, located in Columbia, South Carolina will charter as a recognized USSVI Base on December 13, 2007. Place and time will be announced or if you would like to attend, contact me. Have a great Holiday and hope to all of you at the Christmas Party on the 15th.

Salute with Pride,
Jerry Stout, ERD4

