

TORPEDO ALLEY

VOL. 19 #4

APRIL 2023



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

Base Meetings:

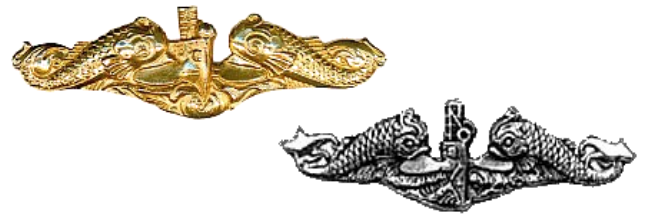
BOD: April 6, 2023
 Membership: April 13, 2023

Location:

FRA Branch 269
 Low Country Home
 99 Wisteria Rd.

Newsletter & PAO

Ed Stank 843.568.2148



Base Commander	<u>Mike Ciesielko</u>	843.324.0011
Vice Commander	<u>Tom Lawson</u>	843.327.3282
Secretary	<u>Gordon Long</u>	843.214.2353
Treasurer	<u>Ricky Collins</u>	843.276.4861
Chief of the Boat	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Veterans Affairs	<u>Tom Lawson</u>	843.327.3282
Membership	<u>Larry Knutson</u>	843.860.1155
Scholarship	<u>Carl Chinn</u>	843.437.5515
Storekeeper	<u>Woody Woodsmall</u>	304.676.8356
Historian	<u>George Scharf</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	<u>Ed Stank</u>	843.568.2148
Nuclear Historian	<u>Rick Carlson</u>	843.875.4030
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Social Media Coord	<u>Lewis Leal</u>	843.270-8870
Kaps for Kids	<u>Mike Emerson</u>	843.302.2650
Fleet Reserve Rep	<u>Skip Chilton</u>	843.793.4896
Base Photographer	<u>Glenn Little</u>	843.797.1867
Comptroller	<u>Rick Wise</u>	843.276.0899
Hunley/Housatonic	VACANT	
Patriots Point POC	<u>Rusty Pickett</u>	843.762.3888
Cold War Mem POC	<u>Rodney McKanna</u>	843.851.3415
Scout Recog Prog	<u>Dick Koehler</u>	843.553.2171
Recreation Comm	<u>Johnny Brown</u>	843.276.8624

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Submarines Lost During the Month of April

USS PICKEREL (SS-177)	April 3, 1943 – 7 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 74 souls
USS SNOOK (SS-279)	April 8, 1945 – 9 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 84 souls
USS THRESHER (SSN-593)	April 10, 1963 – sea trials	Lost with all hands – 129 souls
USS GUDGEON (SS-211)	April 18, 1944 – 12 th war patrol	Lost with all hands – 79 souls
USS GRENADIER (SS-210)	April 22, 1943 – 6 th war patrol	76 POWs; 72 survived the war

Five Boats and 370 Men Lost

Submarines Lost During the Month of May

USS LAGARTO (SS-371)	May 3, 1945 – 2 nd War patrol	Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls
USS SCORPION (SSN-589)	May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment	Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
USS SQUALUS (SS-192)	May 23, 1939 – during test dive	33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost
USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415)	May 30, 1958 – under tow	NO LOSS OF LIFE

FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost

From the Editor

This is my last newsletter; I am looking for someone to pick it up. If you are interested, please call me. 843-568-2148

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Board of Directors Meeting

THU Apr 6, 1800
FRA Goose Creek

USS Amberjack SS219/Lost Boats Memorial/ Submarine Birthday Celebration

SAT Apr 8, 1000 [Muster 0930]
NNPTC, Bldg 777, Naval Weapons Station

2023 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball

SAT Apr 8 - 1730-2300
N. Charleston Marriott Goer Blvd
For more info see: [FLYER](#)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/545305753187>

HAPPY 123rd SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY

SUN Apr 11

Base Meeting - Holland Club Induction - Distinguished Submariner Award

THU Apr 13, 1900
FRA Goose Creek

Board of Directors Meeting

Election of Base Commander / Treasurer
THU May 4, 1800
FRA Goose Creek

Base Meeting - Elections Base Commander & Treasurer

THU May 11, 1900
FRA Goose Creek

MOTHER'S DAY

SUN May 11

MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN 2023 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial Service

May 19, 20, 21—Fri/Sat/Sun
DINNER SAT MAY 20th
Pre-Registration Form is attached to the last page
of this newsletter
Pre-Registration Cutoff Date 22 Apr 2023

Armed Forces Day

SAT May 20

Memorial Day Service Summerville Cemetery

MON May 29, 1000
Muster 0930

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



Submarine Day

Of all the servicemembers on duty at any given time, submariners at sea stand duty on six-hour watches 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without holidays .. for months on end .. inside the most perilous and lethal machines on Earth.

They work and live in the intensely inhospitable and unforgiving, cold, black netherworld beneath the rolling waves known as

the realm of Neptune.

Normal people do not belong here.

HUMOR



"NO, YOU CAN'T BE A SUBMARINEER ON LIBERTY FOR HALLOWEEN!"

TAX DATE IS FAST APPROACHING

Please remember to file your taxes by 15 April this year to prevent any tax penalties. Filing assistance is available for free through various programs including TurboTax, Tax Act and Taxslayer just go to their web pages.

Even the Federal Government offers free filing at [irs.gov/filing/free](https://www.irs.gov/filing/free)

Tax preparation appointments are available five days a week at Joint Base Charleston Air Base. Call **843-963-5646** or **843-963-7945** to schedule an appointment. Tax preparation appointments are available at the Joint Base Charleston Weapons Station on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call 843-794-7500 to schedule an appointment.

Bourbon Raffle

Up for raffle by the Admiral James B. Osborne Memorial Scholarship Committee is a bottle of currently limited release bourbon. **APRIL ONE** embodies strength, character, and excellence. Crafted with the finest ingredients and distilled to perfection, this signature bourbon pays homage to the backbone of the Navy.



This bourbon was produced to commemorate the birth of the United States Navy rank of Chief Petty Officer. The rank was officially established 1 April 1893, when the rank “petty officer first class” was shifted to “chief petty officer.” This originally encompassed nine ratings: chief master-at-arms, chief boatswain’s mate, chief quartermaster, chief gunner’s mate, chief machinist, chief carpenter’s mate, chief yeoman, apothecary, and band master. Chief petty officer could be either an acting (temporary) appointment, designated as AA, or a permanent appointment, designated as PA. The Career Compensation Act of 1949 created an E-7 grade that standardized pay for all chief petty officers, regardless of acting or permanent status. Acting status for chief petty officers was not eliminated until 1965.

APRIL ONE is a distinctive high rye Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, crafted with a generous serving of corn and a significant rye mash bill. This expertly blended bourbon presents a delightful sweetness from the corn, perfectly balanced by a spicy finish from the rye. You'll discover rich caramel and bold dark chocolate notes as you savor each sip, creating an enticing aroma.

Matured in the majestic Colorado Rockies, the barrels complete their aging process at an impressive 5,000 feet above sea level. This unique mile-high elevation contributes to the bourbon's exceptional character.

Cost for this raffle will be six tickets for \$5. Tickets available at regular meetings or from Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger or Marty Sessler. Drawing date “To Be Determined”. **Make sure to write your name and phone number on the back of each ticket!**

Raffle is open to anyone so please let your friends, neighbors, enemies and shipmates know!





NATIONAL CONVENTION

USSVI 2023 Convention 28
Aug 2023 - 3 Sept 2023
Hilton El Conquistador
10000 N. Oracle Rd,
Oro Valley, AZ 85737
(520) 544-5000

Dear Shipmates

Thank you all for your patience as we are ready for registration for the 2023 Nation Convention in Tucson from 28 August to 3 September 2023 at the Tucson Hilton El Conquistador and Resort.

Convention registration—Go to the ussvi.org website log in and under the Members tab, click on the 2023 Convention link, which will take you to the convention page. Under the Convention tab are the registration links

1-Online link—the registration process pays via a credit card. Each line item carries an upcharge to account for the credit card fee that will be charged for this convenience.

2- Manual—a fillable pdf form that can be completed, downloaded, and mailed with your check or money order to the PO Box for registering for the convention. Please check your math and make your form legible to avoid mistakes that will cause delays in finalizing registration.

Hotel Reservation—Click this link to a special page for the Hilton El Conquistador, where the room rate is \$99/night. If you have special needs, call Elicia Robles, Group Registration Coordinator, at 520.544.1155. The resort fee will be waived at checkout.

Vendor Tab—3 documents are noted:

1. Magazine ad form. We encourage all Regions, Districts, and Bases to contribute to the convention's success by placing an ad. Costs, instructions, and mailing info are noted on the form.

2. Sponsor form. Here we look for sponsors that support our Convention. Any suggestion or recommendation for sponsors would be greatly appreciated.

3. Vendor agreement. This form is for the vendors to secure a table in the Hospitality Suite during the convention.

Communication Tab—there are tabs for contacting the webmaster and convention chair. Please utilize these for comments or questions.

Shipmates Attending---Will be updated as registrations are made.

Reunions—Listed here will be the boat reunions registered with Elicia Robles. All Sub Reunion Coordinators are encouraged to participate in the National Convention. Questions can be directed to Richard “Ozzie” Osentoski

(ussronquil@yahoo.com) or Bob Bowe (bob.bowe@outlook.com). Bob is the local Reunion Committee Chair.

Off-Sites ---Our off-sites include four venues. All are to be handled by a professional staff to make your tour a more enjoyable experience. They are:

- 1-Biosphere II
- 2-Pima Air and Space Museum
- 3-Desert Museum
- 4-Gaslight Theater—melodrama playing will be

Harry Potter

Going forward, we will publish additional information on the National email blast to keep all informed. See you out West in Tucson this August.

Dennis Ottley, 2023 National Convention Chair

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**From the Desk of USSV Charitable Foundation
President Kenneth Earls**

Shipmates,

Over the past few months, the USSV Charitable Foundation has attracted several new volunteers to help build our organization. We are looking for at least two more.

Secretary - Backup. Anyone who has served as a base secretary can easily fill this position as the backup to the Charitable Foundation's Secretary. The amount of time required is small. This position also sits on the Charitable Foundation's Investment Committee, both as the committee secretary and as a voting member. The requirements are the same as for serving as a

Secretary of any base and do include the need to be able to attend Zoom meetings whenever they are called. That happens infrequently. If interested, please contact Ray Wewers or Ken Earls, contact info is below.

Legacy Fund Manager - Backup. The Legacy Fund is a critical fund within our organization, the Legacy donations form the foundation for our investments and provide longevity for the Charitable Foundation.

Requirements are simply to have a strong interest in the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation and what it does. It helps to have some experience in or an understanding of the Time Value of Money. The amount of time spent is completely dependent on your desire to be of assistance. Time can range from a couple of hours per year to a few hours per month and could include working with others within the Charitable Foundation's team of volunteers.

If interested, please contact Jon Jaques or Ken Earls, contact info is below.

Ray Wewers - raywewers@gmail.com
Jon Jaques - jjjaques@bellsouth.net
Ken Earls - kenearlss@gmail.com

Ken Earls
President
USSV Charitable Foundation
kenearlss@gmail.com
www.ussvcf.org

928-308-4488 - Mobile

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**USSVI NATIONAL/REGIONAL/CHARLESTON
BASE and VA INFORMATION**

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Until officially notified, the only time the new (Blackbaud) website is to be used is for matters concerning this year's 2023 convention in Tucson.

Please bear in mind that the rebuilt old site <https://ussubvets.org> is the currently active system that should be used for all of your normal research and data entries.

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Subject: Annual and Life Membership Dues
As of 1 April, dues for National and Charleston

Base have increased. The membership form and PayPal payment portal on the base website now shows the increased due prices.

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**MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN
2023 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial
Service**

May 19, 20, 21—Fri/Sat/Sun
DINNER SAT MAY 20th

Pre-Registration Cutoff Date 22 Apr 2023
Pre-Registration Form is attached to the last page of this newsletter

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From: Wayne E Phillips
<waynephillips.ser2dc@yahoo.com>
Date: March 9, 2023 at 1:45:56 AM EST
Subject: Link for scheduling VA Healthcare Appointments

Regional Director's Notice:

<https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-online-scheduling>

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From: Wayne E Phillips
<waynephillips.ser2dc@yahoo.com>
Date: March 8, 2023 at 11:23:16 PM EST
Subject: Caregiver Support

Notice from our Regional Director:

Base POCs: Share this email with your Base

We have added a link to the Congresswoman's official website that will take you to a folder with all the latest information on the VA Caregiver Support program. You can find this info at:

<https://cammack.house.gov/veterans-services/va-caregiver-support-program>

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From: Wayne E Phillips
<waynephillips.ser2dc@yahoo.com>
Date: February 26, 2023 at 11:01:56 PM EST
Subject: Southeast Regional Conference

Notice from ESRD Ken Nichols

ESRD2 Base Commanders and POCs: Forward this email to your Base members

I have not received any interest on attending or having a Southeast Conference in Biloxi MS this year. I am going to cancel this. Thank you Ken Nichols ESRD

Veteran Service Officer Update March 2023

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2023 VA health care copay rates

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates/>

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Standard Daylight Savings Time will change in November 2023 (if passed)

<https://www.timeanddate.com/news/time/us-permanent-dst.html>

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VA Wants Vets to Use Their Benefits When Choosing a Final Resting Place

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/25/va-wants-vets-use-their-benefits-when-choosing-final-resting-place.html?ESRC=navy-a_230201.nl

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Tricare Beneficiaries Are Suffering. The Biden Administration Refuses to Hear Them Out.

https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/2023/01/26/tricare-beneficiaries-are-suffering-biden-administration-refuses-hear-them-out.html?ESRC=navy-a_230201.nl

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Tricare Will Pay for More Dialysis Services Following COVID-Linked Rise in Kidney Disease

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/01/tricare-will-pay-more-dialysis-services-following-covid-linked-rise-kidney-disease.html?ESRC=eb_230202.nl

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Making Sure Vets Get PACT Act Benefits Is New House Veterans Affairs Chairman's Top Priority

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/31/making-sure-vets-get-pact-act-benefits-new-house-veterans-affairs-chairmans-top-priority.html?ESRC=eb_230201.nl

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VA to Congress: Keep Pandemic Rule Allowing Prescriptions Across State Lines

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/31/va-congress-keep-pandemic-rule-allowing-prescriptions-across-state->

lines.html?ESRC=eb_230201.nl

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State Tax Information for Military Members and Retirees

https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/state-tax-information.html?ESRC=mr_230130.nl

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Millions of Tricare Users Must Approve Mail-Order Prescription Refills Starting Now

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/24/millions-of-tricare-users-must-approve-mail-order-prescription-refills-starting-now.html?ESRC=mr_230130.nl

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A Hill & Ponton Video: Congress is Trying to Take Away VA Benefits!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1lChntm5ec>

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VA Health Care Eligibility

https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-health-care-eligibility.html?ESRC=mr_230213.nl

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Defrauding Veterans Would Be a Federal Crime Under Bill Pushed by Senators

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/14/defrauding-veterans-would-be-federal-crime-under-bill-pushed-senators.html?ESRC=navy-a_230215.nl

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Pentagon Rethinking Its Decision on \$65.1 Billion Tricare Management Contract

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/13/pentagon-rethinking-its-decision-651-billion-tricare-management-contract.html?ESRC=eb_230214.nl

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VA Would Have to Research Medical Marijuana Under Bill Advanced by Senate Panel

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/16/va-would-have-research-medical-marijuana-under-bill-advanced-senate-panel.html?ESRC=eb_230217.nl

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VA Warns Against PACT Act Fraud Targeting Veterans

https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-warns-against-pact-act-fraud-targeting-veterans.html?ESRC=eb_230217.nl

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Veterans: What's Taxed and What's Not on Your Federal and State Returns

https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/veterans-whats-taxed-and-whats-not-your-federal-and-state-returns.html?ESRC=eb_230224.nl

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VA Disability & VA Pension: What's the Difference? (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiT7ZHvbd9w>

Respectively, John Dudas, Veteran Service Officer

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FRIENDS OF THE HUNLEY



Calling for Volunteers for Hunley Museum

If ever there has been a chance for SubVets to live up to our motto it is now. "To perpetuate the memory of those shipmates who gave their lives in submarine warfare" on the first submarine that proved the capability to sink another war vessel is a golden opportunity for any of our brothers who are interested.

We need volunteers who can greet visitors to the Hunley Museum as well as cash register clerks for the gift shop and speakers to the public on a variety of topics related to the Hunley submarine. We have flexibility and would welcome our SubVet brothers to start in one billet and advance to the next if that is your preference.

Some of the "perks" are;

1. After a year of service a volunteer's membership to the Friends of the Hunley

Organization is free and will continue for as long as you are actively engaged in the Volunteer Program. Membership provides quarterly updates from Warren Lasch Conservation Laboratory by a periodical named "The Blue Light".

2. Uniform shirts and nametags are provided and SubVets are encouraged to wear vests when volunteering.

3. Volunteers receive two tickets to the annual Oyster Roast which normally costs \$55.00 per person for the general public.

4. Volunteers get 40% off in the gift shop.

5. Volunteers have access to our Membership Behind the Scenes tours at no cost. The public requires paid membership to be invited.

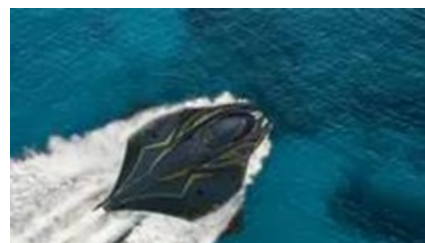
6. Quarterly Lecture Series and Scientific Updates are provided for the Volunteer Team by the Conservation and Archaeological teams who work at Warren Lasch Conservation Lab.

The museum is open to the public on weekends, and you can expect to be volunteering either Saturday or Sunday (or both) mornings or afternoons. There are also private tours during the weekdays, and you can choose to work one or more of those. At the same time, it's a volunteer job so nobody expects you to be there unless you want it. I have been volunteering at the museum for almost a year and it's been a great experience. I have met with several SubVets from other bases and met people from all over who share our interest in submarines, technology and the crewmen that man them.

If you have an interest in considering the opportunity, we would be happy to organize a behind-the-scenes tour for you. In fact, if the entire SubVet Charleston Base is interested we would be pleased to arrange the tour, at no charge.

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DUAL POWERED SUBMARINE



A UAE-based startup unveiled a new submarine design that actually looks more like a futuristic spacecraft than an underwater vessel. With its **Kronos submarine**, the startup Hlghland Systems has radically changed what submarines look like, from the outside as well as the inside.

Designed for covert operations, submarines have improved tremendously over the years. However, their basic design and shape remain more or less standard. With newer technologies such as electric engines and unmanned vehicles taking prominence, there is an opportunity to change submarines to be more fuel efficient and increase their stealth capabilities.

Last year, we reported how **DARPA's Manta-Ray project** has moved to its next phase, and now a UAE-based startup has unveiled another Manta-ray-inspired design. Although the latter is not an unmanned vehicle, the submarine's shape is striking.

The submarine is designed to accommodate ten passengers and one crew member. The radically new design of the hull can deliver higher speeds while consuming lesser fuel, the company claims. The submarine can be tasked with commercial operations or built specifically for rescue or combat operations.

The submarine is dual-powered with a diesel generator as well as an electric engine which, when combined, can deliver up to 54 hours of operation. Interestingly, the wings of the submarine can be folded to ease its transport over the land. If this seems confusing, you will be surprised to know that the submarine is just under 30 feet (9025 mm) long, 24 feet (7432 mm) wide, and 6.85 feet (2089 mm) tall, nothing like the **largest submarines** we have covered before. It weighs only 22,000 pounds (10,000 kg) and has a carrying capacity of 6,600 pounds (3,000 kg) on water, the website states.

Powered by a diesel engine, the submarine can deliver a top speed of just under 50 miles (80 km) an hour while on water and 31 miles (50 km) an hour when under. The working depth of the submarine is 328 feet (100 m), while its maximum critical depth is 820 feet (250 m).

The 1,200 hp electric engine on the submarine can also be used to propel the submarine. In its battery-only mode, the submarine can remain operational for 36 hours, the same amount of time it can maintain air supply for. Following this, the battery needs to be charged for a period of 1.5 hours, which is also the amount of time needed for air refueling.

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Armed Forces Vacation Club

Welcome to Armed Forces Vacation Club – a free membership travel club for all active, retired and veteran military members. We believe that our military members and veterans deserve the best – that's why a membership with Armed Forces Vacation Club provides a one-stop shop for all your vacation needs with exclusive discounts on resorts, hotels and so much more.

Proudly Serving Our Military

Armed Forces Vacation Club is a "R&R" program that offers military and other Department of Defense-affiliated personnel the opportunity to enjoy vacations at popular destinations around the world - for the incredibly low price of just \$409* USD per unit, per week.

Those eligible and their family and friends have access to spacious accommodations at more than 4,000 resorts, apartments, condominiums and homes in more than 100 countries.

Who Qualifies?

A membership with Armed Forces Vacation Club is free to all active duty, guard, reserve and retired U.S. military and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

More about program requirements can be found in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section.

What "Space Available" Means

Armed Forces Vacation Club is a part of *Wyndham Worldwide*, one the world's largest hospitality companies. This makes it possible to offer a vast collection of condominium-style timeshare resorts.

If you enjoy off-season activities in popular locations without the hassle of high-season prices, crowds and lines (or if you can travel on 10 days notice or less), the Armed Forces Vacation Club

offers an incredible vacation value.

More Spaces in More Places

Availability varies but frequently includes destinations in the United States, Mexico, South America and Europe. The condominium-style accommodations typically include a full kitchen with refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and microwave. Many Military accommodations also include washers and dryers, balconies or patios, and many other comforts of home.

Many resorts provide amenities you aren't likely to get with a typical hotel or motel room, such as on-site recreational facilities, swimming pools, fitness centers, game rooms, gift shops, restaurants and organized activities. Golfing and skiing are available on-site at some resorts, as well. Add in exciting area attractions, and you have an exceptional vacation for far less than you would normally expect to pay!

Always Low Fees, Never Any Pressure

While accommodations are mostly at timeshare resorts, you will not be required to attend a timeshare presentation. Some resorts are already sold out and do not have active sales centers on-site. If the resort is still in sales, at some time during your stay, you will probably be given an opportunity to attend a presentation in exchange for a premium or gift (free dinner, theater/show tickets, amusement/theme park tickets, etc.). Everyone at these resorts is given this same opportunity. If you like the incentive gift and want to attend the presentation, you are welcome to do so. But you are under no obligation and can simply say, "No, thanks."

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AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine

The Australian submarine program is a **new initiative to acquire nuclear-powered attack submarines with the help of the US and the UK under the AUKUS partnership.** The program is expected to enhance Australia's security and sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific region

U.S. and British nuclear-powered submarines will maintain a continuous presence in Western Australia to train Australian sailors ahead of the country's purchase of its own fleet of eight nuclear

subs, say defense researchers.

The leaders of the AUKUS allies — President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak — unveiled the submarine deal Monday, part of an effort to counter Chinese expansionism in the Indo-Pacific.

Under the deal, Australia aims to launch its nuclear-powered subs in the 2030s. A rotational force of U.S. and British subs will operate from Western Australia starting in 2027.

The agreement means a probable, rapid increase in U.S. submarine port calls Down Under, according to Ross Babbage, a former Australian assistant defense secretary.

"The tempo is likely to increase almost immediately," he said by email Wednesday.

U.S. submarines in recent years have made routine port calls in Australia to resupply and train with local forces, Paul Buchanan, a U.S. security expert based in New Zealand, said in an email the same day.

A stop by the USS Asheville, a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine, at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia was announced March 1 by the U.S. Embassy in Canberra.

Australia needs to double and probably triple the number of submariners in its navy, Babbage said.

A class of Australian submariners recently joined the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power School in Goose Creek, S.C., with another class scheduled to join later in the year, Buchanan said.



**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.,
Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting
9 March 2023**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The March 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 48 members. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of March was given by Vice Commander Tom Lawson for Base Chaplain Nick Nichols who was not present this evening.
- Submarines lost during the month of March:
USS PERCH (SS-176)
 3 March 1942 – 1st war patrol
 59 POWs – 53 survived the war, 6 died as POW

USS GRAMPUS (SS-207)

5 March 1943 – 6th war patrol
 Lost with all hands – 71 souls

USS H-1 (SS-28)

2 March 1920 – grounding
 Loss of 4 souls

USS TRITON (SS-201)

15 March 1943 – 6th war patrol
 Lost with all hands – 74 souls

USS KETE (SS-369)

20 March 1945 – 2nd war patrol
 Lost with all hands -87 souls

USS F-4 (SS-23)

25 March 1915 – foundered
 Lost with all hands – 21 souls

USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)

26 March 1944 – 4th war patrol
 Lost with 79 souls – One POW survived the war

USS TRIGGER (SS-237)

26 March 1945 – 12th war patrol
 Lost with all hands – 89 souls

Eight Boats and 431 Men Lost

Master Chief Machinist's Mate, Submarines/

Surface Warfare

**Joseph I. Hayes Jr., USN Retired
 Departed on Eternal Patrol on Feb. 12, 2023**

- The Purpose of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were no new guests this evening.

Old Business: (Base Commander Mike Ciesielko)

- **Distinguished Submariner Award –**
 - A Distinguished Submariner for Charleston Base has been selected. The award shall be presented at the April Base Meeting.
- **Amberjack Ceremony –**
 - The Amberjack Ceremony will be held at 1000 on April 8, at the Cold War Memorial in Mount Pleasant.
- **Submarine Birthday Ball –**
 - The Submarine Birthday Ball is on April 8 at the North Charleston Marriott on Goer Dr. (I-26 and Montague). Base Secretary will send information to entire Base.

New Business:

- **None**

Old Business: (Base Commander Mike Ciesielko)

- **Distinguished Submariner Award –** A Distinguished Submariner for Charleston Base has been selected. The award shall be presented at the April Base Meeting.
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information to entire Base.

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the February Base Meeting were emailed directly to the Base membership, published in the Base Newsletter and have been promulgated on the Base Website. There were no changes. The Base Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for February was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Tom Lawson for Nick Nichols:

- **MMCM(SS/SW) Joseph I. Hayes Jr., USN Ret., 76**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Feb. 12, 2023. Joe joined the Navy in 1964 and retired in 1994 after 30 years of service. He was a life member of the USSVI & Charleston Base joining both in 2011, a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 55 years, and a Member of FRA Branch 269. Joe qualified on USS PLUNGER SSN-595 [67-72] in 1968. He also served on USS DRUM SSN-677 [72-75], USS LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN-644B [COB 78-81], USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SSBN-640 [COB 81-85], USS JOHN ADAMS SSBN-620 [COB 85-87], and USS WILLIAM V. PRATT DLG-13/DDG-44 [CMC 88-91]. Joe's shore duty assignments included NAVAL RESERVE CENTER DAYTONA BEACH FL [INSTRUCTOR 75-78] and NAVAL WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON SC [CMC 91-94]. Joe's service was at Parks Funeral Home on Feb. 16th with burial following at Summerville Cemetery. Charleston Base was well represented and also provided the pall bearers. The family was very appreciative of the service.

- **Phil Nunnally** had knee surgery Wed. Mar 1 which the doctor's thought would be minor. The surgery discovered the damage was more extensive than expected and he'll be on crutches for 4-6 weeks and PT after that. He is home and has plenty of family help. Feel free to text or call. I'll miss the next Subvets meeting and Nuke school graduation. I was planning on taking over the Little David maintenance this spring but that will need to wait until the fall window. I've been trying to get more involved in more Subvet activities and responsibilities over the past few months but Wendy's Covid recovery and now this keeps holding me back. Bummer.
- **Brenda Woodsmall** is having her right knee replaced on Mon Mar 6th.
- **Don Petersen** is not doing well. He can't take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- **Tom Clark** had surgery on Jan 23rd for a mass on his intestines. Not cancerous. He spent some time in ICU and then in Rehab and was discharged to home on Feb. 26th. Still requests no calls or visitors until further notice.
- **Rodney McKanna** had his new knee joint put in on Feb. 10th. After spending some time rehab where he was next door neighbors with Tom Clark, he was discharged to home a week early. He is doing well and will soon return to work.
- **Rick Wise** has had two infusion and they went well. Base members stepped in to provide transport and two more will do so for the trips in March. He is doing well and has been having elevated temperature which makes him believe the infusions are working. Please continue your prayers.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** has been in Trident hospital since Jan. 10. He had 4 heart attacks & 3 procedures during this time. Now on 6th floor for rehab. Says he is still kicking.
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417. He called me Tuesday to say

he's doing OK and to also say he is asking for pictures of submarines to hang at the Victory House. He has talked to those in charge and they have agreed to use pictures if he can get them. These should be similar to those the Scholarship committee has now if possible.

- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson's Disease. I've been playing text tag with him this week.

Webmaster – Tom Lawson for Nick Nichols

- OLD VS NEW NATIONAL WEBSITES: You should ensure you are using the website of <https://ussubvets.org>. Until further notice the rebuilt old website is the current active system that should be used for all of your normal research and data entries (Tools).
- I have been able to put 170 member pictures into the National database. That's 73% of our members. Please update your profile on National. 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. Contact the webmaster with any updates to this page.
- On 31 March, I will be updating our website with the new membership application and also update PayPal with the new fees for National and Charleston Base membership dues. The membership application and PayPal links will indicate this increase on 1 April.
 - National will increase to \$30 per year and CB will increase to \$20 per year.
 - All three life membership levels of Charleston Base will increase \$20 for each level.
 - All three life membership levels of National will increase from \$20 to \$100 depending on the level.

Social Media – Lewis Leal: Not Present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson: Not present.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- We currently have 246 Charleston Base Members.
- Dues will increase on April 1.
- See Larry after the meeting or you can send dues payment via mail to Larry.
- **Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:**
 - 1) Groton 1088 - 2) Hampton Roads 270 - 3) Charleston 246 - 4) Bremerton 234

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The deadline for Scholarship applications is April 14. If you have kids, grands or great-grands, be sure to remind them about this resource. Although it is very simple and easy to explain, BE SURE to review their application. Sometimes, we get forms in that are not signed, or has some required information omitted.
- Challenge coins are available (\$12) to support the Scholarship fund.
- The Scholarship fund now has a balance of \$12,504.
- We also want to welcome Rusty Pickett this evening. He purchased the painting of the WWII submarine battle in support of the Scholarship fund.
- We still have the Hunley painting. It has incredible matting.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- The Amberjack Memorial will be held on April 8. Last year, we recognized the Lost Boats. This year we will read the names of those on Eternal Patrol from when Amberjack was lost.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- Elections for Base Commander and Treasurer will be held at the May Base Meeting. Please consider one of these positions. Email, call or text Ken if you would like to be on the ballot.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- The FRA will be having a picnic at Marrington

Plantation on April 29 from 1000 to 1800.

- This coming Wednesday, March 15 is our 25th anniversary of the local Fleet Reserve chapter.
- On Thursday, when we have our regular meeting, we will have cake cutting featuring our Southeast Regional President.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Tickets for the Oyster Roast at Short Stay are available from Dave Harvey. The pavilion has been reserved from 1000 to 2200 on Saturday, March 18. For Oysters \$20 – Non-Oysters (BBQ) \$5

Nuclear Power School – Ray Sparks

- This Friday, March 17 is NPS Graduation. Ray will be making the presentations since Rick Wise is unable to at this time.

Newsletter – Nick Nichols for Ed Stank

- The Newsletter was published yesterday. In this edition, there is an article about Parkinson's. There is no recovery from this debilitating disease, from which there is no cure. Read this article, because if you know someone with Parkinson's, you may find them to be very difficult to deal with.

PAO – Ed Stank

- Two articles have been submitted to American Submariner. One was about the Scholarship committee and the wonderful donations that have been made. The other is about the H.L. Hunley Memorial. Both of them have been accepted, so Ed expects them to be printed in the next American Submariner.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody still has at "boat load" of 2023 Submarine Calendars. The theme is "**Perils in the Deep**" and are \$10 each. Everyone needs a calendar to keep track of all the meetings, doctor appointments etc There are a dozen stories about dangers at sea.

COB – Rick Sparger

- We are in need of help for the oyster roast at

Short Stay. COB expressed gratitude to Terry Trump for being able to use the fantastic location at Bushy Park. Cooper River Partners no longer allow their retired employees to use facility, however we are thankful for the many times that we have been granted use of this picnic facility for more than ten years.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike is still working through the Sailing List to contact each of our Base Members.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- We are open every Wednesday.
- There will be a cookout on March 17 for St. Paddy's Day. We will enjoy the meal at 1700.
- The Hog Roast will be April 15 through 22. We only ask for donations.
- Visit the website for more information – www.theafterbattery.org

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- We will have a Gun Shoot this weekend. Muster here at FRA for 0830 departure. Bring your guns, ammo and targets. You can also meet us there at Twin Ponds Range which opens at 0900.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

I don't have a particular story tonight, but I do have an outstanding Sea Story. By a show of hands, how many here tonight were only on SSBNs? How many were on SSNs – or – both? Of those who were on SSNs, how many of you were involved with PCO ops?

What is the most exciting thing of PCO ops? You take a whole bunch of yahoos that want to be Commanding Officers who come aboard YOUR

boat and act as if they ARE the CO.

Did this always work out well? Let me see some hands if it worked out really well!! ...[pause] ... I see none!!

Well, I will tell you about MY experience with PCO ops. Oh yea, if you were only on a boomer, you have no idea. [At this point, there was disagreement in the room.] So, I was on the Grayling and did two PCO ops. Yea, that was exciting!! [dripping sarcasm]. What do you do before you go on PCO ops? The first thing that you do is to go out and do things that PCOs are expected to do. Yes, you do EMERGENCY DEEPS and all that other kind of nonsense, right?

So, we had this one group of PCOs and this one guy had never been on anything except a boomer. He did not understand the concept. So, we go out there to AUTEC.

Show of hands – everyone knows where AUTEC is? – GOOD! It's us against a dipping helo, a frig ate and a P3 which has the ability to launch torpedoes. This is going to be fun, right?

So this one PCO that must have only on boomers his entire career. Well, we hear this report from Sonar, "Weapon in the water!" Well, SSN guys, what are supposed to do? [Go fast/deep/turn.] Right!! What else? ...[pause] ... Open the MBT vents and do a 3 second blow!! What does that do? It puts a great big bubble of air in the water, that as it approaches the surface – you Nukes should figure this out – it gets bigger and bigger and bigger. The torpedo gets in the bubble and keeps running around until it runs out of fuel.

Anyway, we're doing PCO ops and I'm the Diving Officer of the Watch. Well, I hear Sonar's report about the weapon in the water, and BINGO, we dive!! The PCO said "Open the forward MBT vents. Conduct 3 second blow of the Forward Main Ballast Tank." Well, I turned to him and said, "Sir, shouldn't we open all the vents?"

He responded, "I said, open the FORWARD ballast tank vents!" So, we did that and then did the 3 second blow. Then immediately he said,

"Make your depth 400 feet and shut the vents." Are you kidding me? I said, "Sir, we need to open the vents." He answered, "I said SHUT the vents."

"Chief of the Watch, shut the vents." So, here we are screaming to the surface with a 25+ degree up-bubble. I have both planes on full dive. "Reverse speed, Sir!" "Negative!" "Reverse speed, Sir!" "Negative!"

"Reverse speed, Sir!" "Negative."

POOOOM! As we popped through the surface, the #2 scope comes up and a P3 aircraft flies right over the top of us. Gentlemen, that was the day that I had a near mid-air collision with a P3 aircraft. Unless you have never been on PCO ops, you have no idea what I talking about, but being in the Control Room, that was the time of my life.

Rusty Pickett spoke up then saying, "As the only one in this room who has been a PCO and done the ops twice, as a participant, you wouldn't believe the CL.....F... that is amongst the PCOs when you get a Bozo like that in front your whole section

Drawings & Auctions

- A number was selected from the sign-in list. Woody Woodsmall won a half-gallon of Evan Williams since he had a Scholarship Challenge Coin
- FRA Drawing – Don Ort
- Depth Charge Drawing – Dave Harvey

Closing Ceremony

- Vice Commander Tom Lawson led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1946.

[SECRETARY'S NOTE: After the meeting was closed, Tom Holcomb introduced himself as the new Hunley/Housatonic Coordinator]



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Big Enough For 2 Kids Only **\$6⁹⁸**

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CHARLESTON BASE OYSTER ROAST PICTURES— March 18, 2023







DAY 15: Monday, May 15, 2023

EP	START POINT	CITY	ST	DATE	DEPARTURE	TYPE	DISTANCE
121	The Home Depot 2213 N Hwy. 17 Mt Pleasant, SC 29466	Mt Pleasant	SC	05/15/2023	7:00AM EDT	🚶	4.12MI
122	Publix Super Market at Queensborough Shopping Center 1000 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Ste 106 Mt Pleasant, SC 29464	Mt Pleasant	SC	05/15/2023	9:00AM EDT	🚶	2.89MI
123	Cold War Submarine Memorial 40 Patriots Point Rd. Mt Pleasant, SC 29464	Mt Pleasant	SC	05/15/2023	11:00AM EDT	🚶	4.30MI
124	Marion Square 329 Meeting St. Charleston, SC 29403	Charleston	SC	05/15/2023	1:00PM EDT	🚶	2.14MI
125	The Citadel 171 Moultrie St. Charleston, SC 29409	Charleston	SC	05/15/2023	2:00PM EDT	🚶	5.22MI
126	Charleston Nine Memorial Park 1807 Savannah Hwy. Charleston, SC 29407	Charleston	SC	05/15/2023	4:00PM EDT	🚗	

**MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN
2023 NC SUBVETS BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

FRI 19TH - SAT 20th - SUN 21st

May 2023

DINNER SAT MAY 20th

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Pre-Registration Form – Cutoff Date 22 Apr 2023

Last Name _____ First _____ CHK---- BEEF TROUT
 Guest----- _____ CHK---- BEEF TROUT
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 PHONE: _____ BASE: _____ Email: _____
 Emergency Contact _____ PHONE _____

Check with the hotel for pricing if you want to eat breakfast and dinner and not staying at the hotel.

	COUNT	<u>TOTAL</u>
Pre-Registration Per Person \$25	_____	\$_____
Saturday Banquet INCLUDED IN ROOM RATE		
Breakfast and dinner is included if staying in the hotel		
Saturday Banquet Pays \$25 if not rooming at Hotel Per Person	_____	\$_____
CHECK # _____	Grand Total	\$_____

MAKE AND KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Carolina Piedmont BASE USSVI

**Mail Check To:
Rick Petitt
1380 Lloyd Place NW
Concord,NC 28027
704-562-0089**

**FILL IN HIGHLIGHTED BLOCKS
ARMED FORCES DAY NEXT YEAR IS MAY 18TH, 2024**