

TORPEDO ALLEY



VOL. 19 #5



MAY 2023

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

Base Meetings:

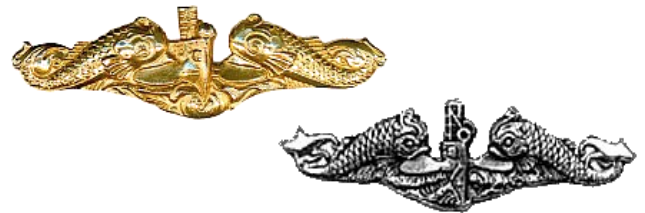
BOD: May 4, 2023
 Membership: May 11, 2023

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	VACANT	
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	VACANT	
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	<u>Tom Holcomb</u>	843.607.9610
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

Table of Contents

- 2: Boats on Eternal Patrol; From the Editor; Upcoming Base Events
- 3: Humor; USSVI National Convention; USSVI
- 4: Amberjack Memorial; Submarine Birthday Ball; Volunteers for Friends of the Hunley
- 5: Australia Nuclear Powered Sub
- 6: Scholarship Raffle - Flower Town Players
- 7: Scholarship Raffle - April One Spirits
- 8-12: Base Minutes April 2023



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

Submarines Lost During the Month of June

USS HERRING (SS-233)	June 1, 1944 – 8 th war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 83 SOULS
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL	LOST WITH 42 SOULS - 21 SURVIVORS
USS GOLET (SS-361)	June 14, 1944 – 2 nd war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 82 SOULS
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	June 18, 1945 – 8 th war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 85 SOULS
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska	NO LOSS OF LIFE
USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 33 SOULS
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	June 30, 1943 – 3 rd war patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS - 78 SOULS

SEVEN Boats and 403 Men Lost

From the Editor

I served aboard the USS Shark (SSN-591) in Norfolk when the Scorpion was reported missing. Her loss was a great shock to us who served in the submarine force during that time because we realized in could have been us. We continued to serve honoring her memory and a great American once said, “damn the torpedo's, full speed ahead”

Upcoming Charleston Base Events

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

HUMOR

If Jaws was filmed in Canada



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.

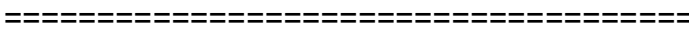
3. Vendor agreement. This form is for the vendors to secure a table in the Hospitality Suite during the convention.

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



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

(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

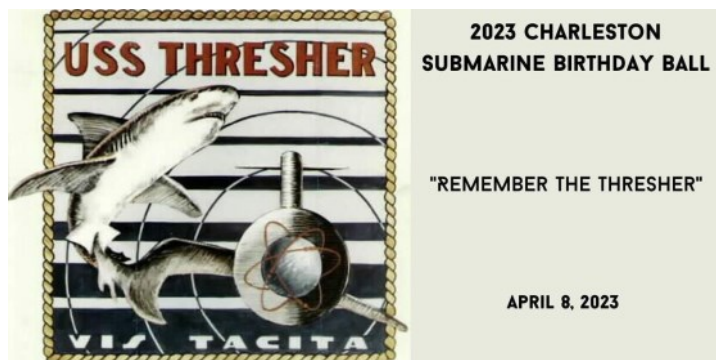
Going forward, we will publish additional information on the National email blast to keep all informed. See you out West in Tucson this August.

Dennis Ottley, 2023 National Convention Chair

=====

Amberjack Memorial and 123rd Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball

April 8 was a special day for submariners in and around the Charleston area. The day started



with a memorial ceremony for the USS Amberjack (SS-219), South Carolina's WWII submarine at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command In building 777.

A tolling of the boats lost in WWII was conducted during the ceremony. Sailors from the Navy Nuclear Power Command and United States Submarine Veterans, Charleston Base where in attendance.

That evening the Submarine Birthday Ball was held at Marriott Hotel in North Charleston. The event was In part to remember the loss of the USS Scorpion (SSN-589). Submarine sailors from Navy Nuclear Power Training Command and Submarine Veterans throughout the low country where in attendance.

The guest speaker was the Admiral James Caldwell, Director on Naval Reactors.

=====



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.

=====

Australia's nuclear-powered submarines

Virginia Class submarines

The United States intends to sell Australia 3 Virginia Class SSNs (nuclear-powered submarines) from as soon as the early 2030s, subject to US Congressional approval. There will also be the potential to sell up to 2 more if needed.

The SSN Virginia Class will provide Australia a nuclear-powered submarine capability as early as possible.

This acquisition will eliminate any capability gap and increase the 3 nations (Australia, UK and US) ability to deter aggression and contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

SSN-AUKUS

Australia's nuclear-powered submarines - SSN -AUKUS - will be based on the UK's next generation design that incorporates technology from all 3 nations, including cutting edge US submarine technologies.

The combination of technology from all 3 partners will deliver a world-class submarine that meets Australia's long-term defence needs while bolstering trilateral industrial cooperation. SSN-AUKUS will incorporate US technology, such

as propulsion plant systems and components, a common vertical launch system and weapons. The AUKUS partners will also develop a joint combat system as an expansion of the US-Australia combat system.

The UK will commence construction of its first SSN-AUKUS in Barrow-in-Furness UK, as early as the late 2020s. The UK intends to deliver its first SSN-AUKUS to the UK Royal Navy in the late 2030s.

Australia will begin building its first SSN-AUKUS in Adelaide South Australia, by the end of this decade. Australia plans to deliver the first Australian-built SSN-AUKUS to the Royal Australian Navy in the early 2040s.

Australia will begin enabling works this year at the future submarine construction yard in Osborne South Australia.

As a trilateral endeavour, SSN-AUKUS provides maximum interoperability among AUKUS partners. It will elevate all 3 nations' industrial capacity to produce and sustain advanced and interoperable SSNs for decades to come.

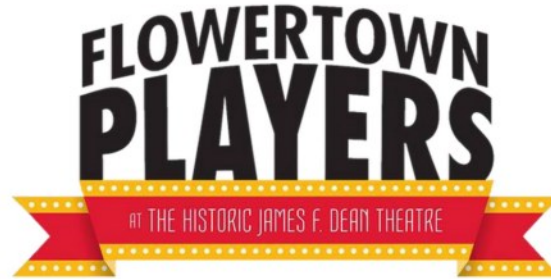
SSN-AUKUS will be operated by both the UK and Australian Navies, and will be equipped for intelligence, surveillance, under-sea warfare and strike missions.

SSN-AUKUS will be a state-of-the-art platform designed to leverage the best submarine technology of all 3 AUKUS partners. It will enhance the ability of our 3 nations to deter aggression and contribute to stability in the Indo-Pacific and globally.

=====



Theater Season Ticket Raffle



Up for raffle by the Admiral James B. Osborne Memorial Scholarship Committee is a pair (2) of season tickets to the Flowertown Players. These local productions are presented at the Summerville Community Theater, 133 S Main St, Summerville, SC; former home of the James F. Dean Theatre.

2023 Season schedule:



Normal pricing per person: Adult \$117 Senior/Military \$97

Ruthless! The Musical

Music by Marvin Laird
Book and lyrics by Joel Paley
August 11 - August 27, 2023

Miracle on 34th Street

Adapted by Mountain Community Theater
From the novel by Valentine Davies
November 30 - December 17, 2023

9 to 5 The Musical

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton
Book by Patricia Resnick
Based on the 20th Century Fox Pictures
Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Greenblatt, April 2009
May 2 - May 19, 2024

Social Security

By Andrew Bergman
October 12 - October 28, 2023

The Glass Menagerie

By Tennessee Williams
January 18 - February 4, 2024

Raffle tickets cost: Six (6) tickets for \$5; available at the June and July meetings or contact Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger or Marty Sessler.

As with all of our raffles...open to everyone so ask you your family, friends and neighbors!

Drawing will be held at our regular July meeting, July 13th.

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.



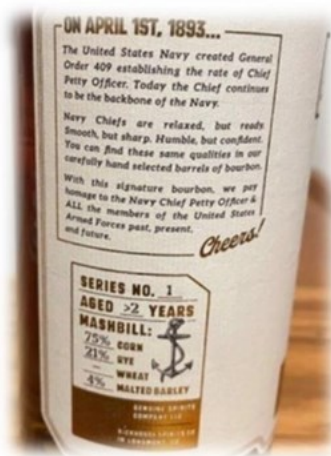
This bourbon was produced to commemorate the birth of the United States Navy rank of Chief Petty Officer. The rank was officially established 1 April 1893, when the rank “petty officer first class” was shifted to “chief petty officer.” This originally encompassed nine ratings: chief master-at-arms, chief 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!





**United States Submarine
Veterans, Inc., Charleston
Base Minutes of
Business Meeting
13 April 2023**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The April 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 50 members. The meeting started at 1902 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 April was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of April:
 - o USS PICKEREL (SS-177) April 3, 1943 – 7th war patrol Lost with all hands – 74 souls
 - o USS SNOOK (SS-279) April 8, 1945 – 9th war patrol Lost with all hands – 84 souls
 - o USS THRESHER (SSN-593) April 10, 1963 – sea trials Lost with all hands – 129 souls
 - o USS GUDGEON (SS-211) April 18, 1944 – 12th war patrol Lost with all hands – 79 souls
 - o USS GRENADIER (SS-210) April 22, 1943 – 6th war patrol 76 POWs – 72 survived the war Five Boats and 370 Men Lost
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Distinguish Submariner Award – Mike Ciesielko

- The recipient of the Distinguished Submariner Award is not present tonight. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko made the decision to delay the presentation until the May Base Meeting.

Holland Club Induction – Bill Freligh

- Bill Freligh read an explanation of Holland Club including being named after John P. Holland who is considered the father of the modern submarine. This year, we recognized those submarine veterans who qualified in 1973.
- Bill recognized the Swamp Fox Chapter WWII submarine veterans, all of whom are on Eternal Patrol.

o BMC “Panama Jack” Stevenson
o CS2 Lee Allison o STM1 Willie Jones

- o QM1 Walter Curtiss
- o MoMM2 Sam Whatley
- o BM3 Andrew Pelinshire
- o CSCM Stacy Power § Son Casey Power was in attendance for the ceremony this evening.
- Bill read the USSVI National Certificate recognizing Holland Club induction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko read the Charleston Base Holland Club Citation.
- Terry Trump joined the ceremony to present the Holland Club hat.
- The following men were then officially inducted into the Holland Club:

o Patrick Davis STSC/SS
Qual 1973 USS Lewis and Clark SSBN 644

o Paul Derrick MMCM/SS
Qual 1968 USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630

o Stephen Everett MMCM/SS
Qual 1973 USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN 633

o John Flynn ETCM/SS
Qual 1973 USS Sea Devil SSN 664

o Peter Garrison STSC/SS
Qual 1970 USS James Monroe SSBN 622

o James Graham HM1/SS
Qual 1973 USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655

o Christian LaForce QM2/SS
Qual 1973 USS Pollack SSN 603

- These Shipmates were not present:
- o David Harvey TMC/SS
Qual 1973 USS Halibut SSN587
- o William Jennings QM1/SS
Qual 1973 USS Von Steuben SSBN 632
- o Robert Neider LCDR
Qual 1973 USS Grayling SSN646
- o Stephen Smith STS3/SS
Qual 1966 USS John Marshall SSBN 611
- o Sam Vlam SK1/SS
Qual 1973 USS Nathanael Greene SSBN 636

- Bill Freligh recognized those senior shipmates who had been qualified submarines more than 50 years. Storekeeper Woody Woodsmall has rockers for the Holland Club patch in increments of every 5 years.

- PAO Ed Stank requested that the Base photographer take a group photograph to commemorate the occasion. He will submit this photo along with an article to American Submariner.

Hunley Volunteers needed – Tom Holcombe

- Volunteers are needed at the Hunley exhibit – from cashiers to greeters and other areas. They are especially interested in volunteers to talk about submarines. The work period is only on Saturday and Sunday. You can choose your times

– mornings or afternoons. Tom answered a few questions, but for those interested in this work, please contact Tom.

ARMED FORCES DAY – Alexis Bradford

- The Armed Forces Day Coordinator at Charleston AFB thanked those who had attended the previous celebration.
- She requested that Charleston Base bring the Float for static display for Armed Forces Day event. It will be held on Friday, May 19.
- She also invited the group to the upcoming Freedom Fest on Friday June 30.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - o Pete Garrison – STSC – Qualified on USS James Monroe SSBN622 – 1970 – Also served aboard USS Florida SSBN728, USS Alaska SSBN732, USS Ohio SSBN726
 - o Anthony Mazza – ETNCM – Qualified on USS Maryland SSBN735 – 2002 – Also served aboard USS Florida SSGN728 and USS New Mexico SSN779

New Business:

- None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the March 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 March was published and promulgated on the website. NO OYSTER ROAST ON THIS RPT. WILL SHOW UP ON NEXT MONTH. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - o Gudgeon was probably lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 79 men SE of Iwo Jima, but may have been sunk no May 12, 1944 in another attack on an unidentified submarine and heard by several other submarines in the area. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely sunk due to a combined air and surface antisubmarine attack.

Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On her first patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.

- I want to thank Tom Lawson for taking care of Chaplain/Webmaster duties in March.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- This shipmate was a neighbor of our secretary who provided me with this information: MMCM (SS) Dweight Gordon "Mac" McDowell, USN Retired, 72, departed on Eternal Patrol on February 17 at home. Mac joined the Navy in November 1969 and retired in October 1990. He attended various Navy schools including Navy Nuclear Power School in Schenectady, NY; graduating in 1974 and qualified submarines in 1975. Although this list is incomplete, Mac served aboard USS SUNFISH SSN-649, leaving for shore duty in 1984. He spent his last two years of submarine duty aboard USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SSBN-640 immediately prior to his retirement. He had been qualified as Nuclear Plant Supervisor for more than twelve years and received numerous awards. You could always find him in his garage working on a carpentry project for someone. He spent his leisure time fishing. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. He was not a member of Charleston Base.
- Betty Hayes, wife of Joe Hayes EP 12 Feb, passed peacefully on March 13 at home. Her funeral service was on Mar. 30.
- Brenda Woodsmall knee surgery went very well. Now it's just getting thru the PT.
- Woody Woodsmall will have surgery on his right shoulder on Apr 18.
- Rick Wise has completed his first round of treatment. He has three new appointments and shipmates have already spoke up to help. He had a CT scan Apr 5; driver was Woody Woodsmall. The news was not good. CT scan shows that the sarcoma has basically doubled in size. He had an appointment today, Apr 13, which was to be an infusion but turned out to be a pint of blood due to low hemoglobin. He will meet with an oncology orthopedic doctor on Apr 14 to see what can be done about his shoulder/arm and also to determine future course of action for his cancer.
- Tom Clark had surgery on Jan 23rd. He had a long stay in rehab but has been home for a few weeks and is improving daily. Accepting phone calls/texts/visitors. Hopes to see all of us soon.

- Howard 'Andy' Anderson updated his phone it's now 843 830 9013. Did away with the house phone. Got out of the hospital on 3 Feb. 28 days in Trident. Had 2 stents put in on 11 Jan then on the 16th had aortic valve repair & then they installed a pacemaker a few days later. During the time in the hospital, he had 4 blood transfusions for an unknown bleed. That's still a problem. I home and alone. I'm OK & it will take a little more time. Longer at 84 years old thanks for checking on me. The 4 heart attacks started all this on 6,7,8,10 Jan. Take care see you all soon.
- Marvin Miller was in rehab for 10 days recently due to falling. He was discharged to home with home health care to help his rehab.
- Bob McNeish reports he is doing a lot better. Still has some struggle, but managing. Dr. says this is going to take time considering age, prostate etc. Bob recently had a bad cold and is coughing a lot.
- Mike Welch recently contacted COVID and is self-isolating.
- John Lookabill and Judy, had COVID in mid-March. Both doing well now.
- Mike Knaub is not doing well.
- Don Petersen can't take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- 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.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- As of 1 April, the website was updated with the new dues amount for National and Base. This included an updated membership form and update PayPal links.
- The officer's page has been updated removing three who have resigned.
- In March we had ATT/Bellsouth put a block on our USSVICB domain email. After Gordon sent them a nice note and I sent them a ??? note we got it lifted. I think there is still some residual issues but will try to get the worked out.

2023 Lost Boats Memorial – Nick Nichols

- The memorial ceremony was held on Sat. 8 April

starting at 1000. Due to the inclement weather, it was moved indoors. The FRA and VFW were both reserved by someone else. The CMC at NNPTC volunteered their training classroom in Bldg 777 on the base. The location was perfect for the memorial ceremony. Between the SUBVETs and families, and the NNPTC active-duty Sailors, the building was full. Charleston Base has been offered Bldg 777 as a bad weather backup for future Amberjack Memorial services.

2023 Charleston Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols

- The Birthday Ball was held on April 8th at the N. Charleston Marriott on Goer Dr. It was very well attended by Charleston Base. There were 45 who bought tickets but several had to cancel due to the weather or sickness. The 45 included shipmates from bases in FL and NC. We were not able to have our float there because the hotel said no...turned out to be a blessing in disguise because of rain. SD1(SS) Jim Higgins, USN Retired represented Charleston Base as the longest qualified Submariner Representative. Jim qualified in 1954 on USS SEA ROBIN SS 407.

Float Request – Nick Nichols

- NNPTC has requested our float and participation in an event later this month. Their Change-of-Command will be April 28th and they are planning something for the week of the CoC. Further info will be forthcoming.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to Report

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present. The hospitals are not yet open for K4K.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- We currently have 252 Charleston Base Members.
- Dues increased on April 1.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Groton 1136 - 2) Hampton Roads 272 - 3) Charleston 252 - 4) Bremerton 238

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- We are in need a National Awards Chairman. If you are a "Wordsmith" and can type, we need you for this position. We have several for entry and 'Thank You' to those who have composed these submissions.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The deadline for Scholarship applications has passed.
- There is a raffle for a bottle of bourbon. It was in commemoration of the rank of Chief. The company has sold out all of its product, so this first batch is now only available by purchasing a raffle ticket. Drawing date not yet determined.
- There will be a Rummage Sale in November.
- Challenge coins are available (\$12) to support the Scholarship fund.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- Ken has received no nominations for either Base Commander or Treasurer other than the incumbents. The election 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 1100 to sunset. It is BYOB.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The next Recreation event will be attendance at a River Dogs game. The information will be posted on the Base website.
- Johnny recommends that we go on Friday night when they have fireworks and also recognize both active duty and former military members. We will discuss this at the next Board meeting.
- Rick Sparger noted that the Oyster Roast at Short Stay was extremely great. Kudos to Johnny Brown and Dave Harvey for the fantastic work involved. To those who did not attend, you missed a good one.

Nuclear Power School – Ray Sparks

- Not present

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- The Newsletter was published over the weekend.
- Ed still wants someone else to take over the job as Newsletter Editor. Please contact Ed if interested.
- Ed stated that it is a requirement for the Base to

publish a newsletter.

PAO – Ed Stank

- Two articles had been submitted to American Submariner. One about the H.L. Hunley Memorial was published. The other about the Scholarship committee did not get printed. Both of them had been accepted, so Ed will resubmit the Scholarship information.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Holland Club rockers are available “FREE” for each 5-year milestone: 55, 60, 65 etc.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- We had a great time at the Amberjack/Lost Boats Ceremony and the Submarine Birthday Ball.
- We have jobs available to be done, so please contact Mike if you want to be more a part of the Base.
- At this point, Mike is running unopposed for Base Commander, but would like to have some completion.

Good of the Order**Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present.

After Battery – Ken Hutchison for Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast will be April 15 through 22.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- We had a Gun Shoot recently. Those who came had a good time. We would like to see more participation.
- Another event will be scheduled soon.

Scotland Trip – Ricky Collins

- Had a great time except for the bomb threat at the Charleston Airport. It was on the news last week and cost me two days of my vacation.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

National Convention in Tucson – Ed Stank

- The prices are ridiculous for some of the events.

Ed is flying and will be getting a rental car. Let him know as you may ride with him.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Glenn Little
- Depth Charge Drawing – Julian Villegas

Closing Ceremony

- Base Chaplain 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 2017.