

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
12 February 2026

Opening Ceremonies:

- The February 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 59 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of February:
 - **USS BARBEL (SS-316)** February 4, 1945 – 4th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 81 souls
 - **USS SHARK 1 (SS-174)** February 11, 1942 – 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands – 59 souls
 - **USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)** February 16, 1943 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 72 souls
 - **USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)** February 27, 1944 – 10th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 80 souls
 - **USS TROUT (SS-202)** February 29, 1944 – 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 81 souls
 - **5 Boats and 373 Men Lost**
 - **H.L. HUNLEY** February 17, 1864 Lost with all hands – 8 souls

Sonar Technician Second Class, Submarines
Charles Spencer Wood, US Navy and US Army Veteran
Departed on Eternal Patrol on January 24, 2026

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
- **Guest Speaker:** To be rescheduled.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were three shipmates in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
 - Kelly Price – LCDR – Qualified on USS Jacksonville SSN699 – 1992 – Also served aboard USS Hampton SSN767, COMDESRON 32 and COMSUBLANT
 - Steven Blaisdell – TMC – Qualified on USS Woodrow Wilson SSBN624 – 1978 – Also served aboard USS James Monroe SSBN622, USS Hawkbill SSN666, USS Tunny SSN682, USS Annapolis SSN760 and USS Groton SSN694
 - Stephen Jarrett – CDR – Midshipman on USS Thomas Jefferson SSBN618 – Qualified on USS Von Steuben SSBN632 and later came back as XO – Also served aboard USS James Monroe SSBN622, USS Stonewall Jackson SSBN634, USS Baton Rouge SSN689. Served at FBMSTC, Naval War College and the Pentagon. Served as CO on USS Daniel Boone SSBN629.
- Two new Associate Members joined Charleston Base and introduced themselves this evening.
 - Nellie Kirtley
 - Debbie Breeze

Old Business:

- **Audit Report – Base Commander Dave Harvey**
 - Dave reported that the Annual Audit of the Base Treasury was completed on January 31, 2026 by Thomas Thompson and Art Sattler covering the calendar year 2025. There were no discrepancies. The report was accepted by the Base members with no questions.

New Business:

- **Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**
 - The offices of Secretary and Vice Commander are scheduled for election this year. If you would like to nominate a candidate, see Ken.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the January Base Meeting were mailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, the Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

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

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
 - 84 years ago, yesterday, **SHARK 1 (SS-174)** was lost on **February 11, 1942** with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. SHARK 1 was the first US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **From the National Commander John Jaques:**
 - It is with deep regret that USSVI announces the passing of **Wayne Standerfer, 79**, on 30 January. He faithfully served as National Commander from 2018 to 2022. Wayne joined USSVI in 2003 and quickly distinguished himself as a dedicated leader. His service included Regional Director (2010–2014), National Senior Vice Commander (2016–2018), and National Commander (2018–2022).
 - TM1(SS) Standerfer entered the United States Navy in 1956, completed Submarine School in 1957, and earned his dolphins aboard USS Trigger (SS-564) in 1958. He was both a Holland Club member and a Life Member of USSVI, reflecting his lifelong commitment to the submarine community.
 - Wayne's leadership, integrity, and unwavering dedication will be remembered by all who served alongside him.
- **MMCM(SS) Jay Miller Rowland III., USN Ret., 79**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday, January 11, 2026. A Memorial Service was held on January 29, 2026 at the FRA. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. It was a full room with at least 29 SUBVETs attending.
- **STS2(SS) Charles Spencer Wood, USN Veteran, 67**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Saturday, January 24, 2026 shortly after being diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Charles served in the Navy for 13 years from 1983-1995. He then served in the Army National Guard from 1997-1999 as a Communication Specialist E4. He was a life member of National [2012] and Charleston Base [2012]. Charles qualified in 1986 on USS GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN-643. He also served on USS TECUMSEH SSBN-628, USS HOLLAND AS-32 and COMSUB GROUP SIX Charleston. There will be a Memorial Service sometime in the near future.
- **EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 October 2025. We expected to conduct a memorial service in January but due to some family concerns the date is still unknown. I will let everyone know when I know.
- **EMCS(SS) Bruce W. Richerson, 81**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 16 January 2026. He retired from the Navy after 23 years. Bruce qualified on USS ALEXANDAR HAMILTON SSBN- 617. He also served on USS DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629, USS LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN-644 and USS STONEWALL JACKSONI SSBN-634. He also served on USS ENTERPRISE CVN-65. A memorial service was held on 30 January 2026. Bruce was not a member of USSVI.

BINNACLE LIST

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found either on the Binnacle List or on the Sailing List.

- **Ed Simokat** was in the hospital for a week with a pressure wound on his back. He is recovering at home. Phone calls and visits are welcome. [843.810.0383]
- **Dave Harvey** had a successful heart ablation procedure on 23 Jan. He is back to battery.
- **Steve Curry** was diagnosed with AFIB and congenital heart failure in July 2025. He is on 24/7 oxygen with very limited travel. Phone calls are welcome [843.270.9905]
- **Bob Sollo** is recovering from his shoulder surgery on 13 Jan.

- **Beetle Bailey** had successful surgery on 3 Feb for a pinched nerve in his spine that caused him severe pain for the last 2 months. He is recovering at home.
- **James Graham Sr.** was in Trident Hospital for a week. He is home with meds to help with his breathing and the neuropathy in his foot and leg.
- **Rick Wise email:** I have **finished my second round of chemo** and will have a **third round starting on February 17th** I have found that **the effects the last longer with each successive round**. Following the first round of chemo I was feeling better on Wednesday following the infusion which was 7 days after infusion. On the second round it took me a total of 10 days until I felt better on Thursday. I have come up with this to describe how I feel during the recovery periods: it's like I am getting over a bad case of Flu; I no longer have the aches and pains but my body is exhausted then throw in the nausea. I **will have a CT scan done on Monday the 16th** which hopefully will show whether the chemo has had any effect.
 - About **my granddaughter in early October [2025]** we found that **she had cervical cancer that had metastasized**. She has **undergone chemo and radiation treatments and her tumor had shrunk** to the size of the lime. **In two weeks she will have surgery which will allow them to radiate and kill the tumor**. The **chemo that she had has taken care of the organs that the cancer had metastasized to**.
- **Ken Lux** has the flu. Warns everyone to have their flu shot.
- **Rick Collins** is not feeling well. Thinks he caught something from his grandkids.
- **Don Meadows' son, Andrew age 33**, is again in Kidney failure. Andrew's numbers are getting very bad very fast. He will soon possibly go back on the donor list. He says he'll never go back on dialysis again. Also, Don's oldest son and wife lost their baby in December 2025.
- **Jerry Stout** is being treated for a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney.
- **Roger Rader** fell and broke his ribs while on a cruise in Aruba. They were only 4 days into a 14 day cruise. He is home recovering.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Tom Lawson** is home on 24/7 oxygen. He has been approved for hospice care. Calls are welcome but his voice tires easily [843.327.3282].
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings.
- **Ken Curtis** has home Palliative Hospice care. He and Barbara were in good spirits when I talked to them on 4 Feb. He welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. [843.501.7368]
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates. [843.810.0382]
- **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email **mlk91444@yahoo.com** or [843.795.6665].
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is **cbussvicob@yahoo.com** and his cell phone is [843.509.3962]
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- A Life Member recently contacted me about the base meeting video. He says, "I became a life member about 2 years ago after making your acquaintance in a movie theater in Ladson. I do watch the videos of the monthly meetings and thank you and the other members for making those available. I am a caretaker for my wife and find it impossible to attend the meetings."
- Please continue to report any change in your personal info to either Larry, COB, or me so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- We have new base business cards for you to give to prospective members. They have the base website and a new contact email address which is **SubVetsChareslton@ussvicb.org**. Pick up some and give them to any submariner's you see in town to let them know about the base. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the base and one for national.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary has a project for this year to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$10,807.
- The application deadline is May 1. If you have a high school Senior graduating this year, get them to apply.
- We are working on a raffle for a SubVet Flag. The flag cost the Base \$150, so this will be paid back before any money is provided to the Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$2 each.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Larry welcomed our two new Associate Members Nellie and Debbie.
- Even though Base/National Dues were due in October, Larry is still receiving renewals from them.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1157 w/67 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 298 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 250 w/18 AM –4) Charleston 249 w/13 AM
- Base Commander Dave Harvey addressed the issue of Dual Membership. For those who hold Primary/Secondary Memberships, a USSVI member is only permitted to vote in the base listed as Primary. In addition, the individual can only hold the elected offices of Base/Vice Commander, Secretary or Treasurer here if Charleston Base is the primary base. Secondary Base Members can hold any of the appointed positions. USSVI National counts the membership only on that of the Primary Base.

USSVI National Awards – Dave Harvey

- National Award submission deadline is coming up soon. These must be provided to Tom Holcombe NLT February 28. Tom has already sent some proposals to Wayne Phillips.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing to report.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Nothing reported.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- The Hunley/Housatonic ceremony will be held at 1900 on Tuesday, February 17 at Breach Inlet on Sullivan's Island. Muster at 1830.
- On Thursday, February 19 at 1800, Warren Lasch will be making a presentation at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church next to Breach Inlet about the conservation process of the CSS Hunley. Tom expects this to be a great show.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Anthony provided info about the Submarine Ball to be held on April 18, 2026 at Trident Tech. Search “2026 Charleston Sub Ball” in Google and it will get you to the link. The Sub Ball webpage just went live today.
- Just before the close of the Base Meeting, Webmaster Nick Nichols announced that the link has now been placed on the Charleston Base website.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The January class was a large group; graduating more than 500 new sailors.
- The next graduation will be held March 27. Bob MacPherson will present the Legacy Awards on that day.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Phil recently attended a veteran’s funeral. He took a few photos and asked that, if anyone goes to veteran’s funeral to do the same so they can be remembered. Phil wants to put these kind of pictures in the Base Newsletter.

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Phil is planning a work day for the Little David on Tuesday, April 7. He wants to get a few boards replaced before it gets too hot.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Not present.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Ken invited our first-time guests and new Associate Members to join the FRA.
- We are planning a party in May.
- We will have Admiral Ishee as guest speaker for Memorial Day.
- Ken has been informed that Beaufort Cemetery has acquired some new land.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- The float upgrade is in progress. Dave expects it to be completed around March 15 so that it can be ready for the Sub Ball.
- We will not be participating in the Summerville Flowertown Festival this year. They were planning to have us put the float in the area with the kiddie rides. The float must be in a location where adults will be and is more likely to get the attention of submarine sailors.

Southeast Regional Conference – Dave Harvey

- The 2026 SER Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS from February 26-28. Of the 2,820 members in the SE Region, there are only 55 registered for the conference.
- There is a suggestion to move the Regional Conference to be part of the National Convention. FEB.
- At the National Convention in September, there will be a vendor location used to represent the SE Region and Charleston Base. When the time gets closer, Dave will be asking for help to staff the vendor location from those who are going to the National Convention.
- Dave expressed his gratitude to those who were at the oyster roast fund raiser for the SER Conference.

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Not present.

PAO – Jerry Stout

- Jerry is sending a new section to the Base Newsletter with interviews of Base Members beginning with the March Newsletter.
- Jerry will be submitting an article to American Submariner about the SC Submarine License plates.
- Jerry will be at the SER Conference, beginning his campaign for SE Regional Director.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- Although the Submarine License plate is listed on the SCDMV website, it is not shown on the MV-37 online form. Ed is working with his contact at DMV to correct this.
- Ed conducted the drawing for the first SV plate. The ticket drawn was number 2768698.
- Ed will inform the members of Golden Corner Base of the winning number.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- The owner of the wayward hat has come forward. He will remain anonymous.
- The Meritorious Base Award from National is available to any individual who was a Charleston Base Member in the calendar year 2024. The patch is \$8. Woody has reserved patches for those already set aside patches for those already signed up for one. He has purchased five more, and can get more patches also if need be.
- Woody has American Flag “Silent Service” lapel pins available - \$6.75 each.
- Woody has a new style hat “U.S. Submarine Force – Silent Service”.
- Infinite Creations on Bacons Bridge Rd, where we have had vests done, has changed hands again. Pamela was overwhelmed and could not run the business. It is now called Infinite Creations by Tyler. The prior owners have been requested to make swatches of previous work done for Charleston Base Members.
- If anyone needs a vest, please get a form, fill it out and bring it to the next meeting. Woody has three members requesting vest already tonight.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

- First election announcement conducted under New Business rather than committee report.

COB – Greg Landry

- Not present.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- Art is working with the FRA to schedule another date to hold a CPR class. He will advise everyone when scheduled. The class will be \$10.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey

- Dave reminded those in attendance that new business cards are available. He recently had two men approach him about submarines due to the dolphins on his car. There are a lot of people around here that do not know about SubVets.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The After Battery is open for dinner every Wednesday at 1700 for Dinner.
- Mark your calendars. The Hog Roast will be held from April 11 to 18 with Hog Day on Saturday April 18.

GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko

- We will soon start having some scheduled shoots.
- Mike is working to have a patch made for anyone who come to the shoots.
- Mike was recently informed about a large shooting range in Ridgeland, SC called OPFOB. The location has a large amount of outdoor activities especially if it involves firearms. He plans to visit within the next couple of weeks to learn more.

Service Disability – Rick Wise

- Rick encouraged everyone to apply for disability as appropriate. Rick, with the sarcoma and the loss of his right arm, he is 100% Service-Connected Disability. They only counted his last two years of submarine service.

USSVCF Generous Base Award – Base Commander

- Base Commander Dave Harvey called Ray Sparks to the front as he read the inscription on a plaque provided to Charleston Base recognizing a 2025 donation made by Charleston Base to the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund. Ray Sparks had organized an effort to raise money for the fund, contributing a sizeable amount himself to the work. Ray placed the plaque in the location on the meeting room wall already prepared for it.

NOK BOX – Tom Lawson III

- Tom explained the NOK (Next-of-Kin) Box. He purchased two of these – one for his dad and another for himself. It is for getting everything organized that your spouse or children will need to know after your passing. The kit is available on Amazon. See Tom after the meeting.
- More info can also be found at www.thenokbox.com

Drawings & Auctions

- Scholarship Challenge Coin Book Drawing – Steven Blaisdell
- FRA Drawing – Gordon Williams
- Depth Charge Drawing – Scott Freligh

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2004.