



JULY, 2008

**PALMETTO BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS
NEWSLETTER**



Base Commander - Ron Friend

Palmetto Base Members

Joe Gawronski – Vice Commander

DW Eggleston – Secretary

Tommy Richardson – Public Relations

Brian Steffen – Storekeeper

Russ “Pappy” Cline - Treasurer

Mark Basnight – Chaplain

Jim “Snake” Stark – Chief Of Boat

Jerry Stout – District 4 Commander

James Charbonneau

Tracy Charbonneau

Judy Cline

Allen Danielsen

Mae Friend

Joe Geiger

Kelly Grantham

Glenn Harris

Stoney Hilton

Mike House

Jim Kirby

John Krause

Dick Lane

Bill Lindler

Bob Miller

Tom O’Brien

Leonard Snell

LE Spradlin

Jeffrey Wagner

JUNE MINUTES

6-19-2008



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.

Palmetto Base

Minutes – June 17, 2008

- Meeting called to order by Commander, Ron Friend
- Fourteen members and two guests were present (attendance list below)
- Minutes of May 20, 2008, meeting were reviewed and approved by the members
- Russ Cline, Treasurer, could not be present but sent the treasurer’s

report to be reviewed (copy attached)

- Storekeeper Brian Steffen reviewed status of stores and delivered patches and vests. Members can order hats, vests, and patches by calling Brian or e-mailing him at BSing4evr@aol.com
- Plank owner certificates were signed by District Commander Jerry Stout and distributed to members.
- Lost boat notebook completed and available for members review
- The base flag art work cost of \$125 was approved by the members and DW Eggleston will order the proof to be presented at the next meeting.

- Final costs for the flag (3 x 5 feet) are:

QTY	1	\$188
	3	123
	6	96
	12	61
	25	40

A show of hands among those present indicated that 15 flags plus a base flag could be purchased at the \$40 level. With the potential of the members not present and new members, it was felt that the base may be able to buy 25 flags

- The June newsletter (the first published) was discussed. Members were encouraged to provide input for the July and future issues.

- Commander Friend needs some volunteers for fund raising. Contact Ron asap because volunteers are needed in July.
- Allen Danielsen was appointed as a committee of one to investigate the possibility of obtaining a float for the July 4 celebration and parade in Gilbert, SC.
- Tommy Richardson investigated and reported on the Gibson Pond facility and found that the recently enacted rules prohibit adult beverages and tobacco. Tommy has info on a similar facility which does not have these undesirable limitations and will try to make appropriate arrangements.
- Tommy Richardson reported on the availability of a wood plank owners plaque. He had a sample of a maple wood that could be material for a laser cut, oval shaped plaque that would cost around \$15. Alternative materials and costs need to be considered and further discussion was deferred to the July meeting.
- Tommy Richardson discussed several ideas about furthering the exposure of Palmetto Base, such as articles in local papers or to have local businesses with marquees run base information. Members with access to these kinds of media should pursue.
- Tommy also spoke with Joe Wilson (US House of Representatives) who might be willing to address us

regarding governmental activities of interest to veterans. It would be a non-partisan, non-political presentation.

- Tommy has talked to Governor Mark Sanford about our sub vet organization and the possibility of being recognized. Tommy will try to set up something such as a photo op and recognition by the Governor in February since that will be the one year anniversary of the Palmetto Base Charter. "Palmetto Base Day"
- Tommy presented a book, Why we Whisper, by Senator Jim DeMint and encouraged members to read it. It is reportedly a non-partisan excellent read.
- District Commander Jerry Stout reported on his and the USSVI National activities (report summary attached)

- Jim Stark won the depth-charge drawing and contributed his winnings to the base treasury which profited by \$75.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at The Crab Shack in Lexington. Time is 1830 social and 1900 business.

Respectfully submitted,

D W Eggleston, Base Secretary

Attendees:

Jesse S. Basnight
Mark Basnight
Allen Danielsen
D W Eggleston
Mae Friend
Ron Friend
Joe Gawronski
Joe Geiger

John J. Krause
Marvin Miller
Tom O'Brien
Tommy Richardson
Leonard Snell
Jim Stark
Brian Steffen
Jerry Stout

Base members of Palmetto Base,

I returned from Norfolk, Virginia on May 25th where I represented you at the Eastern Region Annual Conference that was held in conjunction with two memorial services. On Friday, I was in attendance at the Memorial Day Submarine Veterans WWII Tolling of the Boats and the induction of the USS Parche SSN-683 into the Submarine Atlantic Fleet Hall of Fame. A former skipper of the Parche was the guest speaker. I was able to meet several WWII Veterans from the Tidewater Chapter and even met the State Commander from New Mexico. On Saturday, I attended the 40th Anniversary of the loss of the USS Scorpion SSN-589. This service was very well attended and was the most moving ceremony I have attended in remembrance of our shipmates on Eternal Patrol since joining USSVI ten years ago. The guest speaker was Admiral Donnelly, COMSUBFOR, formally COMSUBLANT. The daughter of the COB, who is now a Captain in the Medical Corps, was responsible for the entire event. Weather was picture perfect. The reading of the Sailors lost on Scorpion was conducted by the Junior/Senior Sailors of the year. The 21-gun salute and taps was very moving. I was extremely proud to have been there.

Highlights from the conference are:

National Election Master – The upcoming election will not involve the Base Commanders. You will have the opportunity to vote on-line or with a paper ballot. You will be receiving a letter with the ballot and the proposed rewrite to the National Bylaws and Constitution and two proposed changes

to the Holland Club. In addition, all of the National Officers are up for election or reelection. I am running against George Boyle for Southeastern Regional Director. Please vote!

Eastern Region Realignment: There are now five districts in the Southeast Region. Charleston Base is now Southeastern Region District Two. The intent will be that a Regional Convention will be held in St. Augustine, Florida in April 2009, in addition to a Regional Conference of all District Commanders.

Membership: There is no longer a grace period for National. Charleston Base eliminated this period last year. Pay your dues now and do not wait until the fall.

On June 14th, I returned from Mobile Bay, Alabama, where I attended the 38th reunion of the USS Drum SS-228. Only a handful of crewmembers attended this year, however the ones that were there are getting around very well. I was proud to among these heroes of our Submarine Fleet of World War II. On Saturday, the Drum Memorial Service was held in conjunction with the Mobile Bay Base USSVI Meeting. The family members of the crew read all names of former crewmembers and spouses, who have done on Eternal Patrol, concluding with the tossing of a carnation into the Bay.

While there on Drum, a full length movie was completing the filming about submarines in World War II Submarine Service, it is called the Blue Viper. In addition to the actual filming onboard the submarine, the film crew

interviewed those Drum Sailors in attendance at the reunion. I sure did hear some great sea stories, including facts from the many successful war patrols. Drum was second in tonnage during the war. The Drum is in excellent shape on the inside, however soon the Hull will be sand blasted and then painted. All the material and some of the labor has all been donated. This submarine looks, sounds and smells just like it was over 60 years ago.

Just before tonights meeting, Marvin Miller and I presented the Holland Club Membership to Andrew Pelechar who lives just outside of Columbia, South Carolina. Talk about a hero, he is. Andrew is the sailor that pulled George H.W. Bush out of the water when his plane went down. Soon after submerging; the Finback attacked a five ship Japanese group. They were able to take out four of the five, and missed the warship. Over 20 hours of depth charging occurred and Drum eventually escaped. Andrew left the Navy and remained in the Army Reserves, being recalled to Korea and Vietnam. His career in the Army ended in 1979, retiring as a LTCOL. He has very high awards in his shadow box, including the Silver star, Legion of Merit and many others. I wanted to stay there longer and learn more about him, however had to run and make your meeting at the Crab Shack. I hope to have Andrew attend a Palmetto Base Meeting in the future.

In the coming weeks, the American Submariner will be mailed. In this issue will be the National USSVI Election Ballot. Please read the ballot very carefully as there are many decisions that we as USSVI Members need to make. It contains the ballot, as well as instructions for either voting on-line via the internet or voting by mail. Please bring the issue with you to the July meeting. We are hopeful that these issues can be discussed at this meeting.

Salute with Pride and vote in the upcoming election.

Jerry K. Stout Eastern North Region
District Two Commander

Jerry K. Stout

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Southeastern Region District 2/3
Commander

Our USSVI Creed states: To perpetuate the memory of our Shipmates who gave their lives in the performance of their duties. That their deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE	CK #	ISSUED TO	PAYMENT FOR	CK AMT	DEPOSIT	BALANCE
Jan						
2	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues		\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
12	1	USSVI Nat	Dues	\$ 20.00		\$ 60.00
23	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues & Donation		\$ 115.00	\$ 175.00
26	2	USSVI Nat	Dues	\$ 40.00		\$ 135.00
31	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 150.00
Feb						
13	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues & Donation		\$ 242.00	\$ 392.00
13	Adj	SCBT	Checks	\$ 12.07		\$ 379.93
14	101	USSVI National	Dues	\$ 20.00		\$ 359.93
23	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues		\$ 35.00	\$ 394.93
25	102	USSVI National	Dues	\$ 20.00		\$ 374.93
March						
21	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues & Donation		\$ 250.00	\$ 629.93
21	103	USSVI National	Dues	\$ 140.00		\$ 484.93
April						
15	104	Brian Steffin	Supplies	\$ 325.35		\$ 159.58
18	Dep	USSVI Base	Dues & Donation		\$ 130.00	\$ 289.58
30	Adj	SCBT	Checks	\$ 13.05		\$ 276.53
May						
June						
	Dep	Base	Dues & Donation Hats & Patches		\$ 85.00 \$ 55.00	\$ 416.53
12	201	USSVI National	Miller dues	\$ 20.00		\$ 396.53

UNITED STATES SUBMARINES LOST IN JULY

USS S-28 (SS-133)

[View full profile of SS-133](#)

[View the memorial for SS-133](#)

Lost on:
7/4/1944

Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 50 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.



Class: **SS S**

Commissioned: **12/13/1923**

Fate: **Lost after foundering on 4JUL44 off Hawaii while operating with USCGC RELIANCE**

Launched: **9/20/1922**

Builder: **Fore River Shipbuilding Co**

Length: **219**, Beam: **22**

#Officers: **4**, #Enlisted: **34**

USS Robalo (SS-273) [Website for SS-273](#)

[View full profile of SS-273](#)
[View the memorial for SS-273](#)

Lost on:
7/26/1944

Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 84 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Three men survived and swam ashore, then imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.



Class: **SS 212**
Commissioned: **9/28/1943**
Fate:

Launched: **3/9/1943**
Builder: **Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co**
Length: **307**, Beam: **27**
#Officers: **6**, #Enlisted: **54**

USS Grunion (SS-216)

[View full profile of SS-216](#)
[View the memorial for SS-216](#)

Lost on:
7/30/1942

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Her loss remains a mystery.



Class: **SS 212**
Commissioned: **4/11/1942**
Fate: **Japanese antisubmarine attack data available now record no attack in the Aleutian area at this time, and GRUNION's fate remains an unsolved mystery**

Launched: **12/22/1941**
Builder: **Electric Boat Co (General Dynamics)**
Length: **312**, Beam: **27**
#Officers: **4**, #Enlisted: **54**

Brother of the 'Phin

by Larry Dunn

I chanced upon a sailor once
with an emblem on his chest.
It appeared to be two angry sharks
on a trash can for a rest.
His white hat was wrinkled and dirty;
his neckerchief tied too tight
and he had only one eye open
as he staggered through the night.
He was young and scrawny and wiry;
with knuckles cracked and oozing.
I could tell from the way he looked
and smelled
he'd spent the night whorin' and
boozin'.
But as he pulled abreast, he squared
his hat
and said "Sir, do you have a light?
I'm due back aboard by quarter to four
Or the COB will be settin' me right."
As I fumbled around for my lighter
he pulled some smokes from his sock
"and I'll be damned lucky to make it,"
he muttered
'Cause I'm steamin' against the clock."
Through the flame of my well-worn
Zippo
I could see a smile on his face.
"But, you know -- it was damn well
worth it.
That 'Bell's' is a helluva place."
He sucked the smoke deep down in his
lungs
and blew smoke rings up towards the
moon
Then he rolled up his cuffs, pushed his
hat to the back

and said "Maybe there'll be a cab
soon."
In spite of the time he was losing
He was wanting to shoot the breeze
So we sat on the curb, like two birds
on a perch
as he talked of his life on the seas.
I asked about the thing on his chest
and he looked at me with a grin.
Then he squared his hat, snubbed out
his smoke
and said "I'm a Brother of the 'Phin."
"I'm one of the boys who go under the
sea
where the lights from above don't
shine;
Where mermaids play and Neptune is
king
and life and death intertwine."
"Life on a boat goes deep in your
blood
and nothing on earth can compare
to the feeling inside as she commences
a dive
going deep on a hope and a prayer."
"I've sailed some fearsome waters
down below the raging main
and I've heard that old boat creak and
groan
like the wheels of a railroad train."
"It's the one place on earth where there
ain't no slack
where you don't have more than you
need;
where each man is prince of his own
little space
and each lives by the submarine
creed."
"There ain't much I've done in this
fickle life
that would cause other men to take
note,

But I've walked in the steps of some
mighty fine men
who helped keep this country afloat."
"They slipped silently through the
layers
down below that raging main
while up above enemy men-o'-war
laid claim to the same domain."
"Brave sailors were they
in their sleek boats of steel
silently stalking their prey
and closing in for the kill."
"They died as they lived
unafraid, proud and free
Putting all on the line
to secure liberty."
"Their bones now rest in glory
down in Neptune's hallowed ground
But their souls stand tall at the right
hand of God
Awaiting the klaxon's next sound."
"So, it's more than a 'thing' that I wear
on my chest
It's a badge of the brave, proud and
true.
It's a tribute to those who have gone
here before
riding boats that are still overdue"
"It's the "Dolphins" of a submariner
worn proudly by the few
who've qualified at every watch
and touched every bolt and screw."
"They know the boat on which they
sail
like they know their very soul
and through the fires of hell or the
pearly gates
they're ready for each patrol."
"But when in port they take great sport
standing out from all the rest.
For deep inside they burn with pride
for the dolphins on their chest."
Then he stood erect, squared his hat
and pulled his neckerchief down to the
'V'
He rolled down his cuffs, put his

smokes in his sock
and squinted back towards the sea.
"I can hear them diesels calling
So I'd best be on my way.
We'll be punchin' holes in the ocean
when the sun peeks over the bay."
As I watched him turn and walk away
I felt honored to know such men.
for they bring life to Duty, Honor,
Country
these "Brothers of the 'Phin."

Larry Dunn