



HAMPTON ROADS BASE

≈ CURRENTS ≈



Website Address: <https://www.HRB-USSVI.org>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSVIHRB/groups/USSVIHRB/>

01 August 2023

Issue No: 2023-08

The purpose/creed of USSVI is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1

- Base Commander's Message.

Page 2

- Base Leadership's Notes

Page 3

- The CoB's Corner
- Editor's Note
- Committee Reports

Page 5 and Page 6

- Boats Lost in August
- Member Birthdays

Page 7

- Base contact information

From the Base Commander



The heat is on! Keep yourselves hydrated as you are out and about during the day. The picnic is just around the corner and looking forward to seeing everyone there. It should be a good time with great food and sea stories. Fran and I are headed to the National Convention the end of this month and we hope to see a few Hampton Roads base members attending. Note that next year the convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. It's never too early to start planning! In the fall we will be holding elections for the new leadership and we are still looking for a Jr. Vice.

V/r

YNM(SS/SW/AW) Ted Vorce,
USN,RET

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com or TVorce@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Newsletter "Currents"

Published monthly and distributed on or about the 10th of the month. All submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, Tony Ficca, by email: Newsletter.HRB@gmail.com NLT the 1st weekend of the month.

Hampton Roads Base meetings are held at 11:15 hours, on the third Saturday of every month (except March) located at

Club 60
9601 1st View Street, Ocean View,
Norfolk, VA



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From the Base Senior Vice Commander

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N. (Ret.)



Senior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com or
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

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From the Base Junior Vice Commander

ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)



Junior.Vice.HRB@gMail.com
 or tk593@AOL.com

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From the Base Secretary

Well August looks as busy as the past seven month. But before it shows gotta question, while my honey was at sea many moons ago I have the very interesting sight, two electrical currents going through my dishwasher at the same time one yellow one red thankfully none of us were standing right next to it at the time, no I could not ask honey for help as we know where he was at the time, and I did not go to school to be an electrician but i did decide to have one come out and fix it. So my question is, has anyone seen anything like it as it was quite the sight for me. Have a great Summer everyone and I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



Lynn Merryman

Secretary.HRBase@gMail.com

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From the Base Treasurer

As has been previously report National raised the USSVI dues effective 4/1/2023. HRB dues are always 1/2 of National. The following is the updated dues table for your reference:



ET1(SS) John (Sid) Sidlovsky
Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gMail.com
 or SidofVA@gMail.com

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From the Base Chaplain

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



IC1(SS) Art Nelson
Chaplain.HRBase@gMail.com
 or ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com

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From the Base Storekeeper



Annual & Multi-Year Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
USSVI National Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	1 Year	\$ 15.00
	3 Years	\$ 42.50
	5 Years	\$ 70.00
National & HRB Dues	1 Year	\$ 45.00
	3 Years	\$ 127.50
	5 Years	\$ 210.00

Lifetime Dues Table		
Effective 01-APR-2023		
Based on your age at time Lifetime dues are paid (2-3 month grace period)		
USSVI National Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 240.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 360.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 500.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00
Hampton Roads Base Dues (1/2 of National)	76+ Years	\$ 60.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 120.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 250.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 300.00
National & HRB Dues	76+ Years	\$ 180.00
	66 - 75 Years	\$ 360.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 750.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 900.00

If you would like to make any payments (Donations, Base Sponsorships, Dues, etc.) to the base dues by Credit Card, please just send me an email to treasurer.ussvi.hrb@gmail.com and I can send you an invoice our Clover credit card pay app or just see me at the next Base Meeting. Also you can mail checks to: USSVI - Hampton Roads Base, C/O The UPS Store, 1215 N. Military Hwy., Box #813, Norfolk, VA 23502

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).



Hello from your Store Keeper,

Hope this finds you all healthy and happy and we are in the final stretch of hot weather. Fall is just around the corner. We have the picnic coming up this month and I will have coins to sale and other items of interest. Ted and I are headed to the National Convention in a few weeks and I will be attending the National Storekeeper's meeting there and will report back my findings. Stay cool and looking forward to seeing folks at the picnic. God Bless!

Blessings,

YNCS(SW/AW) Fran Vorce, USN, Ret.

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com
or francesvorce@gmail.com.

The CoB's Corner

looking for Volunteers to work Pier arrival Burger Burns. Hope to have a schedule soon.



Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
Gary2361@Yahoo.com

From the Editor

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the base picnic this month, I encourage all of you to submit information or stories for publication in the newsletter, I thank John Donaldson for sending me a few articles to share with you.



MS2(SS) Tony Ficca U.S.N.

Any questions or contribution to the newsletter should be sent to the following email address

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Membership

Membership drive is a 365-day job. Membership renewals should be done before the end of the year. It makes Sid and Lynn's job easier. Please renew your dues now and consider life membership, then you never have to worry about it again. Thank you.

Members: 279
with E-mail: 261

HRB Currents, August 2023



Owe National Dues: 58
Owe Base Dues: 72



Regular Annual: 74
USSVI Life Members: 183
Base Life Members: 172
Holland Club: 129
Reg Associate: 10
Life Associate: 2
Charter Members: 0
Senior Members: 0
War Veterans: 249

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MMCS(SS/DV) Gary Galles, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

Ways & Means

As always, we're on the lookout for ideas for Base fundraising opportunities. You can present them to the Base leadership or contact me directly at any time.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).


ETC(SS) Adam Kingsley, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com
or tk593@AOL.com

Upcoming Picnic information

We are excited to see you all at this year's annual picnic!! It will be in place of the August meeting!! Bring your appetites!!

We will be having pulled pork, pulled chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. The fixings will be provided.

If you have any questions please contact Beverly Galles at 252-562-3534 or bgalles9@yahoo.com



Hampton Roads Base
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

*"To Perpetuate the Memory of our Shipmates, who gave their lives
in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country."*

We are a fraternal organization of Submarine Veterans.
We are open to and welcome any and all who have qualified to wear dolphins.
Contact us by email at USSVI.HRB.Secretary@gmail.com with any questions
and come visit our website at <https://www.hrb-ussvi.org>

Join us for our monthly meeting at 11:15 hours, the 3rd Saturday of every month
(except March). We meet at FRA #50 in Ocean View, 9601 1st View Street,
Norfolk, VA 23503-1603 (the corner of 1st View St. & Balview Ave. and across
'A' View Ave. from the Post Office).

We look forward to meeting you at a meeting.

[*Holland Club News*](#)

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

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[*Emergency Relief Fund*](#)

Submarine Brothers, Submarine Sisters, and other associated members of Submarine Veterans Hampton Roads Base, the Base Emergency Relief Fund was created to help base members in need without having to wait for the next base meeting. This will also, allow the member in need to discreetly reach out to one of the following members: Craig Dudley on my Cell (757-618-5624), EM2(SS) Paul Schmidt (Cell: 757-481-1297), or HMCS(SS) Jack Ritz (Cell: 757-647-4669), or contact our Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman (Cell: 757-354-7259). Then the members can talk about the issue privately and vote to approve or reject and once approved reach out to the Base Treasurer to get the funds released.

There is a designated ERF donation container at each of our meetings. All funds donated are kept separate from other Base Funds.

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

MM1(SS) Craig S. Dudley
ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBBase@gmail.com

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[*About The Base Website and Social Media*](#)

The web address for the Base website is:

<https://www.hrb-ussvi.org/>.

Note that the 'members only' area is currently being revised for new content. New Base members (or previous Base members who now wish to gain access to the 'members only' area) should take the following steps for access:"

1. Click on "Login" at the top right of the website pages.
2. Once selected look for blue lettering and
3. Select Sign up to create your account.

Note:

When entering your email address during account creation, please enter the same email address you used when joining the Hampton Roads Base. (If your email address has changed, please contact the Base Secretary, Lynn Merryman, to update your email in the Base roster BEFORE applying for or creating your account.)

Also of Note: The USSVI National website, while still under construction in some areas, is now open. You should have received a member-specific email recently detailing how to gain and maintain access to the site. Check your email for this important information from USSVI National.

The Website may be found at:

<https://www.ussvi.org/>

Any questions should be sent to me by email (below).

STS1(SS) Sam Stevens, U.S.N. (Ret.)

HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

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The USS SCORPION Memorial



The Base Leadership Thanks John Donaldson for his many contributions to HRB and his years of heading up the Scorpion Memorial Services. Bill Heron has volunteered to take over this important position as our base supports submarine heritage and memorials John will be working on the transition with Bill in the coming weeks

EMCM(SS) William (Bill) Heron, U.S.N. (Ret.)
Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net

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We remember....



Boats Lost in August

USS S-39 (SS-144)

Lost on August 14, 1942, after grounding on a reef south off Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS KATOOMBA (J204).

HRB Currents, August 2023

USS FLIER (SS-250)

Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. FLIER was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher, and they were evacuated by the USS REDFIN (SS-272).

USS HARDER (SS-257)

Lost on August 24, 1944, with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. HARDER had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. HARDER is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS BULLHEAD (SS-332)

Lost on August 6, 1945, with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. BULLHEAD was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS COCHINO (SS-345)

Lost on August 26, 1949, after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, the men of COCHINO and TUSK (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and COCHINO sank. TUSK's crew rescued all of COCHINO's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from TUSK were lost during the rescue.



HRB Members with August Birthdays

(If I've gotten your birthday wrong, or missed it, please let me know.)

02: Brian Bayer
02: Cletis Nester
03: Pete Flannery
03: Craig Werner
05: Bob Coe
06: Jim Lastauckas
08: Rich Severinghaus
09: Scott Wells
10: John Iannetta
11: Stan Schulz
13: Jim Reynolds
15: Charlie Firebaugh
15: Robin Spelman
16: Greg Prose
17: "Donald" Duck
17: Ron Lewis
19: Don Lundquist
21: Ken Lamine
31: Terry Pattison
22: Gary Galles
23: Dan Brion
24: Tony Walker
26: "Duke" Brandon
26: Naomi Werner
26: Ken Wiltshire
27: Vic Duarte
29: Mike Hanson
30: Charlie Bush
30: Rich Crockford
31: Jim Norton
31: Tom Pauls

From an upcoming book to be published by Charles and Frank Hood, authors of 'Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots':

Admiral Charles Lockwood- World War II

As Ned Beach once stated, Charles Lockwood was a submariner's submariner. & There could be no higher praise offered. When asked several years after the war by a reporter for a written interview if the admiral could articulate what it took to become a true submariner, Lockwood paused for a moment, and offered this eloquent and informed reply:

The tasks of diving, attack, and surfacing take scores of interlocking motions by dozens of crewmen with split-second timing, but more is required of submariners.

They must be alert without being brittle, interested in their shipmates without being nosy, respect privacy without being reclusive, talk without being gabby, and be friendly without being tail-waggers & in short, round pegs for very closely machined round holes.

In no other branch of military service are men required to remain away from normal human contacts as long as submariners assigned to lengthy patrols that demand long hours sometimes days at depths far below the least glimmer of sunlight and far away from the natural feel and smell of natural air. Moreover, these conditions must be endured with good cheer in overcrowded, sometimes ill-smelling, dew-dripping, steel compartments.

Such precision, discipline, and valor, were personified by Charles Lockwood's leadership during World War II.



Base Officers & Key Personnel

(Remember: you must dial all 10 digits when contacting by phone)

Base Commander:

Ted Vorce
757-376-2458

BaseCommander.HRB@gmail.com
or TVorce@Verizon.net

Base Senior Vice Commander & Membership Committee Chair & Scholarship Committee Chair:

Gary Galles
757-714-2733

Senior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com or
GaryGalles@HotMail.com

Base Junior Vice Commander & Ways and Means Committee Chair & Events Committee Chair:

Adam Kingsley
757-535-4179

Junior.Vice.HRB@gmail.com
or tk593@AOL.com

Base Secretary &

Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair:

Lynn Merryman
757-354-7259

Secretary.HRBase@gmail.com

Base Treasurer:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

Treasurer.USSVI.HRB@gmail.com
or SidofVA@gmail.com

Base CoB:

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-968-6708

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

Base Chaplain:

Art Nelson
804-920-6820

Chaplain.HRBase@gmail.com
or ArtWorkWood@Yahoo.com

Base Storekeeper:

Fran Vorce
757-376-2459

USSVI.HRB.Storekeeper@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator & Webmaster:

Sam Stevens
757-814-7976

SStvns7@gmail.com or
HRB.USSVI@gmail.com

HRB Currents, August 2023

Holland Club Chairman:

William (Bill) Heron
757-886-0913

Bill.Heron1@Verizon.net

Base Historian:

Paul R. Schmidt
757-572-2711

TheBakerPaul@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tony Ficca
757-646-1152

Newsletter.hrb@gmail.com

Submarine Memorial &

Hall of Fame Committee Chair

Ken Swan
413-923-4030

Kenneth.A.Swan@gmail.com

Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Coordinator:

John (Sid) Sidlovsky
757-328-9796

SidofVA@gmail.com

Base Emergency Relief Chair:

Craig Dudley
757- 618-5624

ERF.HRB@gmail.com or
CraigD.HRBase@gmail.com

SCORPION Memorial Committee Chair

John Donaldson
757-270-0205

John.Donaldson@Earthlink.net

NORFOLK Sail Committee Chair

Gary Merryman U.S.N. (Ret.)
757-274-9322

Gary2361@Yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair:

Brian Daugherty (Immediate Past Base Commander)
757-409-8560

BDaugherty7@Verizon.net

Hampton Roads Base Snail Mail Address:

US Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Hampton Roads Base
1215 N Military Hwy, Box 813
Norfolk, VA 23502-2228



From an upcoming book from the authors of 'Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots:

The shortest service life of any U.S.Submarine - USS Lancetfish (SS 296)

Only a month after the happy occasion of her commissioning on 12 February 1945, the newly commissioned submarine sank at the Boston Navy Yard. At approximately 2300 on 15 March 1945, Lancetfish (SS-296) rapidly flooded and sank to the harbor floor about seven fathoms (42 feet) below the waterline at Pier 8. The only saving grace of the drowning of the \$2.3 million submarine was the lack of any human casualties.

The boat was hauled to drydock for damage assessment. A preliminary estimate of \$1.4 million to repair the boat which had yet to be put to sea under her own power convinced Navy leaders to immediately decommission Lancetfish. The war in Europe was winding down, and the decimation inflicted largely by US submarines upon Japanese shipping interests meant that there were relatively few remaining enemy targets in the Pacific. Lancetfish was deemed superfluous under the circumstances.

The decommissioning occurred quietly on 24 March 1945, only 41 days after the upbeat commissioning ceremony. The demise of Lancetfish was never included among the number of US submarines (52) considered officially lost during World War II.

What happened? Read Charles and Frank Hood's upcoming book - "The Silent Service Remembers - Volume 4."

