

COLUMBUS BASE SUBMARINE VETERANS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

January 2014



The Green Board



ALL SEAS ARE NAVIGABLE

Four Days of Events Mark Confederate Sub Anniversary

Bruce Smith, Navy Times, Jan 6

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Four days of events will be held in February marking the 150th anniversary of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley becoming the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

The hand-cranked sub and its crew of eight set off a torpedo that sank the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic off South Carolina in February of 1864 as the Confederacy tried to break the Civil War blockade of Charleston.

The Hunley never returned from the mission. The wreck was finally located off the coast in 1995, raised five years later and brought to a lab in North Charleston where it is being conserved. The plan is for the Hunley to eventually be displayed in a museum in North Charleston.

The four days of anniversary events begin on Valentine's Day and continue through Feb. 17, the 150th anniversary of the night the crew set off on its mission from Breach Inlet between Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms northeast of Charleston.

There will be an honor guard and period re-enactors at the North Charleston lab from Friday, Feb. 14, through Sunday the 16th. That Friday, active and retired military personnel will be able to tour the lab for \$6, half the usual admission price.

On Saturday and Sunday, the first 150 visitors will receive a replica of the \$20 U.S. gold coin credited with saving the life of Hunley commander, Lt. George Dixon, at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862.

Dixon's life was saved when a bullet hit the gold coin in his pocket. He carried the coin, on which he had inscribed "Shiloh April 6, 1862 My life Preserver," in his pocket on the Hunley mission.

There will be a \$50-a-ticket reception at the lab on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 15 including a talk by genealogist Linda Abrams, who researched the backgrounds of men of the Hunley crew.

On Monday, the anniversary of the mission, tickets for lab tours are only \$1.50. Re-enactors will gather that evening at Breach Inlet for a memorial service honoring the Hunley crew and the five Union sailors who died when the Housatonic sank.

Why the Hunley sank is still a mystery, although scientists think they are close to solving the riddle.

Last year, scientists announced it appears that the charge that sank the Housatonic was attached to the 16-foot spar at the front of the sub. That means the sub may have been close enough for the crew to be knocked unconscious by the explosion and the crew may have died before awakening.

Historians originally thought the Hunley was farther away from the Housatonic and speculated the crew ran out of air before they could crank the submarine back to shore.



Tolling of the Boats



USS Scorpion (SS-278) Lost with all hands (76 men) on 5 January 1944 by possible Japanese mine in the Yellow Sea off China.



USS Argonaut (SS-166) Lost with all hands (105 men) on 10 January 1943 in the Java Sea by Japanese surface attack.



USS Swordfish (SS-193) Lost with all hands (89 men) by a possible Japanese surface attack or mine on 12 January 1945 off Okinawa.



USS S-36 (SS-141) Lost on January 20 1942 when it was destroyed after she ran aground on the Taka Bakang Reef in Makassar Strait, Indonesia, near Makassar City. The crew was rescued.



USS S-26 (SS-131) Lost with 46 men on 24 January 1942 in the Gulf of Panama, 14 miles west of San Jose Light when the USS PC-460 rammed it. Two men survived.

OUR CREED

“ 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 be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.
Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.”

Commander's Corner

By Jim Tolson



Thanks to Tim Barker and the other officers for conducting the January 4th meeting. It looks like everyone had a good time, especially Clutch since he won 50/50. I see Tim Barker and Lowell Dye won DVDs of Ken Sewell's movie, "Phantom". "Phantom" is available on Netflix and I saw Ken quoted in the introduction and his name twice in the film credits. It is a good submarine movie. I'd recommend it.

Welcome to Charles Sabino, our newest base member. Charles qualified on USS Tinosa (SSN-606) and was a supply officer. His picture is on the Columbus Base web page.

Be sure and congratulate Dave Creekmore, the new Columbus Base COB. Joan Pastor was pleased that Dave is succeeding Marv as COB. Columbus Base received a thank you card from Joan expressing the family's appreciation for Marv's memorial service at the funeral home.

Please keep Frank and Sharon Lloyd and their son Robert in your prayers. Robert, 47, is on full life support at OSU Medical center and has been since December 31.

With a new year, we have new opportunities. If you have any ideas, please let the officers know about them. One trip that has been mentioned for 2014 is to drive to Cleveland and spend the day on USS Cod. That should be some good sea story time.

Hope to see you at the February 1, 2014 meeting. You are welcome to attend the officer meeting January 25.

Activities

- January 25, 2014 Officer Meeting, Panera Bread, 875 Bethel Road, Columbus, OH, 43214 (near Micro Center) 0900 to 1200. There is a conference room in this Panera. All shipmates are welcome to attend.
- February 1, 2014 Columbus Base Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085. 1200 social & sea story hour, 1300 meeting
- March 1, 2014 Columbus Base Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239, 700 Morning Street, Worthington, OH 43085. 1200 social & sea story hour, 1300 meeting
- April 5, 2014 Submarine Birthday / Tolling Ceremony and Dinner



U.S. Special Operations Command Leases Submersible

Michael Fabey, Aviation Week Intelligence Network, Jan 6

WASHINGTON – U.S. Special Operations command recently leased the Lockheed Martin S301 Special Operations Forces dry combat submersible.

In late 2013 the command awarded Lockheed an estimated \$10 million sole-sourced lease of the S301, a commercially-classified dry submersible vessel, to support risk mitigation research, development, test, and evaluation in support of SOCOM's long-term dry-combat-submersibles program objectives.

Navy Seals have been seeking a safe submersible since the Advanced Seal Delivery System (ASDS) suffered fires due to battery problems.

The initial lease is for 18 months. But during an exclusive tour of its Panama City, Fla., facility where the sub is being developed, Stephen Froelich, director and general manager of mission and unmanned systems, said the deal could be extended.

Estimated to weigh 13-15 tons, the miniature submarine can accommodate six special warfare operators and two people to operate the vessel.

Froelich notes, "This is a dry submersible. In a lot of previous submersibles [special operators have] been wet the entire time. They're in the elements. But here they stay dry."

It will be easier to continue working longer when dry, he says, and teams will also be more prepared for combat when they cross the shoreline because they haven't been exposed to the elements for several hours.

"The special warfare guys can park on the bottom," he says. "They can flood the compartment. They have a lockout chamber."

The submarine is also small enough to fit into hangars aboard larger "mother" submarines as well as other naval docking bays.

Lockheed will also help special operators acclimate themselves with the S301.

Lockheed is partnered with the Submergence Group for the sub's light and medium development and production.

Did you know....

USS TRITON, the only American made twin reactor ship ever built, on May 10, 1960, completed the first totally submerged circumnavigation of the world when she followed the route of Ferdinand Magellan for 36,000 miles during 84 days beneath the surface.

USS SKATE and USS SEADRAGON, after affecting a historic rendezvous under the ice, surfaced together at the North Pole through an opening in the ice on August 1962.

Two wives of Presidents of the United States have sponsored submarines. Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower christened the USS NAUTILUS, and Mrs. John F. Kennedy christened the USS LAFAYETTE

On This Day: U.S. Raises Nuclear Stakes by Testing First Submarine-Based Polaris Missiles from Deep Under the Sea

Julian Gavaghan, Yahoo News, Jan 6

The first nuclear missile to be launched from a fully submerged submarine was tested by the U.S. Navy on this day in 1960.

Polaris ensured America could attack the Soviet Union without having to rely on its costly deterrent of a permanently airborne fleet of B52 bombers circling the Arctic.

At the time, neither the U.S. nor its bitter Cold War enemy had land-based missiles with long enough ranges to strike each other's main cities from home territory.

The development also triggered the terrifying new spectre of annihilation being unleashed anywhere on earth by hidden submarines.

A British Pathé newsreel shows the USS George Washington, which was equipped to carry 16 missiles, testing two of its "wonder weapons" off the Florida coast.

After being fired from 50ft below the surface, the rockets burst into the air and were filmed trailing high into the sky before hitting unconfirmed targets 1,100 miles away.

Neither the nations had land-based missiles with long enough ranges to strike each other's main cities from home.

The technological revolution came five years after the Soviets tested the first ever submarine-borne missiles – albeit ones that had to be launched on the surface.

Polaris – two-stage, solid-fuel ballistic missiles - were also lighter, less volatile to store and far more potent than the communist state's weapons.

[On This Day: Britain invades uninhabited Island in bizarre Cold War drama]

Each warhead contained the equivalent of half a megaton of TNT, making them 33 times more destructive than the first nuclear bomb that levelled Hiroshima in 1945.

In 1962, the U.S. agreed to sell Polaris missiles to Britain, which had become the world's third atomic power after developing its own nuclear weapons in 1952.

In 1962, the U.S. agreed to sell Polaris missiles to Britain. (Getty)

The current Government promised to continue the £2.4billion-a-year programme. (Getty)

President John F Kennedy also offered them to France but Charles de Gaulle was wary of American influence and chose maintain their own programme.

The French president feared this deal had turned Britain into a Trojan horse that would allow America a voice in Europe.

[On This Day: Concorde flies at twice the speed of sound]

As a result, he twice vetoed the UK's application for membership of the European Economic Community – the precursor of the EU - in 1963 and again in 1967.

Britain armed four nuclear submarines, all based on the Clyde in Scotland, and continued patrolling with Polaris until 1996.

It was then fully replaced by Trident, another submarine-based missile technology, which now remains Britain's only nuclear deterrent.

[On This Day: The Battle of Verdun – the longest engagement in WWI - ends]

And, despite repeated calls to disarm following the end of the Cold War, the current Government has promised to continue the £2.4billion-a-year programme.

The U.S. also still arms 14 submarines with Trident, despite having two types of land-based nuclear missiles that travel over 6,000 miles among its stockpile of 7,700.

Va. Museum Shuts Lab with USS Monitor Artifacts, Citing Lack of Federal Funds

Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post

The Virginia museum that holds the famous turret of the sunken Civil War ironclad warship USS Monitor says it is closing the laboratory that houses the artifact because of a lack of federal funding.

The Mariners' Museum in Newport News has been the congressionally designated repository for Monitor artifacts since 1987. It also houses, among other things, the legendary ship's two giant guns, propeller and steam engine.

The private museum, which charges \$12 admission, says it is taking the action because the federal government, which owns the artifacts, has failed to pay what the museum considers its proper share for their conservation.

The museum also says visitor ship had fallen far short of projections related to the Monitor.

Artifact conservation for the Monitor cost about \$500,000 last year, the museum said in a statement.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which has a Monitor partnership with the museum, provided 10 percent of conservation costs last year and no conservation funding in 2012, the museum said.

"These are federal government artifacts," museum president Elliot Gruber said in the statement. "Providing the funds for their well being should be the responsibility of the federal government."

The situation "has placed a tremendous strain on our budget over the last several years," he said, and it "has limited funds we have available to conserve our own 35,000 artifacts . . . [and] our ability to develop new exhibitions and to maintain our facility."

A spokesman for NOAA responded in an e-mail:

"NOAA recognizes the importance of these artifacts and will continue to support [them] as appropriations allow. These . . . artifacts are owned by the people of the United States and, at the request of the Mariners Museum, entrusted to the museum for conservation."

The Monitor is famous for its March 9, 1862, slugfest with the Confederate ironclad, CSS Virginia, also known as the Merrimack, not far from the museum. The battle, a draw, was history's first between ironclad warships and was probably the most important naval battle of the Civil War.

The Monitor sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras 10 months later, killing 16 of its 62-man crew.

The wreck was located in 1973 by a Duke University research ship. NOAA was worried that the ship was crumbling on the bottom and with the Navy's help began retrieving parts of the vessel.

The propeller was pulled up in 1998, and the 20-ton engine in 2001. In an amazing feat of maritime archaeology and engineering, the 120-ton turret came up in 2002.

The turret contained the ship's two guns and the skeletal remains of two of its sailors. The sailors were buried in Arlington National Cemetery last March.

In 2007, the museum and NOAA opened the \$30 million USS Monitor Center, a large extension of the museum built to house the ship's artifacts.

NOAA and the federal government paid about \$13 million of the center's cost, with the rest coming from the city of Newport News, the state of Virginia and private donors, the museum said.

The center includes the Batten Conservation Laboratory Complex, where artifacts are conserved and prepared for display.

It is the larger of the complex's two labs — the so-called wet lab — that is being shut down. The lab contains the 90,000-gallon water tank in which the corroded turret is immersed for conservation.

With the arrival of the Monitor material, projections were that the museum's visitorship would grow by 100,000 a year, Gruber said.

"That never happened," he said. The museum now gets about 60,000 visitors a year.

The labs originally had 10 staff members and expenditures of about \$700,000 a year. They now have five staff members and annual expenditures of about \$500,000.

Although the museum is hurting financially, officials said, the artifacts are safe and stable.

"Obviously, we're not going to let these things fall apart," said David Krop, the center's director. "This is the largest marine metals conservation project in the entire world."

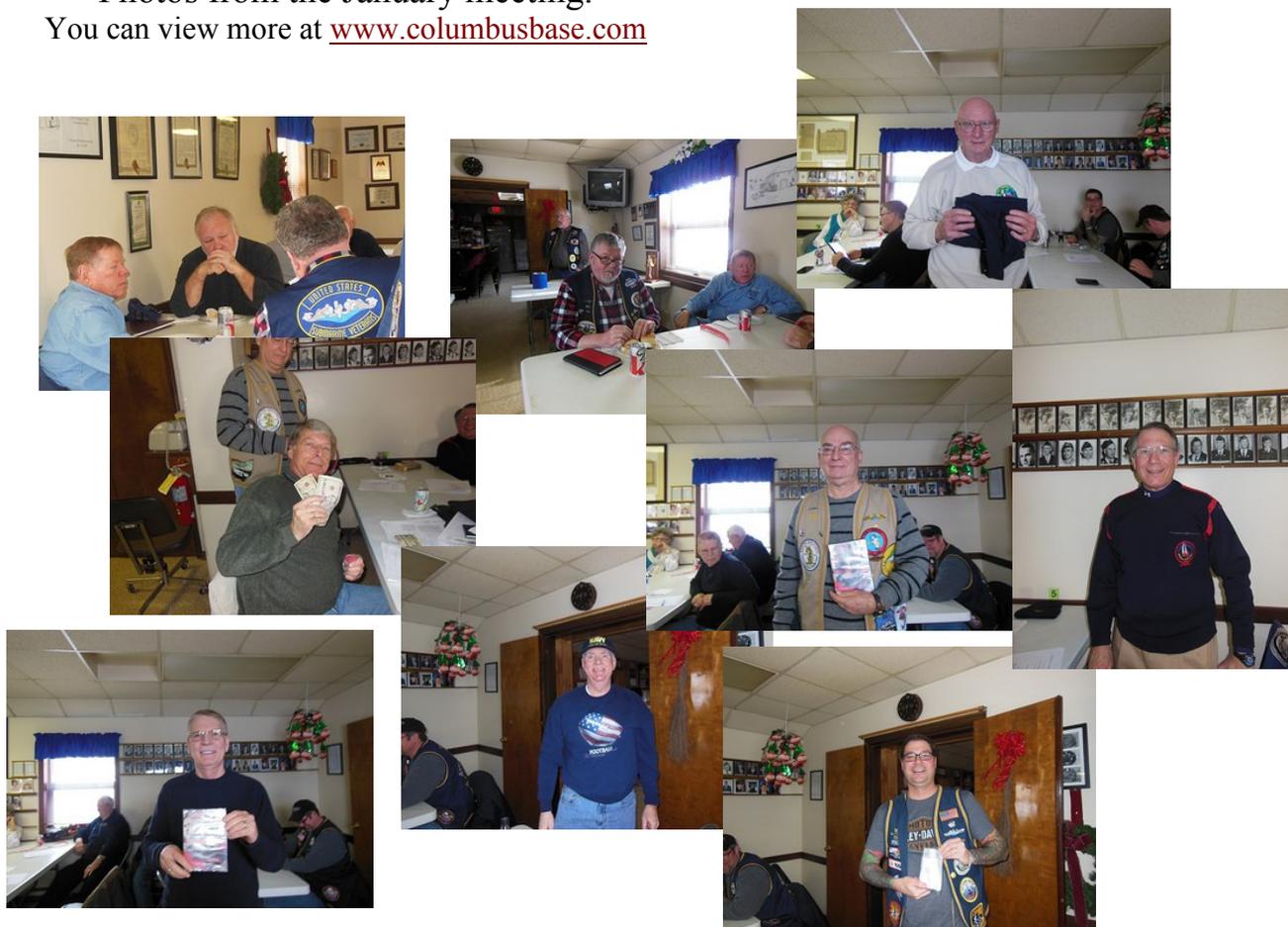
Staff members have covered the tank with a tarp to minimize evaporation. They also shut off the lights, turned off the live webcams and ended behind-the-scenes tours, the museum said.

"NOAA, I have to say, is a very strong partner and an important partner for us," Gruber said. "The Monitor is near and dear to their heart, and they have the responsibility for its upkeep and conservation. Our role is to help them."

"I think we all agree we want this to move forward," said Anna Holloway, the center's curator. "We want these artifacts out there for the American people. So it's, I hope, just a little bump in the road."

Photos from the January meeting.

You can view more at www.columbusbase.com





COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES 03 JANUARY 2014

Call to Order:

1300 - Vice Commander, Tim Barker called the meeting to order. Dave Creekmore, Acting COB led us in the salute to the flag. Co-Chaplain Walt Fleak conducted the invocation. Tolling of the lost boats was conducted by Tim Barker and Dave Creekmore. Lee Mather requested a moment of silence for our recently departed on eternal patrol shipmate, Marv Pastor. Welcome to all by Vice Commander Tim Barker. There were 20 members and guests present.

Secretary's Report:

Decembers report is in the Green Board and no corrections were submitted. Received a letter from Randy Grimes Wagner and contribution for the base in recognition for the support for eternal patrol for Ben "Red" Grimes.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Creekmore reported on the status of the Treasury.

Webmaster's Report:

Cliff Dodson reported no issues with the website.

Chaplain's Report:

Walt Fleak reported that Frank and Sharon Lloyd's son had undergone open heart surgery and was doing well. A card was passed around for sending to Frank and Sharon.

Membership Report/Introductions:

Tim Barker introduced Charles Sabino who qualified onboard the USS Tinosa (SSN-606) 1971-1974 as a Supply Officer Diving Officer. The base members introduced themselves to Charles.

Committee Reports:

Highway Cleanup is in search of a new chairman. Bill Anderson gave an update of the status and encouraged members seeking the new chairman to coordinate dates with Capt. Lennon for the NJROTC participants.

Unfinished Business:

Membership dues for USSVI and base and base only were listed. Please see Dave Creekmore or Jim Koogler for dues payment.

New Business:

- 2014 Officer swearing in will be conducted during the February meeting.
Jim Tolson, Commander
Tim Barker, Vice Commander
Woody Cook, Secretary
Jim Koogler, Treasurer
- Toys for Tots - were much appreciated.
- 50/50 drawing
Jim Koogler - \$50.00
Scott Steele - Ball Cap
Tim Barker - Phantom DVD
Wade Kiger - Computer Speakers
Bill Anderson - plate of cookies
Lowell Dye - Phantom DVD
Bill McCorkle - Polo Shirt

Benediction was given by Co-Chaplain, Walt Fleak.

Next Meeting:

February 1, 2014

12:00 social hour

13:00 Meeting

Location American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post 239,

700 Morning Street

Worthington, OH 43085



Upcoming Events

Feb. 1, 2014	1200	Base Meeting at the Leasure-Blackston Legion Post 239
Mar. 1, 2014	1200	Base Meeting at the Leasure-Blackston Legion Post 239
Apr. 5, 2014	1700	Submarine Birthday / Tolling Ceremony and dinner



February Birthdays

Bob Holt 02-03



The Conn

Base commander

Jim Tolson

Vice Commander

Tim Barker

Treasurer

Jim Koogler

Secretary

Woody Cook

Chaplain

Sharon Lloyd / Walt Fleak

COB

Dave Creekmore

Membership Chairman

Jim Tolson

Storekeeper

Frank Lloyd

Web Master

Cliff Dodson

Editor

Jan Creekmore

Activates Chairmen

Remember to bring your donations of coffee, tea and / or hot cocoa to the monthly base meeting. Your donations are very much appreciated by the veterans at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic



Editor's Note

If you have comments or articles, please contact the base newsletter editor.

Jan Creekmore at e-mail creek636@columbus.rr.com



Holland Club



Al Albergottie: 1960 USS Blenny SS-324

John Alexander: 1945, USS Haddock SS-231

Galín Brady: 1962, USS Swordfish SSN-579

“Red Downard: 1960, USS Cutlass SS-478

Bill Dumbauld: 1957, USS Caiman SS-323

Ed Ellsworth (EP): 1944, USS Blackfin SS-322

Dick Estell (EP): 1944, USS Scabbardfish SS-397

Russ Ferguson: 1946, USS Haddo SS-255

Bob Frier: 1960, USS Menhaden SS-377

Ben Grimes (EP): 1944, USS Raton SS-270

“Gus” Hoehl (EP): 1944, USS Flounder SS-251

Bill Holly (EP): 1957, USS Ray SSR-271

Gene Horton (EP): 1951, USS Chivo SS-341

Bernie Kenyon: 1954, USS Hardhead SS-365

John Leers: 1954, USS Sea Owl SS-405

“Butch” Leffin: 1957, USS Hardhead SS-365

Chuck Martin: 1956, USS Pomfret SS-391

Lee Mather: 1954, USS Crevalle SS-291

Bill McCorkle: 1956, USS Dogfish SS-350

Randy McWilliams: 1963, USS Tiru SS-416

Bill Meyer: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419

“Doc” Morin: 1957, USS Raton SSR-270

Jim Morton (EP): 1963, USS Baya SS-318

Joe Murphy (EP): 1947, USS Bugara SS-331

Angelo Naso: 1963, USS Bluegill SS-242

Marvin Pastor (EP): 1955, USS Razorback SS-394

Clem O’Brien: 1944, USS Albacore SS-218

Dave O’Carroll: 1957, USS Salmon SSR-573

John Palmer: 1951, USS Guavina SSO-362

John Pendleton: 1954, USS Toto SS-422

Phil Philipps (EP): 1949, USS Segundo SS-398

Bruce Rinehart: 1963, USS Tigrone SS-419

Ron Rossington: 1954, USS Conger SS-477

“CO” Smith (EP): 1944, USS Nautilus SS-168

Denver Smith: 1943, USS Grayling SS-209

Ken Strahm: 1960, USS Bream SS-243

Sam Templeton: 1956, USS Trutta SS-42

George Trace: 1951, USS Caiman SS-323

Lynn Trump: 1960, USS Sea Cat SS-399

Ron Waldron: 1953, USS Charr SS-328

Robert Wells: 1947, USS Capitaine SS-336

John Woodmansee: 1956, USS Hardhead SS-365

