

MAY 2021 RAMROD

CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here are the dates for our upcoming club events. A reminder note will be posted to club members before each event, or you may go to our club website or Facebook page for additional information.

2021 Meeting Schedule

- May 4th – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Civil War related letters and documents
- May 18th – find of the month meeting
- June 1st – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Carl Sitherwood; something Civil War Artillery related
- June 15th – find of the month meeting
- July 6th – Business Meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Ed Travis; Civil War Bullets
- July 20th – find of the month meeting
- August 3rd – business meeting and discuss the upcoming club show
- August 17th – find of the month meeting
- September 7th – Business meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Carl DiMare; Civil War Edged Weapons
- September 21st – find of the month meeting
- October 5th – Business meeting
 - Guest Speaker - Steve Strickland; Georgia Civil War Relics
- October 19th – find of the month meeting
- November 2nd – business meeting
 - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Grand Army of the Republic (Union Civil War Veterans) related memorabilia
- November 16th – find of the month meeting
- December 7th – business meeting
 - Election of new board officers to serve in 2022
 - Club charity announcement
 - Buy, Sell, Trade and Swap meeting
- December 21st – general meeting
 - Christmas Party
 - Find of the month meeting

ANNUAL CLUB SHOW

Ray McMahan and the board met with Civic Center personnel on April 22nd and they told us we will be able to have our Relic Show this coming August. The Civic Center personnel are working on the table arrangements (for the show) but we are a GO for the show.

So, start spreading the word that we will be having a show on August 14th and 15th.



43rd Annual Southeastern Civil War and Antique Gun Show

Cobb County Civic Center

548 S. Marietta Parkway, S.E., Marietta, Georgia 30060

Free Parking

\$6 for Adults

Veterans and

Children under 10 Free

August 14 & 15, 2021

Saturday 9-5

Sunday 9-3

Show Tables of

- Dug Relics
- Guns and Swords
- Books
- Frameable Prints
- Metal Detectors
- Artillery Items
- Currency
- And much more...

Inquires:

NGRHA

Attention: Show Chairman

PO Box 503

Marietta, Ga. 30061

terryraymac@hotmail.com

WWW.NGRHA.com

APRIL RAFFLE PRICE WINNERS

Raffle Prize - At each meeting, we will have a raffle (\$0.50 per ticket) with two or three choices for the winner of the raffle to select. These items may include (but not limited too) Civil War Breastplates, Box plates, Bayonets, Union and Confederate buttons, artillery shells, Civil War reference books, silver coins, and more. All attending the meeting may purchase raffle tickets.

- At our April 6th meeting, Ben Martin won an Eagle Breastplate
- At our April 20th meeting, Jim Hammonds won a Cast I Button



APRIL FIND OF THE MONTH WINNERS

- Single Relic – Dana Riddle with an Eagle I cuff button (with Guild)
- Multiple Relics – Dana Riddle with Dropped and fired bullets, miscellaneous buttons, part of a ramrod, rifle sling hook
- Single Coin – Carl DiMare with and 1865 Indian Head Penny
- Multiple Coins – Carl DiMare with a 1962 Washington quarter, 1947D and 1960D Lincoln Penny
- Jewelry/Miscellaneous – Liz Vawter with miscellaneous items





STORY OF THE HUNLEY AND ITS RECOVERY:

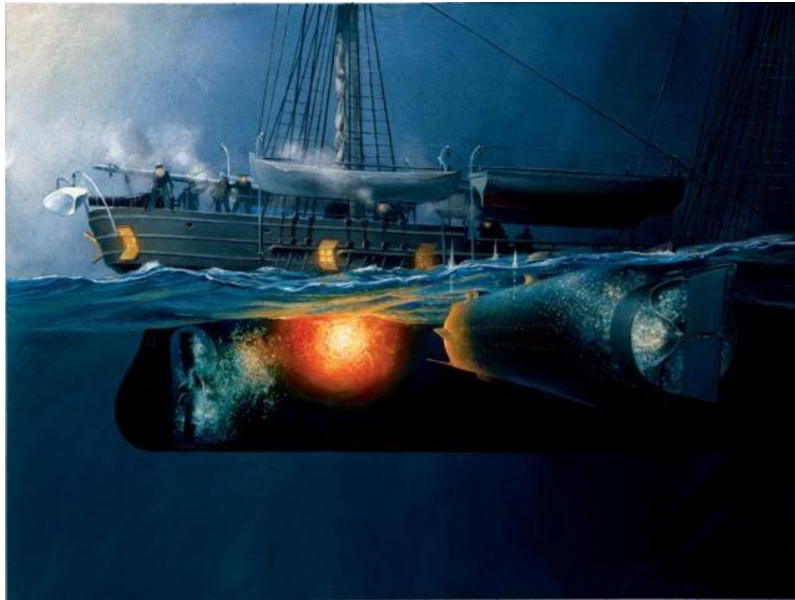
H. L. Hunley, often referred to as *Hunley* or as *CSS Hunley*, was a submarine of the Confederate States of America that played a small part in the American Civil War. *Hunley* demonstrated the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. She was the first combat submarine to sink a warship (USS *Housatonic*), although *Hunley* was not completely submerged and, following her successful attack, was lost along with her crew before she could return to base. The Confederacy lost 21 crewmen in three sinkings of the *Hunley* during her short career. She was named for her inventor, Horace Lawson Hunley, shortly after she was taken into government service under the control of the Confederate States Army at Charleston, South Carolina.

Hunley, nearly 40 ft (12 m) long, was built at Mobile, Alabama, and launched in July 1863. She was then shipped by rail on 12 August 1863, to Charleston. *Hunley* (then referred to as the "fish boat", the "fish torpedo boat", or the "porpoise") sank on 29 August 1863, during a test run, killing five members of her crew. She sank again on 15 October 1863, killing all eight of her second crew, including Horace Lawson Hunley himself, who was aboard at the time, even though he was not a member of the Confederate military. Both times *Hunley* was raised and returned to service.



1864 painting of *H. L. Hunley* by [Conrad Wise Chapman](#)

On 17 February 1864, *Hunley* attacked and sank the 1,240-displacement ton United States Navy screw sloop-of-war *Housatonic*, which had been on Union blockade-duty in Charleston's outer harbor. *Hunley* did not survive the attack and also sank, taking with her all eight members of her third crew, and was lost.



Attack on the *Housatonic*

Finally located in 1995, *Hunley* was raised in 2000, and is on display in North Charleston, South Carolina, at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center on the Cooper River. Examination in 2012 of recovered *Hunley* artifacts suggests that the submarine was as close as 20 ft (6.1 m) to her target, *Housatonic*, when her deployed torpedo exploded, which caused the submarine's own loss.

Recovery of wreckage

Diver Ralph Wilbanks located the wreck in April 1995, while leading a NUMA dive team originally organized by archaeologist Mark Newell, and funded by novelist Clive Cussler, who announced the find as a new discovery and first claimed that the location was in about 18 ft (5.5 m) of water over one mile (1.6 km) inshore of *Housatonic*, but later admitted to a reporter that that was false. The wreck was actually 100 yd (91 m) away from and on the seaward side of *Housatonic* in 27 feet (8.2 m) of water. The submarine was buried under several feet of silt, which had both concealed and protected the vessel for more than a hundred years. The divers exposed the forward hatch and the ventilator box (the air box for the attachment of her twin snorkels) in order to identify her. The submarine was resting on her starboard side, at about a 45-degree angle, and was covered in a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (0.64 to 1.91 cm) thick encrustation of rust bonded with sand and seashell particles. Archaeologists exposed part of the ship's port side and uncovered the bow dive plane. More probing revealed an approximate length of 37 feet (11 m), with all of the vessel preserved under the sediment.

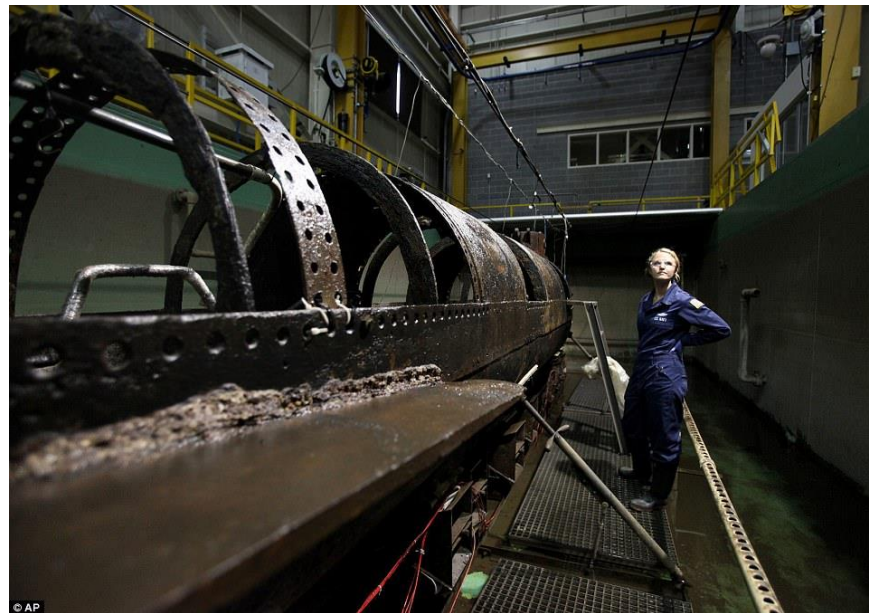
On 14 September 1995, at the official request of Senator Glenn F. McConnell, Chairman, South Carolina *Hunley* Commission, E. Lee Spence, with South Carolina Attorney General Charles M. Condon signing, donated *Hunley* to the State of South Carolina. Shortly thereafter, NUMA disclosed to government officials Wilbank's location for the wreck which, when finally made public in October 2000, matched Spence's 1970s plot of the wreck's location well within standard mapping tolerances. Spence avows that he discovered *Hunley* in 1970, revisiting and mapping the site in 1971 and again in 1979, and that after he published the location in his 1995 book he expected NUMA to independently verify the wreck as *Hunley*, not to claim that NUMA had discovered her. NUMA was actually part of a SCIAA expedition directed by Dr. Mark M. Newell and not Cussler. Dr. Newell swore under oath that he used Spence's maps to direct the joint SCIAA/NUMA expedition and credited Spence with the original discovery. Dr. Newell credits his expedition only with the official verification of *Hunley*.

The *in situ* underwater archaeological investigation and excavation culminated with the raising of *Hunley* on 8 August 2000. A large team of professionals from the Naval Historical Center's Underwater Archaeology Branch, National Park Service, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and various other individuals investigated the vessel, measuring and documenting her prior to removal. Once the on-site investigation was complete, harnesses were slipped underneath the sub and attached to a truss designed by Oceaneering International. After the last harness had been secured, the crane from the recovery barge *Karlissa B* hoisted the submarine from the sea floor. She was raised from the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean, just over 3.5 nautical miles (6.5 km) from Sullivan's Island outside the entrance to Charleston Harbor. Despite having used a sextant and hand-held compass, thirty years earlier, to plot the wreck's location, Dr. Spence's 52 m (171 ft) accuracy turned out to be well within the length of the recovery barge, which was 64 m (210 ft) long.

On 8 August 2000, at 08:37, the sub broke the surface for the first time in more than 136 years, greeted by a cheering crowd on shore and in surrounding watercraft, including author Clive Cussler. Once safely on her transporting barge, *Hunley* was shipped back to Charleston. The removal operation concluded when the submarine was secured inside the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, at the former Charleston Navy Yard in North Charleston, in a specially designed tank of fresh water to await conservation until she could eventually be exposed to air.



H. L. Hunley, suspended from a crane during her recovery from off of Charleston Harbor, August 8, 2000



Hunley may be viewed during tours at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, in Charleston. A replica is on display at Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile, Alabama, alongside the USS *Alabama* (BB-60) and the USS *Drum* (SS-228).

Hunley's discovery was described by Dr. William Dudley, Director of Naval History at the Naval Historical Center as "probably the most important find of the century." The tiny sub and her contents have been valued at more than \$40 million, making her discovery and subsequent donation one of the most important and valuable contributions made to South Carolina.

Hunley Memorial Marker at Magnolia Cemetery (in Charleston, S.C.)



Reference Material for this article:

- [H. L. Hunley \(submarine\) - Wikipedia](#)
- [Human remains are found inside H.L. Hunley | Daily Mail Online](#)
- [h.l. hunley attack - Bing images](#)

CLUB WEB SITE

The club web site can be viewed at the following address:

WWW.NGRHA.COM

This site is continually updated with club-related information, so we encourage you to visit to site to learn about the latest club activities and events.

CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

More club information can be found on the club's Facebook site. This site not only includes information on club activities, but also a variety of information regarding the Civil War and articles of interest relating to history and our hobby.

You can subscribe to our site on Facebook by going to our page at:

North Georgia Relic Hunters Association

Take a few minutes to subscribe and view this page.

You can also make posts to this page with anything that you think will be of interest to other club members – including online articles and information from other Facebook sites.

FUTURE ITEMS

If you have items or ideas on what you would like to see added to the Ramrod, please let me know.

Happy Hunting !!!

