

MINUTES OF USSVI TARHEEL BASE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 2016 AT THE
AMERICAN LEGION POST#67
CARY, NC

Before the start of the Base meeting, 8 Subvets mustered for breakfast at the IHOP in Cary, NC.

Tarheel Base Commander Dave Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM with two blasts of the diving alarm- Green board! Pressure in the boat! Blow negative to the mark! Base Chaplain Gene Rutter rendered the opening prayer. Gene read a note from Pat Banks thanking Tarheel Base members for tending the eternal patrol lines for her husband Gordon. Base Secretary Bill Lowe led the 22 Subvets present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commander Dave asked all WWII Subvets to stand and introduce themselves. A total of 4 WWII Subvets were present- Marty Kirwan, Joe Morgan, Don Moyer, and Bill Whelan. As a way to honor these Greatest Generation Heroes, all present gave them a hearty round of applause. Jim Wallace asked new Base member Mel Denis for an introduction. All other Subvets present introduced themselves by including the name of their qualification boat and the year they received their dolphins.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS

The Tolling of the Lost Boats Ceremony for the months of September and October was conducted by Dave Campbell and Jim Davis. Jim read the recounts of the 5 submarines lost in September and the 9 lost in October. Dave tolled the bell for each of these 14 lost submarines in solemn remembrance of our shipmates who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

SPEAKER- Gary Sikes's presentation on oxygen generators had to be postponed due to technical issues. His program has been rescheduled and will take place during the February 4, 2017 Base meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

HOLLAND CLUB-

Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis stated he has no Holland Club inductions scheduled at this time.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS-

Dick Kanning presented a challenge coin to Tarheel Base Chaplain Gene Rutter in recognition of his outstanding job heading up honors for departed shipmate Gordon Banks.

Dick presented the Robert Link Award to Base Commander Dave Campbell and the Robert Link Award for the Tarheel Base. These awards were announced during the USSVI National Convention held in August in Reno, NV.

REPORTS

1-Tarheel Base Commander/ SE District 1 Commander Dave Campbell covered the following- - Recruitment- Status- We need to think about what we want the Base to be! I have asked this question before all relative to Base activity levels, community involvement, recruiting! We need to improve Base meeting participation!!

2-List of ideas- meet more often- once per month; meeting even months, other venues on odd months (breakfast or lunch get-togethers- like Butterbean does occasionally) mainly social).

3- More parade involvement (tied somewhat to torpedo float status).

4-School visits- Dave plans on meeting with representatives of the Wake County School System to see what the Base can do for school presentations.

5-Presences at state wide events with group involvement (State Fair, County Fairs? Etc.). Plans are for a Subvet exhibit at this year's NC State Fair is going "full speed ahead"!

6- Annual Base Officers Election time: Base Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer, Secretary. Nominations: Base Commander Vice Commander, Treasurer, and Secretary. No nominations from the floor were noted- Jim Davis will be the election master.

7- Torpedo Modification Status: TARHEEL BASE ACTIONS: "ALL

STOP”- Awaiting state commander forming NC Statewide Base involvement. Working

on new home for the torpedo – Safe place, maintained, has visibility, will reflect the sacrifice of our WWII veterans and all submarine veterans: Jerry Emerson is working with the city of Wilson for a possible site at the American Legion. Vincent Sievert has a firm desire for the torpedo from a VFW Post in Rocky Mount. Dick Kanning has made a request with the NC Veterans Memorial Committee asking about the landing of the MK-14 at the memorial in Broadway, NC (located 6 miles NE of Sanford, NC). Dave has visited the website – beautiful and appropriate setting – should include a plaque recognizing all lost boats (my personal pick per Dave). Paul Hiser has been working with the Southern Pines VFW Post 7318 and seemed very interested. The Post is mainly Army membered. Paul has done a great deal of work here, with the Post leadership and designs of the cradle to carry the torpedo when it is mounted. This is another good choice. Dave said he thought there was one other request for a possible sight with the NC Legislature. Jerry Leppart spoke up and said he has sent the NC History Museum folks a picture of the torpedo float- all decked out. Tom McFadden has been talking with NC Military Historical Society at Kure Beach (near Ft. Fisher) about placing the torpedo behind a National Guard Armory in the area.

8- Ellis “Moe” Dale Moses, Carolina Piedmont Base has volunteered to be the ALL CLEAR newsletter editor. He created the CP Base’s award winning newsletter and therefore has experience in this technical discipline. BRAVO ZULU to Moe for stepping forward. As info, the 3rd quarter issue is in the process of being prepared for publication.

9-Base Vice Commander Jim Davis stated he had purchased a flower arrangement (a spray) for Gordon Bank’s memorial service in the name of the Tarheel Base at a cost of \$144.00. Since the Base has previously approved a limit of \$50.00 for such items, Jim is soliciting donations to make up the difference. A total of \$54.00 was collected during the Base meeting.

10-Base Secretary Bill Lowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on August 6, 2016 as posted on the NC Subvets website and e-mailed to Base members. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for approval of minutes as posted. Bill said he will contact webmaster Paul Hiser about bringing the posting of Base meeting minutes up to date.

11-Base Treasurer Tom McFadden was not present and Commander

Dave covered the treasurer's report: Previous total balance - \$11,944.92; End of September Balances-Regular Account- \$11,527.96; Events-\$467.26 with a total end of September balance of \$11,995.22. The events account balance is over \$400 lower from expenses associated with the last Pearl Harbor Dinner. This needs to be considered when determining the reservation/registration charge for the per-person rate to ensure we cover costs. Currently Tarheel Base membership stands at 125 regular and no associate members. Take note of Tom McFadden's new address: 730 Chelsea Drive; Sanford, NC 27332.

12-Tarheel Base COB Jerry Emerson was not present.

13-Website Master/National Treasurer Paul Hiser was "under the weather" and not present.

14- Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace passed around his book of supplies. Jim has an Adopt-A-Spot work detail scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the Cary Veterans Park on North Harrison Ave. A lunch get-together will follow. Also, Jim announced new Base member Vince Sievert had his house burn down a couple of week ago. He is need of a house in the Bailey area. Base members are urged to call (252-292-0044) or e-mail (submustang@yahoo.com) Vince and offer a lending hand or words of encouragement.

15- North Carolina Subvets Commander/Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Pettit- Rick covered the need to recruit new Base members and advertising the organization will help with this endeavor. One fellow in Mooresville signed up 7 new members. The annual Burnsville meeting is scheduled for May next year. Rick stated the Moonshine Mountain Submarine Memorial is in need of repairs at an estimated cost of \$18,000. The Memorial is being undermined by erosion. Dick Kanning has set up a fund with the USSVI Charitable Foundation to raise these needed funds with about \$2,000 collected to date. Donations to this Foundation are tax deductible. Dick made a motion for the Tarheel Base to donate \$1,000 to this worthy cause. Motion was seconded and passed.

16- District Commander- Dave Campbell- Dave stressed the need to use social media as a recruiting tool.

17-S.E. Regional Commander Steve Bell was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Parades and Events-

Mooresville Veterans Day Parade November 11th and Asheboro Veterans Day Parade on November 11th- The Mooresville Parade is not a sure thing and the Asheboro Parade will be the backup event for NC Subvets. A Weaverville, NC Christmas Parade is scheduled for November 19th. Christmas Day Parade in Marshall with use of the submarine float only- not yet scheduled.

Kings Bay WWII Memorial Service- November 2nd through the 6th- Registration forms have been sent out with a deadline to submit by October 21st.

NEW BUSINESS

1- Temporary relief for Henry Hagwood as 50/50 coordinator- An attabooy is extended to Dick Kanning for taking on this task.

2- Sub Birthday Ball 2017; Need a Chair Volunteer to get ball started- An option to this is start having an annual picnic (many Bases do this/ possibly partner with another Base?). Commander Dave will bring up this idea at the Carolina Piedmont Base meeting. Per Jim Wallace, a picnic is a great alternative. Chuck Jensen suggested holding three picnics throughout the state each year.

3-State Fair – Torpedo Float Static Display – Issues: 1- Entry fee; 2- Volunteers to man the float and provide info, recruit new members. Need a Coordinator (Volunteer). Tom has sent out an e-mail listing the 8 volunteers that have signed up for the watch bill to date. Dave made a motion for the Tarheel Base to pay the \$150.00 for the banner to be used for this event. Motion was seconded and passed. Jerry Leppart stated the trip to Asheboro and back with the torpedo trailer was not worth the trip to be used in a 1 mile parade around the State Fairgrounds. The original plan was for the torpedo trailer to be part of the static display and not to be parked in the Livestock parking area after the parade!

- 4- Speaker for the Pearl Harbor Dinner; At present, we have three possible sources:
Looking to get our WWII Veterans to share with us their experiences from enlistment through training- assignment- and at sea experiences- Day to day operations- life on patrol during WWII. The idea was voiced to have a table set up for some WWII submarine vets to hold a panel discussion covering their “tour of duty” during WWII.
NC Military Historical Society, SI Harrington (Primary Army but archival data on WWII).
Capt. Steve Gillespie USN- A submarine officer scheduled to retire in the Spring of 2017.
Both the NC Governor and Scott Mason were possible speakers but for various reasons are no longer available.
- 5- Asheboro Air Museum Membership- \$125/year (NC Subvet Bases support). We have had free storage for 7 years, cost eased by 5-6 Bases that use the floats (assessed to Base size?)
Chuck covered the Patron Asheboro Air Museum membership and the past NC Subvets history with this museum. Commander Dave made a motion that NC Subvets continue this Patron membership at a cost of \$125 per year. Motion carried. Rick Pettitt will send out info to the other Bases soliciting funds for this membership.

OPEN FLOOR

- 1- Float Modification meeting immediately after Base meeting today. Interested parties, please stand fast!

RAFFLE RESULTS

In the absence of raffle Czar Henry Hagwood, volunteer Dick Kanning conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. Mel Denis was the big winner of \$50.00.

BENEDICTION

Chaplain Gene Rutter offered up the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at: 11:35 AM with three blasts of the diving alarm. Surface the boat! The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on December 3, 2016 during the Pearl Harbor Dinner.

MEETING AFTER THE MEETING

Float Modification Meeting-

Former long- time driver of the truck that towed the torpedo trailer Jim Myers covered the history of the torpedo and trailer- Jim wants his wishes be honored in respect to the one who donated the MK-14 torpedo- WWII Subvet Ollie Thompson. Ollie donated the torpedo to the NC Subvets with the stipulation that it would be used for events in NC. A plaque honoring Ollie is mounted on the trailer. The trailer was purchased by the NC Subvets.

Jim went over the specs needed for a truck to tow the torpedo trailer- electric brakes for emergency stops- trailer tongue weight restrictions- tow package, etc.

NC Subvets Commander Rick Petitt stated he does not know of anyone with the right equipped vehicle to tow the torpedo trailer in the Carolina Piedmont Base. Rick said the best situation would be to have someone available to tow the trailer in parades in the western section of the state and Jerry Leppart to cover the east sector.

This subject is still “a work in progress”

