



Carolina Piedmont Base of the USSVI presents the

# Piedmont Periscope

Issue 1101

January 2011

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## New format for the CPP!

Every once in a while, I like to change the format of the newsletter. I found some software that I have not used yet, so I thought I'd try it out.

Your feedback is very important to me. This is your Base Newsletter, I'm just the guy that puts it together. I need you to tell me your dislikes and likes. You can't hurt my feelings because I was a Nuke MM, I basically don't have any. But seriously, I do need your feedback. And I always welcome your stories, true or not.

So if you like the old for-

mat better, I can go back to that very easily. It is the same format I used for the Steel Valley Dolphin when I was the editor at the Requin Base. It was fairly quit to change for the CPB, so that's where I started from. With winter here, I have more time to spend behind the keyboard.

On another note, I joined VFW Post 9138 last summer. I remember I could not join back in Missouri, because I had no campaign ribbons. That rule has changed and now a Patrol Pin is sufficient. I encourage everyone to join the VFW and support Post 9138. The

Post has many projects that support our Troops and fellow Veterans. I'll try to do better in including their functions in our events calendar.

And as usual, I still need your stories for the CPP. I did a little over 8 years and I know I have many stories, so I know all of you can at least come-up with two or three during the year. You know where to send them. - Moe (SS)



## Lost Boats for January

USS S-36 (SS 141) 20Jan42  
USS S-26 (SS 131) 24Jan42  
USS SCORPION (SS 278)  
5Jan44  
USS SWORDFISH (SS 193)  
12Jan45

## Kaps 4 Kids

The Carolina Piedmont was again invited to present our program at Victory Junction Gang Camp here in North Carolina. This has become a regular pleasant outing for us that allows us to bring joy and happiness to these children. Each time we visit the camp there is a different set of children faced with different medical issues. (page 2)



## Kaps 4 Kids (con't)

On this visit, we were honored to present Kaps, Honorary Submariner certificates and pictures of museum boats to 35 children. On this weekend the families of the campers were also in attendance swelling the number over 100. The overwhelming joy we experience is something we will not forget. Just to see the

gratitude on the faces of the children as well as their parents and siblings can not be measured. We are honored to be a part of USSVI in presenting this small token to children suffering with various illnesses. We here at Carolina Piedmont urge each base to consider this worthy community outreach program. The cost is

small, the rewards are enormous.— Jack



**KAP(SS) 4 KID(SS)**

## Carolina Piedmont Contacts

Base Commander	Steve Bell	<a href="mailto:usnret82@carolina.rr.com">usnret82@carolina.rr.com</a>	704 824 3510
1st Vice Commander	Mike Hubbell	<a href="mailto:Mleohub@aol.com">Mleohub@aol.com</a>	803-628-1908
2nd Vice Commander	Vacant		
Base Secretary	Jack Jeffries	<a href="mailto:jckjeffries@interlink-café.com">jckjeffries@interlink-café.com</a>	704 -764-5211
Base Treasurer	Lee Hickerson	<a href="mailto:ssnret@carolina.rr.com">ssnret@carolina.rr.com</a>	704-573-9480
Chief of the Base	Howard Dachs	<a href="mailto:howard@autodax.com">howard@autodax.com</a>	803-631-5051
Base Chaplin	Raymond Fritz	<a href="mailto:raysabode@bellsouth.net">raysabode@bellsouth.net</a>	803 831 7235
Base Storekeeper	Jeff Nieberding	<a href="mailto:jan7334@comporium.net">jan7334@comporium.net</a>	803-366-9255
Holland Club	Walt Sealy	<a href="mailto:walt_sealy@yahoo.com">walt_sealy@yahoo.com</a>	803-327-5661
Coordinator			
Newsletter Editor	E. Dale Moses	<a href="mailto:donutdad@carolina.rr.com">donutdad@carolina.rr.com</a>	704-248-7610



A captive audience at a MO grade school as 3rd District Adjutant Dale Moses presents Post 95's Flag Program

## Flag Etiquette Program now offered by CPB

The Carolina Piedmont Base is proud to offer a Flag Etiquette Program. Dale Moses has been presenting this program since about 1996, starting in the Liberty, MO schools and then in PA. The program is geared to 4th and 5th grade levels, but is also great for civic organizations, church youth groups, scouts, etc.

Base Volunteers will be required to present the program while learning how to present the MS PowerPoint slide presentation. Your input is also requested to "spread the word" about this program to your Civic organizations, area elementary schools, scout troops, etc.

"This is one of the most

rewarding aspects of all the Veteran's organizations that I have been associated" says Moses. "Kids just soak it up. I was one of two "Brothers of the Phin" that presented this in MO, and once the kids found out that you rode the boats, they wanted to direct all their questions to you."

Please volunteer to help.

## CO's Stateroom

HAPPY NEW YEAR. I do hope all of you brought in the new year on good notes and, of course, safely. We hope that our new year at Carolina Piedmont Base is even better than last year. There are many events coming up this year that will give you an opportunity to travel and meet other Subvets, and, who knows, maybe even an old shipmate. Take a look at the various events coming up and try to plan to attend a couple of them.

I want to thank all of those who have renewed their dues. For those that did not, you are still considered a member,

but not in good standing. You many not receive the next issue of the American Submariner or be able to have online access until you renew. If it is not done prior to 31 January 2011, then you will be dropped from the roles of the national roster. Remember, you have to get your dues into Lee Hickerson (address in the roster provided by Jack) in time for him to mail it in to National. That would mean he would need to receive your money by around the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. Thank you in advance for sending them in.

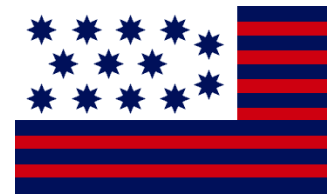
We currently plan to have Rick Petitt hold a

class for us in CPR. Plan to attend that meeting. That is something that all of us could use to have in our knowledge base, just hope we never have to use it. Better to have it and not use it then to need it and not have that knowledge. I hope to keep our business to a very short time so we can have plenty of time for this class. And, thanks to Rick for offering this to us.

Looking forward to seeing you as much as possible in 2011 and wishing you all a safe and good year ahead.



**Carolina Piedmont  
Base Commander  
Steve Bell**



**What famous battle was  
this Flag flown?  
See page 11**

## Chaplin's Corner—Raymond Fritz, Base Chaplin

Dear shipmates,

First, Happy New Year to all our friends of the Carolina Piedmont Base from Diana and me! May God enrich your journey every step of the way as you choose to follow His "Star" in this New Year.

**Wise men  
and women**

**still seek  
Him!**



I have a GPS [Global Positioning System]. It's a

great tool but I now have another female voice telling me how to drive.

In 1959, as the USS Skate SS(N)578 was headed for the North Pole, with the mission to surface at the North Pole in the middle of winter, we didn't have a GPS. An "Inertial Naviga-

tion System," used in missiles at the time, was installed to help us navigate near the North Pole. It was not thoroughly understood what would happen with the magnetic compasses as we approached the North Pole. Whenever we were able to break through the ice and (Continued on page 5)



## Comm Center— Jack Jeffries, Base Secretary

### CAROLINA PIEDMONT BASE

18 December 2010

1630- A brief meeting was conducted that consisted of the Tolling of the Boats lost in December as well as the induction of Robert Boyd into the Holland Club.

1645- Meeting adjourned and we prepared for a meal at the Fort Mill VFW.



“Two’s, Three’s  
and One-eyed  
Jacks are WILD!”

## Chaplin (con't)

surface the navigator would take sightings to confirm our bearings. It was an challenge never attempted before.

Today, anyone with an iPhone can know exactly where they are at any moment. Our son was able to show us, on his iPhone, exactly where he was sitting, in our home at the time! You

can use your iPhone to scan your prescription bottle to renew your prescription, all over the phone. You can take your blood pressure and pulse and transmit it to your doctor without having to make an office call.

Do you realize that God provides His children with a GPS? Our spiritual

GPS is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit works in a believer's heart and life to reveal His Word to you and to keep you on track and headed in the right direction. But a GPS is useless, if you are not moving. For it to be of use you have to be on the move! You have to be going somewhere. And, for a GPS to work (continued on page 16)



## The COB's Pick—Howard Dachs

The COB's movie recommendation for January:

### The Illusionist

2006PG-13 110 minutes

With his eye on a lovely aristocrat (Jessica Biel), a gifted illusionist named Eisenheim (Edward Norton) uses

his powers to win her away from her betrothed, a crowned prince (Rufus Sewell). But Eisenheim's scheme creates tumult within the monarchy and ignites the suspicion of a dogged inspector (Paul Giamatti). Set in early 1900s Vienna, this lush period drama from writer-director Neil Bur-

ger earned an Oscar nod for Best Cinematography.

Cast:

Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Jessica Biel, Rufus Sewell, Eddie Marsan, Jake Wood, Tom Fisher, Aaron Johnson, Eleanor Tomlinson, Karl Johnson



Director:

Neil Burger

This is available from Netflix

## Supply Info...

The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. Just let the SK know and he'll fix you up with an order form.

USSVI vests are also available to order thru

the SK.

Patches, the SK is now able to order patches from BC Patch LLC at wholesale prices. This is usually \$2 - \$3 less per patch than we normally see. Let the SK know if you need some.

## Can Drive

Save those aluminum cans and bring them to our meetings. Shipmate JIM HALBERT is collecting aluminum cans to support the Carolina Piedmont Base's contribution to the Dolphin Scholarship Fund. If you have any questions please contact Jim at jameshalbert36550@yahoo.com. Every can counts!!

# New members Binnacle List

Welcome Aboard  
Victor Butts

All mo' better

## Happy Birthday to:

### January Birthdays:

Bill Widell 1/01  
Miles Blassingham 1/02  
Donald W. Eggleston 1/03  
Gary Mitchell 1/26  
Victor Butts 1/29  
Perry Blake 1/30

### February Birthdays:

Sandi Wardean 2/03  
Hal Rutter 2/09  
Jack Jeffries 2/13  
Jerry Paciorek 2/13  
Cindy Petitt 2/17  
Monica Dachs 2/18  
Sandra Myers 2/18  
Jim Harris 2/26

If we missed your birthday  
or a spouses birthday, please  
let us know.—Jack or Moe  
(SS)



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

### January

Carolyn and Charles Cross  
1/1  
Anna and Joel Tuchfeld -  
1/18  
Marlene and Gary Mitchell



### February

Linda and Greg Crystal -  
2/5  
Linda and Raymond D.  
Zieverink - 2/24



## CAROLINA PIEDMONT SUBVETTES

Sisters,

I hope you and your family had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you are ready for a busy year full of fun for our group. I would like for you to think about our February meeting. I would like to do something fun for a Valentines celebration. If any are interested I would like for us to get together sometime other

than our meeting to enjoy a lunch or dinner together. We always have a good time at meetings and I thought that would be another fun filled time. Our January meal will be another "this and that" just in case you are not aware of it the price of our meal is 6.00 per person with a 1.00 going to USSVI scholarship fund. We are such a group helping all of our

fellow past and present military. Ladies we will be drawing our secret sister names at our January meeting all are welcome to participate just know that your sister will be expecting several gifts thru this adventure. For our January service project please go to [www.justsaythanks.com](http://www.justsaythanks.com) and send 2 cards to a service member thanking them for their service.

THANKS SISTERS,  
love ya and hope to see you at our meeting.-  
Sandra .



## Cavatappi with Prosciutto and Parmesan

You'll Need:

1/2 pound uncooked cavatappi  
Cooking spray  
garlic clove, minced  
tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley  
tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
ounce very thin slices prosciutto, cut into thin strips  
1/4 cup (1 ounce) shaved fresh Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Cook pasta according to the package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain in a colander over a bowl, reserving 3 tablespoons cooking liquid.

Heat pan over medium heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Add garlic to pan, and sauté 1 minute. Remove from heat. Add reserved 3 tablespoons cooking liquid and pasta to pan; let stand 2 minutes. Stir in parsley, oil, salt, pepper, and prosciutto; sprinkle with cheese. Serve immediately.



### Zip Top Freezer Bags... I

Have difficulty getting them open? Take scissors and snip a fair sized "V" in one side of the top strip (don't cut into the 'sealer') and you will find it easy to gain access without the frustration. Also if you find it difficult to fill small freezer bags you might try putting them inside a measuring cup, folding a

small flap down over the edges of the cup. Then it's easy to fill with foodstuffs and prevent the bag collapsing and the resultant spills. Same holds true for larger bags if you find a suitable sized bowl or can to place the bags in.

**Butter Dish.** To keep butter from sliding around on the butter dish, heat the dish

with hot tap water, dry off and then put the butter stick on the dish and then into the refrigerator. It will melt just a little of the butter which will freeze when put in the fridge. Doesn't slide around when you are getting butter.

Got a Tip? Send them to [donutdad@carolina.rr.com](mailto:donutdad@carolina.rr.com)

"Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing, and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even."

[Will Rogers](#)

# Piedmont Funnies Page

## The Navy Chief



One day, a Navy Chief went to the Officer's Club with his Captain to eat lunch. When they entered the main dining room, they found the place was quite crowded. They did not notice three Lieutenants sitting at a table with two empty chairs, so the Captain asked them if they could join them.

They promptly invited them to join them. They ordered lunch and joined them in conversation as they ate. At one point, the Chief mentioned that he had observed characteristics about many officers from which he could determine the source of their commissioning. The Lieutenants were eager to hear about this and asked if he could tell

how each of them had been commissioned.

The Chief turned to the Lieutenant on his left and said he went through ROTC. The Lieutenant confirmed that was correct and asked how he had noted this. The Chief replied that the Lieutenant, through his conversation, seemed to have a strong academic background but limited military experience.

The Chief then told the Lieutenant on his right that he had gone through OCS with previous enlisted service. The Lieutenant confirmed that this was correct and also asked how he had determined this. The Chief said, again through his conversation, that the Lieutenant seemed to have a firm

military background and a lot of common sense.

The Lieutenant across the table from the Chief asked if he had determined his source of commission. The Chief replied that the Lieutenant had graduated from the United States Naval Academy. The Lieutenant stated that was correct and asked if he had noticed his high level of intelligence, precise military bearing, or other superior qualities acquired at the United States Naval Academy.

The Chief replied that it was none of these that led to his determination. He had simply observed the Lieutenant's class ring while he was picking his nose.

You can't take Navy Chiefs anywhere.

## Old Guy thinks Quickly...

A senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing," he thought as he flew down

I-75, pushing the pedal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a state trooper behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing"? I'm too old for this," and pulled over

to await the trooper's arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard be-

fore, I'll let you go."

The old gentleman paused. Then said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, sir," replied the trooper.



## Watch your R's Today

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head Abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a

small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son." He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are

held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old Abbot. So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He finds him banging his head against the wall and wailing,

"We missed the R!, We missed the R!, We missed the R!"

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably.

The young monk asks the old Abbot, "What's wrong, father?"

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies, "The word was **CELEBRATE!!!**"

## The Value of a Drink

'Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink I feel shame. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered.

Then I say to myself, 'It is better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver.' ~ *Jack Handy*

**WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra and panties.**



**'24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not..' ~ Stephen Wright**

## Some info from Jim (Schenk)

Practical joke DBF #2105:

Loosening the bottom bolts on the growler and grounding the hand crank so when someone went to use it, they'd have to hold the growler to the bulkhead, thereby shocking the crap out of

themselves as they attempted to ring in to their intended party.

Practical joke DBF #1133:

The Electricians put in a work request to get their Division Officer his very own, solid-brass fuse pullers, with his ini-

tials engraved on them. A True Story, TINS:

A sailor from the REQUIN (SS-481) once related to me this classic story of the ultimate pay-back: Circa 1963, the sailors aboard the CUTLASS (SS-478) snuck over onto the CARP (SS

-338) and switched the two middle letters around on the sign board.

The CARP sailors later paid them back one dark moonless night by changing the "L" in CUTLASS to an "E."

Red Neck Medical Terms



- Benign.....What you be after you be eight.
- Bacteria.....Back door to cafeteria.
- Barium.....What doctors do when patients die.
- Cesarean Section.....A neighborhood in Rome.
- Catscan.....Searching for Kitty.
- Cauterize....Made eye contact with her.
- Colic.....A sheep dog.
- Coma.....A punctuation mark.
- D&C.....Where Washington is.
- Dilate.....To live long.
- Enema.....Not a friend.
- Fester.....Quicker than someone else.
- Fibula.....A small lie.
- G.I.Series.....World Series of military baseball.
- Hangnail.....What you hang your coat on.
- Impotent.....Distinguished, well known.
- Labor Pain.....Getting hurt at work.
- Medical Staff.....A Doctor's cane.
- Morbid.....A higher offer than I bid.
- Nitrates.....Cheaper than day rates.
- Node.....I knew it.
- Outpatient.....A person who has fainted.
- Pap Smear.....A fatherhood test.
- Pelvis.....Second cousin to Elvis.
- Post Operative.....A letter carrier.
- Recovery Room....Place to do upholstery.
- Rectum.....Durn near killed him.
- Secretion.....Hiding something
- Seizure.....Roman emperor.
- Tablet.....A small table.
- Terminal Illness...Getting sick at the airport.
- Tumor.....More than one.
- Urine.....Opposite of mine.
- Varicose..... Nearby/close by
- Blame Jack for these.

Year to date statistics on Airport pat-down screening from the TSA:

Terrorist Plots Discovered	0
Transvestites	133
Hernias	1,485
Hemorrhoid Cases	3,172
Incontinence	6,418
Enlarged Prostates	8,249
Breast Implants	59,350
Natural Blondes	3

Have you heard...

An old prospector shuffled into the town of El Paso, Texas leading an old tired mule. The old man headed straight for the only saloon in town, to clear his parched throat. He walked up to the saloon and tied his old mule to the hitch rail. As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?" The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance... never really wanted to."

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna' dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet. The old prospector, not wanting to get a toe blown off, started

## Have you heard (con't)

hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing, fit to be tied. When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon. The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun, and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air.

The crowd stopped laugh-

ing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening. The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels.. The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?" The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir..... but I've

always wanted to." There are two lessons for us all here:

1. Don't waste ammunition.
2. Don't mess with old people.

Answer to the Flag Trivia:

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse” March 15, 1781 Greensboro, NC (Guilford County)

The difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is about 2 weeks

## Two Ladies Talking in Heaven

1st woman: Hi! Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to

get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death...What about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den

watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I

went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer-

## We need your stories

Every Boat Sailor has stories. You can find one, clean it up and peck it into an e-mail and send it to donutdad@carolina.rr.com

It's winter time, you can't work outside, but you can talk a half-hour and type up a story.

We won't even care if it true or not.—Moe(SS)





## New Holland Club Member

Carolina Piedmont's newest Holland Club member is Bob Boyd. I a presentation at December's brief meeting, Commander Bell presented Bob with Holland Club Certificate, Holland Club Letter, Holland Club membership card, Holland Club lapel pin, and a Holland Club challenge coin.

Bob qualified on the SSR-272 back in 1955.

Bob retired from the Navy in 1973 as a RMCS(SS). Bob is married to Patricia and lives in Rutherfordton, NC.



I have always said, "The Navy is just like the Boy Scouts, but the Boy Scouts have adult supervision." - Moe(SS)



In the last several months our Commander, Steve Bell, has been busy with presentations to area Eagle Scouts. These presentations include a nice patch and a good looking certificate. I had the chance to present a couple of these when I was Commander of the Requin Base. Being an Eagle Scout is to Scouting as our earning our Dolphins are to us.

In October, Steve presented to three Eagle Scouts in Lake Wylie Troop 391. 20 December, two new Eagle Scouts were presented at Troop 28 in Dallas NC, and January 3<sup>rd</sup> a presentation to Troop 255 in Rock Hill, SC.

In the immediate future Steve is scheduled to present 24 to the 2010 Eagles from Cleveland County at their annual banquet on January 13<sup>th</sup>. On January 21<sup>st</sup> Steve will present for one Eagle in Charlotte. The one in Charlotte is the Grandson of Oliver Thompson. Ollie is the gentleman that obtained the torpedo that we use in our parades. He passed away in 2009.

The Base has the potential (waiting for some confirmation on these) to give out one in Gastonia (Troop 35), a couple in Bessemer City, NC. Also there may be a couple for February in Fort Mill.

So far it has only been only Steve participating in the ceremonies. Today, Andy Miller was in the crowd because the new Eagle was a former member of the troop to which Andy was associated. Rick Pettit is scheduled to be with Steve on the January 13<sup>th</sup> date. Jim Harris is scheduled to assist Steve with February Fort Mill date.

Hopefully, as Steve gets some help, we will get some photos of these events. If you would like to assist, please let Steve know. He can fill you in with the details. BRAVO ZULU Commander Steve!



## Our Ladies of Carolina Piedmont Base

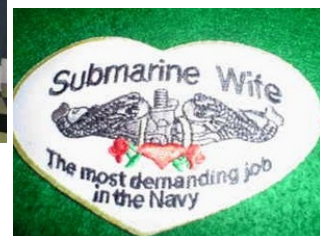
Now I'm smart enough to not try to list all these ladies by name. One, I have not been with this Base long enough; and second, I am already on one ladies list already.

But here are our Ladies of the Carolina Piedmont Base. Well, I almost screwed-up again, here our some of our Ladies. And I'm not going to guess who's missing either.

Ladies, Thank You for all of your support.



# Our Ladies



## Another Carolina Piedmont Cruise?

Hey Carolina Piedmont,

I am looking at putting another cruise together and would love some input as to where you would like to go, and the time frame. Also what port would you like to leave from. Its about 525 miles to Cape Canaveral. I will be waiting for your feedback. my email is [HOLLT-KIDS@aol.com](mailto:HOLLT-KIDS@aol.com) and phone number 704-289-4650.



Yes, the water is that color.

Moe(SS) talks to an old shipmate while in Nassau



**Margin Factoid:**  
5 out 4 people have problems with fractions.

## Good ol' Ole Olsen

Ole Olsen was vorking at the fish plant up nort in Dulut when he accidentally cut off all 10 of his finkers.

He vent to da emergency room in the Klinik & when he got dar da Norsky doctor looked at Ole & said, "Let's have da finkers & I'll see vhat I can do.

Ole said, 'I haven't got da

finkers.'

"Vhat do you mean, you hafent got da finkers?" he said. "Lord-it's 2010 & Ive's got microsurgery & all kinds of incredible techniques. I could hafe put dem back on & made you like knew! Vhy didn't you brink da finkers?"

Ole said,"How da hex vas I suppose to pick dem up??"

**Next  
Meeting:  
Ft. Mill at  
VFW Post  
9138**

**January  
22th  
At  
5:30 PM**

## VETERANS NEWS by the RAQ Bulletin

### Military Recruiting Update 02:

According to a just published report by the non-profit Education Trust, almost one in four high school students who try to join the Army fail its entrance exam. The Army requires a minimum score of 31 out of 99 on the first stage of the three-hour Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Potential Marine, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard recruits

need higher minimum scores, which are 32, 35, 36 and 40, respectively. The report adds to a growing worry among military recruiting commanders and civilian education leaders that the pool of young people qualified for military service is shrinking. The services are meeting their recruiting goals—primarily due to the economy—but recruiting

officials admit that 75% of today's pool of 17 to 24-8 year-olds are ineligible for military service due to aptitude, fitness, health and/or criminal records. To read the Education Trust report go to [http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/6879/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup\\_page\\_KEY=2946](http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/6879/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=2946). [Source: VFW Washington Weekly 22 Dec

### Arlington National Cemetery Update 19

Following months of reports detailing serious shortcomings in the administration of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), Congress has adopted legislation that directs a comprehensive remediation plan. The House voted 407-3 to pass the bill. The Senate passed the measure by unanimous consent on 4 DEC. President Obama is expected to sign it. Reports of mis-labeled ANC gravesites

prompted a July hearing before the Contracting Oversight panel chaired by Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) who sponsored the bill. S.3860:

☐ Directs the Army to account for the gravesites at ANC including whether they are correctly identified, labeled, and occupied.

☐ Requires the GAO to report to Congress on the man-

agement and oversight of contracts supporting burial operations.

☐ Directs the Army to report on progress in implementing its own plan and revised regulations to improve ANC management

[Source: MOAA Leg Up 17 Dec 2010 ++]

### Gold Star License Plate Update 01:

Since World War I, families who lost a son or daughter in the line of duty have hung a simple banner in a front window showing a simple gold star superimposed over a blue one, as a measure of the sacrifice made to the nation. Today in California you can get a license

plate. Families who lost a son or daughter in the line of duty in any war and some related conflicts, like terrorist attacks, are also eligible to display the license plate. There are 618 Californians who have lost their lives during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars as of 2

DEC. The California Legislature approved the Gold Star license plate in 2008 and SB1455 was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on 9 SEP 08. California joined at least 44 other states in offering a Gold Star license plate, according to Gold Star



## Plates (con't)

Mothers Inc., an organization started in 1928 to aid the families who lost sons and daughters in war. The plate has the iconic gold star on the left side followed by the license numbers, which will be issued sequentially. The bill creating the plate also required the Department of Veterans Affairs to raise the \$300,000 through private donations to pay for

the creation of the new license plate program. The California DMV began accepting applications for these plates on 1 DEC 2010. The presentation of the first Gold Star license plates to three California families was made 9 DEC at the All Veterans Memorial by state Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Roger Brautigan and Department of Mo-

tor Vehicles Director George Valverde in Sacramento. [Source: San Diego Union-Tribune Robert J. Hawkins article 90 Dec 2010 ++]



## Va Hospitals Update 06:

The Veterans Affairs Department is —raising the bar for its healthcare centers by providing online tools so veterans can compare how well the VA's 153 hospitals perform, with the ultimate goal of spurring further improvements at those facilities. Acute care, patient safety and intensive care are the principal areas targeted by the tools, which veterans and their families can access through the Linking Information Knowledge and Systems (Links) dashboard at VA's Hospital Compare Web site <http://www.hospitalcompare.va.gov>. The dashboard shows the relative strengths in traffic light colors of hospitals in these three areas, as well as the areas that need improvement, at the national, regional and local

hospital level, said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's under secretary for health. For example, VA measures the percentage of veterans who smoke and what steps have been taken to help them stop smoking, such as cessation classes, counseling and medications.

Another dashboard system called Aspire documents the quality and patient safety goals in specific measures, as well as VA's progress in performing them from local to national levels, he said in an announcement 23 NOV. The goal for veterans with high blood pressure is to manage it with blood pressure readings less than 140/90, for example. The measure shows the current percentage of veterans accomplishing that objective. VA measures some health data

in the Links and Aspire systems that other health systems do not evaluate. VA often sets its standards and goals higher than the benchmarks in other systems, such as scoring hospitals as red, or underperforming, with more than a 30% difference from achieving the objective. Similar to the Hospital Compare Web site of private sector facilities at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, VA's Web site also tracks the mortality rates and readmissions after 30 days from discharge and best treatments for congestive heart failure, heart attack and pneumonia. [Source: Government HealthIT Mary Mosquera article 29 Nov 2010 ++]

**Q:** What's wrong with the picture in above ?

**A:** The Flag should never be used as an article of clothing or draped. The only time a Flag is draped is over a coffin.

properly, you have to enter where you want to go into its database. But, even then, it is of no use until you begin your journey. What difference does it make if there is a left turn ahead if you are not moving?

The wise men were following a star [Matthew 2:1-2]. Regardless of your present faith or leaning, who or what are you following today? Who are you allowing to direct your life? What are your life goals? Do you listen more to your friends than you do to the Word of God?

Are you a disciple of Christ? If you make that claim, are you allowing the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to guide and direct you to which road to take and whether the path ahead is the right one or not? Do you listen as the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart and mind?

*There is a way that*

*seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

*Proverbs 14:12*

I know shortcuts to some places that the GPS may not direct me to, but when I am in unfamiliar territory I soon realize the value of this dumb electronic gadget. Sometimes asking directions can be hazardous:

**STORY:** In Russia, on



April 16th of this year [2010], a pilot of a small plane crashed when he lost his bearings and decided to ask a tractor driver for directions. When he saw the tractor he decided to land his plane to get advice but he grazed the tractor while landing and broke the landing gear."

**Ouch!**

**The point?** Seeking directions, about life, from strangers or even friends can be hazardous to our spiritual welfare. Many of them don't know where you are going and are ignorant of God's Word.

If someone were to ask you how to get to heaven what would you tell them? Better yet, be honest with yourself . . . Where are you headed this morning? In the 3rd chapter of John and verses 16 to 21 Jesus said:

**John 3:16-21 (NASB)**  
*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup>"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness*

*rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

If you claim to be a disciple of Christ is there evidence of that in your personal and public life?

The Apostle James writes:

**James 2:18-20 (NASB)**  
*<sup>18</sup>But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." <sup>19</sup>You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. <sup>20</sup>But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

It is easy to say you believe in something but acting on that belief is something else. Just because you say you are a Christian does not make



## Chaplin (con't)

you one.

Surprisingly, even some preachers don't know the answer because they aren't listening to God either. How can a person, who is not following Christ, possibly answer that question for you? They can't.

Friend, if Christ is in your heart and life why seek the counsel and direction of men when you have God's GPS system at our disposal? The Word of God is alive and it will speak to you personally if you will allow it to.

**Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)** *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

As I look around this family of Subvets, I see a lot of Abrahams and a lot of Sarah's. The members of this base do some really fantastic and wonderful things! But, allow me to ask, "Was there a time in your life when you decided to follow Jesus? A time, when you took that final and decisive step of faith just like Abraham did?"

If not, why not make that decision, step out in faith and allow God's GPS (the Holy Spirit) begin to guide you toward your heavenly home. Just like Abraham and Sarah, you need to step out into the paths of God to live for him, obey his call upon your life and to somehow reach that city not made with hands. You don't know where God will lead, but you are doing your best to follow him turn-by-turn. At each crossroads, and every corner of life, you will need to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to your heart.

Oh, you will miss a turn once in awhile, but

God's GPS will keep talking, keep re-routing your course, to get you back on track. He doesn't want you to fail, and so the Holy Spirit will be constantly updating and correcting your course to make sure that you make it to your destination safely.

**James 2:23(NIV)** *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

Wise men and women still seek Jesus!

I trust you are. God bless.

In Christ's amazing grace,

Chaplain Ray

Carolina Piedmont Base,  
USSVI



### Old Farmer's Advice

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

Don 't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 9	10	11	12	13 Eagle Scout (24) presentation for Cleveland Co.	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Eagle Scout Presentation—Charlotte	22 CPB Meeting Ft. Mill
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	February 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 VFW Breakfast Ft. Mill
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 CPB Meeting Ft. Mill
27	28	March	2	3	4	5

Please support VFW Post 9138 in supporting our Troops and Fellow Veterans. Thank You Post 9138 for support the CPB.