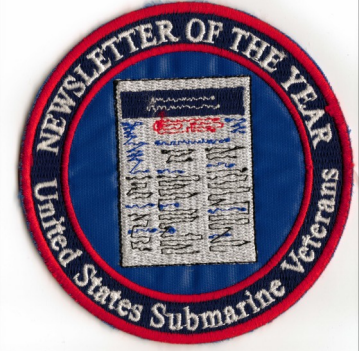


Piedmont Periscope



Issue 1112

December 2011

Inside this issue:

Base Contacts	2
Officer's Call	3
Base Meeting Minutes	4
SubVettes	7
Funnies	8
Chaplin Ray	10
Events	11
Vet News	14
USS Sealion SS 195	18
Base Calendar	20

Pack 99 Gets a CP Base Flag Etiquette Program

Pack 99 Cubs and up to and including the Webe-los Scouts received the Carolina Piedmont Base's Flag Etiquette presentation on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving.

The Scouts, Leaders, and parents that attended were enlightened and told me after the presentation that they learned a lot.

This is a great program for your Church's youth groups, your Civic Clubs, 4-H Club, etc. Contact me if you are interested or want to learn to be a presenter. A very rewarding program, for the receivers and the givers.- Moe(SS)



USSVI Creed

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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.



Lost Boats - December

"Sailors, rest your oars"

USS F-1 (SS 20)	December 17, 1917
USS S-4 (SS 109)	December 17, 1927
USS SEALION (SS 195)	December 10, 1941

CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



By the time you read this, you will have already gone to the next notch on your belt from your Thanksgiving dinner. Maybe even had time to recover from that meal. I do all of you had a Happy Thanksgiving. As a nation, we are really blessed and this particular holiday is one that shows it all.

I was hoping not to bring this up anymore, but it is almost last call for those that owe national and base dues to pay it. You will go on the delinquent list on 1 Jan 12, and if not paid (to national) by 31 Jan 2012, you will be dropped from the roles

of USSVI. Looking at the list that still owe, most are members that do not make meetings that often. So those of you out there that I do not get to see very often, you just might owe dues, so please get them into our Treasurer. It is \$20 for national and \$10 for base dues. Make your check payable to Carolina Piedmont Base – USSVI. Send it to Lee Hickerson, 8410 Clear Meadow Land, Charlotte, NC 28227-9719. We still have over 20 that have not paid, so please get it in.\

Our December will not be much of a meeting as far as business goes, just a time for us to get together before Christmas. Tell a few stories, maybe even a lie or two, but the important part is for our group to remember those that we lost and to

maybe even remember a Christmas or two at sea. Please join us at the VFW. Also, please let Howard Murray know if you are coming, they need a rough head count to know how much food to prepare. Cost of this meal is \$10 (I think). Come on out and join us.

I would again like to thank Dale Moses and his crew for their efforts in putting on half-way nights performances at the VA in both Columbia, SC and Salisbury, NC this last month.

Both were well received. I am told that there will be others in the future, so if you want to join in, there will be plenty of opportunities for you. Most importantly, WELL DONE to all of those that were involved. You made yourselves and our base look good.

Let me take this opportu-

nity to thank all of you for all that you did during 2011. It was a very successful year for Carolina Piedmont Base. I am sure our accomplishments will not diminish during 2012. You all make me proud to be your Base Commander. I can always stand tall wherever I go and represent you. Again, thank you very much.

I would now like to wish each and every one of you there a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know I will not see most of you before those days are here. Please be safe out there, we need you with us. And in your travels, should you run into a submariner that is not a member of USSVI, recruit them.

May God bless you all.

Carolina Piedmont Contacts

Base Commander	Steve Bell	usnret82@carolina.rr.com	704 824 3510
Vice Commander	Jack Jeffries	jckjeffries@interlink-café.com	704 -764-5211
Base Secretary	Mike Hubbell	Mleohub@aol.com	803-628-1908
Base Treasurer	Lee Hickerson	ssnret@carolina.rr.com	704-573-9480
Chief of the Base	Paul Myers	holltkids@aol.com	704-28904650
Base Chaplin	Raymond Fritz	raysabode@bellsouth.net	803 831 7235
Base Storekeeper	Jeff Nieberding	jan7334@comporium.net	803-366-9255
Holland Club	Walt Sealy	walt_sealy@yahoo.com	803-327-5661
Coordinator			
Newsletter Editor	E. Dale Moses	donutdad@carolina.rr.com	704-248-7610

XO's Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. This has been a very productive year for the Carolina Piedmont base and I am looking forward for the same in 2012. The base is growing and we are proud of each and every one of you. At the Pearl Harbor dinner, our Subvettes group was awarded the District Commander's Award..YOU ROCK. All I can say is WOW. The membership drive/ dues renewal is coming along, slow but sure and we hope to have 100% by the end of the year. During the month of November, we had our fall visit to Victory Junction where we presented Kaps and Certificates to about 45 campers. We also had a presentation at the Sun Valley High School NJROTC where we presented the Submariner story to about 50 future service people. I was joined at this presentation by Ray Fritz and Ed Erb, Thank You for your presentations. We also had presentation of Eagle Scout Certificate by Steve Bell and Ray Fritz..We participated in area parades along with subvets from other NC bases. As you

can see, we are not letting grass grow under our boots. Looking forward to a good turn out at our December meeting at Ft Mill VFW for their Christmas dinner... Thank You for all you have done for the Carolina Piedmont Base....Jack

My wife found out that our dog (a Schnauzer) could hardly hear, so she took it to the veterinarian. The vet found that the problem was hair in the dog's ears. He cleaned both ears, and the dog could then hear fine. The vet then proceeded to tell Andrea that, if she wanted to keep this from recurring, she should go to the store and get some "Nair" hair remover and rub it in the dog's ears once a month.

Andrea went to the store and bought some "Nair" hair remover. At the register, the pharmacist told her, "If you're going to use this under your arms, don't use deodorant for a few days." Andrea said, "I'm not using it under my arms." The pharmacist said, "If you're using it on your legs, don't use body lotion for a couple of



DUES, DUES, DUES!!!

**Don't Forget to pay
your 2012 Base and
National Dues by
12/31/2011—Contact
Jack for details.**

days."

Andrea replied, "I'm not using it on my legs either. If you must know, I'm using it on my Schnauzer."

The pharmacist says, "Well, stay off your bicycle for about a week."



Flag Trivia—Where did this Flag fly in our Nation's history? See Page 11



Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes

For November 19th, 2011



-Call Meeting to Order

1900hrs the meeting was called to order by Base Commander Steve Bell.

-Invocation

The Invocation was given by Base Chaplin Ray Fritz.

- Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Bell.

- Tolling of the Boats

The Tolling of the Boats was presentenced by Ray Fritz and Paul Myers.

-Special Request for the Good of the Order

Steve Bell read an E-mail received from the Charleston Base. A HMSR newly reported to the Charleston Health Clinic lost her mother during child birth. She will now have to raise her sister. Because of her rank, she has very little and is ill prepared for this responsibility. It was requested that the USSVI Bases provide any help that we could. The "hat" was passed, a total of \$166 .00 was raised. Steve Bell will be forwarding these funds to the proper authorities at the Naval Base to help this young sailor. Steve expressed his thanks to the Base's generosity.

-Reading/Approval of the last Meeting Minutes

The motion to accept the Minutes of the Base Meeting held on October 29th, 2011 as posted in Carolina-Piedmont Periscope News Letter was made and seconded. The motion carried.

-Reading/Approval of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasure's Report was given by Steve Bell.

As of November 19th, 2011 the following funds where available to the Base.

CURRENT BALANCE \$5,667.86

MEMEMORIAL RESTORATION FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 288.50

KAPS-4-KIDS \$1,321.05

USSVI SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ 202.85

BASE FUNDS AVAILABLE \$3,855.46

Steve Bell noted that approximately \$500.00 is owed to cover the set-up and production of the 2011 USSVI Golden Anchor and Robert Link Award patches. The motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasure's Report as read. The motion carried.

-Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

-New Business

There was no new Business to report.

-Good of the Order**National Convention (Sept 2-9, 2012) Registration Desk Manning**

Steve Bell reminded all members that the Carolina-Piedmont Base would be manning the Registration Desk on Tuesday, Sept 4th. Members planning to attend the Convention are requested to volunteer a couple of hours to help man the desk. Steve Bell will be setting up a Watch Bill as time draws closer to the Convention.

National/Base Dues

Steve Bell reminded all members to get their dues paid before the end of December. National Dues are \$20.00 and Base Dues are \$10.00. Both dues are to be paid to the Carolina-Piedmont Base. The Base Treasurer Lee Hickerson will forward the National Dues.

Pearl Harbor Dinner

Steve Bell reminded all members of the upcoming NC SUBVETS Annual Pearl Harbor Dinner in Raleigh NC on Dec 3rd, 2011. Dinner is \$34.00 per person. A group rate at a nearby hotel was arranged. All interested members are to check the latest issue of the NC SUBVET All Clear newsletter for details. Or contact Steve Bell directly.

February Base Meeting

Steve Bell requested that the February Base meeting be held on the third Saturday, February 18th, 2012. As there was no conflict with the VFW's schedule, this one time change was accepted by the members.

Report of "Half-way" Night Performances

Dale Moses reported on the visits to the VA Hospital in Columbia SC and the VA Nursing Home in Salisbury NC. Dale further reported that he may be lining up another show. Additionally Dale reported that progress was being made on future shows with new material. Details will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Kaps-4-Kids Report

Steve Bell reported on the last two visits, one to the Levine Children's Hospital and the other to Victory Junction.

J.R.O.T.C. Visit

Ray Fritz reported on the visit to the J.R.O.T.C. visit at the Sun Valley High School in Union County.

Eagle Scout Presentation

Ray Fritz reported on the presentation of Honorary Submariner Certificate to Eagle Scout Christen Sean Hatchet of Boy Scout Troop 197.

News Letter Deadline

Dale Moses reminded all members the deadline for December's newsletter is December 10th.

Benediction

The Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Hubbell

Base Secretary

New members Binnacle List

Welcome Aboard

Jim Schenk

Bob Gill

Happy Birthday to:

December

Ray Fritz 12/06

Glen Snyder 12/08

Doc Hopkins 12/12

James Hanks 12/16

Charles Breese 12/23

Ron Busila 12/26

Charles Campbell 12/26

Jeff Nieberding 12/26



If your birthday was missed, please notify Jack or Dale

There are three kinds of men:

The ones that learn by reading.

The few who learn by observation.

The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves. - Will Rogers

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

December

Barbara and Otis Sealy - 12/7

Sandy and Al Westbury—12/7

Wendy and Jerry Paciorek—12/19

Donna and Glenn Harris - 12/28



SubVettes

Hello Sassy Sisters,

I hope all are doing well and getting in the Christmas season spirit remember Jesus is the reason for the season. I want to thank all for a great year we have done so many GREAT things and had a lot of FUN too. No cooking again for our December meeting we will eat at the VFW. I understand that we will not be having an official meeting but us ladies will exchange our secret sister gifts and you will get to find out which sister has been giving you treats during

the year. Take care and may God Bless You and Yours and our great Country. MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!!!



Quinoa Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 C Quinoa Grain, rinsed
- 2 C Vegetable Stock
- 1 C Red Onion, Diced
- 1 1/2 Cups Cucumber, Diced
- 2 Tbsp. Basil, Chopped
- 2 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- 2 Tbsp. Lemon Juice
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Pepper

1 1/3 Cup Tomatoes, Diced

Directions:

Cook quinoa grain in vegetable stock. Cool and toss quinoa with remaining ingredient until well incorporated. Chill.

Nutrition Information:

Only 130 calories a serving!

Serving size: 1 cup



Sincerely, Sarah Palin

Chaplin's Corner - Ray Fritz, Base Chaplain



Diana and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and, for our Jewish friends, Happy Hanukah [Sunset on Tuesday, December 20 – Wednesday, December 28]. It is truly a wonderful time of the year.



Speaking of Pearl Harbor gives me an opportunity to brag about our 16-year-old grandson, Dakota Fritz. He lives in the Asheville, NC area and is home schooled. He is somewhat interested in history and entered an essay contest about Pearl Harbor, sponsored by the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Committee in Hendersonville, NC. He took 1st place in the county receiving a cash award

and a fully paid trip to Pearl Harbor for two – 4 days and 3 nights! We offered to escort him but his father won out.

If any of you have children or grandchildren in high school you might check with the local chapter [if there is one in your county] to see if they have a similar const. We had never heard of it before.



Now about Christmas. In spite of what some would have you believe, Christmas is about Christ. Isaiah, among other Bible prophets, gives us a glimpse of Who Christ is.

Isaiah 9:6 ESV For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Whoa! That is pretty intense. Isaiah tells us clearly that Christ is the *Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.*

His title of *Emmanuel* means *God with us!*



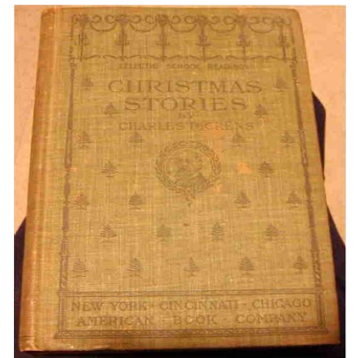
No other faith or religion compares to Christianity – that is not to put other faiths or religions down – it is to say that Christianity is unique because it alone claims that God came in humanflesh – as promised – to redeem lost mankind. Think about that. God invaded time and space to save people, who trust in Him, from the penalty of their sin. He not only invaded time and space but He came to give His own lifeblood for us because there was no other way. The writer of Hebrews writes:

Hebrews 10:4 ESV For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy going back to Genesis 3. When our 1st parents sinned in the Garden of Eden God said:

Genesis 3:15 ESV I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

I was looking for a book in the garage, where most of my library is stored in boxes, when I came across two old books. The first is "Buckingham's Travels in America Vol. II" printed in 1841. It's an original but I don't have Vol. I of the set. The other book is *Christmas Stories* by Charles Dickens, printed in 1904.



Of course, the main story in Dicken's book is "A Christmas Carol" but in another story that Dickens calls "A Christmas Tree" he begins by telling his readers about all the decorations on the tree and the wonderful toys under the tree. This goes on for a couple of pages. Then he writes:

Being now at home again, and alone, the only person in the house awake, my thoughts are drawn back, by a fascination which I do not care to resist, to my own childhood. I begin to consider, what do we all remember best upon the branches of the Christmas Tree of our own young Christmas days, by which we climbed to real life."

We are told by Dr. Luke:

Luke 2:19 ESV *But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

Ponder means to weigh in the mind with thoroughness and care. It means to reflect or (Con't on Page 12)

Need Supplies?

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 what you need.



FROM THE COB

From Our House to Yours
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and **MAY GOD**

BLESS!

**Deadline for the
January Issue
will be the
20th.**

Answer to the Flag Trivia:

Thee flag entitled the "Bucks of America." The flag's colors are described as "Buff field, letters; white stars; blue canton, scrolls, flourishes; green leaves, grass; brown buck, trunk." And there is a narrative of the flag, as well:

"John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, presented this flag after the war to a company of black soldiers for valor. We know little about the Bucks of America; they were among the thousands of black Revolutionary patriots."



Who was that "Masked- Man"?, & "Hold your horses, Tonto"

Chaplin's Corner (continued)

consider with thoroughness and care.

I'm not sure how much time people spend pondering things today. Busy schedules and activities often rob us of personal meditation. But Christmas is a time when many people often reflect upon the past.



As we decorate our tree it will be decorated with memories from the past – decorations commemorating certain years and events – ornaments our children made when they were children – glass ornaments that are very old and fragile – even some gingerbread ornaments made long ago and probably not too tasty now. We don't have a tree big enough to hold all of them! I suppose that it

would take a tree as big as our living room to hold all the ornaments of years past! Each one holds a precious memory, perhaps only known to us.

Then the wonderful morning arrives! I don't know about your house but sometimes Christmas morning, or whenever the gifts are opened, gets pretty hectic. Paper and ribbons flying everywhere – laughing and giggling – and horsing around. Sometimes we lose the magic of the moment and it is all over, leaving only the remnants of Christmas on the floor.

Perhaps the reason so many people get depressed after Christmas is not only the bills that they incurred to [make their children happy](#) but the fact that they didn't take time to ponder what Christmas really means. It's not about gifts and food and all the other things that go along with Christmas – as great as they may be - it's about a **Child!** One who came to save His people from the penalty of their sins. It is only because of Him that we can have true hope.

I think I will try to be

more like Mary this year. With God's help perhaps I can treasure up all these things and ponder them in my heart. How about you?

Merry Christmas

and

Happy Birthday

To all our Subvet

and Subvette

friends!

God Bless You All!

Chaplain Ray and

Diana

And the Show Goes On!

Our Carolina Piedmont Bases' production of "Half-way Night" was a big hit at the two area VA Nursing Facilities as well as the "dress rehearsal" held at Jack's Ranch. The "entertainers" had a great time performing. Our reward was getting a few smiles and laughs from a few old Veterans as well as the fellowship that we created with our fellow shipmates and Subvettes. Very Rewarding.

We are planning to present this show one more time at the large Senior/Nursing home in Pineville sometime in January. After that we are looking for new skits, songs, dancing, jokes, etc. So if you want to get involved please let me know. We need stage help, too. And if you can play an instrument...wow, we need you.

I want to thank all who supported my "crazy ideas" and assisted or entertained. We are a great team. They are: Joel Tuchfeld, Jim Schenk and Ruth Ann Worth, Glenna and Mike Hubbell, Rick and Cindy Pettit, Sharon Weber, Ray Zieverink, Lee Hickerson, Jack Jeffries, Jeff Nieberding, and last but surely not least, my loving bride, Colleen Moses. She has always supported me in the last 40 years.

Okay, for Half-way Night II, we need some new faces, ideas, etc. So don't be shy, if you have an idea or want to be involved, just give me a shout at 704-248-7610 or donutdad@carolina.rr.com

Your Base needs YOU!
Cast and Crew, thanks
again— Moe(SS)



Bend the Rules
Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the

hospital
After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

Happens to me all the time

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great.. I would recommend it very highly' The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?' The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know....The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?' 'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

I pointed to two old drunks sitting across the bar from us and told my friend, "That's us in 10 years".

He said, "That's a mirror, dip-shit!"

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.



Q: What's wrong with this picture ?

A: Really, nothing. As long the shirt was not a Flag to begin with. If it was made from a Flag then, that's a big NO, NO!.



VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

VA Stroke Program Update 01:

Strokes are not only deadly, but they can lead to a lifetime of cognitive issues. Out of 12,000 Veterans admitted for strokes at VA facilities every year, 20-35 percent develop aphasia which can impair the recollection of words or render a victim unable to speak, read, or write. Aphasia is a language disorder resulting from brain damage — most often from a left-hemisphere stroke — that impairs communication. This can range from mild word-finding difficulty to a complete inability to speak, understand, read or write. Cognitive abilities in other areas remain relatively well preserved. While individuals with aphasia typically experience significant physiological recovery in the first six months after onset, many continue to have significant long-term communication problems. Aphasia can affect psychosocial adjustment, the ability to function independently in society and vocational opportunities.

According to the National Aphasia Association (NAA) Aphasia affects about one million Americans -or 1 in 250

people- and is more common than Parkinson's Disease, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy. While aphasia is most common among older people, it can occur in people of all ages, races, nationalities and gender. If the symptoms of aphasia last longer than two or three months after a stroke, a complete recovery is unlikely. However, it is important to note that some people continue to improve over a period of years and even decades. Improvement is a slow process that usually involves both helping the individual and family understand the nature of aphasia and learning compensatory strategies for communicating. More than 100,000 Americans acquire the disorder each year. However, most people have never heard of it. NAA is a nonprofit organization that promotes public education, research, rehabilitation and support services to assist people with aphasia and their families. They maintain a website at <http://aphasia.org> which contains a wealth of information for those having to deal with this condition.

Now, a program at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System has been developed to help combat the degenerative effects of aphasia. So far, 39 Veterans have gone through the Program for Intensive Residential Aphasia Treatment and Education (PIRATE). The program is notable for its one-on-one therapy sessions instead of group therapy. The intensive treatment packs five six-hour sessions with a speech pathologist into one month. Normally, that amount of treatment would take place in a year. PIRATE shows promise for those who've had their cognitive abilities curtailed by stroke. Check out the program website at <http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/PIRATE/index.asp> to learn more, and if you or someone you know would benefit from treatment, get in touch with the PIRATE team to get on the list. To contact the Pittsburgh VAMC use mail or Fax to: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, PIRATE, 7180 Highland Drive 132 A-H, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Fax: 412-954-4629. To contact members of the PIRATE staff use:

□ Brooke Swoyer ,
Speech-Language Pa-
thologist, 412-954-4773
or
brooke.swoyer@va.gov.

□ Ronda Winans,
Speech-Language Pa-
thologist, 412-954-4771
or
ronda.winans@va.gov.

□ Mary Sullivan, Intake
Coordinator and Case-
worker, 412-954-4772 or
mary.sullivan@va.gov

□ James Schumacher,
Speech-Language Pa-
thologist, 412-360-3428
or
james.schumacher@va.g
ov.

[Source: Vantage Point
VA Blog Alex Horton
article 7 Nov 2011 ++]

VA Vet Centers Up- date 08:

War, despite its vicious and ugly nature, has a way of advancing both technology and medicine. The battles of World War II spurred the creation of antibiotics still used today, and out of the ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear energy is used all over the planet. The Veterans Administration, the predecessor to the Department of Veterans Affairs we know today, was unprepared for the demand of mental health services

after the Vietnam War, and the only solution to the ineffective model of care was innovation. Vet Centers were created four years after the war ended to provide counseling to Vietnam Vets who struggled with reintegration. Eligibility for Vet Centers have expanded since then, serving Veterans from World War II to Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Today, war Veterans can access individual, group and family counseling, military sexual trauma (MST) counseling, substance abuse and employment assessment, and benefits referrals. The centers are notable for their discreet locations away from big and bustling hospitals, and their staffs usually consist of war Vets themselves.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan may have helped to refocus attention on these critical resources. The Arizona Republic reported on the increase of Vet Centers in the state along with a noticeable difference in quality for Reed Webber, an Afghanistan Veteran. Just five years ago, he didn't get the care he needed from his Vet Center or the closest VA

medical center. Since then, mental health care budgets have expanded and new Vet Centers were built. The need for adjustment counseling for war Vets will only increase over time. Once again, wars have both provided both demand and focus on services to improve care not just for the newest Vets, but the oldest we have. If you need their services, find one near you at http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter_flash.asp and get started. [Source: Vantage Point VA Blog Alex Horton article 31 Oct 2011 ++]

Veteran Organization

Fraud: A 63-year-old Vietnam veteran has been sentenced for stealing nearly \$200,000 from three veterans organizations in his Albany-area hometown. VanAlstyne was indicted on 14 counts of grand larceny for stealing money from the American Legion Harold Wilmont Post 137, the Bernard W. Kierney Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2077, and the Fulton County Disabled American Veterans Chapter 122. VanAlstyne pleaded guilty to three counts of grand larceny in June. A two-year investigation by the district attorney's office with the help of Gloversville police, the state Racing and Wagering Board, and the State Police Financial Crimes Unit

found that from 2005 to 2008, VanAlstyne embezzled the money raised from bell jar games of chance. In those games, a player draws a card from a jar containing covered numbers, colors or symbols that reveal a prize when uncovered. Ralph VanAlstyne was sentenced 3 NOV in Fulton County Court to two to six years in state prison. He was also ordered to make restitution of the \$186,000 he stole from the groups. Authorities say he stole the funds from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts in Gloversville and the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans between 2005 and 2008. He helped run all three organizations. Prosecutors say the amount stolen from each group was in the tens of thousands of dollars. VanAlstyne pleaded guilty in June to three felony larceny county. VanAlstyne had previously agreed to pay to deliver an initial payment of \$36,000 toward the restitution at his sentencing, but arrived at Fulton County Court without the money. He is expected to pay back his victims in monthly installments after he is released from prison. [Source: Times Union Bryan Fitzgerald article 3 Nov 2011 ++]

VETERANS NEWS by the RAQ Bulletin

Displaying the Flag Update 02:

A Navy veteran was almost evicted from his Springfield Oregon apartment complex for displaying an American flag on Navy Day. Edward Zivica has been a resident at the apartment complex since it opened in 2009 and has been at odds with the management over his practice of hanging a large flag in the commons area on significant days. The nonprofit organization that runs the subsidized downtown housing apartment management company delivered the eviction notice to Zivica after he hung the Old Glory in a common area at the complex. The notice said that if he didn't agree to refrain from any more such flag displays it was anchors aweigh by midnight 29 NOV.

Zivica, who was in the Navy's Submarine Service in the 1960s, said he's been displaying the flag for at least a year on holidays such as Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. The flag he'd been displaying was one the Army sent him on the death of his father, a World War II veteran.

Management insisted that the flag eviction was not due to a lack of patri-

otism, and the complex even installed a lit flag pole outside the building after it was requested by some tenants. But Zivica criticized the pole, saying it lacked a pulley system, hence you can't lower the flag to half mast. Terry McDonald, the CEO of St. Vincent de Paul, the management company, said the notice was for —hanging something outside the building without permission. If you're going to live in a situation where there's lots of other tenants, you need to follow the rules that are set up, McDonald said. The management has now relented and will allow him to hang his American flag in the commons area on Veterans Day — and some other days, as well. Now Zivica can display the red white and blue 20 days out of the year off the awnings, free from fear of eviction for doing so. St. Vincent de Paul said it got "a lot of attention" when the story spread nationally. So, it announced an agreement with Zivica: He can stay and the flag can be displayed on days the two parties have agreed on, "provided it is done in a manner that's respectful to the flag and

our other tenants." Details about the specific days weren't immediately available. Zivica said, "It got resolved very quickly and it all went over well and I'm very pleased," He's pleased not just over the outcome, but the outpouring of support from around the country. "One thing that really excites me about this thing is all the e-mails, and Facebook and people calling up." The calls poured and by 11 a.m. 4 NOV, the receptionist counted 144 phone calls about the flag controversy. McDonald said, "The irony is that an organization that probably does more to help our veteran community as an agency is being pillaraged [sic] for not helping veterans."

The U.S. Congress passed the —Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005 which states that —A condominium association, cooperative association, or residential real estate management association may not adopt or enforce any policy, or enter into any agreement, that would restrict or prevent a member of the association from displaying the



flag of the United States on residential property within the association with respect to which such member has a separate ownership interest or a right to exclusive possession or use.¶ However, the act goes on to say that an association may adopt —any reasonable restriction pertaining to the time, place, or manner of displaying the flag of the United States necessary to protect a substantial interest of the condominium association, cooperative association, or residential real estate management association.¶ [Source: Associated Press articles 4 Nov 2011 ++]

Social Security Number Update

01: Here are some interesting things about the Social Security Number:

- Since 1936, more than 420 million different Social Security numbers have been issued.
- More than 5.5 million new numbers are assigned every year.
- The first three digits of a Social Security number are known as the area number. Area numbers assigned before 1972 reflect the state where you applied for your number.

Otherwise, they are based upon the Social Security card application mailing address ZIP Code.

- Some people believe the next two digits, called the group number, helps identify a person's race. It doesn't. The two-digit group number was actually created as way to organize Social Security Administration filing cabinets into subgroups to make them more manageable.

- The last four digits on a Social Security card are serial numbers that are issued consecutively within a group from 0001 to 9999.

- Area numbers are assigned geographically with the lowest numbers in the northeast and the highest in the northwest. That practice no longer applies, however, after a new randomized assignment methodology was announced in July 2007.

- Based upon the original assignment criterion, one would naturally expect a Maine resident to have the lowest Social Security number ever issued. However, New Hampshire was ultimately given the 001 area number designator so that Social Security number 001-01-0001 could be assigned to Social Security Board Chairman John G. Winant, who was a three-time governor of the

state. Winant eventually declined the honor of having the lowest Social Security number. As a result, it eventually found its way to Grace D. Owen of Concord, N.H.

- Officially, the first Social Security number issued was 055-09-0001, and it was assigned to John David Sweeney. Sweeney died of a heart attack in 1974 at the age of 61. Ironically, he never received a single penny of Social Security benefits.

- In many cases, invalid Social Security numbers can be easily spotted. That's because prior to June 25, 2011, no cards were issued with the first three digits off 000, 666, or higher than 772. Valid cards are also never issued with the middle two digits or the final four digits all zeros.

- In 1938, a sample Social Security card with the number 078-05-1120 was inserted into new wallets manufactured by the E.H. Ferree company in Lockport, N.Y. Unfortunately, that number belonged to Hilda Schrader Whitcher, the secretary of an E.H. Ferree vice president who decided to use her official number on the sample cards. Not surprisingly, more than 40,000 people have since claimed Mrs. Whitcher's Social Security number as their own

at one time or another. She was eventually issued a new number, but not before being questioned by the FBI. They wanted to know why so many people had her number.

- If you object to certain digits in your Social Security number you can appeal for a new one, but only if you can prove your concerns are firmly rooted in your religious beliefs or cultural traditions.

- Social Security numbers are not reused after the cardholder dies.

- Even though numbers aren't reused, the Social Security Administration says the current numbering system is capable of providing enough new numbers for —several generations into the future.¶ That means Social Security numbers will still be available well past 2030. Even if the benefit money won't.

- If you do not know your number the only way to get it from SSA is to submit a new Form 5, and where they ask for the SSN in Item 11, annotate "Forgotten." If you want to try via e-mail, it requires providing the date and place of birth, name at birth and the parents' names, just like on the Form 5.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews Len Penzo article 27 Oct 2011 ++]



Lost Boats— USS Sealion SS-195

USS Sealion (SS-195), a Sargo-class submarine, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the sea lion, any of several large, eared seals native to the Pacific.

Her keel was laid down on 20 June 1938 by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 25 May 1939 sponsored by Mrs. Claude C. Bloch, and commissioned on 27 November 1939, Lieutenant J. K. Morrison Jr. in command.

Service history- Following shakedown, Sealion, assigned to Submarine Division 17 (SubDiv 17), prepared for overseas deployment. In the spring of 1940, she sailed, with her division for the Philippine Islands, arriving at Cavite in the fall to commence operations as a unit of the Asiatic Fleet. Into October 1941, she

ranged from Luzon into the Sulu Archipelago, then, with another submarine of her division, now SubDiv 202, she prepared for a regular overhaul at the Cavite Navy Yard. By 8 December, her yard period had begun; and, two days later, she took two direct hits in the Japanese air raid which demolished the navy yard.

The first bomb struck the after end of her conning tower and exploded outside the hull, over the control room. The second smashed through a main ballast tank and the pressure hull to explode in the after engine room, killing the four men then working there. In addition, one crewman died while a POW.

Sealion flooded immediately and settled down by the stern with 40% of her main deck underwater and a 15 degree list to starboard. The destruction of the navy yard made repairs impossible, and she was ordered destroyed. All salvageable equipment was taken off, depth charges were placed inside, and on 25 December, the explosives were set off to prevent her from being made useful to the enemy.

Supplied by Steve Bell

The Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was



right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by work-

ing so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then? Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart-

mouth young person.

Remember: Don't make old People mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to set us off.





Deadline for the January issue of the award winning PP will be January 20th.



**Next Meeting is at
VFW POST 9138
December 17th
With VFW Post
9138 cooking a Ham
Dinner. Cost is \$10.00
Dinner 1730
Meeting—Tolling of the
Boats
Please Remember to support
VFW Post 9138
Attend their
Breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of
each month**



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day—1941	8	9	10 VFW Break- fast 
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Base Meeting and VFW Dinner
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Santa comes down the induction mast
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31
January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR -2012	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 VFW meet- ing	10	11	12	13	14 VFW Break- fast 
15	16	17	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21

One way to support VFW Post 9138 is to attend their **Saturday Morning Breakfast** held on the **second Saturday** of each month from 8am to 11am—
Come on out!

