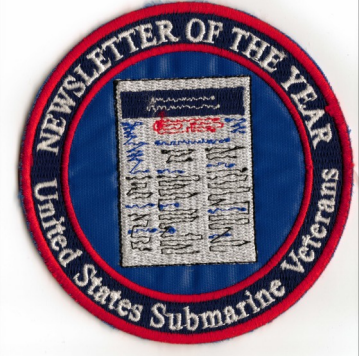


# Piedmont Periscope



Issue 1204

April 2012

## Inside this issue:

Base Contacts	2
Officer's Call	3
Base Meeting Minutes	4
SubVettes	9
Funnies	10
Burnsville Info	12
Chaplin Ray	14
Vet News	16
USS Thresher SSN-593	20
Base Calendar	26

## 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.*

## Let's Play Ball! Okay, then Let's watch a Game

Saturday May 26th will be our Base's 3rd Annual Charlotte Knights Baseball Game; and for the 3rd year in a row we are also presenting the Colors.

I'm going to need as many volunteers as I can muster to assist, well at least 4 more would be nice.

The cost has actually gone down this year and we get the same great seats, Field Box, as we did last year for \$13 a seat. What a great deal and with fireworks after the game. What a great way to kick-off the Memorial Day Weekend.

I've got anywhere from 15 to 17 currently signed-up and that was without

much work. If any of our Sister Bases want in, please let me know at PPedito@carolina.rr.com.

I'm going to try to start collecting funds at the April 21 meeting ( Notice that the April meeting has been moved-up due to a VFW hall scheduling conflict.)

Uniform for the Color Guard will be white short sleeve or white polo, khaki shorts or long pants. It was too hot to where long black pants last year and the year before. We is in the Carolinas, so we'll dress accordingly. Also vest and boat cap. Let's shoot for May 15th for the final head count. Please let me know. I

have some of you down already. I'll try to get Jack to send out a broadcast e-mail too. You're getting older you need reminding!

So bring your friends and family that are coming to town to watch the Knights play Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. The game starts at 7:15; we'll with Colors at 6:30 in front of the Stadium.

Let's Play Ball!!



## Lost Boats - April

"Sailors, rest your oars"



USS PICKEREL (SS 177)	April 3, 1943
USS GRENADIER (SS 210)	April 22, 1943
USS GUNGEON (SS 211)	April 18, 1944
USS SNOOK (SS 279)	April 8, 1945
USS THRESHER (SSN 593)	April 10, 1963

## CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



.Let me start this by telling you that there was a slight conflict with the schedule of rooms at the VFW for April and we moved our next meeting to 21 April 2012 to assist them. This is actually a good thing for the VFW and we need to help where we can. I am sure all of you remember "Last Call for the Meal". Well, it is real close to the time for "Last Call to Burnsville". Our cutoff is early May so we can plan the meal properly as well as the items we need to purchase as a base (beer, wine, snacks, etc.). This is looking like this will be a great weekend so if you have

not reserved your room or sent in your registration, now is the time to do it. We are going to have a sizable crowd this year and I think there will be plenty of entertainment going on. We might even get a preview of the next "Half-way Night" skit that Mo has come up with, or at least part of it.

And while at Burnsville, we at Carolina Piedmont will also be celebrating our fifth birthday. It seems like we just started up last year. We have come a long ways in five years, thanks to all of you. We do have a base that we all can be proud of. I will say that I am very honored to have been the Base Commander for the last three years. And yes, I still have another year to go in that position which I will gladly serve.

Also keep in mind that because we are at Burnsville in May that we do not have a May meeting at the VFW. But we will be going to the ballgame on that same weekend. Moe will be putting out the details for that. This will be our third year for that and each has been a very enjoyable evening at the ballpark. So come on out to the ballgame. I am happy to report to you that the day at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans at the Charlotte Motor Speedway was a wonderful event. Yes we started the day with rain, but it cleared up right at start time and most things were only delayed a few minutes. There was quite a crowd there with numerous displays and vendors. We had quite a crowd of our submarine veterans from North

Carolina there. Our floats were on display and they went over really well. I am sure that a majority of the people there stopped by to see them. A very worthwhile event. The organizers did an outstanding job. This may be a little early but don't forget to mark your calendars that our next meeting (besides this month of course) will be June 23. Stay tuned as there is potential for a lot of things to happen between now and then but you will be informed via e-mail and/or phone call. Hope to see each of you at our next meeting. 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	ppeditor@carolina.rr.com	704-248-7610

## XO's Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries



CAROLINA PIEDMONT ROCKS. The base is getting ready to host the Annual visit to the Burnsville Memorial scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May. If you still need to make reservations, please contact Commander Steve Bell, he needs to know how many are coming so he can plan for the banquet. We have several things planned such as our social on Friday evening as well as the banquet followed by a social that will feature the same band as we had last year, I am sure if you were there last year you had a GREAT TIME. We participated in the Welcome Home Viet Nam Vets at the Charlotte Motor Speedway that was well attended by many of our members as well as the Nathanael Greene base members. The display of our floats was a great hit and it looks as if we may be able to pick up a few new members for our base. Thank you for

attending this celebration. We have been scheduled for the presentation of Eagle Scout certificates and patches at two different locations this month. We also are lining up our Submariners Story at some schools in the area. We have an upcoming date at the Levine Children's Hospital, as soon as I have a firm date, I will put out the info and if you can attend this KAP(SS)4KID(SS) presentation you will not forget it. We can take 8 other members for this event. If you are interested in being one of them, please contact me. Don't forget to make your calendar for our next meeting that has been changed to 21 April because of the room at the VFW being reserved for the night of our regular meeting, also note the date annual outing at the Jeffries Plantation will be in September this year, we are working on this to be a combined meeting with the Nat Greene, Tarheel as well as the Golden Corners base from SC. I would like to thank each and every one of our base for your support. WE ARE GROWING thanks to you.- Jack

### USS DRUM SS-228

While on vacation in Pensacola, we drove over to Mobile to see the USS Alabama (BB-60) and the USS Drum (SS-228). What a great Memorial.

While I was leaving the Drum and walking thru the Aviation Museum, I ran into the Commander of the Mobile Base, Tom Bowser. Tom wanted me to pass-on a "THANK YOU" to the CP Base for it's donation to help restore the Drum. Great Job Guys! - Moe(SS)

### The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

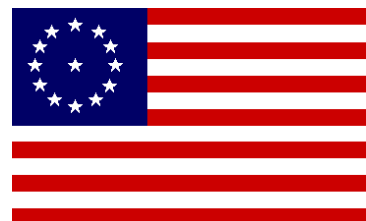
Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. Just let the SK know and he'll fix you up with an order form.

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.

**Q: What's wrong with the picture below?**

**A) Member Bob Bickford send me this. This is in AZ in front of the State Capitol. My question is "Where are the local Veterans Groups?" I'd be picking this Flag up and seeing that it was disposed of in a dignified manner.**



Flag Trivia—Where did this Flag fly in our Nation's history? See Page 15



## **Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary**

### **Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes**

**For March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



#### **-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 presented by Ray Fritz and Paul Myers.

#### **-Member Introductions**

There were 20 members present.

#### **-Reading/Approval of the last Meeting Minutes**

The motion to accept the Minutes of the Base Meeting held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 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 March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the following funds where available to the Base.

CURRENT BALANCE	\$5,779.45
MEMEMORIAL RESTORATION FUNDS	\$ 288.50
KAPS-4-KIDS	\$1,346.05
USSVI SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 320.65
BURNSVILLE MEETING	\$ 960.00
HALFWAY NIGHT	\$ 77.78
BASE FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$2,786.47

#### **-Old Business**

##### **Veteran's Pins**

Steve Bell reported the North Carolina Veterans pins are currently on back order. Steve will check on the availability of South Carolina Veterans pins. Due to the low number of South Carolina residents in the Base and the lack of response from South Carolina bases, it was decided that paying a setup fee would not be cost effective. If the pins are available without additional costs, Jeff will order some.

##### **CPB Challenge Coins**

Steve Bell reported that the company that makes the base challenge coins was under new management. Steve reported that he was still trying to find out the status of the order as well as the dyes used to make the coins. These dyes were a one-time cost to the base and may be considered base property. At this time Steve has been refunded by his credit card company. Any new information will be passed to the membership as it becomes available.

#### **-New Business**

There was no New Business at the time of the meeting.

#### **-Store Keeper's Report**

There was no SK Report at the time of the meeting.

#### **-Good of the Order**

#### **Flight of Honor**

Steve Bell reported on the last Honor Flight from North Carolina. This program transported our World War II veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial. During the return flight each veteran are given a letters from various sources. Carolina Piedmont base has provided a Letter of Appreciation for each member of the flight. This letter was drafted by Mike Toomey and Jack Jeffries.

#### **Kaps-4-Kids Report**

Ray Zieverink reported on the Base's latest visit to the Victory Junction Camp. About 66 children and family members were present at this event. All members were reminded that each member will receive an opportunity to participate at one of these events.

Jack Jeffries reported that he is arranging a visit to the Lavern Children Hospital in Charlotte. Up to 8 additional base members will be allowed to attend this event. Further details will be sent out once the dates are set.

#### **Halfway Night Performance**

Dale Moses reported on the latest installment of the Lone Stranger as well as a preview of the newest show featuring Snoopy and the Red Barron. This group provided a "Halfway Night" performance at the Caroline Assisted Living Center in Cramerton, NC earlier today. All members are encouraged to participate in these shows.

#### **Massing of the Colors**

Dale Moses reminded the membership of the Massing of the Colors event at the Rock Hill High School. To be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3:00PM.

#### **Checkers Hockey Tickets**

Steve Bell reported that Dick Kanning sent the Base free tickets to the Checkers Hockey team's home games. Steve handed out the tickets to interested members.

#### **Charlotte Knights games**

Dale Moses reported that the Carolina-Piedmont Base will be presenting the Colors at the Charlotte Knights baseball game on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Dale is double checking on ticket prices for this game. Dale also requested volunteers to present the Colors before the game. Interested members should contact Dale.

(Continued on Page 7)

---

## Cruise for Bermuda

Royal Caribbean cruise lines ship "Enchantment of the Seas" leaving out of Baltimore on October 12 for 6 nights. The phone number to call is 1-800-465-3595, be sure to mention our group name "Carolina Piedmont" and group number 8019784. We get \$50.00 per cabin ship board credit. We will have a meeting room but we would have to pay extra if they bring food or beverages to us. So I say take the room and bring drinks and food when or if we want to go to meeting room. We can bring it from the Lido Deck should we want to go there. All prices are per person, an inside cabin is \$826.83, outside is \$936.83, and a balcony \$1386.83. We will be able to get more money for every 8 double-occupancy rooms. A deposit is \$500.00 per person with balance due 75 days before we cruise; or you can pay in full. Another option is to choose the \$50.00 deposit and the balance of deposit due (\$450.00) is due 60 days after the first \$50.00 deposit. Gratuities are \$69.90 per person if you pre pay we are guaranteed to be able to set at the same table at dinner which is at 6 pm. Please do the deposit it will be held till March 5th. We can take vans for the 8 hour drive with no overnight stay needed. We can divide van rental, gas and parking between us. If you need any further info call me @ 704-289-4650 or email me @ [holltkids@aol.com](mailto:holltkids@aol.com). Thanks, Sandra

## Victory Junction Kaps 4 Kids— by Raymond Zieverink

Recently I got to go to Victory Junction in Randleman, NC and present Kaps for Kids on March 3rd.

Steve Bell, Jack Jefferies and I spent an enjoyable hour with the kids at Victory Junction Mar 3rd. We distributed around 65 Honorary Submariner caps to 34 patients and another 31 to their siblings. There were a lot of smiles from all the kids. I was impressed with the facilities that I had an opportunity to see.

But what really struck me was the volunteers. Each patient had one volunteer and some had two volunteers. Each volunteer displayed love and affection for the job they were doing. Will, the guy we interacted

with, told of one volunteer who come in the summer all the way from Minnesota at their own expense. That is really a dedicated person to Victory Junction and the mission being achieved there.

Afterwards, three hungry Subvets pulled into Randleman's local steak place, ordered and ate a good dinner. When we were ready to leave we asked for our checks and were told by our waitress that our dinners had been paid for by a lady sitting next to us who had since departed the restaurant. Who says there is not hope for three ugly guys.

Thanks to Steve for driving and Jack for his coordination efforts. If you get a chance to go, do so. It is well worth it. It is

better to give than receive.

Raymond Zieverink  
USS Lapon SSN-661  
(Plank Owner)  
STS2(SS) '67-'70

**Editor's Note:** If you'd like to help with or donate to this great program, please contact Vice Commander and Kaps4Kids Coordinator Jack Jeffries.



(Minutes Con't from page 5)

### Welcome Home Vietnam Vets

Steve Bell reported that the North Carolina Submarine veterans will be participating in the Welcome Home Vietnam Vets to be held at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The gates open 9:00AM, with the event ending around 5:00PM. The Tarheel Base will bring the Torpedo and the Submarine Floats and will be set up in the infield area of the Speedway. Jack Jeffries handed out additional tickets to those who did not already have theirs. Rick Petitt offered to carpool from his house close to the Speedway.

### Parades

Steve Bell reminded the membership of the Azalea Parade in Willington NC on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Please contact Steve Bell if you plan to attend. Steve also reported that Ollie Thompson's Memorial Plack was added to the Torpedo Float.

### Burnsville Meeting Update

Steve Bell reported that 38 people have currently registered for the meeting. Steve reminded all members to turn in their registrations ASAP. Further reported was that due to North Carolina Liquor Laws, the "Traveling Bar" can no longer have "hard liquor". Beer and wine are allowed. Any person who desires hard liquor is asked to BYOB and keep it in their rooms during the event. You are allowed to bring a glass or cup to the common room. The final disposition of the remaining liquor will be decided at the meeting at Burnsville.

### -News Letter Deadline

Dale Moses reminded all members the deadline for April's newsletter is April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### -Next Meeting

Due to a schedule conflict with the VFW, the next CPB meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. All members are reminded to change their calendars.

### -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

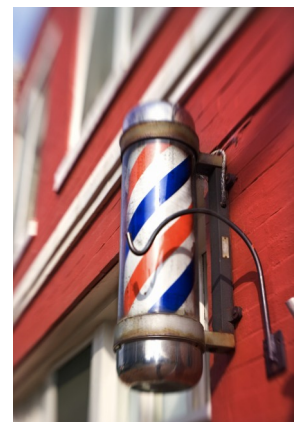
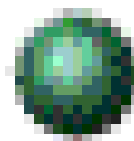
Michael Hubbell, Base Secretary

### SHAVE & HAIRCUT

An old man walks into the barbershop for a shave and a haircut, but he tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age. The barber gets a little

wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells him to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin. When he's finished, the old man tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he's had in years. But he wanted to know what would have hap-

pened if he had swallowed that little ball. The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does".



# New members Binnacle List

Welcome Aboard

David Holm

**Joel Sparnon**

## Happy Birthday to:

### April

Janice Holm 4/01

Jolanda Lynch 4/02

Ken Evans 4/04

Linda Zieverink 4/09

Paul Simerly 4/09

Donna Blassingham 4/11

Linda Crystal 4/14

Rudy Hernandez 4/14

George Birmingham 4/21

Emma Howell 4/22

Susan Kelly 4/22

James Schenk 4/24

Liz Harris 4/25

Tom Tidd 4/28

Dee Rutter 4/30

If your birthday was  
missed, please notify  
Jack or Dale



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

### April

Mary and Robert Bickford - 4/21

Judy and William Hickerson - 4/23

Karen and Michael Toomey - 4/24



“Never kick a  
cow chip on a  
hot day. ”

- Will Rogers



## SubVettes

Hello Sassy Sisters, I hope all is well with you and yours. I had my eyelid surgery and my vision is not the best in the world, between the surgery and the medicine but I will be okay.

Please remember your secret sister and our recruiters. Our meal is our famous 'THIS AND THAT'.

I understand that we will be meeting on April 21st the 3rd Saturday for this meeting.

The cruise is coming along. PLEASE keep your payments up to date. I can not send reminders since it is between you and the cruise lines if you did not pay in full.

Lastly please keep the Bells in your prayers from the news of Ma's brother passing.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting. May God Bless you and yours and the USA.

Love Sandra

### 3-2-1 Cake

Mix a box of Angel Food cake mix and another box (your favorite) together and store in a "zip-lock" bag. Mix it well. (One of the mixes must be an Angel Food mix, or it just won't work, so I'm told).

Now when you are ready for a snack, take 3 level tablespoons of the dry mixture and place into a microwaveable coffee cup. Add 2 tablespoons of water and stir



until it mixes thoroughly. Place it in the microwave for 1 minute. Dump it into a bowl and place your favorite frosting, fruit, or topping on it and EAT! Yummy warm cake with the icing melting over the top. Easy as 3-2-1.

## Cheesy Broccoli-Potato Mash

Looking for something green to eat this week that the whole family will love? Try this cheesy broccoli-potato mash that is full of vitamin C, A and calcium. So good that everyone will eat their plate clean of broccoli!

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into wedges
- 3/4 pound broccoli crowns, chopped (4 cups)
- 3/4 cup shredded fontina cheese
- 1/2 cup nonfat milk, heated
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground pepper, to taste

### Directions:

Bring 1 inch of water to a boil in a large pot.

Place potatoes in a steamer basket and steam for 10 minutes.

Place broccoli on top, cover and steam until the potatoes and broccoli are tender, 6 to 8 minutes more.

Transfer the broccoli to a large bowl and coarsely mash with a potato masher.

Add the potatoes, cheese, milk, salt and pepper and continue mashing to desired consistency.

Serve immediately.

**Nutritional Information:** Per serving: 135 calories; 4 g fat ( 3 g sat , 1 g mono ); 16 mg cholesterol; 17 g carbohydrates; 0 g added sugars; 7 g protein; 2 g fiber; 329 mg sodium; 201 mg potassium

# Piedmont Funnies Page

**ONLY FROM A**  
**FARM KID**

When you're from the country, your perception is a little bit different.

A farmer drove to a neighbor's farmhouse and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door.

"Is your dad or mom home?" said the farmer.

"No, they went to town."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No, he went with Mom and Dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to himself.

"I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message."

"Well," said the farmer uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter Suzy pregnant".

The boy thought for a moment...

"You would have to talk to Dad about that. I

know he charges \$500 for the bull and \$50 for the pig, but I don't know how much he charges for Howard."

## A SENSE OF FRESH- NESS....

A while ago a new supermarket opened in Topeka, KS. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh mowed hay. In the meat department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread and cookies.

I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.

**PROVIDED BY**  
**WALT SEALY:**

*These are classified ads,  
which were actually*

*placed in U.K. Newspapers:*

## FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old, Hateful little  
bastard. Bites!

## FREE PUPPIES

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2  
sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES. Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd. Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

COWS, CALVES:  
NEVER BRED. Also 1  
gay bull for sale.

## JOINING NUDIST COLONY!

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

## WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.

Worn once by mistake.  
Call Stephanie.

And the WINNER is...

**FOR SALE BY OWNER.** Complete set of Encyclopedia Britanica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.



## Ray Fritz's Guide for Exercise for People Over 50

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

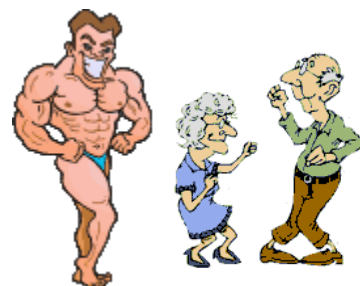
With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags.

Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

**(I'm at this level).**

After you feel confident at this level now, put a potato in each bag and try again.



### FAST THINKING

A man in a Florida Supermarket tries to buy half a head of lettuce. The very young produce assistant tells him that they only sell whole heads. The man persists and asks to see the manager. The boy says he'll ask his manager about it. Walking into the back room the boy says to the manager, "Some a\*\*hole wants to buy a half a head of lettuce..." As he finishes his sentence, he turns to find the man standing right behind him, so he adds "...and THIS gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half." The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way.

Later the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who can think on their feet. Where are you from son?"

"Canada, Sir," replied the boy.

"Well why did you leave Canada?" the manager asked.

"Sir, there's nothing but whores and hockey players up there," said the boy.

"Really?" said the manager, "My wife is from Canada."

No sh\*t!" said the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

### TWO IRISH WOMEN IN A BAR

Two women were sitting next to each other at a bar. After a while, one looks at the other and says, 'I can't help but think, from listening to you, that you're from Ireland.'

The other woman responds proudly, 'Yes, I sure am!'

The first one says, 'So am I! And where about in Ireland are ya from?'

The other woman answers, 'I'm from Dublin, I am.'

The first one responds, 'So, am I!! And what street did you live on in Dublin?'

The other woman says, 'A lovely little area. It was in the west end. I lived on Warbury Street in the old central part of town.'

The first one says, 'Faith, and it's a small world. So did I! So did I! And what school did ya go to?'

The other woman answers, 'Well now, I went to Holy Heart of Mary, of course.'

The first one gets really excited and says, 'And so did I! Tell me, what year did you graduate?'

'The other woman answers, 'Well, now, let's see. I graduated in 1964.'

The first woman exclaims, 'The Good Lord must be smiling down upon us! I can hardly believe our good luck at winding up in the same pub tonight! Can you believe it? I graduated from Holy Heart of Mary in 1964 myself!'

About this time, Michael walks into the bar, sits down, and orders a beer. Brian, the bartender, walks over to Michael shaking his head and mutters, 'It's going to be a long night tonight.'

Michael asks, 'Why do you say that, Brian?'

Brian answers, 'The Murphy twins are drunk again.'

**Jim Schenk** remembers one of the questions from the career placement test given applicants for a Navy technical school:

"Rearrange the letters 'P N E S I' to spell out an important part of human body that is more useful when erect!"

Those who spelled 'spine' got the school of their choice ... the rest of us went to submarine school.

### THE FINAL EXAM

At Penn State University, there were four sophomores taking chemistry and all of them had an 'A' so far. These four friends were so confident that, the weekend before finals, they decided to visit some friends and have a big party. They had a great time but, after all the hearty partying, they slept all day Sunday and didn't make it back to Penn State until early Monday morning.

Rather than taking the final then, they decided that after the final they would explain to their professor why they missed it. They said that they visited friends but on the way back they had a flat tire. As a result, they missed the final. The professor agreed they could make up the final the next day. The guys were excited and relieved. They studied that night for the exam.

The next day the Professor placed them in separate rooms and gave them a test booklet. They quickly answered the first problem worth 5 points. Cool, they thought! Each one in separate rooms, thinking this was going to be easy, they then turned the page. On the second page was written: For 95 points: Which tire? \_\_\_\_\_





**Burnsville Info:****SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
2012 BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE****FRIDAY MAY 18**

1500-1800 Registration at Skyline Village Inn (just let Bell know you are there)  
1600-?? Hospitality Room Open  
Evening Meal will be on your own

**SATURDAY MAY 19**

1000 NC SUBVETS Meeting  
1130 (approx) Lunch at Western Sizzlin (on your own)(for those that want to eat there)  
1400 Memorial Service on Moonshine Mountain  
1800 Catered meal @ Skyline Village Inn (downstairs)  
1900 (approx) Band Entertainment for the evening (downstairs)

-We will caravan (or try to) to Moonshine Mountain from Western Sizzlin after lunch.  
-Hospitality Room will be open during the day Saturday.  
-Evening meal is a buffet style meal prepared at the hotel.

**COME OUT AND ENJOY SOME GOOD COMRADERSHIP, A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOSE WE LOST ON WWII SUBMARINES, AND A GOOD HOME COOKED MEAL**



The NC SubVets at the Moonshine Mountain WWII Submarine Memorial 2011

One Great Time!!





**Burnsville Registration:****2012 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial Service****18-19 May 2012****Pre-Registration Form – Cutoff Date 4 May 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Base \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact/Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. TOTAL

Registration/Catered Meal, Saturday May 19 Per Person \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAR OFF THIS SECTION AS A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Please make checks payable to: CAROLINA PIEDMONT BASE – USSVI

Mail check to: Steve Bell, 138 Burton Hills Circle, Gastonia, NC 28054

NO. TOTAL

Registration/Catered Meal, Saturday May 19 Per Person \$30 \_ \_ \_

**Host Hotel:** Skyline Village Inn, 12255 NC Hwy 226A (milepost marker 331 on the Blue Ridge Park-way), between Little Switzerland and Spruce Pine, NC.

Phone: 1-828-765-9394 or 704-517-6374 (preferable)

**Directions to Hotel:** I-40, Exit 86 (Route 226). Take this bending, curving road all the way to Little Switzerland. When you see the Blue Ridge Parkway overpass, take a left turn, it is the first building on the right.

**Reservations:** Reservations at the hotel are the responsibility of the individual (828-765-6276 or 704-517-6374). A special rate of approximately \$85.00 (plus tax) for most rooms (if you are doubling up with someone, there is an extra \$10 charge) is available for U.S. Subvets per night. Double rooms are \$99 and singles are \$69 (plus tax of course). This hotel has only 16 rooms but has made a deal with a hotel (Big Lynn Gap Motel) approximately 2 miles away for overflow at the same rate. Skyline Hotel will arrange for either hotel as appropriate. DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL RATE IS 4 MAY 2012. Check out the website at [www.skylinevillageinn.com](http://www.skylinevillageinn.com).

## Chaplin's Corner - Ray Fritz, Base Chaplain



We trust everyone had a very Happy Easter!

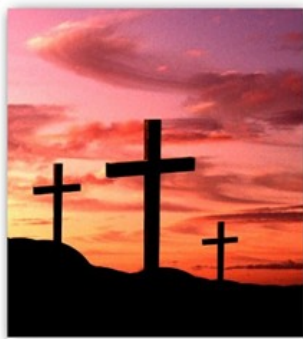
Last month I mentioned reading "Deep Venture" by Gary Penley. I have been thinking about my adventures while serving aboard the USS Skate and the USS Grant.

I was a lowly Fireman when I reported aboard the Skate, from farm country of western NY. I liked meat and potatoes, and had never had lobster! I didn't drink, smoke, or swear – still don't but I never thought I was better than they. Some came to depend on me to get them back to the boat if need be, when they had had a little too much to drink. I was truly happy to be a designated driver before there were designated drivers!

I tell you this because my shipmates were never obnoxious, like what Gary Penley portrays in his book, and I respected them as fellow shipmates. Some even attended Sunday services, when the Captain gave me permission to

hold Sunday services while at sea [No chaplain aboard the fast attacks]. I miss the old shipmates and look forward to seeing some of them in September in Norfolk.

It's Good Friday which reminds me of a poem I found recently:



*Under an Eastern sky  
Amid the rabble's cry  
A man went forth to die.*

The Gospel of Luke gives an eyewitness account of the scene:

*Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.<sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Luke 23:32-33 ESV*

Calvary is the place of three crosses but one stands out from the others. To the casual ob-

server of the day that would not be true. It was not an uncommon site on the Roman landscape.

I view the three crosses as: - **A Cross of Rebellion, a Cross of Repentance, and a Cross of Redemption.**

As Jesus hung on the cross, His words ring out for all eternity...

*"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34 ESV*

As He says those words, you can hear the people scoffing and shouting... *"He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" Luke 23:35 ESV*

If we had been there would we have been doing the same?

Let me tell you about those three crosses.



### The Cross of rebellion

– Even though the first criminal was facing imminent death and heard Jesus ask forgiveness for his executioners and His concern for his mother... this man felt no remorse and cast an insult at Jesus... *"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" Luke 23:39 ESV*

He was a bitter man cursing his way to hell in the most solemn hour of all history.

Even the second thief responded to his remarks: *"Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." Luke 23:40-41 ESV*

The first thief is like so many people today who refuse to yield, even with one foot in the grave! He had a chance to receive forgiveness from the only One who could forgive. He threw it away! The choice of the dying thief was final... it was irrevocable!

Perhaps you have crossed the *"Continental Divide."* There is a sign

high in the mountains that reads: "*The Great Divide*". The *Continental Divide* is the source of two great river systems, one flows west to the Pacific Ocean and the other to the Atlantic. Two raindrops can fall side by side, but one flows on the west side of the divide and one flows on the east. They will flow in opposite directions, never to meet again; one to the Pacific and one to the Atlantic.

We need to think long and deep on the issues which have an eternal consequence. The thief made his last choice in

life and its results were eternal! His was a *Cross of Rebellion*.

**The Cross of Repentance** - To keep it short and simple, this man recognized that Jesus was different and simply says: "*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*" (Luke 23:42 ESV) and Jesus' responds instantly... "*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*" Luke 23:43 ESV

Jesus not only promised the thief eternal life but an honored place as a companion of the heavenly garden! Salvation is wondrously simple but Satan has blinded our eyes to believe it is

hard to be saved; difficult to come to Christ and to become a follower of His. But the man was saved simply by asking the Lord to save him. (See Romans 10:9-13)



This **Cross of Repentance** reminds us that no matter how good or how bad we may think we are, the extent of our sin does not alter our chance of being saved. One more thing, salvation does not depend on religious ceremonies, good deeds, or any contribution from you. The entrance fee into the kingdom of heaven is faith and that isn't even from ourselves!

**Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV**  
For by *grace* you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

This cross is one of hope and assurance through (Con't on Page 24)

### Answer to the Flag Trivia:

American hopes were at a low point at the start of 1781. That changed, however, on January 17, when General Daniel Morgan won one of the most brilliant victories of the Revolutionary War at Cowpens, South Carolina. With the help of Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia regiments, Morgan stopped the attacking British dead in their tracks. Trapped by the cavalry and the militia, the surrounded British soon relented. This flag of the Third Maryland Regiment, which was present that day at Cowpens, is now enshrined in the State Capitol in Annapolis, Maryland in honor of that battle.

Source: National Flag Foundation Newsletter.

Rick Wyatt, 9 July 2001



**Deadline for the May Issue will be the 16th.**

VETERANS NEWS  
by the RAQ Bulletin

## Helpful Tips

**Cell Phone ICE:** Car accidents and medical emergencies happen all the time too. If you were unconscious, would first responders know how to contact your family? Could paramedics find out about your medications, allergies, or health conditions? Fortunately, it takes five minutes and zero dollars to make sure those first responders can reach your emergency contacts if you're the one unconscious. You just have to "ICE" your cell phone. "ICE" stands for "in case of emergency." If you add the prefix "ICE" to your emergency contacts in your phone's contact list, first responders will know to call them first. So if Jane Doe is your emergency contact, simply change her entry in your contact list from "Jane Doe" to "ICE: Jane Doe." A paramedic in the United Kingdom, Bob Brothie, came up with the idea. Perhaps you remember when he promoted the ICE system in 2005, gaining a lot of media attention as the system caught on in other countries, especially after the London bombings that summer. Even though the ICE system made national

headlines in the United States, haven't "iced" their phones. If you haven't, stop what you're doing and update your phone contact list right now. It won't cost you more than a few minutes – and it could save your life some day. Here are tips for getting the most out of your icing...

- Don't password protect your phone or icing it is pointless. Alternatively, some phones have programmable ICE buttons that a first responder can press to call your emergency contacts without having to unlock the phone. Ask your carrier if your phone has this ability.

- "ICE" multiple emergency contacts. In case one emergency contact can't get to the phone when the paramedics call, pick two or three emergency contacts. Some people who have multiple ICE contacts label them something like "ICE1: Jane Doe," "ICE2: John Doe," etc. That way, the paramedics will know you have multiple emergency contacts, regardless of which one they scroll to first.

- Use relationships instead of names. For example, your ICE contact might be labeled "ICE: mom" instead of "ICE: her name". Do this for non-ICE contacts too, just in case. So my brother is in my phone as "brother" instead of "Peyton." If a person finds your and is nice enough to try to return it, he/she would know which would be a good contact to call to let you know where the phone could be picked up.

- Supplement your ICE. If you have any medical conditions or drug allergies or take any medications, you should have more than ICE for emergencies. If not a medical bracelet, put something in your wallet.

- ICE friends and family. Next time you talk to your folks or others you love that could benefit from ICEing, tell them about it. And if they're tech-challenged, do it for them.

[Source: Money-TalksNews Karla Bowsher article 22 Mar 2012 ++]

## Alzheimer's Update

**09:** A researcher at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare



System has pinpointed how vitamin D3 works with some of the body's cells to help clear the brain of amyloid beta, the main component of plaques that are seen in Alzheimer's disease. Vitamin D3 may activate certain genes and cellular signaling networks to trigger the immune system to clear amyloid beta. An abstract of the study is available under the "pages 51-62" section on the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease website at <http://www.j-alz.com/issues/29/vol29-1.html>. [Source: Military.com article 26 Mar 2012 ++]

## Arlington National Cemetery Update

**35:** Arlington National Cemetery began using geospatial technology this week to manage its cemetery operations in a move officials say makes them nearly paperless. "Probably the biggest thing that the geospatial system does for us is it eliminates the need for paper," said retired Army Col. Jack Lechner, the cemetery's administrator, during a public demonstration of the technology 15 MAR. "Prior to the use of that system, we had requirements to photocopy

schedules and distribute copies of schedules, make manual notations on schedules," he said. There are so many people involved with funerals at Arlington National Cemetery -- various [branches of service], chaplains, bands, chapels, buglers -- "you could imagine the amount of reproduction we were doing," Lechner said. Synchronizing this into in a digital format has provided tremendous savings in time, effort and money, he said. Lechner described the system formerly used to manage cemetery operations that is moving toward becoming fully digital. "It probably took about three or four people constantly devoted to the process of paper management," he explained. "Whether it was paper copying, paper production, paper distribution ... that process has gone away. "Those individuals in the workforce are now able to devote themselves to the actual core tasks and services to families that we're here to [provide]," he added.

Lechner noted while this new innovative system has helped organize cemetery operations, the paper system isn't obso-

lete -- yet. "We're still maintaining the paper copies of the maps that we've been using for quite a while," he said. "After a test period, we'll see if there's a need for us to actually continue to maintain the paper copies or if we can go strictly digital." Lechner said all signs point to digital as the way to go, and there are many safeguards to protect the technology. "There are multiple safeguards just like all the other Army systems that you deal with on a day-to-day basis," he said. "We have the same firewalls and protection, the same [Common Access Card] access codes that are needed to get into things. So the redundancy and the protection is there." In addition to the geospatial technology, the cemetery began a first-of-its-kind gravesite accountability process, which examined 259,978 graves front and back, ANC officials said. "Everything about the cemetery is [related to the] knowledge of who is buried where," said Army Maj. Nicholas Miller, the cemetery's chief information officer. "That's really a rich data set, a large data set, of people and locations." The technology will help ensure accuracy, he said.

Miller, who is responsible

for creating the system, explained how the idea for the revamping came about. "As we looked at how we wanted visitors to come experience the cemetery, we thought they should be able to use their [smartphones] and get walk-in directions to the gravesite and also pull up information about their loved ones," he said. The best way to do that is to provide the location-based information that geospatial technology enables, Miller said. Cemetery officials' goal is to "continue to uphold the faith and confidence of the American people by using the best technology to accurately document and conduct the services for their loved ones that we do here," he said. The current information system is internal, but a public Web application will be available on <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>, in addition to the smartphone app, later this summer. Honoring veterans and fallen service members "is one of the most humbling missions we have," Miller said. "[We want to ensure] Arlington continues to be America's premier military cemetery." [Source: AFPS Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall

VETERANS NEWS  
by the RAQ Bulletin

15 Mar 2012 ++]

## POW/MIA Update

**16:** The United States has suspended efforts to find remains of U.S. service members lost during the Korean War due to North Korean threats to launch a ballistic missile, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said here today. Recovering remains of those lost and unaccounted for is a priority to the Defense Department, and U.S. experts were due to enter North Korea this month. "We have suspended that effort because we believe that North Korea has not acted appropriately in recent days and weeks and that it's important for them to return to the standards of behavior that the international community has called for," Little said at a Pentagon news conference. "We do hope at some point to be able to re-engage the effort."

The United States sees the recovery of remains as a humanitarian mission and does not link those operations with other policy issues, Tara Rigler, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said in a statement. However, she added, the North Koreans politicized these humanitarian operations

"by linking them to long-standing annual military exercises which are defensive in nature and are designed to increase the interoperability between the United States and [South Korea]." Rigler said these actions and other developments call into question the credibility of all of North Korea's commitments, including the remains recovery operations. "As a result," she added, "we are suspending the current arrangement to resume remains recovery operations with [North Korea] until their actions indicate a willingness to move forward in good faith on its commitments." North Korea cited the exercises in refusing to honor procedures agreed to in October. Since then, Little said, indications have emerged that North Korea might launch ballistic 51 missiles. "That would be in contravention of U.N. Security Council resolutions," he added, "and that is unacceptable behavior."

The United States hopes to engage in the future with North Korea on efforts to recover remains, Little said. "But when there are suggestions that they might launch ballistic missiles, when

they make bellicose statements about South Korea and engage in actions that could be construed as provocative, we think that it's not the right time to undertake this effort," he told reporters. "We're hopeful that we will get past this period and that we can continue the remains recovery effort." The Defense Department remains committed to the fullest possible accounting of the more than 7,950 U.S. service members missing from the Korean War, officials said. An estimated 5,300 are missing in what is now North Korea. In many cases, the United States knows exactly where the service members were buried, as U.S. forces attacked up into North Korea in late 1950. The Chinese army entered the fray and pushed U.S. and other United Nations forces out of the north. U.S. officials say they know where those burials are, but have not been able to get to them. Other areas are more of a problem, officials said, especially graves associated with prisoner of war camps. The North Koreans and Chinese tortured, beat and starved POWs, and many hundreds died



from the abuse, officials said. [Source: AFPS article 21 Mar 2012 ++]

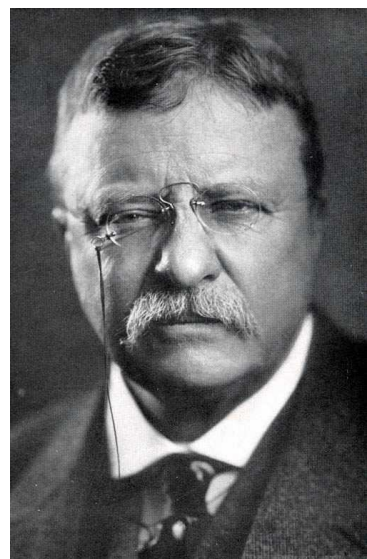
### **Military Trivia 48:**

Should Teddy Roosevelt be the patron saint of submariners? Roosevelt was the first American President to go aboard a submarine and to make a dive. Roosevelt ventured beneath the waters of Long Island Sound aboard USS Plunger (SS-2) on March 25, 1905. Plunger was the United States' second submarine, commissioned in September 1903. Beyond this historical first, however, is the fact that Roosevelt was the man directly responsible for submarine pay. The Naval hierarchy in 1905 considered submarine duty, neither unusual nor dangerous, and classified it as shore duty. Therefore, submariners received twenty-five percent less pay than sailors going to sea in destroyers, cruisers and similar surface ships. the beginning of submarine pay! Roosevelt's two-hour trip on Plunger convinced him that this discrimination was unfair. He described submarine duty as hazardous and difficult, and he found that submariners "have to be trained to the highest possible point as well

as to show iron nerve in order to be of any use in their positions..." Roosevelt directed that officer service on submarines be equated with duty on surface ships. Enlisted men qualified in submarines were to receive ten dollars per month in addition to the pay of their rating. They were also to be paid a dollar for every day in which they were submerged while underway. Enlisted men assigned to submarines but not yet qualified received an additional five dollars per month. Roosevelt did not dilly-dally once he made a decision. He issued an Executive Order directing the extra pay for enlisted personnel. This was the beginning of submarine pay!

The USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN-600) was launched in October 1959, in Mare Island, California, sponsored by Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth. The ship was commissioned on February 13, 1961. In March of that year, the Roosevelt became the first Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine to transit the Panama Canal. (That is significant because the Canal was completed, largely due to the efforts of President Roosevelt.)

On July 19th, she started her first deterrent patrol from Charleston. In March 1968, while returning to Holy Loch, Scotland from patrol, the Roosevelt "bounced" off an underwater mountain, causing flooding. Quick action by the crew saved the ship. The Torpedo Room was isolated and was pressurized to keep the sea out. The ship was repaired, and the Roosevelt continued to make deterrent patrols until it completed its 43rd patrol in 1978. and was decommissioned on February 28, 1981. In October of that year, construction was begun on USS Theodore Roosevelt, CVN 71, a Nimitz class aircraft carrier. The new "TR" was placed in active service in October 1986, and served with great distinction in the Gulf War. The Roosevelt is currently carrying America's "Big Stick" in the war against terrorism. [Source: <http://larryshomeport.com/html/subpay.html> Mar 2012 ++]







## Lost Boats— USS *Thresher* SSN-593

The second USS *Thresher* (SSN-593) was the lead ship of her class of nuclear-powered attack submarines in the United States Navy. Her loss at sea during deep-diving tests in 1963 is often considered a watershed event in the implementation of the rigorous submarine safety program SUBSAFE. The contract to build *Thresher* was awarded to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 15 January 1958, and her keel was laid on 28 May 1958. She was launched on 9 July 1960, was sponsored by Mrs. Frederick B. Warder (wife of the famous Pacific War skipper), and was commissioned on 3 August 1961, Commander Dean L. Axene commanding. Early career: *Thresher* conducted lengthy sea trials in the western Atlantic and Caribbean Sea areas in 1961–1962. These tests provided a thorough evaluation of her many new and complex technological features and weapons. She took part in Nuclear Submarine Exercise (NUSUBEX) 3–61 off the northeastern coast of the United States from 18–24 September 1961. On 18 October 1961,

*Thresher* headed south along the East Coast. While in port at San Juan, Puerto Rico on 2 November 1961, her reactor was shut down and the diesel generator was used to carry the "hotel" electrical loads. Several hours later the generator broke down, and the electrical load was then carried by the battery. The generator could not be quickly repaired, so the captain ordered the reactor restarted. However, the battery charge was depleted before the reactor went critical. With no electrical power for ventilation, temperatures in the machinery spaces reached 140°F, and the boat was partially evacuated. *Cavalla* arrived the next morning and provided power from her diesels, enabling *Thresher* to restart her reactor. *Thresher* conducted further trials and fired test torpedoes before returning to Portsmouth on 29 November 1961. The boat remained in port through the end of the year, and spent the first two months of 1962 evaluating her sonar and Submarine Rocket (SUBROC) systems. In March, the submarine participated in

NUSUBEX 2–62 (an exercise designed to improve the tactical capabilities of nuclear submarines) and in antisubmarine warfare training with Task Group ALPHA. Off Charleston, SC, *Thresher* undertook operations observed by the Naval Antisubmarine Warfare Council before she returned briefly to New England waters, after which she proceeded to Florida for more SUBROC tests. However, while moored at Port Canaveral, Florida, the submarine was accidentally struck by a tug which damaged one of her ballast tanks. After repairs at Groton, Connecticut, by the Electric Boat Company, *Thresher* went south for more tests and trials off Key West, Florida, then returned northward and remained in dockyard for refurbishment through the early spring of 1963. Sinking: On 9 April 1963, after the completion of this work, *Thresher*, now commanded by Lieutenant Commander John Wesley Harvey, began post-overhaul trials. Accompanied by the submarine rescue ship *Sky-lark*, she sailed to an area some 220 miles east



of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and on the morning of 10 April started deep-diving tests. As *Thresher* neared her test depth, *Skylark* received garbled communications over underwater telephone indicating "... minor difficulties, have positive up-angle, attempting to blow." When *Skylark* received no further communication, surface observers gradually realized *Thresher* had sunk. Publicly it took some days to announce that all 129 officers, crewmen, and military and civilian technicians aboard were presumed dead. After an extensive underwater search using the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, oceanographic ship *Mizar* and other ships, *Thresher's* remains were located on the sea floor, some 8,400 ft below the surface, in six major sections. The majority of the debris had spread over an area of about 160,000 sq yd. The major sections were the sail, sonar dome, bow section, engineering spaces section, operations spaces section, and the stern planes. Deep sea photography, recovered artifacts, and an evaluation of her design and operational history permitted a Court of

Inquiry to conclude *Thresher* had probably suffered the failure of a joint in a salt water piping system, which relied heavily on silver brazing instead of welding; earlier tests using ultrasound equipment found potential problems with about 14% of the tested brazed joints, most of which were determined not to pose a risk significant enough to require a repair. High-pressure water spraying from a broken pipe joint may have shorted out one of the many electrical panels, which in turn caused a shutdown ("scram") of the reactor, with a subsequent loss of propulsion. The inability to blow the ballast tanks was later attributed to excessive moisture in the ship's high-pressure air flasks, which froze and plugged the flasks' flow paths while passing through the valves. This was later simulated in dock-side tests on *Thresher's* sister ship, *Tinosa*. During a test to simulate blowing ballast at or near test depth, ice formed on strainers installed in valves; the flow of air lasted only a few seconds. Air driers were later retrofitted to the high pressure air compressors, beginning with *Tinosa*, to permit the emergency blow system to operate properly. Unlike diesel submarines, nuclear submarines rely on

speed and deck angle rather than de-ballasting to surface; they are "driven" at an angle towards the surface. Ballast tanks were almost never blown at depth, and to do so could cause the ship to rocket to the surface out of control. Normal procedure was to drive the ship to periscope depth, raise the periscope to verify the area was clear, then blow the tanks and surface the ship.

At the time, reactor-plant operating procedures precluded a rapid reactor restart following a scram, or even the ability to use steam remaining in the secondary system to "drive" the ship to the surface. After a scram, standard procedure was to isolate the main steam system, cutting off the flow of steam to the turbines providing propulsion and electricity. This was done to prevent an over-rapid cool-down of the reactor. *Thresher's* Reactor Control Officer, Lieutenant Raymond McCooles, was not at his station in the maneuvering room, or indeed on the ship, during the fatal dive. McCooles was at home caring for his wife who had been injured in a household accident—he had been all but ordered ashore by a sympathetic Commander Harvey. McCooles's trainee, Jim Henry, fresh from nuclear power school, probably

followed standard operating procedures and gave the order to isolate the steam system after the scram, even though *Thresher* was at or slightly below her maximum depth and was taking on water. Once closed, the large steam system isolation valves could not be reopened quickly. Reflecting on the situation in later life, McCooles was sure he would have delayed shutting the valves, thus allowing the ship to "answer bells" and drive herself to the surface, despite the flooding in the engineering spaces. Admiral Rickover later changed the procedure, allowing steam to be withdrawn from the

Next Meeting is  
at

VFW POST  
9138

April 21th

at VFW Post  
9138

Bring a passing  
dish

Dinner 1730

Meeting 1900

## Lost Boats (con't)

secondary system in limited quantities for several minutes following a scram.

In a dockside simulation of flooding in the engine room, held before *Thresher* sailed, it took the watch in charge 20 minutes to isolate a simulated leak in the auxiliary seawater system. At test depth, taking on water, and with the reactor shut down, *Thresher* would not have had 20 minutes to recover. Even after isolating a short-circuit in the reactor controls it would have taken nearly 10 minutes to restart the plant.

*Thresher* likely imploded at a depth of 1,300–2,000 ft.

The Navy has periodically monitored the environmental conditions of the site since the sinking and has reported the results in an annual public report on environmental monitoring for U.S. Naval nuclear-powered ships. These reports provide specifics on the environmental sampling of sediment, water, and marine life which were taken to ascertain whether *Thresher's* nuclear reactor has had a significant effect on the deep ocean environment.

The reports also explain the methodology for conducting deep sea monitoring from both surface vessels and submarines. The monitoring data confirms that there has been no significant effect on the environment. Nuclear fuel in the submarine remains intact.

According to newly declassified information, the Navy sent Commander (Dr.) Robert Ballard, the oceanographer credited with locating the wreck of RMS *Titanic*, on a secret mission to map and collect visual data on both *Thresher* and *Scorpion* wrecks. The Navy used Ballard's search for *Titanic* as a screen to hide the mission. Ballard approached the Navy in 1982 for funding to find *Titanic* with his new deep-diving robot submarine. The Navy saw the opportunity and granted him the money on the condition he first inspect the two submarine wrecks. Ballard's robotic survey discovered that *Thresher* had sunk so deep it imploded, turning into thousands of pieces. The only recoverable piece was a foot of marled pipe. His 1985

search for *Scorpion*, which was thought to be a victim of a Soviet attack, revealed such a large debris field that it looked "as though it had been put through a shredding machine."

Once the two wrecks had been visited, and the radioactive threat from both was established as small, Ballard was able to search for *Titanic*. Due to dwindling funds, he had just 12 days to do so, but he used the same debris-field search techniques he had used for the two subs, which worked, and *Titanic* was found.

U.S. submarine classes are generally known by the hull number of the lead ship of the class—for instance, *Los Angeles*-class boats are called

"688s" because the hull number of USS *Los Angeles* was SSN-688. The *Thresher*-class boats should thus be called "593s", but since *Thresher's* sinking they have been referred to as "594s" (*Permit* class).

### Reminder—

**The next meeting is on the 3rd Saturday in April due to a VFW scheduling conflict! That's April 21st. Same time, same place.**

Photo # NH 97551 USS *Thresher* underway, April 1961



## We come from all over this Great Nation—Moe(SS)

Recently, one of our new members and co-worker, Jay Welwood, brought in a USS Thresher Memorial book. It was basically a book that told a little bit about each of the crew and shipyard workers that were lost. As I paged-through the book I look at where all the Sailors were from. One stuck me and stood out. He was not from where I grew-up, but I was still taken back. His name was Larry William Claussen EM2(SS), and he was born in Toronto, Kansas.

Now I lived in Kansas for 14 years and raised our two daughters there, in fact one still lives in the town where she grew-up, Emporia.

We had a tent camper and would go on weekend camping trips when the kids were younger. One of the places we'd camp at was Toronto Reservoir at the State Park. To get there you had to drive through the little town of Toronto. Now, for all you Jimmy Buffett fans, there's a Buffett song called "Ringling, Ringling" that talks about a small rundown town with a closed bank, and jail that had been torn-down, and a small bar with a pile of

beer cans next to it.

Every time I ever hear that song, that town of Toronto comes to mind. It had a bar, a small general store to support the campers, and maybe a hardware store. To get gas you had to go out by the highway, U.S. 54 that ran from Ft. Scott to El Dorado, then on to Wichita and beyond. My point is that we, and not just us Submariners, but all our Service men and women come from all corners of this Great Nation. From the big cities to the little towns everywhere. Maybe that's what makes us strong.

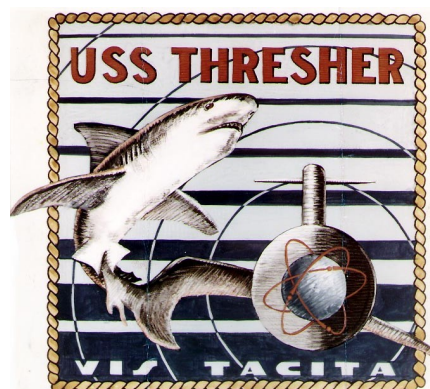
Many of us after the our service take jobs that take us from not only our home town, but our home State. And isn't it great that we have that choice and freedom to live where we want? Colleen and I have lived in many places, while in the Navy and even more after. Each one has it's own type of beauty. The plains of Kansas, the hills of Missouri, the marshes and beaches of Georgia, the hills and valleys of Pennsylvania, and the best of all the Charlotte area, where there is a great mixing of people from all over this

Great Country.

I remember telling my Dad that I volunteered for submarine duty. He thought I was crazy and the first thing he brought-up was the subject of the Thresher. He was more scared than I was, but I was young and indestructible.

I remember going to sea the first time. It was out of Portsmouth on sea trials. My leading first saw that I was a little nervous and told me not to worry, this is how the Thresher went down. I paid close attention to everything around me. Larry and the rest of the crew of the Thresher did not die in vain. They made submarines for all of us and better submariners out of us. Hopefully, we all took all we learned and gave it to our non-quals.

God Bless the Crew and Civilians, may they Rest in Peace, knowing they made us better men. —  
Moe(SS)





## Chaplain (con't)

(Chaplain—Con't)  
faith in Jesus Christ **but**  
it is only possible be-  
cause of the third cross  
on that hill outside the  
city wall of Jerusalem.



### A Cross of Redemption

- We are now standing  
on Holy Ground. Do you  
remember the words of  
the second thief? This  
man has done nothing  
wrong.

Jesus' life has been sub-  
jected to the closest scru-  
tiny by His most bitter  
enemies and yet no flaw  
has been revealed.

**John 8:46 ESV** Jesus  
said to them... <sup>46</sup>Which  
one of you convicts me  
of sin?

Why then did Jesus die?  
Was Christ a victim?  
Was this a horrible injus-  
tice? It is history's dark-  
est moment **but** it was  
the climax of God's plan  
of redemption. The  
Apostle Paul writes:

### **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

**ESV** All this is from  
God, who through Christ  
reconciled us to himself  
and gave us the ministry  
of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that  
is, in Christ God was  
reconciling the world to  
himself, not counting  
their trespasses against  
them, and entrusting to  
us the message of recon-  
ciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we  
are ambassadors for  
Christ, God making his  
appeal through us. We  
implore you on behalf of  
Christ, be reconciled to  
God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he  
made him to be sin who  
knew no sin, so that in  
him we might become  
the righteousness of  
God.



God took the initiative in  
our redemption. It is in-  
comprehensible that  
Christ identified with hu-  
man sin; our sin, my sin,  
in order that we might  
become identified with

righteousness, His right-  
eousness.

The middle cross on Cal-  
vary that day was a  
**Cross of Redemption**.  
Christ's death was dif-  
ferent from the other  
two. They died without  
any choice in the matter  
— their lives were taken  
away. But Jesus' death  
was different... He told  
His disciples:

**John 10:17-18 ESV** For  
this reason the Father  
loves me, because I lay  
down my life that I may  
take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No  
one takes it from me, but  
I lay it down of my own  
accord. I have authority  
to lay it down, and I  
have authority to take it  
up again. This charge I  
have received from my  
Father."

His death was inevitable  
only because He willed  
it to be so. Jesus wasn't  
martyred, it was a volun-  
tary sacrifice, it was...

**1 Peter 3:18 ESV** For  
Christ also suffered once  
for sins, the righteous  
for the unrighteous, that  
he might bring us to  
God, being put to death  
in the flesh but made  
alive in the spirit,

It was as our substitute  
that he suffered and  
died. The basis for our

redemption is the shed-  
ding of his blood. Evil  
did its worst on Calvary  
as wicked hands took  
and crucified the Lord of  
life. Man's rebellion  
against God reached its  
limit that day but the  
grace of God shown  
through in all its splen-  
dor.

Paul sums it up well:  
*For one will scarcely die  
for a righteous person---  
though perhaps for a  
good person one would  
dare even to die--- <sup>8</sup>but  
God shows his love for  
us in that while we were  
still sinners, Christ died  
for us. Romans 5:7-8  
ESV*

We must come to the  
point where we realize  
as Paul did... *I have  
been crucified with  
Christ. It is no longer I  
who live, but Christ who  
lives in me. And the life I  
now live in the flesh I  
live by faith in the Son of  
God, who loved me and  
gave himself for me. Ga-  
latians 2:20 ESV*

You and I have a choice  
between a **cross of re-  
bellion** or a **cross of re-  
pentance**. The message  
of the cross in Paul's day  
was... *For the word of  
the cross is folly to those  
who are perishing, but to  
us who are being saved*



*it is the power of God. 1  
Corinthians 1:18 ESV*

Let's end where we began but finish the little poem...

*"Under an eastern sky,  
Amid a rabble's cry,  
a man went forth to die  
FOR ME".*

God bless you, Chaplain  
Ray

Supplied by Ray Fritz:

### **WHY MEN ARE NEVER DEPRESSED:**

Men Are Just Happier  
People --

What do you expect  
from such simple crea-  
tures?

Your last name stays  
put.

The garage is all yours.

Wedding plans take care  
of themselves.

Chocolate is just another  
snack...

You can be President.

You can never be preg-  
nant.

You can wear a white T-  
shirt to a water park.

You can wear NO shirt  
to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you  
the truth.

The world is your urinal.

You never have to drive  
to another gas station  
restroom because this

one is just too icky.

You don't have to stop  
and think of which way  
to turn a nut on a bolt.

Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress \$5000...  
Tux rental-\$100.

People never stare at  
your chest when you're  
talking to them.

New shoes don't cut,  
blister, or mangle your  
feet.

One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are  
over in 30 seconds flat.

You know stuff about  
tanks.

A five-day vacation re-  
quires only one suitcase.

You can open all your  
own jars.

You get extra credit for  
the slightest act of  
thoughtfulness.

If someone forgets to  
invite you,

He or she can still be  
your friend.

Your underwear is \$8.95  
for a three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are  
more than enough..

You almost never have  
strap problems in public.

You are unable to see  
wrinkles in your  
clothes..

Everything on your face  
stays its original color.

The same hairstyle lasts  
for years, even decades.

You only have to shave  
your face and neck.

You can play with toys  
all your life.

One wallet and one pair  
of shoes -- one color for  
all seasons.

You can wear shorts no  
matter how your legs  
look.

You can 'do' your nails  
with a pocket knife.

You have freedom of  
choice concerning grow-  
ing a mustache.

You can do Christmas  
shopping for 25 relatives  
On December 24 in 25  
minutes.

---

### **Men Are Just Happier People!**

#### **NICKNAMES**

If Laura, Kate and Sarah  
go out for lunch, they  
will call each other  
Laura, Kate and Sarah. If  
Mike, Dave and John go  
out, they will affection-  
ately refer to each other  
as Fat Boy, Bubba and  
Wildman

#### **EATING OUT**

When the bill arrives,  
Mike, Dave and John  
will each throw in \$20,  
even though it's only for  
\$32.50. None of them  
will have anything  
smaller and none will  
actually admit they want

change back. When the  
girls get their bill, out  
come the pocket calcula-  
tors.

#### **MONEY**

A man will pay \$2 for a  
\$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for  
a \$2 item that she doesn't  
need but it's on sale.

#### **BATHROOMS**

A man has six items in  
his bathroom: toothbrush  
and toothpaste, shaving  
cream, razor, a bar of  
soap, and a towel. The  
average number of items  
in the typical woman's  
bathroom is 337. A man  
would not be able to  
identify more than 20 of  
these items.

#### **ARGUMENTS**

A woman has the last  
word in any argument.  
Anything a man says  
after that is the begin-  
ning of a new argument.

#### **FUTURE**

A woman worries about  
the future until she gets a  
husband.




A man never worries  
about the future until he  
gets a wife.

#### **MARRIAGE**

A woman marries a man  
expecting he will  
change, but he doesn't.  
A man marries a woman  
expecting that she won't  
change, but she does.



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 CP Base Meeting—1730 Dinner & Meeting 1900
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	MAY DAY 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19—Burnsville NC SubVets Mtg. Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Knights Baseball — Presentation of Colors
27	28 	29	30	31		

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

