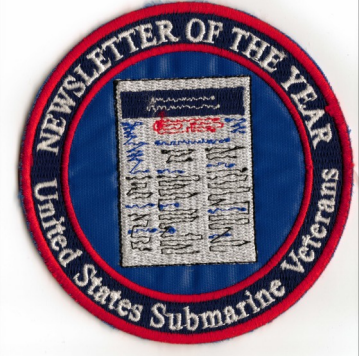


Piedmont Periscope



Piedmont Periscope

March 2013

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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 ! (and maybe Football too!)

Well, for the 4th year in a row, Memorial Day Weekend will be our annual Carolina Piedmont Day at the Charlotte Knights. This year will slight different in that the game will be on Monday May 27th. That is due to the Knights being out of town on our normal Saturday night game day. Again, your Carolina Piedmont Color Guard will be presenting the Colors prior to the Game. This year we have two new Flags, the North Carolina and the South Carolina Flags to present. That will be a total of five Flags. Again this year we have

the best seats and the cost will be the same as last year, \$13.00 per seat. Please contact Moe(SS) at 704-248-7610 or donutdad@att.net to reserve you seats for this event prior to May 15th. Speaking of Ball, that's Football now, your Color Guard has submitted a video of a practice session as requested by the Carolina Panthers. We contacted the Panthers last year, but were too late in the season and they had already had their schedule filled. So Color Guard Coordinator, Moe(SS), contacted them before the Super

Bowl and then again a few weeks ago. Last week an e-mail was received requesting a video of our Color Guard.

So our devoted Color Guard scrambled in the cold weather (football weather) to practice and make a video to send to the Panthers. Special thanks to Howard Dachs, Joel Tuchfeld, Calvin Reese, Jeff Nieberding, Jim Harris, and my Darling Wife, Colleen Moses for shooting the video. And thanks to our SubVettes for purchasing us some uniform accessories. You Gals are Super! Picture on Page 24!



Lost Boats for March

"Sailors, rest your oars"

USS F-4 (SS 21)	March 25, 1915
USS H-1 (SS 28)	March 12, 1920
USS PERCH (SS 176)	March 3, 1942
USS GRAMPUS (SS 207)	March 5, 1943
USS TRITON (SS 201)	March 15, 1943
USS TULLIBEE (SS 284)	March 26, 1944
USS KETE (SS 369)	March 20, 1945
USS TRIGGER (SS 237)	March 26, 1945

CO's Stateroom— Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell



I just returned from my trip to Norfolk for the Sailor of the Year events. I would like to let you know that it was really a privilege to serve on the selection board for the various categories for that. I have to tell you, these sailors are really good. When you see a Second Class Petty Officer that is qualified as the Diving Officer of the Watch on a Trident, that is really saying something. The whole event was a real honor for me. We still have three members to get inducted into the Holland Club. When they show up to a meeting, we will get them inducted. And there are also several

that have not received their longevity pin hopefully we can get a few more of those issued soon.

Our visit to Victory Junction Gang Camp was another fine event. I will let others tell you about that. But I must add that we all got a really great tour of the facilities while we were waiting for the children. We were given new explanations about areas that we had not received in the past. In any case, it was really a great evening, just a long drive for me.

Burnsville is now about two months away. Please get your hotel reservations and your registrations (along with your money of course) in so we can have a good count for the dinner. This is one of those times that is really enjoyable for all. So come

on out and join us for a fun weekend in the mountains.

The Regional Convention is next month in Charleston. I have no idea if anyone else other than me is attending. If so, you need to get your registrations in for that as well. The cutoff for the hotel was 6 March, but I am sure that they may listen to your reasons for being late, but no guarantees there. But it would be nice to see Carolina Piedmont well represented there.

Parade season is now upon us. I know that the St Patty's Day parade in Charlotte will be over by the time the newsletter comes out. But I am sure we were well represented at that event. The next parade is around Memorial Day in Thomasville, NC. Always a nice day there with all the events besides the

parade that goes on.

More information on the parade season will be put out as we get it.

We will be voting for officers at the March meeting. It is always nice to get the vote of confidence for those that are willing to stand up and become officers of the base. This, like any other election, is your chance to exercise your right to vote. So come to our meeting and cast your vote.

Awards season is getting close to being over. The close out date is 30 April. If you think a member or base deserves an award, take the time to read the manual, then write up the individual or base and submit it following the instructions within the Awards Manual. It is not very difficult, however, I will tell you that the better the (con't on page 3)

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	editor_periscope@att.net	704-248-7610

write-up, the better chance your nomination has a chance to get that award. We have had several awards given to both our base and members because somebody took the time to write up the intended award. I look forward to seeing

as many of you as possible at our meeting this month. Not sure what is on the menu yet, but I know it does not matter as the meals are always great. Come on out and enjoy a meal with us as well. You cannot find a better bargain.— Steve

Pictures on Page 24

Charlotte St. Paddy's
Day Parade

Saturday March 16th

11:00 AM

We are #26

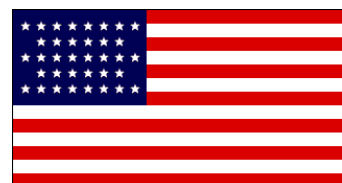
Be in line by 10:30

The Supply Shack- Jeff Nieberding

Carolina Piedmont Jackets are still available to order, several members have ordered theirs already. 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.

Flag Trivia—Where did this Flag fly in our Nation's history? See Page 22



XO's Stateroom — Vice Commander Jack Jeffries



CAROLINA OPIED-MONT ROCKS- I would like to start off by saying THANKS to the members that attend our monthly meetings, we are averaging about 25 percent attendance, it is at our meetings where we can receive proposals for improving our Base and all inputs are considered and acted upon, for the members that are not in our area please feel free to send me your thoughts. The month of March is a fairly busy one for us with our 11th visit to Victory Junction, the honoring of an Eagle Scout in Indian Trail (thanks to Tom Hulme for conducting that ceremony) and our participation in the Annual St.

Paddy's Day parade in Charlotte .

We have important dates on the calendar for April also, 16 April we have a visit scheduled to take the KAP(SS)4KID(SS) program to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte and also Massing of the Colors the 28th of April in Rock Hill, SC. Please put these dates on your calendar and try to attend. The Levine date we will be permitted to have a total of 10 members, this can include spouses please let me know if you desire to attend.

Please remember that our annual visit to the Moonshine Mountain monument is scheduled for the 17th and 18th of May. This is a great get-together of the North Carolina Submarine Veterans and is always enjoyed by all.

We have the SE Regional Convention in Charleston

scheduled for 7-11 April, the registration forms have already been forwarded to you, please attend if possible.

We have a new member, Steve Costantini and his spouse Susan that joined our base at the February meeting WELCOME ABOARD.

A BZ goes out to our editor of the Award Winning monthly edition of the Piedmont Periscope, if you have any inputs that you would like to include please feel free to contact Dale Moses at editor_periscope@att.com sea stories are always welcome.

I have sent out the latest Base roster for you to go over and let me know of any changes that need to be made, this is not only to update our Base roster but also to change entries at the National level this is vital to them as they mail out the American Submariner to the address

on file.

Our next base meeting is scheduled for 23 March and I hope to see you there. Until the next edition of the Award Winning edition, Thanks for choosing Carolina Piedmont Base. - Jack

Machinery One — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes

For February 23th, 2013



1900- Meeting called to order by Commander Steve Bell, 20 Members present.

Invocation given by Chaplain Ray Fritz. Pledge of Allegiance.

Tolling of the Boats conducted by Chaplain Ray Fritz and COB Paul Myers.

Introduction of members present.

Special presentations by Commander Steve Bell: Inducted Robert Howell in Holland Club, presented 5 year longevity pin to Jack Anulies and National Chaplain patch to Ray Fritz.

Jim Schenk presented a wood carving NATIONAL CHAPLAIN desk plaque to Chaplain Ray Fritz.

Approved minutes of January meeting as published in Piedmont Periscope, Seconded.

Treasurer read treasury report-Balance in account \$6566.03, Memorial Fund \$542.50, K4K \$1921.05 Scholarship \$36.00 Funds available \$4066.48. Approved and seconded. An audit for the 2012 year was conducted with no discrepancies found.

Old Business- A motion was made and seconded to spend \$21.00 for our share of a full page ad for our district in 2013 convention book.

New Business- A motion was made and seconded to spend \$15.00 for our share of ad in 2013 National Convention for NC Subvets, check to be sent to Chuck Jensen, Treasurer of Nathanael Greene base.

A motion was made and seconded to spend \$385.40 to purchase 2 new state flags (both NC and SC) and accessories for base use.

SK report- Storekeeper announced that we still have a few calendars left.

Good of the Order- Sandra Myers reported that we still have tickets available for the one week at the condo in Myrtle Beach, all expenses paid except food and beverages. Tickets cost \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

A cruise is being formed for this August, more info to be forwarded as we get it.

A USS Carolina SSN 777 CPO mess challenge coin was auctioned with the proceeds going to K4K.

Nominations for Base Officers was closed with the following results: Commander Steve Bell, Vice Commander Jack Jeffries, Secretary Mike Hubbell Treasurer Raymond Zieverink. No other nominations were presented.

The annual spring meeting at Burnsville is scheduled for May 17 & 18, please make reservations early so we have a count for the banquet. All arrangements have been made.

Commander Steve Bell mentioned the possibility of the new USS Asheville base taking over the Burnsville

Base Minutes (con't) — Mike Hubbell, Base Secretary

annual event in the future due to the closeness to their base, more on that later. With this in mind Commander Steve Bell stated that the Carolina Piedmont Base needs to put on their entrepreneurial mind to work to come up with an event the base can host, either in the summer or fall.

The reservations for the hotel in Charleston Regional Convention must be made by 6 March. Info was published in an e-mail.

The base has two K4K presentations scheduled, 2 March at Victory Junction and 16 April at Levine Children's Hospital.

The base is scheduled to present our Colors at a Massing of the Colors at Rock Hill High School 28 April, more info will be published.

Next meeting is 23 March 2013.

2015- Benediction given by Chaplain Ray Fritz.

Motion to adjourn and seconded

Jack Jeffries for Mike Hubbell

From the COB - Paul Myers



Hello my fellow shipmates I hope all is well with you and yours. Sandra and I are doing well since my retiring and us traveling.

I have been reading many books since I left work one book that I would like to share with you is "NO EASY DAY " by MARK OWEN. It is an autobiography of a "Navy Seal " the first hand account of the killing of Osama Bin Laden. The book was very interesting as he puts you along side of him and the other seals training as they prepare for this mission and do what needs to be done to take care of Osama. I would recommend this book to all that loves to read. I do not want to give too many details since that would take away from the suspense of the book, but you will truly enjoy this book.

I would like to thank all of you for letting me be you COB it was a honor to serve you. Take care and may God bless you and yours. — Paul

New members

Welcome Aboard

Vice Admiral Al Konetzni

Steve Costantini— Steve qualified in '85 and served twice on the USS Von Steuben (SSBN-632) and also on the USS Dallas as an MM1(SS) and now lives in Charlotte with his wife Susan.

Chaplain's Corner - Ray Fritz, National Chaplain



Duh! I missed getting this in last month because I sent it to Dale's old e-mail address! I hope all the great Sub-vettes had a wonderful Valentine's Day!



Valentine's Day... A special day to remember a special person in a special way. When we served our country in the U.S. Submarine force, our wives and spouses stood by us all the way. They waved 'Goodbye' as the boat slipped away from the pier headed for destinations unknown to them and sometimes to us. Our absence, on fast attacks, may have been for a few days or weeks and on boomers, a couple of months or more! Our wives were there at home waiting... waiting for our safe return to their loving

arms. They faithfully stood by our side all those years. Thank God for faithful wives and for faithful husbands. Perhaps you weren't married during those sea years but your wife today stands by your side as well. You know she loves you because she puts up with all your sea stories and she comes to the monthly meetings with you. Your wife is proud of you and proud of your service to our country and, hopefully, she is one of our Sub-vettes.

For our wives, those were lonely days and nights. When I went to sea, Diana was home alone in a dinky old apartment, 400 miles from where either of our parents lived. A person could go stir crazy in those circumstances. Sadly, during that time, some of the wives went back home and never returned. It was too much for them to handle. In some instances, a wife was unfaithful to her husband and there were husbands who were unfaithful to their wives. Those situations were truly sad either way. God bless the faithful ones!



I'm not Irish [Fritz] but, the Irish I know, have a lot of fun! St. Patrick's Day named after Saint Patrick (385-461 AD) and, for Christians, commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It is celebrated with parades (we will be in Charlotte), festivals, and the wearing of green. Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century. His family was wealthy, his father a deacon and his grandfather a priest in the Christian church. At 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. He said he was told by God in a dream to flee from captivity to the coast, where he boarded a ship and returned to England. He then studied to be a priest. He did return to Ireland and folklore says that he used the shamrock to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish people.



Patrick died on 17 March 461 and is buried at Downpatrick.



**To contact for
Your Chaplain
needs —
Chaplain Ray at
[raysabode@
bellsouth.net](mailto:raysabode@bellsouth.net)**



The USS Skate SSN-578 surfaced at the North Pole – March 17, 1959



Easter is Sunday, March 31, 2013. This is the day that Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians believe, according to the Scriptures, that Jesus rose from the dead three

days after his death on the cross (crucifixion). His crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, always the Friday before Easter. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, and purchased, for those who believe (trust, rely) on Him, eternal life in Him.

May God bless you with a Happy Easter!

In the day of our Lord, 7 March 2013.

Chaplain Ray

Little Known Submarine Facts— Ron Martini/David Barth

Submitted by Ronald L Martini on June 12, 2008 and compiled by David Barth, October 19, 2008

At the end of WWII, Japanese submarine I-14 was given to Commander John S. "Junior" McCain, son of the carrier task force commander, Vice Admiral John S. "Slew" McCain (and father of Arizona Senator John S. McCain, III).

The George Washington sail on display at the Submarine Force Museum and Library

outside the main gate at Subase/Groton is NOT 100 percent 598! Some of it is from the Abraham Lincoln sail. The 598 hit a Japanese ship and parts of the 602 was used in the repair.

There was a Torpedo Factory in Washington DC in WWII. It is now an art museum of the same name in Alexandria, VA and draws some 500,000 visitors each year.

The U.S. sold 74 Diesel submarines to 13 foreign countries. Turkey and Brazil bought 26 and 11 respectively.

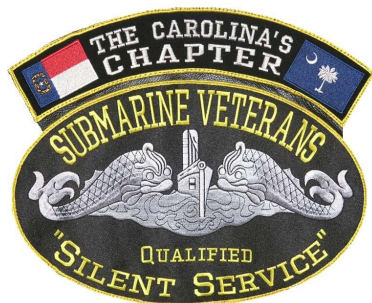
Little known was that Japan "borrowed" the Mingo which was eventually returned and sunk as a target.

The initial Scorpion was cut apart to build the George Washington. This was the only boat cut to build a boomer. However parts from other Skipjack Class boats went into the Patrick Henry and even some parts meant for the Shark were diverted to the Robert E. Lee.

A nuclear powered guided missile launching submarine

(SSGN), was similar in concept to the Halibut, a diesel-powered submarine, but with the S5W nuclear reactor power plant. SSGN 600 was to be one of these SSGNs. Budgeted for in 1959, it was to have four hangars, each carrying one or more modified, liquid-fueled Jupiter missiles in a configuration which had four missile tubes in an enlarged sail. This plan was ended in 1956 when the Jupiter-equipped submarine program was scrapped and work turned to designing a solid-fueled missile that was to become the Polaris.

Carolinas Chapter SSMC— A word from New President Frank Reno



It's been my pleasure to start and serve as the first President of the Carolinas Chapter of the SSMC. It's time to turn-over and let someone who can devote more time to the Chapter. Good luck to Frank.— Moe(SS)

Hello from Florida. As most of you probably know I have been in Florida for the past 2 month's helping my Mother nurse my Father back to good health. He fell just before Christmas and broke his hip. Then 5 days after the surgery he fell and broke his Femur in the same leg. He is doing better now and I will be returning home to North Carolina in about 10 days.

I would like to thank the members for electing me

as Chapter President, I guess the new title is Commander. I would also like to welcome the others that were elected and I don't want to forget the new members. We now have 21 members and are continuing to grow.

I will be transferring my membership to the Asheville USSVI and barring the unforeseen I will be at the next meeting on March 5th.

I'm not sure that people know about me so here is a little of my military background. I joined the Navy in 1973. I was on the USS Lewis & Clark, SSBN-644B from 74-78 and made 7 Patrols.

From 80-86 I was on the USS Francis Scott Key, SSBN-657B. I made three patrols and one

VERY long yard period. From 90-91 I was on the USS Baltimore, SSN-704 and was sub disqualified due to a bad bout of Kidney stones. I finished up at SUBLANT and retired in 1993 as a Senior Chief Sonarman.

I obviously was never a Navy Captain but go by "Capt. Frank" for three reasons. I was a Reserve Captain in the Monroe County (Florida) Sheriff's Department for 12 years. I am also a licensed Merchant Marine Captain (100 Tons) and after the Navy I flew as a Boeing-737 Captain until about two years ago when again due to Kidney Stones I was forced to retire.

It is starting to warm up a bit and I am hoping that we can organize a meeting/ride very soon. I realize that we are spread out over two states but we will just do the best we can. I am open to suggestions as to where we should hold a meeting that can accommodate the most members.

I would like to throw this out for discussion & have already run it past national. Since the requirement to form a chapter has been reduced it might be a good time to divide the Carolinas Chapter in two, forming the North & South Carolina chapters. Then to leave it optional as to which one each member would like to be a member of. It seems to me that the NC Chapter works best in my area, mostly Western NC and the Northwestern part of SC. The South Carolina Chapter might work best out of the Charleston area. As I said this is just an idea & I would like to have some input before we decide to do anything along these lines. I personally think having more state chapters is in the best interest of the SSMC.

That's about all from here. Ride safe.

Frank Reno "Capt. Frank", STSCS(SS) USN Ret. 352-205-9572



Holland Club Member in the Spotlight



Our Base Holland Club Member of the Month is Robert "Bob" Boyd RMCS(SS) (Ret). Bob lives with his wife Patricia in Spring Hill, Florida but is looking forward to moving back to North Carolina.

Bob was born in Greensboro and moved to the Wrightsville Beach area when he was about four years old. The family then moved to Candor, NC. Bob said that he had a brother that was in the Navy and had decided at an early age of 16 that he was going to join the Navy and "do twenty". He did just that right out of high school, in 1954. Bob was in the last part of RM school when him and a buddy decided they both would try out for Submarine Duty. Bob's buddy didn't make it, but Bob got orders to Sub School in New London, CT.

Bob first boat was the USS Redfin SSR-272. Bob says this was probably his favorite duty in his entire Navy career

due to the fact he got to serve with about twenty or so WWII submariners. He learned from the best. But he told me he still gets calls from some of the sailors he taught on the boomers he served so he must have passed some knowledge along. Seems we all do.

Bob was a "Hot Runner" and qualified fast on the Redfin. Bob also served on the USS Sennet SS-408, USS John Marshall SSBN611G (Commissioning Crew), USS Lewis and Clark SSBN644 (first 11 crew members), and while serving with COMSUBFLOT7, did some time on the USS Salmon SS573. Bob made RMC in under 8 years and RMCS at first pass.

They promised Bob E-9 to re-enlist, but he had just been married and had two small children and wanted to move his wife and kids from Japan back to either Florida or North Carolina. So he turned in his papers and headed to Florida with his family.

Bob knowing that the electronics field was flooded with people, sought work in another field. One in which he had no training or background. He walked into a bank and talked to a bank

vice-president about a job. The VP asked what he wanted to make. Bob replied "What do you make?" Bob was hired! Bob worked in the banking industry for 36 years from teller to Vice President, and every job in between. Bob retired from banking in 2009 but still works for a doctor doing legal documents and such about 20 hours per week.

At 77 Bob still seems pretty active. I caught him just as he was getting ready to go into Lowe's. He said he loves to read the Periscope and to say "Hello" to everyone here. He'll try to stop by next time he's up to visit his sister in Charlotte. Thanks Bob for your service and what you taught those who might have taught us.



Heck to get old

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?'

What'd he say?

A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect, I can now hear EVERYTHING!'

'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty..'

Binnacle List

Kathy Boone

Happy Birthday to:

March

Rick Petitt 3/5

William Hickerson 3/7

Howard Dachs 3/14

Judy Hickerson 3/15

Ruth Murray 3/15

Barbara Sealy 3/24

Robert Howell 3/30



“Remember, write to your Congressman. Even if he can’t read, write to him.

” - Will Rogers



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:

March

Sandi and John Wardean - 3/5

Libby and Calvin Reese - 3/31



SubVettes—President Sandra Myers

Hello Sassy Sisters, Hope all is well with you and yours. Paul and I are great, and just catching up after our trip. It was great to see all at our February Valentine Dinner of chocolate and Italian Dishes. We accomplished a lot at the meeting discussing our service projects for this year. Now we have the annual

cruise in motion set for August.

Our service projects are the chap sticks and start to get things for our trip to the Veterans Hospital in Johnson City. I have bought the specialty coffee to send to our troops for a treat and took cookies to the recruiters for St. Patrick's Day.

Our meal is another "this and that" for March. Please do not forget your secret sister.

See you soon and

may God bless you and may God bless our great country the USA !!!!!!!

• Sandra Myers—
President



Another
SubVettes
Article on
Page 25

Vegetarian Korma

This is an easy and exotic Indian dish. It's rich, creamy, mildly spiced, and extremely flavorful. Serve with naan and rice.

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil | 1 small onion, diced |
| 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger root | 4 cloves garlic, minced |
| 2 potatoes, cubed | 4 carrots, cubed |
| 1 fresh jalapeno pepper, seeded and sliced | 3 tablespoons ground unsalted cashews |
| 1 (4 ounce) can tomato sauce | 2 teaspoons salt |
| 1 1/2 tablespoons curry powder | 1 cup frozen green peas |
| 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped | 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped |
| 1 cup heavy cream | 1 bunch fresh cilantro for garnish |

Directions:

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Stir in the onion, and cook until tender. Mix in ginger and garlic, and continue cooking 1 minute. Mix potatoes, carrots, jalapeno, cashews, and tomato sauce. Season with salt and curry powder. Cook and stir 10 minutes, or until potatoes are tender.

Stir peas, green bell pepper, red bell pepper, and cream into the skillet. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 10 minutes. Garnish with cilantro to serve.

Nutritional Information: Amount Per Serving (1 cup) Calories: 462 | Total Fat: 31.1g | Cholesterol: 82mg
Powered by ESHA Nutrient Database



VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

**Deadline for
the next issue
of the
Piedmont
Periscope
will be
April 18th.
Please have all
items to
Moe(SS) at
Edi-
tor_periscope@
Att.net
by then.**

Your Veteran News From the RAQ Bulletin

Direct Deposit Update

03: If you receive your federal benefits by paper check, you'll need to switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013. The federal benefits affected are:

Social Security

Supplemental Security Income

Veterans Affairs

Railroad Retirement Board

Office of Personnel Management

Department of Labor (Black Lung)

You have two options for receiving benefits electronically -- Direct Deposit and Prepaid Debit Card:

1. **Direct Deposit.** The U.S. Treasury deposits your benefits directly into your bank account. You can sign up for direct deposit in one of these ways:

Enroll online at <http://www.GoDirect.org>

Visit your bank or credit union.

Call (800) 333-1795 (Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm ET).

Contact the local office of the agency providing your federal benefits.

Enroll by mail.

2. Prepaid Debit Card.

The U.S. Treasury deposits your benefits directly to a debit card. This is an option if you don't have a bank account and do not want to open one. You can request a debit card by calling (800) 333-1795 M-F 0800-2000 EST.

Be ready with the information you'll need to set up your federal benefit payments by direct deposit or debit card. You'll Need Your:

12-digit federal benefit check number

Amount of most recent federal benefit check

Financial institution's routing transit number* (direct deposit only)

Account number (often on personal checks) and type - checking or savings (direct deposit only)

If you have questions, call the Go Direct Helpline at (800) 333-1795.

[Source: <http://www.anapolschwartz.com/practices/social-security.shtml> Feb 2013 ++]

Medicare Reimbursement Rates 2014:

Could this be the year

that the "doc fix" is finally fixed? It will be if Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) and Joe Heck, (R-NV) have their way. They introduced the Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act that would ensure patient access to physicians while promoting efficiency, quality and value in health care delivery. The bipartisan legislation would permanently repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and defines a clear path toward comprehensive reforms of Medicare payment and delivery systems. For years, the SGR formula which is used to determine payments for physicians' services under Medicare and TRICARE, has threatened to impose steep cuts in Medicare payments for physicians who provide care to seniors and military beneficiaries. The cuts drive physicians out of Medicare, creating severe access problems for senior citizens and members of the military community. The fiscal cliff legislation passed by Congress at the end of the year contained a one-year payment patch for physicians who treat Medicare/TRICARE pa-

tients. The legislation would implement delivery system and payment reforms that would ensure long-term stability in the Medicare physician payment system and would contain the rising growth in health care costs. The Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act:

Permanently repeals the SGR formula;

Provides annual positive payment updates for all physicians for four years;

Ensures access to preventive care, care coordination, and primary care services through increased payment updates for those services;

Aggressively tests and evaluates new payment and delivery models;

Identifies a variety of unique payment models to provide options for providers across medical specialties, practice types, and geographic regions;

Stabilizes payment rates for providers who demonstrate a commitment to quality and efficiency within a fee-for-service model; and,

Ensures long-term stability in the Medicare physician payment system

through predictable updates that accurately reflect the cost and value of providing health care services in coordinated care models.

[Source: AUSA Leg Up 111 Feb 2013 ++]

Independent Budget FY 2014: The White House may be late in preparing its 2014 budget request, but a powerful collection of veterans groups unveiled their own plan 5 FEB for a \$4.8 billion increase in veterans health care, benefits administration, construction and medical research funds. Prepared by four groups — Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and AmVets — the so-called Independent Budget is endorsed by 45 military, veterans and charitable organizations and will be used as a benchmark to decide if the Obama administration's Veterans Affairs Department budget request for 2014 is adequate. This is the 27th such budget sent to the White House and Congress.

Veterans are asking for a \$3.3 billion increase for health care over the 2013 budget, \$1.2 billion more than the Obama administration estimated would be needed for medical programs. In their report detailing the request, the groups say there are several reasons for what amounts to a 6 percent increase: They expect an influx of new veterans, some severely disabled and some needing care as a result of reductions in the active-duty military, and they also anticipate more veterans may turn to VA as the cost of private-sector health care spirals, the report says. The budget also asks for a 4.8 percent increase for medical and prosthetic research, a 10.4 percent increase in benefits administration aimed at speeding the processing and accuracy of benefits claims, and a whopping 77 percent increase in construction funds to pay for what the report says are desperately needed and overdue projects. In a statement, VFW National Commander John Hamilton said VA has been getting "less than half" of what it needs to modernize

facilities. "Just as disabled veterans require more medical assistance as they age, so do VA medical facilities that average more than 60 years old. "Though we have yet to see what the administration is proposing for fiscal year 2014, we fear the weak economy will again influence what the administration requests for major and minor construction," he said.

The report urges continued attention to helping new veterans find jobs. "With more than 800,000 unemployed veterans, and nearly 12 percent of recent veterans searching for work, now is the time for this administration and Congress to stand up for our heroes and ensure they are able to provide for themselves and their families," said AMVETS National Commander Cleve Geer. Employment programs have been mentioned as a legislative priority by the chairmen of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees and are expected to be discussed at hearings in February and March when military and veter-

VETERANS NEWS
by the RAQ Bulletin

Got a Story?
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at
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@att.net



ans groups are invited to testify before the two panels. Another issue that won't go away is the backlog of benefits claims. The report says VA has spent enough time looking at ways to improve the process and should be pushed to implement transformative technology and policies before the end of the calendar year. More staff to process claims might help, the report says, but the groups do not recommend any specific increase. DAV National Commander Larry Polzin said he is encouraged by VA's claims efforts. "We look forward to continued progress in improved accuracy and timeliness," he said, "but uncertainty about funding for VA could have far-reaching consequences for our nation's injured and ill veterans and their families." [Source: NavyTimes | Rick Maze | 6 Feb 2013 ++]

Tricare Pharmacy Co-pay Update 10: Tricare pharmacy co-pay increases became effective 1 February. The FY 2013 National Defense

Bill required Tricare to increase copayments on brand name and non-formulary medications that are not filled at military treatment centers. There is no increase on generic medications and many co-pays vary based on class of drug and where the prescriptions are filled. For example, the co-pay for generic medications remains \$5 when filled at a network pharmacy and a 30-day supply of brand name medication filled at a retail pharmacy goes from \$12 to \$17. Beneficiaries using Tricare Home delivery will pay \$13 for brand name drugs, however home delivery is for a 90-day supply. The greatest change in co-pays applies to non-formulary medications- a \$25 dollar co-pay increases to \$44 at retail pharmacies and is \$43 through the home delivery system. For 2014 and forward, co-payment increases are tied to annual cost-of-living adjustments. For more about the pharmacy changes visit <http://www.Tricare.mil/pharmacycosts>. [Source:

VFW Washington weekly 1 Feb 2013 ++]

Prostate Enlargement:

It is common for the prostate gland to become enlarged as a man ages. Doctors call this condition benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), or benign prostatic hypertrophy. As a man matures, the prostate goes through two main periods of growth. The first occurs early in puberty, when the prostate doubles in size. At around age 25, the gland begins to grow again. As the prostate enlarges, the layer of tissue surrounding it stops it from expanding, causing the gland to press against the urethra like a clamp on a garden hose. The bladder wall becomes thicker and irritable. The bladder begins to contract even when it contains small amounts of urine, causing more frequent urination. Eventually, the bladder weakens and loses the ability to empty itself, so some of the urine remains in the bladder. The narrowing of the urethra and partial emptying of the bladder cause many of the problems associated

with BPH. The condition rarely causes symptoms before age 40, but more than half of men in their sixties and as many as 90 percent in their seventies and eighties have some symptoms of BPH. Treatment involves surgery or drugs that block testosterone, a hormone that drives unwanted growth. Side effects can include loss of libido and erectile dysfunction. Andrew Schally of the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Florida and colleagues have developed a new drug, RC-3940-II, which works by blocking gastrin-releasing peptide – another potent growth factor. In rats, a six-week treatment shrank prostates by 18 per cent. It also shrank human prostate cells by 21 per cent. Importantly, fewer side effects are likely as testosterone pathways are avoided. [Source: New Scientist Magazine | Andy Coghlan | 29 Jan 2013 ++]

Mobilized Reserve 5

FEB 2013: The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on

active duty as of 5 FEB 2012. The net collective result is 476 fewer reservists mobilized than last reported in the 1 EB 2013 RAO Bulletin. At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 38,773; Navy Reserve 4,862; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve 7,364; Marine Corps Reserve 2,115; and the Coast Guard Reserve 554. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 53,668 including both units and individual augmentees. Since 911 there have been 813,217 reservists deactivated. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found online at <http://www.defense.gov/news/MobilizationWeeklyReport020513.pdf>. [Source: DoD News Re-

lease No. 066-13 dtd 6 Feb 2013 ++]

DoD/VA Seamless Transition Update 15:

In early FEB the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs announced that they were throwing in the towel on a computer project they had been working on for over 25 years. The goal was to create a single computer system to keep a lifetime medical record. But on 5 FEB the White House announced that it was stopping the system's development because it cost too much. This is a huge disappointment to us and numerous members of Congress. This has been a continuing goal and project and according to Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a long time proponent of a seamless transition it has already cost over \$1 billion in R & D. During the announcement Secretaries Panetta and Shinseki said that the medical records will be readable by both existing systems by 2014. Though they did not explain how that was going to happen. Secretary Panetta basically said the perfect should not stop the

good." "This is a struggle that has gone on for a long number of years. Some have argued that we should build a perfect system. But for the first time, both DOD and VA have come together to say we can get this done, we can get it done in an effective way that does the job." Expressing criticism of the decision, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chair Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) said, "The decision by DOD and VA to turn their backs on a truly integrated electronic health record system is deeply troubling. The need for a record system integrated across all DOD and VA components has been universally accepted for years." [Source: News for the Enlisted | Feb 2013 ++]



Lost Boats— USS Perch SS-176



USS *Perch* (SS-176) - the lead ship of *Perch*-class submarines of the United States Navy, the first Navy ship to be named for the perch.

Her keel was laid down on 25 February 1935 by the Electric Boat Company, in Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 9 May 1936 (sponsored by Mrs. Thomas Withers), and commissioned on 19 November 1936, Lieutenant Commander George C. Crawford in command. Inter-War Period - After shakedown in the North Atlantic, *Perch* became a member of the Pacific Fleet when she joined Submarine Squadron 6 (SubRon 6) in November 1937. The following spring she was engaged in the annual fleet problem and did some work on a survey of the Aleutian Islands, entering the Bering Sea on 28 February. In the spring of 1939, *Perch* operated with the fleet on its cruise to the East Coast.

In October 1939, *Perch* departed San Diego, California, for Manila where she

became a division flagship and made a summer cruise in 1940 to Tsingtao and Shanghai. She spent the year preceding the war in operations around the Philippines. A week before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, *Perch* rendezvoused with two transports off Shanghai and escorted the Fourth Marines from China to the Philippines. World War II - At the outbreak of hostilities, *Perch* - commanded by David A. Hurt - was in Cavite Navy Yard. She took part in the rush to clear the Navy Yard on 10 December and watched, at close range, the destruction of Cavite by bombers. That night, *Perch* slipped through the Corregidor minefields and scouted between Luzon and Formosa (Taiwan) in search of targets. Failing to detect any, she shifted to an area off Hong Kong, and on Christmas night, launched four torpedoes at a large merchantman, all missing. A few days later, she torpedoed a merchantman. Enemy escorts prevented *Perch* from observing the kill. *Perch* sailed south to Darwin, Australia, to repair damage, making several unsuccessful at-

tacks en route. She next made a patrol to Kendari, Celebes (Sulawesi), where she scouted the harbor and made several attempts to get through the narrow entrance to an attack position.

After a week of close contact with the enemy, obtaining information, *Perch* headed south searching for targets. In a night attack on a large merchantman off the eastern coast of Celebes, *Perch* was hit in the superstructure, forward of the pressure hull of the conning tower, by a high explosive round which blew away the bridge deck, punctured the antenna trunk and temporarily put her radio out of commission. Her crew, by very courageous effort, made repairs on deck at night in waters heavily patrolled by the enemy, and *Perch* headed for the Java Sea.

On the evening of 1 March 1942, *Perch* surfaced 30 miles northwest of Surabaya, Java, and started in for an attack on an enemy convoy landing troops to the west of Surabaya. Two enemy destroyers (*Amatsukaze* and *Hatsukaze*) attacked and drove her down with a string of depth charges which caused her to bottom at 135 feet. Several more depth charge attacks caused extensive damage, putting the starboard motors out of commission and causing extensive flooding throughout the boat. After repairs, *Perch* sur-



faced at two o'clock in the morning, only to be again driven down by destroyers. The loss of oil, and air from damaged ballast tanks, convinced the enemy that Perch was breaking up and they went on to look for other kills, allowing her to escape. With decks awash and only one engine in commission, the crew made all possible repairs. During the early morning of 3 March, a test dive was made with almost fatal results. Expert handling and good luck enabled her to surface, and she began making repairs. Then, as if this was not enough, two Japanese cruisers and three destroyers hove into view and began firing. As shells straddled the boat, her skipper ordered, "Abandon ship, scuttle the boat." With all hull openings open, Perch made her last dive. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register 24 June 1942. The entire crew was captured by a Japanese destroyer. Of the fifty-four men and five officers, all but six — who died of malnutrition in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps — were able to return to the United States after V-J Day.

On 23 November 2006, Thanksgiving Day, the wreck of Perch was located by accident by an international team of divers off the coast of Java. The expedition had hoped to photograph the wreck of Exeter, sunk in the same area on 1 March 1942. Awards- Perch received one battle star for World War II service. The Perch is the subject of an episode of the syndicated television anthology series, The Silent Service, which aired during the 1957-1958 season.

About Navy Chiefs:

You may have forgotten it but Chief Petty Officers are known as the "backbone of the Navy." This is how you tell if you are in the presence of a "real" Chief:

The Chief's not afraid of the dark; the dark is afraid of the Chief.

Chiefs think Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and should not be allowed to read books on leadership.

The Chief once visited The Virgin Islands. They are now simply called "The Islands"

Superman owns a pair of Chief pajamas.

The Chief has never

paid taxes. He just sends in a blank form and includes a picture of himself.

If the Chief is late, then time had damned well better slow down.

The Chief actually died four years ago, but the Grim Reaper can't get up the courage to tell him.

The Chief can divide by zero.

The Chief has counted to infinity ... twice!

If the Chief ever calls your house, be in!

The Chief doesn't leave messages; he leaves warnings. You had better pay attention to them.

The Chief can slam a revolving door.

The Chief was sending an email one day, when he realized it would be faster to run.

When the Incredible Hulk gets mad, he becomes the Chief.

When the Chief exercises, the machine gets stronger.

Bullets dodge the Chief. If not, he catches them in his teeth.

Chiefs do not have any civilian clothes. As civilians, they keep their uniforms forever.

The Chief's favorite national holiday is CPO Initiation.

The Chief's favorite food is SOS for breakfast.

Chiefs don't know how to tell civilian time.

Chiefs dream in Navy blue and gold, white, haze gray, and occasionally khaki.

Chiefs have served in ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.

Chiefs get tears in their eyes when the Chief dies in the movie "Operation Pacific."

Chiefs have pictures of ships in their wallets.

Chiefs do not own any pens that are not inscribed "Property of U.S. Government."

Chief's favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, "We keep you alive to serve this ship."

A Chief's last ship (or duty station) was always better.

Chiefs know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.

A Chief's idea of heaven: Three good PO1's and a Division Officer who does what he's told.

Chiefs think John Wayne would have made a good Chief, if he hadn't gone soft and made Marine movies.

USSVI Constitution and Bylaws

Here a little more of the USSVI Constitution and Bylaws. As I stated in January we'll do a little each month and the Constitution will be here on the left side and the Bylaws on the right side. The Constitution Article VII is rather long and rather than split it, I'll continue it on Page 19. Now Section 5 on Associate Members was new last September, so read it over. — Moe(SS)

Constitution (continued from February issue)

ARTICLE VI -- FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the organization shall commence on the first day of January and end on the thirty -first day of December in each year.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP Section 1. GENERAL

- A. Members who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America must have been discharged under honorable conditions. Proof of qualification and honorable service may be required to be provided to assigned base Secretary or Nat'l Membership Chairman.
- B. All members shall be bound by the Organization's Constitution and Bylaws.
- C. A member may choose the Local Base he desires, however, if no choice is made he may be referred to the Base nearest his home or an internet base at the direction of the National Membership chairman.
- D. A member is considered "in good standing" if National dues has been paid for the current year. (C3/04)
- E. Dues are due and payable effective the last day of December each year. Beginning on Jan 1st a non-renewed member is considered in arrears. Members shall have through 31 January to bring their status up to date. After the above listed dates, members who have not become current in status will be dropped from the rolls of the organization.
- F. Members may join any number of Bases. One Base shall be selected as their (main) primary Base, and all others as (secondary) dual Base(s). Members may only vote from their primary Base in the National elections of the organization.
- G. To avoid conflicts of interest, a Member may only serve as Base Commander for one Base at a time.

Bylaws (continued from February issue)

Since I went long on the Constitution this month, I'll just cover the first of the National Officers from the National Bylaws:

ARTICLE V -- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. NATIONAL COMMANDER:

The duties of the National Commander shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Act as the Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- b. Cause to be called all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- c. Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- d. Enforce the Constitution and Bylaws.
- e. Direct and supervise the operation of the organization.
- f. Prepare and present the Board of Directors Annual Report at the Annual Business Meeting.
- h. Submit, in writing, to the Board of Directors for confirmation, all appointed officers and committee chairmanships except as noted in specific committees where the Chairman is listed by the position he fills in USSVI.
- i. Sign all certificates notes, drafts, or bills of exchange, warrants or other orders for the payment of moneys duly drawn by the National Treasurer, except as provided elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- j. Be responsible for the promulgation of all pertinent information to the membership of the organization.
- k. Work up, keep current, and pass on immediately to his relief a "Turn Over" folder, including all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care.
- l. Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the "Nominations Committee".

More next month, starting with the duties of the Senior Vice Commander. Remember you can always find the entire National USSVI Bylaws at USSVI.org. Happy reading.

USSVI Constitution (Article VII con't)

Section 2. REGULAR MEMBERS.

A. Regular membership is restricted to current and former U.S. Military Personnel, who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by authorized U.S. Navy Command Authority, or are regular members of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II.

Section 3. LIFE MEMBERS

A. Regular Members may become Life Members by paying the National Life Membership Fee established in the Organization's Bylaws. (C2012-1)

B. National Life Members will pay no further National dues, but may be required to pay Base dues as per Base Bylaws.

C. A Base may offer a member, who is a National Life Member, Base Life Membership, not to exceed the cost of National Life membership.

Section 4: HOLLAND CLUB

A. Any Regular Member in good standing who has been designated "Qualified in Submarines" for fifty (50) years or more is eligible to become a member of the Holland Club within the organization.

B. Holland Club members are subject to National and Base Dues to the same extent as other Regular Members of the organization. Holland Club members inducted prior to the effective date of this change (date) are 'grandfathered' and will continue to be designated as National Life Members, but they may be required to pay Base dues as per Base Bylaws.

C. Holland Club member's membership cards will be appropriately stamped HOLLAND CLUB on the front.

D. The members of the Holland Club will elect Holland Club officers including a Holland Club Chairman who will represent them directly to the organization's National Commander.

E. The Membership Chairman will periodically review ALL MEMBERS for eligibility and initiate the admission process as Members become eligible, including a notification to the Holland Club Chairman.

F. If the Holland Club Chairman position becomes vacant due to death, incapacity or resignation, the National Commander will appoint an interim Holland Club Chairman, subject to confirmation by the National Board of Directors, to serve until the next scheduled meeting of the national Holland Club.

(C01-10)

Section 5: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A. An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is sponsored by a Regular Member and meets one of the following requirements:

a. A Regular Member may sponsor a family member (no limit) up to two degrees of consanguinity (blood line relationship) of a regular member, including adoptive children of the regular member.

b. A Regular Member may sponsor one additional non-family related member for Associate Membership who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair.

c. A Regular Member may also sponsor one additional non-family related U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, for Associate Membership, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances.

d. Some examples of interest and support: Submarine Book author, Sub Tender service, Intel Rider, Museum submarine docent, Submarine Historian or provides some other demonstrated service to advance the US Submarine force, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair.

B. Each Associate Member must be continuously sponsored by a Regular Member in good standing

C. Associate Members are eligible for National and Base Annual Membership, and must also retain their membership in an established base to maintain their national USSVI membership. Member At Large status is not available to Associate members.

D. Associate Members may vote on Base matters (if permitted by Base Bylaws) and may hold elective Base offices of Secretary and/or Treasurer (if permitted by Base Bylaws.) but are ineligible to vote in the National/Region elections and cannot hold National elected office.

E. An Associate Member must have a Regular Member in good standing as a sponsor at all times to be a member of USSVI. In the event an Associate (Please go to Page 22)

Piedmont Funnies Page

Shrink vs. Bartender

EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'VE ALWAYS HAD A FEAR OF SOMEONE UNDER MY BED AT NIGHT. SO I WENT TO A SHRINK AND TOLD HIM:

'I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy.'

'Just put yourself in my hands for one year,' said the shrink. 'Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears.'

'How much do you charge?'

'Eighty dollars per visit,' replied the doctor.

'I'll sleep on it,' I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. 'Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?' he asked.

'Well, Eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A bartender cured me for \$10. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup!'

'Is that so!' With a bit of an attitude he said, 'and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?'

'He told me to cut the legs off the bed! Ain't nobody under there now!'

FORGET THE SHRINKS. HAVE A DRINK & TALK TO A BARTENDER!

More on Therapy

A psychiatrist was conducting a group therapy session with four young mothers and their small children.

"You all have obsessions," he observed.

To the first mother, Mary, he said, "You are obsessed with eating. You've even named your daughter Candy."

He turned to the second Mom, Ann: "Your obsession is with money. Again, it manifests itself in your child's name, Penny."

He turned to the third Mom, Joyce: "Your obsession is alcohol. This too shows itself in your child's name, Brandy."

At this point, the fourth mother, Kathy, quietly

got up, took her little boy by the hand, and whispered, "Come on, Dick, this guy has no idea what he's talking about. Let's pick up Peter and Willy from school and go get dinner".

Your Tax \$ at Work

Supplied By Al Westberry

A man stopped at a local gas station and after filling his tank, he paid the bill and bought a soft drink.

He stood by his car to drink his cola and watched a couple of men working along the roadside. One man would dig a hole two or three feet deep and then move on. The other man came along behind him and filled in the hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was 25 feet behind filling in the hole. The men worked right past the guy with the soft drink and went on down the road.

"I can't stand this," said the man tossing the can into a recycle container and heading down the road toward the men. "Hold it, hold it," he said

to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here with all this digging and refilling?"

"Well, we work for the government and we're just doing our job," one of the men said.

"But one of you is digging a hole and the other fills it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you wasting the taxpayers' money?"

"You don't understand, mister," one of the men said, leaning on his shovel and wiping his brow. "Normally there's three of us me, Greg and Matt. I dig the hole, Greg sticks in the tree, and Matt here puts the dirt back. Greg's job's been cut so now it's just me an' Matt."

Sounds about right as things are today!

NAG NAG NAG

Another Al Westberry one

An attorney arrived home late, after a very tough day trying to get a stay of execution. His last minute plea for clemency to the governor had failed and he was feeling

worn out and depressed.
As soon as he walked through the door at home, his wife started on him about, 'What time of night to be getting home is this? Where have you been? Dinner is cold and I'm not reheating it'.

And on and on and on.

Too shattered to play his usual role in this familiar ritual, he poured himself a shot of whiskey and headed off for a long hot soak in the bathtub, pursued by the predictable sarcastic remarks as he dragged himself up the stairs.

While he was in the bath, the phone rang. The wife answered and was told that her husband's client, James Wright, had been granted a stay of execution after all. Wright would not be hanged to night.

Finally realizing what a terrible day he must have had, she decided to go up stairs and give him the good news.

As she opened the bathroom door, she was greeted by the sight of her husband, bent over naked, drying his legs and feet.

'They're not hanging Wright tonight,' she said.

He whirled around and screamed, 'FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WOMAN, DON'T YOU EVER STOP?!'

50 Shades of Grey

Four guys have been going to the same fishing trip for many years.

Two days before the group is to leave, Ron's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going. Ron's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do.

Two days later the three get to the camping site to find Ron sitting there with a tent set up, firewood gathered, and dinner cooking on the fire, sitting having a cold beer.

"Heck Ron, how long you been here, and how did you talk your missus into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night.

Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my living room chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and asked, 'Guess who?' I pulled her hands off, and there she was, wearing a nightie.

She took my hand and pulled me into our bedroom. The room had

candles and rose petals all over. Well she's been reading 50 Shades of Grey

On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did.

And then she said, "Do whatever you want."

So, Here I am!

WHEN I'M 100, IF I LEAN A LITTLE, JUST LET ME.

The family wheeled Grandma out on the lawn, in her wheelchair, where the activities for her 100th birthday were taking place. Grandma couldn't speak very well, but she would write notes when she needed to communicate.

After a short time out on the lawn, Grandma started leaning off to the right, so some family members grabbed her, straightened her up, and stuffed pillows on her right side. A short time later, she started leaning off to her left, so again the family grabbed her and stuffed pillows on her left side..

Soon she started leaning forward, so the family members again grabbed her, and then tied a pillowcase around her waist to hold her up.

A nephew who arrived late came up to Grandma and said 'Hi, Grandma,

you're looking good! How are they treating you?' Grandma took out her little notepad and slowly wrote a note to the nephew: 'Bastards won't let me fart.'

Unarmed and Dangerous

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!'

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was to yell a scripture to you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an Axe and Two 38s!'

Got a favorite funny? Send it to

editor_periscope@att.net

Keeping laughing!

USSVI Constitution (con't)

(con't from Page 19)

Member's sponsor cannot or will not continue to sponsor the Associate Member (i.e. the sponsor is transferred or leaves the organization), another Regular Member may assume sponsorship of the Associate Member. If no other member will assume the sponsorship, the Associate member will be dropped from membership. If the sponsoring member goes on Eternal Patrol, another Regular Member or the base itself may assume the sponsorship of the Associate Member, but if no other member or the Base will assume the sponsorship, the Associate member will be dropped from membership.

F. If the Associate Member is the widow, widower, child or grand-child of a deceased Regular Member who was in good standing at the time of death, another regular member or the deceased member's Base may automatically assume the sponsorship.

G. Current Associate Members in good standing at the time of this section change are 'grand-fathered,' which means they will retain their membership status even though they may not meet the new requirements. **(C2012-1)**

Section 6. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

A. The Base or National Membership Chairman may place any member, who once chooses, or is assigned to a Base, and who is a National Life Member or whose National annual dues are current, but whose Base dues are in arrears, in a category of Member-at-Large.

B. Members-at-Large whose National Annual dues are current or who are National Life Members will retain National benefits (i.e. receipt of National magazine and voting on National issues).

C. A Member-at-Large may affiliate with a Base at anytime by remitting Base dues.

D. A Regular base member may transfer to Member At Large Status at any time by making a request to his affiliated base or to the National Membership Chair.

To be continued next month with Membership Dues and Structure. Remember the USSVI Constitution is always available at USSVI.org.

EVENTS

Planning ahead for the Spring and Summer? Maybe this will help:

March 16th—St. Patrick's Day Parade—Charlotte

March 17th—St. Patrick's Day Parade—Nag's Head

April 13th—Wilmington

April 28, 3 PM—Massing of the Colors—Rock Hill

May 17 and 18—Burnsville Memorial

May 27—Thomasville Memorial Day Parade

May 27—Carolina Piedmont Color Guard presents Colors at Charlotte Knights Game/Baseball Game 7:15

June 30th—Troutman Independence Day Parade

July 4th—Faith Independence Day Parade
Look for e-mails for the muster times and locations. We'll publish them as they become available here in your

PIEDMONT PERISCOPE.



March Meeting
March 23th

Dinner at 1730
Meeting at
1900

Dinner prepared by ours
SubVettes at
the cost of
\$6.00/person

Please pay and
support the
Base

Answer to the Flag Trivia:

The 36-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1865. A star was added for the admission of Nevada (October 31st, 1864) and was to last for 2 years. The only President to serve under this flag was Andrew Johnson (1865-1869).



KAPS4KIDS

Recently 4 of our Base members, (we are limited to 4 members per visit) visited Victory Junction. Attending were Kaps-4-Kids Coordinator Jack Jeffries, Commander Steve Bell, Member Tom Kelly, and SubVettes Member Susan Kelly (see bottom right photo).

Special Recognition goes to Victory Junction Camp Director Chris Foster (Upper Right photo) who has continued to allow Carolina Piedmont the

opportunity to make these children's day just a little brighter. I know for sure they brightened our day by just spending time together with them and seeing all the opportunities these special children have at this camp.

Special recognition also goes to Program Operation Specialist Will Wright who is responsible for many of the various activities at camp. Will personally gave us a great tour of the complex and we sure enjoyed his

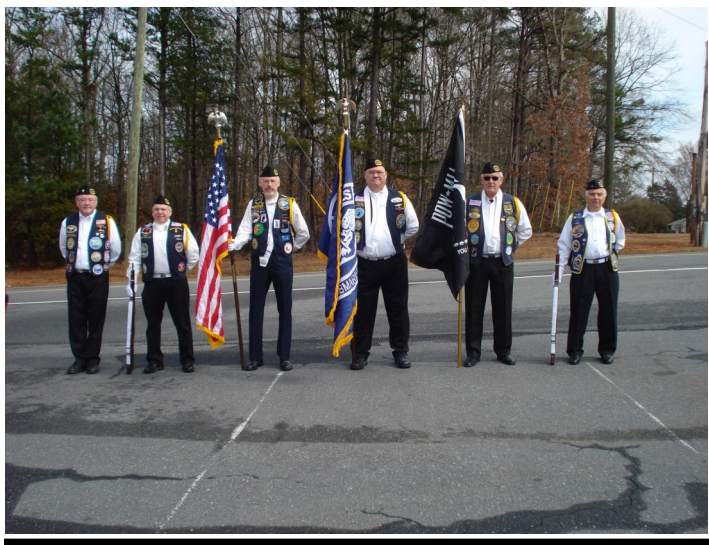
company at the Pit Stop when he was busy making cotton-candy then later signing names on the Honorary Submariner Certificates for us. - Photos and Story by Tom Kelly.



Carolina Piedmont Base Presents Eagle Scout Award

Member Tom Hulme recently presented new Eagle Scout James Matthew White, of Troop 276 Indian Trail, NC

Tom is the an Assistant Scout Master (ASM) with Troop 276. Troop 276 Charter Organization Group is Hartis Grove-Baptist Church and the Troop has been active for many years and is (con't on Page 24)



Left—CPB Color Guard—R to L—Dale Moses, Joel Tuchfeld, Jeff Nieberding, Calvin Reese, Jim Harris, Howard Dachs. Missing: Mike Hubbell, Walt Sealy, Rick Pettit, Jack Jeffries

(con't from Page 23)
currently in excess of 60 youth and 20 adult leadership.

Tom is a former MM1 (SS) and lives in Indian

Trail. This is the second presentation Tom has preformed this month, unfortunately, we do not have pictures of the first presentation.

Sailor of the Year

By Steve Bell

The annual Sailor of the Year for the Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet was held in Norfolk, VA from 4 through 6 March 2013. District Commander (and Carolina Piedmont Base Commander) Steve Bell was asked to represent USSVI on the selection board for this event. The selection consisted of three active duty Master Chiefs, CMDCM Wes Koshoffer (COMSUBGRU 2), CMDCM Allan Quatro (representing COMSUBGRU 10), Mr. Tom Kilgannon (Freedom Alliance), Force Master Chief Kirk Saunders (COMSUBLANT), and retired Master Chief Steve Bell (USSVI). With no doubt, these sailors are really good. To chose between the two finalist in each category

was simply not easy. These sailors are so closely talented, both professionally and in leadership skills, that making the final choice was just simply so close. The day after the board met, a luncheon was held where VADM Michal Conner (COMSUBFOR) announced the selection. The SOY, both sea and shore, will continue on in competition for the Atlantic Fleet SOY. The JSOY is complete for the year. The runners up for SOY were both awarded a Navy Commendation Medal while all the JSOY were awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. The bases within the Southeast Region District One each donated so that the runners up were each given a monetary award, a certificate from the District, and a District Commanders challenge coin.



Photos taken at the Sailor of the Year Banquet. The right photo is all the SOY candidates and Subvets that attended. The left photo is of the candidates and the board members, including SE1 District Commander Steve Bell (Steve also serves as Carolina Piedmont Base Commander).



CAROLINA PIEDMONT SUBVETTES PROJECT REPORT

By Colleen Moses

The women of the Carolina Piedmont Base are very active in helping our service members. They have over two dozen service projects that they accomplished in 2012.

The women collected clothing and personal care items for a homeless veteran's facility. The items are taken to the veteran's facility in the Spring and Fall. Thank you Sandra Myers for her donation of time and effort to get the items to the veterans.

Other projects included cookies for the returning troops at the airport, a USO Project; socks and blanket donations overseas for "Operation Warmth" for transport planes carrying our injured troops; and magazine subscriptions to the USS North Carolina.

The Ladies also donate candy and fill stockings at Christmas time for

Sailors aboard the North Carolina. Cards are sent out throughout the year thank our troops for their service.

A major money making project for Kaps4Kids are handmade dishcloths and scrubbies. Cindy Pettit makes these and last year the sales amounted to \$500.00, a major amount for Kaps4kids. Thank you Cindy for all your work.

The SubVettes also participated in Bank of America's "Express Your Thanks Campaign".

Bank of America donated \$1.00 for every expression of gratitude. The Carolina Piedmont SubVettes sent over 300 expressions of gratitude which generated over \$300.00 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

The Women donated \$250.00 to the Base Color Guard for items such as belts, gloves, hats, and rifle slings.

Susan Vera bought six Holiday wreathes to be placed at the Houston, Texas National Cemetery on December 15th.

Thank you Susan for your donation of wreathes.

One of the major projects in 2012 was a coupon project. The ladies clipped and sent over 15,000 dollars in coupons to the Yokosuka, Japan Base.

The Carolina Piedmont Base also has a Halfway Night Variety Show that we take to area Assisted Living Homes. Several of the ladies have parts that they play in this outstanding program.

I have mentioned several of SubVettes' projects but there are several others that they participate in throughout the year.

Thank you ladies for your time, talent, cooking and baking, and money you donate for these projects.

Grandpa gets a few things mixed-up, but tells the young lady all about Bill Hailey, Elvis, the song Leader of the Pack. All which are performed or lip synced by other members. The Leader of the Pack also has a motorcycle gang.

There will be Beatniks, and Hippies, and Bullwinkle. The Kingston Trio visits, along with the Mamas and Papas, Bobby Darin, a bunch of British invasion tunes, and Sonny and Cher, together again! (And I really mean together.)

Finally, the Beatles and a finale by Kate Smith singing God Bless America.

Our troop "Bilge Rat Productions" are just a little crazy, but that adds to the fun. We have been asked back to every place we have performed. We have even done a benefit at the VFW where we meet to assist them in raising funds for the Post. They want us to bring our new show back as soon as possible.

We will have a few "teaser acts" again this year in Burnsville. So be ready for music and laughs, and maybe some non-sense, but it all makes sense to us. — Moe(SS)

NEW HALFWAY NIGHT SHOW GETTING UNDERWAY

Well, "Bilge Rat Production's" Halfway Night II", the second tour the group has taken to area Assisted Living Homes was a great success. The group has met and are ready to start rehearsals for Halfway Night III. This production will be slightly different than our first two variety type shows.

This time we have a play setting with musical interludes. We have a granddaughter working on her high school term paper about the music of the 50's and 60's. And who does she ask for help but good ol' Grandpa.

BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE -2013

We invite you all to come to the Burnsville 2013 event on 17 and 18 May. The 17th is mostly just a day of getting together and enjoying the evening together. There will be plenty of snacks and drinks available at no additional cost to you and some Karaoke to top off the evening. The 18th will be an NC Subvets meeting, followed by lunch wherever you care to go. Many of us go to the Western Sizzlin a couple miles down the road from the hotels. It is also on the way to the memorial. We will have our Memorial Service at 1400. Most of you know where that is, but if this is a first time for you, you can ride with someone or just follow, your choice. The evening is a dinner put on by the main hotel (Skyline Village Inn) followed by Karaoke for your evening entertainment. Our reports back from various attendees said the entire weekend was well worth it. So make your plans early to come join us that weekend. The registration form is within this newsletter.

The room prices vary somewhat. Single rooms with balcony are \$85 a night, without balcony are \$69. Double rooms are \$99 with balcony and \$85 without balcony. Of course this cost is without tax. Verify your cost when you make your room reservation. This cost will apply to both hotels. Make your reservations at 704-517-6374 (Skyline Village Inn). If this hotel cannot accommodate you, he will take care of your reservations at the overflow hotel and let you know. Please make your reservations prior to 4 May 2012. We have a cutoff date of 3 May so we can all plan accordingly.

Fill out the registration sheet and send it to: Steve Bell, 138 Burton Hills Circle, Gastonia, NC 28054. Make your check payable to Carolina Piedmont Base – USSVI.

Come on out and enjoy the weekend with us. I doubt you will regret it. If you are just coming up for the service, we welcome you too. We look forward to seeing you in the mountains in May.— Steve Bell, Carolina Piedmont Base Commander



2013 NC SUBVETS Burnsville Memorial Service

17-18 May 2013

Pre-Registration Form – Cutoff Date 3 May 2013

Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Base _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Emergency Contact/

Telephone: _____

NO. TOTAL

Registration/Catered Meal, Saturday May 18 Per Person \$25 _____

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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 18 Per Person \$25 _____

Host Hotel: Skyline Village Inn, 12255 NC Hwy 226A (milepost marker 331 on the Blue Ridge Parkway), 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 3 MAY 2012.** Check out the website at www.skylinevillageinn.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2013 BURNSVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE

FRIDAY MAY 17

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 18

1000 NC SUBVETS Meeting (Swearing in of Carolina Piedmont Base Officers)
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) Karaoke for the evening (upstairs)

- We will caravan (or try to) to Moonshine Mountain from Western Sizzlin after lunch.
- Hospitality Room will be open during the day Saturday. After the service, there may be a showing of the latest Bilge Rat Productions Show.
- 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



Carolina Piedmont Base Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 	11	12	13	14 PP News-letter Deadline	15	16 St. Paddy' Pa- rade— Charlotte
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23 Base Meeting VFW POST 1730 Dinner 1900 Meeting
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	APRIL 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Region Conv. Charleston	9 —>	10 —>	11 Submarine Birthday! —>	12 —>	13 Wilimington Azalea Festi- val Parade
14 	15	16 Levine Children's Hospital	17	18 PP News- letter Deadline	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Base Meeting VFW POST 1730 Dinner 1900 Meeting

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

