



## Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes



When: April 2, 2013, at 1900

Location: Plaza Mariachi Restaurant, Wilmington, North Carolina

### Coastal Carolina Base Meeting

**This was a special meeting called by the officers to address key decision points for the unusually busy CCB activity list for Q2 2013.**

**Call to order:** Base Vice Commander Charlie Backes called the meeting to order promptly at 1900 as attendees' finished eating dinner.

**Attendees:** Charlie Backes (Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Barry Turano (Base Treasurer), Bill Dixon (Base Chaplain), Jim Brincefield, Howard Crist, Richard Schrum, Jim Simon, Bernie Maguire, and guests Barbara Dixon, Russ Dressell and Tom Russell.

**Invocation:** Bill Dixon, Butterbean, gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice Commander Backes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Tolling of the Boats:** Tolling of the Boats was deferred to the upcoming regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2013.

**Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance:** There were no World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance for this meeting.

**Holland Club Presentations:** No Holland Club presentations were made at the meeting.

**Introductions:** Vice Commander Backes introduced guests Russ Dressell and Tom Russell to the Attendees. Russ Dressell is a retired CIA employee who, while never qualified in submarines, worked with submarines and submariners many times in his career. He is considering joining CCB as an Associate Member. Tom Russell, founder of "Step Up for Soldiers" was invited as a guest speaker to represent his local charity organization as a potential charity for CCB support.



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### Guest Speaker: Thomas Russell, Founder of Step Up for Soldiers



**Step Up for Soldiers** is a local, all volunteer group providing renovations, recreation, and recognition for recently disabled veterans in eastern North Carolina.

Step Up for Soldiers mission statement is “to provide disabled veterans who experienced loss of limb and mobility problems with the resources necessary to adjust in a post-war environment. As a result of the events and fundraisers, sponsored by Step Up For Soldiers, we strive to not only enhance their lives and those of their families but also help to restore their confidence and positive self-image”.

Step Up For Soldiers was founded in 2004, by Tom Russell whose goal was to build a wheelchair accessible ramps for two local National Guard Soldiers who had lost their legs during their tours of duty. Since that simple idea was conceived, the organization has grown significantly thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers and local media and business sponsors that embraced the importance of helping our Iraqi and Afghan heroes who did so much for our liberty. The Step Up group has sponsored events such as golf tournaments, marathons, and “mud runs” to raise donations to support their building projects and programs such as “Packages from Home”. The “Packages from Home” program collects and acquires goody bags to send to soldiers deployed from eastern North Carolina into war zones.

Though the local 1/120th Combined Arms Battalion, Wilmington, NC is their primary focus, Step Up gladly serves all five branches of the military. Thus, whenever any soldier of veteran of the current conflicts needs help, the organization will deploy all resources available to assist to the best of their abilities.

Moreover, since its inception, the purpose of the organization has expanded to provide funding to soldiers who need financial assistance as well as home modifications, family support and more.



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Raising awareness and visibility for our heroes is an important byproduct of their efforts. They consistently become involved with and host public events such as parades, golf tournaments and make sure that their special mobile memorial stands out to create attention and recognition for these special heroes. The Step Up group is particularly proud of their involvement in helping to develop the Fallen Soldier Memorial Garden which recognizes the fallen in southeastern North Carolina and provides a peaceful and special place for reflection and respect. The Memorial is surrounded by a lovely garden and brick pavers which can be purchased to signify personal displays of recognition.

The Fallen Soldiers Memorial was dedicated June 21, 2008. This was a great day for all of those involved with Step Up For Soldiers as well the members of the 30th Battalion North Carolina Army National Guard.



The Fallen Soldiers Memorial is located on North Carolina National Guard property at Wilmington International Airport at 2412 Infantry Road.

Step up for Soldiers is a non-profit 501-(c) (3) organization, dedicated to members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. All monetary donations are tax deductible and all donations are used for projects in eastern North Carolina.

The Step Up For Soldiers organization is a good example of how one person can make a difference and a group can help to create positive change for those in need. The Step Up For Soldiers website is at [www.stepupforsoldiers.org](http://www.stepupforsoldiers.org).

**Treasurers Report:** Barry Turano (Base Treasurer) reported that the Base took in \$2,210.00 since the last meeting and spent \$1608.49 in that period resulting in an April 2, 2013 balance of \$1,940.86. The primary expenditures since the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were \$972.00 for the submarine centerpiece for the new float and \$384.00 for banners to be attached to the sides of the float trailer.

**Storekeeper Report:** There was no Storekeeper's report at this meeting.



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**Book of Base Members:** Vice Commander Backes passed around the CCB Book of Members for review. The book now has pictures for about 15 Members and autobiographical write-ups for about 6. The write-ups have no rules and range from very brief listing of boats served on to more detailed descriptions of submarine experiences. The Vice Commander encouraged all to write up something (limited to one page), even hand written on paper, and get it to him to format and include in the book. What would you like future Members to read about your time as a submariner? Jot it down! Get it to Charlie!

Base Secretary Bill Underwood reminded attendees that he will continue to collect pictures of members at Base meetings and provide the pictures to Charlie for inclusion in the **Book of Members**.

**Base Election Status:** Butterbean informed the attendees that the election of Coastal Carolina Base officers was complete. 37 Base Members (66%) participated in the elections and the following officers were unanimously elected for Two Year Terms:

### New Coastal Carolina Base Officers

Commander:	Charlie Backes
Vice Commander:	Jerry Hawks
Secretary:	Bill Underwood
Treasurer:	Barry Turano

The new officers will be installed at the Regional Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> on the Battleship *North Carolina BB55*

**COB Report:** There was no COB Report at this meeting.

**Base Parade Float:** Base Treasurer, Barry Turano, reported that the total donations to date to support the building, acquisition and maintenance of the new base float were \$1,805.00. **Thanks to the Members for this fantastic response to support this project!** Thus far the Base has spent \$1,356.00 for the float centerpiece and the banners to go on the sides of the float trailer. Barry displayed two of the banners at the meeting. The longest will go from the front of the trailer along the side to the tandem wheel well and represents the Coastal Carolina Base. The shorter banner will start above the wheel well and go down the side to the rear of the trailer and will highlight the S-28 Memorial.

Fabrication of the submarine centerpiece will be completed Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and Barry plans to travel to High Point to take delivery on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> utilizing a covered transport trailer graciously volunteered by John Williamson. The centerpiece will then be taken to be stored in a pole barn on Richard Schrum's property in Richlands. Commander Terry Kuhn will organize working parties to prepare, paint and mount the centerpiece on Richard Schrum's trailer. The plan is to build a movable mount which will securely support the submarine display on the trailer, but can be easily removed for storage and to free up the trailer for other uses. The working parties will fiberglass, paint and detail the submarine centerpiece as well as design and build the





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mount. If you have skills that would be helpful in preparation of our float please contact one of the base officers to be included in one of the working parties.

Our goal is to debut the new Coastal Carolina Base submarine float at the Southport July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**Golf Tournament Fund Raiser:** Bernie Maguire reported that the CCB Golf Tournament Fund Raiser is getting rolling. The Tournament will raise money for the CCB and a veteran's charitable organization such as Wounded Warriors or Step Up for Soldiers. The team needs more volunteers to help recruit sponsors, donations, event organization, and advertising. The event is currently planned for September 28, 2013 at either the Wilmington Municipal Golf Course, Echo Farms or Olde Point Golf Course. The intention is that it will be an annual event for the Base.

The Tournament Team is recruiting volunteers for to head the following activities associated with the golf tournament;

- Advertising – Promotion of the event
- Sponsorship – Recruitment of sponsors for each hole at the tournament (\$100/hole)
- Door Prizes – obtain donations of prizes for various achievements in the tournament
- Food – Recruit a restaurant like Chick Filet to donate a lunch meal for each participant at the tournament.

The Golf Tournament team reported that they will procure sponsor signs (18" by 24") for each hole. Sponsors will pay \$100.00 per hole sponsored and the base will pay \$25.00 per sign. The difference will be used for prizes and other project expenses. The team agreed to select a course and charity and present the proposition for the tournament at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Sponsorship of the 45<sup>th</sup> Scorpion Memorial Event:** On February 23, 2013 CCB received a request for a donation to help defray the costs of the 45<sup>th</sup> Memorial Event for the families of the crew of the *USS Scorpion*, SSN 589. The request was from MaryEtte Nolan, daughter of the COB of the *Scorpion* when it went down. MaryEtte have organized and produced the memorial event for the last 25 years since her mother's passing. Her proposal to raise funds to support the event was to ask 99 Bases of the USSVI to give \$99 to sponsor one of the 99 crew members lost with *Scorpion*. In return for the donation each participating Base would receive a biography of the sponsored crew member and a specially designed *Scorpion* Coin commemorating the *Scorpion*. We contacted MaryEtte and discussed the history of the memorial, the upcoming ceremony and sponsorship of one of the lost crew members. CCB asked to sponsor Joel Kurt Watkins MM1(SS) who was born in the Fayetteville area. If the *Scorpion* had not gone down that fateful day in 1968, Joel might very well be one of our members now.

The Memorial Event will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Norfolk Naval Submarine Base at the Scorpion Memorial on the pier. CCB members are invited to attend if possible.



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**MOTION:** Bill Underwood offered a **MOTION** for the Coastal Carolina Base to allocate \$99.00 to sponsor one *Scorpion* crew member. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Bernie Maguire and **PASSED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

**USS Thresher 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Ceremony:** Since the last meeting the CCB was asked to support the 50<sup>th</sup> memorial ceremony in memory of the *USS Thresher SSN593* which will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The organizers asked each base to email a picture of the Base Members and a brief tribute to the crew of the *Thresher*. The picture and the tribute will be incorporated into a narrated slide show which will loop on a big screen while the participants gather for the ceremony. The CCB officers decided to participate and sent the base member picture seen in our first quarter Newsletter and the following tribute written by Vice Commander Charlie Backes:

### **A Tribute to the *Thresher***

**The officers and men of the Coastal Carolina Base of the USSVI wish to pay tribute to those men lost in April, 1963 with the *USS Thresher (SSN 593)*. It was a shock to the nation and more so to the submarine service to have one of its newest submarines lost at sea. Many families of the Portsmouth/Kittery communities suffered great losses that day. Although it has been fifty years since that loss we, who served on submarines, still remember the loss of one of our own. Our hopes and prayers are with the families who lost members on that fateful day. Our pledge is that their loss will never be forgotten!**

**Upcoming Parades:** Vice Commander Backes reported that the Base is signed up for the 2013 Azalea Festival Parade on April 13<sup>th</sup> and the Southport July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Members should keep these dates in mind and participate, if possible. The Base has the Torpedo float reserved for the Azalea Festival Parade and we are hoping to have a new float for the Southport July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

### **New Business**

**Eastern Regional USSVI Meeting in Charleston:** Commander Elect Charlie Backes will represent the Coastal Carolina Base by attending the Eastern Regional USSVI Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina on April 9<sup>th</sup> and will incur expenses while acting on behalf of CCB.

**MOTION:** Bernie Maguire offered a **MOTION** that the CCB allocate \$85.00 to help defray our Commander Elect's expenses while attending the Regional USSVI Meeting. Barry Turano **SECONDED** the **MOTION** and the **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

### **Upcoming Events Reminder:**



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Calendar Event</u>
Apr 6	After Battery Hog Roast in Dorchester, SC (on the way to Regional USSVI Convention in Charleston)
Apr 7-11	Regional USSVI Convention in Charleston, SC
Apr 13	Azalea Festival Parade, meet 0530 at the battleship parking lot
Apr 13	Base and Regional SubVet Meetings on the USS North Carolina BB-55
Apr 13	Installation of newly elected Commander and Vice Commander for CCB
May 9	Members invited to attend Cape Fear SubVet meeting at Bluewater Grill
Jul 4	North Carolina 4th of July Parade, Southport, NC
Sep 28	Target date for CCB Annual Golf Tournament

## Adjournment:

Jim Brincefield offered a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Maguire SECONDED the motion and the motion CARRIED by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

## Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next Coastal Carolina Base meeting will be on Saturday morning April 13, 2013. The meeting will convene on the USS North Carolina, BB55 immediately following the Azalea Festival Parade.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these meeting minute's format please provide them to Bill Underwood, Base Secretary, at [bunder343@aol.com](mailto:bunder343@aol.com)

## Never Forget Our Brothers On Eternal Patrol!

