



Carolina-Piedmont Base Minutes

June 20th, 2015

Call Meeting to Order

- 1900 hrs. Outgoing Base Commander Steve Bell called the meeting to order.

Invocation

- Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Steve Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Presentations

- As his last presentation as base commander, Steve Bell presented an Atta Boy Award to Robert Schilke for his initiatives and tireless efforts promoting the ideals and benevolence of the Carolina Piedmont Base and its programs. Robert willingly accepted the duties as Editor of the Carolina Piedmont Periscope monthly base publication and Robert also has built numerous model submarines which he displays at all base meetings and which he also brings and displays to students, teachers and others at many school functions where the base has been invited to participate. WELL DONE goes to Robert Schilke!

Swearing in Base Officers

- Two new officers were sworn in at this meeting by outgoing Base Commander Steve Bell:
 - Rick Pettit was sworn in as the next Carolina Piedmont Base Commander replacing outgoing commander Steve Bell (*Steve has served as Base Commander from 2009 to 2015*).
 - Tom Kelly was sworn in as Carolina Piedmont Base Secretary replacing Mike Hubbell who served as Secretary from 2011 to 2015.
- Two remaining officers were sworn in to their existing positions at the Burnsville meeting in May:
 - Jack Jeffries was sworn in continuing as Carolina Piedmont Base Vice-Commander. (*Jack is continuing to serve as base Vice-Commander since 2011*).
 - Raymond Zieverink was sworn in continuing as Carolina Piedmont Base Treasurer. (*Raymond is continuing to serve as Treasurer since 2013*).

USSVI Creed

- The USSVI Creed was recited by Lee Hickerson.

Tolling of the Boats

- The Tolling for June was presented by Ray Fritz and Joel Sparnon.

Member Introductions

- There were 23 members present including 1 new member (John Brough) who was attending his first Carolina Piedmont base meeting. *An interesting side note is we had personnel present who qualified as far back as 1946 and as recently as 1994.*

Reading/Approval of the Last Meeting Minutes

- The motion was made to accept the minutes for the April 2015 meeting which were both posted in the June edition of the Piedmont Periscope and were also distributed to the membership thru direct emails. The motion carried.

Reading/Approval of the Treasurers Report

- Raymond Zieverink gave the Treasurer’s Report for June 2015. The Motion was made to accept the report as read; the motion passed.

Category	June 2015 Balances	Last Reported Balances
Kapss4kidss Fund	\$ 1,949.37	\$ 1,949.37
Scholarship Fund	\$ 268.00	\$ 172.00
General Base Fund	\$ 5,334.20	\$ 5,114.20
Total Balances	\$ 7,551.57	\$ 7,235.57

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Trailer Maintenance Fund

Steve Bell reported the NC Subvets trailer maintenance fund (*which is managed by the Nat Greene Base*) had recently been running in the ‘red’ but thru some recent donations was now carrying a small surplus of funds again. A proposal was presented that all NC Subvet Bases donate up to \$50 to provide a reasonable cushion of money to provide immediate maintenance/repairs to the float trailers when needed. After some discussion on what maintenance was necessary on the trailers and whether \$50 was enough for each base to donate the motion was made to donate \$50.00 to the NC Subvet Trailer Fund from the Base General Fund. The motion carried.

- Color Guard

- Dale Moses put out a call that more volunteers were needed to support the bases’ color guard activities.
- Dale also discussed the need to have a reserve number of color-guard uniform items on hand (e.g. white gloves, belts, shoulder cords, etc.) for when new volunteers participated in presentation activities. On the topic of uniform items it was noted that Garrison-style hats will be worn and individually purchased by each new color-guard member and that \$20 towards the purchase of their hat will be contributed by that person.
- Dale proposed an amount of \$110.25 would be needed to order 5 sets of spare uniform items. After some discussion a motion was made to provide Dale with \$110.25 to order a reserve inventory of color guard uniform items. The motion carried.
- Dale also mentioned that in the future solid-black trousers will be the uniform pants for all color-guard presentations and that khaki-color trousers are no longer to be worn.

SK Report

- Base Storekeeper Jeff Nieberding reminded members that patches & vests can be purchased thru him and that challenge coins and parking posters were still available for purchase from him.

Good of the Order

- New Non-elected officers

Rick Pettit reported that Joel Sparnon has been appointed as the new C.O.B (Chief of the Base).

- Back-up Personnel for Specific Base Officers

Rick Pettit reported that personnel were approached to provide back-up to certain base positions in the event the assigned officer could not attend or was not available. Rick announced that Calvin Reese had agreed to be back-up Base Treasurer for Raymond Zieverink, newest member John Brough has agreed to be back-up Base Secretary for Tom Kelly and a discussion with Base Chaplain Ray Fritz was had to determine who could substitute for Ray when certain activities involving traveling would be needed for items like visitation of the sick, presentation of a book of remembrance to departed loved ones and participation at funerals for members departed on Eternal Patrol. No names immediately came to mind but this topic will continued to be pursued.

- Ideas for Future Base Meetings

- Having Guest Speakers: Rick Pettit solicited ideas on what to include at future base meetings. Possibilities mentioned were having more guest speakers (e.g. a Navy Recruiter, a retired admiral or a person to give us an update in general on what's happening in today's Navy).
- Another idea mentioned was doing another CPR refresher demonstration.

- Future Base Events

Rick Pettit reminded us about current and future opportunities for participating at functions to represent USSVI at places like Kaps-4-Kids events and Knights Baseball games. Rick also spoke about new ideas we could do as a base just for time to spend together like attending a hockey game or having a picnic together in a park. A reminder was given to compare possible dates for future base activities with the dates already established for specific USSVI events so as not to conflict with those Regional or National events.

- Base Facebook Page

Rick mentioned the Carolina Piedmont Base has a Facebook site that has been relatively dormant in recent years. The page was originally set up by former Base Commander Glenn Harris and was administered by John McHugh. Joel Sparnon mentioned that he is an active Facebook person and Joel volunteered to breathe some life back into our bases' Facebook page.

- Burnsville NC

Jack Jeffries provided us with a rundown of the regional meeting at Burnsville from last month. Jack said this event at Burnsville was attended by USSVI National Commander Al Singleman Jr. and it was a great success once again. 80 people were in attendance at the privately-built submarine memorial for WWII submariners located on Moonshine Mountain. Jack also said the new hotel where most people stayed was also a great place to stay. The USS Asheville Base now maintains responsibility for the Burnsville Memorial.

- Awards Boards

Rick Pettit presented a very nice awards-display board which he built to show past awards won by the Carolina Piedmont Base. Rick mentioned he will be building a similar awards board for the multiple awards won by the production of the Piedmont Periscope base newsletter. It was also mentioned there is now a banner attached to the display of the 52 Boats Lost tapestry which shows multiple patches received associated with awards won by the base.

- Knights Ballgame

Rick Pettit reported the Carolina Piedmont Base Color Guard had the privilege of presenting the colors at the Memorial Day baseball game which took place at the new BB&T ballpark home in Charlotte (*home of the Charlotte Knights*). The game that followed was attended by a number of base members.

Good of the Order (cont.)

- Triad Memorial

Steve Bell provided information on his visit to the Triad Memorial park located between Greensboro & Winston-Salem NC. Steve mentioned there were a number of displays representing USSVI at the memorial site. Steve said this memorial park was very well done and that Joe Clark (*a WWII submarine veteran and member of the Nat Greene Base*) was a major contributor to the Triad Memorial and was the person behind getting much of the submarine remembrance items into the Triad Park displays.

- National Dues

Rick Pettit provided information that the cost of our USSVI National dues will be going up by an additional \$5 next year. This will bring the yearly cost of National Dues up to \$25 per year. The cost increase is primarily based on the increased costs of producing the hardcopy version of the American Submariner quarterly magazine. Jack Jeffries mentioned that he will be conducting a survey of base members to see who would be interested in switching to the on-line version of the American Submariner only. With rising costs of production and postage we are being encouraged to switch to the on-line version of the American Submariner for future editions.

- National Convention

Rick Pettit reminded us that this year's National USSVI Convention is being held in Pittsburgh PA and home to the USS Requin Base. The convention dates are September 7th thru 12th, and if attending and you haven't registered to attend yet, that time is running out for obtaining the reduced registration fee. Rick also mentioned there will be an opportunity to attend a Pittsburgh Pirates home game at PNC Park during that week.

- Bilge Rats

Rick Pettit mentioned to us the newest production from the Carolina-Piedmont Bilge Rats, called Ned Sullivan, (*a "southernized" version of the Ed Sullivan Show*) was performed at Burnsville. An additional practice session was held earlier this evening and Rick did say that more volunteers are needed to participate in all aspects of the program.

- Parades

A reminder to all that parade season is upon us and more information will be put out to members once it is finalized which events the base plans to participate in.

- Piedmont Periscope

Robert Schilke reminded all hands that submissions for the newsletter need to be sent to him no later than July 15th.

Next Base Meeting

- The next meeting of the Carolina-Piedmont Base will be on July 25th, 2015 at the VFW in Fort Mill. A pot-luck dinner will be served at 1730 hrs. and the meeting will start at 1900 hrs.

Motion to Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed.

Benediction

- The Benediction was given by base Chaplain Raymond Fritz.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:
Tom Kelly
Base Secretary