

**Minutes from the USSVI Tarheel Base Working Meeting
Held at VFW Post #7383 in Cary, NC
04 June 2011**

Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe

Prior to the Base meeting, 17 Subvets indulged in an 8:30 AM breakfast at the Golden Corral in Cary along with a few sea stories on the side.

Tarheel Base Commander Gordon Banks called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM with Chaplain Bill Whelan rendering the opening blessing by reciting the Submariner's Prayer. Gordon led the 27 Tarheel Base Subvets, 2 potential new Base members, and 5 guests present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:

COB Patch Paciorek and Base Vice Commander Butterbean Dixon conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in remembrance of the 11 US Navy submarines lost during the months of May and June.

INTRODUCTIONS:

As per Commander Gordon's request, all Subvets and guests were asked to stand and introduce themselves with Subvets stating the year they qualified and the name of their qualification boat. All welcomed the guests in attendance. They included Subvet John Cunningham's wife, daughter, and son-in-law. Non-Subvet Chris Daw brought his son, Charles to the meeting as a fact finding history project. Also present were two potential new Base members, John Muth and John Pride.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

HOLLAND CLUB

Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis honored Subvet John Matthis with induction into the Holland Club. John's award was long overdue since he qualified in submarines aboard the USS Haddock (SS-231) back in 1943.

REPORTS

1. Base Commander Gordon Banks has bestowed a special title of Caretaker and Transporter of Pearl Harbor Material on Wayne Powell. Wayne will be responsible for the various items used during the Lost Boats Ceremony at the December NC Subvets Pearl Harbor meeting. Gordon directed the attention of attendees to two items on display – the SE Regional Director's Award plaque presented to SED1 as District of the Year and a COMSUBLANT plaque presented to USSVI - SED1 "For Outstanding Support of CSL Sailors of the Year." Also, a bucket was available for collection of donations for the upkeep of the Burnsville Subvets Memorial. Gordon announced that the next NC Subvets Quarterly Meeting has been tentatively set for Elizabeth City on October 15, 2011. Gordon covered COB Patch's report on the Tarheel Base Demographics (i.e., the ages of the 173 Base members). He pointed out the average age is 73 with 58 members over the age of 80.
2. Base Vice Commander Bill (Butterbean) Dixon reported recruitment of new Base members is trickling along. He urged members to attend meetings, go to parades, be involved in hospital visitations, honor Subvets on Eternal Patrol at funerals, and contact known Subvets to extend an invite to join the Base. Butterbean brought up the idea of possibly setting up a display of Subvet material in a corner of a VA hospital. This item is in need of additional information.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on April 2, 2011 as published in the All Clear and posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve said minutes as distributed.
4. Tarheel Base Treasurer and Record Keeper Spencer Combos was not present. COB Patch reported a Base bank balance of \$4,023.66 as of June 1, 2011. The National USSVI roster has the Tarheel Base membership at the 173 level.

5. COB/All Clear editor Patch Paciorek stated he is in the process of taking website courses. He has been told that a 5th grade teacher in Connecticut has her students visit the NC Subvets website to learn about submarines. Patch asked all present to remember the NC lost boat, S-28, on the anniversary of her loss - July 4th. Ballots for election of the SED-1 Commander for the 2012-2013 term of office were passed out to members present. Primary members of the Tarheel Base can vote with a deadline for casting ballots of no later than July 10, 2011. Members were urged to vote during the meeting and 14 Subvets did so. Patch will send out a ballot and info via an e-mail to Base members. As per a request by Subvet Ed Wilson, Patch asked members to go to page #19 of the latest edition of the All Clear and read about an upcoming benefit for a young lady named Samantha. Ed is requesting Subvets to lend a hand during "A Benefit For Samantha" on June 25th.
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace covered several items currently in his "stockpile". A new bumper sticker that will be a good recruiting tool is priced at \$3.00. New Tarheel Base caps are \$20.00 each. A number of SSN-777 tee shirts for \$10.00 are available. 2011 Subvet calendars have been reduced to \$5.00 and vests are in stock for new members.
7. NC Subvets License Plate "Czar" Jerry Leppart was not present. Commander Gordon gave a report on the status of the NC Subvets Specialty Plate. The bill, H-289, is out of the House Finance Committee and headed for a vote in the full House. Hopefully, Subvets will get the word a few days before the bill comes up for a vote so they can show up, in vests, to support the bill on that date. At that time, a call to your NC House Representative soliciting their backing of the bill is suggested.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Parades - List of next events:

- Saturday, 02 July - Iredell County (Troutman)
- Monday, 04 July - Faith 4th of July

Pertinent info concerning these parades will be published on our website and sent via e-mails.

2. Tarheel Base Book and Video Exchange Library Coordinator Wolfgang Friedrich has taken possession of a sizeable donation of German sub books from Jim Myers. Wolfgang has set up a check-out log for Subvets to sign out items by listing their name and telephone #. Prior to the next Base meeting, he will call folks that have books or videos checked out reminding them to return the items.
3. POW/MIA Table - In Scott Powell's absence, Commander Gordon covered the items that are displayed on a POW/MIA table. As previously noted, Scott volunteered to head this project because his father-in-law was a former POW. Scott has purchased all the items needed at yard sales except two flags which he has on order. This display will be ready for set-up at the August or October Base meeting.
4. Service Projects:
 - Overview and Philosophy of Service Projects: Dave Campbell stated Wayne Powell did the lion's share of the committee's work. The main questions are: Who will participate? ; What will be the level of commitment and availability? We must avoid over commitment! Goals for service projects - Good participation: not physically demanding; a service to the community; and offers Base visibility for recruiting new members.
 - WUNC-TV Support: Jim Wallace thanked the 23 Subvets and family members that participated in the WUNC-TV event held in March. After a brief discussion and vote, agreement was reached for Jim to continue as organizer of this project and Base members volunteer for the event once a year. Individuals can volunteer to participate anytime during the year.
 - Adopt A Hwy/Street/Park: Jim Wallace covered three possible "clean-up" projects: two adopt a hwy sections - Airport Rd. and Old Stage Rd.; Adopt a Street in Cary - possibly Academy St.; Adopt a Park or Greenway in Cary. The Town of Cary projects are titled "Spruce." After a bit of discussion, agreement was reached for Jim to get the details on a quarterly clean-up project at the Bond Park Boathouse area.

- Military Missions In Action: Wayne Powell passed out pamphlets covering the various services the MMIA organization provides to injured men and women of the Armed Forces. MMIA has its headquarters in Fuquay-Varina, NC with Mike Donavan in charge of the group. All were in agreement that the services provided to the troops by this organization are commendable. Due to the possibility of project over commitment, signing up for this project has been put on hold. In order to get an idea of what areas the Base can help in the future; Wayne will look into inviting Mr. Donavan to speak at a Base meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gary Lew announced the upcoming dedication of the Cold War Submarine Memorial Exhibit in Washington, D.C. on June 18, 2011. He has a special tie to this exhibit via one of the items on display - the piano that was in the crew's mess aboard the USS Thomas Edison (SSBN-610).
2. All Clear Editor Patch stated he has received several donations to assist with the mailing costs of the publication.

OPEN FLOOR:

Chaplain Bill voiced concern about allowing individuals to "ride/mount" the parade torpedo. He said the Base could be held accountable for possible injuries plus the finish on the torpedo might be damaged.

SPEAKER:

Commander Gordon introduced the guest speaker for the meeting - Tarheel Base member John Cunningham. John qualified in submarines in 1949 aboard the Ex-U-2513, a German U-Boat captured in 1945. Several interesting pictures of the U-2513 were passed around during John's talk. A history of John's life and time aboard the U-2513 was enjoyed by all in attendance.

NEXT BASE MEETING:

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 10:00 AM at VFW Post #7383, 522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC with a pre-meeting breakfast at the Golden Corral, 5707 Dillard Drive, Cary, NC at 08:30 AM.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Wolfgang Friedrich was the winner of the 50/50 raffle drawing in the amount of \$58.00.