

**Minutes of USSVI Tarheel Base Meeting  
Held 1 October 2011  
At American Legion Post #67  
Cary, NC**

**Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe**

Prior to the Base meeting, 17 Subvets and 1 wife participated in morning grub at the Golden Corral in Cary at or about 8:30 AM.

Tarheel Base Commander Gordon Banks called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM with Vice Commander Butterbean Dixon offering the opening prayer. Chaplain Bill Whelan was not in attendance due to "a roofing job gone bad" (shingles). Gordon led the 31 Tarheel Base Subvets present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS:**

COB Patch Paciorek and Base Treasurer Spencer Combos conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in remembrance of the 13 US Navy submarines lost during the months of September and October.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commander Gordon asked all Subvets to stand and introduce themselves by stating the year they qualified and the name of their qualification boat. All welcomed a new Tarheel Base member, Darrel Smith, who resides in Creedmoor. Recognition and job well done honors were afforded two WWII Subvets who made war patrols - Bill Edwards and John Matthis.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

HOLLAND CLUB

No Holland Club inductions were held during the meeting. Jim Davis is collecting an annual donation of \$1.00 from each Holland Club member to cover the cost of this program. To date, he has collected \$16.00 from a total of 66 Holland Club members in the Tarheel Base. Jim stated his records show 4 Base members will be eligible for Holland Club induction next year (qualified in 1962). Check your qual year and make sure it is posted correctly.

USSVI CONVENTION IN SPRINGFIELD, MO

Commander Gordon covered the awards presented to the Tarheel Base and the Carolina-Piedmont Base during the USSVI National Convention held in Springfield, MO. on 5-11 September 2011. A total of 28 awards were given to Subvets and Bases during the awards ceremony.

Tarheel Base:

All present congratulated Dick Kanning, Bill Whelan, and *All Clear* editor Jerry "Patch" Paciorek on jobs well done. Dick Kanning read a letter outlining all the work Bill Whelan has done and continues to perform in his position as Base Chaplain. It is no surprise he was awarded the Robert Link Award. The Newsletter of the Year plaque was presented to Patch by Commander Gordon along with a "patch" to go on his vest. As of note, two Tarheel Base members have been previous recipients of national awards - Chuck Jensen - Robert Link Award in 2007 and Dick Kanning - Robert Link Award in 2008 plus District Commander of the Year Award in 2010.

#### Carolina Piedmont Base:

- Robert Link Individual Award to Jack Jeffries
- Robert Link Base Award to Carolina Piedmont Base
- Meritorious Award to Steve Bell, Commander of Carolina Piedmont Base
- Newsletter of the Year Award, Class II, Medium Base went to Piedmont Periscope - Carolina Piedmont Base
- Golden Anchor Award, Class II, Medium Base awarded to Carolina Piedmont Base

BZs go out to the Piedmont Carolina Base for collecting 5 awards this year!!

#### REPORTS

1. Base Commander Gordon Banks rendered a well deserved thank you to M.B. Hudson and Arv Klemp for their availability to sing the National Anthem during the Eternal Patrol send-off for shipmate Pat Collins. The "powers that be" did not allow time for the performance.
2. Base Vice Commander Bill (Butterbean) Dixon urged members to recruit- recruit- recruit!! Also, he issued orders for all Subvets present to pay their dues today before leaving the building.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on August 6, 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 reported a checking account balance of \$4,225.22 as of October 1, 2011. With the use of Quick Books, Spencer has the ability to compare last year's Base income and expenses with the current year's figures and he made a printout of this info available during the meeting. Tarheel Base membership stands at 173 regular members plus 2 associate members. Spencer stated dues payments are coming in at a rate of 5 to 6 per day. Keep it up!!
5. COB / *All Clear* editor Patch Paciorek stressed - communication, communication! Send him information relating to upcoming events so he can include it in the next issue of the *All Clear* in a timely manner. Patch stated he has not set a deadline for *All Clear* items as of to date.
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace has 2012 USSVI calendars in stock. He covered a list of names of Subvets that ordered qual date pins and have not picked up same.

#### **OLD BUSINESS ITEMS:**

1. Parades - Next parades scheduled are the Veteran's Day Parade in Asheboro on Friday, November 11, 2011 followed by a Veteran's Day Parade in High Point on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Participation in the Winston-Salem Veteran's Day Parade was planned until the date was changed from Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Frans Van Baars asked the group to consider participating in the Wilson Whirligig Festival to be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Chuck Jensen and Jim Myers pointed out the dates for this festival are during the same time as the memorial service in Kings Bay, GA and the regular drivers for the torpedo and parade submarine trailers will be out of town. It sounds like this is a no-go for this year.

2. Tarheel Base Book and Video Exchange Library Coordinator Wolfgang Friedrich had his extensive "library" set up on a table during the Base meeting.
3. Service Projects:
  - Wayne Powell announced the family has moved back in the Military Missions In Action renovated house off North Harrison Ave. and are enjoying the bird feeder. During the Base meeting, Wayne collected items and cash donations for the MMIA "back pack" program that sends needed items to front line troops. Also, items will be collected at the Bass Lake Draft House on Monday, October 3rd. Enjoy a meal at this establishment on Military Missions in Action Day (10-03-11) and the restaurant will donate 10% of sales to MMIA.
  - Jim Wallace stated the first stage of the Adopt-A-Park project is on track to begin on Saturday, November 12th at Bond Park in Cary. It will involve a, roughly, 4 hour job of laying up the boats from Bond Park Lake. After this part of the project has been completed, the Subvets signs will be posted in the Park.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws:

Commander Gordon covered two amendments to the Tarheel Base Constitution and Bylaws along with reasons for the changes and solicited motions from the floor to approve them as stated.

- Motion #1 - To Amend the Tarheel Base Constitution, Art. VII - Officers, Sec. 2A. Appointed officers to delete the words "USSVI - WWII State Commander" and to amend the Tarheel Base Bylaws, Art. V- Duties of appointed officers to delete Sec. 1. USSVI - WWII State Commander and renumber the remaining Sec. 2-11 as Sec. 1-10.

Reason: The Tarheel Chapter of USSVI-WWII was dissolved in 2010 and listing of its commander and his duties is no longer appropriate Motion made, seconded, and passed.

- Motion #2 - To amend the Tarheel Base Constitution, Art. X - Voting, Sec. 1 and Art. XI - Amendments, Sec. 1 and to amend the Tarheel Base Bylaws, Art. VII - Amendments, Sec. 1 to delete the words "or working."

Reason: The terminology "working" meeting is no longer used or needed. Motion made, seconded, and passed.

2. Procedures for Election of Officers:

Election Master Jim Davis went over the guidelines for conducting the election of Base officers. Per Base Bylaws, the election is to take place during the month of October while affording all Base members the opportunity to cast a ballot. Jim will be sending out ballots via e-mail and by "snail mail" to 37 Base members without e-mail. These ballots will list the current three incumbent Base officers: Commander - Gordon Banks; Vice Commander - Butterbean Dixon; and Secretary - Bill Lowe; plus Base Treasurer Candidate Dave Campbell. Write-Ins can be done on the ballots, but be sure that person is willing to serve in that position.

3. Cary High School Navy Junior ROTC Unit:

After four Tarheel Base members attended the Cary High Navy Junior ROTC Pass-In-Review on Wednesday, September 23, 2011, "eagle-eyed" Chaplain Bill Whelan noticed several of the Cadets were not wearing the standard black leather shoes. He contacted the

JROTC Commander, Col. Tom Finnerty USMC (Ret.) and was informed that they have been unable to get shoes through the normal Navy Supply chain this year. All were in agreement for the Tarheel Base to step forward and help the JROTC acquire the needed shoes for their Cadets. Some discussion followed as to what amount the Base should donate to this cause above and beyond individual member donations. Frans Van Baars made a motion that the donation amount be left to the discretion of Commander Gordon. Motion was approved.

4. Dave Campbell, one of the attendees at ROTC Pass-In-Review ceremony, would like the Tarheel Base to look into a Subvets sponsored awards program for the 155 Cadet strong Cary HS JROTC Unit. The American Legion Post 67 currently sponsors an awards program for these Cadets.
5. Also, per Chaplain Bill, an invite has been extended by the Cary JROTC for Subvets to be present at an 8:00 AM Veteran's Day Ceremony in front of Cary High School at the flag pole on November 10, 2011.
6. John Rupertus reminded the Subvets of the Autism Speaks Walk fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. John stated donations to this worthy cause have reached \$1,500 to date.
7. Jim Myers covered an upcoming event called Joshua's Tree to be held in Booneville, N.C. on October 22, 2011. Hats and Certificates will be given out to 14 Down Syndrome kids as part of the Kaps 4 Kids Program. Jim will be sending out additional info via e-mail shortly with all NC Subvets invited to this gathering.
8. SE District 1 Commander Dick Kanning covered the lack of funds to maintain various Submarine Memorials such as the Pearl Harbor Bowfin Memorial. Also, donations are needed to fund a costly bronze plaque to be placed at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. Dick urged Subvets to ante up in order to meet these needs.
9. As an added note, LP Czar Jerry Leppart missed out on an opportunity to admire the great number of Subvet license plates on display on vehicles before and after the Base meeting. Again, a well deserved thank you is extended to Jerry for bringing the NC Subvets license plate to fruition.

#### **OPEN FLOOR:**

No Open Floor items were noted.

#### **SPEAKER:**

Tarheel Base member John Matthis, QM2 (SS), LCOL - USAF gave a most interesting talk covering his time on submarines during WWII up through his stint as a JAG officer in the US Air Force plus serving as NC Deputy Attorney General for the Consumer Protection Agency. John distributed around several copies of pictures of his sub and crew.

Some of the highlights of his Navy/Submarine Service were:

Joined the Navy in September 1941 with a base pay of \$21.00/mo; Completed basic training in Norfolk, VA; Volunteered for submarine duty and was sent to Pearl Harbor, HI; Assigned to sub relief crew duty for 6-8 months; Assigned to the USS Growler (SS-215) but broke his ankle and missed going out on the next war patrol - boat was lost on that patrol; Assigned to the USS Haddock (SS-231) and qualified aboard her in 1943. Made 5 war patrols on SS-231 under the command of Commander Davenport; Plank owner on USS Runner (SS-476); Witnessed the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay while a crewmember on SS-476 on September 2, 1945.

All gave John a hearty round of applause for his presentation and wished he had more time to expound on his life history.

**BENEDICTION:**

Commander Gordon offered up the closing prayer.

**NEXT BASE MEETING:**

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 - Annual Pearl Harbor Meeting at NCSU University Club in Raleigh.

Meeting was adjourned at: 11:54 AM.

No 50/50 raffle was held due to the absence of Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood.