

**Minutes from the USSVI Tarheel Base Meeting  
Held at American Legion Post #67, Cary, NC  
02 February 2013**

**Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe**

Prior to the Base meeting, 15 Subvets and 1 wife participated in the morning meal at the Golden Corral in Cary at or about 8:30 AM. Base Treasurer Dave Campbell and his son, Jonathan, were present for breakfast chow. Jonathan is currently on active submarine duty.

Tarheel Base Commander Bill "Butterbean" Dixon called the meeting to order, promptly, at 10:00 AM with Chaplain Bill Whelan offering the opening prayer. Vice Commander John Cunningham led the 43 Subvets and 3 "first mates" present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:**

Jerry Leppart and Jim Davis conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in remembrance of the 10 US Navy WWII submarines lost during the months of January and February - 5 in January and 5 in February.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commander Butterbean asked all Subvets to stand and introduce themselves by stating the year they qualified, the name of their qualification boat, plus any other pertinent comments. First introductions were afforded to the 5 WWII Subvets present followed by a hearty round of applause for this group of true heroes. Gene Rutter gave an update on WWII Subvet John Matthis. His condition is up and down with good days and bad days. Joel Daughtridge reported Subvet Ken Stephens is hospitalized in Edenton suffering from internal bleeding.

**SPEAKER:**

Captain Doug Wright

Subject - US Submarines and the Pacific

Past Base Commander Gordon Banks introduced the speaker, Captain Doug Wright. Gordon covered his bio and asked Captain Wright to enlighten the group on the meaning of the NC Consortium. Captain Wright stated he is in charge of 3 NROTC Units - one at Duke (35 members); one at NCSU (120 members); and one at UNC (33 members). Three women submarine officers now currently serving on Trident subs came from this program. Captain Wright covered his various duty stations during his naval career. Submarine duty assignments were SSBN- 640 Blue Crew; SSBN-625; SSN-667; Executive Officer on USS Asheville (SSN-758); and Commanding Officer of the USS Helena (SSN-725). Captain Wright gave an interesting overview of the deployment strategies of the US Submarine Fleet in the Pacific designed to offset China's plans of building an anti-access navy. At the conclusion of his talk, he fielded several questions voiced by Subvets present. Gordon presented Captain Wright with a NC Subvets coffee mug as a token of the Base's appreciation for an interesting program.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

HOLLAND CLUB

1. Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis gave a history of the Holland Club that was started in 1964. All present Holland Club members were asked to stand and be recognized. At least a dozen Subvets arose for this honor. Jim stated the Tarheel Base "Class of 1963" has a total of 13 Subvets qualifying for the Holland Club Award. Eleven were in attendance and were duly inducted into the Holland Club by Jim and assisted by Commander Butterbean Dixon. The inductees were Bob Andrews; Gordon Banks; Earl Buffalo; John Clark; Joel Daughtridge; William Grogan; Jerry Leppart; John Link; Cliff Snow; Herman Strickland; and Frans Van Baars. Jim reminded the new inductees and all Holland Club members present that he will be collecting a \$1.00 donation each year from them to fund the Holland Club Breakfast during the USSVI National Convention.

## REPORTS

1. Commander Butterbean covered his "hot topic" - paying Base and National dues. He called for all to 'get ahead of the game' by paying their 2014 dues now! The date for the June Base meeting may be changed per Butterbean. The cost of a full page in the program for the upcoming SVWWII/USSVI National Convention to be held in Rochester, MN is \$21.00 per Base in the SE District 1. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for the Tarheel Base to pay their share for this ad. A second motion was made and passed for the six NC Bases to pay \$18.00 each for a one-half page ad in this same program. Butterbean read a letter from SED2 Commander Paul Viering thanking the NC Subvets for the support given Charleston Base Subvet Ed Stank during his wife Pauline's illness and hospitalization. Subvet Dick Vopelak will be the speaker at the next Tarheel Base meeting in April. His topic will be the loss of the USS Thresher (SSN-593) and the subsequent Sub-Safe Program.
2. Base Vice Commander John Cunningham suggested all Subvets contact shipmates via a phone call or by letter and urge them to pay their dues.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on October 6, 2012 as posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for approval of minutes as distributed.
4. In the absence of Base Treasurer Dave Campbell, Bill Lowe covered the treasurer's report. Beginning balance CY 2012 was \$4,761.94, receipts totaled \$6,139.52, disbursements and commitments were \$3,767.98, and ending balance of \$7,133.48 with overall cash flow status of \$2,371.54. As a note, the Tarheel Base Executive Committee is trying to assemble a budget to provide the Base with an indication of expected obligatory and discretionary spending for any given year. Currently Tarheel Base membership stands at 169 regular and 2 associate members.
5. COB / All Clear Editor Patch Paciorek was not in attendance. Scuttlebutt is that he is "under the weather."
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace displayed some items he now has for sale and passed around his storekeeper catalog.
7. Regional Commander Dick Kanning conducted a swearing in ceremony for Tarheel Base Vice Commander John Cunningham. Dick covered the following items:
  - (A) SE District 1 Commander Steve Bell will be serving on the selection board for the Subvet of the Year award this go around.
  - (B) Dick stated that he and his wife Marge are taking advantage of the VA hearing aid program and urged other Subvet retirees to do likewise.
  - (C) For a policy clarification, the USS Hunley will not be included in the tolling of the boats ceremony since it was a CSA boat and not a USA boat.
  - (D) Awards - SE District 1 is champs in the number of awards and is so due to members taking the time to apply for the various National awards. The awards criteria are posted on the USSVI website. Gordon Banks is the Tarheel Base Awards Chairman.
8. North Carolina Subvets Commander Jim Myers went over the why and how the NC Subvets Commander position is filled. Jim said this office / position is rotated each year among the 6 Bases in NC and he and the Nat Greene Base are the "lucky" ones this year. Also, Jim urged other NC Subvet Bases to step forward and host the annual Pearl Harbor Dinner. As per a previous agreement, the Tarheel Base will handle arrangements for the December 2013 meeting. Jim mentioned the S-28 Memorial located adjacent to the Battleship North Carolina on the waterfront in Wilmington. This WWII lost sub is the Memorial Boat assigned to the State of NC and a visit to this memorial stone monument and bench will be a rewarding trip. As info, a Loss of the USS Scorpion (SSN-589) Ceremony will be held in Norfolk, VA later this year.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Service Projects:
  - Wayne Powell was not present to report on the Military Missions In Action Project.

- **Adopt-A-Spot Project:** Jim Wallace thanked the 9 Subvets who participated in the mulch spreading project on January 5, 2013 at Bond Park. It was a brief time consuming job with help from group of Green Hope High School students. UNC-TV Fund Drive Project will be scheduled for June or September 2013. Jim awarded Wolfgang Friedrich a Boy Scout Canoeing Merit Badge for his "one man and a canoe" Bond Lake cleanup project back on October 27, 2012. Wolfgang did not get the word the project had been cancelled and thus he followed through on his own.
2. **Upcoming Parades:** Chuck Jensen covered the first two parades scheduled for this year - the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte on Saturday, March 16, 2013 and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Nags Head, NC set for Sunday, March 17, 2013. Additional info will be forthcoming with assembly time and place. Chuck urged Subvets to participate in these two parades, especially the one in Nags Head. This will be the second year for the torpedo float and NC Subvets to take part in this particular parade.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Kaps for Kids:** Bill Lowe has stepped up to run this program. To date, he hasn't gotten the program "off the ground," but hopes to get going soon with the help of some solicited Subvet volunteers. Kaps for Kids is a very rewarding program for the kids, parents, and the Subvets.
2. **Eagle Scout Program:** Dave Campbell will handle. He was not present to make a progress report on this program.
3. **Boat Sponsor Program:** Gordon Banks is heading up this program. Gordon covered the three different levels of boat sponsorship from a \$30.00 per year Base/individual sponsorship that includes the mailing of three copies of the American Submariner Magazine per quarter to the sponsored boat plus a certificate and patch, \$10.00 donation for a nice patch, and a Model Donation of \$5.00 for a chance to win a submarine model of their choice. Motion was made and passed for the Tarheel Base to continue sponsorship of the USS North Carolina (SSN-777).

### **OPEN FLOOR:**

1. Gene Rutter stated he has copies of a booklet that lists sources that are available to help senior citizens with various needs.

### **BENEDICTION:**

Chaplain Bill Whelan closed the meeting by reciting a Bible verse from Habakkuk, Chapter 2, Verse 1A: I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me.

### **NEXT BASE MEETING:**

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:20 PM

Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. Craig Gorham was the big winner of \$70.00.