

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

**Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe**

Prior to the Base meeting, 10 Subvets were "called to" the morning meal at the Golden Corral in Cary at or about 8:30 AM.

Tarheel Base Commander Bill "Butterbean" Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with Chaplain Bill Whelan offering the opening prayer by reciting a verse from the Navy Hymn. Vice Commander John Cunningham led the 28 Subvets and 1 wife present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commander Butterbean asked all Subvets to stand and introduce themselves by stating the year they completed qualification, the name of their qualification boat, plus any other pertinent comments. First introductions were afforded to the 4 WWII Subvets present followed by a hearty round of applause for this group of true heroes.

**TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:**

Patch Paciorek and Jim Davis conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in solemn remembrance of the 13 US Navy WWII submarines lost during the months of March and April - 8 in March and 5 in April.

**SPEAKER - LCDR Richard "Dick" Vopelak:**

Subject: Thresher

Past Base Commander Gordon Banks introduced the speaker, Tarheel Base member LCDR Dick Vopelak, a Class of 1962 graduate of the US Naval Academy. Dick began his talk by handing out drawing diagrams of a S5W reactor power plant for the benefit of the "non-nukes" present. He covered probable reasons for the loss of the USS Thresher (SSN-593) on April 12, 1963:

1. Failure of a silver brazed welding joint on sea water piping.
2. Reactor scrambled due to high-pressure water spraying from a broken pipe joint shorting out one of many electrical panels.
3. Ice formed on the strainers to the blow valves for the ballast tanks.
4. As per standard operating procedures, the Engineering Officer of the Watch ordered the isolation of the main steam system when the reactor scrambled. This cut off the flow of steam to the turbines that provided propulsion and electricity.

Dick stated the subsequent Sub -Safe Program called for the main steam valves to remain open after a reactor scram in order to maintain propulsion by utilizing residual steam.

All present thanked Dick for his interesting presentation.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commander Butterbean announced the next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on June 1, 2013 with ADM Glass as guest speaker.

**HOLLAND CLUB**

1. Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis stated he had 3 Subvets to induct into the Holland Club but all 3 couldn't make the meeting. Jim has rocker patches for Holland Club members that qualified prior to 1958 and he is still collecting \$1.00 annual membership dues for Holland Club members.

## REPORTS

1. Commander Butterbean covered recruiting new Base members by stressing the importance of getting the name, telephone #, and e-mail address of potential new members.
2. Base Vice Commander John Cunningham did not have any comments.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on February 2, 2013 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, Gordon Banks covered the treasurer's report. Beginning balance CY 2013 was \$7,133.48, receipts totaled \$1,632.03, disbursements & commitments were \$750.38, and ending balance of \$8,015.13 with overall cash flow status of + \$881.65. Currently Tarheel Base membership stands at 155 regular and 2 associate members. Dave is changing from a PC to an APPLE MAC MINI and will be working on the change over to the new system, including e-mail etc and a total data transfer that will take place next week followed by training on the use of a MAC. During this period of change over, contact Dave by phone.
5. COB/ All Clear Editor Patch Paciorek solicited inputs for the *ALL CLEAR*. He needs "fillers" now that the Coastal Carolina Base publishes a newsletter.
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer, Jim Wallace passed around his storekeeper catalog and asked Subvets to make a note in the back of the catalog of any desired items not listed.
7. S.E. Regional Commander Dick Kanning covered the following items:
  - a. A 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial service commemorating the loss of the USS Scorpion (SSN-589) will be held in Norfolk, VA on May 25, 2013.
  - b. Awards nominations, this year, from District 1 are at a disappointing low number. Dick urged Subvets to fill out nomination forms for fellow Subvets that have and are doing outstanding jobs for their base and USSVI.
  - c. There are 11 days left to submit names for USSVI scholarships.
  - d. SE Regional Meeting will take place in North Charleston, SC from Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 10, 2013.
  - e. USS Thresher (SSN-593) memorial events are taking place in Portsmouth, NH and Kittery, ME today - April 6, 2013.
  - f. The US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC still needs financial help.
  - g. On Saturday, April 20, 2013 the BB-55 Association will hold their final meeting at the Elks Club in Wilmington with only 11 former BB-55 crewmembers in attendance. All Subvets are invited to this dinner at a cost of \$25.00 per head.
8. North Carolina Subvets Commander Jim Myers was not in attendance.

## **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 went over the next two dates scheduled for mulch spreading work parties at Cary's Bond Park - Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with a time frame of 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon followed by a Mellow Mushroom lunch.
2. Upcoming Parades:
  - Azalea Festival Parade is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013 in Wilmington followed by a Subvets quarterly meeting in the wardroom aboard the USS North Carolina (BB-55).
  - Next parade will be the Thomasville Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Monday, May 27, 2013.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Boat Sponsor Program: Gordon Banks 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. As a note, the Tarheel Base is sponsoring the USS North Carolina (SSN-777).
2. Commander Butterbean reminded Subvets present to use the BC line when passing along e-mails. If this isn't done, you will be sending out everyone's address to the whole Internet world!
3. Jim Wallace covered a proposed addition to the Cary Veteran's Memorial Park located on N. Harrison Ave. with artist drawings of the changes. Jim serves on the Cary Public Arts Revitalization Board and is very pleased with the proposed changes to this site.

## **OPEN FLOOR:**

1. Gene Rutter passed along a thank you from the widows of two Subvets that went on eternal patrol recently, Don Wilson and John Matthis.
2. Tarheel Base Librarian Wolfgang Friedrich stated he has a box of German U-Boat related books and a box of Sea Classics magazines that he is getting tired of transporting back and forth to Base meetings. He implored Subvets to look over the boxes and make a new home for them.

## **BENEDICTION:**

Chaplain Bill Whelan closed the meeting with travelling graces and a reminder to remember the crew of the S-28 in your thoughts and prayers.

## **NEXT BASE MEETING:**

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at: 11:15 AM

Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. Gene Rutter was the big winner of \$65.00.