

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

**Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe**

Before start of the Base meeting, 10 Subvets answered the call for 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 10:02 AM with Chaplain Bill Whelan offering the opening prayer. Butterbean lead the 34 Subvets present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commander Butterbean asked all Subvets to stand and introduce themselves by stating the year they earned their dolphins, the name of their qualification boat, plus any other pertinent comments. First introductions were afforded to the 5 WWII Subvets in attendance.

**TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:**

Patch Paciorek and Dave Campbell conducted a reading of the names, recount of loss, and tolling of the bell in solemn remembrance of the 9 US Navy submarines lost during the months of July and August - 3 in July and 6 in August.

**SPEAKER - Retired CAPT Gary Davis**

Subject: The Albacore Legacy

Past Base Commander Gordon Banks introduced the speaker, retired CAPT Gary Davis. Gordon covered CAPT Davis' naval career from his US Naval Academy graduation in June 1964 up to his retirement after 26 years of service in 1990. During this time, CAPT Davis made 5 patrols on the Nathan Hale (SSBN-623), 6 patrols on the John Marshall (SSBN-611) as ships engineer, was XO of the USS Barb (SSN-596), and was CO of the Haddock (SSN-621).

CAPT Davis presented an interesting overview of the history of submarine development beginning with WWII and the German Type XXI submarines along with the Japanese I400 class of submarines. He stated ADM Swede Momson was instrumental in designing the USS Albacore (SS-569). Albacore was 205 feet in length, first with a teardrop hull constructed from HY80 steel, 1700 tons, test depth of 600-700 feet, no torpedo tubes, and was the first submarine to exceed 25 knots. The submarine went through seven configurations in five phases as a test ship involving dive brakes, dorsal rudder, x-stern configuration, and several types of contra-rotating screws. Albacore was commissioned December 5, 1953 (the beginning of the modern submarine era), decommissioned September 1, 1972 after 19 years of service, and opened to the public as a museum ship in August 1989 in Portsmouth, NH.

As a token of appreciation for a well- planned presentation, Gordon gave CAPT Davis a Subvets coffee mug.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

HOLLAND CLUB

1. Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis did not have any inductions slated for the present meeting. Jim covered a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Tarheel Base from USSVI-National acknowledging the generous financial support of the Holland Club.

REPORTS

1. Commander Butterbean announced the availability of one seat in his "tank" for the trip to the USSVI National Convention in Rochester, MN scheduled for the last week of August. Butterbean reminded all about the next Pearl Harbor dinner/meeting to be held at the University Club in Raleigh on Saturday, December 7, 2013.

2. Base Vice Commander John Cunningham did not have any comments other than requesting any ideas about how to get the smell of spilled gasoline out of the trunk of his car.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on June 1, 2013 as posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for approval of minutes as distributed.
4. Base Treasurer Dave Campbell covered the treasurer's report. Beginning balance CY 2013 was \$7,133.48, receipts totaled \$2,508.03, disbursements and commitments were \$2,150.65, and ending balance of \$7,490.86 with overall cash flow status of + \$357.38. Currently, Tarheel Base membership stands at 155 regular and 2 associate members.
5. COB / All Clear Editor Patch Paciorek thanked all for the feedback/articles for the All Clear. Patch regrets having to pass up attending the upcoming National Convention due to taking care of his "real job".
6. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer, Jim Wallace passed around his book of items in his inventory and asked Subvets to make a note of any non-stocked items that they wanted ordered. Jim stated the Tarheel Base has completed the two year commitment for the Bond Park Adopt-A-Spot Project. The Base needs to decide if members want to tackle another project.
7. S.E. Regional Commander Dick Kanning covered the following:
  - A. Steve Bell was elected to the post of SE District 1 Commander.
  - B. Tarheel Base newsletter All Clear is in the running for Newsletter of the Year for the third year in a row. A round of applause was rendered to Patch for his outstanding job as editor.
  - C. Dick announced the departure of one of the Tarheel Base charter members - Bob Werner. Bob will be moving to Michigan to be near his family. Tokens of appreciation in the form of a Base cap and patch were presented to Bob. All wished Bob the best - smooth sailing and following seas!! We will miss you!
  - D. Dick gave a brief history of the Groton Base fiasco. He served on the USSVI investigation committee and stated it was not an easy task. End results were the Groton Base Commander, John "Gumba" Carcioppolo, was asked to resign, USSVI has the ownership of the Groton Base Clubhouse and bar, and back taxes owed by the Groton Base have been paid.
  - E. Per an inquiry, the Seven Seas Club in Sanford is still alive and well with meetings held on the first Saturday of each month at the VFW with a \$7.00 breakfast.
8. North Carolina Subvets Commander Jim Myers stated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter NC Subvets meeting will be held in Elizabeth City on September 28, 2013. Coastal Carolina and Carolina Piedmont Bases will not be attending this meeting. As info, the Coastal Carolina Base has a new submarine float. Jim thanked all who made donations to the fund for a shipmate in need (i.e. Brother of the Phin). With the addition of a donation from National USSVI, an amount in excess of \$3,000 was given to this shipmate. Jim said this shipmate was very grateful for the lending of a helping hand. Jim covered a project initiated/started by Chaplain Bill Whelan. Bill has drafted and sent a letter to the headquarters of the Bonefish Grill Restaurant chain suggesting the idea of placing a plaque and a picture of the WWII lost submarine USS Bonefish (SS-223) in each restaurant - nation-wide. To date, a reply to the letter has not materialized.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Service Projects - Wayne Powell was not present to report on the Military Missions In Action Project.
2. Report on Upcoming Parades, etc. – Chuck Jensen stated the next parade on the schedule will be the Old Soldier's Parade in Newton, NC on Thursday, August 15, 2013. Formation will be at 3:00 PM at the same location as last year - the restaurant parking lot at the intersection of NC-10 and US BUS 321 with a 5:00 PM parade start time. Next parade will be the annual Veteran's Day Parade in Asheboro on Monday, November 11, 2013.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. COB Patch will be making trips to the Kings Bay Submarine Base to recruit submariners about to retire for potential jobs with his company - Commissioning Agents, Inc.

**OPEN FLOOR:**

1. No open floor items were noted

**BENEDICTION:**

Chaplain Bill closed the meeting by offering a prayer for safe travel.

**NEXT BASE MEETING:**

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at: 11:50 AM.

Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. LCDR Dick Vopelak was the big winner of \$73.00. Generously, Dick donated his winnings to the Tarheel Base treasury.