

**Minutes from the USSVI Tarheel Base Meeting
Held at American Legion Post #67, Cary, NC
04 April 2015**

Submitted by Base Secretary Bill Lowe

Before the start of the Base meeting, 8 Subvets participated in morning chow at the Holiday Inn in Cary, NC.

Tarheel Base Commander Jerry Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM sharp and Chaplain Bill Whelan offered the opening prayer. Commander Jerry led the 32 Subvets and 1 guest in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Commander Jerry asked all WWII Subvets to stand and introduce themselves. A total of 4 WWII Subvets were present - Joe Clark, Marty Kirwan, Don Moyer, and Bill Whelan. Joe Clark displayed the battle flag from his boat, the USS Bream (SS-243). He plans on donating the flag to the St. Mary's Submarine Museum. All present gave this group of "Greatest Generation Heroes" a hearty round of applause. Jim Wallace stated no new Base members were present. Afterwards, the remaining Subvets introduced themselves with pertinent info such as the name of their qualification boat, etc. One guest in attendance was Bernardine "Bernie" Donato, USN/USAF, Retired.

TOLLING OF THE LOST BOATS:

Prior to the Tolling of the Lost Boats Ceremony, Patch Paciorek gave the reason for and history of this event for the benefit of our guest present. Patch Paciorek and Tom McFadden conducted a reading of the names, recounts of the lost boats, and a picture slide presentation. Following was a tolling of the bell in solemn remembrance of the 13 US Navy submarines lost during the months of March and April - 8 in March and 5 in April.

SPEAKER - CAPTAIN STEPHEN M. GILLESPIE, USN

Tom McFadden introduced Capt. Gillespie- his former shipmate on the USS Louisville (SSN-724). Tom covered Capt. Gillespie's naval career from his US Naval Academy graduation in 1987 up to his current duty assignment as Commanding Officer - North Carolina Piedmont Consortium in which he is in charge of the NROTC units at Duke, NCSU, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Capt. Gillespie's program entailed a slide presentation - A Submarine Force Unclassified Brief. He covered an overview of the current consolidated squadron assignments of the US Navy's 55 SSN's, 14 SSBN's, and 4 SSGN's. He mentioned the threat from 38 countries that now deploy a total of 368 diesel submarines. Also, some interesting stats were presented: the US submarine force has conducted over 4,000 deterrent patrols since 1960, of which 1,000+ were Trident patrols. US submarines carry 54% of the nuclear warheads and 100% of the survivable warheads. Included in the slide presentation were pictures of Capt. Gillespie with his various submarine crews plus family photos. Last but not least, female crew assignments on US Navy submarines were thoroughly covered with pros and cons debated. All present thanked Capt. Gillespie for a very interesting program.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

HOLLAND CLUB

1. Holland Club Coordinator Jim Davis had planned on inducting Thomas J. VandenHeuvel into the Holland Club during the meeting, but he was a no show.
2. Jim reminded all Holland Club members that a \$1.00 donation per member per year is now due. This donated money goes toward funding the Holland Club Breakfast held during the USSVI National Convention.

REPORTS

1. Commander Jerry stated he has taken the necessary steps to register the torpedo float trailer in his name and the need for drivers is an ongoing issue. Dave Campbell will be in charge of the next Base meeting due to Jerry's job obligations.
2. Base Vice Commander Dave Campbell introduced guest Bernie Donato, USN/USAF, Retired. She went over the North Carolina Military Veterans Oral History Project. This organization's goal is to preserve the history of all NC veterans via a recorded video interview. Ms. Donato handed out information pamphlets and her calling cards.
3. Base Secretary Bill Lowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last Tarheel Base meeting held on February 7, 2015 as posted on the NC Subvets website. Motion was made, seconded, and passed for approval of minutes as posted.
4. Base Treasurer Tom McFadden covered the treasurer's report. Regular Account - Ending January balance: \$10,186.54; Ending March balance: \$10,359.92. Events January balance: \$950.52; Ending March balance: \$938.52 and Combined March ending balance was \$11,298.44. As of March 30, 2015, balance change since last report was + \$206.38. Currently, Tarheel Base membership stands at 130 regular and 3 associate members for a total of 133 members. A total of 24 members have not paid National dues. Last report stated a total of 144 Base members. The reduction in membership was due to removal of non-paying Base members from the data base.
5. Recruiter/Membership Chairman Butterbean Dixon made his plea for Subvets to go ahead and pay their 2016 dues. Anyone owing 2015 dues, pay 'em. Butterbean urged all to keep up the job of recruiting new members.
6. COB/ All Clear Editor/ Website Extraordinaire Patch Paciorek gave an update on the mission to locate the S-28. The project is presently on hold due to a lack of funding. Patch is in need of inputs for the next edition of the *ALL CLEAR*.
7. Tarheel Base Storekeeper and Public Relations Officer Jim Wallace, as usual, passed around his updated storekeeper catalog and urged Subvets to make him aware of items that need to be added to his inventory. Jim has memo books left over from last year's SE Regional at \$1.00 each and old black and white sub photos for \$1.00 each. Today's Base meeting was advertised in the on-line version of the Cary News. Hopefully the next Base meeting will be in the printed copies. The Subvets Adopt-A-Spot has been moved from Bond Park to the Veteran's Memorial Park on North Harrison Avenue with 3 work details planned for 2015. Information on these project dates will be forthcoming.
8. S.E. Regional Commander Dick Kanning covered the upcoming USSVI National Convention to be held in Pittsburgh, PA. The host hotel, the Weston, is top-notch with none of the ills that befriended the hotel in San Francisco. As info, the 2017 USSVI National Convention was scheduled for Boston, MA, but has been changed to Orlando, FL. Dick noted that USSVI will pay for bases' liability insurance and USSVI taxes have been paid in full. Per Dick, Dave Campbell will be the next District 1 Commander.
9. District 1 Commander Steve Bell was not present.
10. North Carolina Subvets Commander Gene Ipox was not present.
11. National Treasurer Paul Hiser stated the audit of USSVI National "books" was completed with no errors noted.
12. Subvets were urged to sign up for the Burnsville Memorial meeting scheduled for May 15-16, 2015.
13. By a show of hands, several Subvets are planning on attending the SE Regional meeting in Cape Canaveral, FL on April 20-24, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Request by Earl Buffalo for funds to purchase some WWII books was tabled again due to Earl's absence.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parades - The Parade Torpedo Float will make its next appearance in the Thomasville Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2015. Jerry Leppart will utilize his truck to pull the torpedo trailer in this parade.
2. Jim Myers gave a report/history of the torpedo float. He urged Subvets with proper vehicles to step up and volunteer to pull the trailer since he has given up that job. Jim noted a torpedo float fuel and maintenance fund is handled by Chuck Jensen. This fund is financed through donation collected by "passing the hat" at parades.
3. The Nathaniel Greene Base will hold their next meeting at the Triad Park Field of Honor (Exit #208 off I-40) on Friday, May 1, 2015. A cook-out is planned for 11:00 AM at Pavilion #4 in the Park. All are welcomed to attend, but Jim Myers needs a head count to be sure enough food is available for the meal. Information has been posted on the NC Subvets website.
4. The annual Fly-In at the Asheboro Air Museum is scheduled for June 13, 2015.

OPEN FLOOR:

1. Gene Rutter announced an upcoming program that will air on the NOVA/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC channel at 9:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. The program will cover the U-166, the only U-Boat sunk in the Gulf of Mexico during WWII.
2. Gordon Banks gave a Bravo-Zulu to Tarheel Base Librarian Wolfgang Friedrich for his outstanding job of maintaining and transporting the Base library. Wolfgang and Gordon offered a suggestion to expand the topic of books held in the library to include other titles - not just submarine related books. All present voiced approval for this change to the Base library.

BENEDICTION:

Chaplain Bill Whelan closed the meeting by offering up a prayer for the safety of the submarine force on duty around the world.

NEXT BASE MEETING:

The next Tarheel Base meeting will be held on June 6, 2015. Meeting was adjourned at: 12:32 PM.

Raffle Czar Henry Hagwood conducted the 50/50 raffle drawing. Gary Lew was the big winner of \$88.50.