



The Below Decks Watch

The Official Newsletter of the Coastal Carolina Base of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI)

Azaleas & Submariners

USSVI

Creed and Purpose

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

April 13 was a beautiful day for the 65th annual Azalea Festival Parade in Wilmington, NC. The Coastal Carolina Base (CCB) of the USSVI participated in the parade along with the support of numerous members of other USSVI North Carolina Bases. Attending Members assembled



in the Battleship North Carolina Memorial Park parking lot at about 0600 and began to configure the NC Subvet torpedo float for participation in the parade. Eighteen Members participated in the parade and were rewarded with a gracious reception and applause from parade attendees at every turn along the route. For more pictures of the Azalea Festival Parade see [Page 10](#).



Qualified in U.S. Submarines?

***You are welcome to attend our meetings and join our Base!
Meeting Dates and Locations in Calendar on page 27
Bring your spouse!***

Newsletter Editor

Willam (Dog) Underwood

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CCB Base Elected Officers



Commander
Charlie Backes
910-791-0844
backescb@charter.net



Vice Commander
Jerry Hawks
910-642-8997
elhawksinc@earthlink.net



Secretary
Bill Underwood (Dog)
910-232-4209
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Treasurer
Barry Turano
910-799-7995
b.turano1@charter.net

Base Officers above were elected by unanimous vote of Base Members for two year terms starting April, 2013.
64% of Members Voted.



Base Commander's Corner

By Charlie Backes

I feel privileged to have been elected to this position. I will try to provide the leadership needed for us to be successful over the next couple of years. Here are some things we can look forward to over the next few months.

The float: We have a lot of work to do to get the float ready for the parade in Southport on the 4th of July. That is our stated goal and we need to push to get that done. In any event we will have an entry in that parade again this year.

Memorial Day: I would like for our base to do more on Memorial Day. I have some plans I will share at the next meeting, but this is a holiday that gets too little action and it was originally meant to honor veterans.

Golf Tournament: In September we will have our first attempt at a golf tournament so I will not call it an annual event until we do the second one. If you are reading this look for additional information in this newsletter about our fund raiser. We are hooking up with "Step Up for Soldiers", a local charity that strongly supports returning veterans.

Meetings: We have two meetings planned in the next couple of months: June 20th and August 17th.

Membership Book: I still need many pictures and short biographies for the Membership Book. If you have not had your picture taken and not sent me a biography for the book, think about doing it soon. If any member knows of another submarine sailor that is not a member, ask him to join our base. Our stated purpose is to remember those submariners who are on eternal patrol, to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment and to celebrate our backgrounds as submarine sailors.



Want this Cup?
Attend a Base Meeting
and buy raffle tickets
One cup raffled at each meeting
Proceeds support CCB activities and projects.

Help!

We need your help finishing the Base parade float in time for the 4th of July parade!

[Click here to see how you can help](#)



Do You Have Your SubVet License Plate Yet?

Forms available at meetings and at the following link:

<https://edmvsp.dot.state.nc.us/sp/ShowSpecialPlate?category=military&code=USN>



**FROM
THE
VICE COMMANDER
BY JERRY HAWKS**

It is a great honor to have been voted to the office of Vice Commander by my fellow SUBVETS. I had no idea that when I attended my first meeting in 2009 that I would be a part of a group that has more than tripled in size, and that I would take an active role in the organization.

I have a great deal of interest in our current project of creating a replica of the *USS North Carolina*, SSN 777, to be used to bring awareness to the importance of the "silent service".

The members of the Coastal Carolina Base will assume an important role of military awareness in the upcoming Southport 4th of July Parade. I have been made aware that due to the sequester other military groups will be absent from this years parade.

The replica will be proudly displayed at not only the parade but at the Submarine Weekend at the Battle Ship on July 13 and other important events. As I learn the duties and responsibilities of the office I will be able to better serve you.

I look forward to a productive and exciting year for the base.

**HAPPY Birthday
to the
United States
Submarine Service!**



April 11, 2013 is commemorated by the United States submarine community as Submarine Day, the anniversary of April 11, 1900 when the American Government purchased its first commissioned submarine, the USS Holland. USS Holland was the United States Navy's first commissioned submarine, named for her Irish-American inventor, John Philip Holland, although not the first submarine of the US Navy, which was the 1862 Alligator. The boat was originally laid down as Holland VI, and launched on 17 May 1897.

Holland VI eventually proved her validity and worthiness as a warship and was ultimately purchased by the U.S. government for the sum of \$160,000 on 11 April 1900. She was considered to be the first truly successful craft of her type. It was decommissioned on July 17, 1905.

On June 19, 1916 the Submarine Force United States Atlantic Fleet was established and on June 28, 1917 the Submarine Force United States Pacific Fleet was established.

Today all 71 combatant U.S. Submarines are nuclear powered. The fleet consists of 18 Ohio Class ballistic or guided Missile subs, 7 Virginia Class fast attacks, and 46 Los Angeles and Seawolf Class attack submarines.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG8uh2CW-38>

Save the Clamagore!

The USS Clamagore (SS 343) was commissioned in 1945. After going through conversions to GUPPY 2 and GUPPY 3 she was decommissioned in 1975 and became a Submarine Museum at Patriots Point (PP) near Charleston, SC (The only GUPPY 3 Remaining). PP does not have the funds to maintain the Sub. Recently PP agreed to allow the Clamagore Veterans Association (CVA) to fund an engineering survey of the boat. If the boat is deemed sound, PP will give CVA 2 years to raise the funds to Save the Clamagore and, if not sound, the Clamagore will become a reef. SubVets contact the CVA at the site below to help save one of our treasures.






<http://www.savetheclamagore.com/>





Tolling of the Boats

**At Each Base Meeting We Honor the U.S. Submarines and Crews that were Lost at Sea
Following are the Submarines Honored in the Second Quarter**

Boats Lost in April	
USS Pickerel (SS-177) Lost on April 3, 1943 with the loss of 74 officers and men while on her 7th war patrol. She was lost off Honshu. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined, but her OP area contained numerous minefields.	
USS Snook (SS-279) Lost on April 8, 1945 with the loss of 84 officers and men. Snook ranks 10th in total Japanese tonnage sunk and is tied for 9th in the number of ships sunk. She was lost near Hainan Island, possibly sunk by a Japanese submarine.	
USS Thresher (SSN-593) Lost on April 10, 1963 with the loss of 112 crew members and 17 civilian technicians during deep-diving exercises. 15 minutes after reaching test depth, she communicated with USS Skylark that she was having problems. Skylark heard noises "like air rushing into an air tank" then, silence. Rescue ship Recovery (ASR-43) subsequently recovered bits of debris, including gloves and bits of internal insulation. Photographs taken by Trieste proved that the submarine had broken up, taking all hands on board to their deaths in 1,400 fathoms of water, some 220 miles east of Boston.	
USS Gudgeon (SS-211) Lost on April 18, 1944 with the loss of 80 men off Saipan. Winner of 5 Presidential Unit Citations, Gudgeon was on her 12th war patrol and most likely sank due to a combined air and surface attack. Gudgeon was the first US submarine to go on patrol from Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. On that patrol, she became the first US submarine to sink an enemy warship, picking off the submarine I-173.	
USS Grenadier (SS-210) Lost on April 22, 1943 near Penang, with no immediate loss of life. She was on her 6th war patrol. While stalking a convoy, she was spotted by a plane and dove. While passing 130 feet, the plane dropped a bomb causing severe damage. She was lodged on the bottom 270 feet and the crew spent hours fighting fires and flooding. When she surfaced, she had no propulsion and was attacked by another plane, which her crew shot down. But when enemy ships arrived, the CO abandoned ship and scuttled the boat. Of the 61 crew members taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.	

25th Anniversary of the Fatal Fire Aboard the *USS Bonefish*



On 24 April 1988, Bonefish was exercising with the guided missile frigate Carr 160 mi (260 km) off the coast of Florida. While the sub was submerged, seawater began leaking onto cables and electrical buses in a battery supply cableway. Electrical arcing between cables caused an explosion which flashed into a fire within minutes, with temperatures in the battery spaces reaching 1,200° Fahrenheit. The heat was so intense that it melted crew members' shoe soles in the spaces above. Bonefish was surfaced and its crew ordered to abandon ship. Eighty-nine crew members were rescued by whale-boat and helicopter crews from Carr and the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. One Search and Rescue Swimmer from HS-7, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator Third Class (AW3) Larry Grossman spent over three hours in the ocean and was credited with saving 19 lives. He later received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. With the fire extinguished, Bonefish was subsequently towed into Charleston, South Carolina by salvage and rescue ship Hoist. The damage to Bonefish was deemed too extensive to warrant repair, and a decision was made to decommission her and dispose of her via scrapping.

Three Bonefish sailors were killed

Lieutenant Ray Everts,
PO 1st Class Bob Bordelon,
PO 3rd Class Marshal T. Lindgren

As OOD he went up to open escape hatch and was overcome by smoke and died.
The radioman sending alert signals and was overcome by smoke and died.
Part of group helping injured when he was overcome by smoke and died.



Boats Lost in May	
<p>USS Lagarto (SS-371) Lost on May 3, 1945 with the loss of 88 men near the Gulf of Siam. On her 2nd war patrol, she is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. This minelayer was sunk by the USS Hawkbill two weeks later</p>	
<p>USS Scorpion (SSN-589) While returning to Norfolk, VA from a Mediterranean deployment, on May 22, 1968 she reported her position to be about 50 miles south of the Azores. Scorpion was never heard from again. The exact cause of her loss has never been determined.</p>	
<p>USS Squalus (SS-192) Lost on May 23, 1939 due to a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the Isle of Shoals. Squalus sank came to rest keel down in 240 feet of water. Commander Charles Momsen and Navy divers on the USS Falcon (ASR-2) rescued 33 survivors using the diving bell he invented. 26 men drowned in the after compartments. Squalus was raised and recommissioned as the USS Sailfish.</p>	
<p>USS Stickleback (SS-415) Lost on May 30, 1958 when it sank off Hawaii while under tow after collision with USS Silverstein (DE-534). The entire crew was taken off prior to sinking.</p>	
Boats Lost in June	
<p>USS Herring (SS-233) Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 80 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made two direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.</p>	
<p>USS R-12 (SS-89) Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and two other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.</p>	
<p>USS Golet (SS-361) Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.</p>	
<p>USS Bonefish (SS-223) Lost on June 19, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.</p>	
<p>USS S-27 (SS-132) Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.</p>	
<p>USS O-9 (SS-70) Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 34 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH. O-9 submerged at 0738 to conduct deep submergence tests, the sub did not surface thereafter but was crushed by the pressure of the water 402 feet below. 33 men lost.</p>	
<p>USS Runner (SS-275) Lost between June 26th and July 4th 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway</p>	



The Coastal Carolina Base is a proud to be one of the six USSVI bases that comprise the United States Submarine Veterans of North Carolina, aka NC-SubVets!

Coastal Carolina Base Parade Float Update:

The CCB Float is making good progress. At LineX the sub was coated at 163 °F. The coat was dry and hard within 3 minutes. Several coats were added tripling the weight of the centerpiece. Next we will paint the hull numbers white and the prop bronze and mount the sub on



Loading into John Williamson's Trailer at Fabricator



In Richard's Barn on Richard's Trailer



Sanding in Richard's Barn



Float with Mount and Banners



At LineX Ready to Coat



Coated Prop Hard as a rock!



First Coating in Progress

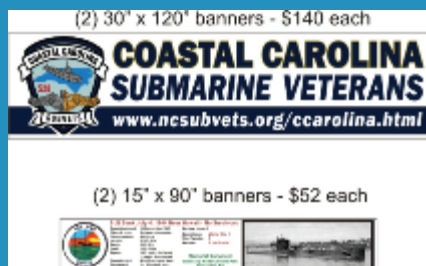


After Final LineX Coat

**USSVI
Anniversary!**

**Officially
Chartered
May 24, 1964**

Banners for sides of trailer



Challenges Remaining!

We need folding chairs for Vets to sit while riding in parade!

We need a place to store the sub in Wilmington between parades!



The Coastal Carolina Submarine Veterans Charity Golf Tournament

**For the Benefit of Two Local Charities,
Step Up For Soldiers and Submarine Veterans Inc.**
www.stepupforsoldiers.org www.ussvi.org

Come join us on Saturday, September 28 for 18 holes of golf on an enjoyable and challenging course; limited number of 20 foursomes; Sign up early; Three flights; Prizes for each flight; 501(c)(3) Charitable Deduction; Echo Farms Golf & Country Club; fun for everyone; Beverage Cart; Door Prizes; one free mulligan per player; Captains Choice; Scramble; Golf Carts; Practice Facility; Bag of range balls and Valet bag service at arrival and departure.

Schedule: September 28, 2013
Location: Echo Farms Golf & Country Club
4114 Echo Farms Boulevard
Wilmington, NC 28412
www.echofarmsnc.com

Registration: Start time 11:30 AM
Tee time: Carts scramble at 1:00 PM
Format: Scramble, 4 person teams
Chick-fil-A: Box Lunch on arrival

Entry Fee: \$75.00 per individual player: \$270.00 per four-some
Sponsor a green or a tee: \$100.00
Deadline: Payment on or before Saturday, September 21
Cancellation: 50% refund until noon, Tuesday Sep 24
Checks made payable to: Submarine Veterans, Coastal Carolina
Red Tees and Extra Mulligans sold at check-in

Sign Up now to enjoy and have fun with everyone!

Volunteer Base Members needed to help man the registration tables at the event! Please contact Bernie Maguire (bermaguire@aol.com) or Jim Brincefield (jab39@att.net).

Book of Members

The Book of Members project continues to progress. The base is collecting pictures of each member and autobiographical descriptions of each member's Submarine Service experiences. Base Secretary, Bill Underwood, is taking pictures of each member attending each meeting. Commander Backes displays the Book of Members at Base meetings to encourage participation. So far the Book has pictures of about 16 members and autobiographies for about 8 members. Members are encouraged to help complete the Book of Members by attending meetings and bringing their submariner autobiography to the meeting or emailing it to Charlie at backestc@charter.net. There are no rules for the autobiography other than it should fit on one page. You can write what you want. Jot it down and get it to Charlie. *Please get your autobiography to Charlie soon!*

Did You See Fellow Sub Sailors Honored at the NFL Draft?



Sailors stationed at Naval Submarine Base New London are brought on stage during day three of the NFL Draft at Radio City Music Hall for recognition of their military service, April 27.



USS Scorpion SSN 589 Memorial Service May 25, 2013 CCB Participation

Dear USSVI COASTAL CAROLINA BASE

On behalf of the families, former crew, and USS Scorpion (SSN-589) Alumni Association, I thank you for participating in the "99 for 99" fund raising effort for the 45th Anniversary Memorial service for the lost Scorpion crew to be held on Saturday, May 25, 2013 at the U.S. Navy submarine piers in Norfolk, Virginia. Your donation of \$99.00 will help ensure the families and former crew will receive a fitting tribute to those 99 sailors, fathers, and friends lost on that fateful day of May 22, 1968.

Your generous gift has been designated to sponsor Machinist's Mate First Class **JOEL KURT WATKINS**, from Fort Bragg, NC. MM1(SS) Watkins' biography from the USS Scorpion Memorial Book is included. If you would like to read his biography at the May USSVI COASTAL CAROLINA Base meeting, that would be a fitting tribute.

Your sponsorship will be noted on a special program to be given to all who attend this memorial service. In addition, please accept the enclosed USS Scorpion (SSN-589) challenge coin for your base as a remembrance of this very important event.

Again, thank you for your generosity and kindness shown to the "Scorpion Family".

Sincerely,

Art Nolan, Chair

USS Scorpion Memorial Committee



**Joel Kurt Watkins
Machinist's Mate First Class
United States Navy**

Joel Kurt Watkins was born March 23, 1943 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Joel graduated from Willow Brook High School, Villa Park, Illinois and attended Milliken University at Decatur prior to entering the Navy on June 6, 1962.

Upon completion of recruit training at Great Lakes, Illinois, he attended Machinist's Mate School at Great Lakes. He next attended basic submarine school at Groton, Connecticut. Joel completed basic nuclear training in February 1965.

Prior to reporting aboard the *USS Scorpion*, Joel served on the submarine *Menhaden* and the fleet ballistic missile submarine *James K. Polk*. Joel earned his silver dolphins on December 16, 1963 when he qualified in submarines. He was authorized to wear the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Medal.

Joel is survived by his widow, the former Peggy Lee Lawser of Lombard, Illinois; two daughters, Nancy and Kelly; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joel B. Watkins also of Lombard.





Chaplain's Corner

By Bill (Butterbean) Dixon

Psalms 107 vs 23-24 says: "They that go down to the sea in ships. that do business in great waters. These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep."

I ask you does this not speak about Submarine Sailors?

*Luke 23 vs 42-43 says: And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.***

Easter is exactly what the Apostle Luke is writing about in the above verses.

The reason for the season; This is the reason we are different from all the others.



Coastal Carolina Base Members on Eternal Patrol

James Tobin

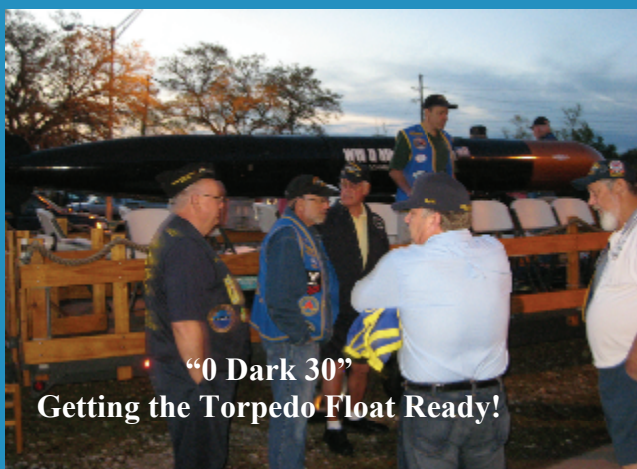
Lawrence H. Dunn

Navy Hymn for Submariners

*Bless those who served beneath the deep,
Through the lonely hours the vigil they had to keep,
May eternal peace their mission ever be,
Bless each one we ask of thee,
Comfort those who at home who waited and prayed,
For their return night and day.*



Events of April 13, 2013



**"O Dark 30"
Getting the Torpedo Float Ready!**



**Heart Warming
Thank You
from Crowd!**



**Memorial Service for S28
Crew**

Base and District Meeting in Battleship North Carolina BB 55 Ward Room





Coastal Carolina Base Officers for 2013-2014 Sworn in at April 13, 2013 Meeting



Jim Myers, Commander, North Carolina Submarine Veterans and Commander, Nathaniel Greene Base administered the oath to the 2013-2014 Coastal Carolina Base Officers. Officers installed were Charlie Backes, Commander, Jerry Hawks, Vice Commander, Barry Turano, Treasurer and Bill Underwood, Secretary.

Letter from Your District Commander

All:

One of the pleasures of being the District Commander is when you get to be the one who gets to receive the award for others. Our district, once again, was awarded the Regional Directors District Award during the convention this week. This is NOT my award, but it is your award. We receive this because of all the various work that each of the bases within the district accomplish. It makes me proud to serve you.

I thank each of you for your contribution not only to us being able to get the award, but more importantly, the efforts you do for the betterment of USSVI in general.

Steve Bell
Commander, District One, Southeast Region



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2013

Location: The Plaza Mariachi Restaurant, College Road, Wilmington, NC

Coastal Carolina Base Meeting

This was a special meeting called by the officers to address key decision points for the unusually busy CCB activity list for Q2 2013.

When: April 2, 2013 at 1900

Location: Plaza Mariachi Restaurant, Wilmington, North Carolina

Call to order: Base Vice Commander Charlie Backes called the meeting to order promptly at 1900 as attendees' finished eating dinner.

Attendees: Charlie Backes (Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Barry Turano (Base Treasurer), Bill Dixon (Base Chaplain), Jim Brincefield, Howard Crist, Richard Schrum, Jim Simon, Bernie Maguire, and guests Barbara Dixon, Russ Dressell and Tom Russell.

Invocation: Bill Dixon, Butterbean, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Commander Backes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Tolling of the Boats: Tolling of the Boats was deferred to the upcoming regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2013.

Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance:

There were no World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance for this meeting.

Holland Club Presentations: No Holland Club presentations were made at the meeting.

Introductions: Vice Commander Backes introduced guests Russ Dressell and Tom Russell to the Attendees. Russ Dressell is a retired CIA employee who, while never qualified in submarines, worked with submarines and submariners many times in his career. He is considering join-

ing CCB as an Associate Member. Tom Russell, founder of "Step Up for Soldiers" was invited as a guest speaker to represent his local charity organization as a potential charity for CCB support.

Guest Speaker: Thomas Russell, Founder of Step Up for Soldiers

Step Up for Soldiers is a local, all volunteer group providing renovations, recreation, and recognition for recently disabled veterans in eastern North Carolina.

Step Up for Soldiers mission statement is "to provide disabled veterans who experienced loss of limb and mobility problems with the resources necessary to adjust in a post-war environment. As a result of the events and fundraisers, sponsored by Step Up For Soldiers, we strive to not only enhance their lives and those of their families but also help to restore their confidence and positive self-image".

Step Up For Soldiers was founded in 2004, by Tom Russell whose goal was to build a wheelchair accessible ramps for two local National Guard Soldiers who had lost their legs during their tours of duty. Since that simple idea was conceived, the organization has grown significantly thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers and local media and business sponsors that embraced the importance of helping our Iraqi and Afghan heroes who did so much for our liberty. The Step Up group has sponsored events such as golf tournaments, marathons, and "mud runs" to raise donations to support their building projects and programs such as "Packages from Home". The "Packages from Home" program collects and acquires goody bags to send to soldiers deployed from eastern North Carolina into war zones.

Though the local 1/120th Combined Arms Battalion, Wilmington, NC is their primary focus, Step Up gladly serves all five branches of the military. Thus, whenever any soldier of veteran of the current conflicts needs help, the organization will deploy all resources available to assist to the best of their abilities.

Moreover, since its inception, the purpose of the organization has expanded to provide funding to soldiers who need financial assistance as well as home modifications, family support and more.



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2013

Continued

Raising awareness and visibility for our heroes is an important byproduct of their efforts. They consistently become involved with and host public events such as parades, golf tournaments and make sure that their special mobile memorial stands out to create attention and recognition for these special heroes. The Step Up group is particularly proud of their involvement in helping to develop the Fallen Soldier Memorial Garden which recognizes the fallen in southeastern North Carolina and provides a peaceful and special place for reflection and respect. The Memorial is surrounded by a lovely garden and brick pavers which can be purchased to signify personal displays of recognition.

The Fallen Soldiers Memorial was dedicated June 21, 2008. This was a great day for all of those involved with Step Up For Soldiers as well the members of the 30th Battalion North Carolina Army National Guard.

The Fallen Soldiers Memorial is located on North Carolina National Guard property at Wilmington International Airport at 2412 Infantry Road.

Step up for Soldiers is a non-profit 501-(c) (3) organization, dedicated to members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. All monetary donations are tax deductible and all donations are used for projects in eastern North Carolina.

The Step Up For Soldiers organization is a good example of how one person can make a difference and a group can help to create positive change for those in need. The Step Up For Soldiers website is at www.stepupforsoldiers.org.

Treasurers Report: Barry Turano (Base Treasurer) reported that the Base took in \$2,210.00 since the last meeting and spent \$1608.49 in that period resulting in an April 2, 2013 balance of \$1,940.86. The primary expenditures since the February 16th meeting were \$972.00 for the submarine centerpiece for the new float and \$384.00 for banners to be attached to the sides of the float trailer.

Storekeeper Report: There was no Storekeeper's report at this meeting.

Book of Base Members: Vice Commander Backes passed around the CCB Book of Members for review. The book now has pictures for about 15 Members and autobiographical write-ups for about 6. The write-ups have no rules and range from very brief listing of boats served on to more detailed descriptions of submarine experiences. The Vice Commander encouraged all to write up something (limited to one page), even hand written on paper, and get it to him to format and include in the book. What would you like future Members to read about your time as a submariner? Jot it down! Get it to Charlie!

Base Secretary Bill Underwood reminded attendees that he will continue to collect pictures of members at Base meetings and provide the pictures to Charlie for inclusion in the **Book of Members**.

Base Election Status: Butterbean informed the attendees that the election of Coastal Carolina Base officers was complete. 37 Base Members (66%) participated in the elections and the following officers were unanimously elected for Two Year Terms:

New Coastal Carolina Base Officers

Commander:	Charlie Backes
Vice Commander:	Jerry Hawks
Secretary:	Bill Underwood
Treasurer:	Barry Turano

The new officers will be installed at the Regional Meeting on April 13th on the Battleship *North Carolina BB55*

COB Report: There was no COB Report at this meeting.

Base Parade Float: Base Treasurer, Barry Turano, reported that the total donations to date to support the building, acquisition and maintenance of the new base float were \$1,805.00. **Thanks to the Members for this fantastic response to support this project!** Thus far the Base has spent \$1,356.00 for the float centerpiece and the banners to go on the sides of the float trailer. Barry displayed two of the banners at the meeting. The longest will go from the front of the trailer along the side to the tandem wheel well and represents the Coastal Carolina Base. The shorter ban-



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2013

Continued

ner will start above the wheel well and go down the side to the rear of the trailer and will highlight the S-28 Memorial.

Fabrication of the submarine centerpiece will be completed Thursday, April 4th and Barry plans to travel to High Point to take delivery on Tuesday April 9th utilizing a covered transport trailer graciously volunteered by John Williamson. The centerpiece will then be taken to be stored in a pole barn on Richard Schrum's property in Richlands. Commander Terry Kuhn will organize working parties to prepare, paint and mount the centerpiece on Richard Schrum's trailer. The plan is to build a movable mount which will securely support the submarine display on the trailer, but can be easily removed for storage and to free up the trailer for other uses. The working parties will fiberglass, paint and detail the submarine centerpiece as well as design and build the mount. If you have skills that would be helpful in preparation of our float please contact one of the base officers to be included in one of the working parties.

Our goal is to debut the new Coastal Carolina Base submarine float at the Southport July 4th Parade.

Golf Tournament Fund Raiser: Bernie Maguire reported that the CCB Golf Tournament Fund Raiser is getting rolling. The Tournament will raise money for the CCB and a veteran's charitable organization such as Wounded Warriors or Step Up for Soldiers. The team needs more volunteers to help recruit sponsors, donations, event organization, and advertising. The event is currently planned for September 28, 2013 at either the Wilmington Municipal Golf Course, Echo Farms or Olde Point Golf Course. The intention is that it will be an annual event for the Base.

The Tournament Team is recruiting volunteers for to head the following activities associated with the golf tournament;

- Advertising – Promotion of the event
- Sponsorship – Recruitment of sponsors for each hole at the tournament (\$100/hole)
- Door Prizes – obtain donations of prizes for various achievements in the tournament

- Food – Recruit a restaurant like Chick Filet to donate a lunch meal for each participant at the tournament.

The Golf Tournament team reported that they will procure sponsor signs (18" by 24") for each hole. Sponsors will pay \$100.00 per hole sponsored and the base will pay \$25.00 per sign. The difference will be used for prizes and other project expenses. The team agreed to select a course and charity and present the proposition for the tournament at the April 13th meeting.

Sponsorship of the 45th Scorpion Memorial Event: On February 23, 2013 CCB received a request for a donation to help defray the costs of the 45th Memorial Event for the families of the crew of the *USS Scorpion*, SSN 589. The request was from MaryEtte Nolan, daughter of the COB of the *Scorpion* when it went down. MaryEtte have organized and produced the memorial event for the last 25 years since her mother's passing. Her proposal to raise funds to support the event was to ask 99 Bases of the USSVI to give \$99 to sponsor one of the 99 crew members lost with *Scorpion*. In return for the donation each participating Base would receive a biography of the sponsored crew member and a specially designed *Scorpion* Coin commemorating the *Scorpion*. We contacted MaryEtte and discussed the history of the memorial, the upcoming ceremony and sponsorship of one of the lost crew members. CCB asked to sponsor Joel Kurt Watkins MM1(SS) who was born in the Fayetteville area. If the *Scorpion* had not gone down that fateful day in 1968, Joel might very well be one of our members now.

The Memorial Event will be held on May 25th at 10:00 am at the Norfolk Naval Submarine Base at the Scorpion Memorial on the pier. CCB members are invited to attend if possible.

MOTION: Bill Underwood offered a MOTION for the Coastal Carolina Base to allocate \$99.00 to sponsor one *Scorpion* crew member. The MOTION was SECOND-ED by Bernie Maguire and PASSED by unanimous vote of the attendees.



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2013

Continued

USS Thresher 50th Memorial Ceremony: Since the last meeting the CCB was asked to support the 50th memorial ceremony in memory of the *USS Thresher SSN593* which will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The organizers asked each base to email a picture of the Base Members and a brief tribute to the crew of the *Thresher*. The picture and the tribute will be incorporated into a narrated slide show which will loop on a big screen while the participants gather for the ceremony. The CCB officers decided to participate and sent the base member picture seen in our first quarter Newsletter and the following tribute written by Vice Commander Charlie Backes:

A Tribute to the *Thresher*

The officers and men of the Coastal Carolina Base of the USSVI wish to pay tribute to those men lost in April, 1963 with the *USS Thresher (SSN 593)*. It was a shock to the nation and more so to the submarine service to have one of its newest submarines lost at sea. Many families of the Portsmouth/Kittery communities suffered great losses that day. Although it has been fifty years since that loss we, who served on submarines, still remember the loss of one of our own. Our hopes and prayers are with the families who lost members on that fateful day. Our pledge is that their loss will never be forgotten!

Upcoming Parades: Vice Commander Backes reported that the Base is signed up for the 2013 Azalea Festival Parade on April 13th and the Southport July 4th Parade. Members should keep these dates in mind and participate, if possible. The Base has the Torpedo float reserved for the Azalea Festival Parade and we are hoping to have a new float for the Southport July 4th parade.

New Business

Eastern Regional USSVI Meeting in Charleston: Commander Elect Charlie Backes will represent the Coastal Carolina Base by attending the Eastern Regional USSVI

Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina on April 9th and will incur expenses while acting on behalf of CCB.

MOTION: Bernie Maguire offered a MOTION that the CCB allocate \$85.00 to help defray our Commander Elect's expenses while attending the Regional USSVI Meeting. Barry Turano SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Upcoming Events Reminder:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Calendar Event</u>
Apr 6	After Battery Hog Roast in Dorchester, SC (on the way to Regional USSVI Convention in Charleston
Apr 7-11	Regional USSVI Convention in Charleston, SC
Apr 13	Azalea Festival Parade, meet 0530 at the battleship parking lot
Apr 13	Base and Regional SubVet Meetings on the USS North Carolina BB-55
Apr 13	Installation of newly elected Commander and Vice Commander for CCB
May 9	Members invited to attend Cape Fear SubVet meeting at Bluewater Grill
Jul 4	North Carolina 4th of July Parade, Southport, NC
Sep 28	Target date for CCB Annual Golf Tournament

Adjournment:

Jim Brincefield offered a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Maguire SECONDED the motion and the motion CARRIED by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next Coastal Carolina Base meeting will be on Saturday morning April 13, 2013. The meeting will convene on the USS North Carolina, BB55 immediately following the Azalea Festival Parade.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these meeting minute's format please provide them to Bill Underwood, Base Secretary, at bunder343@aol.com



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2013

Location: Ward Room, *USS North Carolina BB-55*, Wilmington, NC

Memorial to Crews of the S-28 and the 52 Submarines Lost in WWII April 13, 2013

After the Azalea Festival, parade attendees joined other Base Members and guests at the Submarine Memorial at Battleship Park to pay homage to the crews of the S-28 and the 52 submarines lost in World War II. A brief memorial service was led by Jim Myers, Commander, North Carolina Submarine Veterans. The *USS S-28 (SS 133)* was lost on July 4th, 1944 on a routine training operation. Lost with her was her crew of 40 officers and enlisted men plus 10 shipmates in training.

Coastal Carolina Base Meeting

When: April 13, 2013, at 1200

Location: Ward Room, *USS North Carolina, BB-55*, Wilmington, North Carolina

Call to order: Base Commander Terry Kuhn called the meeting to order promptly at 1200.

Attendees: Terry Kuhn (Commander), Charlie Backes (Vice Commander), Bill Underwood (Base Secretary), Barry Turano (Base Treasurer), Bill Dixon (Base Chaplain), Frank Blackmon (Base Storekeeper), Jim Brincefield, Richard Schrum, Bernie Maguire, Bill Lowe, Bill Whelan, Tom Richey (Nathaniel Greene Base), Tom McFadden, Dale Patterson (Nathaniel Greene Base), Joe Clark (Nathaniel Greene Base), Henry Hagwood (Tarheel Base), Chuck Jensen (Nathaniel Greene Base), John Norosky, Jerry Hawks, Arv Klemp (Tarheel Base), Jim Myers (Nathaniel Greene Base), Rodney Brown, James Jacobs and guests Barbara Dixon, Mary Ann Jensen, Mary Backes, Gail Klemp, Judy Hagwood, Pat Blackmon, Carolyn Richey, and Nancy Jacobs.

Invocation: Bill Dixon, Butterbean, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Kuhn led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: Each attendee stood and introduced themselves and gave their qualification boat and year.

Recognition of World War II Submarine Veterans in Attendance:

There were two World War II Submarine Veterans in attendance. Joe Clark qualified in 1944 and served on 3 war patrols. Also in attendance was Bill Whelan who also qualified in 1944 and served on 3 war patrols.

Tolling of the Boats: The Tolling of the Boats ceremony for boats lost in the months of March and April was performed by Vice Commander Elect Jerry Hawks, Commander Elect Charlie Backes, and Commander Terry Kuhn.

Holland Club Presentations: No Holland Club presentations were made at the meeting.

Installation of Coastal Carolina Base Officers for 2013 and 2014: North Carolina Submarine Veterans Commander, Jim Myers administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Coastal Carolina Base officers:

Commander	Charlie Backes
Vice Commander	Jerry Hawks
Secretary	Bill Underwood
Treasurer	Barry Turano

Each of these new officers were elected to serve for the two year term of 2013 and 2014.

Recognition of Outgoing Commander Terry Kuhn:

Commander Charlie Backes and Commander Jim Myers thanked outgoing Commander Terry Kuhn for his service to the North Carolina Submarine Veterans. Terry has seen the Base grow from less than 20 members to 57 members. In addition, under Terry's leadership, the Base has taken over responsibility of maintenance of the S-28 memorial, established a library of Navy and Submarine books, established a Book of Members to memorialize Members on Eternal Patrol as well as current Members, initiated an annual charity golf tournament, started construction of a Base parade float, established a Base Newsletter, won numerous awards from USSVI, and sponsored donations to various local and USSVI charities. As Terry



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2013 Continued

leaves the Commander position, he intends to lead the buildup of Kaps4Kids charitable activities by the Coastal Carolina Base. Commander Charlie Backes announced that the Base has acquired a nice gift for Terry to commemorate his service and will present it to him as soon as it arrives.

North Carolina Submarine Veterans Commander

Comments: Jim Myers, Commander, North Carolina Submarine Veterans and Commander, Nathaniel Greene Base was introduced by Commander Charlie Backes. Commander Myers commented that the North Carolina Submarine Veterans was started as an off-shoot of the World War II Submarine Veterans. The Tarheel Base was chartered in 1997 by the WWII Submarine Veterans to have quarterly meetings in each quadrant of North Carolina. One big event for the subvet organization was to commemorate the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack each year. This year the Tarheel Base is hosting the Pearl Harbor Dinner on Saturday, December 7. Commander Myers encouraged Coastal Carolina Base Members to plan to go to Cary to attend this dinner. He explained that the dinner is always a very good time. There are raffles, door prizes, good food and great submarine sailor interaction.

Commander Myers continued by encouraging attendees to write nominations for USSVI national awards. He said that the NC Subvets have been very active in the USSVI awards program and have won many awards. The Coastal Carolina Base got the Golden Anchor Award last year for membership growth.

He also discussed the cost of maintenance of the two NC Subvet floats, the torpedo float and the submarine float. He said that it is very expensive to maintain the float and that just recently spent over \$400.00 for tires. They would like to get contributions from each Base to the maintenance fund to support the floats.

Commander Myers closed by saying that his door is always open and he is eager to hear from any Member with questions, ideas or concerns.

MOTION: Terry Kuhn offered a **MOTION** that the Coastal Carolina Base appropriate \$100.00 to be contributed to the NC Subvet Parade Float Maintenance Fund. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Barry Turano and **PASSED** by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Storekeepers Report: Base Storekeeper, Frank Blackmon announced that he had a full assortment of patches and rocker panels for anyone who needs them.

Update on the Coastal Carolina Base Float: Base Treasurer, Barry Turano gave a report on the progress of the Coastal Carolina Base parade float project. Barry reported that he and Secretary Bill Underwood traveled to Carpenter Company in High Point to pick up the submarine centerpiece for the new Base float. Below is a picture of the submarine centerpiece shrink wrapped into a Styrofoam cradle.

Base Member John Williamson volunteered his covered car trailer for the transport from High Point to the storage point in Base Member Richard Schrum's barn in Richlands, NC. Many thanks to Barry, Bill, John and Richard for their contributions to the delivery of the centerpiece. The centerpiece is constructed of heavy duty solid Styrofoam and is approximately 14 ft long, 2 ft wide and 4 ft tall. Barry continued that the Styrofoam is vulnerable to dents, etc. until it is coated with a protective coating. He said that he has spoken with Line-X, a company that makes pickup truck bedliners, about the suitability of their product for putting a black protective coat on Styrofoam objects like our centerpiece. The local Line-X dealer and the Line-X headquarters technical group assured him that they routinely successfully coat Styrofoam objects with their product and it results in a smooth, durable end-product. Barry said that the cost of the coating would be approximately \$700.00 and asked for permission to expend the funds for coating the centerpiece.

MOTION: Barry Turano offered a **MOTION** that the Base approve the expenditure of approximately \$700.00 to have the centerpiece coated with a Line-X type product to protect the centerpiece and color it submarine black. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2013 Continued

Frank Blackmon. In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that so far donations for the Base float had exceeded \$1,800.00 and thus far the Base has incurred expenses of approximately \$1,580.00 (including fabrication of the centerpiece, banners for the float and gas to deliver the centerpiece). Thus far the construction of the Base float has not impacted the Base's routine bank account at all. The MOTION PASSED by unanimous vote of the attendees.

Barry continued that a working party will be set up soon to make a few minor refinements to the centerpiece prior to coating. He explained that the leading edges of the sail, fairwater planes, stern planes, and rudder should be sanded to be more realistically hydrodynamic. Such a process can be done with normal sheetrock finishing tools and would give the centerpiece a much more realistic look. Any Member with such skills and a willingness to spend an afternoon or morning working on the centerpiece should contact Barry at b.turano1@charter.net.

Base Members are reminded that the Coastal Carolina Base is a not-for-profit organization and that all donations to CCB are generally considered tax deductible (of course, you should consult your tax accountant for deductibility in your particular circumstance).

Regional USSVI Meeting in Charleston, SC: Base Commander Charlie Backes recounted his experience attending the USSVI Regional Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina earlier in the week. He submitted his hotel room expense for reimbursement. Commander Backes reported that Dick Kanning had also encouraged bases to apply for USSVI awards and scholarships. The scholarships are reserved for USSVI Members children and grandchildren, but there is no way to receive one if applications are not filled out.

USS North Carolina, BB-55 Veterans Banquet: Attendees and Members were encouraged to attend the USS North Carolina Veterans Banquet on Saturday April 20th at 1730 at the Elks Club in Wilmington, NC. It was pointed out that the veterans of the BB-55 are fewer and fewer and this may very well be the last banquet. All vet-

erans were encouraged to attend the meeting to support these fellow veterans.

Scorpion Memorial Sponsorship: Secretary Bill Underwood informed attendees that the \$99.00 donation to sponsor one of the *USS Scorpion*'s lost crew members for the memorial service was made. Coastal Carolina Base was assigned sponsorship of MM1(SS) Joel Kurt Watkins of Fayetteville, NC. Maryetta Bishop Nolan, daughter of the COB lost with *Scorpion*, said that Joel's brother is very active in the memorials to his brother and will be attending the 45th Memorial Ceremony. It brings it home to think that, if the *Scorpion* had not gone down that fateful day, Joel Watkins would likely be one of us, a member of one of the NC Subvet bases.

Recruitment, et cetera: Base Chaplain and Recruiter, Bill Dixon, (Butterbean) updated attendees on recruitment status. Two new Members joined the Coastal Carolina Base since the last meeting.

Butterbean, also Commander of the Tarheel Base, reminded the attendees that the Tarheel Base will be sponsoring the Pearl Harbor Dinner Meeting this year and it will actually be on Saturday, December 7th. He informed the attendees that the uniform for the dinner will be Red Shirts and the dinner will be in the Raleigh/Cary area. He will put out the details as they are finalized. But, for the time being, all Members are encouraged to put the date on their calendar and plan on attending.

Butterbean also said that the Tarheel Base will be the host for the 2014 USSVI Regional Meeting which is being planned for the week leading up to the Azalea Festival. Members are encouraged to plan to attend this Regional meeting.

First Annual Coastal Carolina Base Golf Tournament: Bernie Maguire reported that the First Annual Coastal Carolina Base Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, September 28 at 1300 at Echo Farms Golf Club in Wilmington, NC. For \$30 per golfer, Echo Farms will provide 18 holes of golf, golf carts, signs and sign placement, contest management, range balls and 4 free rounds of golf as door



Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2013 Continued

prizes. Players will be charged \$60 to \$80 per head with the profits going to the charities. Bernie reported that he has completed due diligence on the **Step Up for Soldiers** charity and selected it to be the charity for the golf tournament.

At the Base meeting on April 2nd Tom Russell, founder of Step Up for Soldiers, informed attendees of the activities of his charity. It is a local, all volunteer group providing renovations, recreation, and recognition for recently disabled veterans in eastern North Carolina. Step Up for Soldiers mission statement is "to provide disabled veterans who experienced loss of limb and mobility problems with the resources necessary to adjust in a post-war environment. "As a result of the events and fundraisers, sponsored by Step Up For Soldiers, we strive to not only enhance their lives and those of their families but also help to restore their confidence and positive self-image" said Russell.

Frank Blackmon, who recently was involved in a charity golf tournament, suggested that a lot of funds can be raised by selling Red Tees and Mulligans at the tournament.

Bernie is working on a flyer to help Members recruit players and hole sponsorships from local businesses and plans to have it ready by April 27th. The Golf Tournament Team continues to seek volunteers to help organize and manage the golf tournament. In particular they need volunteers for:

- Advertising – Promotion of the event
- Sponsorship – Recruitment of sponsors for each hole at the tournament (\$100/hole)
- Door Prizes – obtain donations of prizes for various achievements in the tournament
- Food – Recruit a restaurant like Chick Filet to donate a lunch meal for each participant at the tournament.

Upcoming Events Reminder:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Calendar Event</u>
Apr 20	Final BB-55 banquet at 1730 at Elks Club in Wilmington, NC
May 9	Members invited to attend Cape Fear SubVet meeting at Bluewater Grill
Jun 20	Regular scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC
Jul 4	North Carolina 4th of July Parade, Southport, NC
Aug 17	Regular scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral, Wilmington, NC
Sep 28	CCB Annual Golf Tournament at Echo Farms
Oct 17	Regular scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Meeting in Cary, NC hosted by Tarheel Base
Dec 21	Regular scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral, Wilmington, NC

Adjournment:

MOTION: Jim Brincefield offered a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Maguire **SECONDED** the motion and the motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Scheduled Base Meeting

The next Coastal Carolina Base meeting will be on Thursday evening June 20, 2013.

The meeting will convene in room 208 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, North Carolina at 1900. Members are encouraged to attend the **BB-55** banquet on April 20th at 1730 at the Elks Club in Wilmington, NC.

If you have any comments or suggestions on these meeting minute's format please provide them to Bill Underwood, Base Secretary, at bunder343@aol.com



Gems from Jim

Thought Provoking emails from Jim Brincefield

Amazing!!!!!! Makes one wonder why humans can't get along with each other.....

Rescued eight years ago during a police drug raid in Atlanta , Georgia , the three friends were only cubs at the time at barely two months old. They had been kept as status symbol pets by the drug barons. Delivered to the Noah's Ark Animal Rescue Centre in Locust Grove , Georgia , the decision was made to keep the youngsters together, because of their budding rapport. 'We could have separated them, but since they came as a kind of family, the zoo decided to keep them together,' said Diane Smith, assistant director of Noah's Ark. 'To our knowledge, this is the only place where you'll find this combination of animals together.' Living with the zoo's founders for the past eight years, Shere Khan, Baloo and Leo have now moved to a purpose-built habitat where the US public can now witness first hand their touching relationships



'Now their habitat is sorted and they have been moved away from the children's zoo areas where the public couldn't really get a good look. 'It is possible to see Baloo, who is a 1000 lb bear, Shere Khan, a 350 lb tiger and Leo, who is also 350 lbs, messing around like brothers. 'They are totally oblivious to the fact that in any other circumstance they would not be friends.' Handled by Charles and Jama Hedgecoth, the zoo's owners and founders, the three friendly giants appear to have no comprehension of their animal differences. 'Baloo and Shere Khan are very close,' says Diane. 'That is because they rise early, and as Leo is a lion, he likes to spend most of the day sleeping. 'It is wonderful and magical to see a giant American Black Bear put his arm around a Bengal and then to see the tiger nuzzle up to the bear like a domestic cat. 'When Leo wakes up the three of them mess around for most of the day before they settle down to some food.'

Surprisingly for three apex predators with the power to kill with a single bite or swipe of their paw, they are very relaxed around each other. 'They eat, sleep and play together,' said Jama. 'As they treat each other as siblings they will lie on top of each other for heat and simply for affection. 'At the moment they are getting used to their new habitat. 'Shere Khan is being quite reticent about the move, but Baloo, the bear, is very good at leading him on and making him feel comfortable and safe.' Explaining that the three 'brothers' have always seemed to share a unique bond, Charles said: 'Noah's Ark is their home and they could not possibly be separated from each other. 'You just have to remember who you're dealing with when you are with them, though. 'It's when you forget that these fellows are wild animals that you get yourself in trouble.' The trio's new habitat had to be constructed carefully, in order to accommodate its occupants. Jama said: 'The clubhouse had to be very sturdy for the guys, because they all sleep in it together,' She added: 'We had to include a creek, because the tiger and the bear both like to be in water.'

And how are YOU getting along with YOUR neighbors today?



50th Memorial Ceremony of the Loss of *USS Thresher* SSN 593

Saturday April 6 at 1300
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

On Saturday, April 6 the 50th Memorial Ceremony for the lost crew of the *USS Thresher* SSN 593 was held at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Coastal Carolina Base provided a group picture of base Members and the Tribute shown below to be included in a sideshow which was played as the attendees were gathering for the ceremony.

[Click here to go to CBS News Coverage](#)



Coastal Carolina Base Tribute

Displayed at the Memorial Service

The officers and men of the Coastal Carolina Base of the USSVI wish to pay tribute to those men lost in April, 1963 with the *USS Thresher* (SSN 593). It was a shock to the nation and more so to the submarine service to have one of its newest submarines lost at sea. Many families of the Portsmouth/Kittery communities suffered great losses that day. Although it has been fifty years since that loss we, who served on submarines, still remember the loss of one of our own. Our hopes and prayers are with the families who lost members on that fateful day. Our pledge is that their loss will never be forgotten!

Relatives gather to remember America's worst submarine disaster 50 years after 129 sailors lost their lives on *USS Thresher*

Family and friends who lost loved ones when the *USS Thresher* sank 50 years ago joined in tossing wreaths into the water Saturday in an emotional service in remembrance of the 129 Navy crew members and civilian technicians who lost their lives in the deadliest submarine disaster in U.S. History. Hundreds gathered for the memorial service at Portsmouth High School that concluded with a small group tossing three wreaths into the Piscataqua River. During the service, a bell tolled 129 times. The event, along with the dedication of a flagpole Sunday in Kittery, Maine, aim to call attention to the tragedy 220 miles off Cape Cod, which became the impetus for submarine safety improvements.

Don Wise Jr., 59, of Plaistow, N.H., who lost his dad, said the *Thresher* crew members were doing something special, serving on what was a technological marvel, the Navy's fastest and deepest-diving nuclear submarine. "They were going deeper and faster than anyone. I always considered my dad a hero and an adventurer," Wise said Saturday. "These memorials are how I connect my children and grandchildren with my dad."

Former *Thresher* crew member Frank DeStefano, 79, of Orange Park, Fla., said he owed his life to a three-day assignment to Washington that took him away from the submarine during the fateful sea trials. He said he's happy to see that annual memorial events provide an outlet for families and friends to grieve. "The only good part about these memorials is that we can help those who were really affected, like the families," DeStefano said. "And it's great to see the children that have come along."

After the ceremony, a rifle team fired shots as the wreaths - one each for Navy personnel and civilian technicians who died, and one for previous *Thresher* crew members - were tossed into the river.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTER
PUBLISHED: 20:17 EST, 6 April 2013 |



The Ditty Bag

Contribute to the "Below Decks Watch" Newsletter

Please submit News, a Sea Story, Jokes (clean), cartoons, humorous anecdotes, alerts, local event notices, comments, Letters to the Editor, etc. by the end of February, May, August, or November to get your contribution in the next Quarter's Newsletter!

Submit to bunder343@aol.com

From the Base By-Laws

An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is sponsored by a Regular Member and meets one of the following requirements:

a. A family member (no limit) up to two degrees of consanguinity of a regular member, including adoptive children of the regular member.

b. A Regular Member may sponsor one additional non-family related member for Associate Membership who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair. A Regular Member may also sponsor one additional non-family related U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, for Associate Membership, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances.

d. Some examples of interest and support: Submarine Book author, Sub Tender service, Intel Rider, Museum submarine docent, Submarine Historian or provides some other demonstrated service to advance the US Submarine force, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair.

CCB Currently has 0 Associate Members.

Belay That!

If you find errors in an issue of this Newsletter, please tell us about it! Send comments or clarifications to the email below and we will publish the corrections in the next issue.

bunder343@aol.com

CCB in the Wilmington Star News!

U.S Submarine Veterans honored

The Coastal Carolina Base of the U.S. Submarine Veterans, based in Wilmington, has received the prestigious Golden Anchor Award for 2012 at the National Convention of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Incorporated. Recruitment of new members and retention of current members at the Coastal Carolina Base were significant factors in awarding the Golden Anchor.

The Coastal Carolina Base (CCB) of the North Carolina Submarine Veterans is a Duly Sanctioned Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., a 501 (c)(19) Charitable Veterans Organization



USS North Carolina SSN 777

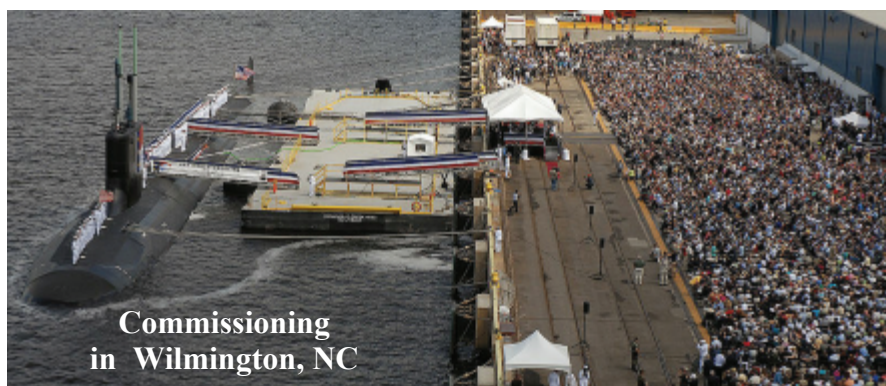
Name:	USS North Carolina
Namesake:	The State of North Carolina
Ordered:	30 September 1998
Builder:	Northrop Grumman Newport News
Laid down:	22 May 2004
Christened:	21 April 2007
Launched:	5 May 2007
Acquired:	21 February 2008
Commissioned:	3 May 2008

Homeport: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

General characteristics

Class & type: Virginia-class submarine

Displacement: 7,800 tons
Length: 114.9 meters (377 feet)
Beam: 10.3 meters (34 feet)
Depth: 800 ft (244 m)
Propulsion: S9G reactor
Speed: 25 knots (46 km/h)+
Range: Essentially unlimited distance;
Complement: 134 officers and men
Armament: 12 × VLS (BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile) &
4 × 533mm torpedo tubes (Mk-48 torpedo)



Commissioning
in Wilmington, NC

Coastal Carolina Base Member Birthdays

April Birthdays

Chuck Troyon

Howard Crist

May Birthdays

Raymond Groh

Terry Kuhn

June Birthdays

Willy Allen

A Very Happy Birthday & Many Returns!



Base Membership Statistics

USSVI Life Members	26
Base Life Members	0
Holland Club Members	22
Associate Members	0
WWII Sub Veteran Members	2
Total Active Members in	57
Members on Eternal Patrol	2
Attendees at Apr 13 Meeting	23
Guests at Apr 13 Meeting	8



“The Silent Service”

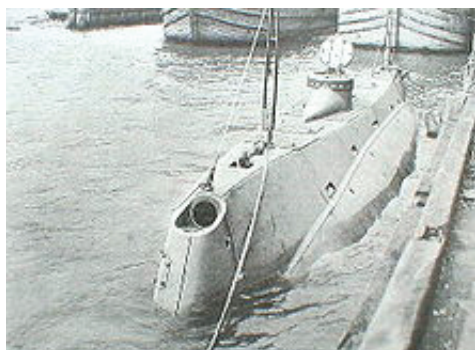
TV Show DVDs available at

www.usssealion.com/sealion/silent_service_tapes1.htm

“I Ordered Mine and Love them!”

Notable Second Quarter History

USS Holland SS-1
Purchased for \$160,000
Birth of US Submarine Service



USS Tunny Recommissioned
May 8, 1953
First Sub with Regulus Missiles



April 21, 2007
USS North Carolina SSN 777
Christening



USS Squalus SS 192 Sank
May 23, 1939



USS Thresher SSN 593
Lost April 10, 1963



USS Scorpion SSN 589
Lost May 22, 1968





Current International Submarine News

Chinese Boomers A Bust Strategy Page, April 23

Taiwanese intelligence officials recently revealed (while answering questions before parliament) that China's Type 94 SSBN (ballistic missile carrying nuclear powered boat, also called "boomers") has not yet been commissioned. This was apparently in response to reports that a Type 94 class sub was seen recently undergoing what appeared to be sea trials. Taiwanese officials also stated that the JL-2 SLBM (Sea Launched Ballistic Missiles) that the Type 94 is designed to carry is still undergoing testing. It's no secret that China is eager to actually send one of its SSBNs out on a combat patrol. That's because, to date, China has never been able to do this. America, Russia, Britain, and France have all done so and still do. The U.S. has had SSBNs going out with nuclear armed, and ready to fire, missiles for over half a century. What is going on with China? There appears to be a combination of technical and political problems. Some of these problems are no longer state secrets but are being discussed in the state controlled media. What is known is that China has already produced two generations of SSBNs. In the early 1980s, the Type 92 SSBN was launched but had a lot of problems and never made it into service. It only went out for training in Chinese coastal waters. Only one was built. In the last decade the Type 94 showed up. This was believed, in the West, to be the Chinese SSBN that would go on patrol. This has never happened, at least not yet. Turns out that the Type 94 also had technical problems, and Chinese workers have been seen working on Type 94s for years.

The Type 94 seemed like it would enter service because it is simply a variant of the Type 93 class SSN (nuclear powered attack sub), which looks a lot like the three decade old Russian Victor III class SSN design. The first Type 93 entered service in 2006. The Type 94 SSBN looks like a Victor III with a missile compartment added. Taking a SSN design and adding extra compartments to hold the ballistic missiles is an old trick, pioneered by the United States in the 1950s to produce the first ever SSBNs. The Chinese appear to have done the same thing by taking their new Type 93 SSN and creating a larger Type 94 SSBN boat of 9,000 tons Page 24 The Silent Sentinel, May 2013 displacement. Priority was apparently given to construction of the Type 94, as having nuclear missiles able to reach the United States gives China more diplomatic clout than some new SSNs. The first Type 94 was completed two years ago. But it still has not gone to sea equipped with nuclear missiles.

This may be because after the first two new, 7,000 ton, Type 93 class SSNs went to sea, China apparently found their performance was not impressive at all. Not much more was expected from the Type 94s, except that they might be reliable enough to make a few combat patrols, just for the record. The 93s were too noisy and had a long list of more minor defects as well. It's unclear how many 93s will be built, probably no more than six (four already exist). More resources are apparently being diverted to the next SSN class, the 95, and the next SSBN, the Type 96. The first Type 95 is under construction and not expected to enter service until 2015. The Type 96 SSBN is still in the planning stages, apparently waiting to see how well (or not) the Type 95 SSN design works out.

The Type 93 and Type 94 were both over a decade in development and construction. Work began on the 94 class in the 1990s. For years all that was known was that the Chinese were having technical problems with the new design. The Type 94 is a modern SSBN, using technology bought from Russia, plus what was developed by the Chinese in their earlier nuclear submarine building efforts.

While the Chinese have had a hard time building reliable and quiet nuclear subs, they are determined to acquire the needed skills. You do that by doing it and eating your mistakes. U.S. intelligence experts believe that China is now concentrating on the design of the new Type 96s. That may still be the case, and the Type 94 seen at sea may be testing new technology meant for the Type 96. But there are other problems. The Chinese government is apparently uneasy with sending off an SSBN, armed with twelve or more SLBMs, each with one or more nuclear warheads. Western nations carefully select the officers and crews of their SSBNs and use a host of codes and procedures (PAL or "Permissive Action Links") to insure that a single madman cannot use any of those SLBMs. Russia also screened crews and had PAL codes but also had, in effect, representatives of the secret police on the SSBN, whose main job was to insure that the SLBMs were used as the government back in Moscow commanded. China has always been much less trusting of the armed forces when it comes to nuclear weapons. China also appears to lack the advanced PAL technology found in the West. All this doesn't get much mention in the West but it is very real inside China. So when the Type 96 shows up, sometime late in this decade, it will be revealing to see if the Chinese have overcome their reluctance to trust a crew of Chinese sailors with all those nukes.



Current International Submarine News

Iranian universities constructing eight submarines

Azernews.az, April 29, 2013

Isfahan University of Technology in cooperation with three other universities has designed eight military and civil submarines. The construction operations of the submarines are underway, Mehr news agency reported. They have a variety of uses, including tourism, exploration, defense, and laying cables. Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Mohammad Eslami announced earlier this month that the country plans to unveil the first indigenous submarine within the next few months. He added that the final stages of the submarine's design and construction are currently underway and that it will be unveiled by August 2013.

The submarine has been entirely designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, he said. Iran's Navy previously launched the indigenous Tareq 901 and Ghadir class submarines as part of efforts to upgrade the country's defense capabilities, Press TV reported. The Ghadir submarine was first unveiled in 2007. The 120-ton vessel has excellent shallow depth performance and can conduct prolonged coastal missions and launch torpedoes. Eslami also revealed that new indigenous fighters and modern drones would be unveiled in the near future. In recent years, Iran has made great achievements in the defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in essential military equipment and systems.

Iran has repeatedly assured other nations, especially its neighbors, that its military might poses no threat to other countries, insisting that its defense doctrine is based on deterrence.

Israeli Submarine Named in German Shipyard

www.marinelink.com, May 1

'INS Rahav', the Israeli Navy's 5th Dolphin-class submarine, inaugurated at Thyssen-Krupp Marine Systems in Kiel, Germany. The new submarine was unveiled at a special ceremony attended by Commander in Chief of the Israeli Navy Rear Adm. Ram Rothberg, Director-General of the Ministry of Defense Maj. Gen. (Res.) Ehud Shani and a delegation of Israeli and German officials.

The INS Rahav was purchased after an extensive development and acquisition process led by the Ministry of Defense's Procurement and Production Directorate in cooperation with the Israeli Navy. The INS Rahav is scheduled to arrive in Israel in the coming year, upon completion of the installation of all of its operational systems. This class of vessel is considered to be one of the most advanced submarines in the world, and is the most expensive piece of machinery that the Ministry of Defense has procured for the IDF.

The Dolphin-class is a versatile vessel, possessing a wide range of capabilities fit for a large variety of missions. The submarine fleet represents the technological cutting-edge of the Israeli Navy, the IDF and the State of Israel. Sailors in the Israeli Navy's submarine fleet engage in operational activity day after day under a heavy veil of secrecy.

French ballistic missile test launch fails

Seattle Post Intelligence, May 5

PARIS (AP) — A French ballistic missile test has ended in failure after the missile destroyed itself just minutes after its launch from a nuclear submarine off the coast of Brittany. The French Defense Ministry said in a statement that, as usual, the M51 missile was not armed with a nuclear warhead during the test Sunday. Debris from the missile fell in an area that was closed to sea and air traffic.

The ministry said it was investigating why the test failed. Sunday's was the first failure in the six tests of the M51 so far. The ministry began testing the missile in 2006.



COASTAL CAROLINA BASE CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
June 14-July 4, 2013	Flag day ceremony at City Hall in Wilmington
June 20, 2013	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
July 4, 2013	North Carolina 4th of July Parade in Southport, NC
July 13, 2013	Submarine Day at USS North Carolina Battleship BB-55 Memorial Park
August 17, 2013	Regularly scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral Restaurant, on New Centre Drive, Wilmington, NC.
September 28, 2013	CCB Annual Golf Tournament at Echo Farms Golf Club, Wilmington, NC.
October 17, 2013	Regularly scheduled meeting at 1900 at First Baptist Church on Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
December 7, 2013	Pearl Harbor Meeting and Dinner in Cary, NC hosted by the Tarheel Base
December 21, 2013	Regularly scheduled meeting at 0900 at Golden Corral Restaurant, on New Centre Drive, Wilmington, NC.

All Commissaries Will Close One Additional Day per Week!

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has taken steps in line with DoD direction to initiate civilian furloughs to reduce its FY 13 fiscal shortfall.

Beginning July 8 through Sept. 30:

- *All commissaries will close on Mondays; this is in addition to regularly scheduled closure days.
- *Commissaries normally closed on Mondays will close one additional day per week, in most cases Tuesday.
- *Any commissaries normally closed Monday and Tuesday will close on the next business day.
- *There may be limited exceptions in OCONUS locations where there is sufficient Local National staffing to allow a store to remain open.
- *DeCA Headquarters will also close on Mondays.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

? I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

? I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip Code:** _____-____ **Tel:** (____) _____-

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference:

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00

Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00

Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. \$10.00 per year for the Coastal Carolina Base.

How did you find USSVI? ? Friend, ? Boat Assn, ? Local Event/News, ? Internet, ? Other
(_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____
Associate Applicant is: ☐ Veteran ☐ Spouse of Veteran ☐ Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
2. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
3. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
4. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
5. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____
6. _____	Hull# _____	From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____
(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Upon completion, please deliver or mail your application with your check payable to
USSVI Coastal Carolina Base
Mail to: Barry Turano, 4901 Merlot Court, Wilmington, NC 28409