**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: August 27th, 2016**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called the meeting to order @ 1900 hrs. at the VFW Post located in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

**INVOCATION**

* Base Chaplain Tom Hulme could not be with us tonight so the invocation was given by former national and base chaplain Raymond Fritz.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

* All joined together in saying our nation’s Pledge of Allegiance.

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was recited tonight by Robert Schilke.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* The Tolling of the boats for August was presented by Ray Fritz and Joel Sparnon.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* There were 29 members present at this month’s meeting which included our two newest members; Fred Oldenburg from Mooresville and Bill Strand who recently moved to Ft. Mill. We welcome them and their families to the Carolina Piedmont Base.
* We are also happy to report that we have a new member that transferred to us from the Thresher Base, Roland (Ron) Miller. Welcome aboard Ron!

**AWARDS**

* Two awards were received by Carolina Piedmont Base members at this year’s USSVI National Convention held in Reno, Nevada. The awards were presented tonight by our newly elected Director of the Southeast Region (Steven Bell) as follows:
* Robert Schilke, our base editor, was recognized with a First Runner-up award for our Piedmont Periscope base newsletter in the Class 2 Newsletter category. This is the first year our base has been competed in the Class 2 category due to our base size has now grown to over 100 members.
* A individual Meritorious Shipmate Award for 2016 was awarded to our own Ellis Dale Moses (Moe) for truly representing the spirit of the United States Submarine Force to the General Public by Dale’s efforts and involvement in local veterans affairs, parades, school activities (such as submarine education and flag etiquette presentations), also for being the organizer/leader of our base color guard unit, and director of our base Bilge Rats program.
* Congratulations to both our award recipients for 2016. Well done!

**READING/APPROVAL OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES**

* The July 2016 meeting minutes were posted in the August 2016 edition of the Piedmont Periscope plus the minutes were also sent directly to the membership via email on August t4th. A motion was made to accept the July minutes as posted; no discussion and the motion passed.

**READING/APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Raymond Zieverink presented the treasurer’s report thru August 27th, 2016.
* A motion was made to accept the August treasurer’s report as presented; no discussion and the motion passed.

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| Category | Balances as of 8/27/2016 | Last Reported Balances |
| Kapss-4-kidss Fund | $745.27 | $745.27 |
| Scholarship Fund | $316.00 | $276.00 |
| General Base Fund | $6,176.33 | $6,092.33 |
| Total Balances | $ 7,237.60 | $ 7,113.60 |

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **None**

**SK REPORT**

* Base Storekeeper Jeff Nieberding is now taking orders for 2017 USSVI calendars; calendars are usually $8 each and Jeff will pass along cost information shortly. The theme for the 2017 calendar is “Historical Classes of Boats.” Jeff passed around a sign-up sheet at tonight’s meeting but he can be contacted later if you missed seeing the sign-up sheet. Jeff is also available for whatever items members need to order; patches, vests and challenge coins, etc.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* Update from USSVI National Convention
* This years’ National Convention was attended by the Bells and the Tuchfelds. Steve reported there were many committee meetings he attended and many bases and individuals were honored with various awards.
* Joel mentioned he had the chance to take some side trips to Virginia City to Lake Tahoe in Nevada.
* More highlights from this year’s convention can be found under OPEN 1MC below.

* Kings Bay 2016
* Rick reminded us about the 2016 Kings Bay Georgia Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial Invitation that will be happening November 3rd thru 7th. This will include their submarine museum tour and base tour and possibly a chance to tour one of the boats that are in port. Jack, Rick and Steve Bell will be attending and anyone else interested in going should notify Jack or Rick soon. You can find all registration information in an email Jack sent out to base members on August 6th.
* SER Meeting 2017
* Our newly elected Director of the USSVI Southeast Region (Steve Bell – Congratulations Steve!) let us know that our next Southeast Regional (SER) meeting will be held on May 11th thru 14th 2017 at the Park Inn by Radisson in Kissimmee, Florida. A conference data sheet was emailed out by Jack on 8/24 with all the details and registration information. *Now’s time to mark your calendars (well at least after Jeff gets them to us) for next year’s events.*
* Flag Etiquette Update
* Moe reported he has sent out over 100 emails to area schools informing them of our flag etiquette education program for 4th & 5th graders. We thank Dale for initiating this extension of our bases’ outreach. Dale reminds us that any member wanting to learn how to do this presentation is welcome to join him.
* The next two scheduled presentations will be on Sept 9th at Stallings Elementary School in Matthews NC and following that on October 21st at Walter Bickett Elementary School in Monroe, NC. Jim Goins will be joining Dale for the October presentation.
* Bilge Rats Update
* The 2017 Season of the Carolina Piedmont Bilge Rats (our 6th year) has moved into the dress rehearsal phase. Our “halfway night” shows are given at assisted living and veteran’s homes to the enjoyment of those special audiences.
* Reminder, more actors, singers, and behind the scenes helpers are always encouraged to become one of the exclusive Bilge Rats team members.
* Memorial DVD’s
* Rick let us know that such a huge demand for DVD’s of the 2016 Burnsville event occurred that our batch of DVD’s required them to perform a second production run. Rick assured us that the DVD’s would soon to be “in the mail” and will be distributed as quickly as possible once received.
* National Election (48)
* Rick reported the National Elections are now over and those newly elected officers were sworn in at the National Convention in August. Carolina Piedmont Base Vice-Commander Jack Jeffries expressed disappointment that our base had less than a 50% voter turnout for this year’s USSVI elections.
* Kaps-4-Kids
* Our final visit for 2016 to Victory Junction will be on Sunday, October 9th. Rick and Jack will be joined on this visit by Jim & Liz Harris.
* Base Picnic for September
* It’s time for our annual summer Carolina Piedmont Base Picnic. This year’s picnic will be held at Raymond and Linda Zieverink’s home in Rock Hill, SC on Saturday, September 24th. Arrival time will be 1330 to 1430 with a base meeting starting at 1430 followed by dinner at 1600.
* Our base COB Joel Sparnon has a sign-up sheet available to volunteer to come early to help with the set-up for the picnic and for assisting in directing the parking of cars as folks arrive. Early arrival time to help set up will be at 1230. Please contact Joel to let him know if you can help.
* This picnic will be a BYOB *(I think you know what that means)* and a BYOC which is a Bring Your Own Chair event. If you have some good size tables bring them too if you can.
* Barbeque from Old Carolina BBQ in Gastonia will be supplied along with Fried Chicken, Beef Brisket, soda pop and ice.
* A porta-potty will be brought in for the event. A Motion was passed to provide Raymond with $200 to supply these special items for the picnic.
* Please let Raymond know how many people will be attending so they can manage how much meat to have on hand.
* An email was sent out by Jack on Wednesday, August 31st with a complete list of details for the day’s event.
* Dues
* Rick reminded us that dues for 2017 can be paid at any time.
* National dues are $25/year or $70 for 3 years or $115 for 5 years.
* Base dues are $10/year or $27.50 for 3 years or $45 for 5 years.
* Dues can be paid to our Base Treasurer Raymond Zieverink at any time before the end of the calendar year.
* Other Updates – Eagle Scouts Presentations, Color Guard Events, Submarine Education Program
* No updates were received at tonight’s meeting regarding some of our other base outreach programs listed above. Reminder that more volunteers are needed to help participate in these programs.

**OPEN 1MC**

Additional items of interest mentioned prior to adjourning tonight’s meeting are listed below:

* Base Chaplain Change – Rick reported that our current Base Chaplain Tom Hulme will no longer be able to fulfill the duties as our base chaplain. We greatly appreciate Tom stepping in to this position after Ray Fritz had to step down due to Diana’s health situation at that time. Just so happens Ray Fritz was able to rejoin our base meeting in August and seeing the need left by Tom’s departure Ray has graciously agreed to become our Carolina Piedmont Base Chaplain once again. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Tom and our thanks goes out to Ray for his willingness to take over these responsibilities once again.

* Holland Club Representative Change – Walt Sealy announced at tonight’s meeting that he would be stepping down as our Holland Club Representative effective this meeting. We wish to thank Walt for his dedication to honoring our men who surpassed the 50-Years qualified in submarines mark and were ushered into this prestigious club by Walt. Jim Harris has agreed to take over for Walt as our Holland Club Representative.
* National USSVI Subvettes Dissolved – Rick informed us at the National Convention it was announced the official leg of the USSVI Subvettes has been dissolved. We understand that no person agreed to step up to take over the leadership position of the Subvettes National team therefore the organization on the National level has been dissolved. We at the Carolina Piedmont Base have determined that our ladies will continue to meet as Subvettes to carry on at our local level.

* National Convention Update – Steve Bell shorts:
* There were a number of annual business meetings held and those reports can be read online.
* The newly elected National Commander John Markiewicz is encouraging bases to have more community involvement and to participate in more service projects.
* Steve’s vision for the Southeast Region over the next two years is for more member involvement in their individual bases – something which Steve recognized the Carolina Piedmont base is already doing well.
* The USSVI Charitable Foundation (an approved 501(C)(3)) organization announced they will now give up to double the old matching amounts to a limit of $2,000 maximum. Steve stated this will be good news as we continue to raise funds for preserving our Burnsville Memorial on Moonshine Mtn.
* Steve encourages base members to attend at least one national event yearly.
* Finally, Steve reported the National USSVI website is still a work-in-progress.

* Veteran’s Appreciation Night – Rick reported that at the September 9th football game near Mooresville they will be having a Veteran’s Appreciation night and one of the local organizations will be passing out stars to recognized veterans.

**PIEDMONT PERISCOPE**

* All hands are reminded that any news items they want included or considered for the next issue of the Piedmont Periscope newsletter that all submissions need to be sent to Robert Schilke no later than the 15th of each month.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* As stated above, the next meeting of the Carolina-Piedmont Base will be held on Saturday, September 24th, 2016 at Raymond Zieverink’s house in Rock Hill.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2000 hours; the motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Tonight’s Benediction was given by our “new” Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Tonight’s raffle was won by John Brough.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary