

## **MINUTES OF USSVI TARHEEL BASE MEETING**

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #67 IN CARY, NC

Tarheel Base Meeting was held in person for the second time since February 2020. Coffee and donuts were served prior to the start of the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Base Commander Jim Davis. Chaplain Gene Rutter offered up the opening prayer for continued improvement in the overall bout with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the group of 21 Subvets in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill followed with a reading of the Purpose of USSVI: Our purpose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." 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. 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.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

One late arrival was WWII Subvet Don Moyer. Two new Tarheel Base members were recognized- Philip Morgan, FTB (SS) and George (Matt) Stokes, EMCM (SS). Another new member was not present- Keith Simson. One guest and possible new member CAPT Andy Hertel was introduced. Following were introductions by the other 17 Subvets in attendance.

### **LOST BOATS**

While showing a slide presentation, Tom McFadden read the list of the 4 boats lost in May- USS Lagarto (SS-371); USS Scorpion (SSN-589); USS Squalus (SS192); and USS Stickleback (SS415)- the 7 boats lost in June- USS Herring (SS-233; USS R-12 (SS-89); USS Golet (SS-361); USS Bonefish (SS-223); S-27 (SS-132); O-9 (SS-70) and USS Runner (SS-275) . Jerry Leppart rang the bell for each of them.

## SPEAKER

Tarheel Base Treasurer Tom McFadden presented the program. With a slide/picture presentation, he covered the Memorial Day Picnic and meeting of the Coastal Carolina Base held at the grounds of the Battleship North Carolina (BB-55) in Wilmington, NC on Monday, May 31, 2021. During the Memorial Day Remembrance at the S-28 Memorial, a moment of silence was observed for the three CCB members that had sailed on Eternal Patrol recently: Butterbean Dixon; George Roderick; and Sally Gudis. A Tolling of the Boats Ceremony for the boats lost in April, May, and June was conducted. Of note was the WWII Submarine Veteran who rang the bell for these lost boats: John Potanovic. He was serving aboard the USS Archerfish (SS-311) during WWII when his boat sank the Japanese carrier Shinano. Also, CCB member Frank Blackmon covered a very interesting history of Carl Henery "Sonny" Gerbensky, one of the submariners lost on the S-28. All thanked Frank for his excellent job of research.

Tom covered the work in progress on the hull of the Battleship North Carolina with several pictures of the ship setting high and dry while surrounded by a metal cofferdam around the entire ship. The pricetag for this cofferdam was eight million dollars! Bravo-Zulus go out to Tom for a great program!

## GOOD OF THE ORDER

Wellness Program Report/Binnacle List- Chaplain Gene Rutter- Gene stated he had a very nice talk with WWII Subvet Everett Morgan during his calls to 80+ Base members. Everett made 3 war patrols during WWII and is now 97 years young .

Binnacle List: 1- Ann Wall is continuing her treatments and seems to be tolerating the medicines well. She is scheduled for surgery at Duke/Durham in mid June. 2- Leland Kuntzman's wife had surgery recently and that also went well. 3- Paul Hiser, Base member, and USSVI National Treasurer got a "Heart Shock" treatment for his Afib and was experiencing elevated blood pressure. His GP referred him to the cardiologist. 4- Sandy Leppart is now getting a slight modification to the medicine and seems to be tolerating this new process. Further testing is planned.

Chaplain Gene asked all Subvets present to keep these folks in their thoughts and prayers.

Holland Club Awards- Commander Jim inducted George M. Stokes into the Holland Club. Matt qualified in submarines in 1955 while aboard the USS Cubera (SS-347).

No Longevity Pins were handed during the meeting.

## REPORTS

Base Commander- Jim Davis- Our Cary Youth League sponsored team played their first game on June 1, 2021 and lost the game 10 to 9. A total of 12 games are on the schedule this year. Jim urged Base members to attend games and cheer on our team. Base Storekeeper Jim Wallace displayed a very nice shirt that he has available for members to wear to the games.

Again, Commander Jim urged Base members to log into the USSVI data base and make sure all info is correct and current- especially their email address.

The Revision #9 to the NC Subvets Charter has yet to be approved by all NC Subvet Bases- one Base hasn't given approval to date. When approved, each Base will be billed \$1.00 per primary member per year to support the NC Subvets Organization where needed.

Vice Commander- Rich Cimino- Rich made a suggestion for an upcoming Base meeting. He will come up with a list of 4 to 5 questions for each member to personally answer. For example: Why did you join the US Navy and volunteer for submarines? Guess this is a "work in progress".

Secretary Bill Lowe: Entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the last Base meeting held on April 3, 2021 for the first time in person in 14 months as sent out on the Tarheel email buoy and posted on the NC Subvets. Org Website. Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer- Tom McFadden- USSVI Tarheel Base Treasurers Report as of June 5, 2021. Membership Report: Base Membership is at 98 with 97 regular members

and 1 associate member: Financial Report- Current Balances- Regular Account- \$4,752.66; Savings Account- \$6,124.68; Total Balance- \$10,877.34; Previous Balance (reported December 2020)- Total Balance- \$10,626.75- NOTES: A deposit of donations was made after the last meeting for \$315. A check for this amount was sent to the Carolina- Piedmont Base for the Jack Jefferies fund. An additional check for \$200 made payable to the Carolina-Piedmont Base was forwarded to them. Primary change in account balance is due to SK sales from the previous meeting.

COB- Dan Wall- Not Present.

ALL-CLEAR/WebMaster- Joe Peek- Not present. Commander Jim stated Joe is in need of info for the All Clear from members. Also, Tarheel Base Facebook account has two pages- one group for privacy and one open. USSVI SE Region has a Facebook page also.

Storekeeper/PR Officer- Jim Wallace: Jim passed around his new Storekeeper catalogue and asked members to tell him what items he needs to order.

Adopt-A-Spot Update-The Town of Cary has now opened up this program. Jim hopes to schedule a clean-up date for the North Harrison Veterans Park for late June of early July.

All thanked Jim for heading up those Zoom meetings over the last year! GREAT JOB JIM!!

As for the Quarterly Dinners, the Tarheel Base will start scheduling them again. Tom McFadden has a possible restaurant in mind. An update will be coming soon.

Base member Bob Govern gave a report on the recent Moonshine Mountain Meeting and Subvet Memorial Get-Together held on Armed Forces Day weekend. All who were in attendance had a very enjoyable time with outstanding weather minus the usual rain. It was great to see, in person, Frans Van Baars submarine banner displayed on the wall at the Memorial.

Comments By (If Present)

NC Subvets Commander- Jerry Emerson- Not Attending.

District Commander- Vince Sievert-

Regional Commander- Ken Nichols- Not Attending.

National Office Information- Paul Hiser- National Treasurer- Not Attending.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1- July 10, 2021- Breakfast at Golden Corral located at 3424 Capital Blvd in Raleigh (moved from July 3 because of holiday weekend).

2- August 7, 2021- Tarheel Base meeting-1000 at Cary American Legion.

3- August 30- September 4, 2021- USSVI National Convention in Orlando, FL.

4- October 2, 2021- Tarheel Base Picnic/Meeting- 1000- at Harris Lake County Park.

5- October 14- October 24, 2021- NC State Fair (Military Appreciation Day will probably be on Wednesday, October 20).

6- November 11, 2021-Asheboro Veteran's Day Parade (Possibly will have the Old North State Submarine Float in the parade)

7- December 4, 2021- 6:00 PM-Pearl Harbor Dinner at NCSU University Club in Raleigh.

8- December 5, 2021- 3:00 PM- Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade.

### OLD BUSINESS

1- MK14 Float Covered Storage Location- Currently, the float is secured under a heavy duty tarp on Dan Wall's property in Archer's Lodge, NC. All are asked to keep their eyes and ears open for a structure that is big enough to store the torpedo float under building cover. The structure needs to be at least 28 ft. by 12 ft.

Per Chuck Jensen, the submarine float is now back in the Asheboro Air Museum.

### NEW BUSINESS

1- Tom McFadden will check with the Durham Bulls on a possible date that Base members can attend a game and the Color Guard can present the Colors.

50/50 Raffle-

Winner- Jim Wallace- Amount- \$50.00 Jim donated \$20.00 of his winnings back to the Base Treasury.

BENEDICTION- Chaplain Gene offered up the closing prayer for all to be blessed with continued support to get us past the Pandemic.

Motion made to adjourn until the next meeting on August 7, 2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Jerry Leppart - Surface the boat with 3 blasts of the diving alarm!

