

Tarheel Base Meeting Minutes 01 August 2026

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) – Tarheel Base

Date: August 1, 2026

Location: American Legion Post 67, 8523 Chapel Hill Road (NC Hwy 54), Cary, NC 27513-4563

Meeting Time: 1000 hours A coffee social and 50/50 raffle ticket sales were held beginning at 0930.

Attendance: 21

Quorum: Confirmed – two officers present

1. Call to Order

Commander Wade Cooper called the meeting to order at 1000 hours with the traditional “Dive the Boat” by the COB. Members were requested to turn cell phones off or place them on vibrate.

2. Opening Ceremonies

- **Invocation:** Chaplain Gene Rutter
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Secretary Lee Kuntzman
- **USSVI Purpose/Creed:** Presented by Secretary Lee Kuntzman
- **Tolling of the Boats:** Conducted by the Commander in remembrance of shipmates lost during July and August.

3. Guests and Member Introductions

Guests were recognized and members were given an opportunity for introductions.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2026 meeting were reviewed. The minutes had been posted on the ncsubvets.org website on June 7, 2026.

Action: Motion to accept the previous minutes as written.

Result: Unanimously approved.

5. Binnacle List / Wellness Program

Chaplain Gene Rutter provided the Binnacle List/Wellness Program report.

6. Officer Reports

Commander – Wade Cooper

The Commander provided the scheduled Base report.

Vice Commander – Keith Simpson

The Vice Commander provided the scheduled Base report.

Secretary – Lee Kuntzman

The Secretary provided the scheduled Base report.

Treasurer – Tom McFadden

The Treasurer reported the following balances:

Account	Balance
Regular Account	\$2,698.22
Savings Account	\$11,086.59
Total Balance	\$13,784.81
Previous Total Balance	\$14,409.23

The agenda records the current total balance as \$13,784.81 compared with a previous total balance of \$14,409.23.

7. Committee Reports

- **Membership:** Tom McFadden
 - 71 Regular Members
 - 1 Associate Member
- **Storekeeper:** Jim Wallace
- **Holland Club:** Jim Davis - not present
- **Veterans Affairs Liaison:** Keith Simpson
- **Eagle Scout:** Wade Cooper
- **Color Guard:** No events currently scheduled

8. USSVI National / Region / District Reports

National, Region, and District officers - NONE in attendance

9. Old Business

Tarheel Base Bylaws

Revision 10 of the Tarheel Base Bylaws was approved and posted on the ncsbvets.org website.

St. Mary's Submarine Museum Capital Campaign

A \$500 donation for the WWII Fleet Boat Donor campaign was completed.

Tarheel Base Youth Baseball Team

The \$150 sponsorship of the Tarheel Base Youth Baseball Team was completed.

These completed items are documented in the agenda under Old Business.

10. New Business

Tarheel Base Picnic

The Tarheel Base Picnic is scheduled for **September 26, 2026**, at Falls Lake Park. Rich Cimino and Jim Wallace provided an update.

NOTE: The normal parking charge is \$10 per vehicle; veterans are charged \$5 per vehicle. Veterans should notify the parking attendant of their veteran status.

Joe Clark Scholarship

The **\$2,500 Joe Clark Scholarship** was awarded to **Owen Mendez**, a family member of Tarheel Base member Chris Mendez.

Pearl Harbor Dinner

The Pearl Harbor Dinner is scheduled for **December 5, 2026**. Tom McFadden provided a speaker update: CAPT Andrew Cain, Commanding Officer, North Carolina Piedmont Region Consortium (Duke/UNC/NCSU NROTC Units), former CO, USS OHIO (SSGN-726).

Upcoming Events

Members were reminded of upcoming Base and veterans-related events - see list below.

11. Program

The meeting program consisted of a YouTube video concerning the **Walker Spy Ring during the Cold War**.

12. 50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle drawing was conducted by Jerry Leppart (\$140) and \$70 was won by Jon Drew!!

13. Closing

- **Benediction:** Chaplain Gene Rutter
- **Adjournment: 1130** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, discussed, and APPROVED.
- **Next Meeting:** Saturday, October 3, 2026

- **Closing:** “Surface the Boat” – COB

14. Upcoming Events

September 2026

- **September 5:** Tarheel Breakfast – IHOP, Kildare Farm Road, Cary
- **September 6–11:** USSVI National Convention – Corpus Christi, Texas
- **September 26:** Tarheel Base Picnic – Falls Lake Park

October 2026

- **October 3:** Tarheel Base Meeting – American Legion Post 67, 8523 Chapel Hill Road (NC Hwy 54), Cary, NC
- **October 21:** NC State Fair Military Appreciation Day

November 2026

- **November 6–7:** WWII Remembrance – Kings Bay, Georgia

December 2026

- **December 5:** Pearl Harbor Dinner

15. Action Items / Follow-Up

1. Continue planning for the September 26 Tarheel Base Picnic.
2. Prepare for the December 5 Pearl Harbor Dinner.
3. Members should note the upcoming events listed above.
4. Next Tarheel Base meeting: **October 3, 2026, at American Legion Post 67.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Kuntzman
Secretary, Tarheel Base