**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:  March 25, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1416 hrs

at VFW Post 9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.

* The meeting followed a wonderful potluck luncheon meal brought in by our base families.

**INVOCATION**

* Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz started off our base meeting with an invocation.
* Ray shared with us a bit later some inspiration he titled “Thankfulness of Being an American.
* Ray also shared with us that 64 years ago this month in March of 1959 he was standing on the ice at the North Pole after surfacing at the pole aboard USS Skate. Skate was the first submarine to ever surface thru the ice at the North Pole. Ray passed along a DVD to John McHugh of 8mm film he took at the pole. John will be downloading the images from the DVD to a digital format which we can all view at a future meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

* All joined in saying our nation’s Pledge of Allegiance, led by Base Commander, Rick Petitt.

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was read today by Jim Goins.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for 8 boats that were lost during months of March past was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by Raymond Zieverink.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 15 members (and 10 ladies) were present at today’s base meeting.
* We were joined today by two visitors, Joe Peek who recently moved to Newton NC and who also is a member of the NC Subvets. We were also joined by a wonderful lady named Mary Gillies whose late husband qualified and served aboard USS Tullibee. Mary recently moved to Rock Hill to live with her daughter and heard about our Carolina Piedmont Base and she indicated she would like to join us at our monthly base meetings because “she likes hanging around submariners.”
* After introductions the ladies went off to have a Subvettes meeting of their own before the men started the business portion of our meeting.

**BASE OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS**

* Base officer elections for two of our officer positions were held between our last base meeting in February and today.
* For the office of Carolina Piedmont Base Commander – Incumbent Rick Petitt was re-elected to serve another 2-year term. Carolina Piedmont base wishes to thank member Mike Hubbell for his willingness to also run for the base commander position.
* For the office of Base Treasurer – Bill Strand ran unopposed and was unanimously voted to continue his service as our base treasurer for another 2-year term as well.
* Carolina Piedmont base would also like to thank Election Master Joel Tuchfeld for his time in coordinating, tallying and managing our base elections for this year 2023.

**AWARDS**

* Longevity Pins were presented by Base Commander Rick Petitt today to several base members representing their various length of active membership in USSVI.

**REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES**

* Members were reminded that previous month’s meeting minutes are now posted on our Carolina Piedmont website at [carolinapiedmont.org](file:///C:\Users\tom\Downloads\2022-03-26%20March%20CP%20Meeting%20Minutes.docx) for their review and are encouraged to read them prior to each base meeting. No comments were received on last month’s meeting minutes.

**READING OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Bill Strand supplied our latest treasurer’s report but due to his being away on a college visit with his daughter, Raymond Zieverink read this month’s treasurer’s report. Combined monies in all base accounts currently stands at $8,729.83 as of 3/25/2023.
* Bill indicated at last month’s meeting that starting this month and leading up to the May 2023 Moonshine Mountain/Burnsville Event, he will also be showing on our base treasurer’s report registration-fee monies received for the Burnsville May weekend event. Starting this year, Carolina Piedmont Base is now responsible for collecting registration fees for the Burnsville event as well as performing and/or managing other Burnsville related activities.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Jeff stated all 2023 submarine calendars are now gone. He still has some past year calendars if folks are interested in purchasing them just for their photos and stories about our US Submarine Hero’s.
* Jeff Nieberding is our base contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* A continued brief discussion was held on whether we would sponsor another season of a Girls’ Softball Team in Fort Mill. Jeff Nieberding was asked last month if he would contact the Ft. Mill Parks & Recreation Committee again to investigate this possibility. It was agreed upon by members present that we would pass on sponsoring any team this spring, but we would look at the possibility of sponsoring a team during the fall season of this year.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Open Base Positions**
* Rick again reminded us there are a few open positions for volunteers to fill. One position is the Kaps-4-Kids coordinator (Rick is currently fulfilling this position and has all the caps and certificates after former K-4-K leader Jack Jeffries’ passed) and the coordinator position for Eagle Scout presentations is still open also.
* **Color Guard Opportunities**
* Rick reported that the Charlotte Knights baseball franchise has asked our base to do the Memorial Day colors presentation again. Rick reported there are 2 dates possible for this year’s Memorial Day games. There’s a night game on Tuesday, May 30th and a day game on Wednesday, May 31st.
* Due to our always present concern for our older members having to drive at night, folks indicated we would prefer to participate (whether we do the color guard ceremony or not) at the Wednesday Day game at Truist Field in Charlotte. Rick will provide us more information at our next base meeting.
* And there’s still interest in contacting the Gastonia baseball team (The Honey Hunters) to see if they would be interested in having our base do opening colors at one of their games this summer.
* **Victory Junction**
* Rick reported he has made initial contact with the Victory Junction staff to see if/when there would be the possibility of our base being able to again participate in presenting our Kapss-4-Kidss certificates and hats to VJ campers. All visits to Victory Junction were canceled starting in 2020 at the initial outbreak of the Covid pandemic.
* Rick said the staff remembered us and that our prospect of coming back on site would be brought up at their next Victory Junction board meeting.
* **School ROTC Visit Opportunities**
* Bill Strand made arrangements with the Nations Ford High School to present our Navy Submariner informational program to their ROTC students. Any base member is welcome to participate with Bill at this event. If interested, please either contact Bill Strand or Rick Petitt for date and time of his presentation.
* **Burnsville May Event**
* Registrations are continuing to be accepted by our base for the May 19th, 2023 event at Burnsville/Moonshine Mountain.
* Rick and Mike Hubbell who will be involved in coordinating activities at the Big Lynn Lodge hotel in Burnsville will be going up early to begin set-up for arrival of participants.

**NEXT BASE MEETING IS OUR SPRING PICNIC**

* Our next base meeting will be held on Saturday, April 15th (the third Saturday in April) at 1230 at the Catawba Nuclear Station Picnic Pavilion located off old Concord Rd in York, SC at the shore of Lake Wylie. Private gate to the picnic opens at Noon. Barbecue from Ol’ Carolina Barbeque will be our meat for our picnic, along with our normal “bring a dish” potluck meal prior to the meeting starting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1512 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Tonight’s 33/33/33 raffle was won by newcomer Joe Peek.

**OPEN 1MC**

* Raymond Zieverink reminded us not to give up on the base Bilge Rats. Ray said he hopes to pick back up the Bilge Rat programs in the fall of this year. Raymond has been very busy taking care of Linda after her serious fall at home late last year.
* Items have been brought in by our lady Subvettes to be distributed to help some local homeless veteran ladies. BZ goes out to our lady Subvettes.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary

NOTE: The list of meeting attendees follows below.

March 25, 2023 Meeting Attendees:

* Steve Bell
* Bob Bunney - Kathy
* Ray Fritz
* Jim Goins - Marsha
* Jim Harris
* Mike Hubbell - Glenna
* Tom Kelly - Susan
* John McHugh - Donna
* Andy Miller
* Jeff Nieberding
* Visitor Joe Peek from NC Subvets
* Rick Petitt – Cindy & Missy
* Steven Rodgers
* Joel Tuchfeld - Anna
* Kevin Walker
* Raymond Zieverink – Linda
* Visitor Mary Gillies – Late husband was a submariner. Mary now lives in Rock Hill.