**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:  November 16, 2024, Thanksgiving Celebration**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1420 hrs. at VFW Post #9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
* The meeting followed our traditional and wonderful Thanksgiving meal in which Rick and Cindy generously cooked and brought in their special deep-fried turkey and delicious ham meat for us all.
* Families also brought in many side dishes which complimented our turkey meal along with a wide variety of desserts as well.

**INVOCATION**

* Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz started off our base meeting with an invocation after reading us a poem titled “Tomorrow.”

**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 Greg Crystal.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the 5 boats, which were lost during November months past, was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by Bill Strand.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 19 base members were present at today’s meeting along with 13 special ladies who are just as much a part of our base as our submarine veteran members.
* Former USSVI Junior Vice-Commander and former Caroline Base Commander Steve Bell rejoined us at today’s base meeting. Steve was accompanied today by his son Mike Bell as Steve is slowly recovering from extensive back surgery he had back in August. Great to have you back with us Steve!

**REVIEW OF LAST BASE MEETING MINUTES**

* Members are reminded that minutes for each previous month’s base meeting are 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. Members are encouraged to read the previous month’s meeting minutes prior to attending our next base meeting.
* No comments or corrections were received on last month’s meeting minutes.

**READING OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Base Treasurer Bill Strand read our latest treasurer’s report. Combined monies in all base accounts currently stand at $19,878.99 as of 11/16/2024.
* Monies this period include many generous donations received after Rick Petitt started a Go Fund Me page specifically to support those affected by Hurricane Helene in the North Carolina mountains. (See additional information regarding the Hurricane Helene funds under the headings of New Business and Good of the Order below.)
* No comments or corrections were received on today’s treasurer’s report.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Jeff Nieberding is our base contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.
* Jeff received our supply of 2025 USSVI calendars this month, titled Deadly Quiet submarines. Jeff began distributing calendars to members who ordered calendars and who were there at today’s meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Relief Funds to Gene Ipox**
* Gene Ipox is a submarine veteran who was formerly the Asheville Base Commander. Gene lives up in the North Carolina mountains who lost almost everything including home, car and motorcycle which were destroyed by the flooding devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.
* A motion was made by Raymond Zieverink to donate $2,500 from our base Helene Relief Fund to assist Gene in his struggles to get back on his feet and to assist him in getting through the coming winter months. The motion was seconded and approved by base members.
* **Toys for North Carolina Mountain Children**
* Doug and Maxine Cook, one of the newest base members, have been very active already in supporting those affected by Hurricane Helene in the NC mountains.
* The Cooks are in the process of collecting toys for those children who lost so much during the hurricane flooding. Many toys have already been purchased by our base members and given to the Cooks as they prepare to deliver them to folks up in the mountains.
* Raymond Zieverink made a motion to donate $500 from our Helene Relief Fund to the Cooks in their attempt to fill a large trailer full of toys in preparation for their next trip to the mountains. The motion was seconded and approved by base members.
* A Bravo Zulu goes out to the Doug and Maxine Cook for their special care to our fellow Carolinian families.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Hurricane Helene Relief Fund**
* New business above describes some monies that have been approved from this fund today to provide assistance to Gene Ipox and his family and for additional toys to add to the toys already donated by base members to help the Cooks with filling their trailer with toys for their next run up to the mountains.
* Rick Petitt also expressed sincere gratitude to Lowe’s Home Improvement company on their matching donations to our monies collected for our relief fund and to Lowes for providing a shipment of propane-powered heaters for those folks that are without homes or without electricity to their homes.
* Rick also says Samaritan’s Purse is providing much needed assistance to folks severely impacted by the storm as their volunteers are helping people get back into their damaged homes.
* **Collecting Used Computers for NC Hurricane Victims**
* Bill Strand made an announcement he will be collecting used computers, laptops, tablets, etc. at the next meeting in December for a company called E2D. E2D will then wipe the hard drives of all data and will refurbish the equipment which will then be given to schools for children in the mountains that need them.
* **Moonshine Mountain / Burnsville / Big Lynn Lodge**
* Rick Petitt reported that he has taken a trip up to Big Lynn Lodge and said that the lodge has survived the storms and flooding and is supporting many workers who are trying to restore roads and services to the folks in the mountains.
* Rick also reported that the submarine memorial on Moonshine Mountain Road was undamaged by the storm which was a great relief to hear.
* **Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss)**
* Dave Violette continues to try and make a connection to Victory Junction but has not had success in getting us back into this facility yet.
* Dave also made a positive impression at Levine’s Children’s Hospital in Charlotte and has arranged for a K-4-K presentation at Levine’s in the near future.
* Dave also told us a story about a former Navy nuke he met at Levine’s who had been assigned to his first boat but soon after was diagnosed with cancer and he ended up leaving the Navy. Dave told us Josh was unable to finish his submarine qualifications due to his illness, so he didn’t receive his dolphins. Dave stated Josh was able to beat his cancer illness through treatment and decided to become a childhood cancer nurse at Levine’s due to his life changing bout with cancer. Bravo Zulu to Josh!
* **Dues**
* Dues for 2025, if owed, are now being collected. Bill Strand continued to accept dues payments from members at today’s meeting.
* Rates for 2025 are $30 for National + $10 for base dues = $40/yr. with a reminder to all base members, including Holland Club members, that the yearly base dues fee of $10/yr. is still required for all members.
* Bill Strand and John McHugh also told us that Annual and Lifetime Dues rates are going up after January 1st of 2025. For those members interested in paying multi-year annual dues including for 2025, or for becoming Lifetime members, the rates don’t go up until January 1st so now’s the time to pay those monies before prices increase after the first of the year. Checks are to be made out to “Carolina Piedmont Base” for all dues payments.
* **Bilge Rats**
* Raymond Zieverink has scheduled two rehearsal sessions for the upcoming season of the Carolina Piedmont Bilge Rat performers. Raymond wants to meet for our first practice on Sunday December 8th at 1400 hours. The second practice session will be in January on Sunday January 5th also at 1400. Both rehearsals will be at our normal meeting place at the Ft. Mill VFW.
* **Kings Bay Follow up**
* Mike Hubbell gave us a rundown of how the celebration went this year at the King’s Bay WWII Submarine weekend. Mike said the Keynote Speaker at this year’s event was Rear Admiral Thomas Buchanan who currently is serving as Commander of Subgroup 10.
* Mike said the admiral informed those attending that the Navy is going to start naming the next 4 newly built fast-attack submarines with fish names to honor 4 boats that were lost during WWII.
* Mike also stated that Admiral Buchanan was the keynote speaker at this year’s national convention in Cleveland as well.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be our Christmas celebration at the Ft. Mill VFW Post and will be held on the **third** Saturday, December 21st, with meal setup starting at 1230, dinner at 1300 and our meeting will start at 1400.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1530 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s Benediction was given by Base Chaplain Ray Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Steve Bell won today’s raffle and Steve kindly donated his winnings to the USSVI Scholarship Fund.

**A list of meeting attendees is shown below.**

**November 16, 2024, Meeting Attendees**:

* Steve Bell – Mike Bell
* Joe Brady
* Bob Bunney – Kathy
* Doug Cook – Maxine
* Greg Crystal
* Ray Fritz
* Mary Gilles
* Jim Goins – Marsha
* Mike Hubbell - Glenna
* Tom Kelly – Susan
* John McHugh - Donna
* Jeff Nieberding - Michelle
* Rick Petitt – Cindy & Missy
* Calvin Reese - Libby
* Zeke Rybczyk
* Bill Strand
* Joel Tuchfeld – Anna
* Dave Violette
* Raymond Zieverink – Linda

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary