**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:  February 22, 2025**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Mike Hubbell substituting for Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1350 hrs. at VFW Post #9138 located in Fort Mill, SC.
* The meeting followed our potluck meal including some fabulous homemade desserts all brought in by our base families.

**INVOCATION**

* Joel Tuchfeld started off our base meeting with an invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

* All joined in saying our nation’s Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mike Hubbell.

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was read today by Andrew Brown.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the 5 boats, which were lost during February months past, was presented by Joel Tuchfeld and the bell was rung by Bill Strand.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 19+1 base members were present at today’s meeting.
* We had one new person join our meeting today, Chris Walker, who recently moved to Charlotte. Chris found our base by searching on the USSVI National Website. Chris qualified aboard USS John Adams in 1985.
* Carolina Piedmont Base welcomes Chris Walker to our base.

**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%3A%5CUsers%5Ctom%5CDownloads%5C2022-03-26%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 stands at $14,840.27 as of 2/22/2025.
* No comments or corrections were received on the 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 says he has a new Squid Patch.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* None

**NEW BUSINESS**

* None

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **April Base Picnic April 26**
* Mike reminded us to plan on attending the base spring picnic at the Catawba Nuclear Station pavilion on April 26th. The gate opens at noon and a map will be attached to the picnic notice when mailed out in April.
* **Burnsville – Moonshine Mountain May 16 – 18**
* Mike also reminded us to make sure we are registered for the Moonshine Mountain weekend which occurs May 16th thru 18th.
* A question was asked whether the road to the Big Lynn Lodge was open so Andrew Brown said he would check on the status of the road to the lodge.
* The Big Lynn Lodge is located on Hwy 226-A in Little Switzerland, NC 28749.
* **Catawba Park Open for July 4th**
* Tom Kelly reported that the location where we have our base picnics is open for the date of July 4th. Tom put it out to our folks to see if there was interest in reserving the park pavilion for the 4th if folks wanted to come and watch the fireworks which are launched from the Buster Boyd Bridge in Lake Wylie.
* **VFW Lighting Project**
* Tom Kelly reported that our lighting upgrade of the rooms and kitchen area at the VFW which we use during our base meetings have been upgraded with new LED lighting. Worker-bees were Don Schob (who coordinated purchasing the necessary materials), Rick Petitt, Tom Kelly and Don’s friend from where Don volunteers as a fire fighter.
* Money for the materials for the project were donated from our base general fund and installation was performed by those listed above.
* The VFW was very pleased and thankful for the donated installation. The VFW now is also interested in having Don provide a quote for upgrading the lighting in the remaining part of the building which Don said he would do soon.
* **USS Charlotte Luncheon – Mar 3 CANCELLED**
* Mike informed us that the luncheon related to the USS Charlotte was cancelled for March 3rd as submarine Charlotte had to leave on an emergency deployment.
* **Election Base Officers for 2025**
* Nominations were received for the two base offices up for reelection this year; Base Commander and Base Secretary.
* Mike Hubbell and Rick Petitt were nominated for the office of Base Commander. Rick however has expressed his desire to step down as Base Commander as he said he’s held the office for 10 years now. Mike Hubbell has agreed to perform the duties of Base Commander if elected.
* Tom Kelly was renominated as Base Secretary and Tom has agreed to serve again as Base Secretary if reelected. Tom has been our base secretary for 10-years now also and was sworn in during 2015 at the same time as Rick was sworn in as base commander.
* Joel Tuchfeld as Election Master will tally the votes received starting after our next base meeting in March and will conclude on Saturday, April 26 the day of our spring base picnic. Voting will be by email and members will be notified to vote and who to vote for after our next base meeting.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** (cont.)

* **Hurricane Helena Relief Fund**
* Presently our Helene Hurricane Relief Fund has 5,027.55 dollars in it.
* Special thanks goes to Rick Petitt again for starting the Go Fund Me to establish this relief fund.
* Last month through the efforts of Bill Strand our base donated usable electronic devices to a company called E2D who will refurbish the devices and then donate them to mountain schools which lost similar equipment due to the hurricane.
* **Assistance provided to Toecane, Baptist Church in the NC Mountains**
* We were privileged to have base member Andrew Brown and his wife Danielle with us at our meeting today who have been extremely helpful to those folks at the Toecane Baptist Church located in Bakersville NC.
* Andrew assisted in getting this ministry $2,000 from our base Helene Fund and Andrew has also been assisting them in getting their church fellowship hall repaired.
* **Kaps 4 Kids – Levine Hospital**
* Dave Violette joined us today and was able to relay his experience when he, John McHugh and Dave’s grandson visited Levine’s Children’s Hospital for our first Kaps-4-Kids visit there since Covid. It was great to hear how they were able to present Honorary Submariner Certificates, ball caps and now also teddy bears to 10 young patients.
* Dave also described how the cancer nurse there was a former submariner who never had the chance to finish his submarine qualifications due to developing cancer himself. This person after becoming free of cancer decided to make a career of being a cancer nurse and completed his education to achieve that goal.
* Dave expressed excitement that Levine was very appreciative of our visit and would welcome us back again in the future. Quarterly visits would be recommended.
* Historically, our Kaps-4-Kids program started back in 2009 and was started by Steve Bell, the late Jack Jeffries and Mike Hubbell.
* **Bilge Rats Update**
* Our second presentation of our Bilge Rats show to The Haven and The Laurels was postponed for February’s visit due to a health situation at the facility.
* Our show there has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 15th at the Laurels located at 13180 Dorman Road in Pineville, NC. Show starts at 1030, but Raymond asked us all to be there by 1000.
* Our performers have performed at this facility many times in the past, so we look forward to visiting there again.
* **Dues**
* There are still a few stragglers behind in paying their 2025 base dues. There were a few members at today’s meeting who indicated they would be paying up their 2025 dues.

**UNUSED SOUND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**

* Raymond Zieverink informed us he has many pieces of sound equipment left over from past years Bilge Rats shows which is now no longer needed by the base. The equipment is in excellent condition and our base has agreed to donate this equipment to any person or organization that could use it.
* The equipment includes the following items:
* Model PTU-71 Mid-Level UHF Dual Channel Wireless Microphone System
* A pair of SAMSON XP150 Portable PA System Speakers
* Extension stands to raise up the speakers and all necessary patch cords for connecting the components.
* Contact Raymond or Tom Kelly if interested in helping us find a new home for this sound equipment.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be held on Saturday March 22nd at 1300 at the Ft. Mill VFW Post.
* Our next meeting will also include Holland Club inductions by our new Holland Club Coordinator Joel Tuchfeld. Joel recently assumed the Holland Club coordinator responsibilities from Charter Base member and former Base Commander Steve Bell.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1500 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Joel Tuchfeld closed our meeting with a benediction.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Howard Murray won today’s meeting raffle.

**Additional News:**

* The Fort Mill VFW where we meet is having a special St. Patrick’s Day Fund Raiser and would be pleased for as many members as possible to join them on Saturday March 15th from 1600 to 1900 hours, corned beef and cabbage will be served. Price per person is $17 and the proceeds are to benefit the Palmetto Patriots Home in Gaffney SC.
* Mike Hubbell told us about a military vehicle gathering at Denton Farm Park near Asheville on April 26.
* Mike Hubbell also told us about a flag raising ceremony at Maggie Valley on Memorial Day and our own John McHugh will be playing taps at this ceremony.

**A list of today’s meeting attendees can be found on the next page below:**

**February 25, 2025, Meeting Attendees**:

* Jan Andress
* Steve Bell and his son Mike
* Andrew Brown – Danielle
* Greg Crystal - Linda
* Roger Ellingwood
* Bob Bunney – Kathy
* Jim Dupree
* Jim Goins
* Mike Hubbell – Glenna and Teagan
* Tom Kelly
* Lowell Kemp
* John McHugh – Donna
* Andy Miller
* Howard Murray
* Jeff Nieberding
* Bill Strand
* Joel Tuchfeld – Anna
* Dave Violette
* Chris Walker (1st Time Visit)
* Kevin Walker - Tessa

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary