**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date (Spring Picnic):  April 26, 2025**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1400 hrs. at the Catawba Nuclear Station Park for our springtime base picnic.
* The meeting followed a fun picnic meal brought in by our base families and the fine barbeque cooked by, well … the Cook family, and the chicken fingers we had purchased also.
* Much thanks to Cindy Petitt for coordinating all the fixin’s being brought in and for Doug & Maxine Cook for preparing their Boston Butts for us also.

**INVOCATION**

* Ray Fritz started off our base meeting with words of invocation, following a special message about God & grace.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was read today by Dave Violette.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the 5 boats, which were lost during April months past, was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by Rick Petitt.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 18 base members were present at today’s meeting at the Catawba Nuclear Park and we were joined by 17 additional ladies including other family members also.
* Lowell Kemp who started coming to our meetings joined Carolina Piedmont Base today. Welcome shipmate!

**SPECIAL SERVICE FOR DEPARTED LADIES OF OUR BASE**

* The Subvettes of our base paid special tribute during our picnic to our former Subvettes who have passed recently and in years past. A special time was had reading their names and remembering them in very special ways.

**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.
* Total account balance as of April 2025 was $12,987.56, which includes registration monies for Burnsville next month since our base is now coordinating the registrations for Burnsville.
* No Comments or corrections were received.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Nothing new reported by Base Storekeeper Jeff Nieberding.
* Jeff is our contact for ordering USSVI items, including patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Base Elections Swearing In Officers for 2025**
* Former Carolina Piedmont Base Commander and former USSVI National Junior Vice-Commander Steve Bell reading from the USSVI Oath of Office, sworn into office the following two men who will serve two-year terms at the following base officer positions:
* Mike Hubbell replaces Rick Petitt as our 4th Carolina Piedmont Base Commander, and
* Tom Kelly remains for another two years as our Base Secretary. Tom is now entering his 11th year as base secretary.
* A resounding special thank you goes out to Rick Petitt for his 10-years serving as our 3rd Carolina Piedmont Base Commander after taking over from Steve Bell back in 2015.

o   Another special thanks goes to Joel Tuchfeld for his work as Election Master again.

* **Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss)**
* Dave Violette reported about his wonderful visit on April 11th again to Levine’s Children’s Hospital. Dave was joined by Mike Hubbell and Steven Rodgers. (See attached photo and write-up from Dave at the end of this document.
* Base members are reminded about the awesome article in the Second Quarter issue of the American Submariner magazine. The article describes how a former Navy Submariner named Joshua Sharer who never had the opportunity to finish his qualifications and who eventually became a nurse at Levine’s, Dave had the privilege of inducting Joshua as a Honorary Submariner. This was fitting as Dave’s grandson, who is presently in Levine’s for cancer treatment, was previously inducted as an Honorary Submariner on Dave’s previous visit to Levine’s. Now Joshua and Dave’s grandson Issac are joined as Brother’s of the Phin … and also both have an interest in none other than Pokémon. Check out the magazine article for the full read on this wonderful story.
* **Burnsville – Coming up May 16 – 18**
* Reminder for those interested in traveling to Burnsville to the Moonshine Mountain Submarine Memorial for the 2025 remembrance ceremony need to have their registration fees by now.
* Big Lynn Lodge located on Hwy 226-A in Little Switzerland, NC 28749 soon.
* The memorial service at the submarine memorial will be held on Saturday morning at 1000.
* **Catawba Park Open for July 4th**
* Tom Kelly reported that the location where we have our base picnics (the Catawba Nuclear Park) is open for the date of July 4th. Tom has arranged for the park to be available to us to watch fireworks on Lake Wylie, however, we are not allowed to have any of our fireworks of our own due to security concerns near the plant.
* Families are welcome to come, to bring their own food and drink and join any who come to watch fireworks on Friday, July 4th.
* **Bilge Rats**
* Our base Bilge Rats group performed their latest show on April 12th at Terrance Ridge Assisted Living Center in Gastonia. We have been to Terrance Ridge many times over the years, and we were welcomed once again to perform there.
* Raymond Zieverink also notified performers who were going to Burnsville that he is planning on putting on our show on Saturday night after supper.
* Raymond Zieverink also plans on our Bilge Rat performers putting on our final presentation at the VFW in June after our base meeting is over.
* **Hurricane Helena Relief Final Distribution of Funds**
* Presently our Helene Hurricane Relief Fund from last year has a balance of $3,027.55 dollars remaining in it. Rick Petitt, who started the Go-Fund-Me page for the needs of folks in the mountains after the damaging floods last year, solicited input from base members expressing that it was time to distribute the remaining funds to people/business that could still use a helping hand.
* The members decided to distribute $1,000 each to three recipients:
* Post 317 for their continued restoration work where the Asheville Base meets,
* Fellow submariner Gene Ipox who we know lost everything in the floods (you can see full details on what Gene and his family lost in the November 2024 copy of our base meeting minutes),
* And finally, $1,000 will be donated to the Big Lynn Lodge for all the support they gave to folks displaced by the floods and for housing of rescue personnel and restoration workers who have been working tirelessly trying to restore some normalcy to the area.
* The balance remaining in the Helena Fund will be moved over to our Caring & Sharing fund.
* A special thanks and a big BRAVO ZULU goes to Rick for his personal sharing and caring.
* **Possible Honor Guard Opportunities**
* Mike will be looking into possible honor guard opportunities at the Gastonia “Ghost Peppers” minor league baseball team.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be on Saturday, June 28th at Fort Mill VFW in Fort Mill, SC. Doors open at 1230, we eat at 1300 and our meeting starts at 1400.
* Reminder, there will be no May meeting due to folks who signed up will be attending the event at Burnsville in May.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1431 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Don Schob won today’s raffle.

**Additional News:**

* Mike Hubbell reminded us about a flag raising ceremony at Maggie Valley on Memorial Day (May 24th) and our own John McHugh will be playing taps at this ceremony.

**A list of today’s attendees at our base picnic can be found below:**

**April 26, 2024, Base Picnic Attendees**:

* Steve Bell (also including Mike, Amber, Cameron, Kaden & Harper-Jane)
* Bob Bunney – Kathy
* Doug Cook - Maxine
* Ray Fritz
* Mary Gilles
* Mike Hubbell – Glenna
* Tom Kelly – Susan
* Lowell Kemp
* John McHugh – Donna
* Jeff Nieberding
* Rick Petitt – Cindy
* Zeke Rybczyk
* Don Schob – Angela
* Bill Strand – Laura
* Joel Tuchfeld – Anna
* Dave Violette – Beth
* Kevin Walker
* Raymond Zieverink – Linda

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary