**CAROLINA PIEDMONT BASE MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:  June 28, 2025**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Base Commander Mike Hubbell called our meeting to order at 1349 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**

* Base Chaplain Raymond Fritz started off our base meeting with an invocation.
* Raymond also reminded us to remember those lost during the June victory we had on D-Day and wished God’s Speed to the USA.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**USSVI CREED**

* The USSVI Creed was read today by Kevin Walker.

**TOLLING OF THE BOATS**

* Tolling for the 8 boats, which were lost during June months past, was presented by Ray Fritz and the bell was rung by Bill Strand.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 18 base members were present at today’s meeting.
* We also had one first-timer to our meeting today, Rick Bennett who now lives in Monroe and who heard about us thru the Naval Submarine League. Rick qualified on the USS Memphis in 1981.
* Welcome aboard Rick Bennett to the Carolina Piedmont Base!

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

* Holland Club Induction (Established nationally in 1964)
* Rick Petitt filled in for our Holland Club Chairman Joel Tuchfeld today and inducted Greg Crystal into the prestigious Holland Club today who reached the milestone of being qualified now in submarines for over 50 years. Congratulations Greg!
* USSVI Longevity Pin Presentation
* Mike Hubbell presented to several members today longevity pins based on how long they have been members of USSVI. 5-year, 10-year and 15-year longevity pins were given out today.

**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 $11,472.011 as of 6/28/2025.
* Highlighted on today’s treasurer’s statement were two (2) $1,000 checks which were donated to people and places that were severely affected by the terrible flooding in the NC mountains caused last fall by the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Gene Ipox former Asheville Base Commander and American Legion Post 317 each received a one-thousand dollar check from our base.

**BASE STOREKEEPER REPORT**

* Jeff Nieberding, our base storekeeper, reminded members that he is our contact for ordering patches, vests, challenge coins, calendars, parking signs, and other USSVI items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* None

**NEW BUSINESS**

* The USSVI National Headquarters, which is now officially working out of the Groton Bases Joe Negri Clubhouse in Groton Connecticut, was seeking donations to help in some much needed upkeep/repairs for the building. The headquarters and Groton Base both reside in a building now which is over 130 years old.
* A motion was made and passed to donate $100 for the Joe Negri clubhouse for repairs.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Burnsville – Moonshine Mountain Report**
* Rick Petitt reported that the Tolling of the Boats ceremony, which is normally held at the Moonshine Mountain Memorial, was rained out this year so the ceremony was held in the Big Lynn Lodge dining area for the 52 boats lost during WWII.
* Our base Bilge Rats performed a presentation of our 2025 show “A Walk Down Memory Lane” on Saturday night at the lodge. Special thanks goes out to Raymond Zieverink for all his work to make these presentations a success. BZ.
* Rick also reported that our Carolina Piedmont Base again this year was in charge with handling monies and reservations for this annual event. Rick said even though it’s not our intention to make a profit off of registration fees and purchasing spirits for the weekend, we still ended up making a profit from this year’s event.
* Rick said we will track the Burnsville funds still available in a separate category and these funds could be available if necessary for repairs at the memorial.
* A special thank you goes out to both the Petitt and Hubbell families from our base and for Joe Schmidt from the Asheville Base for all their efforts to make this year’s Burnsville event a super success and a fun time for all. Another BZ.
* **Base Roster Update**
* Mike asked each base member that we need to check/update their personal information (i.e. address, email address, etc.) on the USSVI National website to ensure we are current. The national USSVI web address is: <https://www.ussubvets.org/>
* Mike said we should be getting emails from National and from our base also, so it’s important that everyone double-checks their specific information to ensure it is correct.

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

* **DWWT Museum Flag Raising**
* DWWT stands for Dale’s Wheels Through Time museum which is located in Maggie Valley, NC. We received a thank you email from the museum this year for base members who attended the museum’s annual flag-raising ceremony earlier this year.
* **Carolina Piedmont Charitable Fund Ambassador**
* NAVY (Never Again Volunteer Yourself) base member Rick Petitt has graciously volunteered to be our Carolina Piedmont Base Charitable Fund Ambassador. Much thanks to Rick especially for all he has done in the past (and now plans to do in the future) to support worthy causes.
* **Catawba Park Open for July 4th**
* Tom Kelly reminded us he has reserved the Catawba Nuclear Station park for July 4th from 1700 until 2300 for any who want to come out to have a cookout and to watch fireworks to celebrate our nation’s 249th birthday.
* **Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss) Update**
* Dave Violette has arranged another visit to Levine’s Children’s Hospital for our next K-4-K program event. This visit is scheduled for Thursday, August 7th and Dave asks that any who are interested in joining him should contact him immediately. A big thank you goes out to Dave Violette for his passion to revive our Kap(ss)-4-Kid(ss) program.
* **Bilge Rats Update**
* Raymond Zieverink reported that our Bilge Rats singing group have performed 5 shows this year. Our theme this year was “A Walk Down Memory Lane.” A warm thank you goes out to Raymond for making all this happen and thank you to all who participated in the performances this year.
* Raymond also put out a shout-out to any who would be interest in joining the group for the 2026 … and special note, Raymond says you don’t even have to sing well to join. Well Done to Raymond!
* **School Submarine Presentations**
* Bill Strand is our submarine school presentation coordinator (thank you Bill)! Bill has been contacting area schools now to see which schools might be interested for next school year to have some of our members come to tell students about life aboard today’s submarines.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

* Raymond Fritz, who is currently serving as our base Chaplain (and once served as the USSVI National Chaplain), said he still gets emails from National on persons who pass onto Eternal Patrol. Ray said he can pass along copies of these emails if the base would be interested in receiving them.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be held on Saturday, July 26th at 1300 at the Ft. Mill VFW Post and the doors open at 1230 to begin to set up for our luncheon.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

* A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1452 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Ray Fritz closed our meeting with a benediction.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Kevin Walker won today’s meeting raffle, and he graciously donated his winnings to Kap(ss) – 4 Kid(ss)! Thank you Kevin!

**Reminder:**

* Bill Strand reported he would be willing to obtain more unused electronic equipment to provide to company E2D to have equipment refurbished then donated to schools in need in the mountains.

**Today’s meeting attendees are listed below:**

**June 28, 2025, Meeting Attendees**:

* Steve Bell, son Mike and granddaughter Cameron
* Rick Bennett (1st Timer)
* Andrew Brown - Danielle
* Bob Bunney
* Greg Crystal – Linda
* John ‘Ed’ Eldridge
* Ray Fritz
* Mary Gilles
* Mike Hubbell – Glenna
* Tom Kelly - Susan
* John McHugh – Donna
* Jeff Nieberding
* Rick Petitt – Cindy
* Steven Rodgers
* Don Schob – Angela
* Bill Strand
* Dave Violette
* Kevin Walker – Tessa
* Raymond Zieverink

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary