**Carolina-Piedmont Base Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date (Spring Picnic):  April 27, 2024**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

* Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Rick Petitt called our meeting to order at 1414 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 and chicken fingers we had from the Ol’ Carolina Barbeque restaurant in Gastonia. Much thanks to Steve Bell for bringing in the BBQ and for Raymond Zieverink for making the arrangements for the food and to all our families who brought lots of great fixin’s.

**INVOCATION**

* Ray Fritz started off our base meeting with words of invocation.
* A special request was to keep the Hulme’s family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their son.

**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 Jim Goins

**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 Joel Tuchfeld.

**MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

* 21 base members were present at today’s meeting at the Catawba Nuclear Park and we were joined by 14 additional ladies also.

**HOLLAND CLUB AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

* Current USSVI National Jr. Vice-Commander and former Carolina Piedmont Base Commander Steve Bell, presented a number of men with recognition of their extended years of qualification in submarines by awarding the following persons their Holland Club qualification rockers:
* 55-Year Rockers:
* Charles Breeze
* Howard Murray
* Paul Myers
* Clearence Senn
* 60-Year Rockers
* Tom Holland
* Ed Milczarski
* Stanley Schulz
* 65-Year Rockers
* John Bosanek
* Ray Fritz
* Jim Harris
* Glen Snyder

**HOLLAND CLUB AWARD PRESENTATIONS (cont.)**

* Following the Rocker presentation, Steve Bell then honored the following men by indoctrinating them into the United States Submarine Service Prestigious Holland Club. Holland club members are those persons who have been qualified in submarines for 50-years or longer.
* Inducted today at the base picnic were the following men:
* Steven White – qualified aboard USS Tunny (SSN-682)
* David Violette – qualified aboard USS Henry L Simpson (SSBN-655)
* Base Commander Rick Petitt – qualified aboard USS Tecumseh (SSBN-628)
* Not inducted today due to not being at the meeting but Henry “Zeke” Rybczyk will be honored at our next meeting in June to be awarded his Holland Club certificate.
* Special congratulations goes to those members who have served their country in the United States Submarine Service and who have reached the age of being inducted into the Holland Club.

**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 2024 was $9,586.35, which includes the registration monies received for the Burnsville event next month since our base is now coordinating the registrations for the Burnsville event.
* 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.
* A number of person’s met with Jeff after the meeting to obtain patches for their vests.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* **Base Elections Swearing In New Officers for 2024**
* Rick Petitt 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:
* John McHugh replaces Jim Goins as Base Vice-Commander, and
* Bill Strand remains for another two years as our Base Treasurer.
* A special thank you goes out to Jim Goins for his 5-years serving as our Base Vice Commander since after taking over the position from Jack Jeffries back in 2019.
* **Bilge Rats**
* Our base Bilge Rats performance group performed their (final?) show for the year on April 25th at Raymond and Linda’s church in Rock Hill.
* The show this season was very well received and a special congratulations goes to Raymond Zieverink and his team for all of their hard work in preparing and performing for groups around town. Bravo Zulu to you all!
* **Burnsville – Coming up May 17 – 19**
* Reminder for those interested in traveling to Burnsville to the Moonshine Mountain Submarine Memorial for the 2024 remembrance ceremony need to begin making their plans and reservations now to stay at the Big Lynn Lodge located on Hwy 226-A in Little Switzerland, NC 28749 soon.
* Rick says he and Cindy will be attending this year.
* We also understand the memorial service at the submarine memorial will now be held on Saturday morning (verses Saturday afternoon) as it seems we have been inundated with rain on Saturday afternoons in the recent past, so we are trying to outsmart Mother Nature and move the memorial service to Saturday morning.
* **National Convention – Cleveland OH Aug 20 – 24**
* Go to the following website to read the instructions and to obtain information regarding the 2024 national convention in Cleveland Ohio. <https://subvetconvention.org/tours-and-events>
* Another way is to log in to the USSVI.org website, go to Visitors, then 2024 National Convention
* **Kings Bay** – We just received notice that the Kings Bay World War II Submarine Memorial Evet has moved up to October 23rd thru 26th from its normal time in November (aka one week earlier than usual). Also, as a reminder, if you are not retired you need to apply for a base pass. Mike Hubbell or Steve Bell can supply the necessary information needed for this pass.

**NEXT BASE MEETING**

* Our next base meeting will be on Saturday, June 22nd 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 1454 hours.  Motion passed.

**BENEDICTION**

* Today’s Benediction was given by Ray Fritz.

**RAFFLE RESULTS**

* Raymond Zieverink won today’s raffle who then graciously donated his winnings to the USSVI Scholarship fund, kudos Raymond!

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

**April 27, 2024, Base Picnic Attendees**:

* Steve Bell
* Bob Bunney – Kathy
* John “Ed” Eldridge
* Ray Fritz
* Mary Gilles
* Jim Goins – Marsha
* Jim Harris
* Mike Hubbell – Glenna
* Tom Kelly – Susan
* John McHugh – Donna
* Jeff Nieberding
* Rick Petitt – Cindy
* Calvin Reese – Libby
* Steven Rodgers
* Don Schob – Angela
* Bill Strand – Laura
* Paul Trexler – Lynn
* Joel Tuchfeld – Anna
* Dave Violette – Beth
* Steve White - Jenny
* Raymond Zieverink – Linda

Minutes Written by John McHugh and Submitted by:

Tom Kelly

Base Secretary