



# Coastal Carolina Base Meeting Minutes



## Coastal Carolina Base Submarine Veterans Meeting

**When:** March 20, 2021 at 14.00 hrs  
**Location:** Shelter 1, Halyburton Park, Wilmington, NC

**Before Meeting:** Attendees greeted each other while Barry Turano sold Raffle tickets.

**Lunch:** Attendees enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch provided by CCB.



**Call to Order:** At 14.32 Commander Scott Powell called the Coastal Carolina Base meeting to order and presided.

**Attendees:** Commander Scott Powell, Base Secretary Bill Underwood, Base Treasurer Terry Kuhn, Base Storekeeper Barry Turano, Base Chaplain Bruce Rae, Base Website Manager Frank Blackmon, Richard Schrum, Gerry Rowe, Doug Mays, Charlie Backes, Phil Kraus, Mike Bowers, George Depta, Dick Gudis, New Members Tom Punda, Dave Anderson & Dave Henclewski and guest Ken Badoin.

**Invocation:** Base Chaplain Bruce Rae started the invocation with a moment of silence for Kevin Kesterson’s son and Dick

Gudis’ wife Sally, who have passed since our last meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Commander Scott Powell led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**World War II Submarine Veteran Recognition:** No World War II Veterans were present at this meeting, but Scott spoke about his meeting with John Potanovic in Wilmington. Scott said that John planned to attend the meeting today, but mutually agreed to stay home due to the weather. John served on the *USS Archer-Fish (SS 311)* during WWII and made 7 war patrols including the one in November 1944 on which *Archer-Fish* sank the Japanese Carrier *Shinano*. Commander Powell said that Potanovic is eager to attend future CCB meetings. Dick Gudis, who had served on the recommissioned *USS Archerfish (AGSS 311)* recounted some of his exploits while serving on the boat.

**Introduction of Members and Guests:** Each attendee introduced themselves and their guests and gave their Qualification Date and the Boats on which they served. New members Dave Anderson, Dave Henclewski and Tom Punda introduced themselves and spoke about the boats they served on. Charlie Backes’ guest, Ken Badoian, introduced himself as well.



Tom Punda



Dave Henclewski



Dave Anderson

**Welcome Tom, Dave and Dave!**



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**Storekeeper's Report:** Base Storekeeper, Barry Turano, presented the attached Storekeeper's report. He pointed out that the Storekeeper holds inventory and cash on hand totaling \$878.90. He also showed attendees some of the shirts and jackets he has in inventory and mentioned he has several personalized shirts for members to pick up.

**Treasurer's Report:** Base Treasurer Terry Kuhn passed out the attached approved 2021 CCB budget. He pointed out that CCB had an available bank balance of \$7,273.84, but that CCB currently is paying between \$100 and \$175 per month for storage of the Base Float materials. In addition, with Belk's in bankruptcy, the Bases fundraising income is in serious jeopardy. **He ended by pleading to members to keep their USSVI National Dues up to date because it creates a tremendous amount of work for him when members go delinquent.**

**Tolling of the Boats:** Commander Powell explained that we normally perform the Tolling of the Boats ceremony for the boats lost in the months since our last meeting, but at this meeting we did not have the Tolling Bell or the list of lost boats. He suggested we catch up the ceremony at the next CCB meeting.

### Base Business

**Status of the CCB Parade Float:** Barry Turano informed attendees that since John Williamson has moved to South Carolina, CCB needs to procure another trailer and place to store the Base parade float. He has researched the cost of a similar trailer and said it would be between \$2,500 and \$3,200 for a trailer similar to those we have used in the past. New member, Dave Anderson,

said that he has a trailer he uses for his construction business that the Base could use for parades. When we explained how much time the trailer would be needed each year, we concluded that he could not be without his trailer for that long. After extensive discussion the following Motion was made:

**MOTION: Bill Underwood offered a MOTION that the CCB Board could decide to spend up to \$3,200 to acquire a suitable trailer for the float. The Base would own the trailer and float and Storekeeper Barry Turano would register the trailer in his name and on his insurance. CCB would reimburse Barry for the actual additional cost on his insurance. Richard Schrum SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote of the attending members.**

Attendees had several ideas for finding a less expensive place to store the trailer/float between parades and agreed to follow-up on their ideas and inform Barry of any viable options.

### **Subsequent Related Accomplishments:**

Barry found an option to purchase a 7ft by 18ft tandem trailer for about \$2,600. The CCB Board authorized Barry to order the trailer and the trailer will arrive in late May.

Secretary Bill Underwood contacted a friend of his who owns a large warehouse in Wilmington and got permission to store the float and float materials inside his warehouse and park the trailer at his gated loading ramp for free. The warehouse location is on 13<sup>th</sup> Street in central Wilmington and has a high chain link fence with locked gates



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around it. Bill and Barry visited the facility and decided it had suitable security for the Base float & trailer.

Barry is planning a day to move the float and float materials out of the existing storage facility before May 5<sup>th</sup>. **Volunteers to help should contact Barry at [barryturano@gmail.com](mailto:barryturano@gmail.com).**

Barry will set up another working party when the new trailer arrives to build the appropriate rails, speaker mounts and mount the float cradle. Currently, our next parade will be the Azalea Festival parade scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 2021.

### **Plans for CCB Activities in 2021:**

*Vaccination Status of Members:* Most attendees had already had at least one of their COVID vaccination shots. Commander Powell encouraged members to be safe and get their vaccinations.

*Meeting Dates and Locations:* Secretary Bill said that most of the events CCB usually participates in have not yet solidified their dates. Consequently, the Base Calendar has a lot of TBD on it until the dates are determined. Bill also said that Elizabeth's Pizza is not planning to reopen their dining rooms until masks are no longer required. Attendees agreed to plan our next meeting for Memorial Day (May 31) at the Pavilion in Battleship Park.

*2021 Parades:* Currently, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is cancelled, so we anticipate participating in the Azalea Festival Parade in August, a Veterans Day Parade and the Oak Island and Wilmington Holiday Parades in December.

*CCB Elections in 2021:* Commander Powell said that it didn't make much sense to hold elections this year, but he would like to appoint Barry Turano to Base COB to replace

John Williamson. **He asked for volunteers to take over the Storekeeper position.**

Commander Powell did encourage CCB members to vote in the National USSVI elections and for the Southeast Region District Commander electronically.

**Plans for Memorial Day Observance:** A discussion ensued about holding the annual CCB picnic and Memorial Day Observance at the Pavilion at Battleship Park in Wilmington. Frank Blackmon said that he would perform the Memorial Service at the S-28 memorial on Memorial Day (May 31<sup>st</sup>). Commander Powell said that he would invite WWII SubVet, John Potanovic, to the Memorial Day event. Terry agreed to reserve the Pavilion at Battleship Park. Members will be encouraged to bring their significant others, lawn chairs, drinks and side dishes or desserts. We will start at noon with the picnic and business meeting, adjourn to the S-28 memorial for the Memorial Service and return to the pavilion for fun and submarine fellowship. I will put out a detailed agenda as we get closer to the event.

**Update on JROTC Chuck Fletcher Hard Charger Award:** There was no update at this meeting.

**Belk Sale Fundraiser Replacement:** Secretary Bill announced that the CCB annual fundraiser is in jeopardy as Belk's has filed for bankruptcy. Past Commander Charlie Backes said that he had some ideas for replacement fundraisers that he would present to the CCB Board for evaluation. Historically, CCB has raised between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each year from the Belk's Fundraisers. We need some way to replace that income to support our charitable contributions and activities.





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**Website Development & Maintenance:** Frank Blackmon, Base Website Manager, presented the attached website management proposal from American Hero. Frank



explained that American Hero will develop a new CCB website, host and maintain the site for \$39.99 per month. After substantial discussion about the attributes for this option, the following MOTION was offered:

**MOTION:** Barry Turano offered a MOTION to approve Frank to commit to American Hero according to the attached proposal. Bill Underwood SECONDED the MOTION and the

**MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote of the attending members.

Commander Powell asked for volunteers to work with Frank and American Hero on the new CCB Website. He wants redundancy of knowledge about how to operate and maintain the website. New member, David Anderson and Base Chaplain Bruce Rae agreed to work with Frank on the Website. Frank asked that CCB members email him pictures, stories, etc. that he can use on the new website.

**Base Facebook Page Status:** Doug Mays, the CCB member responsible for the CCB Facebook Page announced that he is planning to move to Asheville and will transfer his membership to the Asheville Base.



Commander Powell asked for a member to step up to manage the Base Facebook Page. If you have the skills to manage our



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Facebook Page, please contact Scott Powell at [subdog639@yahoo.com](mailto:subdog639@yahoo.com).

### Open Floor

**Battleship Legacy Series:** Mike Bowers announced that the Battleship is conducting its Annual Legacy Series event this year through Zoom call presentations. Mike will host a Zoom session on "Sailing Through Time on Ships Named North Carolina" on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. All you have to do to join in is go on your computer, iPad or phone and click on the following link; <http://www.battleshipnc.com/meet-the-showboat/>. Mike will be talking about the ships named for North Carolina. Don't miss it!

**Veterans on Food Stamps:** Brother Dick Gudis reminded attendees that every year he sees Veterans and Veteran's families that are living on Food Stamps. He expressed his disgust that a veteran should have to live that way and said that we, as veterans, should find a way to identify and help those families.

**Port & Starboard Drawing:** Attendees joked that, somehow, Charlie Backes or Mary Backes always win the drawing. Barry Turano pulled a ticket and, once again, it was Charlie Backes' ticket. Gerry Rowe donated a brand new Submarine Veterans cap to the drawing and Secretary, Bill Underwood won the hat.

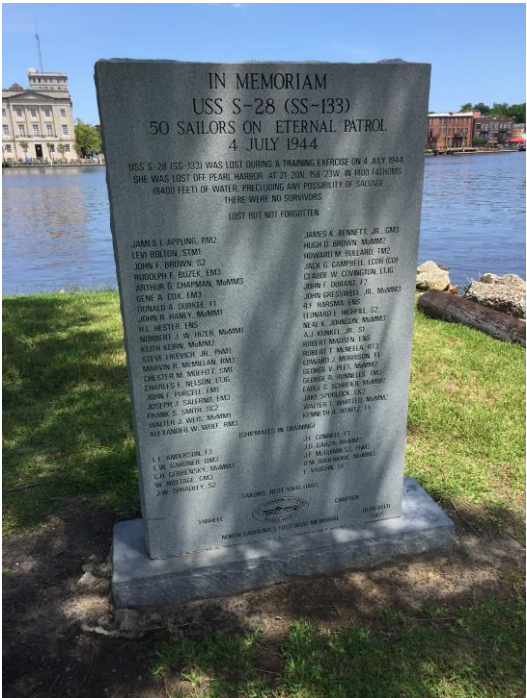
### Adjournment:

**MOTION:** Richard Schrum offered a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Mike Bowers SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote

by the attendees and the meeting was adjourned at 15.54 hrs.

**Next Scheduled Base Event/Meeting:** The next CCB Base meeting will be on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> starting at noon at the pavilion at Battleship Park in Wilmington, NC. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your family, a side dish or dessert, your preferred drinks and lawn chairs for your party.

## PRIDE RUNS DEEP! Never Forget!









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## Website Proposal for Frank Blackmon's Discussion



### WEBSITE PRODUCTION PROPOSAL

Frank,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me last week. It was helpful for you to explain what your goals and expectations are relative to your new website. I think you have an amazing idea on your hands. Your concept could really help out veterans in need of low cost or free dental work.

Please allow me to take a moment and one more time to thank you for your service to our country. Hopefully you will see the value in our attempt to honor you in the best way we know how.

Please see below the proposal we discussed.

After hearing your thoughts I feel that we can help you create the website that you desire and if asked by you, to subsequently assist you in executing an effective marketing strategy.

As we discussed, designing a modern and professional website for your organization that is marketing driven, easy to navigate, and contains a strong call to action will be simple to create.

Your new website will also be done quickly and with very little effort required by you.

Once completed the site will also be easy for you to update. The time frame for completion will be approximately four to six weeks from the day we are contracted to do the work, pending your approvals.

In closing, creating your new website will be easy. There is nothing complicated about the process whatsoever. In a matter of weeks you will have the high quality website that you and your business deserves.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

Ron  
978-852-5062

### THE WEBSITE

As we discussed at our meeting we can efficiently and create a new website for you in four to six weeks, pending your approvals.

With this said, please consider the following:

- 1-Your new website's homepage will be much more of a magazine cover. The new homepage will draw in the visitor with photographs and text that is much more visitor directed.
- 2-Your new website's navigation and guide boxes will allow the site visitor to quickly decide what portions of the website they are interested in and get them to that information immediately.
- 3-Your new website's text and design will be very "Call To Action" based. The new site will create interest more quickly and directly than the current site does.
- 4-Your new website will be built on a WordPress platform that allows you to easily update the majority of the site on your own. In the event that you would prefer us to update the site for you we can do so much more rapidly and much more affordably due to the functionality of WordPress.
- 5-Your new website will be designed and created with updating and expansion in mind. We want you to understand that we will create a site that will be easy to update. The same goes for expanding the site to add pages, videos, and blogs or a newsletter.
- 6- Your new site will be built with fundamental optimization, including content rich text with keywords and any other optimization tools such as links to social networks, membership or association links and other credible and high-traffic site links from your website.
- 7-Your new website will include 6-8 pages, a focus on the services you offer, the value you bring to your customer, as well as the ability to make changes to 80% of the website yourself.

Pages I recommend: Home, About, Services, FAQs, Gallery, Google Calendar, and Contact Us Page.

8-Your new site will be built as a responsive website. This is a site that moves automatically to fit and function properly on any mobile device, smartphone, and tablet.

### HOSTING YOUR WEBSITE

As we discussed the manner in which you will be hosting your website is very important. Premium Hosting and Regular Site Maintenance is Key To The Security and Longevity of Your Free Website. Hosting a site today has to be directly tied into both securing and easily maintaining that site. With the advancement of the web, you must update your site and the plug-ins installed regularly. Doing so will help ensure that your site works properly in all browsers, functions correctly with new software, and remains secure from hackers. A new update is released every month or so with new features,

security, and user management tools. Remember that your hosting has to protect the email information that people type in so additional security is very important.

Your monthly hosting, security, and upgrade fee will be \$39.99 per month.

### PAYMENT TERMS FOR MONTHLY HOSTING

We take the last four months of your hosting contract in advance to provide you with a cushion in the event that your change credit cards or run into financial problems during the life of the three-year contract.

While most clients enjoy our superior hosting for years to come in the event you decide to take down your website or to change hosting companies you may do so at the conclusion of the three year hosting contract and by providing to us in writing your plans of cancellation. You must provide us with this written notification 120 days prior to the hosting cancellation-taking place.

All future payments will be placed on a credit card that will accompany the first payment. You will be provided in advance the date every month when your credit card is going to be charged. Beyond that we DO NOT notify you again.

### VERY IMPORTANT




The hosting payment may not coincide with your website being completed. However the ONLY reason you will not have a fully completed website in FOUR TO SIX WEEKS is YOU.

We understand how busy our clients can be and how they may be forced to delay the final steps required for completing their websites. Our clients must however, be made aware that we will be completing over 90% of their website work within the first two weeks.


Therefore, it is vital for our customer's to accept that any payment plan we have extended will have absolutely nothing to do with the site being completed.

You may take as long as you wish to complete the website.

When you make a submit funds for your website it is a non-refundable payment on work. You ARE NOT paying us a deposit.

**Every minute of every day  
hundreds of young Americans are  
patrolling the depths of the oceans  
protecting Freedom and the American  
way. Please remember them in your  
thoughts and prayers!**



**The purpose of the Submarine Veterans Association  
is raise awareness of the Submarine Service and  
"To Perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who  
gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while  
serving their country"**

