

Quarterly News

Ahoy all, and thank you for your support of the October 23–28 visit to North Carolina by Commander Matt Lewis USN and members of his SSN 777 crew. The purpose of their visit was to strengthen the ties with the 777's namesake state, speak about the capabilities of a modern nuclear-powered submarine and share their experiences at sea.

Mission accomplished as the Captain and crew met with NC representatives, members of the public, prospective submarine officers from the Piedmont NROTC Consortium, STEM Ed high school students, and the local media. In Wilmington, tribute was paid to the Battleship North Carolina, sea-stories were shared at a bbq luncheon hosted by the local SubVets chapter, and a visit to Kids Making It allowed the crew to see first-hand how the "Time Aboard" teak plaques are created.

Included here are some photos and highlights from the visit. You can view many more photos on the [SSN 777 Facebook page](#).



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The "Tarheel Boat"



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Governor's Luncheon

Governor Roy Cooper and Secretary Larry Hall, Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs, welcomed the Captain and crew members, from left, Chief Terry Morphis, Lt. Dan Shen, Cdr. Matt Lewis, Master Chief Chuck Cardell and Electrician's Mate 2/c Nicholas Jeli. A luncheon followed welcoming the public at the Executive Mansion. Prior to the luncheon, the 777 crew made calls on Lt. Governor Dan Forest and Secretary of Natural & Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton.



STEM Education Presentations

The 777 crew participated in submarine engineering seminars at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant and the Naval Operations Support Center with three classes of Wake County high school STEM Ed students.



NROTC Discussions

The CO and crew discussed the admissions criteria, operational tempo and the unique officer–enlisted relations of the submarine service with the midshipmen at Duke, NC State and UNC.

On their final day of the visit, the Captain and crew toured UNC's Dean E. Smith Center, including the basketball museum, and finished the day with a visit to Cameron Indoor Stadium for the Duke vs NW Missouri State game.



The Mission of the SSN 777 Club

1. Support the crew
2. Promote the USS North Carolina, SSN 777, across the state
3. At end of service-life, add the 777 to the Battleship Park in Wilmington

For more information about the SSN 777 Club, visit our [website](#) and the [777 Facebook page](#).



CSS Hunley at Oakwood Cemetery

The 777 paid tribute to the CSS Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy combatant. Included in the Hunley's 8-man crew was James Wicks of North Carolina.

Link: [Hunley marker](#)



The 777 enjoyed a comprehensive behind-the-scenes tour of the Battleship North Carolina's weapons, propulsion, damage-control compartments, berthing spaces and mess decks. Kim Sincox, BB 55's historian and 777 archivist, shared artifacts from the 3 previous USS North Carolinas, including the 1832 oil painting of the ship of the line North Carolina (above).

Following the tour of the Battleship, the CO and crew enjoyed a bbq lunch hosted by the local chapter of SubVets (top right). They also visited Kids Making It (bottom right), a nonprofit youth program that helps create the teak plaques given to each departing 777 crew member as a token of appreciation of service aboard the sub. Joining Jimmy Pierce (Exec. Dir. of KMI) and board member Lee Hill were Wilmington mayor Bill Saffo; county commissioners Woody White (chair) and Rob Zapple; city council members Paul Lawler, Charlie Rivenbark and Kevin O'Grady; Samantha Dooies, Asst. to the DA; and NC Representative Deb Butler.

Wilmington Visit



Links: [Battleship North Carolina](#) | [Kids Making It](#)



Additional photos of the visit can be found on the [SSN 777 Facebook page](#)

Radio & TV Interviews

Cdr. Lewis, Chief Cardell, and Jeff Truitt of the SSN 777 Club were interviewed on WPTF Radio's "You Don't Say" show. See link below to listen to the interview — the segment about the 777 begins at 1:03:50.

Left: The 777 spent time with Jeff Smith, Military and Veterans Affairs Coordinator at UNC-TV. See the link below to watch the videos online.

Links: ["You Don't Say" interview](#) | [UNC-TV interviews](#)

Popular Questions Asked of the 777

- How long underway? (up to 6 mos)
- Are special qualifications required of submarine sailors? (Yes)