

Quarterly News

The 777 Is Underway on Patrol

Ahoy Friends of the USS North Carolina, SSN 777,

Such an unimagined and eventful time! I hope that this newsletter finds you and yours well and as well prepared for the required sacrifices and inconveniences as this pandemic demands of us all.

And when duty calls, we must respond. The 777 got underway last week for her regularly scheduled deployment to the Pacific Ocean. Her last patrol was in 2016 when she returned home to numerous accolades and recognition for operational excellence. Now, she's back in the fleet after an extensive modernization of ship's systems and fulfilling her mission for our nation's security.

Our Club concentrates on support of the Family Readiness Group which coordinates activities and provides mutual assistance to those at home in Hawaii who also serve our great nation. We're proud to highlight some of their recent actions in this newsletter.

Below: Wishing the 777 fair winds and following seas.



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"Keep Pounding"

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, as feasible, add the 777 to the Battleship Park in Wilmington



Assembled and Underway: Halfway Box Project a Huge Success

For those not familiar with this tradition, there is a custom within our submarine service that when deployed, or on patrol and under-water for an average of 6 months, the crew celebrates the halfway point with a special dinner and the distribution of personalized "care packages," or Halfway Boxes, for each crew member as prepared by family and friends. The NC Daughters of the American Revolution rallied in

December and purchased contents to be included in 165 Halfway Boxes. These boxes include snacks, reading material, toiletries and notes from home. At the same time that the crew celebrates the halfway point, so do the families in Hawaii. Again, the NC DAR stepped in to help provide books for the children of the 777 families: *Daddie's Submarine* and *The Invisible String*. We are grateful for their timely support.

How It Happened: Thanks to the generous response of the DAR during the Christmas holidays, the Halfway Box project shifted from "How will we get enough supplies for the boxes?" to "Wow! We're now in the receiving, assembly and distribution business!" An ordering site was established at Amazon and packages were delivered to Pearl Harbor as the orders were placed. Lots and lots of packages. The FRG organized a Halfway Box Assembly Party, uncrating what came from Amazon and reassembling the contents into personalized boxes specially designated for storage aboard the 777. An inspiring example of commitment and team work!



1 Cars filled with items for the Halfway Boxes arrive for the Assembly Party.



2 We're not sure how many wagonloads it took to get all the boxes inside for sorting and assembling!



3 Sorting the items before final assembly into individual care packages.



4 All packed and ready to be loaded onto the Boat!

How the 777 Crew Will Learn More About NC History While Underway

We were delighted that our friends at the [North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#) supplied 10 books to the 777 crew related to North Carolina maritime and military history. Another book, *This Day in North Carolina History*, was converted to pdf format so that every day, a new page could be posted at the entrance to the crew's dining area. It's great to know that while waiting in the chow-line, they have an NC fact-of-the-day to enjoy.



The Club's January Visit

Before the Boat got underway, I had the opportunity to visit Pearl Harbor to meet with the command, crew and families.



Above: Luncheon on the beach-front of Pearl Harbor with current and recent Board members of the FRG.

Left: Commander Michael Fisher, Brea Fisher, Chris Perrien, Jamie Martel, Master Chief Chris Martel (COB).

Former 777 CO and XO Special Guests at Dark Ages Dinner



The Raleigh-Durham chapter of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association hosted its annual Dark Ages Dinner on February 8 with special guests Captain Andy Hertel USN and Captain Mark Davis USN (Ret), the plank-owner CO and XO of the USS North Carolina.

Captains Davis and Hertel presented Dr. Jane Hogan of the NC Daughters of the American Revolution with an ensign flown over the 777 and a personal letter of appreciation from Commander Michael Fisher, 777 CO.

From left: Captain Andy Hertel, Dr. Jane Hogan, Captain Mark Davis USN (Ret), and Cdr Bill Sena USN (Ret).



“I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: ‘I served in the United States Navy.’”

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
1 AUGUST 1963



If you're interested, you may keep in touch with the [FRG on Facebook](#). Access to the site requires permission, so please identify yourself as an SSN 777 Club member when requesting access.

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

If circumstances permit and you're able to donate to the SSN 777 Club, visit our website www.ssn777club.org/donate