

Quarterly News

Ahoy All and thank you for your continued dedication to our USS North Carolina, SSN 777. The fall of 2019 was an active period for the crew and families. Following on to the two-year overhaul of the ship's engineering systems, many weeks have been spent at sea off the coast of Hawaii for systems testing and requalification. In early 2020, she'll be ready to resume her deployment schedule which will be a period of significant adjustment to the recent routines of both the crew and their families. Of course, everyone understands that this is the purpose of our 777.



Local Ops out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



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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



From left, Captain Gary Montalvo, Stephanie Montalvo, Linda Bowman, Dianne Lewis, and Captain Matt Lewis

Sponsor and Commanding Officers #4 and #5 Meet for Carolina BBQ

By terrific coincidence of group scheduling in early October, Captain Gary and Stephanie Montalvo and Commander Matt and Dianne Lewis, both families now stationed in the D.C. area, were able to meet Mrs. Linda Bowman, 777 Sponsor, for lunch at her lovely home. The menu, of course, was as close to genuine NC barbeque as we could find in Northern Virginia.

Celebrating the Holidays the North Carolina Way

For the 3rd year in a row, our friends at [Operation North State](#) supplied Christmas Boxes for each member of the crew. It's an extensive effort to order, organize and package the enclosed items. Three cheers to Terry Snyder and his all-volunteer team for representing our state so proudly.



Family Readiness Group Holiday Greetings



To Our Friends of the 777 Club,

Mahalo uni loa! Thank you from the heart!

The crew and families were delighted to receive your North Carolina Christmas boxes again this year. Many of the sailors sported their new shirts for the Command Christmas party. We truly feel loved and supported by all you do. May your holidays be bright!

Sincerely,
The USS North Carolina FRG



Fun times at the 777 family holiday party

Hail and Farewell

Welcome to new Chief of the Boat

ETVCM Chris Martel, with his wife Jamie and family, reported aboard in September. The 777 command now consists of Commander Michael Fisher, Lcdr. Pipen and Master Chief Martel.

Welcome and thank you to Jane Hogan and the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution

Their state-wide association of 7,000 members offered to support the 777's Halfway Box Project and has begun its related contributions at a dedicated Amazon web-site: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1HIKY9Z7GQ8X2>. For those who may not be familiar with this tradition, there is a custom within our submarine service that when deployed, or at-sea and under-water for an average of 6 months, the crew celebrates the 1/2 way point with a special dinner and the distribution of "Care Packages" or Halfway boxes as provided by friends and family. Please know that all receiving this newsletter are welcomed to contribute to this campaign via [the Amazon site](#).

Welcome to new Captain of Piedmont NROTC Consortium

Captain Andy Hertel, first XO of the 777, assumed command this past spring of the Piedmont NROTC Consortium (Duke, UNC and NC State). It's a treat to welcome a 777 sailor to Carolina.

Farewell to SSN 777 Club's Hawaii liason

Since the inception of the SSN 777 Club three years ago, David Sharpe has acted as our liason to the Boat. David and his wife Jazz have returned to Texas to be close to grandchildren. As David and I went through the Naval Academy together, it was fun and a true benefit to have him near Pearl Harbor to meet with the 777. We'll miss his positive energy and sense of fun while wishing him and Jazz the best of times back home in the Southwest.

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