

Quarterly News

Ahoy All, and thank you for your continued support of our *USS North Carolina*, SSN 777, home-ported in Pearl Harbor. Here are a few updates from the last few months.

Change of Command

On 31 May after 30 months in command including an important overhaul period, the 5th commanding officer of the *USS North Carolina*, SSN 777, Commander Matt Lewis USN, was properly relieved by Commander Michael Fisher USN. The remarks of the ceremony's Guest Speaker, Captain Richard Seif USN, best describe Matt's tour of duty:

"I remember the first time I visited the *North Carolina* across the water in dry-dock," said Seif. "It was clear that you and your crew had a lot on your



Photos, top: Captain Seif (far left), Cdr. Fisher, Cdr. Lewis, 777 Officers & Crewman; **bottom:** Fishers, Lewises and Walkers (COB)



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“Keep Pounding”



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plate, but it was also clear that you were the right man for the job." Seif evoked a quote from famous North Carolinian, Michael Jordan, to describe the performance of the crew and captain:

'Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen' and under your leadership, Matt, the crew of *North Carolina* made it happen," said Seif. "Not only did you get *North Carolina* back out to sea early but you also delivered a front-line submarine crew, ready for operational tasking from day one."

Best wishes to Cdr. Lewis and his delightful family.

Welcome aboard to Cdr. Fisher and his family. Cdr. Fisher previously served as executive officer aboard USS Boise (SSN 764), and most recently as Submarine Squadron 1 Deputy Commander for Readiness.

Teak and Hull Plating Continues Our “Time Aboard” Plaque Program

The Battleship North Carolina, BB 55, required replacement of several sections of original hull plating. Our Club was able to acquire a few of these original plates in addition to a fair amount of original teak decking. Both the plates and the teak will be re-configured as “[Time Aboard Plaques](#)” for departing crew-members of our 777. Thank you for your donations which make this program, from receipt to machining to laser-engraving to delivery to Pearl Harbor, possible.



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

To donate to the SSN 777 Club, visit our website www.ssn777club.org/donate

Family Readiness Group Update

The Club’s relationship with the Family Readiness Group (FRG) continues to grow, which is a fun and satisfying series of interactions.

Our 777 was underway much of the summer in post-overhaul testing, training and qualification in order to be ready for its next deployment, likely in 2020. As you may imagine, while underway, all of the routine and unplanned chores and responsibilities fall on the shoulders of the families who remain in-port. To celebrate the end of summer (how does Hawaii know), the Club sponsored a Back-to-School, End-of-Summer party which included a fair number of the wives enjoying a morning at the spa.



The support provided by our Club to the FRG is warmly appreciated as expressed to us in a recent thank you note: “The 777 crew and FRG are incredibly fortunate to be named after the Tarheel State and so grateful for your steadfast support, encouragement and patriotism!”

For additional information about the FRG:

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To friend the FRG on Facebook, please email the Ombudsman:

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For more information about the SSN 777 Club, visit our [website](http://www.ssn777club.org) and the [777 Facebook page](#).