

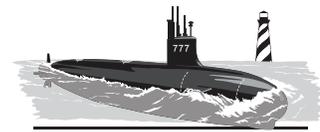
Quarterly News

New Year, New Friends

Ahoy Friends of the USS North Carolina, SSN 777,

The new year is well underway, spring is on the horizon with hopes that we'll be spending time with friends and family and traveling as once before. Our 777 enjoyed a well-deserved holiday stand-down or vacation period with family after its successful six-month deployment. Since its return in September, nearly 40 members of the crew transferred to other assignments. The focus of the *North Carolina* now is to welcome, train and qualify the new crew for a possible deployment near the end of this year. It's always busy aboard a submarine.

This month's newsletter introduces new faces to the Club. We'll meet Senior Chief Alex Jones, the new Chief of the Boat (CoB), and the newly elected Family Readiness Group (FRG) Board Officers: Madi Bell, President; Taylor Bogdahn, Secretary; Stevie Meeker, Treasurer. The FRG is an important partner of the 777 as it endeavors to keep families connected, informed and mutually supported. Please know that Luke Wolf replaced Greg Taylor as Secretary of our 777 Club's Board of Directors. Greg helped to launch our Club, encouraged membership, raised funds, and hosted 777 crew visits. All with good spirits and a sincere commitment to our Navy.



SSN 777 CLUB

USS NORTH CAROLINA

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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

Chief of the Boat Senior Chief Alex Jones USN



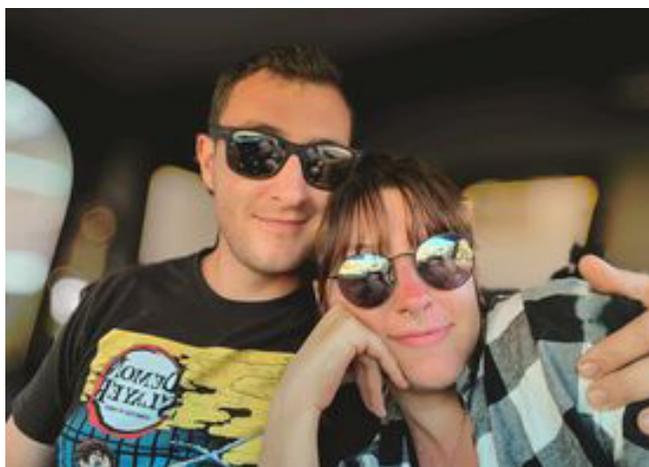
A native of Virginia Beach, VA, Senior Chief Jones enlisted in the Navy on December 11, 2002 and reported to USS Charlotte (SSN 766) in January 2004 after completion of his initial training. He served again aboard the USS Charlotte as the Leading Petty Officer of Navigation Division in 2012; there he was selected for Chief Petty Officer in 2013. He reported to USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), where he served as the Assistant Navigator and Navigation / Operations Department Enlisted Advisor until September 2017. He

was advanced to Senior Chief in June of 2016.

Senior Chief Jones is entitled to wear the Enlisted Submarine Warfare and Enlisted Information Warfare Specialist pins, the Navy Commendation Medal (Three Awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Five Awards), and various campaign, service and unit awards.

Welcome aboard, Senior Chief!

Meet the 777's Family Readiness Group Board Members



Aloha! My name is Madi Bell. I am the new President for the 2021 FRG board. I was born and raised in Colorado. I've been with my sailor for almost 4 years. I am a floral designer and I currently work at the Navy Exchange Mall in the floral department. I have an unconditional – and slightly worrisome – love for cats and plants. When I'm not working, I'm feeding stray kitties or doing puzzles! Please feel free to ask me any questions regarding the NEX, military life, boat life, and/or anything else you need! We are here for you so please don't hesitate to reach out. You can message me via my personal Facebook anytime! Thank you everyone!



My name is Taylor Bogdahn and I'm the new secretary for the 2021 FRG board!

Some fun facts: I was born and raised here on Oahu and I currently work with children with developmental disabilities. And if I'm not working, I enjoy watching trashy reality tv (jersey shore yeahhhh buddy! 🤪).

I have been with my sailor for a year and a half and we are recently engaged! If you have questions or just want to chat, feel free to message me on Facebook.



My name is Stevie Meeker and I am the current treasurer for the FRG. I am from Omaha, Nebraska. I have been married for what will be 12 years this summer. This is our second time being stationed in Hawaii. In between that, we got to spend 3 years back home for his recruiting duty. We have been through 3 deployments and countless underways and will probably add a bunch more until he retires! I am a stay at home mom with 3 kids, ages 3, 4 and 5. I stay pretty busy with them. I enjoy cooking/baking and I am always looking for new recipes to try! I love the island and want to explore as much of it, while we are here.

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.

Luke Wolf Joins SSN 777 Club's Board as Secretary



Luke Wolf enlisted in the Navy after high school and then transferred and graduated from our Naval Academy in the class of 2008 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Prior to returning to North Carolina, Luke served a nuclear-trained officer aboard the USS WEST VIRGINIA SSN 736 and the USS ALASKA SSN 732. He is a partner

with East Franklin Capital, a Chapel Hill-based wealth management firm, and serves as a Lieutenant Commander in the local Naval Reserves.

Luke and his wife, Lauren, reside in Cary with their two daughters.

Popular "Time Aboard" Plaques Program

An important connection between our State and the SSN 777 is our now 4¹/₂-year-old "Time Aboard" [Plaque Program](#). Each departing crew member receives a 3-inch by 4-inch by 1-inch plaque engraved with the recipient's name and dates aboard the USS North Carolina. These plaques are made from the original teak decking of the *Battleship North Carolina BB 55* in Wilmington which the Club purchases with member donations. The 80+-year-old teak planks (shown at right) are sanded and cut to size for laser engraving. The finished products, an average of 3 to 5 per month, are shipped to Pearl Harbor where a 777 commemorative coin is inserted in the teak plaque and presented to the crew member by the commanding officer.

Our partners in the plaque program are the Battleship North Carolina; [Kids Making It](#) and [Fine Wood Designs](#), both Wilmington entities.



Above: Holes drilled into the plaques will later be filled with a 777 commemorative coin.

Right: Once names & names are engraved into each plaque, they are shipped to Hawaii, where the coin will be added.



New Way to Support the SSN 777 Club

We're pleased to report that the SSN 777 Club is now a charity available on Amazon Smile. For those not familiar with the Amazon Smile charity program, you can link your existing Amazon account to the SSN 777 Club at smile.amazon.com. There are no fees, no extra cost to you. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of any eligible products to our club. It's a simple way to support the crew and families of the SSN 777.

To designate our club as your charity, log in to smile.amazon.com (instead of amazon.com). Our club's name is: Submarine USS North Carolina Ssn 777 Club

If you'd like to view other opportunities to donate to the Club, please visit our website at www.ssn777club.org/donate.



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