

Quarterly News

Happy New Year from the SSN 777 Club

Ahoy All,

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of our USS North Carolina. Our Club is a full two years old. We met the 777 as she came off of deployment in July 2016. Having recently completed the lengthy overhaul, she's underway on local ops preparing for deployment in 2020. We're working with the 777 Command Team to coordinate a visit to the Boat. Ideal would be a trip to Hawaii! Other options may be to join her when she visits a couple of West Coast ports in the spring. I'll keep you posted of details.

2018 SitRep

We continued to supply "Time Aboard" Plaques to each departing crew member, an average of 4 per month. Made of original teak decking of the *Battleship North Carolina* (BB 55), these are well received. Hurrah to [Kids Making It](#) (Jimmy Pierce) and [Fine Wood Designs](#) (Chuck Dean) in Wilmington, NC for transforming 80-year-old, historic, weathered decking into lifetime keepsakes.



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USS NORTH CAROLINA

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The "Tarheel Boat"



Follow the SSN 777
crew on Facebook!

Below: The 777 off of Dog Beach
after underway period.



The Club renewed the crew's supply of **quick-dry t-shirts** for training and sports events around the base. Fun was that the purchased product was of the crew's own design. As the 777 adopted the motto of the Carolina Panthers, "**Keep Pounding,**" we purchased a large and highly visible underway flag declaring this. 150 of the crew attended the **Navy at University of Hawaii** football game in September thanks to Club support and a generous ticket offer from the UH sports department.

Certainly the most satisfying gesture from the Club — and our true purpose — was our partnership with the **Family Resource Group** in late November to support a family who needed help with emergency leave back to Virginia to contend with a tragic death.



Above: Upon return to Pearl Harbor, families distributed the gifts of North Carolina products (organized by [Operation North State](#)). Below: Based upon last year's report, the crew trades contents, and the galley receives the popular Bojangles spice packets.



In a small way, our reputation as a state actively engaged in the support of its namesake boat was recognized when I spoke at the annual **Naval Submarine League Symposium** in the fall. Working with the NSL, we're trying to find simple ways to have other states adopt their namesake boats as these are commissioned.

A couple of requests for your consideration:

Every \$77.70 matters. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in this regard. We continue to work with the COB, STGCM Geoff Walker, to figure out how to supply **North Carolina themed bunk curtains** prior to the 777's deployment as the Texas, New Mexico and Hawaii (all Virginia class boats and stationed in Pearl Harbor) found ways to supply their berthing spaces with same. Texas raised the money via donations and New Mexico received state funding (a lot!) for their curtains. The trick is for the curtains to satisfy MilSpec fire-retardant standards which limits the vendor pool and puts the cost at \$20,000.00. Good news is that we could design the curtains as we wish, i.e., named after each of the 100 NC counties to include universities and sports teams. I'll get a firm budget and report back in 1Q of next year.

The reputation of the Club and our 777 grows thanks to strong support from the Governor's offices and the NC Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. We welcome your referrals and introductions for engagements to discuss the 777, whether business, social or professional entity. Our speaker's bureau includes former commanding officers, recently serving junior officers and members of the Club's Board of Directors.

Best wishes for a safe and peaceful 2019.
Keep Pounding!

—Christopher Perrien, Exec. Director

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