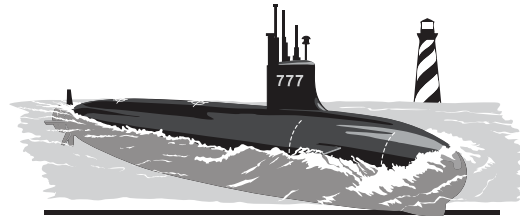


Ahoy All,

I returned last week from the Change of Command Ceremony aboard our USS North Carolina on January 20, 2017. Commander Gary Montalvo was properly relieved by Commander Matt Lewis. Having heard the presidential inaugural remarks in the morning, our day concluded with an inspiring, fun and proudly traditional transfer of authority. The Hawaiian weather in January adds to the occasion. More info at the [Club web site](#) and the [777 Facebook page](#).

Ours has been a productive 6 months since the Club's establishment:

- The plaques made from the teak decking of the Battleship North Carolina, BB-55, presented to each departing crew member are popular. Credit for this effort goes to friends in Wilmington: Chuck Dean, Fine Wood Designs; and [Kids Making It](#), led by Jimmy Pierce.
- I received numerous thanks for the 77 tickets that the Club provided the crew for the November men's basketball game between UNC and the University of Hawaii. The event included a reenlistment ceremony, a meeting with Coach Williams and the team, as well as a victory by UNC. Coach Williams and staff could not have been more accommodating in supporting the 777, including a joint visit to the USS Arizona Memorial.
- Cdr. Montalvo committed to the crew that Carolina blue, dri-fit work-out shirts would be distributed before he was relieved of command. Our liaison in Hawaii, David Sharpe, delivered the 200 shirts on January 19th.
- The Club is in contact with all previous commanding officers: Captain Mark Davis, Captain Rich Rhinehart, Cdr. Wes Schlauder (retired), as well as Commander Gary Montalvo. Such continuity, in addition to the wonderful encouragement of the 777 Commissioning Sponsor, Linda Bowman, makes management of the Club much more fun than work.
- Board members Jeff Truitt and Greg Taylor discussed our Club on "You Don't Say," an RTP radio station. I didn't realize that the radio remains so



SSN 777 CLUB

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popular as I've had numerous calls from listeners of the program. [Replay available here.](#)

Thank you for your donations. Whatever may be our Club's ambitions, ours is a business which requires income. We've received nearly \$25,000.00 to date which enables both direct support of the USS North Carolina and promotion of the Club.

Our Club's goals are threefold:

1. Support the crew
2. Promote the USS North Carolina, SSN 777, across the state. Many, if not most, residents think of the BB 55 as being the USS North Carolina.
3. At end of service-life, add the 777 to the Battleship Park in Wilmington. By that time, BB 55 will be about 100 years old and could use a companion.

I'll keep this status report brief. Please contact me with questions, suggestions and referrals. I'm grateful to be Executive Director as I enjoy the contact and conversations with each of you.

Best wishes for a smooth conclusion to winter.

Go Navy! Go Tarheels!

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