

Hello Everyone!

The third meeting of the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter for 2006 took place on **Saturday, August 26th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at VFW Post 392, 2408 Bowland PKWY, Virginia Beach, VA.**

Several of us met at the following restaurant for lunch prior to the meeting and I can report that I'll be going back and recommending it to others in the future:

Conklin's Irish Rover, located in the Village Shoppes at Rose Hall, 3157 Va Beach Blvd., 631-1294. FYI, it's owned by Ret MCPO Bob Conklin.

(13) GWVN members and (2) Special Guests were in attendance. Norm Giroux, CMDCM of RIVGRU ONE was in attendance along with one of the newest members of GWVN, CAPT. Mike Jordan.

The meeting opened with a call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance. We then progressed on to the following items:

Special Guest Introduction: (Picture #008) Gary Marker introduced Hope Worthington, wife of GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter member and CPO Selectee Rob Worthington. Hope came to the meeting to let us know that Rob is currently in Germany, doing well and very much looking forward to putting on "The Hat".

"Firefight" Print Presentation: (Picture # 013) Gary Marker, assisted by Hope Worthington, presented a signed and framed copy of the "Firefight" print to VFW Post 392 as our way of saying "Thanks" for the use of their fine facility for our meetings. Stu Carson (GWVN Life Member) accepted the print on behalf of the Post.

Treasurers Report: Gary Marker reported that the Chapter is solvent and has \$1200 in the bank. We will have a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Ships Store Inventory Report: Pat Doyle reported that the Chapter has \$2865 worth of inventory on hand.

Membership & Email Distribution List Report: Larry Weatherall reported that we are currently showing 56 Members and 3 "FYI" addresses in the Mid Atlantic Chapter email distribution list. The Chapter is growing by about one person per month so far this year.

National Reunion Recap: Clarence Cooper reported that the Denver Reunion was a resounding success and that Capt. Mike Jordan was an excellent principal speaker in place of RADM Bullard who was unable to attend. Coop also reported that "A. Billy Ratt" (Sr.) was promoted to PO1 in a ceremony presided over by Capt. Jordan. According to Coop, the issue of a more durable GWVN Membership Card was not resolved so I'll bring that back up to GWVN National President John Woody in a separate communication.

Location for 2008 GWVN National Reunion: Clarence Cooper reported that the 2008 GWVN National Reunion will be held in Norfolk, VA, and will be planned to coincide with the Annual UDT/SEAL Association Reunion which is usually the fourth weekend in July. That will certainly be convenient for those of us in the Mid Atlantic Chapter and we'll no doubt be called upon to assist. Details to follow as the planning progresses for this event. The 2010 GWVN National Reunion will be held in Suisun Bay, Vallejo, CA. Most of us went through PBR Training there and are told that we'll not recognize the place.....

East Coast MK I PBR Maintenance: Larry Weatherall talked about the need to form a "Maintenance Committee" within the Mid Atlantic Chapter to address the ongoing maintenance requirements for "our" MK I PBR located at Little Creek. Under the agreement between GWVN and the Naval Historical Center (NHC), we (GWVN) are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the boat and are required to submit an annual report on it's condition to the NHC. **I'd like to ask any of you who would like to volunteer to be a member of the "Maintenance Committee" to please let me know.** I'll put you all in touch with each other and ask the group to decide on how we will go about keeping the boat in shape on a regular basis. This WILL NOT involve anything like a structural refurbishment such as would be required to put the boat back into operational condition but will be minor maintenance such as patching and painting. The work that we do on the boat will be what it takes to keep it in presentable condition as a static display and to minimize any possible deterioration.

Manufacture & installation of a plaque of statistics near the MK1: Clarence Cooper has proposed that we develop and attach an informational plaque at the MK I display location that describes the boat and when and how they were used. Coop and Gary Marker will work on the design of the plaque and report back to the BOD when they are ready. We'll get more information out to the membership when Coop and Gary are ready with their concept.

“Thank You” letters for assistance during the recent Rededication: Many people assisted with the preparation for the recent GWVN East Coast Monument and MK I PBR Rededication Ceremony and Clarence Cooper has come up with a proposed list of “Thank You Letter” recipients. Larry Weatherall will come up with a proposed “Thank You Letter” format and present it to the BOD for approval. The proposal is to have the Mid Atlantic Chapter Officers, BOD and National President sign the letters and we will then arrange for presentation at an appropriate time based on the people who will be receiving them. More to follow as we progress on this item.

Location and date for next “local” meeting: The NEXT meeting date for the Mid Atlantic Chapter was proposed to be 11/25 but in looking at the calendar, that is the weekend after the Thanksgiving Holiday and many of us will be traveling or with family that weekend so I'm going to propose that we meet on **Saturday, 11/18** instead. The location will be at VFW Post 392, the same as our meeting on 8/26. As we get closer to that date, I'll get the agenda prepared and sent out.

Location for the next “out of the area” meeting: The next “out of the area” meeting will be our first meeting of 2007 and it will be held somewhere outside of the immediate Norfolk/Virginia Beach area. Clarence Cooper, Vaughn Schuler, Bill Ferguson and Tom Glickman have all proposed locations for that meeting. Their proposals are:

1. Richmond, VA: Coop will investigate a Chapter member who lives in the area to scout a location.
2. Charlottesville, VA: Vaughn Schuler would coordinate the event.
3. Hertford, NC: Bill Ferguson would coordinate the event.
4. Washington, DC (area): Tom Glickman made this proposal and would like to see who is interested in possibly combining our meeting with another event in that area.

We need for **ALL OF YOU**, the Mid Atlantic Chapter members, to help make the selection. If you have a preference between the locations proposed, please let me know and I'll announce the location with the most votes at our next meeting. If there is a tie, or no one votes, the BOD will make the selection.

Feedback on the proposed USS J.E. Williams annual “GWVN Leadership Award “: We had some “lively” discussion on this topic from all present and more discussion will be required prior to adoption of this proposal. The basic concept is that the CO of the USS Williams has proposed that GWVN and the USS J.E. Williams partner in the presentation of an annual award to an enlisted crewmember who demonstrates “the leadership qualities” of their ships namesake, BM1 James E. Williams. We reviewed the first cut of the proposal from the Williams and have comments and questions that I'll communicate back to them and the GWVN National Leadership on how we will continue to develop this concept. We should be able to nail this down by the time they return from deployment and again, I'll have more information on the topic at the next meeting.

(4) items of new business:

1. Veteran History Project sponsored by the Library of Congress: A reader of the Virginian Pilot saw the recent article on the Rededication Ceremony and contacted me through the reporter who wrote the story. She is a member of the Southampton Historical Society and in working with the Library of Congress, it helping to get the word out about an initiative to locate Veterans of WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf conflicts. I'll get more information on what this entails and pass that information along to the membership and those of you who wish to participate are encouraged to do so.

2. 2007 PBR-FVA Reunion in Seattle: The hotel has been chosen and several GWVN NW Chapter members who are also members of PBR-FVA are involved in the event preparation. More details are available at the PBR-FVA web site.

3. Veterans Day Wreath Laying in DC: Coop mentioned that PBR-FVA, MRFA and several other Vietnam Veterans organizations hold annual wreath laying ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") in DC during Veterans Day and anyone who is interested in participating is encouraged to do so. Currently, there are no plans for an official contingent of GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter to participate.

4. Ralph Christopher Book Signing on 9/30: Ralph Christopher, GWVN Member and author of "RIVER RATS", is going to be in Elizabeth City on 9/30 to do a book signing and SBU 20 will be doing a Static Display of some of their boats along the waterfront at the same time. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to do so and to wear your Black Beret! Ralph has also been invited to speak at RIVGRU ONE on 9/29. Coop will have more information on both these events as it becomes available.

I was able to use a computer projector to show copies of the Ships Store Inventory, USS J.E. Williams Leadership Award criteria, a "silent" (I forgot my speakers) version of the local TV Station coverage of the Rededication Ceremony and pictures from the Rededication Ceremony. I'll try to do this again in the future as long as I have access to the equipment and have something worth showing to present.

It was another great meeting of the Mid Atlantic Chapter and I encourage those of you who were not able to make it to the meeting to plan on coming to the meeting in November. We need participation from all of you in order to keep the Chapter vital and growing and in case you are wondering, there is PLENTY of room for ALL OF US in the VFW hall.

V/R,

Larry Weatherall

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President, GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter