

August 17, 2024; Members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, their families, and guests gathered at the home of Past Post-Commander Malcolm Kenney for the post's annual BBQ Social. The post provided a variety of barbecued meats while the attendees provided a variety of side dishes and desserts. Commander Jeff Chase also provided samples of new food items the post is considering for its concessionaire fundraisers. The gathering provided opportunities for old friends to reconnect and chances for members and guests to meet new and prospective members. The post afterwards provided prizes, which were raffled off. Fifty members and guests attended.



Far left: Commander Jeff Chase welcomes everyone.

Left: Chaplain Bruce Brown provides an opening prayer.

Below: Mal Kenney provides introductions.



Far left: the Post's newest member, U.S. Army Reservist Eugene Cheney and his wife Emily.

Middle above: member applicant Mark Cahoon and his wife Georgia.



Manning the grills: Brent Roets, Mark Kenney, and Barry Kray



The mess hall included two large pole tents with a serving line (pictured) and three rows of tables with plenty of seating.

The main dishes were grilled chicken, chicken wings, bratwurst, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Side dishes included vegetable platters, various beans, fruit, pasta, and potato salads, coleslaw, baked beans, and au gratin vegetable dishes.

Desserts included cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, and the like.

There was indeed plenty and more than enough leftovers for “doggie bags”!

The following noteworthy guests were identified:



Left: Maurice "Moe" Cote, Commander – Christian War Veterans (CWV)



Left: Lorraine Williams, Commander, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



Right: Melanie Joyce, Past-Commander, DAV Auxiliary



Left Bill Wengers, Past-Commander, VFW Post 5744 and Past-Commander, CWV



Left: Thomas Joyce, Husband of Melanie Joyce



Left: invited guest and potential new member Nicholas Henchey with his wife Kerry and son Eion (missing: daughter Eliana).



Right: Christine and Gary Imbrie



Mal Kenney notified those assembled that the USS Washington (SSN 787), a Virginia-class attack submarine, would be posted at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard beginning in September for refurbishment. The USS Washington is typically based in Norfolk, Virginia. He has asked South Berwick's Town Manager, Tim Pellerin, to consider hosting the ship. He also asked that the post provide monthly welcoming gatherings for the crew and their families.



Left: Ed Hagan won one of Post 5744's new ballcaps; here he is modeling it!



Left: Nancy Dennett won the second Post 5744 hat!

Right: Paul and Helda Rollins



Group photo of VFW Post 5744 members, family, and guests at the annual BBQ social. Fifty people were in attendance. (Photo by Joyce St. Pierre)