

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 April 2007



USS S-49 SS 160

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer - Rich Holmes / P.O. Box 147, Bartonsville, PA. 18321-0147

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Chaplain - Vacant

COB – Tom Shields / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342

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Meeting called to order at 1904 by Base Commander Rich Holmes at the American Legion Wilson-fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Base Bell was tolled once for the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of April:

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	78 Men
09 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	84 Men
10 Apr 1958	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men
24 Apr 1988	USS Bonefish	SS 582	3 Men

A moment of silence followed.

The Chief of the Boat led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members present were: Rich Holmes, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, Tom Shields, Tom Crosby, Gerald Zeman, Frank McDevitt. We wish to welcome Albert Tafa, our newest member to the organization. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

The secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.

The Minutes: The secretary read the March minutes with the following correction.
Gerald Zeman was also on the Binnacle list for various surgeries as well.

1st motion to accept the minutes as corrected made by Tom Shields. 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 31 Mar 2007.

1st motion to accept the treasurers' report made by Gerald Zeman. 2nd motion made by Albert Tafa. All in favor, motion passed.

Old Business:

Rich Holmes brought up the following resolution to the ongoing license plate issue with a correction suggested by one of our members before the letter is sent:

The resolution is as follows:

RESOLVED THAT: THE POCONO BASE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE PENNSYLVANIA SUBVET LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM IS APPRECIATED BY OUR MEMBERS. WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DOING THE RIGHT THING" AND "DOING THINGS RIGHT". Pocono Base thanks the Philadelphia Base for doing the right thing by persevering in the face of critics that, after the fact, accused them of not doing things right. Nothing succeeds like success and you guys have benefited every Pennsylvanian who belongs to our brotherhood and desires to communicate his service by displaying a SUBVETS license plate on their vehicle.

This resolution was passed by unanimous consent by the members present.

Rich Holmes, Tom Shields, Frank McDevitt and Mike Smith went to Penn's Landing to attend the Trigger memorial and luncheon. Mike Smith represented our base at the memorial due to the fact that the other members were stuck on the expressway. We enjoyed ourselves at the luncheon. We also introduced ourselves to Vince Flaugherty. We also enjoyed listening to Cdr. Shiick and his stories from his service.

Rich Holmes and Bill Klose will be attending the Sub School anniversary in May. John Carciopolla said that this might be the last time for the anniversary, but did not elaborate any further. If we want to attend a Sub School graduation, all we need to do is contact the school. This information came from Tom Shields.

Rich Holmes and his wife were at the new Red Robin Restaurant at the Crossroads in Bartonsville, and got the idea about writing a letter to the manager about the possibility of placing a flag drop box there. Rich wrote the letter and plans to follow up with either a phone call or e-mail to the manager. Rich opened the floor for discussion about where we can place a drop box in the area. The largest problem is obtaining a used mailbox. Frank McDevitt brought up the point that the USPS does not donate any boxes anymore to any organization for fear that a bomb could be placed in one. Tom

Shields brought up the idea of placing a box at the Crossings. Rich didn't want to use that location due to someone having to go there most likely on a daily basis to collect the flags, plus he lives in Bartonsville. Tom Shields then brought up the idea of Lowes. He stated that people buy flags there and would probably be more inclined to drop off their old flags at Lowes, than at the Red Robin. Rich Holmes is planning on contacting Lowes when he can get the managers' name.

The trailer and the boat project are contingent on getting insurance to be able to work at the Pocono EMS building. We have a copy of the policy from Vince Flaugherty. The policy states what it insures, it does not state our name specifically. Rich stated he may need to contact Vince if further information is required. Right now Frank has the blanket policy for us to get started.

Rich Holmes brought up something that was mentioned by Tom Shields about the possibility of arranging a trip to Philadelphia to the Seaport Museum and Becuna tour. The two ladies that got up to leave during the luncheon are the ones to contact about the museum. Tom stated that he has their names on file. Any time we can get a group together, let them know any they will arrange thing so we don't have to pay the \$5 admission fee for the Becuna. Rich polled the members about what would be a good day to go down there. Most stated that they could go on weekends, with the exception of Tom Shields, due to his catering business.

The torpedo project is still on hold.

Frank talked about getting started on the trailer. He was hoping that Ken Smith would have been at the meeting to help plan and scope out what needs to be done. Frank stated that the first thing to be done is to fix a flat tire and get it moved over to the EMS building. Second item is to get it painted in our colors. Frank is looking for volunteers. Tom Shields and Ken Smith talked about possibly putting a skirt on the trailer just to get us through. The idea is to Velcro it to the edge and run it around the trailer, similar to what Tom says he does with tables. Frank would like to have our logos placed on the trailer.

New Business:

Rich Holmes stated that, while we were at the luncheon, he bumped into Joseph Bloomer. He is a member of the New Jersey South Base, and he edits their newsletter. He also does business cards, and can get any boat printed on one side and your information on the other. One idea is to print generic cards with the names of our officers on them for any member to hand out. Maybe even use Bob Smith's idea for an attention getter of "Got Dolphins", "www.poconosubvets.org".

Rich brought up the idea of a joint newsletter with the Philadelphia base after talking to Vince. Vince is looking at allowing space to be used in their letter for other bases to use, similar to what he does for the Delaware Chapter of SubVets of WWII.

Good of the Order:

Rich says thank you, thank you, thank you to Bob Smith for his work on the website.

Frank says thank you for the e-mails while he was in the hospital via the website he provided.

We are looking into adding boat patches to our banner in the legion for our new members and the one for Grover Kiicks' boat. A suggestion was made to attach the patches with Velcro glued to both pieces. Bill Klose brought up the point that he can get just about any boat patch necessary.

Bob Smith is still looking for good ideas for our website.

The Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, 28 May 2007 at 1000 hours, at Tobyhanna Elementary School in Pocono Pines. We will look into inviting members from the Scranton Base to join us.

Rich is looking at having our picnic on the 19th of August at Mountain View Park. The date is not set in stone yet, if anyone has any problems with it.

The secretary brought up the point that we typically combine our June meeting to coincide with Flag Day at the legion. It is earlier in the day and we then hold a flag retirement ceremony and cremate the flags in a bonfire. Frank brought up the point that the sheds are very full again with flags.

Bob Vaughan has changed his e-mail address. It has been updated on our sailing list.

Next month will be a dinner meeting. Tom Shields will be providing the food.

Next meeting will be held at the American Legion, Wilson-Fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. on 16 May 2007 at 1900 hrs.

Rich Holmes entertained a motion to adjourn.

1st motion to adjourn made by Tom Shields. 2nd Motion made by Bob Smith.

All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Rich Holmes led the recitation of the Creed of USSVI.

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government.”

Rich Holmes offered a closing prayer.

Rich Holmes declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2011 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary