

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 15 August 2007

Photo # NH 91779 USS Bass and USS Bonita during "open house" at San Francisco, May 1932



## USS Bass SS-164

### Base Officers

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

Ph (570) 629-2742. E-mail address: [janrich@ptd.net](mailto:janrich@ptd.net)

**Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt** / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790

Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: [patfrank@ptd.net](mailto:patfrank@ptd.net)

**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

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**Base Supply Officer – Bill Klose** / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028

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

Ph (570) 595-9648. E-Mail address: [candlite@ptd.net](mailto:candlite@ptd.net)

**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1905 by Base Commander Rich Holmes at the American Legion Wilson-Fisher Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of August:

17 Aug 1942	USS Bass	SS 164	25 Men
29 Aug 1943	USS Pompano	SS 181	76 Men
13 Aug 1944	USS Flier	SS 250	78 Men
24 Aug 1944	USS Harder	SS 257	79 Men
06 Aug 1945	USS Bullhead	SS 332	84 Men
26 Aug 1949	USS Cochino	SS 345	1 Man

26 Aug 1949

USS Tusk

SS 426

6 Men on Cochino

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Rich Holmes, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Tom Crosby, Tom Shields, Bob Smith, George Eckert and Albert Tafa.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The secretary read the July minutes.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as read made by Tom Shields. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby. All in favor, motion passed.

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

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurers report made by Frank McDevitt. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bob Smith  
all in favor, motion passed

### **Correspondence:**

Bob Vaughan sent some information to Rich Holmes concerning the "Coolbaugh Celebrates" to be held on Saturday, 8 Sept 2007 from noon to dusk. We agreed to decline to participate due to the event planners stuffing us in the back of the fair.

Rich Holmes received a flier for the Pocono Township Community day to be held on Saturday, 22 Sept 2007 from noon to 5PM. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual event at the Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Company. Rich said that he is unable to go, but he would like us to be able to showcase and explain what the Flag Drop boxes are for.

### **Old Business:**

Rich Holmes contacted Gerald Zeman concerning the torpedo. Rich has called him back recently. Rich did state that Gerald is doing fine though. Rich stated that Dan Ferguson will try to help us get one transported 'gratis' for the memorial Frank McDevitt would like to have us design this memorial in memory of Joe Kolb (founding member and plankowner of the Pocono Base). Rich is also looking for someone to help design the memorial.

The highway idea is still percolating. We will try to get a letter sent to Scavello and Siptroth to officially request the naming of Rte. 611. Our idea is to then try to get the other bases on board and get all of Rte. 611 named.

Flag drop boxes. Rich Holmes stated that he has an almost sure place for a box at a shop near Marshall's Creek. Tom Shields stated that he looked into Barret Township and says that they are very parochial. We are still looking at possibly placing one at the Lowe's in Bartonsville, due to it's high traffic location. Albert Tafa is waiting on word from the manager at the Shop Rite in Stroudsburg, but will not know until the landlord is contacted.

Tom Crosby sent Rich Holmes an e-mail regarding prices to have new metal signs made for us for our boxes. The prices ranged from \$50 to over \$100 per sign based on its size. The price per sign would drop if we ordered more than one of each. We are looking into possibly having our base logo and the USSVI logo made in the following sizes: 6" round for the base logo and 12" wide for the USSVI logo.

## **New Business:**

Tom Shields would like to see us start up a Scholarship for Pocono Mountain West and Pocono Mountain East. Frank McDevitt played devil's advocate and stated that as of right now we have limited funds with no way of replenishing them if we were to keep offering the scholarships. Tom Shields believes that this could still help be spreading our name about. Rich Holmes would like to see us finish our current projects before we take on another item at this time.

Rich Holmes stated that National has obtained insurance again for our bases. He said it is event based insurance like our last carrier.

The D2/D5 meeting will be held in October and will be hosted by the Scranton Base. For further information, look at our website. Bob Smith stated that he posted some information and links to the Scranton Base regarding the meeting.

## **Good of the Order:**

Rich Holmes stated that he sent an e-mail regarding the upcoming Pocono Base picnic. The picnic will be on Sunday 26 Aug 2007 at Mountainview Park, Pavilion #4, from 1PM til whenever. Tom Shields will be providing the burgers/dogs/chicken, the rest will be pot luck. Contact Tom Shields so he can get an idea of how many are going to attend.

Bob Smith is still looking for pictures to be used on our website. He stated that most of what is posted are one's that he has taken. So please fell free to send them to him to post.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 19 Sept 2007 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fisher Post.

Rich Holmes entertained a motion to adjourn.

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 2018 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary