

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 October 2007



**USS S-37 SS-142**

#### 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

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: [klaital@ptd.net](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

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

Ph (570) 298-2439. E-mail address: [seagoatc@epix.net](mailto:seagoatc@epix.net)

**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 1900 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 October:

10 Oct 1923	USS S-37	SS 142	3 Men
20 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	54 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	80 Men
13 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	76 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	99 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	78 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	87 Men

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Rich Holmes, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Tom Crosby, Tom Shields, Bob Smith, George Eckert. The members present introduced themselves as we welcomed our newest member Adam Abrams aboard. Adam qualified onboard USS Hartford SSN 768, the same boat as Tom Crosby.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The secretary read note from the September Meeting.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 30 Sept. 2007.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurers' report made by Tom Shields. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bob Smith. All in favor, motion passed

**Correspondence:**

**Old Business:**

Rich talked about the slate of officers that was mentioned at the end of the last meeting and was wondering if they were set or not. Frank brought up the point that he would like to see new blood in the top spot. Tom Shields tossed up the possibility of Tom Crosby for the top position. The other officer positions seem to be set in stone as it were, with a question mark next to Crosby's name. The following is the potential slate of officers:

Commander: Tom Crosby?  
Vice Commander: Frank McDevitt  
Secretary: Mike Smith  
Treasurer: Bill Klose  
COB: Tom Shields

The D2/D5 meeting is coming up on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month. Rich stated that he is going. Bob Smith and Frank McDevitt stated that they were going as well. There is a social get together on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> and an all day meeting on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be at the Comfort Inn in Scranton, PA. There will be a dinner/dance on Saturday night. The CO of the USS Scranton will also be in attendance. Rich stated that he intends to pursue the insurance issue as well as the torpedo. Bob Smith stated that our website has a link to the Scranton Base for further information.

Rich stated that he needs to get a hold of Dan Ferguson and then meet with Coolbaugh Township about our memorial project. We need to let them know that we have an artist's concept of the memorial. When we go back to the township, are going to have an idea of what it is going to cost. Rich would like to get a working session soon and also get in touch with Joe Kolb's wife at sometime.

Rich stated that his primary concern is with obtaining a torpedo. Rich said that 'Gumba' has us on his list but has nothing available at this time. Rich is also looking into the possibility of getting a drop tank to use as a submarine for our float.

Rich said he looked into USAA for insurance, but they do not do the kind of insurance we are looking for.

## **New Business:**

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1330 hrs. BRCTV will be at “the Flag Store” in Sciotta to do a news item about our flag drop box initiative.

Frank McDevitt stated that due to confusion last year concerning our wreath for the Memorial Day service, we will be receiving a credit for one next year.

Frank got a hold of Sandy regarding business cards that he and a couple of other members have asked for. She stated that she will deliver them to Bob Polillo this Thursday. Frank says he is not holding his breath about receiving them.

Mike Smith remade the base brochure and updated some of the information in it. There has been a problem with printing it with clipping the words. I am looking into converting it into a PDF file but I cannot find a converter for MS Publisher.

As far as Rich knows, there is no parade scheduled for Veterans Day in Stroudsburg. There has been no information from them concerning any Veterans Day events. We also have not received any invitations to any of the schools either.

Tom Shields brought up the idea of having small cards made up for the kids when we do have a speaking event at the schools, to make them “Honorary Submariner’s”.

There will be a Veterans Day Retreat at the Legion on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November at 6pm with cocktails and hors-d'ourves and entertainment to follow. The cost will be \$20 per person.

Lake Naomi Trails will be accepting donations again this year for the troops overseas. They are looking for phone cards especially. The last couple of years we have passed the hat and then matched the total from the base treasury. We will need to do this before Thanksgiving.

## **Good of the Order:**

2008 Base and National Dues due by 1 Jan 2008. Stickers for our cards have arrived from National.

This years Christmas Party/Dinner will be held on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. The location will be at Bailey’s Restaurant in Mount Pocono, starting at 1800 hrs. Please come out and join us. We will try to contact Grover and Oliver this year as well as Joe Kolb’s wife. We will also invite Bob Vaughan and his wife for the dinner.

Frank would like to see us start up the readings about submarines that were lost on patrol in WWII. When the bases split, we lost access to the book. Frank received a book concerning submarine history from the beginning.

We received an award for Class I 3<sup>rd</sup> runner up for our year end newsletter that Rich Holmes filed at the end of the last year.

Rich Holmes read an excerpt from “Fleet Reserve” magazine about what is a Veteran.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 14 Nov 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 1951 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary