

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 March 2008



USS H-1 (Seawolf) SS-28

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

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

Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: 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

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Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1911 by Base Commander Rich Holmes at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Secretary tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of March:

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|-------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|
| 25 Mar 1915 | USS F-4 | SS 23 | 21 Men |
| 12 Mar 1920 | USS H-1 (Seawolf) | SS 28 | 4 Men |
| 03 Mar 1942 | USS Perch 1 | SS 176 | 6 Men as POW's |
| 05 Mar 1943 | USS Grampus | SS 207 | 71 Men |
| 15 Mar 1943 | USS Triton | SS 201 | 74 Men |
| 26 Mar 1944 | USS Tullibee | SS 284 | 79 Men |
| 20 Mar 1945 | USS Kete | SS 369 | 87 Men |
| 28 Mar 1945 | USS Trigger | SS 237 | 89 Men |

Roll Call: Members present were: Rich Holmes, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Adam Abrams, Gerald Zeman, George Eckert, and Frank McDevitt. Members present introduced themselves.

The Base Commander led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Secretary verified that a quorum was present

Meeting Minutes: There were no minutes for February. The Base Secretary was unavailable for the informal dinner/meeting for February.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 29 Feb 2008.

1st motion to accept the treasurers' report made by Tom Crosby. 2nd motion made by Bob Smith.

All in favor, motion passed.

Rich Holmes asked the members present to defer the installation of new officers until the end of the meeting. The members present agreed to the request.

Committees:

Membership: Rich stated that he has updated the sailing list as of March 19th. Rich also stated that he needs to update the national database and will do that later this month. There are still three members that have not paid their dues for the year. Rich stated that he has contacted them either by phone or by mail. The following members are on the Dinq list: John DeBree, David McIntyre and Mike Rivezzo. Rich stated that he will not be turning over the membership responsibilities tonight due to what is involved with keeping National up to date. Rich stated that he is looking for someone to take over the Membership Committee position.

Parades: Rich stated that we received a letter from the United Veteran's Organization of Monroe County. We have been invited to participate in the Memorial Day Parade in Stroudsburg on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th at 10 AM. This conflicts with our participation in the Pocono Pines Parade on the same day and also at 10 AM. The secretary will write a letter to the Veteran's Organization, respectfully declining the invitation. We will try to march in both parades **IF** we can get enough members for a color guard.

Correspondence: The American Legion post has invited us to listen to Sgt. R. Christopher McRae as he discusses his 10 years of military service, including 2 tours of duty in Iraq and 1 tour in Afghanistan. The presentation will be on Saturday, 26 Apr 2008 at 1300 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Rich Holmes wrote a letter to PATH in Stroudsburg regarding a donation made in Rose C. Smith's name. She was the wife of Ken Smith. Rose passed away on 21 January 2008. The members present at the February meeting passed the hat, which was then matched by the treasury.

Old Business:

There is a Submarine Ball being held in Groton this year. There are actually two of them. The Enlisted Ball is on Apr. 11th and the Officer Ball on the 12th. There will also be a Thresher Memorial service to be held on the 12th. Tom Crosby has more information that he said he got from the Groton Base website. Tom Crosby stated that he would handle the details about getting tickets for those who like to attend.

Frank stated that the fiasco regarding insurance has been resolved and has been turned in to the township. We are finally able to proceed with the trailer and float projects. Frank stated that he was able to resolve our insurance issue within ten minutes after getting so fed up about it after the last meeting. Frank stated that he would like to move the trailer around the 1st of June and get started on our projects.

Frank stated that he delivered our check to Bill Fields for the Christmas donation and also received permission to install our long awaited locker in the corner of the bingo hall. Frank also gave him our awards to be hung in the hall. Frank is looking into moving the locker in place around June. Frank stated that Bill doesn't know how large the locker really is.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt mentioned the trip we took last year to Philly to meet the Philadelphia Base members and to listen to the Commander of the USS Clamagore. Cdr. Shick has written a book called "Whale's Tales" and all proceeds of the sales will go to District 2 for use by the various bases.

Frank mentioned about the proposed change to the National By-Laws regarding the Holland Club. They wish to remove the requirement of 5 years good standing in belonging to any base.

Bob Smith would like to have a small ad made up and placed within each of the American Legion posts in the area to let the other veterans know that we are here. The secretary will include this request in the letter to the Veterans Organization of Monroe County.

Good of the Order:

Frank McDevitt read from the 'Submarine Operations of WWII', about the loss of the USS Trigger, since this was a boat sponsored by Pennsylvania during the war.

Rich Holmes stated that he would continue to pursue the Rte. 611 and Memorial projects. Rich stated that he want to contact Mrs. Kolb and then the Memorial Committee that did the Tunkhannock Memorial and get some idea as to the cost to present to Scavello's office to try and get the grant. Tom Crosby mentioned that John Siptroth is back in office following his heart attack.

Rich stated that he received a phone call this past Sunday from a Jim McFarland, who lives in Kresgeville. Jim stated that he found a framed picture of a submarine with the name, J R Lloyd and USS Swordfish while walking along Rte. 209. Jim stated that if someone would like to stop by his house, he would give it to us. Bob Smith volunteered to do this since he lives in Kresgeville. Bob Smith wanted to know if we should ask Jim to present us with the picture in person. Rich stated that he could come as a guest, that we can thank him en masse.

Frank McDevitt brought up the article written in the March 13th edition of USA Today. The article is about the finding of USS Grunion off the coast of Kiska Island in the Aleutians. The secretary also had a copy and both were passed around to the members at the meeting. Frank wrote a letter to USA Today and gave them the mailing address for the National Editor, Mr. T. Michael Bircumshaw, of the American Submariner. Frank said that he and his wife might have passed over her during a cruise that they took last year in Alaska.

Frank stated that Tom Shields received a phone call from Ruth Vaughan and stated that Bob misses us. She told Tom that Bob is coming up on his 80th Birthday and 60th year of marriage. Frank obtained a couple of cards and passed them around for us to sign.

Rich stated that we went to two more Eagle Scout presentations since our last meeting. Bob Smith has posted the pictures on the website. Rich stated that he would continue to do this until someone volunteers to take over the project.

The new Slate of Officers with the exception of Chief of the Boat has been sworn in. They are:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Base Commander: | Tom Crosby |
| Base Vice Commander: | Frank McDevitt |
| Base Treasurer: | Bill Klose |
| Base Secretary: | Mike Smith |

The Chief of the Boat was not sworn in since Tom Shields was not present at this months meeting. We will recreate this again next meeting since nobody had a camera available.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 April 2008 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Rich Holmes made a motion to adjourn.

All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Tom Crosby 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.”

Tom Crosby declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1951 hrs.

Food and drinks followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary