

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 May 2008



USS Scorpion (SSN-589)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

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

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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 1909 by Base Commander Tom Crosby at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
28 May 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
03 May 1945	USS Legarto	SS 371	85 Men
27 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men
01 May 1989	USS Barbel	SS 580	2 Men

An additional moment of silence was held due to the Passing of the Legion Base Commander, David J. Does.

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

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

The Base Secretary verified that a Quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The base secretary read the meeting minutes from April. The following correction is to be made. Bob Smith was the member circulating the petition against making I-80 a toll road.

1st motion to accept the minutes as corrected made by Frank McDevitt, 2nd motion made by Tom Shields.

All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 30 April 2008.

1st motion to accept the treasurers' report made by Frank McDevitt. 2nd motion made by Rich Holmes.

All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Rich Holmes stated that we are pretty much up to date with our sailing list and our Base and National dues with the exception of John DeBree, Stephen Pace and Mike Rivezzo. Rich stated that he has sent letters to these members stating that they have been dropped due to non-payment.

Ken Calemno has expressed his wish to join as an Associate Member but has not paid any money. He is waiting to find out how much an Associate member owes by way of dues.

Parades: The Pocono Pines Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, 26 May 2008. We are asked to line up around 0930 hrs and the parade to step off at 1000 hrs. The memorial service to be held at the Pocono Pines Cemetery with wreathes to be placed at the Veterans Memorial.

Correspondence: We received a letter from Monroe County VA regarding a program by the Army to collect DNA samples from approx. 6300 families to help identify missing soldiers from WWII, Korea and Vietnam according to the Armed Forces Press Service.

Tom Crosby stated that we received a letter stating that we are no longer part of District 2, but are now part of District 3. Bob Smith corrected this to be Eastern Region North District 3 and has updated our website to reflect this change.

Tom Crosby received a letter stating that this years D2/D5 meeting will be held on October 25th in Clifton Park, NY and will be hosted by the Albany/Saratoga Base.

Old Business:

Frank McDevitt stated that the float is now currently located at Rainbow Automotive. They told Frank that they will repaint the trailer at no cost to us, but it will not be done in time for the parade.

Tom Shields came up with a great idea based upon the first dinner/dance that was held by our base. Tom Shields has had another silhouette of a nuke-boat made up as a temporary float idea. Tom Shields asked the Base Secretary for an up to date list in date order of the lost boats to place on the float, along with the SubVets Creed.

Frank stated that we have the locker, but he has not spoken to Bill Fields about it yet.

Frank stated that we have been contacted again to participate in more Eagle Scout Ceremonies. Rich stated that we have been given carte blanche to embellish our presentation however we see fit. Rich Holmes has done an excellent job with the reading of Admiral Fluckey and the 'boat that sank a train'.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt would like to see us get a Tax Number to use with the vendors. National has one, but it would be in our best interest to get the one from the state. Tom Shields recommended that we contact Mario Scavello's office to help obtain a Tax-Exempt number.

Tom Crosby stated that National Elections are coming up and they will have both paper and electronic ballots this year.

The members present agreed to hold the June Meeting on Flag Day, June 14th at 1500 hrs, with the Flag Day Ceremonies to be held at 1600 hrs. The meeting also happens to be one our informal events for the year.

Good of the Order:

The Members present at this meeting were asked if we would like to stand as Honor Guard on Saturday, May 24th during the viewing for Dave Does. The viewing will be held at Bollocks Funeral Home in Paradise Township at about 1400 hrs.

Frank stated that he ordered the wreath for the Memorial Day Services today and will have it delivered to him. Frank tossed about the idea of getting a silk wreath, but we have no real place to store one, nor will it stand up to the weather. We agreed upon using a real wreath and the sending in the receipt to Monroe County for reimbursement like last year.

We reactivated our phone tree to contact members to see who would show up for the parade. We divided up the sailing list amongst ourselves.

The Base Secretary mentioned an article in the USA Today for 21 May, that there are 2 new books about submarines coming out. One deals with the USS Tang and the other about the events between the USS Squalus and USS Sculpin.

Bob Smith wanted us to know that George Eckert is on the Binnacle List and is home from the hospital after suffering breathing problems.

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 14th at 1500 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. This special time is due to combining the monthly meeting with the Flag Day Ceremony to be held at 1600 Hrs.

Tom Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Smith 2nd the motion.

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 2020 hrs.

Food and drinks followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary