

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 17 September 2008**



USS Grayling (SS 209)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466
Ph (570) 839-3839. E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

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
Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: 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

COB – Tom Shields / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342
Ph (570) 595-9648. E-Mail address: candlite@ptd.net

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1914 by Base Vice Commander Frank McDevitt 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

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

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

Meeting Minutes: The base secretary read the minutes from the August meeting. The following correction to the minutes was for the incorrect date on the header. The base secretary also noticed that he has to correct the September 2007 Minutes due to a typographical error.

Treasurers Report: The base treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 August, 2008.

Committees:

Parades: None

Correspondence:

Old Business:

Mike Smith stated that we should look into removing the flag drop box from Country Junction until they get the new store built. As of right now, there has been very little use of the box and that they do not get the crowds they used to get.

Frank McDevitt stated that he is looking into having Pocono Mountain West High School make up new plaques for the boxes for us. Frank feels that the current logos attached do not make the boxes stand out for what they are intended for.

Frank McDevitt stated that he found two places that do sandblasting. One is in Stillwater Lakes and the other is Al Lutz at Rainbow Auto. Rich Holmes stated that this is what the last mailbox needs.

Rich Holmes reported on the Eagle Scout Court of Honor that he attended on Sept 7th at the Elks Lodge #319 in East Stroudsburg. Rich stated that it was well attended, including all three Monroe County Commissioners. There were four presentations held and Rich stated that these four gentlemen had fallen through the cracks in receiving their Eagle Scout Badges. Rich stated that he met the mother of one of the Eagle Scouts and she said her father was a submarine sailor and lives in Poughkeepsie and might be looking for a base.

Frank McDevitt stated that there are a couple of more presentations coming up. Frank stated he will be attending the one next week for the American Legion and that there is one coming up in October, but a date has not been sent, nor have we been asked. Frank stated that the requests come from the families. Frank stated that we need to look into divorcing ourselves from the requests from Vic Paterno, since we have a contact within our area. This is especially true since the Lehigh Valley Base is up and running.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt stated that he got in contact with Simplex for getting the logos made for our float.

Good of the Order:

The Annual Base Picnic held in August at Memorial Park went very well. We had a good turnout of family and friends present.

Bob Smith told the members present that George Eckert suffered a possible stroke. He stated that George is now unable to walk and has recognition problems. Bob stated that George will most likely not be attending any more meetings. Georges' sons' will be looking into placing him into a nursing home somewhere in the Mahoning Valley area.

Bob Smith stated that he will be posting a picture of his mailbox on the website. Bob stated that it is a submarine and feels that he should be saluting it every time he leaves. Bob stated that he has plans available if anybody wants them.

Rich Holmes read from Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Grayling.

A motion to adjourn the matting was tendered and so moved by the members present.

Meeting adjourned at 1940 hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary