

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 March 2009



USS Kete SS-369

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Tom Crosby / 610 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 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 1902 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 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
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

Roll Call: Members present were: Frank McDevitt, Tom Shields, Ivan Meixell, Tom Crosby, Gerald Zeman, Ken Calemmo, Ken Smith, Michael Smith, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, and Rich Holmes.

We would like to welcome aboard 2 new members:

David J. Padora from Lansford, PA. David stated that he qualified onboard USS Bergall. David stated that he works with Ivan Meixell and had no idea that there was a Subvets group in the area.

Gilbert L. (Skip) Gallagher, new to the Pocono area. Gilbert stated that he qualified onboard USS Dogfish, helped with the shakedown of the Houston and also served onboard USS Henry L. Stimson. Gilbert stated that he read of our meeting this evening from "The Focus" paper.

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

Meeting Minutes: The secretary read the minutes from the February 2009 Meeting.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 28 Feb 2009.

Committees:

Membership: Rich stated that the sailing list is up to date.

The following members have not paid their dues for 2009:
Adam Abrams and Bruce Jacob.

Correspondence: None.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt stated that there is more Eagle Scout Court of Honor's coming up in April/May. Dates are listed in the calendar of events section. Frank gave a brief statement about the program for the benefit of our new members.

Old Business:

Tom Shields presented a schedule of events that he would like to see us do for the rest of the year:

April: USS Becuna tour at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia or trip to NYC (depending on condition of USS Growler at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum).

May: Trip to NYC or USS Becuna tour. (Dependent on USS Growler)

June: Tom suggested that we have a dinner and to bring our wives or guests.

August: Base picnic on a weekend other than Labor Day weekend. Rich Holmes will get a date for us at Mountain View Park.

September: Tom was thinking about holding a Texas Hold-em Tournament. With gifts or prizes since no cash may be paid.

October: Have the banquet this month at Frank McDevitt's request.

December: Annual Christmas Party/Dinner. Also a trip to NYC to see the store windows, maybe see Rockefeller Center and go to Little Italy.

For the NYC trip, Tom Shields suggests going to Staten Island, take the ferry across, take the subway up to the museum area, come back half way into Little Italy and have dinner the continue back to Staten Island.

Tom Shields also stated that he would be looking for volunteers later to help with some of the other events.

Tom Shields has stated that he will publicize these events and he has already talked to Channel 13 and to the Record as a public service announcement.

Bob Smith recommended posting these tentative event on our website on a separate page with updated information as time goes along.

The members present agreed that this is a good plan to start with for the rest of the year.

Tom Shields stated that he would e-mail us when he sets a date for the first trip in April. Tom stated for those who don't have e-mail, he would send a postcard to them.

Frank McDevitt stated that the locker might finally be finished soon, once they can get the casters on.

Frank stated that SIMPLEX has completed the logos for the trailer. The logos for the flag boxes should be complete within a couple of weeks. Once they are done, Franks stated that he would hand them out to whoever needs them.

Frank stated that once the weather changes, he would like to get together with Bob Smith and fix the wiring on the float. Frank also would like the Float Committee to meet after the April meeting to see where we go for the next phase in actually building the submarine.

Base dues still need to be paid for those who are on the Dinq list.

Any member who has not paid his dues will be dropped at the National Level.

Good of the Order:

Rich Holmes received a phone call from his wife during the meeting. He stated that his wife was contacted by Ruth Vaughan to tell us that Grover Kiick was not doing well. Ruth also sends us her best wishes and to keep Grover in our prayers.

Frank McDevitt stated that the phone call to the Legion was from Ruth Vaughan. Frank stated that Grover is home but not doing well. Frank recommended that if we want to go see Grover, we would need to do it soon. Frank recommended that we contact Cathy to find out what's going on and when we can set a date to see Grover.

While Frank McDevitt went to answer the phone over by the bar. Rich Holmes read a letter from the Lehigh Valley base about a Holland Club Luncheon/Induction. The cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person and is in Lambertville, NJ.

Rich Holmes made the motion for the base to pick up the cost for the Luncheon for Frank McDevitt and his wife. Tom Shields 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt is eligible for Holland Club induction and Rich Holmes received the papers in that regard to present to Frank. Part of the package included a sample bio that Frank need to write.

Rich Holmes stated that the luncheon will be held on Friday, April 17th. Rich sent an e-mail to everyone back on March 11th.

Tom Shields brought up the point about food during or after our meetings. Tom said he doesn't mind if it's every other month, but his problem is how do we get an accurate count of how many will show up for the meeting. Frank and Rich stated that we could always order food from the Legion Post directly, if this is what we want to do for further meetings.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Kete.

Bob Smith stated that he has added more links to other websites in our own webpage, under the links section. Bob said that they were for the USS Nautilus and the Tour of the USS Pampanito.

Calendar of Events:

29 Mar 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the elementary school in Barrett Township. Rich Holmes will be the presenter at this ceremony.

April 2009: Trip to USS Becuna or NYC. Actual date to be determined.

15 Apr 2009: Monthly meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900hrs.

17 Apr 2009: Holland Club Luncheon / Induction at the 'Inn at Lambertville Station', Lambertville, NJ at 11:30Hrs.

18 Apr 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. Presentation will begin at 1300Hrs. Tom Shields stated that he could do this one, if someone could back him up in case he has other business to attend to.

19 Apr 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

25 Apr 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

2 May 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

May 2009: Trip to NYC or USS Becuna.

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

1st motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Frank McDevitt.

All in favor, motion carried.

“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 of America and its Constitution.”

Tom Crosby declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 19558 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary