

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 May 2009



USS Runner

SS-275

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Tom Crosby / 610 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 216-4088. 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

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

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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 1911 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
03 May 1945	USS Legarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Frank McDevitt, Bill Klose, Mike Smith, Ken Smith, Bob Smith, Rich Holmes, Ken Calemno, Stan Merker, and Tom Shields. Members present introduced themselves for our new member John J. Kelly.

John Kelly introduced himself and stated that it had been 39 years since he got out of the Navy. John stated that he served onboard the Quillback, Sea Cat and The Aspro.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Runner (SS 275) even though the Runner was declared lost in June 1943.

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

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as read. Bob Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 Apr 2009.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Ken Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership:

Correspondence: We received a thank you letter from Grover Kiick and Cathleen

New Business:

At the time of this meeting, Frank McDevitt did not know when the Legion was going to hold their Flag Day Ceremony on the 14th of June or not. The 14th of June is a Sunday.

Old Business:

Frank McDevitt thanked the members present that helped with the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Presentations. Frank stated that there is one more coming up in July, but has not received the invitation yet. Frank stated that they had 47 Eagle Scouts last year. Frank stated that he expects it to get busy again in late fall.

Tom Shields inquired about getting folders for the presentations that can have the certificate on one side of the folder.

Tom Shields spoke about the trip to NYC. The USS Growler is complete and open to the public again. We decided to meet at the Lowe's in Bartonsville, PA on Sunday 31 May 2009. Please meet by 0900 Hrs. Tom is asking that those who wish to go to contact him by e-mail or phone call. Retired veterans get free admission. There is a discount for veterans. The idea is to go to Staten Island and take the ferry across to NYC, then take the subway to 42nd street and go from there.

Frank stated that he has ordered the wreath for the Memorial Day Parade and has given the receipt to the secretary to be refunded by Monroe County.

Frank also stated that phase II of the float is complete, with the help of Bob Smith. The float will be used on Monday for the Memorial Day Parade. Frank is asking for at least 6 people for the parade. Frank stated that Bob Smith would tow the trailer with his truck.

Good of the Order:

Frank McDevitt has had the locker installed in the corner of the Bingo Hall. Frank stated that it only took the last five years to get it.

Frank McDevitt stated that he could get free tickets for the time trials and the Saturday race at both Pocono Raceway Events this summer. That is the Pocono 500 Weekend in June and the Pennsylvania 500 in August.

Frank expressed his deep appreciation for supporting his 50 years in the Boats and to those who attended the Holland Club Luncheon in NJ. Rich Holmes had a picture of the presentation and passed it around for the members present to sign for Frank.

Rich Holmes stated that the picnic will be on Sunday, 16 August 2009 at the Mountain View Park, pavilion #4. We will get a committee together next meeting to go over the details.

The secretary will send a thank you letter to Dan Dougherty for a submarine model that he received at the racetrack.

Tom Crosby talked about the possibility of getting the 'Discount Cards' that we can sell to people to help raise some money for the base. We will discuss it further at next months meeting.

Frank stated that a couple of the members went to see Grover. Frank stated that Grover basically hasn't changed in the last five years and is as ornery as ever.

Calendar of Events:

25 May 2009: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 Hrs at the Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 Hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the memorial across from the school after the parade.

30 May 2009: Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Tannersville, PA. Mike Smith will be presenter.

31 May 2009: Trip to NYC to see the USS Growler at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum on Pier 86. Meet at the Lowe's parking lot by 0900 hrs.

13 June 2009: Combined Flag Day Ceremony and monthly meeting. Meeting will be at 1600 hrs and the Ceremony will be held at 1800 hrs with the members of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post.

04 July 2009: Happy 4th of July.

15 July 2009: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

16 Aug 2009: Annual base picnic at the Mountain View Park, pavilion #4 in Tannersville, PA. Picnic will start about 1200 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Saturday 13 June 2009 at 1600 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 Hrs.

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 1947 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary