

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 15 December 2010 &
Friday, 17 December 2010**



USS Sealion I SS 195

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 1001, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-1001
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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 1905 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. Dave Padora tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of December:

The following are the US Submarine Force Losses for the month of December:

16 Dec 1917	USS F-1 (Carp I)	SS 20	19 Men
17 Dec 1927	USS S-4 (Snapper I)	SS 109	34 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Sealion I	SS 195	5 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Seadragon	SS 194	1 Man
29 Dec 2006	USS Minneapolis-St. Paul	SSN 708	2 Men

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Ken Smith, Dave Padora, Skip Gallagher and Rich Holmes.

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

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

Meeting Minutes: The Secretary provided the minutes from the November meeting to the members present.

Frank McDevitt made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as provided. Rich Holmes made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The base treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 November 2010.

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

Committees:

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner at Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: Tabled until the next year.

Flag Memorial: Frank McDevitt stated that the flag drop boxes are still getting filled.

Eagle Scout: No presentations at this time.

Correspondence: Rich Holmes received a Christmas card from Kathy Kiick and gave it to the Base Secretary.

Membership: Rich Holmes provided letters to the members present for upcoming dues. Rich stated that he would have the envelopes available at the dinner and those members that do not attend; he would mail the letter to them. Dues are required by the end of January, or you will be dropped from the roster. The cost for most members is \$35 with \$20 going to the National Base. Holland Club members are exempt from paying and Life Members are only responsible for Base Dues of \$15. Rich Holmes will give out the 2011 stickers when dues are paid.

Publicity: Frank McDevitt is looking for ways to get us publicity in the Stroudsburg area at least a couple of days in advance of our meetings.

Old Business:

Skip Gallagher stated he contacted his friend in Stroudsburg and was told that the guy that his friend used went out of business.

We will look into borrowing the sandblaster from Tom Crosby's friend.

New Business:

Ken Smith talked about us getting copies of the book “Thunder Below” and selling them at our next fundraising event. The book is about the USS Barb and was written by Adm. Eugene “Lucky” Fluckey. Ken stated that we have people asking us questions about the Barb and feels that the book would sell well. There was some discussion about including the book as part of the Eagle Scout presentation. Bob Smith stated that we could get the book through Amazon.com or maybe try to get it directly from the publisher. Bob stated that he would look into different options for us. Frank McDevitt stated that we could count on at least 10-12 Eagle Scout presentations for the year for budgeting purposes.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion that we purchase copies of the book. Rich Holmes made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith talked about the possibility of two other donations this year. The first would be to the Salvation Army and the second to a Bobby Gunther Walsh, a talk show host at WAEB, an AM Radio station in the Lehigh Valley and the charity known as Christmas Presents for Kids.

Rich Holmes talked about something he read about the Salvation Army and other things he has seen about the organization in how much is actually spent and how little the head of the organization makes. There was also discussion about including Bob Vaughan, since Bob founded the Pocono Base and he and his wife are members of the Salvation Army. Frank McDevitt would like it to be kept in the local area of our base (primarily Monroe County and include Carbon and Pike Counties).

After further discussions, Skip Gallagher made the 1st motion that we commit to a donation to the Salvation Army based on finances. Ken Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed. Rich Holmes stated that we should discuss the amount at the Christmas Dinner and get a feel for what the amount should be. The motion was amended that we donate \$150 to the Salvation Army and was passed by all members present at the meeting.

Good of the Order:

Rich Holmes stated that he had not called Kathy Kiick in regards to the Christmas Dinner until asked by the base members. All of the members present agreed to have Rich contact Kathy and invite her to the dinner.

Rich Holmes also stated that he contacted Oliver Nordmark and asked him if he wished to attend the Christmas Dinner. Oliver stated that he could not attend since he does not ambulate well and get cold real easily. Oliver did wish us all well.

Bob Smith restated that he contacted Jack Ensminger and asked if he would attend our dinner, but Jack declined, stating that he would just be getting back from Texas and feels that it would be too much travel.

Bob Smith stated that he also contacted Chris Eckert and invited him to our dinner, but Chris declined due to other commitments on that night.

Calendar of Events:

17 Dec 2010: Annual Christmas Dinner at The Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA. Cocktails start at 1830 Hrs. Dinner begins at 1930 Hrs.

25 Dec 2010: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2011: Happy New Year

19 Jan 2011: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 January 2011 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Rich Holmes to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Dave Padora.

All in favor, motion carried.

The members present joined the Base Commander in the reading of the Base Creed.

“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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1948 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

