

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 January 2010



USS Scorpion I SS-278

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

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 1908 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 January:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| 15 Jan 1916 | USS E-2 | SS-25 | 4 Men |
| 24 Jan 1942 | USS S-26 | SS-131 | 46 Men |
| 10 Jan 1943 | USS Argonaut | SS-166 | 105 Men |
| 05 Jan 1944 | USS Scorpion I | SS-278 | 77 Men |
| 12 Jan 1945 | USS Swordfish I | SS-193 | 89 Men |
| 08 Jan 2005 | USS San Francisco | SSN-711 | 1 Man |

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Michael Smith, Rich Holmes, Gerald Zeman, Ken Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bill Klose, Skip Gallagher, Bob Smith, Tom Shields and John Kelly.

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

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

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary read the minutes from the December Meeting. There were no corrections or additions.

1st motion to accept minutes as read made by Skip Gallagher. 2nd motion made by Rich Holmes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an end of year balance of \$xxxx.xx on 31 Dec. 2009.

1st motion to accept the treasurers' report was made by Rich Holmes. 2nd motion made by Ken Smith. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Rich stated that all of the dues have been received for 2010 and he has updated the National database.

Correspondence: We received a letter from Rick Malkames, wishing us a Merry Christmas and to let us know that his father, Don Malkames has had a little bad luck a couple of months ago. Rick stated that his father had broken his leg in a fall and while in rehabilitation, he had suffered a mild stroke.

Rich Holmes has passed on to all members a couple of e-mails. Both are in regards to this years' elections. The e-mails come from Jack Ensminger and Paul Orstad. Both men are seeking election to the position of ERDN District 3 Commander.

Also, a letter was returned by the Post Office for Larry Crawford, saying it was unable to be delivered.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor presentation for three Eagle Scouts coming up on Sunday 31 Jan 2010. The presentation will be in Mountainhome, PA. Tom Shields has volunteered to be the presenter at this Court of Honor.

Frank McDevitt stated that he looked into pricing to have the USSVI Creed put onto the cradle assembly for the float. He received a price quote of anywhere between \$300-400 from Simplex. The base members agreed to look into other possibilities due to high cost.

Bob Smith presented the Base with an extra plaque and plate from the Salute to America's Veterans from Mount Airy back in November. Bob stated that his friend from the "Red Ball Express" gave them too him. Bob also stated that his friend may be able to help us get a spot at the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA, if we wish to attend and set up a stand.

Mike Smith will look into why we have not received our plaque and plate from Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Bob Smith stated that he was looking into finding some fund raising ideas online, but did not have any to present to the membership at this meeting.

This year is a general election for the Base Officers. The nominations open with tonight's meeting and will continue to the February meeting at which time the nominations close. In March, the election and installation of new officers will be held.

At this time the following is the slate of nominations:

Base Commander: Tom Crosby nominates Bob Smith for Base Commander. 2nd motion made by Rich Holmes.

Base Vice Commander: Bob Smith nominates Frank McDevitt for Vice Commander. 2nd motion made by Rich Holmes.

Treasurer: Rich Holmes nominates Bill Klose for Base Treasurer. 2nd motion made by Tom Shields.

Secretary: Rich Holmes nominates Mike Smith for Base Secretary. 2nd motion made by Skip Gallagher.

Just remember, nominations remain open until the close of business of the February meeting.

Old Business: None.

Good of the Order:

Tom Shields is eligible for Holland Club induction this year. Vince Flaherty is planning on another Holland Club luncheon this year around mid-April.

Rich Holmes, Mike Smith and Tom Crosby discussed the Veterans Day program at Tobyhanna Elementary School back in November. Rich had asked a question to just the girls of on of the grades, would they volunteer for submarine duty, if the Navy incorporates mixed crews onboard subs. There were a lot of raised hands. Also, Mike Smith used the PowerPoint presentation from the Veterans Day program at Mount Airy Casino to show the students. Mike is looking into making it more kid friendly with more animations and pictures.

The members present, led by Frank McDevitt, thanked Bob Smith for arranging the Christmas Dinner at the Village Squire Inn. We had an excellent turnout of about 30 guests and members this year.

Calendar of Events:

31 Jan 2010: Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held in Mountainhome, PA. There will be three presentations of certificates and Tom Shields stated that he would be the presenter.

17 Feb 2010: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

17 Mar 2010: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 Feb 2010 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Gerald Zeman.

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.”

Tom Crosby declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1953 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary