

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Monday, 14 Jun 2010



**USS Herring**

**SS-233**

#### 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 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

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**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1738 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. Acting Chief of the Boat Bob Smith tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of June:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

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

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Herring (SS-233)

**Meeting Minutes:** The secretary provided the minutes from the May 2010 Meeting.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as posted. Gerald Zeman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 May 2010.

Dave Padora made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurers' report. Rich Holmes made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Rich Holmes stated that we have one new member by the name of James Kelly. James is a retired Master Chief who lives in East Stroudsburg. Rich also stated that we have another pending member, but has not heard from him.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Ways and Means:** Each member present at tonight's meeting was given a pack of 10 books of raffle tickets to get started with. All other members will have their packs mailed to them. Please help us with this as it is in our best interest to see this through. We need all members to contribute to make this raffle a success so we can refill our coffers.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the ad in "the Focus" this week. Bob Smith also came up with small cards with our creed on one side and an image of the dolphins on the other. Bob suggested that we place them in a Post Office or other place with a posting board to get some more recognition.

**Parades:** Bob Smith stated that he has posted more photos of our parades on the website.

#### **New Business:**

Frank McDevitt stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Andrew James Castaldi in Bartonsville, Pa on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July. Michael Smith stated that he would present the certificate and patch at that ceremony.

Bob Smith was contacted by his friend from the Red Ball Military Transport about getting in on the military transport show at the West End Fairgrounds in Gilbert, PA on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost to us would be \$35.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion into looking into attending. John Kelly made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Gerald Zeman made a point that our raffle drawing is going to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, our monthly meeting, so the idea of selling tickets at the above event is ruled out.

National elections are in progress. Please visit [USSVI.ORG](http://USSVI.ORG) and vote. There are changes to the By-Laws up for vote this year as well as new officers.

Bob Smith would also like us to revisit the Adopt-a-Boat program. Rich Holmes recommended that we adopt the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN 735). Bob stated that we could look into the mechanics of it and bring it up again at the next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

Bob Smith restated that the National wants us to poll our members and get their dates of service. This is in regards to USSVI being a charitable deduction for tax purposes, by having enough members who served during specific periods, USSVI can be classed as a War Veterans Organization, it will change the tax status for National.

Frank McDevitt stated that the Flag Drop boxes continue to be well used. Frank also stated that he would like to get the other boxes in commission. Bob Smith stated that he needs to put the new labels on the box in his possession.

Frank would like to have three volunteers for the raffle committee to meet with him at the end of the meeting covering publicity, sales and the West End Fair.

Tom Shields was asked to get more information for us about the West End Fair for next meeting.

We were going to invite Jack Ensminger to tonight's meeting, but the invitation never got sent. Bob Smith stated that he would like to e-mail Jack about joining us at another of our meetings.

### **Good of the Order:**

Frank McDevitt had one of the pictures from the float launching enlarged. Frank would like to get it framed and put up on the wall. Bob Smith stated that he needs to get with Ken Smith about getting the champagne stains removed and also getting the port bow plane reattached.

Please take note that our annual picnic also coincides with the opening day of the west End Fair. This was the only day that Rich Holmes was able to get for us. Also, we will need to have the booth manned and set up on the opening day.

We broke for the Flag Day Ceremony with the American Legion members at 1800 hrs and reconvened the meeting at 1836 hrs.

## **Calendar of Events:**

04 July 2010: Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

11 July 2010: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Andrew James Castaldi at the Zion United Lutheran Church in Bartonsville, Pa at 1400 hrs. Michael Smith will be the presenter.

21 July 2010: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

22 Aug 2010: Annual base picnic at the Mountain View Park, pavilion #4 in Tannersville, PA. Picnic will start about 1200 Hrs.

22 - 28 Aug 2010: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. We have a space available to us. We will be selling most of our raffle tickets at this event.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 21 July 2010 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by John Kelly.

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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1853 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary