

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 17 November 2010



USS Capelin (SS 289)

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 1904 by Base Commander Bob Smith 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

A moment of silence was held to honor the loss of our shipmate George Eckert, who went on eternal patrol on Tuesday, November 9, 2010.

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Michael Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bill Klose, Tom Shields, Tom Crosby, Dave Padora and Ivan Meixell

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Secretary read the minutes from the October meeting and will have them posted when he can get them on the computer. There was a correction of amount the base was picking up for the Christmas Dinner. \$11 vs \$10. Tom Shields made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Bill Klose made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The base treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Oct. 2010.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Corvina.

Committees:

Parades: Frank McDevitt proposed getting a list of next years parades so we can plan ahead and hope for better turnout. Bob Smith stated that he would add them to the website calendar as placeholders. There was also discussion about joining with the Scranton Base and vice - versa for some of these events.

Correspondence: None

Membership: This is a reminder to all members that the 2011 National and Base dues are due in by the end of December. On January 1st, members that have not paid will be considered delinquent and subject to being dropped from the roster.

Normal National/Base dues are \$20/\$15 respectively.

Life members only pay the \$15 Base dues.

Holland Club members are exempt from paying dues.

Publicity: Bob Smith passed out a couple of cutouts of the ads he placed in "The FOCUS" Community Newspaper and the "Journal of the Pocono Plateau" paper.

Old Business:

Bob Smith stated he invited Jack Ensminger to our Christmas Dinner in December. Jack replied "with regrets, he will be in Texas and will be returning around that time, but will be unable to attend."

Bob Smith stated that he had menus available and has it posted on our website. He would like everyone's response within a couple of weeks as to how many are attending and there entree.

Frank McDevitt stated that Rich Holmes did the Eagle Scout presentation. The secretary reminded the Eagle Scout Chairman to provide the dates of the presentations so they could be entered into the minutes and added to the calendar of events.

Frank McDevitt inquired about the Palmerton Parade. Bob Smith stated that it was nice and flat and had on major stop for the ceremony at the municipal building and that the parade was well paced. Mike Smith stated that each section had a marching band which helped to maintain a good pace, unlike the Barrett Township Parade. Frank inquired if we were going to attend next year. The member present have tentatively agreed to attend. Dave Padora mentioned that next years parade will be held in Jim Thorpe.

Bob Smith stated that he and Ken Smith would get together on the phone tree. Bob stated that they haven't done it yet, but it is forthcoming.

Bob Smith stated that the Kaps-4-Kids program is still on the back burner. Bob Smith stated that Frank McDevitt would be the Chairperson when we get it started.

Bill Klose stated that he still had 2011 Submarine Calendars available.

Bob Smith stated that we have three options for sandblasting the last Flag Drop Box.

1. Tom Crosby borrows a sand blast unit from his friend, who would lend it to us and would teach us how to use it. Tom stated that it is a portable unit and we would need a small compressor and blast media.
2. Skip Gallagher stated he something about getting it done for us, but was not at tonight's meeting
3. Bob Smith looked into it for us and found a gentleman who would do the whole thing, but would cost about \$150.

Frank McDevitt recommended that we should wait until we have heard from Skip before proceeding.

Tom Shields talked about possibilities for next years raffle prize. Tom stated that came up with three choices; Philadelphia, PA., Williamsburg, VA., or back to Mystic or New London, CT. Tom stated that he is waiting on pricing and information on the locations. The Philadelphia trip would include parking and money for fuel. Frank McDevitt inquired about the theme of the raffle. The discussion started to get very heated and the Secretary had to intervene and call for order.

New Business:

Frank McDevitt made the 1st motion for the Base to donate \$100 to the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post for the use of the building. 2nd motion was made by Dave Padora. All in favor, motion passed.

Tom Crosby discussed the American Legion Angel Tree Program and how it worked. The Secretary mentioned that in the past, by the time we would meet in December, the program would have ended and we had decided to just donate a monetary value to the Angel Tree Program based on history.

Tom Crosby made the 1st motion for the Base to donate \$150 to the Wilson-Fischer Post for the Angel Tree program. 2nd motion was made by Tom Shields. All in favor, motion passed.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith talked about the 4 events that we just did in the last month and stated that he has now attached casters to the bottom of the float cradle. Mike Smith also stated that we have bolted the cradle from the inside of the trailer. We do not have to crawl inside the trailer to undo the bolts anymore.

Ken Calemno is on the binnacle list for his hand.

Rich Holmes was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to having cataract surgery the day before.

Calendar of Events:

25 Nov 2010: Happy Thanksgiving.

15 Dec 2010: Monthly meeting at American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

17 Dec 2010: Annual Base Christmas Dinner. Dinner will be held at the Village Squire Restaurant with cocktails starting at 1830 Hrs. Dinner will start at 1900 Hrs. The cost will be \$15 per person with the base picking up the rest. Please contact Bob Smith with number of people attending prior to 11 Dec 2010.

25 Dec 2010: Merry Christmas.

01 Jan 2010: Happy New Year.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 December 2010 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA.

1st motion made by Ivan Meixell to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby.

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.”

Meeting was adjourned at 1950 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary