

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 15 September 2010



## USS Grayling (SS 209)

### 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 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 1903 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

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

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

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The August meeting minutes were provided for the meeting by the Secretary.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes made by Frank McDevitt. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Ken Smith. All in favor, motion passed.

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

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept Treasurers report made by Tom Shields. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Committees:**

**Correspondence:** Bob Smith read an e-mail sent from Tom Kaluzney. Tom was just keeping in touch with us, stating that he is currently working in Afghanistan for Lockheed Martin and will not be able to attend our picnic nor the annual Christmas Dinner.

Bob Smith read a letter from John Riley, the new Chairman for Kaps-4-Kids program of USSVI. The letter was basically an introduction from the new chairman and he was sending these letters to each base to see if they have a Kaps-4-Kids program or not.

Frank McDevitt stated that he was contacted by a gentleman from Phillipsburg, NJ while attending the Victorian Days event in Belvedere this past weekend, inviting us to a Veterans Day tribute in Phillipsburg, NJ. The tribute would be held indoors. Frank stated that this is a long drive for only half a day and we would respectfully decline the invitation.

**Membership:** Rich Holmes stated that John Bachelor is now an official member of USSVI and the Pocono Base.

Rich Holmes also stated that he still has to 2010 stickers for those who don't have them on their ID card. Rich also stated that he has received the 2011 stickers as well.

**Flag Boxes:** Frank McDevitt stated that he would like to complete the program and was asking if anyone knew where we could get the last box sandblasted and painted he would appreciate it. Skip Gallagher stated that he has a couple of people he could call.

**Publicity:** The Base Secretary printed a couple of newspaper articles regarding our involvement at the West End Fair and an article from a New Jersey paper about our presence at the Victorian Days in Belvedere, NJ. The secretary passed them around during the meeting and would then scan the articles and send them to our members. Bob Smith stated that he place the usual ads in the "Focus" and "Pocono Plateau".

### **Dinner/Dance:**

**Parades:** Tom Shields mentioned that the next parade would be the Halloween Parade in Barrett Township on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Bill Klose mentioned that the Scranton Base has invited us to the Veterans Day Parade in Wilkes-Barre this year on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Bill stated that they only had 4 people show up last time.

Tom Shields was contacted by a Mr. Al. Fariole regarding the Memorial Day Parade in East Stroudsburg next year. Mr. Fariole would like to know if we would be interested in entering the parade next year. There was some discussion about having two groups, one for the Pocono Pines Parade and the other for the East Stroudsburg parade. Tom Shields also mentioned about trying to attend both parades, since we are typically at the beginning of the Pocono parade and try to be at the end of the East Stroudsburg parade. We would definitely get better exposure at Stroudsburg, but we owe our allegiance to Pocono Pines. Tom Shields stated that he would try to get the times for the parade for further discussion.

Tom Shields would like us to get a head start on next years program this year so we have a head start on it by next spring. Tom Shields talked about the possibility of having a weekend trip to New York City as a prize, including dinner at a fancy restaurant and tickets for a show. Tom Shields was asked to basic details about the trip to our next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

We voted to sponsor the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735). Bob stated that he was in touch with Jack Messersmith, we are enrolled and the documents would be sent to us at our P.O Box.

Bob Smith stated that he added a couple of links at the bottom of our main webpage. One will send you to the boat sponsor page the other is a link to the Navy site regarding the USS Pennsylvania.

Bob Smith stated that we still have calendars to sell to anyone who wants them. They are ready to go for 2011. We will sell what we can until the end of the year, then, maybe look at marking them down in price.

Bob Smith asked if anyone still had raffle money and or tickets to turn in.

We talked about the West End Fair, including our location and how we could better man the booth next year if we decide to attend again. We were told that the location we had was one of the best locations at the fairgrounds. Frank McDevitt would like to see more participation next year from our members.

### **New Business:**

Bob Smith talked about the Kaps-4-Kids program and the members present decided to table the issue until the October meeting. Frank McDevitt is very interested in us joining this program and stated that he would be willing to take on the responsibility as soon as we can get the last flag drop box completed.

Tom Shields talked about the Halloween Parade in Barrett Township. Gerald Zeman made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that we attend the parade. Ken Smith made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed

Bob Smith mentioned that he has a couple of flag holders for the float, so that with a parade of that length, no one would need to march.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for the Pocono base to donate money to the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel tree program. John Kelly made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion carried by the members.

The base members discussed this years' Christmas Party/Dinner and would like to hold it again at The Village Squire Restaurant.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to hold the dinner at the Village Squire Restaurant. Skip Gallagher made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor. Motion carried by the membership.

Bob Smith stated that the Scranton Base would host the D3 Convention again this year. The date of the convention is 16 October 2010. The meeting would be held at the Scranton Marine Corps League. Bob stated that this would finally be an opportunity to meet Jack Ensminger.

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

Bob Smith recognized the following people concerning the base raffle program:

Tom Shields for conceiving and putting the Mystic Seaport package together.

Frank McDevitt for chairing the raffle committee.

Rich Holmes for obtaining the raffle tickets for the base, both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> printings.

Mike Smith for being at the fair for both the setup and teardown and for bringing his computer and A/V equipment.

Ken Smith for his participation in the setup and manning the booth for several days at the fair and for having built a fine model of the USS Barb. Bob Smith also recognized Ken Smith for spearheading the event in Belvedere NJ.

To all our shipmates for their time in the booth and for explaining the submarine service and the events of the USS Barb.

Bob Smith also thanked those members who spent time at various locations selling raffle tickets including John Kelly who sold over \$xxx worth of tickets.

To all of the ladies who volunteered their time in the booth and Bob recognized his wife Sheila who ferried him back and forth to the fair and spent time in the booth as well.

Bob Smith also recognized his friend who helped breakdown the booth after the fair.

Rich Holmes received a call from Oliver Nordmark concerning a new Submarine Calendar for next year. We had some discussion about the calendars that the base has ordered in the past but haven't sold.

Rich Holmes made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that the base purchase at least 10 calendars for sale. Dave Padora made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith stated that he met a gentleman at the West End Fair who introduced himself as Bob McThomas and that he was a driver for Adm. Fluckey.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to invite Mr. McThomas to our meeting. Gerald Zeman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Calendar of Events:**

20 Oct 2010: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

31 Oct 2009: Barrett Township Halloween Parade.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 20 October 2010 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Ken Smith.

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 2008 hrs.

The winning raffle ticket was drawn after the meeting and Tom Shields contacted the winner. The winner was from western PA.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary