

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 April 2011



USS Pickerel

SS-177

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 “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 1906 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 April:

The following are the Submarine Force losses for the Month of April

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	80 Men
08 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	88 Men
10 Apr 1963	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary read the minutes from the March meeting.

Tom Crosby made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as read. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Mar 2011.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Gerald Zeman made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

There was a discussion about a check from Chris Eckert stating that he never got it back and no record of its deposit. Bill Klose stated that he didn't have it. Rich Holmes found it in with the membership information while we were discussing the issue.

Committees:

Membership: No report.

Correspondence: None.

Flag Box: Michael Smith recommended that we remove the flag drop box from Country Junction in Lehighton due to lack of use. As of right now, there are no viable locations in that area of Carbon County. The only remaining option would be to contact Lowe's Home Center once it is completed in Lehighton.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Frank McDevitt stated that he is still impressed with the program. Frank stated that he is going to give a DVD that he received from John Riley to Bob Smith and that it talks about the program.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Plateau and Focus papers and was trying to contact the Pocono Record.

Parades: There are two parades on Memorial Day in May. One is our primary coverage area at Pocono Pines. Line up is by 0930 hrs at the Tobyhanna Elementary School with step off at 1000 hrs. There will be a short memorial program at the cemetery across the street from the school. We will be using the submarine silhouette at this parade.

The second parade is also at 1000 hrs and lines up in the area of East Stroudsburg South High School at 0900 hrs and marched to 7th and Main in Stroudsburg. We have been asked to come to this parade by the Monroe County Veterans Affairs department and have agreed to attend. We will be using the USS Barb float at this parade. Please help us our membership by participating in either parade. We would appreciate a good size turnout to cover both.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt stated that we have three invitations for Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in May. The names and dates are listed in the calendar of events.

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

New Business:

Frank McDevitt stated that the Lake Naomi Club has invited us to bring the USS Barb float to the opening ceremony on Saturday, 28 May 2011. They would like the Barb as part of a military display. Frank stated that his biggest concern was security.

Flag Day in June. We normally have a combined meeting and Flag Day ceremony on the 14th of June at the Wilson-Fischer Post. The meeting would be at 1700 hrs and the ceremony at 1800 hrs. Tom Crosby stated that the legion is possibly deciding to hold the Flag Day Ceremony on a Saturday to have more attendees. Tom stated that he would have further information for our next meeting.

The Base Secretary requested reimbursement for the cost of a new color cartridge for his printer.

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion to reimburse the Secretary. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Rich Holmes talked about a power company that he got associated with. They reward people who recruit people who sell this plan, that they will give so much money of every transaction to a non-profit. Rich stated that this is a great way for a non-profit to utilize their own people to generate money and also reduce the costs of their own electricity usage.

Rich stated that he would come up with a presentation.

Old Business:

Bob Smith stated that he looked into the definition of a Not-For-Profit vs. Non-Profit organization and basically found that the terms were interchangeable. This discussion was brought up at the last meeting due to a topic brought up by Rich Holmes about one of the Power Companies helping out non-profit organizations. Bob stated that we are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Bob Smith stated that he ordered 20 copies of “Thunder Below” from Amazon.Com. Bob stated that he then received mail stating that Amazon.com didn’t have any books available, even though the website showed that they did. Bob stated that he also contacted Barnes & Noble and Borders and neither place had any copies, plus the fact that the Borders store in Allentown is closing. We are out of luck for right now.

We have received the raffle tickets. Bob Smith would like to hand out the tickets at the end of the meeting. There are 7200 tickets to be sold.

Bob Smith stated that he is waiting to hear from the West End Fair and Belvedere about tickets for entry.

Good of the Order:

Both Sam Gallagher and Pat McDevitt are doing well, as was noted and commented about at last meeting.

Bob Smith reminded everyone that has old copies of the "American Submariner" magazine to drop them off at places like Dentist/Doctor offices and such to help get the word out.

Ken Smith will be moving to an apartment in Tobyhanna and is looking for help with the move.

Calendar of Events:

1 May 2011: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Vincent Misuraca. Tom Shields will be presenter.

13 May 2011: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Joseph Dilger. Tom Shields will be presenter.

15 May 2011: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew Carpiccio. Rich Holmes will be presenter.

18 May 2011: Monthly meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

30 May 2011: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 Hrs at the Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 Hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the memorial across from the school after the parade. The silhouette will be used at this parade.

30 May 2011: Memorial Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. The parade will form up at East Stroudsburg South High School and end near Main & 7th Street in Stroudsburg. We will have the USS Barb Float at this parade. Meet at Cramer's hardware by 0900. Step-off is at 1000 Hrs.

14 June 2011: Combined monthly meeting and Flag Day ceremony at Wilson-Fischer Post. (Tentative date, Legion post thinking of holding ceremony on a Saturday)

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 May 2011 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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2007 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary