

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 December 2011



USS Capelin SS 289

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

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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 1904 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. Ken Smith tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of December:

The following are the US Submarine Force Losses for the month of December:

16 Dec 1917	USS F-1 (Carp I)	SS 20	19 Men
17 Dec 1927	USS S-4 (Snapper I)	SS 109	34 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Sealion I	SS 195	5 Men
10 Dec 1941	USS Seadragon	SS 194	1 Man
29 Dec 2006	USS Minneapolis-St. Paul	SSN 708	2 Men

The Acting Chief of the Boat, Ken Smith, led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Ken Smith, Skip Gallagher, Rich Holmes, John Kelly and new members Tony Hicks and Bill Deitman.

The member present introduced themselves and their Qual Boats. Bill Deitman stated that he qualified onboard the USS Philadelphia (SSN-690). Tony Hicks stated that he served onboard the USS Orion (AS-18), the USS Severn (AO-61) and the USS Arcadia (AD-23)

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Secretary provided the minutes from the November meeting to the members present.

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as provided. Bill Deitman made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The base treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 November 2011.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Dinner/Dance: No report

Parades: No parades are scheduled at this time, but there will be some coming up in the spring. Bob Smith stated that the first parade would probably be the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Flag Memorial Drop Boxes: Bob Smith stated that we collect used American flags at various locations around the county. Bob stated that the box at the Shop-Rite is starting to get worn down and would need to be refurbished. Frank McDevitt stated that most would need to be refurbished. Mike Smith stated that the box at Country Junction in Lehighon does get the occasional flag. Mike Smith also stated that the new Lowe's in Lehighon would not allow us to put a drop box at that location (Company Policy).

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt stated that there is an upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 14th of January for a Dillon John McHugh in Brodheadsville, Pa. Frank is looking for a volunteer to do this one.

Correspondence: Rich Holmes stated that he received a letter for Frank McDevitt from Eagle Scout Ramon Rios, for the presentation done by Tom Shields.

We also received a letter from Wounded Warriors project, but Bill Klose did not have it with him.

Rich Holmes read a thank you letter from Cathy Kiick. Rich read the enclosed insert called the "The X, Y, and Z's of the United States Navy by Jack Thompson".

Membership: Rich Holmes stated that some members picked up their envelopes at the Christmas Dinner for the 2012 dues. Rich stated that he would mail the remaining reminders out to the members.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Focus and the Journal of the Pocono Plateau.

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

Old Business:

Bob Smith talked about the donations we made to the following organizations, for the benefit of our new members:

Wounded Warriors Project, The Fisher House (a military version of the Ronald McDonald House) and the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post, for both the use of the bingo hall for our meetings and for their annual Angel Tree Program. Bob also stated that we have a Budget and Donation Committee, but there is no report for this meeting.

Bob Smith talked about this year's Christmas Dinner. Bob stated that we had 33 people in attendance. The cost was \$15 per person with the base picking up the remaining \$12.95. There was a choice of dinners ranging from Crab Cakes to Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala, etc. The dinner was held at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. Bob stated that they had a fire going for us and that we were seated in the back room. Bob also stated that they provided a flag for us to say the pledge of allegiance.

Frank McDevitt offered his congratulations and thank to Bob Smith for another job well done on the dinner.

We also had a couple of Holland Club inductees at the dinner. Rich Holmes presented certificates and patches to Stan Merker and John Batchelor.

Bill Klose talked about the books we inherited. Bob Smith stated that starting in January, we would raffle off a book to the members present. Bob stated that they were donated to us by the late Oliver Nordmark.

Bob Smith stated that he had talked to the National Chaplain and stated that he had some very nice cards. Bob stated that they are blank on the inside and has an image of a WWII Fleet boat on it and it makes for a good general-purpose card. The cost is \$31 for 25 cards. The subject was talked about a couple of months ago.

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion that we purchase the general-purpose cards from the National Chaplain. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith brought up the discussion about getting a couple of plaques made for the float cradle. One discussed the USS Barb and the other to recognize the builder, Ken Smith. Bob stated that we voted on it a couple of months ago and he would take care of it.

Bob Smith also stated that he looked into getting plastic dolphin pins made to give out to the kids. Bob was quoted \$500 for 1000 pieces. Bob is open to alternatives.

Bob Smith talked about the presentation for the Sea Scouts Program that we heard a couple of months ago. Last month, we didn't have many members present and the issue was tabled until January.

New Business:

Rich Holmes talked about the Eagle Scout presentation he did for Stephen Ellis in Tannersville, PA. Rich stated that he was approached by a member of the Knights of Columbus and was asked for information about the base and was told that they would invite us down and talk about our organization. Rich stated that he hasn't heard anything more from them.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Eagle Scout program for the benefit of the new members. The National Organization has a program for honoring the Eagle Scouts and locally we are hooked up with the Minsi Trails Boy Scout Organization. Frank stated that our policy is to personally attend the Court of Honor and present the National Certificate and Patch in person.

Bob Smith stated that he was contacted by Huey Deitrich, the new regional director for all of the bases in Pennsylvania, regarding if Bob knew of any street or highways named after the SubVets.

Bob Smith told Huey and the commander of the USS Scranton Base that we tried several years ago to have portions of Route 611 renamed, but it didn't get very far.

Good of the Order:

Binnacle List: Bob Smith stated that new member Ed Banko had a back operation performed last month and doesn't expect to see him until around January.

The secretary stated that next year is an election year for the positions of: Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Treasurer and Secretary

Bob Smith stated that Bill Klose has 2012 Calendars, district patches and copies of Thunder Below for sale. Bill Klose stated that the cost of the book is \$25, \$5 for the patch and \$6 for the calendar.

Bill Klose brought in a street sign to hang. The sign is "Barb" Drive.

Calendar of Events:

25 Dec 2011: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2012: Happy New Year

14 Jan 2012: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dillon John McHugh in Brodheadsville, Pa at 1PM.

18 Jan 2012: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 January 2012 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Rich Holmes to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Frank McDevitt.

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 1948 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

