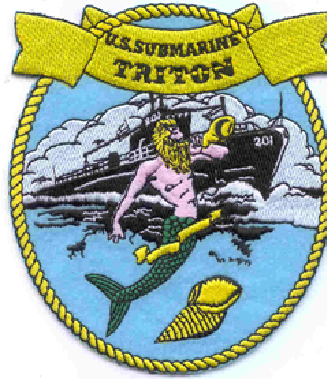


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 16 March 2011



**USS Triton      SS-201**

#### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 1001, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-1001

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**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

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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 1902 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

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

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

Frank McDevitt read from the book, Submarine Operations of World War II, on the loss of USS Triton (SS-201).

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:**

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the February Minutes as read. Frank McDevitt made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 28 Feb 2011.

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

There was discussion about looking into having Jeff Owens name removed as signature for base account and/or look into transferring the account to a new bank that has more branches.

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Rich Holmes reported that Stan Merker and John Batchelor are Holland Club eligible. They will need to have a small biography turned in. Rich Holmes also stated that all base dues are up to date.

**Correspondence: None**

**Parades:** The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA is on the 20th of March. Step off will be at 1400 hours from the High School in Stroudsburg and will continue to Liztech in East Stroudsburg.

There are two parades on Memorial Day 30 May 2011.

The first parade is our usual one in Pocono Pines and will step off at 1000. Members are to meet at the Tobyhanna Elementary School by 0930.

The second parade is at the same time as the Pocono Pines Parade. The parade starts in East Stroudsburg and ends in Stroudsburg. Step off time for this parade is also at 1000.

We are looking to have enough people to show up to attend both parades.

**Eagle Scout:** Frank McDevitt stated that the following dates are for Eagle Scout Courts of Honor: 5/1, 5/14, 5/15, 6/5 and 7/3. Frank stated that he is still waiting on invitations to attend.

**Flag Box:** Rich Holmes stated that he still has the sandblaster in his vehicle. Rich also stated that he would be able to get the mailbox out now that the weather has broken.

Frank McDevitt stated that the flag boxes in the Pocono area are still quite busy.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in both “The Focus” and “Journal”. Bob stated that he is trying to work up the courage to contact the “Pocono Record”.

**Kaps4Kids:** Frank McDevitt stated that he would move forward with this program. Frank stated that he has contacted the chairman and a couple of the local hospitals.

**Old Business:** Bob Smith talked about purchasing copies of “Thunder Below” and reselling them. A number of the members present expressed interest and stated that they would buy a copy. Bob stated that the lowest price he found was from Amazon.com.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that the base purchases 20 copies of the book. Tom Crosby made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The members present decided on keeping the annual Christmas Dinner on Friday.

Tom Shields discussed the Memorial Day parade and he would like to get back to Al Fariole about our participation.

Tom Shields stated that we owe our primary allegiance to the Pocono Pines area, but would like to see us do both parades to get more exposure. We would not be able to do both parades with only one group.

The members present agreed to do two groups with one group in Pocono Pines and the other group in Stroudsburg.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to use the Submarine Silhouette at the Pocono Pines Parade this year and the base float in Stroudsburg. Tom Shields made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed with one opposed.

Tom Shields presented a mockup of the poster we would use for this years raffle. Tom changed the organizations that would benefit from the proceeds. The following were listed: Wounded Warriors, Fisher House and other USSVI Sponsored Charities.

Tom Shields also would like to change the date of the drawing to October. Tom’s reason was to have the prize logistic in the same year as opposed to having one of the places have one style of event this year and then change it for the next.

The members present agreed to move the raffle drawing to the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**New Business:** The annual base picnic will be on Saturday, 20 August 2011 with a rain date of the 21<sup>st</sup>. The picnic will be at Ev’s house in New Jersey.

**Good of the Order:** Frank McDevitt stated that his wife, Pat, is doing well. Skip Gallagher stated that his wife, Sam, is doing also well.

Rich Holmes inquired about our tax status for the base. Rich was asking in conjunction with a program from an electric company that donates to non-profit organizations. It was stated that we are a “Not for profit” organization and not a “Non-profit” organization.

## **Calendar of Events:**

20 Mar 2011: St. Patrick's Day Parade participation in Stroudsburg, PA

20 Apr 2011: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 20 Apr 2011 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Rich Holmes to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Skip Gallagher.

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 2019 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary