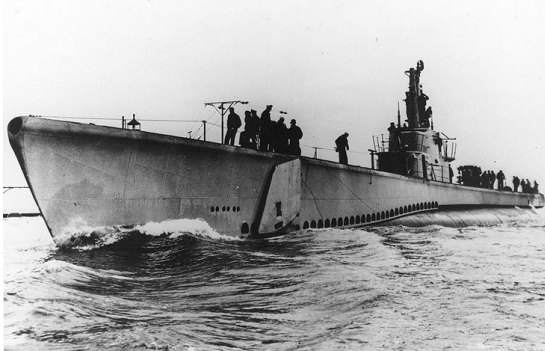


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 May 2011

Photo # NH 79774 USS Lagarto underway, circa later 1944



USS Lagarto

SS-371

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 1001, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-1001
Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790
Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: patfrank@ptd.net

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638
Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

Base Supply Officer – Bill “Shut” Klose / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028
Ph (570) 298-2439. E-mail address: seagoatc@epix.net

COB – Tom Shields / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342
Ph (570) 595-9648. E-mail address: candlite@ptd.net

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1908 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men

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

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

The Base Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary provided the March minute to the members present.

Tom Shields 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 29 Apr 2011.

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

Committees:

Membership: Rich Holmes stated that he has been sending out e-mails regarding the Holland Club. Rich also stated that he has tried contacting Stan Merker and has not heard back from him. Rich stated that he did send Stan a copy of the notice and if he would like to be recognized, Stan would have to write a bio and send it in. Rich stated that he also copied John Batchelor about the Holland Club as well.

Ways and Means: No report.

Correspondence: None.

Publicity: No Report

Flag Boxes: Frank McDevitt stated that the flag box at Shop-Rite in Stroudsburg was full after about three weeks. Frank stated that the boxes that are active are getting a lot of flags. Rich Holmes stated that he would be bringing the last flag box over to Ken's place in the next couple of days and Ken Smith stated that he would get it blasted.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew J. Hoff on Saturday the 4th of June in Reeders, PA. Frank also thanked Rich and Tom Shields for the Eagle Scout presentations this past month. Frank asked that both Rich and Tom explain the events that they were present at.

Parade: We will be in the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on Monday, 30 May 2011. Line up will be at 0930 Hrs with step off at 1000 hrs.

There is also a Memorial Day parade in Stroudsburg, PA on Monday, 30 May 2011 as well. Line up is about 0900 and step off is at 1000.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Frank McDevitt stated that he is doing research into the different hospitals in the area and would have a report for us at the next meeting.

New Business:

Rich Holmes stated that he had a big glass jug in his car and has offered it to our base for use in the base raffle. Rich stated that it has a wide mouth and is made of heavy-duty glass and his wife was just going to get rid of it.

John Kelly made the 1st motion that we accept the glass jug from Rich Holmes. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith led off a discussion about lowering our annual base dues to \$10. Bob feels that this would be a slight incentive to new members and we really don't make much money from our dues with the ten or so that are Holland Club members. Bob stated that he noticed that the Scranton Base only has \$10 base dues. Bob feels that this would help recruit new members and the fact that we are doing well with our fundraising efforts.

Frank McDevitt stated that the reason the base dues were raised to \$15 was to cover the cost of the base newsletter. Rich Holmes stated that we don't have that many who would have to pay base dues anyway.

The secretary read from the base by-laws on Article 6 regarding base dues. The secretary brought up the following about base dues and changing them:

“Provisions in this article may be changed by a majority vote of the members at any regularly scheduled meeting without following the notice procedure set forth in Art. XIII, Sect. 2.”

There was no further discussion about the base dues.

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion to lower the annual base dues to \$10, effective immediately. Tom Shields made the second motion regarding the base dues. All members were in favor, motion passed.

The secretary stated that he would update the by-laws accordingly.

Frank McDevitt stated that the flag memorial would be held on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14th at 1800 hrs. We will have our meeting at 1700 and attend the ceremonies at 1800 in conjunction with the American-Legion members.

Bob Smith stated that he and Ken Smith would work on repairing the trailer. The trailer top incurred some damage during the St. Patrick's Day Parade and has started to buckle in the center of the top. Bob stated that they would try and come up with some kind of a brace to reinforce the trailer top.

Skip Gallagher made a motion to have give Bob Smith a \$100 gas card with money from the treasury for all of the running around he would be doing with the float on Memorial Day weekend. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor over the objections of Bob Smith, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Scorpion I.

Old Business:

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 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.

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.

Bob Smith stated that he received an e-mail from a friend of his stating the University of Illinois Press has the book "Thunder Below" for about \$22 each. This is about \$6 more than what we were originally ordering from Amazon.com. Bob stated that the order from them is basically in limbo. Bob also stated that Tom Crosby is looking into this as well.

Frank McDevitt discussed the Holland Club situation and he would like to have the presentation at one of our function. It was discussed that we should have the presentation at our Christmas Dinner, as this event is well attended.

Bill Klose talked about our transferring our treasury to a new bank and discussed what it takes to go to PNC Bank. Bill stated that we would need a letter of incorporation, a letter with the USSVI National tax-exempt code and a letter from Markiewicz (USSVI National Treasurer) stating who can sign. Bill stated that we should have another member with signature authority beside himself.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion that Bill Klose proceed with the bank account transfer. Mike Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith stated that he would send an article to national about our USS Barb float.

Calendar of Events:

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.

30 May 2011: Memorial Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Parade to run concurrently with Pocono Pines. Base float to be used at this parade.

4 June 2011: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew J. Hoff in Reeders, PA.

14 June 2011: Combined Flag Day Ceremony and Base Meeting.

04 July 2011: Happy 4th of July.

20 July 2011: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 June 2011 at 1700 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 Hrs.

1st motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Rich Holmes.

All in favor, motion carried.

“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 2012 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary