

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 October 2011



USS S-44 (SS 155)

Base Officers

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

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 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

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Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1909 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 October:

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt (had to leave meeting to attend a wake), Bill Klose, Mike Smith, Ken Smith, Tom Shields, Dave Padora, Gerald Zeman, Ivan Meixell and new member John F. Phillips. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Secretary provided the September Meeting Minutes for review at this months meeting.

1st motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Tom Shields. Dave Padora made 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 September. 2011.

1st motion to accept Treasurers report was made by Tom Shields. Mike Smith made 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: No Report.

Budget: The budget committee met prior to tonight's meeting and came up with the following choices:

- \$xxx for the Raffle Prize
- \$xxx to Wounded Warriors Project
- \$xxx to Fisher House
- \$xxx to the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post
- \$xxx for the Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to accept the budget committee recommendations. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion to accept. All in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence: None

Dinner/Dance: Annual base Christmas Dinner to be held at the Village Squire Steak House Restaurant on 16 Dec 2011.

Parades: We will be attending the Barrett Township Halloween Parade on 30 Oct 2011. Judging begins at 1200 hrs and step-off between 1300-1400 hrs. Please meet at Tom Shields house by 1200.

We will be attending the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Jim Thorpe, PA on 6 Nov 2011. The parade will start at the Jim Thorpe High School and will step off at 2PM. There will be food and refreshments after the parade at the Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall on 10th Street.

Eagle Scout: There is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Stephen Ellis on 20 Nov 2011 in Tannersville, PA.

Old Business:

Tom Shields would like those attending the Barrett Township Halloween Parade to meet at his house by 1200 Hours. The parade will step off at about 1:30PM. Tom Shields stated that he would provide food and drinks at his house after the parade. We will need enough people to comprise a Color Guard. Directions to Tom Shields house can be found on the base website under the calendar link.

We will be attending the Veterans Day program again this year at Pleasant Valley High School in Brodheadslee, PA. We will be bringing the float to this event instead of using it at Tobyhanna Elementary School. Ken Smith and Bob Smith are looking for volunteers to help set up on the 10th of November.

There is also a concurrent speaking engagement at the Tobyhanna Elementary School on Veterans Day.

Bill Klose mentioned that the base had voted to purchase copies of Eugene Fluckey's book "Thunder Below" a couple of months ago. Bill stated that he was able to obtain seven copies of the book and is selling them for \$20 per book. Bill stated that he also has the patches and calendars that the members wanted and they can pick them up at the end of the meeting.

Bill Klose also stated that he has a 20"x24" copy of the USS Barb battle flag on canvas, in a frame, that we can use at our events. Bill stated that he also has a picture of the Barb after she was converted to a Fleet Snorkel and a street sign that reads "Barb Drive" that we can use as well.

Bob Smith talked about our boat sponsorships. Bob stated that we renewed our sponsorship of the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735) as well as our new sponsor boat, USS Pittsburgh (SSN-720). Bob stated that Bill Klose has sent the check to national. This action now brings us to Silver Sponsorship level.

Bob Smith stated that the annual base Christmas Dinner information is up on the website. The dinner will once again be held at the Village Squire Steak House Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA on Friday, 16 Dec 2011. The reception will start at 6:30PM and dinner will start at 7PM. Please contact Bob by either phone or e-mail of your intent to attend and how many in your party and please pick from the menu posted on the website for your choice of food.

New Business:

There is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Stephen Ellis on Sunday, 20 Nov 2011. The court will be held at 'Our Lady of Victory' Church in Tannersville, PA at 2PM. Rich Holmes has stated that he would present the certificate.

There will be a presentation about the Sea Scouting program by a Mr. Roger Chatell following tonight's meeting.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith again expressed his thanks for the members who sold the raffle tickets at both the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA and the Victorian Days event in Belvedere, NJ. Bob also thanked the wives for their help.

Mr. Chatell will draw the winner of the base raffle after the presentation.

Calendar of Events:

30 Oct 2011: Barrett Township Halloween Parade.

6 Nov 2011: Veterans Day Parade in Palmerton, PA.

11 Nov 2011: Veterans Day event at the Pleasant Valley High School. Our Base Float will be there.

11 Nov 2011: Veterans Day, tentative speaking engagement Tobyhanna Elementary School though no invitation received yet.

16 Nov 2011: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

16 Dec 2011: Pocono Base Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 November 2011 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tom Shields.

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 1928 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Mr. Roger Chatell presented the Sea Scouting Program to the members present at the conclusion of our normal meeting. After listening to the presentation, the members decided that we would discuss this program further and decide at our next meeting if we would sponsor the program in the Pocono's.

Mr. Chatell was awarded the opportunity to pick the winner from this years base raffle.