

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 September 2011



USS Grayling (SS 209)

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 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

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

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

The base secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the August minutes for the members.

1st motion to accept the minutes as provided was made by Tom Shields. 2nd motion made by Skip Gallagher. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The base treasurer reported a balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 August, 2010.

The treasurer stated that the balance was split between FNB and PNC bank. The treasurer also stated that once all of the checks with FNB clear, the account will be closed and all remaining monies to be put into the PNC Bank account.

1st motion to accept Treasurers report made by Skip Gallagher. 2nd motion made by Tom Shields. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Rich Holmes stated that there were no changes to the sailing list. There have not been any applications returned from the ones we handed out during the West End Fair. We had approximately 10 interested persons who received them.

Correspondence: Bob Smith stated that he received an e-mail from a Mr. John Phillips stating that he would still like to join our base. Mr. Phillips lives in New Jersey, but works locally in PA.

Bob Smith presented an article from the Pocono Record that was sent to him by a friend, to the members about the postal service looking to get rid of excess mailboxes.

Frank McDevitt received a thank you letter from Eagle Scout, Matt Planar, for our attendance to his court of honor.

Flag Boxes: Frank McDevitt stated that there are no changes in the flag drop boxes and that the one at the Shoprite in Stroudsburg continues to do very well.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he has been putting the usual adds in the local papers each month for our meeting.

Dinner/Dance: The annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 16 December 2011 at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: There are a couple of parades coming up in October and November. There is the Halloween Parade in Barrett Township and the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in November.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt thanked all of the members that have participated in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor presentations.

Frank stated that we have an invitation from a Ryan Senholzi for his Court of Honor on Saturday, 15 Oct 2011 at 2PM in East Stroudsburg, PA and he is looking for someone to do the presentation.

Frank stated that there are two more courts of honor coming up, but he has not received any invitations for them. One is on the 16th of October, one on the 19th of November and the last one on the 20th of November.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Frank McDevitt stated that there is no further progress with the program for right now. Frank stated that he was working on trying to get a presentation with Geisinger.

Old Business:

Bob Smith read a financial report of the raffle prize income from the West End Fair and the Victorian Days in Belvedere, NJ. We did very well this year and eclipsed both events in sales.

Tom Shields talked about the Barrett Township Halloween Parade. The parade will be held on Sunday 30 Oct 2011. Members are requested to arrive at the high school by 1230 PM, with the parade stepping off at 1400. Please meet at Tom Shields house by noon so we can carpool over to the parade. Tom stated that he would have food afterwards.

Bob Smith stated that he has an entry form for the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade. The parade will be held in Jim Thorpe this year on Sunday 6 November 2011. The members present expressed an interest in attending.

Bob stated that he would post these events on the base website calendar of events. Bob also stated that he would have maps available for those wishing to go to Jim Thorpe.

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

Bill Klose mentioned that Huey Dietrich has the Northeast District 3 patches for sale. Bill stated that the Scranton Base has asked for 14 of them and any member from our base who would like one, the cost would be \$5 each. Bill also asked if anyone else would like a 2012 calendar.

New Business:

Tom Shields talked about a possible event to attend next year in the area of Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg. Tom stated that he would try to get more information for us.

Bob Smith stated that he would like to establish a budget/donation committee to help with our financial obligations and donations. Gerald Zeman and Tom Shields expressed an interest in being on the committee. It was agreed upon to hold this committee meeting after our main base meeting.

Bob Stated that Frank McDevitt had been in touch with a Roger Chatell about the Sea Scouts program. Bob stated that he was able to get a hold of Mr. Chatell and that he was able to put it on his schedule to come to our next meeting. Bob told him to come around 7:30PM. The Sea Scouts is an affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Chatell will give a presentation as to what the Sea Scout Program is about. His presentation will follow after our meeting, which Bob stated he would like to get it done quickly and then hold the raffle drawing.

Tom Shields stated that he would try to get in touch with Mr. Mark Tramontina in regards to the Veterans Day presentation at Pleasant Valley High School on Veterans Day. After some discussion amongst the members present, we decided that we would take the float back to Pleasant Valley again this year if invited.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith thanked everyone who helped out during the West End Fair and in Belvedere:

Dave Padora for the idea of having a candy jar, John Kelly for refilling it halfway thru the fair, the guys who brought their wives, thanks to Mike Smith for bringing his A/V gear and thanks to Bill Klose for all of the training aids that he brought.

The annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 16 December 2011 at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA. The reception will begin at 6:30PM and the dinner will start at 7:30PM. Bob Smith stated that he would have further information on the website in the calendar of event section, including links for directions and the menu for the night.

Bob Smith talked about our sponsorship of one boat last year. After some discussion, the members present agreed to sponsor a second boat this year. We have chosen to sponsor the USS Pittsburgh, since they are in need of sponsorship along with renewing our sponsorship with the USS Pennsylvania.

Calendar of Events:

21 Sept 2011: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

15 Oct 2011: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ryan Senholzi at 2PM in East Stroudsburg, PA.

19 Oct 2011: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs. The winner of the Base Raffle will be picked at the end of this meeting.

30 Oct 2011: Annual Halloween Parade in Mountainhome, PA. Step off is 1400 Hrs.

06 Nov 2011: Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Jim Thorpe, PA.

11 Nov 2011: Veterans Day

16 Nov 2011: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

16 Dec 2011: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 October 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 Ken Smith.

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 2008 hrs.
Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary