

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 July 2012



USS Robalo



SS-273

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

Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: sealion2@ptd.net

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

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Base Supply Officer – Bill “Shut” 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 July:

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Tom Shields, Rich Holmes, Gerald Zeman and Skip Baker.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Robalo (SS-273)

Meeting Minutes: The secretary provided the minutes from the June 2012 Meeting.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as distributed at the meeting. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 June 2012.

Rich Holmes made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: No Report.

Correspondence: None.

Flag Memorial: Frank McDevitt reports that the boxes continue to be well filled. Frank also commented that the boxes are in need of some refurbishment.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Journal of the Pocono Plateau, the Focus and also sent one to the Pocono Record.

Parades: No reports on parades until after the fairs.

Budget & Donations: No Report.

Eagle Scouts: Frank McDevitt stated that there are four Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up in July and August. Dates and time will be listed in the Calendar of Events.

The following four scouts have passed their Eagle Scout Board and will have their Courts of Honor this month and next month:

1st: Thomas R. Stone, 2nd: Gary W. Hoffman, 3rd: Adam N. Jablonski and 4th: Zachary I. Bollinger. Frank asked for volunteers to attend. And present the certificates and patches.

Bob Smith mentioned that the 2nd court is coincident with the last day of the Carbon County Fair and the last court is coincident with the set-up day for the West End Fair.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report, Frank McDevitt stated that he would get back to work on it.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of World War II on the loss of the USS Robalo

Old Business:

Bob Smith talked about the upcoming Carbon County Fair. Bob stated that Frank McDevitt was able to get some vendor passes for us. Bob also asked for everyone to look at the schedule for the fair, either at the meeting, or on the website and sign up if they are available to attend. It was decided that we would set up for the Carbon County Fair on Saturday the 4th of August. The vendor passes are one time use, so a new one will be needed to get in the next day that the volunteer shows up.

Bob Smith also talked about the West End Fair in Gilbert, Pa. The dates of the fair are from Aug 26th to Sep 1st. The set-up day is Saturday the 25th of August and the breakdown is on the 2nd of September. Again, Bob is asking for at least two people to man the booth during the fair and at least four to help set up and break down. Bob stated that he would not receive the passes for the fair until the day before set-up.

There will be further discussion about the West End Fair and the Victorian Days in Belvedere, NJ at the August meeting.

Bob Smith wanted to know what we were going to do with the 'Traveling Dolphins'. There was talk about taking them to the fairs, unless a member of another Pennsylvania base came and took them as a 'Conquest' prize.

Bob Smith talked about the voting in National Base Elections. He stated that they are big on voting and there are two ways to vote, or you have the right to abstain. One way is to vote online at the USSVI National Site; the other is to send in the ballot from the American Submariner magazine. We have also been challenged by Huey Deitrich to help the Eastern District 3 have the most votes by percentage.

Tom Shields stated that he is still interested in our just getting together with the wives and having a dinner night out. Tom stated that we could have it on either a meeting night and conduct some base business, or have it on a Friday night. Tom stated that he doesn't believe we would be able to do it until September due to our schedule.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to just hold a base dinner in September. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed. The date of the dinner will be brought up at the August meeting.

New Business:

Bob Smith asked the members present if we wanted to have a Christmas Dinner this year. Tom Shields made the 1st motion that we have a Christmas Dinner this year. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith asked whether we wanted the dinner on Friday 14 Dec or Friday 21 Dec. Rich Holmes made the 1st motion that we have the Christmas Dinner on the 21st of December. Tom Shields made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The Christmas Dinner will be held at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA. More details about the dinner will be posted as the time draws near.

Bob Smith talked about a topic that was brought up by John Kelly from the last meeting. The gist is that there are only two people working on the USS Drum down in Mobile, AL. and are looking for donations from the bases. Bob Smith stated that he would send out an e-mail with the link.

Bob also talked about a Flash Traffic message from National about the USS Clamagore. Basically there is no money left over for her upkeep. Bob Smith also stated that he would provide an e-mail link to this site as well.

The discussion was then turned over to our Budget & Donation Committee. During the discussion, it was brought up that the Clamagore Donations were only asking for \$2 per person. After further deliberations about the USS Clamagore at Patriots Point in South Carolina, Rich Holmes made the 1st motion that our base donates \$100 to the preservation effort. Tom Shields made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The discussion about the USS Drum was tabled until the August meeting to allow for John Kelly to state his case about it.

Good of the Order:

Binnacle List:

Ken Smith was unable to attend due to having to get fitted for a brace.

Bob Smith talked about former base member, Steve Vergalito. Steve was involved in a hit and run while riding his motorcycle on July 2nd. The woman that hit him left the scene. Bob stated that Steve suffered a broken leg in multiple places, broken ribs and multiple cuts and bruises. Bob also stated that Steve had his 3rd surgery on his leg back on the 11th of July. Bob asked that the base send him a card. The base secretary passed around one of the new blank cards and had the members present sign their names. The base secretary will write a short piece in the card and mail it to Steve. We also ask the members to keep Steve in their thoughts during his recovery.

Frank McDevitt stated that we have received our trailer back after having the damage that occurred at Lake Naomi repaired and stated that the Lake Naomi Association picked up the tab.

Calendar of Events:

31 July 2012: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Thomas R. Stone at 7PM at the Chestnuthill Pavilion. Bob Smith stated that he would present the certificate and patch.

7 Aug – 11 Aug 12: Carbon County Fair in Palmerton, PA. First year for attending. We will be selling raffle tickets at this event. Looking for help to man the tent.

11 Aug 2012: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Gary W. Hoffman at the Jackson Township Firehall in Reeders, PA at 1PM. Michael Smith stated that he would attend

15 Aug 2012: Monthly meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

18 Aug 2012: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Adam N. Jablonski at the Salem-St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kresgeville, PA at 3PM. Bob Smith stated that he would attend.

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

25 Aug 2012: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zachary I. Bollinger at the Chestnuthill Recreation Building at 9AM. Still need attendee.

26 Aug –1 Sep 12: West End Fair in Gilbert, Pa. We will be selling raffle tickets and have our base float present. Still looking for help to man the booth/tent area this week.

03 Sept 2012: Labor Day Holiday

19 Sept 2012: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 Aug 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 Gerald Zeman.

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 2019 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary