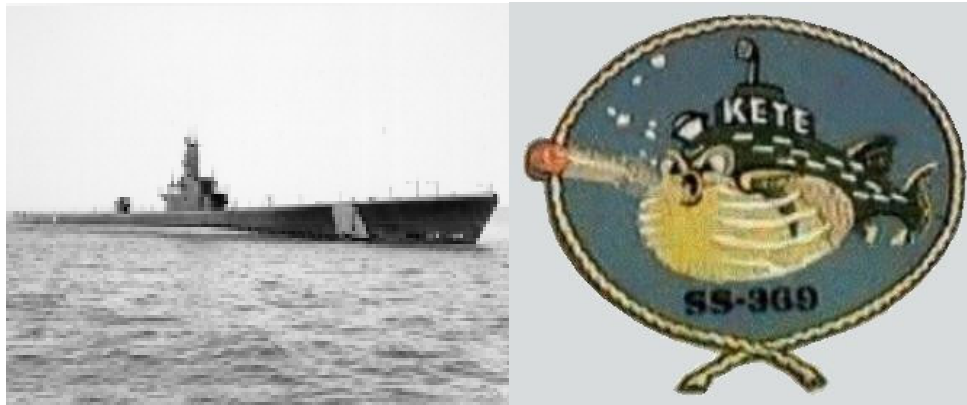


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 20 March 2013



**USS Kete      SS-369**

#### 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

A Moment of silence was held following the tolling of the bell. Bob Smith mentioned that former member Pocono Base member and current Scranton Base member John Saeli passed away.

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 Baker, Ken Smith, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora and Tom Shields.

We also had a guest and prospective new member Bob D'Amico. Bob introduced himself and stated that he qualified on board the USS Sea Owl (SS-405). The members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified/ served on.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the February Minutes as presented. 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 2013.

Dave Padora made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurers' report. Frank McDevitt made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** No report, membership chairman not present.

**Correspondence:** The Treasurer received a 'Thank you' letter from the Mobile Bay Base for our donation to help support the restoration of the USS Drum. The Treasurer gave the letter to the secretary for record keeping.

**Parades:** The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA is on the 24th of March. Step off will be at 1400 hours from the High School in Stroudsburg and will continue to Liztech in East Stroudsburg.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the weekly papers as well as the Pocono Record this week.

**Flag Box:** Bob Smith and Frank McDevitt talked about our Flag Box program for our potential new member and what we do each Flag Day with the American Legion Post.

**Eagle Scout:** Frank McDevitt stated that he made a presentation back on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and Bob Smith stated that he has a presentation coming up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Frank stated that there are currently, no other Courts of Honor coming up.

**Kaps4Kids:** Frank McDevitt stated that he would look into the Ronald McDonald House after he is finished with personal issues.

Frank McDevitt read from the book, Submarine Operations of World War II, on the loss of USS Kete (SS-369).

**Old Business:** Bob Smith started talking about this year's raffle prize and asked for Tom Shields input.

Tom Shields stated that the best way to approach the raffle was to have a committee or to appoint ONE person to run the raffle and let him do it without interference.

There was also the discussion about just having a cash prize. Tom stated that most people don't realize what the prize is. Tom stated that we get people to buy the tickets because we associate the raffle with the veteran's organizations that we donate to and then let them know about the actual prize when they buy the ticket(s). Tom stated that 'cash' as a prize could be a problem.

After all of the discussion, Bob Smith asked if anyone would volunteer to head the raffle prize program. There were no takers at this meeting. Bob Smith then asked the members present about keeping the same raffle prize as the last couple of years.

Frank McDevitt made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that we keep the same prize package for our raffle this year. Ken Smith made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

All of the members present, agreed to keep the price of the tickets the same at \$1 per ticket or \$5 for a book of six. There was also an agreement to purchase the same number of tickets as last year as well. Bob Smith stated he would get in contact with Rich Holmes about purchasing the tickets.

Bob Smith talked about the organizations that we have donated to for the benefit of our prospective new member as well as stating which groups we have not received thank you letter from.

Frank McDevitt made a motion that we do not send any more donations to groups that don't acknowledge receiving a previous donation from us. Ken Smith made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith state that the drawing for the prize will be held during our October meeting.

Bob Smith talked about a conversation that he had with Tom Shields at our last meeting about the Greyback Base in Atlanta, GA. Tom stated that they were looking for plans for making a float. The article was in the last issue of the 'American Submariner' magazine. We were going to offer them the plans that Ken Smith made for the USS Barb, but, Bob Smith stated that a friend of his at that base, said that they had a drop tank donated to them.

Ken Smith said that Skip Gallagher had located a potential new trailer for us, but has not gotten back with any information.

**New Business:** The Base Secretary asked for the base to reimburse him for the cost of new certificate holders.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that the base reimburse the secretary for the holders. Dave Padora made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith stated that the Thresher Base was holding a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial on the loss of the USS Thresher (SSN-593). Bob stated that they were having issues with the Department of the Navy due to sequestration issues and funding for the memorial and they are asking each of the bases to donate to help cover the costs.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith talked about former base member John Saeli. Bob stated that John had been sick for about the last year and had progressed into his spine and liver. Bob stated that John did not want dialysis treatments and asked to be released from Hospice care. John Saeli passed away on 19 March 2013.

Binnacle List: Pat McDevitt is home and has the Visiting Nurse Association coming to the house.

Bill Klose's grandson was recently killed. Bill stated that he was riding the rails and was sleeping in a rail car when the load inside was shifted when the car was hooked up.

### **Calendar of Events:**

24 Mar 2013: St. Patrick's Day Parade participation in Stroudsburg, PA

17 Apr 2013: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 17 Apr 2013 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Dave Padora to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Skip Baker.

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 2012 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary