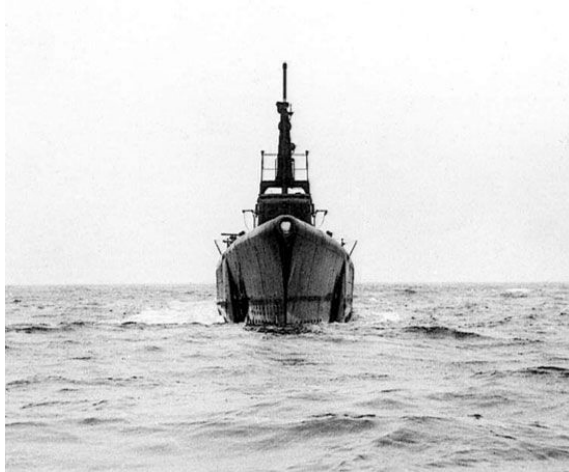


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 October 2013



USS Dorado (SS 248)

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, Leighton, 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

Ph (570) 595-9648. E-Mail address: candlite@ptd.net

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1910 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: Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Rich Holmes, Gerald Zeman, Tom Shields, Frank McDevitt and Skip Gallagher. We were also joined by a couple of the wives of our members due to the raffle drawing at the end of the meeting.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided minutes for the members at the meeting. Also, minutes were e-mailed to all members.

Skip Gallagher made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as presented. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer was not present and no report was forwarded for presentation. The treasurer was in Ohio for the night of the meeting.

Frank McDevitt made the 1st motion to waive the treasurer's report. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion to waive the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Rich Holmes reported that we had two new membership applications. One application was for Alan Dempsey, who was a guest / prospective new member at last month's meeting. The other prospective new member, Edward J. Surette is applying for associate member status as he served on-board the USS Orion Sub Tender.

Budget / Donation: Bob Smith stated that he would have all of the fundraising information ready for the November Meeting.

Correspondence: Bob Smith received an e-mail regarding the insurance issue.

Flag Box Program: Frank McDevitt reported that the boxes continue to be quite active, especially the Shop-Rite location in Stroudsburg, PA.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in the local papers, but was unsure which ones made it due to being laid up from his being in the hospital. Bob stated that he sends them each month.

Speakers Bureau: Veterans Day speaking events at the Tobyhanna Elementary School and at the Pleasant Valley High School on the 11th of November. We have not received any official invitation to either of these events.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 20th of December at the Village Squire Steakhouse in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: Barrett Township Halloween Parade in Mountainhome / Cresco, PA on the 27th of October. Parade steps off at 2PM. Tom Shields offered food at his house after the parade.

Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 10th of November. Line-up will be at the Stroudsburg High School, like the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt stated that there are three Eagle Scout Courts of Honor for the month of November. Please see the calendar of events for the dates and locations.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Frank McDevitt stated that he was still looking into the Ronald McDonald House in Danville, PA, but has had no luck anywhere else in Northeast PA. Frank stated that he might look into the Philadelphia area. Mike Smith stated that the two main children's hospitals in the Philly area are St. Christopher's and CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia), part of University of PA Campus.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Dorado. Frank McDevitt was wondering about the number of men on-board of some of these lost boats and how there could be more men lost, than what a typical roster would be. We had a little discussion about it and would be just a little food for thought if we wished to pursue it.

Old Business:

Bob Smith discussed the up-coming parades and events that he would not be able to attend any due to having knee surgery and cannot drive for a while, let alone handling the float / trailer.

Tom Shields would like those attending the Barrett Township Halloween Parade on the 27th of October to meet at his house by 1200 Hours. The parade will step off about 2PM. Tom Shields stated that he would provide food and drinks at his house after the parade, but there was very little turnout for the meeting and we could not get an accurate number. 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. Skip Gallagher volunteered to pick up and pull the float for this parade.

There is also the 2nd Annual Veterans Day Expo to be held at the Middle Smithfield Elementary School in East Stroudsburg, PA on the 9th of November. The set up time is at 10:30AM and the event runs from Noon to about 3PM. The members present agreed that we would attend this event again. The Base Secretary then stated that he would scan and e-mail the application to Lorna O'Farrell with our response. Gerald Zeeman volunteered to pick up the float for this event.

Bob Smith then talked about the Stroudsburg Veterans Day Parade that will be held on the 10th of November. Line-up and staging for the parade will be at 10AM with step-off at noon. Staging will be at the Stroudsburg High School with the same route as the St. Patrick's Day parade. After a little discussion about this parade and the one's that we have attended in Carbon County for the last couple of years, the members present voted to 'NOT' attend the parade in Stroudsburg, PA. We couldn't get enough interest in going, especially with how few members were present at tonight's meeting.

Bob stated that there is the up-coming Veterans Day Event at the Pleasant Valley High School in Brodheadsville, PA on Monday, 11 November 2013. The set-up with the float will be on Sunday evening and would start when school convenes. Bob stated that we have not received the official invitation yet from Mr. Tramontina.

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner at the Village Squire Steakhouse in Blakeslee, PA is coming up on the 20th of December. Bob stated that he would be e-mailing the members about who is going and what their choice of meal is for the evening. Bob stated that the menu has not changed.

Rich Holmes asked about the Holland Club Program and was wondering if we held the presentation for the members for the up-coming year or if it was for the past year. Bob responded by stating that it would be for the past year.

Bob discussed the final tally of ticket receipts for the West End Fair and the Belvidere Victorian Days and would update the final total after the ticket receipts up to this evening.

New Business:

Bob Smith talked about the e-mail traffic that he had received regarding insurance for the bases. Bob talked about his response to the e-mails and that our base pursued getting our own to help cover the requirements for the events we attend. Bob Smith then talked about the response from Mike Naughton, USSVI - East Region Director North, as to whether our policy was valid or not. Bob Smith stated that he drafted another response, but has not sent it yet. Bob read his response to the members present. After a lengthy discussion about the insurance, there was an agreement by the members present to write a response to Huey Dietrich in regards to our insurance situation.

Frank McDevitt stated that there were five Eagle Scout Court of Honor invitations that he did not receive due to an issue with our mail and he stated that he had to just send them their certificates and patches.

Frank McDevitt then read the names and dates for three upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in November. They are Nicholas N. Gemmell on the 9th, Andrew D. Atherton on the 23rd and Dayne R. Coleman on the 24th. Michael Smith stated that he would present the certificate and patch on the 24th. Frank is looking for volunteers to do the other two presentations.

Bob Smith talked about the PA Subvet License Plate program that is run out of the Philadelphia base. The cost would be \$20 for the state and \$4 for the Philadelphia Base for processing for a grand total of \$24 per plate. This was a heated point of contention a number of years ago when this program was first introduced. Anyone wishing to get a license plate, please contact Bob Smith, as he stated that he has the forms and the basic instructions on filling out the forms.

Good of the Order:

Ken Smith is still back and forth to Pittsburgh, helping his daughter with their house.

We also have Bob Smith on the binnacle list as he stated that he is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

It was agreed upon again at this meeting that we hold off with the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) video until the next meeting, in the hope that we have more members present.

Calendar of Events:

27 Oct 2013: Annual Halloween Parade in Mountainhome, PA. Step off is 1400 Hrs. We will meet up at Tom Shields residence around noon.

9 Nov 2013: 2nd Annual Veterans Day expo in East Stroudsburg, PA. Set-up is at 10:30AM. Expo will run from noon to 3PM.

9 Nov 2013: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nicholas N. Gemmell. Court will be held at the Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Company in Saylorsburg, PA at 1PM.

11 Nov 2013: Tentative Veterans Day speaking engagements at Pleasant Valley High School and Tobyhanna Elementary School. There have been no invitations to either of these events as of the October meeting.

20 Nov 2013: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

23 Nov 2013: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Andrew D. Atherton. Court will be held at the Effort United Methodist Church on Merwinsburg Road in Effort PA at 1:30 PM.

24 Nov 2013: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dayne R. Coleman. Court will be held at the Polk Township Fire Hall in Kresgeville, PA at 3:30PM. Michael Smith will present the certificate and patch.

18 Dec 2013: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Dec 2013: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Village Squire Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 November 2013 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Rich Holmes to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Skip Gallagher.

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 2010 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. The winning raffle ticket was drawn by one of the American Legion Post members after our regular meeting. The winner was contacted by Tom Shields and the winner decided to accept the cash equivalent of the prize package.