

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 18 September 2013



## USS Grayling (SS 209)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:seagoatc@epix.net)

**COB – Tom Shields** / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342

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

**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1911 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: Bob Smith, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Skip Baker, Skip Gallagher, Frank McDevitt, John Kelly, Tom Shields, and Gerald Zeman.

We had a guest and prospective new member. We would like to welcome Alan Dempsey on –board. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served/qualified on.

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.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as provided was made by Dave Padora. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2013. The treasurer reported that this was the same balance as July as the deposits had not cleared before the end of the month.

1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept Treasurers report made by Skip Gallagher. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by John Kelly. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** No report, as the membership chairman was not present. Bob Smith did state that we do have new member applications in the works.

**Correspondence:** Bob Smith received a letter from the Veterans Organization in Stroudsburg. The contents will be discussed under New Business.

**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. Frank stated that we still need to refurbish the boxes as they are getting faded

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he has been putting the usual ads in the local papers this month for our meeting except for the Focus, due to a cutback in size of the paper this week

**Dinner/Dance:** The annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, 21 December 2012 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 Veterans Day parade in Stroudsburg, PA.

**Eagle Scout:** Frank McDevitt stated that there are no new Courts of Honor coming up.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Frank McDevitt stated that he is making some progress with the program and had a tentative appointment with Camp Victory in the Danville, PA area.

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

**Old Business:** Bob Smith stated that he wants to thank all of the members that have been turning in their raffle tickets. Bob stated that we still have one more month to go before the drawing. Bob is asking for all members to mail them in, contact him for pick-up or bring them to the October meeting. Bob also asked Frank McDevitt if he would be able to bring the drum for next month's meeting.

Bob Smith talked about the West End Fair. Bob stated that we were hampered by rain for a few days then started to get better by the end of the week. Bob stated that we picked up over \$xxxx in sales for the week including one copy of "Thunder Below" by Admiral Eugene Fluckey.

Bob Smith stated that we did well on Saturday in Belvidere, NJ and so-so for Sunday and brought in almost \$xxx in sales for both days. Bob stated that they did not put the tent up at Belvidere and that they just left the sub the trailer and set up the tables in front.

Bob Smith thanked all of the members who volunteered their time at the West End Fair and at Belvidere for the set-up, duration and break-down times.

Bob Smith talked about whether we want to do this again or something different and we would talk about it over the winter months.

There was some discussion about the amount of time we spent manning the booth and the returns in sales and that it was lacking this year. Part of the discussion was brought up by Mike Smith, in stating that we had moved ourselves pretty far back from the walking path and that Bob wanted to lash the tent to one of the trees. We had to try to herd people further off the path to just get to our tent. Bob Smith stated that next year, we would move up closer to the path.

**New Business:** Skip Gallagher talked about wanting to have the base reimburse Bob Smith for the time and gas that he takes whenever he transports the float to any destination. Bob Smith stated that he was offered a reimbursement last year and declined it. Frank McDevitt stated that he still wanted it to be on record that we would still like to see some way of reimbursing Bob for his time and effort.

Skip Gallagher talked about looking into a place where we can store the float, instead of it taking up space in Bob Smith's garage. There was discussion about finding a place that might donate a storage site for us, as we are a Veterans Organization. Frank McDevitt stated that he had looked into some places for storage, including Tobyhanna Army Depot and the Minsi Trails campground. Bob stated that the issue is the overall height of the sub and trailer. There were also offers by some of the members present about being able to tow the trailer if Bob was unavailable.

Mr. Dempsey asked about our Eagle Scout program and how we run it. Frank McDevitt stated that we need to be invited to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor and stated that he would be happy to include Mr. Dempsey with the next presentation. Frank discussed that we are one of the few groups that actually presents the certificate in person, instead of just mailing them.

The Base Secretary read a letter from the Honorable Rosemary M. Brown. Ms. Brown is asking if we would like to participate in her 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Expo. The event is to be held on Saturday 9 Nov 2013 from noon to 3PM at the Middle Smithfield Elementary School in East Stroudsburg. There is a set up time of 10:30 AM. There is no cost to us.

Ms. Brown is asking for a response no later than 21 Oct 2013 if we would like to attend.

After a little discussion, it was decided to hold off responding until next meeting. Mike Smith stated that he could attend.

Bob Smith talked about upcoming parades. Bob stated that there is the Barrett Township Halloween Parade in October and will discuss particulars at the next meeting. Bob Smith talked about attending the Stroudsburg Veterans Day Parade on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The cost for this parade would be \$25 to attend.

Mike Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for the base to attend the Barrett Township Halloween Parade on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. Skip Baker made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed. Tom Shields stated that he would look into how late we could show up, instead of waiting around from noon til 2PM, when the parade steps off.

Tom Shields talked about how this could help get us more publicity about who we are and made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that we attend the Stroudsburg Veterans Day Parade. Skip Baker made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to attend. All in favor, motion passed.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith stated that Ken Smith is still in Pittsburgh, helping his daughter after her house fire and couldn't attend our meetings.

The Base Secretary brought his laptop to show the members of the base, the video of the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program that Frank McDevitt is trying to start. The audio portion is very low and the secretary did not bring his speakers for the computer. It was decided that we would watch the video next month after the base business has concluded, due to how late tonight's meeting ran.

### **Calendar of Events:**

- 16 Oct 2013: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs. The winner of the Base Raffle will be picked at the end of this meeting.
- 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: Tentative schedule for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Day expo in East Stroudsburg, PA. Set-up would be at 10:30AM. Expo will run from noon to 3PM
- 10 Nov 2013: Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Further information will be posted after the October meeting.
- 12 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 September meeting.
- 20 Nov 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, 16 October 2013 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Rich Holmes.

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