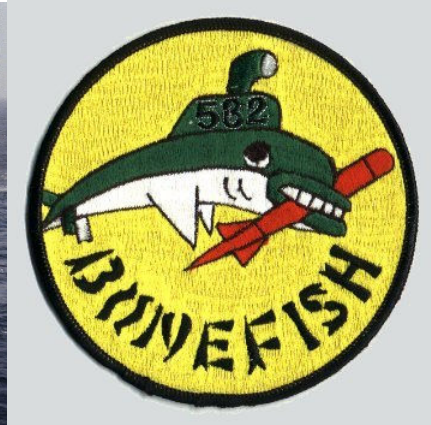


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 16 April 2014



**USS Bonefish**

**SS-582**

#### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: [rlines@ptd.net](mailto:rlines@ptd.net)

**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 “Shut” Klose** / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028

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**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 1906 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 April:

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	80 Men
08 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	88 Men
10 Apr 1963	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men
24 Apr 1988	USS Bonefish	SS 582	3 Men

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

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary provided the March Minutes for the members present.

Skip Gallagher made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as presented and posted. Gerald Zeman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an income of \$xxx.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx for the month of March, with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Mar 2014.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith asked the members present as to who would like to take over the membership chair position. Ken Smith stated that he would accept the chair position.

**Correspondence:** The Base Secretary received a handful of letters that were collected by the Wilson-Fischer Post. Some of them were dated back to August 2013. The base also received an e-mail from a Dan Rowland of the Bonfish Base in Redlands, CA.

**Eagle Scouts:** Frank McDevitt stated that he would do the three Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as they are all at the Camp Minsi Dining Hall, Camp Minsi, Pocono Pines, PA.

**Flag Box:** Frank McDevitt reports that the flag drop boxes continue to be full in various locations.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** No report.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith reported that he placed the usual ads in the local papers regarding our base and this month's meeting.

**Parades:** Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 26 May 2014.

**Budget & Donation:** No report.

Frank McDevitt read from the 'Submarine Operations of WWII' on the loss of the USS Triton (SS – 201).

**Old Business:** Bob Smith asked Ken Smith if the key to the Base P.O Box had been turned over by Rich Holmes. Ken replied that Rich has the keys for the box. Ken stated that he would contact Rich Holmes regarding the keys. Bob stated that he and Ken would work on straightening out the membership list and dues. Tom Shields mentioned that the base had in its by-laws a number of years ago, that the Base Commander kept one of the keys and would also have to co-sign the checks. The co-signing was subsequently removed from the by-laws over the years. Bob stated that he would take one of the keys.

Bob Smith stated that we need to work on the raffle for this year and opened the floor for discussion.

Skip Gallagher stated that he went to the Great Wolf Lodge a couple of times, including the day of our meeting. Skip stated that we could purchase a one-night ticket from them and Great Wolf would provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> night gift voucher to the winner if they choose to stay. Skip also stated that he went to Camelback again to try and find information about obtaining a season pass for a family of four, that could be used either for skiing during the winter, or during the summer season at Camelbeach. Tom Shields mentioned that this potential prize package falls within the range that we are willing to spend on the prizes.

There was some intense discussion about the price of the raffle tickets. There was discussion about raising the price to \$2 per ticket, but there is still opposition about raising the prices. Also brought up during this discussion, was the membership in general. It was noted that we have a core group of our members that attend the meetings, do the parades, fundraising, publicity, etc. while we also have a large number that do not or have not participated since they joined. There was an opinion offered to create a 2-class membership, in which those that choose to participate gain some kind of benefit, while those that do not participate, receive none. We will look into wording to define a member in good standing.

After all of the discussion, it was decided that we table the issue until the next meeting and have arguments then of raising the cost vs not raising the cost of the tickets. We need to have tickets printed.

Skip Gallagher and Ken Smith presented the designs for the new trailer. Skip stated that he received the trailer from Bob Smith and talked about how it would be modified for use. The trailer would basically be cut down to the frame and have seats along both sides of the trailer and the model of the boat would be in the middle. Skip and Ken stated that the seats would be bench style, with storage in the benches. The trailer is also low enough and the sub would be lowered by about 18 inches from its current perch. This would allow for others to store the trailer, instead of Bob Smith storing it at his house. Ken Smith stated that we are also in possession of another pop-up trailer, that could be spruced up and sell it for the proceeds to help defray the cost of modifying the new trailer.

**New Business:** The Base Secretary read an e-mail received by Bob Smith from a Dan Rowland of the Bonefish Base in Redland, CA. Bob Smith stated that this is the second time our base has been asked for plans. Bob stated that the first time was from a base in Florida, but they ended up receiving a drop tank and made a “Boomer” float from it. The base in California is looking into making a replica of the USS Bonefish (SS – 223) and is looking for plans. Ken Smith stated that he was also corresponding with a gentleman from the Long Island area about the plans as well. Ken stated that he would have to find the plans, due to the fact that he has moved a couple of times since he built our float. Ken stated that once he found all of the plans he could place them in a shipping tube and mail them. Ken stated that the plans are about 20ft long and could not be copied easily. Bob stated that he would respond back to Mr. Rowland.

Bob Smith stated that he has the Holland Club Certificates for Rich Holmes and Bonaventure Turri and that we would have had a ceremony for them. Unfortunately, neither was able to come to the meeting and the certificates would be mailed to them.

Bob Smith stated that we received the check back from the Irish-American Society, as the group decided not to attend the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in March.

**Good of the Order:** The members present were tasked with coming up with a list of ideas to bring to the next meeting about how to get other members interested in participating.

Due to the American Legion holding onto some of our mail, it was noted that a letter containing raffle ticket receipts from Ken Calemmo and a check for the amount was received late. The secretary stated that the check written by Ken Calemmo was dated back in August and through no fault of his own, it was brought up that we credit Ken for the new raffle tickets for this year.

Gerald Zeman made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that the base credit Ken Calemmo for tickets for this years' raffle. Skip Gallagher made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith stated that Ken Calemmo also sent a \$100 donation to Frank McDevitt, in memory of Pat McDevitt. Frank stated that he would respond to that letter.

### **Calendar of Events:**

26 April 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at for Daniel Shaykavich at the Camp Minsi Dining Hall in Pocono Pines, PA at 5 PM. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

27 April 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at for Joseph George LaPointe at the Camp Minsi Dining Hall in Pocono Pines, PA at 2 PM. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

21 May 2014: Monthly meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

24 May 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at for Elia R. Taddeo at the Camp Minsi Dining Hall in Pocono Pines, PA at 6 PM. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

26 May 2014: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 Hrs at the Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 Hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath-laying at the memorial across from the school after the parade. Also after the ceremony, the Wilson-Fischer post will be serving lunch at noon.

14 June 2014: Combined monthly meeting and Flag Day ceremony at Wilson-Fischer Post

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 21 May 2014 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Skip Gallagher to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Gerald Zeman. 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 2009 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary