

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 August 2014



USS Pompano

SS-181

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: sealion2@ptd.net

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

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

Base Supply Officer – Bill “Shut” 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 1912 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 August:

17 Aug 1942	USS Bass I	SS 164	25 Men
29 Aug 1943	USS Pompano	SS 181	77 Men
13 Aug 1944	USS Flier	SS 250	80 Men
24 Aug 1944	USS Harder	SS 257	84 Men
06 Aug 1945	USS Bullhead	SS 332	84 Men
26 Aug 1949	USS Cochino	SS 345	1 Man
26 Aug 1949	USS Tusk	SS 426	6 Men (assisting Cochino)

The Chief of the Boat led the men in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

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

Meeting Minutes: The July Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting.

Skip Gallagher made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as provided. Skip Baker made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an income of \$x.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx for the month of July. The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 July 2014.

Gerald Zeman made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith stated that he has placed Jim Staub on the Eternal Patrol list on the National Website. Ken Smith says he is still working on reconciling the sailing list and who has paid, etc. Bob and Ken Smith will be sending out renewal notices early enough so members can respond by 31 Dec 2014.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read the letters received by the base.

1st letter was from Carol Staub, wife of our shipmate Jim Staub, who went on Eternal Patrol on June 12th.

2nd letter was from member John Batchelor, stating that he and his wife has sold their home and has asked to be removed from the base roster.

3rd letter was a thank you letter from Eagle Scout John Villandre. Frank McDevitt was the presenter at his Court of Honor.

4th letter was a thank you letter and photos from the Warwick Valley Quilters Guild in recognition of our donation.

5th was an e-mail from Paul Wittmer from the Springfield Base. Looking for other bases to purchase a 6 book set of Memorial books on the men lost to donate to a museum or library. Cost of the set is \$300 plus shipping.

Flag Boxes: Frank McDevitt stated that the flag boxes are still doing quite well.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Pocono Plateau, the Penn Forest Journal and the Pocono Record.

Parades: No parades upcoming for the next couple of months.

Fund Raising: Continuing raffle ticket sales at until the October meeting.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report

Budget & Donation: No report until raffle money is totaled.

Eagle Scout: No Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in the near future.

Frank McDevitt read about the loss of the USS Pompano, SS-181 from the book, Submarine Operations of WWII.

Old Business:

There was discussion about the upcoming West End Fair. Bob Smith stated that he is still looking for help to man the booth during the week and has a roster sign-up sheet with him, also there is the ability to sign up on the base website. The tent will be set up over the trailer. Bob also stated that we would need personnel to help set up on Saturday, 23 August at 10AM. The fair runs from Sunday, August 24th til Saturday, 29 August. Breakdown would then be on Sunday the 30th of August at 10AM. Opening day will now begin at noon instead of 10AM.

Bob Smith displayed copies of the posters the will be used at the fairs.

Bob Smith stated that he was only able to obtain 'Guest' passes for the gate at the West End Fair. He stated that you only have to show them at the entrance and not to give them up. Bob stated that he was still working on getting 'S' placards for the back vendor parking area.

Bob Smith then discussed the Victorian Days Fair in Belvidere, NJ, that will be on held on the 6th and 7th of September. This is the weekend after Labor Day. Setup for the event would be at 8AM on Saturday and the breakdown would be right after the fair ends on Sunday the 7th. The tent may or may not be used, depending on the weather.

There are ballots available to members who wish to vote or members can vote electronically on the National website for the National Elections. Voting closes on the 27th of August.

There was further discussion about base activities, to include the wives and other members. Bill Klose also talked about maybe going back to Groton to attend a Sub School Graduation.

Skip Gallagher stated that Camelback is building a new hotel and indoor water park. He stated that the prize package includes the new construction, when complete.

New Business: There was no new business.

Good of the Order: The base received a renewal letter from the post office for the use of the P.O. Box for \$48 for the year. The fee was paid and the name was transferred to the Pocono Base. Rich Holmes name was removed from the box.

Binnacle list: Bob Smith stated that Frank McDevitt has a minor stroke a while back, but did not place him on the Binnacle list. Frank stated that he is doing fine.

The Base Secretary will not be at the next meeting. He will be helping a relative move to Florida and will be unavailable during that time.

Calendar of Events:

24 Aug – 30 Aug 2014: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down. Set-up will be on Saturday, 23 Aug 2014. Break down will be on 31 Aug 2014.

6 – 7 Sept 2014: The 27th Annual Belvidere Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ. Setup will be early Saturday before the celebration. Teardown will be at the close of the Victorian Days on Sunday.

17 Sept 2014: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

15 Oct 2014: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn and contacted at end of meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 Sept 2014 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Skip Gallagher to adjourn the meeting, 2nd 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 1945 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary