

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 October 2014



USS Shark II (SS 314)

Base Officers

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

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Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790

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Base Supply Officer – Bill Klose / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028

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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 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: Bob Smith, Mike Smith, Gerald Zeman, Skip Baker, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Frank McDevitt, Brett Moyer, Skip Gallagher and Tom Shields. The member present introduced themselves and the boats they served/qualified on for Brett.

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.

The meeting was held in an informal manner, as there was a power outage for the area and the Legion post was operating on a generator. Also, there was to be pizza at this meeting, but the shop was closed as well due to the outage.

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

Gerald Zeman made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dave Padora made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer was not present, but he forwarded a report that was read by the Base Commander. There was an opening balance of \$xxxx.xx, an income of \$xxxx.xx due to raffle sales and an expense of \$xx.xx with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 Sept 2014.

Gerald Zeman made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: No Report as of this time, but Bob stated that he and Ken are making progress.

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

Correspondence: Frank McDevitt received a Thank you letter from Eagle Scout, Ryan Seiple, for doing the presentation for the base.

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 did not place any ads this month due to being a bit under the weather.

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 19th of December at Robert Christians in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: Barrett Township Halloween Parade in Mountainhome / Cresco, PA on the 26th 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 9th 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 is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kyle and Andrew McCarthy on the 26th of October at the Chateau Resort & Conference Center at Camelback.

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

Frank McDevitt read about the loss of USS Shark II (SS-314) from the Submarine Operations of WWII.

Old Business: Bob Smith stated that he would send an e-mail on the proposed events suggested by Tom Shields, that the Base Secretary recorded in the base minutes. We are still looking for more involvement by our members for these events. Frank McDevitt commented about a couple of the trips, including the USS Becuna in Philly and the USS Intrepid Seaport Museum in New York.

Frank also commented about the couple of Base Dinner/Dances that they had in previous years and would like to maybe have another one in the future. Frank also expressed an interest about going to the 9/11 memorial, now that it is open as well.

New Business: The Barrett Township Halloween Parade was to be held on the 26th of October, but has been suspended indefinitely due to the manhunt and police presence in the area. They could not afford to shut down the main road through the area

There is also the 3rd Annual Veterans Day Expo to be held at the Middle Smithfield Elementary School in East Stroudsburg, PA on the 1st 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.

Bob Smith stated that he submitted the \$25 fee and entry form for the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, Pa. The parade will be held on Sunday, the 9th of November.

There is also the Pleasant Valley High School Veterans Day event to be held in the gym on the 11th of November (Veterans Day). The base has received has not received any official word of the event, but it is scheduled. Bob Smith stated that he would send an e-mail regarding this event.

Frank McDevitt stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 19th of October for a Kyle & Andrew McCarthy. The event to be held at the Chateau Resort & Conference Center at Camelback in Tannersville, PA. Frank McDevitt stated that he would do the presentation for this event.

Bob Smith stated that he would have a full report on the raffle sales at the November Meeting. He did say that the individual sales were up this year, than in previous years. Bob stated that we have taken in \$xxxx.xx as of this meeting and expect to split about \$xxxx.xx between the base budget and donations. This did not include last minute raffle income.

The Christmas Party / Dinner will be held at Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA on Friday, 19 Dec 2014. The menu will be the same as last year as well as the times.

Skip Gallagher talked about the second trailer we received and is looking for a good home for it, or he would get rid of it. He is looking for someone to take it off his hands, but does not know the condition of the canopy.

There was some discussion about the sailing list and entering the dates of when member's dues were to expire. Bob Smith also would like to have everyone's dues in by the 31st of December. That National requires all members to be paid up no later than 31 Jan or they are considered DINQ.

Good of the Order:

Ken Smith is in the hospital recovering from knee surgery. Ken is at the St. Luke's Warren Campus and is scheduled to come home on Friday the 17th of October.

Carol Shields, wife of Tom Shields, had a fall at home and ended up fracturing six of her ribs.

Calendar of Events:

19 Oct 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kyle & Andrew McCarthy. Court will be at the Chateau Resort & Conference Center at Camelback in Tannersville, PA. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

26 Oct 2014: Annual Halloween Parade in Mountainhome, PA. Step off is 1400 Hrs. We will meet up at Tom Shields residence around noon. Currently on hold due to Police Search in the area.

1 Nov 2014: 3rd Annual Veterans Expo at the Middle Smithfield Elementary School just north of Marshall's Creek, PA.

9 Nov 2014: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Parade forms up at the Stroudsburg High School and marches to East Stroudsburg.

11 Nov 2014: 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.

19 Nov 2014: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

27 Nov 2014: Happy Thanksgiving.

17 Dec 2014: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

19 Dec 2014: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. Cocktails start at 1830, Dinner at 1900.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 November 2014 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Dave Padora to adjourn the meeting, 2nd 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 1942 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. We would like to congratulate Jim Smith from the Stroudsburg area for winning our raffle. Bob Smith contacted him to give Jim the good news.