

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 September 2014



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

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, Lehighton, 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

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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 1904 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: Ken Smith, Tom Shields, Jerry Zeman, Skip Baker, Skip Gallagher, Alan Dempsey, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, Bob Smith and John Kelly

The following guests were present: John Schriever, and wife Marie, Commander AL Post 413, Sam Gallagher, Carol Shields, Nancy Zeman, Vicki Dempsey, Ev (Ken's friend), and Sheila Smith. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

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

The Base Commander verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary was not present for the meeting, but the Base Commander had posted the minutes from the August meeting and presented the minutes that the secretary printed for the members present.

Skip Gallagher made the first motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gerald Zeman made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an income of \$xxxx.xx and a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx for the month of August. The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 August 2014.

A full report will be given at the October meeting when all raffle incomes have been tallied.

Committees:

Membership: No Report.

Correspondence: No correspondence at this meeting.

Flag Boxes:

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, 19 December 2012 at Robert Christian Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

Parades: Barrett Township Halloween Parade on the 26th of October. Meet up at Tom Shields house by Noon.

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

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):

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

Old Business: No Old Business to report

New Business: The guest that was to have been at this month's meeting was unable to make it due to a scheduling conflict with the person giving him a ride to the meeting. He hopes to be at the October meeting.

Our other guest, John Shriever, Commander of the Wilson-Fischer Post, thanked us and gave a small speech and invited the members to join the local post or to come any time and enjoy the company.

Tom Shields mentioned the Annual Barrett Township Halloween Parade to be held on the 26th of October. Meet up will be at Tom's house at noon. Parade does not step off until 1400.

Ken Smith made the first motion for the base to attend the parade, Skip Baker made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith stated that he sent out 37 invitations for this meeting to prospective new members, but none showed. Bob stated that a couple of them had a conflict of interest. The other prospective member that was to be here tonight couldn't get a ride due to scheduling conflict with his ride. He will try again for the October meeting with his ride, who also would like to join the base.

Ken Smith talked about the burden that Bob Smith has endured with the housing of the base float and inquired about some of the other members being able to house the boat for a while and relieve Bob of that duty for a while. There was some discussion about tentative storage locations including Tobyhanna Army Depot as mentioned by Frank McDevitt. The discussion was tabled for a later date.

Good of the Order: Tom Shields compiled a list of events for the members to think about as a way to transform our meetings from just plain business to a recreational style event:

Christmas Dinner, already planned.

Trip to the USS Becuna in Philadelphia and lunch, Back to Sub School in Groton with an overnight at the Navy Lodge, the Blue & Gold Dinner/Dance in the spring. A visit to the USS Ling, a trip to New York City to the USS Intrepid and dinner in Little Italy. Dinner meetings every once in a while with members contributing 50% towards the dinner, a trip to Pocono Downs with dinner and to look into setting up of the SubVettes Woman's Auxiliary.

Alan Dempsey talked about a potential selling point next year of stating where the winner of the raffle was from.

Calendar of Events:

15 Oct 2014: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs. The winner of the Base Raffle will be picked at the end of this meeting.

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.

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.

19 Dec 2014: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 October 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 1930 hrs.
Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. the members present enjoyed a meal provided by Tom Shields at the close of business.