

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 April 2015



USS S-49 SS-160

Base Officers

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

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Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1903 by Base Vice-Commander Frank McDevitt 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, Alan Dempsey, Frank McDevitt, Ken Smith, Tom Shields, Skip Baker, Skip Gallagher and Gerald Zeman.

Also joining us for the meeting were two special guests. Huey Dietrich, Requin Base Commander and Northeast District 3 Commander and Joe Campisi, Former Base Commander of the USS Requin Base, Pittsburgh, PA.

The members present introduced themselves.

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 1st motion to accept the minutes as presented and posted. Alan Dempsey made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: No report. Treasurer out of town.

Committees:

Membership: No report.

Correspondence: No correspondence for this meeting.

Eagle Scouts: There are Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Listing is in the Calendar of Events.

Flag Box: Frank McDevitt reports that the flag drop boxes continue to be full in various locations. Ken Smith stated that the last box is ready to sand blasted and is looking for help.

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

Publicity: No publicity for this month.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 25 May 2015. Parade has reverted back to its original route.

Budget & Donation: No report.

Old Business: The American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post will be holding Flag Day ceremonies on the 13th of June instead of on the 14th. The Pocono Subvets are invited to join in the ceremony and the Legion Dinner / Dance afterwards. The time of our meeting and the ceremony will be provided at the May meeting.

There was open discussion about picking 2 items for events for the base to do this year. Skip Gallagher brought up the point about wanting to get the wives and significant others

involved in our events as well. Skip Gallagher talked about getting a bus tour to go to Ground Zero. It was suggested that we take a bus from the Legion post and be gone for the day and return back in the evening. Another part of the discussion was how to promote the trip and when to go.

Another couple of items brought up for the base to do this year was the Dinner / Dance and also a Dinner out with the wives this year.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion to plan for these three events, Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion. The members agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting where we could have more members present.

The Base Secretary stated that he has started working on an article for the American Submariner magazine regarding the USS Barb Float that was constructed by Ken Smith. The secretary also stated that he would submit some of the picture to the base members as to which ones would be used for the article.

Another issue that was brought up at this meeting is the ongoing quest to find a location to store the float and relieve Bob Smith of the hassle of storing it in his shed. Besides not having enough interest in the St. Patrick's Day parade, the larger issue was the condition of Bob Smith's yard. Was too wet to be able to get the float. One of the suggestions was at the Tobyhanna Army Depot, but there are only a few people with access to get it and would not be allowed to store it there anyway. Even some of the self-storage locations are asking for over \$100 per month in fees. Another idea that was brought up, was to obtain a Quonset tent and possibly look into the asking the Legion for the space for the tent.

Skip Gallagher stated that Camelback has offered the same prize package as last year for our raffle prize. Skip is also looking into whether the new indoor waterpark, Aquatopia, will be able to use the Camelcash Card. If so, we can add it to prize list on our displays.

Gerald Zeman made the 1st motion to accept the Camelback Resorts Package Deal. Ken Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The prize is a \$1500 Camelback Camel Cash card, good for majority of attractions within the Camelback Resorts, including skiing, alpine rollercoaster, zip lines, food, etc. Not usable outside of Camelback. Cash value will be \$750.

New Business: The West End Fair in Gilbert, PA will be from the 23rd to the 29th of August. Setup will be on Saturday the 22nd at around 11AM to Noon timeframe. Teardown will be on the 30th of August. There is a sign up on the poconosubvets.org website, for dates for people to work the booth.

The dates for the Belvidere Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ are the 12th & 13th of September. Setup will be early on the 12th and teardown after the fair on the 13th.

Gerald Zeman talked about the Valor Clinic in Jonas, PA. How they took the former Jonas Hotel and converted it to help homeless veterans get back on their feet. Gerald stated that they were looking for donations to help purchase a \$xxxx lawnmower, due to the size of the property, about 3 and half acres to be maintained. Frank stated that they currently have 12 residents including 2 that have graduated the 90-day program and are looking for donations to help defray some costs. Tom Shields made a motion to donate \$xxx as a one-time donation to the

Valor Clinic for the purchase of the lawnmower, Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion. After some discussion, it was decided by the members to table the motion til next meeting, where more members would be present.

Good of the Order: The floor was turned over to Huey Dietrich and Jim Campisi.

Huey thanked us for allowing them to attend our meeting tonight. Huey stated that he and Jim came up to our meeting after having met with the Keystone Base on the 14th of April. Huey asked if any members had any concerns regarding National that he would take them down.

Huey also asked if any members had grandchildren as the end of the month was coming up and there were scholarships still available or consideration.

Huey and Jim talked about this year's National Convention. The convention will be at the Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Rooms will be available at the Westin for a reduced rate. Events include a bus trip to Shanksville, PA for the Flight 93 memorial and then onto Ligonier for shopping and meals.

Another event is a combined 9/11 and tolling of the bell for all lost boats on-board the USS Requin. There will be the Wives luncheon, the Men's Luncheon, Holland Club Luncheon, etc. More information is available on the USSVI. Org website regarding the convention and all events happening during the week.

Calendar of Events:

25 Apr 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Lawrence Stanton at the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. Need Presenter

26 Apr 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Daniel Thomas Christensen in East Stroudsburg, PA. Michael Smith will be presenter.

20 May 2015: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

25 May 2015: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade. Also after the ceremony, the Wilson-Fischer post will be serving lunch at noon.

7 Jun 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Steven Joseph Daurio at the Blakeslee Community Center. Michael Smith will do the presentation.

13 Jun 2015: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

4 Jul 2014: Happy 4th of July

15 Jul 2015: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Skip Gallagher to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Ken Smith.
All in favor, motion carried.

The members present joined the Base Vice-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.”

Frank McDevitt declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2005 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. there was food provided after the meeting for our members.