

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 August 2015



USS Harder



SS-257

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 1914 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: Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Ken Smith, Bill Klose, Skip Gallagher, Skip Baker, Tom Shields and John Kelly.

Carol Shields and Sheila Smith were also present.

We also had a guest. A Mr. T. Brian Haverin from the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association attended our meeting and had a presentation.

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 \$xx.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 2015.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report. Skip Baker made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Dues will be increasing in 2016.

Correspondence: None.

Flag Boxes: No Report.

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.

Eagle Scout: No Report

Old Business: The secretary talked about a donation that the base agreed to make in support of the Tannersville Memorial Park renovation and was tasked with obtaining the mailing address and contact information. The secretary has obtained the information to mail the donation and was

given the check for the amount of \$xxx to mail to the American Legion Post 903 for the Eagle Scout Projects at the memorial park.

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, 22 August at 10AM. The fair runs from Sunday, August 23th 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.

There also more changes to the starting time of the fair. Wednesday and Saturday will now start at noon, while Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will open at 2PM.

There are also openings to assist at the Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ on the 12th and 13th of September. If interested, please sign up by contacting Bob Smith or on the link on the website.

Power went out in the area at 1937 hours. Meeting continued in as the Legion had a backup generator for the emergency lighting.

Skip Gallagher talked about the tent location that we were given by the Wilson-Fischer post to store the submarine. Skip stated that he does not know how we would be able to get the sub into the location provided. It was agreed upon that the members gather just before the September meeting to survey the location and then make a decision about the area.

The secretary discussed the bus trip slated for the 19th of September. As of the August meeting there was only a total of 15 people who have signed up for the trip. There was no further information from Frank McDevitt about other potential names and very little money had been received for the trip. After some intense discussion amongst the members present, the majority of the members present agreed that we should cancel the trip, there were two abstentions. The secretary stated that those who paid would have their checks returned to them. The total money lost to the base was the initial \$xxx deposit for the bus. The secretary stated that he would contact the bus company and the museum and cancel the bus and the tickets that were held in reserve at the museum.

New Business: The base has been invited to the Chestnuthill Township Community Day on the 27th of September. The event will be held at the Chestnuthill Township Park from Noon to 5. Ken Smith stated that he could work on the sub there as necessary. The base was asked by Chris Eckert, son of former member George Eckert, to attend the event. We will be bringing the float and will continue to sell our raffle tickets at this event.

Tom Shields made the 1st motion for the base to attend the event in Chestnuthill Township. Skip Baker made the 2nd motion to attend. All in favor, motion passed.

Ken Smith talked about trying to have other members tow the trailer and submarine and give Bob Smith some relief in doing the job of hauling it to every event we have taken it. Mike Smith stated that he would be able to tow the trailer as soon as he could obtain a drop hitch for the truck and get a 7 to 4 pin adapter for the lights.

Bob Smith stated that the dues for National are slated to increase to \$25 starting January 1, 2016. However, if you get your dues paid by the 31st of December, they will only be \$20 for the National. Base dues remain the same at \$10 per member, unless in the Holland Club.

Good of the Order: Mr. T. Brian Haverin from the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association made a presentation to the members present. Mr. Haverin was interested if any of our members would like to donate or loan any of our submarine memorabilia, pictures or navy uniforms to the museum. The museum is located over on Route 611 in Tobyhanna Township at the Will Museum on Municipal Drive. Mr. Haverin gave a history of the museum and what type of items they are looking for. The secretary has the contact information for Mr. Haverin if anyone is interested in the museum.

Calendar of Events:

22 Aug 2015 to 30 Aug 2015: West End Fair in Gilbert, Pa. Tent setup will be on the 22nd and teardown will be on the 30th. Looking for members to help setup, run the booth and teardown, please e-mail Bob Smith or fill out form on the Pocono Base website.

12-13 Sep 2015: The 28th 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.

16 Sep 2015: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

27 Sep 2015: Chestnuthill Township Community Day event. Event to be held at the Chestnuthill Township Park at 221 Route 715 in Brodheadsville, Pa. Event will run from Noon to 5.

21 Oct 2015: Monthly Meeting at Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs. Winner of Raffle to be drawn at end of meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 Sept 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 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 2005 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Tom and Carol Shields graciously provided food for the end of the meeting.

