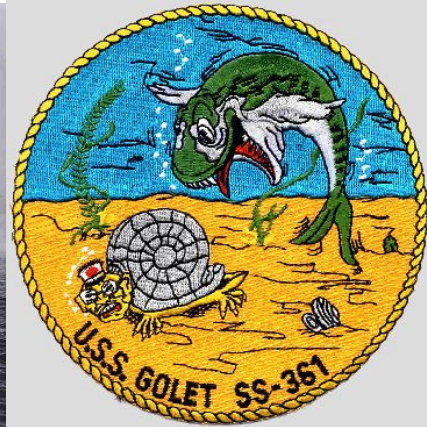


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Saturday, 13 Jun 2015



USS Golet SS-361

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlines@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 “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 1716 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 June:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Skip Baker, Skip Gallagher, Skip Donohue, Ivan Meixell, Tom Shields, Don Ransel, Gerald Zeman, Alan Dempsey, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Mike Smith and Frank McDevitt.

The members present introduced themselves for the benefit of Skip Donohue.

Also present were the wives and friends of some of our members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary provided minutes for the members present at the meeting. The minutes have also been posted on the base website.

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

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$xxxx.xx on 1 May 2015, with an income of \$xx.xx and expenses of \$xx.xx for the month of May, with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 May 2015.

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

Committees:

Membership: No report. Chairperson unable to attend meeting due to dealing with storm damage.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence at this meeting.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in both the Pocono Plateau and the Focus papers.

Flag Drop Boxes: Frank McDevitt reports that the flag boxes are still busy, especially the Shop Rite and the Blakeslee boxes. Ken Smith is still in possession of the last box. Waiting on chance to blast and paint it.

Parades: The base attended the Memorial Day Parade last month. Next tentative parade would be the Barrett Township Halloween Parade in October.

Budget & Donation: No report.

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

Eagle Scouts: There are two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. Listing is in the Calendar of Events. Looking for members to do the presentations.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Golet (SS-361) off of the coast of Japan in the North Honshu area. Victim of a Japanese Antisubmarine attack.

Old Business: There was more discussion about the bus trip we are tentatively scheduling. Skip Gallagher contacted three companies for the trip. The three companies have responded and the cost is averaging \$30 per person. There are three tentative dates: the 19th of Sept, 26th of Sept and the 3rd of Oct. The base secretary has made up a preliminary poster for the trip. The secretary will be working with Skip Gallagher and Frank McDevitt to finalize the poster design. The deposit for the bus will be required at the time of scheduling with the balance due within 30 days of the trip.

Skip Gallagher made the 1st motion to schedule the trip in the following order: Primary date is the 19th of Sept, second would be the 26th of Sept and finally the 3rd of October. Tom Shields made the 2nd motion to schedule the trip. All in favor, motion passed.

The Base Secretary talked about a letter that was included by Bob and Ruth Vaughan last month. The secretary apologized for not being able to figure it out at the last meeting. The gist of the letter is that the American Legion Post 903 was asked to take over the responsibilities of the Tannersville, PA Post #425, by the Monroe County Dept. of Veterans Affairs. They are helping to sponsor a couple of Eagle Scout projects at the War Memorial, one is the installation of new 6 new flag poles for the American Flag and each of the branches of service. The other project is the installation of 2 new park benches and signs at each driveway. They are asking if we would like to sponsor or purchase a flag pole. All donations would be tax deductible.

Frank McDevitt made a motion for the base to donate \$xxx to help fund the flag pole and bench projects. Skip Baker made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt talked about the decision by the Wilson-Fischer Post to decline the installation of a tent. Frank stated that he would find out the exact reason and would try to see if he could change their mind. There was some discussion about approaching the post with the offer of an aluminum building instead of a tent and that we would give it to the post when we no longer need it.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that he would like to form a Float Committee and had asked Ken Smith to chair the committee. Ken Smith agreed and Bob asked for a couple more volunteers for the committee. Gerald Zeman and Alan Dempsey agreed to be on the float committee. There are currently no tasks for the committee at this time.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith called for Don Ransel to step forward and be recognized as a new member of the USSVI Holland Club, for 50 years or more of qualification in submarines. Don was awarded a certificate of recognition, a Holland Club Patch, a Holland Club Membership Card and a Holland Club Pin for his wife. Don Ransel Qualified in Submarines in 1965 on-board the USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624). Don also served on-board the following boats: USS Cubera (SS-347), USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619), USS Haddo (SSN-604), USS Henry Clay (SSBN-625), USS Sandlance (SSN-660), USS John Adams (SSBN-620), USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN-634) and USS Henry L. Stimson (SSBN-655). Don Ransel retired as Senior Chief Machinists Mate.

Also to be recognized was Edgar Coomes, but he was unable to attend the meeting. Bob stated that he would mail his certificate, patch and card to him. Edgar qualified on-board the USS

Nautilus (SSN-571). Edgar also served on-board the following vessels: USS Skipjack (SSN 585) and the USS Forrestal (CVA-59)

Calendar of Events:

- 14 Jun 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ian P. Conklin at the Mountainhome United Methodist Church at 2PM. Looking for presenter. Certificate may be mailed.
- 4 Jul 2015: Happy 4th of July
- 15 Jul 2015: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.
- 18 Jul 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Theodore Kenneth Graham, Nathaniel George Rhoads and Douglas Jones Stangl at the Zion United Lutheran Church in Brodheads ville, PA at 2PM. Looking for member to do the presentation.
- 19 Aug 2015: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.
- 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.
- 19 Sep 2015: Base Sponsored bus trip to NYC. Leaving Wilson-Fischer Post at 7:30AM.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Skip Donohue to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Ivan Meixell.

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 1755 hrs.

The members present joined with the members of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1800 for the Flag Day Ceremonies.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. the members and wives of the Pocono Base were invited to the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Dinner / Dance at the conclusion of the Flag Day Ceremony.