

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 18 March 2015



**USS Grampus      SS-207**

#### Base Officers

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**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1908 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Skip Gallagher, Gerald Zeman, Frank McDevitt, Skip Baker and Tom Shields. We also had the wives of a couple of our members present.

We would also like to welcome our new member Don Ransel. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served/qualified on.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the cancelled January and February meetings have been posted to the website.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer had the following report for January and February: There was an opening balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 1 Jan 2015 with an expense of \$xxx.xx for insurance for the base. This resulted in an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx on 31 Jan 2015. There was a total of \$xxx.xx in expenditures and an income of \$xxx.xx for the month of February, with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 28 Feb 2015.

Dave Padora made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurer's report. Skip Gallagher made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Ken was unable to attend tonight, but Bob stated he sent out the sailing list and would like everyone to make sure that their information is correct.

Bob Smith stated that Skip Gallagher & Ken Calemno were archived by National last year, but has since been taken care of. The base has also dropped three members from the sailing list: Tom Crosby, Ed Banko & William Schmidt. There are also two new members in Edgar Coumes and Don Ransel.

**Correspondence:** The base received a Thank you letter from Eagle Scout's Andrew & Kyle McCarthy. The base also received thank you letters from Wounded Warriors Project and The Salvation Army for our donations this past year.

Bob Smith also handed the secretary the base insurance policy for our records.

**Parades:** The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA is on the 22th of March. Step off will be at 1400 hours from the High School in Stroudsburg and will continue to Liztech in East Stroudsburg.

The Pocono Pines Memorial Day parade will be back to its original route this year. The parade will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, lineup at Tobyhanna Elementary School.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the weekly papers as well as the Pocono Record this week.

**Flag Box:** Frank McDevitt reported that the flag boxes continue to do well in what we collect each month.

**Eagle Scout:** Frank McDevitt stated that there are four Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. The dates are March 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Kaps4Kids:** No Report.

**Fundraising:** Looking into holding raffle again this year.

Frank McDevitt read from the book, Submarine Operations of World War II, on the loss of USS Grampus

**Old Business:** The Stroudsburg St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Participants are to line up at the Stroudsburg High School Parking lot by 12:30 PM with step off around 2 PM.

The Base Commander has pulled our entry to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade due to lack of interest. Only two members stated that they would be in the parade. Bob also stated that he would be unable to get the float out of the shed, due to the ground conditions at his house.

Bob Smith said that our insurance was coming due and with the lack of meetings in Jan and Feb, that he took the liberty of renewing our base insurance. Bob Smith also renewed our base sponsorship of the USS Philadelphia (SSN-690) and the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735).

Bob said that he sent the annual report on our base activities for last year to the District Commander. Bill Klose has sent our annual treasurer's report to the District Commander as well.

Bob Smith also renewed the base website for another two years.

Bill Klose stated that he had to order more checks for the base, as he was getting low.

Bob Smith talked about the list of events that we would like to pursue this year and stated that he would send it out again.

Tom Shields recommended that we just concentrate on two events from the list, which would make attending these events doable, logistically speaking. All of the members agreed. There was also a recommendation to send out 5 potential events and have the members pick 2.

**New Business:** Frank McDevitt stated that there are four Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. They are:

Eric Raymond Ly at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Tannersville, Pa at 1PM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Bob Smith stated that he would do the presentation.

11 April 2015 also in Tannersville, PA. Frank McDevitt stated that he could tentatively attend.

25 April 2015 in Stroudsburg, PA. Frank is looking for someone to do the presentation.

26 April 2015 in East Stroudsburg, PA. Mike Smith stated that he would do the presentation.

Bob Smith asked if we would be interested in doing the base raffle again this year and asked for a motion.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to have the base raffle and to have the same Camelback Resort package as last year. Skip Gallagher made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith also asked if we wish to attend the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA and the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ this year.

Alan Dempsey made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for our base to attend the West End Fair. Gerald Zeman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Gerald Zeman made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for the base to attend the Victorian Days event in Belvidere. Alan Dempsey made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith passed on information from Huey Dietrich about the Pennsylvania Bases helping to chip in for the full page ad for the upcoming USSVI National Convention, which will be held in Pittsburgh, PA this year. The ad has the patches of each of the PA bases. Bob also asked that if anyone was interested in going, to please let himself or Frank McDevitt know.

Skip Gallagher made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that we submit a check for \$xx.xx to help cover the cost of the full page ad. Don Ransel made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Flag Day Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> this year and our base shifts the meeting date to coincide with the Flag Day ceremonies of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post. Frank McDevitt also stated that the post is holding an event after the ceremony and has invited us to attend.

### **Good of the Order:**

Bob Smith asked for Bill Klose to bring in a couple of submarine books that we inherited from Oliver Nordmark, to raffle off at the end of next month's meeting.

Bob also talked about a letter we received from the son of base life member Larry Crawford. The letter stated that Larry has geriatric issues and doesn't respond too much anymore. Bob is asking the members to waive his dues for this year. Larry is in NJ.

Bob and Ken Smith are looking into getting new membership cards for all of the base members.

Tom Shields talked about us getting an article put together about the submarine float that Ken Smith built and the work on the trailer that he and Skip Gallagher completed.

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that we create an article for the Submariner magazine. Skip Baker made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Calendar of Events:**

22 Mar 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Bob Smith will be presenter.

22 Mar 2015: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Entry pulled due to lack of interest.

11 Apr 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Need Presenter

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

25 Apr 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Need Presenter

26 Apr 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor. 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.

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Dave Padora to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1947 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Food and drink we provided after the meeting. Thank you to Tom and Carol Shields for picking up the food.