

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 May 2015



USS Scorpion

SS-278

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

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Base Supply Officer – Bill “Shut” 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 1903 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men

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

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes for April have been posted and the Secretary provided the April Minutes for the members present.

Skip Gallagher made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as posted. Dave Padora made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Base Treasurer reported an income of \$x.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx for the month of April, with an ending balance of \$xxxx.x as of 31 Mar 2015. Also reported was \$x.xx income and \$xxx.xx in expenses for the month of April with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 Apr 2015.

Dave Padora made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed

Committees:

Membership: No Report.

Ways and Means:

Flag Box Program: Frank McDevitt reported that the flag drop boxes continue to be quite active and full of flags.

Correspondence: We received a thank you letter from Operation Touch of Home thanking us for our donation.

We also received a letter from Bob and Ruth Vaughan. The letter stated that they are still thinking of us and apologized for not being able to attend any meetings.

Budget / Donation: No Report.

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

Parade: We will be in the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on Monday, 25 May 2015. Line up will be at 0930 Hrs with step off at 1000 hrs.

Speakers Bureau: No report.

Eagle Scouts: Frank McDevitt stated that we had some late additions to the Eagle Scout program and is looking for members to do presentations. If not, Frank stated he would mail their certificates to them. The dates of the Courts of Honor were the 23rd and 31st of May and the 6th of June. The Courts of Honor listed in the Calendar of Events Section.

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

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Scorpion I (SS-278).

Old Business: Bob Smith stated that the order for the raffle tickets is in. The new features at Camelback are not mentioned on the ticket. Skip Gallagher talked about the new indoor waterpark, Aquatopia and stated that it is not operated by Camelback itself, but he did mention that any ticket purchased for Camelbeach can be used at Aquatopia. As information becomes available, we can let ticket buyers know at that time. Tickets should be available by the June 13th meeting.

If anyone is interested in going to the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Please let Frank McDevitt know. Runs the week after Labor Day thru Sunday the 13th of September. Information is available on the Pocono Base website.

The base is scheduling a tentative bus trip to NY City. The bus will pick up at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post and will drive and drop off at Ground Zero in NYC. The bus holds 53 people and the cost would be \$30 per person. It will be opened up to the American Legion and other groups. The cost is non-refundable and we would spend 7 hours in NYC. Right now the members present agreed upon a tentative date of September 19th so as to not interfere with the Victorian Days event in Belvedere, NJ the prior weekend. Also, not having to worry about any 9/11 events in NYC as well. The base secretary will get a flyer made up and present it to Frank McDevitt and Skip Gallagher. Frank McDevitt, Skip Gallagher and Mike Smith will work on this.

Also brought up was a bus trip to Mohegan Sun / Pocono Downs in Wilkes-Barre, PA for a dinner and the races. We will look into doing this as well, but not to interfere with the New York trip. Frank McDevitt will ask the legion if anyone would be interested in joining us on this trip as well as the New York trip.

Frank stated that he talked to the Wilson-Fischer Post about possibly putting up a Quonset Tent for the storage of the float at the Legion Post. Frank stated that it is looking positive and will find out after the Legion Post's next meeting. Frank stated that we should know by the June 13th meeting.

There was also further discussion about the happenings at the Valor Clinic at the Old Jonas Hotel and the members agreed to go forward with the donation of \$xxx over and above to the Valor Clinic for all of the work that they have accomplished. It was stated that about 96 percent of what is donated goes directly to the Valor Clinic vs. 61 cents on the dollar for Wounded Warriors Project.

New Business: Enclosed with the letter from Bob & Ruth Vaughan was a letter from American Legion Post 903 regarding being 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.

Bill Klose stated that he will have Anthracite Dolphins for next month's meeting and will be selling them for \$5 each.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Lions Club is getting involved with Christmas Wreaths for veteran's gravesites. Frank is asking if anyone would like to participate in any ceremony when each event happens. Frank said that they would be starting around the Thanksgiving timeframe. More information will become available during upcoming meetings.

Frank is also looking in to having our creed placed on a banner and placed on the wall of the Legion bingo hall for people to see and our members can read from it during our meetings. Frank is asking permission from the base to proceed. All member present agreed.

The Base Secretary submitted a receipt for reimbursement for new certificate holders and labels to be used to enhance the appearance of the holders for the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor.

Next meeting will be at 5PM on the 13th of June to coincide with the American Legion Post. Normally held on the 14th of each year, but the Legion is hosting a dinner / dance after the ceremony on the 13th and the Flag Day Ceremony will be held then. The cost of the Dinner / Dance is \$10 per person and can be paid the night of the 13th.

Good of the Order:

Calendar of Events:

- 23 May 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Robert Stephen Fitzgerald III and Connor William Fitzgerald at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Saylorsburg, Pa. Time of event is 2PM. looking for presenter.
- 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.
- 31May 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Daniel Donovan at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Stroudsburg, PA at 4:30PM. Looking for presenter.
- 6 Jun 2015: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Allen Gill and David Russell Gill at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Tannersville, Pa at 1PM. looking for presenter.
- 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. Legion Dinner/Dance after ceremony.
- 4 Jul 2014: Happy 4th of July
- 15 Jul 2015: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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.

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, 13 June 2015 at 1700 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 Hrs.

1st motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Mike Smith.

All in favor, motion carried.

“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 1953 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

There was baked ziti and meatballs provided by Tom and Carol Shields after the meeting.