

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 November 2015



USS Sculpin (SS 191)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601
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Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790
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Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638
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Base Supply Officer – Bill Klose / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028
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COB – Vacant

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1907 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Gerald Zeman, Mike Smith, Ken Smith, Skip Baker, Bob Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bill Klose and Frank McDevitt

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the October minutes were posted to the base website and copies were provided at the meeting

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

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx with an income of \$xxxx.xx and an expense of \$xx.xx, resulting in an ending balance of \$xxxxx.xx as of 30 Sep 2015. The treasurer then reported an income of \$xxx.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Oct 2015.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: A reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 31st of December. After that, the National Dues increase to \$35. Bob reports that the dues have been coming in. There were letters sent out to the remaining members and some of those have been returned. Along with the letter, was a letter to make sure that our member's information is kept up to date.

Correspondence: Bob Smith received an e-mail from the Corvina Base. They are asking for donations to help offset the cost of ads for next year's National Convention in Nevada. Bob turned that information over to the Budget and Donation Committee.

Flag Box Program: No new information. Bob stated that we still have one box that needs to be refinished.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in the local papers as well as one in the Pocono Record.

Parades / Memorial Events: No parades in the foreseeable future

Budget / Donation: Gerald Zeman gave his recommendations as to the disbursement of the raffle proceeds.

Storekeeper:

Fundraising: Bob Smith compiled a list of raffle sales for the last year for members to look at.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 18th of December at Robert Christians in Pocono Lake, PA.

Eagle Scout: No Courts of Honor coming up. There was one that Frank McDevitt mailed the certificate too.

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

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Sculpin. Sculpin was scuttled by her crew after taking too much damage from depth charges from a rear guard destroyer. 42 crew members were taken prisoner by the Japanese. The crew was split up onto two different carriers to be taken back to Japan from the island of Truk. One of the carriers was sunk by the USS Sailfish (formerly, USS Squalus). This tale is told in the book, "A Tale of Two Submarines"

Old Business:

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner / Party will be held at Robert Christians Restaurant in Pocono Lake this year. Cocktail hour will begin at 18:30 (6:30PM) and dinner will begin at 19:30 (7:30PM) Cost is \$15 per person with the base picking up the remaining tab. Bob is asking that money be sent to him for the dinner to minimize confusion the night of the dinner. Bob is also asking that members attending to either call him or e-mail him as to meal choice to obtain an accurate number for the restaurant.

Bob Smith talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg back on the 8th of November. The weather was perfect. Also, at the end of the parade there was music and food at Dansbury Park. There were 4 members at the parade. Bob forwarded some pictures that were taken of us.

The weather was also nice for the Barrett Township Halloween Parade back in October.

Bob stated that he would be holding off until spring to get the tent. He will also be looking for a working party to help set the tent up at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

New Business: The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$xxx
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$xxx
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$xxx
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$xxx
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$xxxx
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$xxx
Salvation Army USA	\$xxx
Operation Touch of Home	\$xxx

Bob Smith asked that the donation to Fisher House be raised up as they have a good reputation for veterans. Gerald made the adjustment to the donation list to send \$xxx to the Fisher House.

There was also some discussion about the treasury and our current, but we also have to think of operating expenses as well as items that do come up during the year with incidental expenses and other donation requests that also come in.

Ken Smith made the 1st motion to accept the donation recommendations from Gerald Zeman, Skip Baker made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The treasurer reported that there is a possibility that the current Eagle Scout patches may be changed and the current patches would be unable to be used because of a possible patent infringement brought about by the Boy Scouts of America.

A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31st of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DING at that time.

The discussion about donating to the Corvina Base will be tabled until the next couple of meetings.

Bob Smith is looking for a volunteer to become our Chief of the Boat.

Good of the Order: The base secretary stated he would take the Base Bell to the dinner, so we don't have to use a small hotel bell like we did last year.

There will be no meeting on the 16th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 18th of December.

Frank McDevitt extended an invite to Carol Shields to our Base Dinner. Bob is asking that if any member knows of any widows, that we should invite them as well.

Frank McDevitt talked about a program sponsored by the Lions Club and is looking for anyone who would like to come out on the 22nd of November and place wreaths on the graves of known veterans and Gold Star Mothers. Frank said it was patterned after a national program. The time of the event is 2PM on Sunday.

They are also working on trying to identify all veterans' graves at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. There will be a small ceremony and it will have a television spot as well.

Calendar of Events:

18 Dec 2015: Annual Base Dinner at Robert Christian Restaurant in Blakeslee, PA.

25 Dec 2015: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2016: Happy New Year

20 Jan 2016: Monthly base meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post

Next full meeting will be held on, 20 January 2016 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 18th of December.

1st motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Ken Smith.

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 1957 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. As a reminder, Base dues are due by the end of December.