

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 February 2016



USS Grayback (SS-208)

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: 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 Klose / P.O. Box 28, Noxen, PA. 18036-0028

Ph (570) 298-2439. E-mail address: seagoatc@epix.net

COB – Alan Dempsey

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1910 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 February:

11 Feb 1942	USS Shark I	SS-174	58 Men
16 Feb 1943	USS Amberjack	SS-219	74 Men
27 Feb 1944	USS Grayback	SS-208	80 Men
29 Feb 1944	USS Trout	SS-202	81 Men
4 Feb 1945	USS Barbel	SS-316	81 Men

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Mike Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, Alan Dempsey and John Kelly.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary stated that the minutes were posted to the website and provided minutes to the members present.

Dave Padora made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as posted and presented. Ivan Meixell made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes as posted and presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 1 Jan 2016 with an income of \$x.xx and an expense of \$xxxx.xx for the month of January. This resulted in an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 Jan 2016.

Dave Padora made the 1st motion to accept the treasurer's report. Alan Dempsey made the 2nd motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Ken Smith and Bob Smith have provided a new sailing list including a new member. Please verify that your information is correct. There is one DINQ, Tom Crosby.

Budget / Donation: No Report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read a couple of thank you letters received. The first letter was a thank you card from Operation Touch of Home. The second thank you letter was from Quilts of Valor of the Warwick Valley Quilters. The last thank you letter was from the Fisher House Foundation. All thanked us for our donations.

The Base Commander gave the Base Secretary the new Insurance Policy for the base for safe keeping.

Flag Box Program: Frank McDevitt continued to report that the base flag drop boxes are doing very well in terms of collections.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he placed the usual ads in the standard papers.

Parades: There are two St. Patrick's Day Parades in March. One in Jim Thorpe, the other in Stroudsburg.

Eagle Scout: Frank McDevitt reports that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 20th of February.

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

Fundraising: Bob Smith is looking in to the Camelback Prize again.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grayback (SS-208) The Grayback was lost after being bombed by Japanese Aircraft and depth charges from Japanese Warships.

Old Business: This year there are elections for all four officer positions:

Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Treasurer and Secretary

Nominations remain open until the March Meeting when new officers are elected and the oath is given.

Frank McDevitt has already stated that he would not accept nominations for either of the top two positions. Frank is also looking for someone else to take up the Eagle Scout Program, Flag Box Program and Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) as of next meeting.

Bill Klose DOES NOT accept the nomination for Base Treasurer. Bob Smith has reluctantly agreed to accept the nomination as Base Commander as does Mike Smith for Base Secretary.

This is very important to the base for us to continue. Please make nominations to the Base Secretary by e-mail at klaital@ptd.net.

Bear in mind, the current slate of officers have been in office for over six years now. A new group of officers is greatly appreciated if we are to succeed as a local organization.

There are two parades in March. The first is the Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade on the 13th of March and starts at 1PM, Line-up is between 12-12:30PM. Ivan Meixell stated he would get in touch with Noel about entering the Jim Thorpe Parade. All vehicles participating in the parade MUST register at Mauch Chunk Lake, "Boat Launch A on the day of the parade, Rain or Shine.

The parade route starts in the area of Flagstaff Road and Broadway and marches all the way to the end of Broadway in downtown Jim Thorpe. The route is all downhill and is about 1 mile long. The members present stated an interest in entering this parade.

The other parade is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, Pa on the 20th of March. Line up for the parade is at the Stroudsburg High School by 12:30-1PM. Step off is at 1:30PM. The parade route travels downtown through Stroudsburg and ends at Dansbury Depot in East Stroudsburg.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that we have a new member, William Gregor.

Frank McDevitt talked about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway as a way to earn money for the base. The Raceway is looking for volunteers to assist at the track and earn \$70 per person per day. There are three races this year and help is requested for each weekend. If there are any interested, please contact Frank.

Frank also talked about the possibility of having another attempt as a bus trip to NYC and the 9/11 Museum and day in New York. Frank talked about how the trip usually comes together and that any interested parties have a tendency to wait til the last minute to sign up and pay. Frank is looking for the base to have an interest in another trip attempt and is asking the base if they are willing to accept some loss of money to make the attempt.

The base secretary also stated that the last attempt for the trip was late in the year and had a lot of communication issues in trying to get the trip set up. If the base were to try again, we would shoot for the 3rd weekend of September again, so as to not interfere with Belvidere and would be after any 9/11 activities in NYC. If we start earlier, we would have less communication issues between the members and the trip committee.

Good of the Order: Dave Jones was back in the hospital with acute colitis and is unable to be at our meeting tonight.

Skip Baker is suffering from complications due to diabetes and is having problems with his feet and legs and was also unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Bob Smith thanked everyone who came out to the meeting as the weather took a turn for the worse with freezing rain.

Calendar of Events:

20 Feb 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Corey Hahn, Stroudsburg, PA. A Certificate will be mailed in lieu of attending.

13 Mar 2016: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jim Thorpe, PA.

16 Mar 2016: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Mar 2016: St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA.

20 Apr 2016: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 Mar 2016 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Alan Dempsey to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Dave Padora.

All in favor, motion carried.

The members present joined the Base Vice-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 1944 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

