

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 July 2016



USS Robalo



SS-273

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 – Vacant

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638
Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210
Ph (570) 355-5876

Chaplain – Tom Crosby

Meeting called to order at 1906 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Acting Chief of the Boat, Skip Baker, tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of July:

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Ken Smith, Don Ransel, Bill Klose, Skip Baker, Bob Smith, Tom Crosby, Frank McDevitt and John Kelly

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The June Minutes were posted to the base website and the Secretary provided copies of the minutes for the meeting.

Bill Klose made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as posted and presented. Ken Smith made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The Secretary read the Treasurers report, as he was away for the meeting. There was a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx, an income of \$xxx.xx and expenditures of \$xxx.xx for the month of June, resulting in an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 June 2016.

Don Ransel made the 1st motion to accept the Treasurers report as read by the Secretary. Frank McDevitt made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Ken Smith reported no change to the sailing list, but there are still addresses that need to be updated.

Correspondence: Bob Smith read an e-mail from National Commander Al Singleman regarding insurance at the National level.

Flag Memorial: Frank McDevitt continues to report out that the Flag Drop Boxes are still quite active.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Journal of the Pocono Plateau and the Focus.

Parades: No reports on parades until after the fairs.

Budget & Donations: No report

Eagle Scouts: Mike Smith stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on the 6th of August.

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

Fundraising: West End Fair after next month's meeting.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Robalo. The Robalo was believed to have been sunk due to an explosion in her after battery compartment. The men who survived the sinking were never recovered. There were POWs that were in the process of being transferred by a Japanese ship, but no record exists of the transfer as the ship was presumed lost.

Old Business: The position of Base Vice-Commander is still vacant.

It is important to fill the remaining officer position. So please, someone step up and take the office of Vice Commander.

If no one submits or accepts the position as Base Vice-Commander, Bob Smith has the rights under Article XII Section 2 to fill the vacancy by appointment to complete the unfulfilled term

Bob Smith had the trailer tires replaced over at Rainbow Auto Repair for a grand total of \$120, the cost of the tires, no service charge.

Please let Bob Smith know either by e-mail or the link on the website your availability for the West End Fair in Gilbert, PA and the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ.

Mike Smith stated that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for a John M D'Orsi IV on the 6th of August to be held at the Chateau Resort on Camelback Road in Tannersville at Noon. William Gregor said that he might not be able to do the presentation. He stated that his firefighting classes are to start soon and will be held on weekends. Mike Smith said that he is looking for a possible replacement.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Court of Honor that was held at the Heritage Barn in Memorytown USA back on the 26th of June. Mike Smith also said he needs to get in touch with Minsi Trails for the Eagle Scout rep for the Carbon County area. There have been quite a number of Courts held, but we have not been contacted. Seems that the various districts do not talk to each other.

West End Fair starts on the 21st of August. Set up will be at 10AM on the Saturday, 20 Aug 2016. The fair will start at noon everyday instead of the 10AM starts on Wednesday and Saturday.

We still have not invested in obtaining a tent for the trailer. The Wilson-Fischer Post has offered to allow us to put the tent up behind the legion post.

Ken Smith still has possession of the last remaining flag drop box and has access to a sand blast machine that was obtained by Tom Crosby.

Frank McDevitt brought up the possibility of volunteering at the Pocono Raceway as a means of getting a donation based on Per Person, Per Day for working at the racetrack. If anyone is interested in helping out next year, please contact Frank. This is a way for various organizations to get money for their base, chapter, etc.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that he paid the annual rental for the Base P. O. Box and will ask the treasurer to be reimbursed the \$48 next month as well as postage for the mailing of the raffle tickets.

The e-mail from the National Commander, Al Singleman, is in regards to the Base Insurance Fee of our National Limited Liability Insurance Policy.

Here is the main excerpt from the e-mail:

Shipmates, Due to the high \$10,000.00 cost of the limited Liability Insurance to the National Budget the Board of Directors decided to assess a \$25.00 Insurance Fee for each USSVI Base starting in July

to cover the July 2016 to June 2017 timeframe of the insurance policy. At \$25.00 per Base x 168 Bases that's \$4200.00 or 42% of the total cost.

Skip Baker made the 1st motion to pay the \$25 to National towards the insurance cost. Tom Crosby made the 2nd motion for the payment. All in favor, motion passed.

Frank McDevitt talked about the difficulties about getting insurance at the national level to cover all of the bases a number of years ago. It was not able to be done back then, due to requirements of the different states. Our base has its own insurance for the cost about \$300 per year.

Ken Smith said he talked to the rep for the Barrett Township Halloween Parade and we are set to go when the date becomes available. More information will be forthcoming. Bob said Carol Shields gave Gerald Zeman the contact info.

Bob Smith inquired about getting replacement keys for the flag box locks. Tom Crosby stated that the locks and keys are outdated and that very few locations would duplicate the keys, due to the keys stating "Do Not Duplicate". Bob Smith said he would try his local hardware store.

Good of the Order: This is Skip Baker's last meeting. Skip will be moving to North Carolina before the August Meeting. Please wish him well on his new venture. Skip stated he would remain as Member at Large

Calendar of Events:

6 Aug 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for John M. D'Orsi IV at the Chateau Resort near Camelback in Tannersville, PA at noon. William Gregor is tentative presenter.

17 Aug 2016: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

21 Aug – 27 Aug 2016: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

5 Sept 2016: Labor Day

10 – 11 Sept 2016: Belvidere Victorian Days.

21 Sept 2016: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 Aug 2016 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Smith led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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."

Tom Crosby offered a closing prayer.

1st motion made by Dave Padora to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Skip

Gallagher. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1950 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith

USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary