

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 February 2018



USS Shark I (SS-174)

Base Officers

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Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

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Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

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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 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

Chaplain Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Dave Jones, James Kelly, Don Ransel, Bill Klose, Ken Kull, Tom Crosby, Frank McDevitt, Tom Dahl (perspective new member) and John Kelly.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on.

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.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported ending actual balance of \$x as of 31 Jan 2018. The treasurer also submitted a yearend financial report to National. The treasurer also reported that the form on the National Website did not work, but managed to get it worked out.

The treasurer said that the current expenses this month was for the Liability Insurance for the base. He also commented about the other expenses we have as a base, including insurance for the float, website maintenance, PO Box rental as well as the \$25 paid to National for their insurance costs.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith said that we currently have 47 members with prospective new member Tom Dahl at our meeting. All personnel are paid up to date with their dues.

Budget / Donation: No Report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read a thank you letter from Wounded Warriors

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, but the one in Stroudsburg is in need of upkeep.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place 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: Mike Smith reports that there have been no invites for a Court of Honor for some time.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base just had a visit and only saw about four children.

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

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Shark I (SS-174). Sunk due to Anti-Submarine actions.

Old Business: Frank talked about the now defunct speaker's bureau due to changing of personnel at the various schools. Frank is interested in bringing back this program and contacted that various schools in the area. We talked about the program that used to be held at Pleasant Valley High School and how well that presentation went.

Bob Smith has contacted the rep at Camelback for another prize package for the resort area. Once we get confirmation, Bob would like to ask Vena at the Flag Store if she would like to be the sponsor of our raffle this year. The members present agreed that this would be a worthwhile idea.

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. A number of the members present expressed their interest in volunteering this year for any of the race weekends.

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

Base Commander, Base Vice Commander, Treasurer and Secretary.

James Kelly has declared to run for Base Vice Commander

Alan Dempsey has declared to run for Base Treasurer

Mike Smith has declared to run for Base Secretary

Bob is also asking if anyone would like to be nominated for the posting as Base Commander

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

There are two parades in March. The first is the Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade on the 11th of March and starts at 1PM, Line-up is between 12-12:30PM. 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.

Ivan Meixell read a description of who we are as a base and what we do. He will give this to the reviewing stand to be read as we go by.

The other parade is the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, Pa on the 18th 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. The base has not received any invitation for this parade and we have declined to participate.

Bob Smith read an e-mail from a June Pepi from East Stroudsburg University. She is asking if we would like to participate in an event on April 4th at the university and to bring our float as part of Global Day Celebration. The theme for Wednesday is: **First A Warrior, Then A Hero: Armed Forces Careers** at 11AM. Setup around 9AM and would last until about 2PM.

Dave Padora talked about the Veterans Day Parade for November. This year it will be held in Lansford, PA. More details to follow as the year goes on. Current date of the parade is Nov 11, 2018 with a rain date of the 18th.

Good of the Order: Binnacle List: as per an e-mail for Nancy Zeman, Gerald Zeman is currently undergoing radiation therapy for lung cancer and will soon be having chemotherapy

Alan Dempsey has joined the ranks of the Holland Club for having been qualified in submarines for 50 years. Frank McDevitt read the Holland Club certificate. Alan has also received his Holland Club Patch and Challenge Coin. Alan was qualified for Holland Club since Jan 1, 2018. Alan also received his Holland Club ID Card.

Donald Smith is also due to be inducted into the Holland Club. We would like to present this to him in person.

Bill Klose presented Frank McDevitt with a 60 years qualified pin as part of being in the Holland Club

National had decided to put up a new website version around Valentine's Day and stand down the old one due to age of the site. Due to multiple issues with how the new site was rolled out, with many, many issues, the old site has been re-instated at this time.

Calendar of Events:

11 Mar 2018: Jim Thorpe St. Patrick's Day Parade. Step off at 1PM.

18 Mar 2018: Stroudsburg St. Patrick's Day Parade. Step off at 1:30PM.

21 Mar 2018: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 Mar 2018 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Tom Crosby offered a benediction at the end of the meeting.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Bob Obrecht.

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 2002 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Thanks to John Kelly for bringing pizza for the members for after the meeting.

