

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, 17 February 2009**



**USS Grayback SS-208**

**Base Officers**

**Base Commanding Officer – Tom Crosby** / 610 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466  
Ph (570) 216-4088. E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

**Base Executive Officer – Frank McDevitt** / P.O. Box 790, Pocono Pines, PA. 18350-0790  
Ph (570) 646-6223. E-mail address: [patfrank@ptd.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:seagoatc@epix.net)

**COB – Tom Shields** / P.O. Box 219, Mountainhome, PA. 18342  
Ph (570) 595-9648. E-Mail address: [candlite@ptd.net](mailto:candlite@ptd.net)

**Chaplain – Vacant**

**Meeting called to order** at 1910 by Base Commander Tom Crosby 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
04 Feb 1945	USS Barbel	SS 316	81 Men

The members present also held a moment of silence for our shipmate Grover A. Kiick, who departed on Eternal Patrol on 9 Feb 2010.

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

The rest of the meeting was held in an informal manner due to inclement weather.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Tom Crosby, Frank McDevitt, Michael Smith, Tom Shields, Bob Smith and new member Brian Farnsworth.

**Meeting Minutes:** The January 2010 minutes were available at the meeting.

**Treasurers Report:** There was no report.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** None.

**Correspondence:** We received a letter from Paul Orstad regarding the PA SUBVET License plate program. Basically boils down to either you want one or not.

Tom Crosby brought thank you letters from Tobyhanna Elementary School for us to read for our participation in the Veterans Day Presentation.

**Parades:** Tom Shields received an application for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. We will tentatively attend this parade and will bring our float to it.

### **New Business:**

Frank McDevitt stated that there are two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up and the names and dates are listed in the Calendar of Events.

### **Old Business:**

This year is a general election for the Base Officers. The nominations will close at the end of this meeting. In March, the election and installation of new officers will be held.

At this time the following is the slate of nominations:

**Base Commander:** Tom Crosby nominates Bob Smith for Base Commander. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Rich Holmes.

**Base Vice Commander:** Bob Smith nominates Frank McDevitt for Vice Commander. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Rich Holmes.

**Treasurer:** Rich Holmes nominates Bill Klose for Base Treasurer. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tom Shields.

**Secretary:** Rich Holmes nominates Mike Smith for Base Secretary. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Skip Gallagher.

### **Good of the Order:**

Rich Holmes asked Tom Shields to bring up the "Adopt a Boat" Program. Rich would like us to look into it.

Tom Shields suggested that we should invite the widows of our members who have gone on Eternal Patrol to our Base functions. (i.e. Parades, Flag Day Ceremony. Etc.)

Tom Shields made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to invite the widows to our functions. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion was made by Bob Smith. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith stated that he printed out some sites in regards to fund raising. We agreed to table this until the next meeting due to low turnout



### **In Memoriam.**

Shipmates, it is my sad and solemn duty to inform you of the loss of our shipmate Grover Anthony Kiick.

Grover A. Kiick was born in North Bergen, NJ on 12 Oct 1914. He served on-board and Qualified in Submarines on USS Pipefish (SS-388) during WWII and attained the rank of MM1 (SS). He also served on-board USS R-2 (SS-79). Grover was also a "Plankowner" for the USSVI-Pocono Base when the base started on Feb 15, 2000 and was an active member until his health declined. Grover was married to Kathy Kiick for 23 years. Grover made a decision to end his dialysis treatments and "Volunteered" for Eternal Patrol on 9 Feb 2010 at the age of 95.

Services for Grover were held on 12 Feb 2010 at Bolock Funeral Home in Cresco, PA. Pocono Base Founder, Chaplain and Life Member Robert Vaughan and his wife, Ruth, conducted the funeral services. Rich Holmes, Tom Shields, Frank McDevitt, Bob Smith, Bill Klose and Michael Smith served as Honor Guard during both the Subvet Ceremony and the Funeral Ceremony.

Grover was interred at the Prospect Cemetery in East Stroudsburg, PA.

**Sailor, rest your oars.**



## Calendar of Events:

23 Feb 2010: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Abraham Silva at the Shawnee Fire Company in Shawnee, PA. Presentation will begin at 1400 hrs. Rich Holmes will tentatively be the presenter at this ceremony.

17 Mar 2010: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post. General election and installation of new officers to be held at this meeting.

21 Mar 2010: Tentative St. Patrick's Day Parade participation in Stroudsburg, PA with our float.

17 Apr 2010: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Michael X. Gulston at the VFW in East Stroudsburg. Presentation will begin at 1500 hrs and Michael Smith will be the presenter.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 17 Mar 2010 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Shields to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bob 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.”

Tom Crosby declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1928 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary