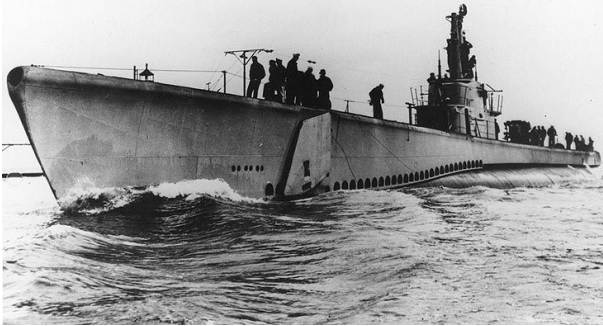


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 21 May 2014

Photo # NH 79774 USS Lagarto underway, circa later 1944



**USS Lagarto**

**SS-371**

#### 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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**Chaplain – Vacant**

**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 tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 Men

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Rich Holmes, Ken Smith, Bill Klose, Skip Baker, Bob Smith, Skip Gallagher & Frank McDevitt.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes for April have been posted and the Secretary provided the April Minutes for the members present.

Skip Gallagher made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as posted. Rich Holmes made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an income of \$xxx.xx and an expense of \$xxx.xx for the month of April, with an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 30 Apr 2014.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Skip Gallagher made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept the report. All in favor, motion passed

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Ken Smith has accepted the position as the Membership Chairman and has stated that he is still getting up to speed and will report at next month's meeting. Ken Smith thanked Rich Holmes for the excellent job he did as Membership Chair.

**Ways and Means:** No report.

**Flag Box Program:** Frank McDevitt reported that the flag drop boxes continue to be quite active and full of flags.

**Correspondence:** No report.

**Budget / Donation:** No report, Gerald Zeman was unable to attend the meeting.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he has placed the usual ads in the Focus and the Pocono Plateau.

**Parade:** We will be in the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on Monday, 27 May 2013. Line up will be at 0930 Hrs with step off at 1000 hrs.

**Speakers Bureau:** No report.

**Eagle Scouts:** Frank McDevitt stated that we had some late additions to the Eagle Scout program and that he ended up mailing their certificates to them. The dates of the Courts of Honor were the 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May. There are other Courts of Honor listed in the Calendar of Events Section.

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

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Lagarto.

**Old Business:** Frank McDevitt talked about the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines and stated that the marching route has been changed. The parade will now step off from the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1000 hrs. The parade route will then be along old Route 940 to the cemetery across from Tobyhanna Elementary School. Frank stated that the legion decided to change the route due to a law which would require having extra security for the part of the parade that is on a state road. Frank stated that the parade route originally used about 2 blocks worth of State Route 423. The legion decided to change the direction of the parade, rather than pay for the extras. The parade line up will be by 9:30 AM.

Bob Smith stated that he would pick up people at the elementary school parking lot and take them back to the legion. When the parade and ceremony is over, everyone will then be at their vehicles. There will be food sponsored by the legion after the ceremony.

Ken Smith suggested that we be joined by the wives and friends to help show off the float. The members present agreed to allow the wives to join us on the float.

Skip Gallagher gave a report concerning the refit of the base float and trailer. Skip stated that he and Ken Smith made the modifications as previously mentioned. They stripped the trailer down, cleaned out the interior, built a 3ft by 6ft box in the middle of the trailer and made a padded bench for the top. Skip stated that both sides of the bench flip up to reveal storage space under the bench. Skip stated that he and Ken made a cradle that now attaches to the lift mechanism and that we can now raise the float up for better viewing and lower it for travel and storage. The float now sits lower in the stowed position, so it will fit into storage better.

Bob Smith would like to thank Skip Gallagher and Ken Smith for their effort in redoing the float. The members present voted in favor to reimburse Skip Gallagher for the material expenses.

Skip Gallagher also reported on his effort in getting a new raffle prize this year. Skip stated that he went back to Great Wolf Lodge and found that they have a standard package in which they have a \$380 deal for one night and will give a \$380 gift card to be used for the second night when the family arrives.

Skip Gallagher stated that he had then gone to Camelback and was able to come up with a package that has a certificate that states: This Certificate Entitles, add 'name', A Camelcash Gift Card in the amount of X dollars. The Camelcash can be redeemed at CBK Mountain Adventure, Camelback Mountain Resort, Camelbeach Waterpark and food and beverage at most locations with-in the Camelback Resort area. It is a non-refundable, non-transferable card that has no expiration date and has no other cash value. The card operates as follows: you and your family go to the park, anytime of the year and make purchases with it. The value of the purchases is deducted from the Camelcash Card until it reaches zero balance.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that the Base accepts the Camelback Prize Package for this years' base raffle. Rich Holmes made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Skip Gallagher gave the base secretary the prize certificate for safe keeping and asked for a scanned copy to be used by Skip Gallagher and Bob Smith for making the raffle tickets for this year.

Ken Smith recommended that we try to get permission to bring the float to Camelbeach to help promote our base and the raffle. Skip Gallagher stated that he would look into obtaining the permission.

The base members present agreed to sell the tickets at \$1 each and 6 for \$5 as we have in the past. The raffle will start as soon as we obtain the tickets. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of our meeting in October. This allows us to sell tickets through to the Victorian Days in Belvedere, NJ.

**New Business:** Bob Smith stated that he came across a Thank You letter from Operation: Touch of Home and let Gerald Zeman know that they can be re-instated into the donations list again.

Frank McDevitt stated that he was asked by the Camp Minsi Counsel if we could provide them with old or new large American Flags that are in good condition. Frank McDevitt apologizes for not remembering why they asked for them.

**Good of the Order:** Skip Baker made mention about the latest issue of the American Submariner and the balloting that is in the issue. Skip was wondering if there is a special election happening.

#### **Calendar of Events:**

24 May 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor at for Elia R. Taddeo at the Camp Minsi Dining Hall in Pocono Pines, PA at 6 PM. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

26 May 2014: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. Step off will be at 1000 Hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath-laying at the memorial across from the school after the parade. Also after the ceremony, the Wilson-Fischer post will be serving lunch.

14 May 2014: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Peter Carney and John J. Villandre at the Church of St. Matthew in East Stroudsburg, PA. Frank McDevitt will do the presentations. Added per e-mail conversation with Frank McDevitt.

14 June 2014: Combined monthly meeting and Flag Day ceremony at Wilson-Fischer Post. Meeting is at 1700 Hrs, ceremony to begin at 1800 Hrs.

22 June 2014: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Antoni Alvarado at the United Lutheran Church in Brodheads ville, PA. Bob Smith stated that he would do the presentation.

4 July 2014: Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

16 July 2014: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs

20 Aug 2014: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

24 Aug – 30 Aug 2014: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

**Next meeting** will be held on Saturday, 14 June 2014 at 1700 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 Hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Ken Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Rich Holmes.

All in favor, motion carried.

“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 2003 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary