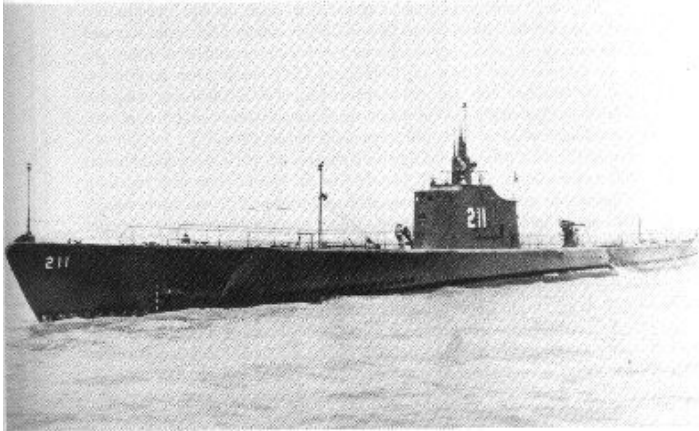


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 April 2016



USS Gudgeon SS-211

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 – Alan Dempsey

COB – Alan Dempsey

Chaplain – Vacant

Meeting called to order at 1902 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 April:

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	80 Men
08 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	88 Men
10 Apr 1963	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men
24 Apr 1988	USS Bonefish	SS 582	3 Men

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

Bob Smith administered the Oath of Office for the position of Base Treasurer to Alan Dempsey.

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Alan Dempsey, Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bill Gregor, Don Ransel, David Jones and Gerald Zeman.

The base members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified / served on-board for Bill Gregor.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the March Minutes for the members present.

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

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an opening balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 1 March 2016, with expense of \$xxx.xx and an income of \$xx.xx for the month of March. The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 March 2016.

Frank McDevitt made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' report as read. Ivan Meixell made the 2nd motion to accept. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: No report other than new member William Gregor.

Correspondence: The secretary read a Thank you letter from Eagle Scout Robert Fritz, thanking us for our presentation.

There was also a letter from the Mt. Pocono American Legion, thanking us for our donation for the memorial in Tannersville, PA. They stated they were unable to deposit the check due to how much time had elapsed since the check was written.

Eagle Scouts: Eagle Scout court of honor on 22, May 2016 for Gabriel Edward Schaefer. To be held at the Kettle Creek Environmental Educational Center in Stroudsburg, PA at 1PM. Mike Smith said he would do the presentation.

Flag Box: Frank McDevitt reports that the flag drop boxes continue to be full in various locations. The boxes are in need of upkeep.

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

Publicity: Bob stated he placed the ads in the local papers and the Pocono Record, but was unable to place the ad in the Focus.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 25 May 2015.

Budget & Donation: No report.

Frank McDevitt read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Gudgeon. Gudgeon was presumed lost due to Anti-Submarine attacks by surface ships.

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.

Frank McDevitt stated that the flag drop boxes are in need of some up-keep and repair. Bob Smith explained to Bill Gregor how we came to have the boxes from the Times News.

Will has offered to pick up the boxes and take them home to fix them. Ken is still in possession of one of the boxes through all the moves.

Bob Smith talked about the Scranton Base hosting an event next week for the current and past Commanders of the USS Scranton. Jeff Owens had asked to use the float to be displayed at a library in Scranton. As of this meeting, we have not heard from the Scranton Base about the float. The Pocono Base has also been invited to the event.

Bob stated that he has not received any confirmation about obtaining the Camel Cash Prize from Camelback Resorts for our raffle this year. A fall back plan was to offer a cash prize this year. In doing so, we would need to have training about small games of chance from the PA Department of Revenue. They would also need proof of us being a non-charitable organization.

Bob is concerned about not being able to get the raffle tickets in time for the next meeting. Bob also stated that we have our spot at the West End Fairgrounds in August.

Frank McDevitt talked about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway during race weekends to help raise extra money for the base. They would pay a certain amount per day per person if anyone from the base is interested in doing so. Frank stated he would help set us up with the track. Frank said that he would most likely be there with the local Lions Club.

The race weekends are June 3-5, July 29-31 and August 20-21.

Bob Smith reiterated about possibly going to Totowa, NJ to visit the Paterson Museum and John Holland's gravesite.

New Business: The base members so moved to have a new check made out to the American Legion Post 903 for the Eagle Scout Project in Tannersville, PA. This will help the scouts move forward in completing the memorial there. The previous check was returned as stated in the correspondence.

Mike Smith stated that he would take over the reins of the Eagle Scout Program from Frank McDevitt and suggested that we craft a letter to the Minsi Trails Council as to the change in personnel.

Dave Jones talked about the Valor Clinic 3rd Annual Golf Tournament. This year's tournament is to be held at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort on June 16th. Dave brought some pamphlets for any member who is interested in going. Dave also talked about what the Valor Clinic does and potential plans to expand the clinic to other states.

The American Legion Post 903 also sent a certificate of appreciation to commend us for our support of the American Legion and their programs.

Good of the Order: The base was given a number of can cozies along with a copy of a book to be raffled. The book and the cozies were given to us by Huey Dietrich.

Dave Jones says that he is glad to be back with us and in good health and spirits after having some health issues for the last couple of months.

Skip Baker is still on the binnacle list due to complications of diabetes and he said he also had his eyes worked on.

Calendar of Events:

14 May 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eric C. Miller at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA at 1PM.

18 May 2016: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

22 May 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Michael Smith will be tentative presenter.

28 May 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brendan Martin Zambrano at the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church in Stroudsburg, PA at 12PM.

30 May 2016: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at Tobyhanna Elementary School. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade. Also after the ceremony, the Wilson-Fischer post will be serving lunch at noon.

14 Jun 2016: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. Meeting at 5PM.

26 Jun 2016: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Alex M. Brown at the Heritage Barn at Memorytown USA in Mt. Pocono at 1PM.

4 Jul 2016: Happy 4th of July

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

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Mike Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Gerald Zeman. 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 2007 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary