

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 August 2016



## USS Bullhead SS-332

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

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

Ph (570) 355-5876 / [alanalan9633@hotmail.com](mailto:alanalan9633@hotmail.com)

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

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 1914 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 August:

17 Aug 1942	USS Bass I	SS 164	25 Men
29 Aug 1943	USS Pompano	SS 181	77 Men
13 Aug 1944	USS Flier	SS 250	80 Men
24 Aug 1944	USS Harder	SS 257	84 Men
06 Aug 1945	USS Bullhead	SS 332	84 Men
26 Aug 1949	USS Cochino	SS 345	1 Man
26 Aug 1949	USS Tusk	SS 426	6 Men (assisting Cochino)

Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Mike Smith, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Gerald Zeman, Ken Smith, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby and Frank McDevitt.

**Meeting Minutes:** The July Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting.

Dave Padora made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the minutes as provided. Bill Klose made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$xxxx.xx with \$x.xx income and expenses totaling \$xx.xx. The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$xxxx.xx as of 31 July 2016.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the treasurers' report. Don Ransel made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Ken Smith reports no change in membership.

**Correspondence:** The base has been invited to the annual Veterans Day Parade by the Monroe County Veterans Department. Further details in the upcoming meetings.

**Flag Boxes:** Frank McDevitt reported that the flag drop boxes continue to be very active.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Pocono Plateau, the Penn Forest Journal and the Pocono Record.

**Parades:** Annual Halloween Parade in Barrett Township. More information in the next couple of months.

**Fund Raising:** Continuing raffle ticket sales until the October meeting.

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

**Budget & Donation:** No report until raffle money is totaled.

**Eagle Scout:** Mike Smith reported that William Gregor did the last Eagle Scout presentation at the Chateau Resort in Tannersville, Pa back on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August for John M D'Orsi IV. No further Courts of Honor in the near future.

Frank McDevitt read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Bullhead. The Bullhead was lost due to Anti-Submarine Warfare by aerial dropped bombs and depth charging. The Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

**Old Business:** The base secretary again reiterated the importance of filling the position of Base Vice-Commander. The position is still vacant as of this meeting.

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

There was discussion about the upcoming West End Fair. Bob Smith stated that he is still looking for help to man the booth during the week and has a roster sign-up sheet with him, also there is the ability to sign up on the base website. The tent will be set up over the trailer. Bob also stated that we would need personnel to help set up on Saturday, 20 August at 10AM. The fair runs from Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> til Saturday, 27 August. Breakdown would then be on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at 10AM. Opening day will now begin at noon instead of 10AM.

There are also openings to assist at the Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September. If interested, please sign up by contacting Bob Smith or on the link on the website.

**New Business:** Bob Smith talked about the possibility of any submariners who have gone on Eternal Patrol in that as a way to honor them, to add them to our Eternal Patrol list, on the base level, not national. Part of this discussion came about from last year at the fair, where we had a potential member, but he passed away a couple of weeks later and didn't get a chance to fill out a membership form. After some discussion, the members present agreed.

Bob Smith also talked about a possible initiative to sign up new members while at the West End Fair. Bob discussed the fact that we have had a lot of potential new members over the last few years, but no actual new members. What Bob is proposing that since we are over halfway done with this year, that we ask new members just to pay the \$10 Base Dues and the base will pick up the dues required for National. He is hoping that this incentive will help to get new members on-board. There was some discussion about this.

Ken Smith made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for potential new members to pay only Base Dues and the base will pick up the membership dues for National. Bill Klose made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Good of the Order:** Please let Bob Smith know if any of our members are not getting their American Submariner Magazine.

We had a guest arrive to our meeting to talk about his father, who served onboard a submarine during WWII. Bob had invited Mr. Danny Willis to talk to us about his father. Dan talked with what little he knew about his father and said that he never really talked about his service. Dan said that all he heard was that he may have served on-board the USS Bang. His father served from August 1943 to April 1946 and had passed away back in 1985. Dan said that he had some papers from when he served and was also looking to where he could find out more information. Members could look at what was brought after our meeting.

### **Calendar of Events:**

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.

25 Sep 2016: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event. Noon to 5.

19 Oct 2016: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn at end of this meeting.

30 Oct 2016: Barrett Township Halloween Parade. Line up by 1PM. Parade starts at 2PM.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 16 Sept 2015 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Don Ransel to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Dave Padora

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 offered a closing prayer.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1935 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary