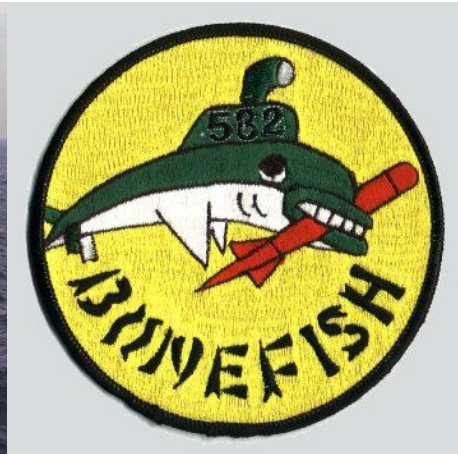


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 April 2017



USS Bonefish

SS-582

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 – Ken Smith

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

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

Ph (570) 355-5876 / alanalan9633@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Dave Padora, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, Gerald Zeman, Skip Gallagher, Karl Pope, Dave Spence and Bob Olbrecht.

The base members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified / served on-board for Bob Olbrecht and perspective member Dan Spence.

We were also joined by the wives of a few of our members and Carol Shields.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the basic minutes for Jan, Feb and March for the members present. Only the calendar of events were updated for each as these three meetings were cancelled due to weather.

Dave Padora made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as presented and posted. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion to accept the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer's report for Dec, Jan, Feb and March were read by the Base Secretary, due to the treasurer being on vacation for this meeting.

Dave Padora made the 1st motion to accept the treasurers' reports as read. Skip Gallagher made the 2nd motion to accept. All in favor, motion passed.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we have 43 members on our roster with prospective member Dave Spence to be member #44. There was also information from a Clinton Shievner as another potential member.

Correspondence: The secretary read various thank you letters from Wounded Warriors, Fisher House, Quilts of Valor local chapter and the National Quilts of Valor and The Salvation Army.

The secretary also read a belated Christmas card from Bob & Ruth Vaughan.

Eagle Scouts: Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are listed in the Calendar of Events.

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.

Parades: There will be a Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 29 May 2017. Further information on line-up, location and step-off time in calendar of events.

Budget & Donation: A donation was made in the sum of \$x to help member Dave Jones through some tough times.

Frank McDevitt read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Bonefish (SS – 223). Bonefish was sunk by Japanese Anti-Submarine forces.

Old Business: Members from the base attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jim Thorpe back on March 12th. Parade was well attended and runs in stops and starts due to presentations and traffic at the end of the parade route at Broadway and Route 209 at Hazard Square.

We had thoughts of going to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 19th of March, but due to lack of any paperwork or invitation from Monroe County we will not be attending. Add to the fact, the float was land-locked in Bob's shed due to the snowstorm on the 14th of March.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Flag / Banner that is hanging in the Wilson-Fischer Post that has a patch for all of the boats that our members have served on. All members are encouraged to submit their patch if it is not already on the banner.

Bob Smith talked about John Holland being buried in Totowa, NJ and that there is a replica of the USS Holland nearby. Bob is looking at going over sometime to visit and welcomes any members to join him for the day.

Bob had our website renewed for two more years for a cost of \$x. Bob tries to keep it up to date.

Our base insurance is paid up for the year. Bob talked about how National obtained insurance about a year or so ago, but has since cancelled it. We still have ours.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that he is waiting to hear from Linda from Camelback about obtaining our raffle prize package again this year before having tickets prepared.

Bob Smith has paid for our location at the West End Fair this coming August.

Bob Smith had the honor of presenting to Skip Gallagher his Holland Club Membership for having been Qualified in Submarines for 50 years. Skip was presented with his Holland Club Certificate, a Holland Club Patch, a new Holland Club Membership ID Plate and starting this year, a Holland Club Challenge Coin.

Mike Smith talked about the various Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that have happened or are coming up. The list is in the calendar of events. Mike stated that Bill Gregor did the presentation for Jason Gonzales, Jr back on the 25th of February.

Mike Smith talked about the unusual request for an Eagle Scout Certificate for a Tom Zelewski from Texas. The members present agreed to have the certificate and patch sent to him for his achievement of Eagle Scout.

Bob Smith stated that he would look into obtaining more Challenge Coins for our existing Holland Club members.

Good of the Order: Binnacle List: Ken Smith is now on oxygen all the time. Dave Jones has been in poor health lately and had suffered a couple of heart attacks since the 1st of the year.

Carol Shields talked about a letter she received from Janet Holmes. In the letter, Janet says that Rich is entering the Moderate Stages of Alzheimer's. He gets angry when he cannot remember or recognize people and that Janet has a full plate in dealing with his decline.

Please keep each of these members in your thought and prayers.

Bob stated via e-mail that Edgar Coumes had gone on Eternal Patrol back on 30 Dec 2016. Bob sent his dues back and received a certificate of Eternal Patrol for Edgar and sent it to his wife.

Calendar of Events:

22 Apr 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew William Cully at the Mountain Center in Tobyhanna, PA.

29 Apr 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jonathan Michael Santiago at the Pocono Ranchlands Clubhouse in Bushkill, PA at 2PM.

6 May 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Raymond Charles Pasqua III at Our Lady Queen of Peace church in Brodheadsville, PA at 11AM.

7 May 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Timothy Matthew Dobroski on Sunday, May 7th at 4:30PM at St. Luke's Church in East Stroudsburg.

17 May 2017: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

29 May 2017: 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.

10 Jun 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Mark Steven Bartolacci on Saturday, June 10th at 10:30AM at the Chestnuthill Park Building on Rte. 715 in Brodheadsville.

14 Jun 2017: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. Meeting at 1700 with Flag Day Ceremony at 1800 with the Legion Post Membership.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Gerald Zeman to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Skip Gallagher. 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 1957 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary