

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 August 2017



USS Pompano



SS-181

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 1901 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 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 Acting 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, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, Darryl Betz, Gerald Zeman, Karl Pope and Skip Gallagher

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

Don Ransel made the 1st motion to accept the minutes as provided. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report: No Report. Treasurer absent.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we have picked up two more members since last meeting. One new member is Frank Almer who is also a member of the Lehigh Valley Base and Mike Hartung, a friend of Bob Smith and a member of the Groton Base.

Correspondence: Eagle Scout Court of Honor request was received a few days after the last meeting.

Flag Boxes: Boxes continue to be active, especially the Flag Store in Sciota.

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

Parades: Potential interest in attending both Veterans Day Parades in November. Nesquehoning on the 5th of November, Stroudsburg on the 12th.

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

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report, not even fully established by the Lehigh Valley Base.

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

Eagle Scout: There is an upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor for a Jebediah Sussenbach to be held at the Tunkhannock Fire Company on Long Pond Rd on August 26th at 11AM.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Pompano. The Pompano was listed as lost under 'Unknown Causes'

Old Business:

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, 19 August at 10AM. The fair runs from Sunday, August 20th til Saturday, 26 August. Breakdown would then be on Sunday the 27th of August at 10AM. Opening day will now begin at noon instead of 10AM.

The Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ has been cancelled this year. Only the Antique Car Show will be held. They were unable to obtain enough support this year for it to go forward.

New Business:

Bob Smith also talked again about an 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 again is 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.

Good of the Order: Binnacle List: Ken Smith was unable to attend again this month. Ken is currently undergoing chemo/radiation for Lip Cancer.

Skip Gallagher said that Sam is back home after dealing with a severe blood infection for the last couple of months.

Dave Spence is home from the hospital after dealing with a foot infection.

Bob Smith has stated that he has been trying to get in touch with Larry Crawford's son for a while now, but hasn't been able to reach him. Larry was in the early stages of Alzheimer's as of a couple of years ago. Bob was looking to remove him from our active list, but after some discussion Tom Crosby made the 1st motion to keep Larry Crawford on the rolls and waive his base dues as he is also a life member. Gerald Zeman made the 2nd motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Calendar of Events:

20 – 26 Aug 2017: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

26 Aug 2017: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jedediah Sussenbach at the Tunkhannock Fire Company at 11AM. Bob Obrecht will do the presentation.

9 – 10 Sep 2017: Victorian Day Event in Belvidere, NJ. (Cancelled)

20 Sep 2017: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

24 Sep 2017: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event, Noon to 5PM

18 Oct 2017: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn after meeting.

29 Oct 2017: Barrett Township Halloween Parade. Line up by 1PM. Parade starts at 2PM.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 Sept 2017 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby 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.”

Tom Crosby offered a closing prayer.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1927 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary