

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 15 November 2017



## USS Sculpin (SS 191)

### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

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**Meeting called to order** at 1907 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Tom Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Smith, Gerald Zeman, Ken Kull, Bob Obrecht, Bill Klose, Tom Crosby, Skip Gallagher and Frank McDevitt.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on-board.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary provided the October Minutes for the members present as well as e-mailed to the base members. The October Minutes will be posted to the website after corrections are made.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported an ending actual balance of \$x as of 30 Sep 2017 and an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Oct 2017.

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that we are back up to 51 members and that our newest member is already Holland Club eligible. Also, a reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

**Correspondence:**

**Flag Box Program:** Frank McDevitt reported that the Flag Drop box has been removed from its location at the Shop Rite in Mount Pocono. The box is in need of repairs and refurbishment. The box is temporarily relocated to their receiving area. The boxes continue to be well used.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he placed the usual ads in the local papers as well as one in the Pocono Record.

**Parades / Memorial Events:** No parades in the foreseeable future

**Budget / Donation:** Gerald Zeman gave his recommendations as to the disbursement of the raffle proceeds.

**Storekeeper:** No Report

**Fundraising:** No report.

**Dinner/Dance:** Christmas Dinner to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at Robert Christians in Pocono Lake, PA.

**Eagle Scout:** No Courts of Honor coming up.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base has started to become active again with the program.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Sculpin. Sculpin was scuttled due to severe damage from Anti-Submarine forces. Some of the members were lost in a tragic twist of fate. The vessel in which they were being transported on was sunk by her sister boat, USS Seadragon (former USS Squalus). The others were sent to POW Camps.

## Old Business:

Bob Smith has the final fundraising report available for the members, the report will not be mailed out, unless specifically asked for.

Bob Obrecht updated the members about having a section of Rte 115 renamed in honor of Submarine Veterans. PennDOT only allows a five to seven mile section to be named. The rep from Jack Rader's office is going to try and put a request in to rename a section from Mt Effort, PA to Long Run Road on Rte 115. This is about a nine mile section. If this cannot be done, we will look into the section from Jonas Road to Long Pond, this is seven miles. Jack Rader will be submitting it as a Legislative Bill. Further information to follow when the base receives it.

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner / Party will be held at Robert Christians Restaurant in Pocono Lake this year. Cocktail hour will begin at 18:30 (6:30PM) and dinner will begin at 19:30 (7:30PM) Cost is \$20 per person with the base picking up the remaining tab. Bob is asking that money be sent to him for the dinner to minimize confusion the night of the dinner. Bob is also asking that members attending to either call him or e-mail him as to meal choice to obtain an accurate number for the restaurant.

Bob Smith talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg back on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. The weather was perfect. Also, at the end of the parade there was music and food at Dansbury Park. The only major comment Bob has was our location within the parade. We were towards the end of the parade. The parade was well attended by our members.

Bob also talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Nesquehoning, PA back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. It was a wet miserable day, but was well attended by our members.

The biggest difference was the Carbon County Parade had a marching band for each of the divisions, where the Barrett Township Halloween Parade and the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade only seem to have one band. This has led to major gaps in which we are then hard pressed to play catch-up with the groups.

We did not attend the Barrett Township Halloween Parade due to lack of interest.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America that was held. Frank said it was a great success again this year and that they actually had it on 11/11 at 11AM.

Tom Crosby also said that the Legion Event went off well.

Submarine Veterans plates for PA are still available.

**New Business:** The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$x
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$x
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$x
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$x
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$x
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$x
Salvation Army USA	\$x

There was discussion among the membership about the donations and possible recommendations moving forward. One option is to have a rotating list of charities and switch it up each year. This was proposed by Bob Obrecht. We have also considered the charities in which we have received thank you letters to keep our donations going to the.

Motion to approve the donation list was so moved by the members present.

Please let Bob know if you have not received the newest sailing list. Some members reported not receiving the attached file in the e-mails prior to the Veteran Day Parade in Nesquehoning. Also, please verify that your information on the sailing list is correct and let Bob know if there is a correction that needs to be made.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues

\*A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DINQ at that time.\*

Bill Klose said that the new calendars will be available and that the theme will be Submarine Squadrons of the Pacific Fleet. Cost will be \$8 apiece. Bill is looking to get a count to order. Bill will have them at the Christmas Dinner.

There was some discussion about the possibility of using what tickets were left over from this year's raffle for next year to try and reduce the costs. The tickets currently have the actual October Date on them for the raffle. Tom Crosby will look into the re-use of tickets per the Small Games of Chance Rules. There was also talk of looking into other places to sell tickets if Belvidere continues to cancel the Victorian Day's event after Labor Day.

**Good of the Order:** There will be no meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

Frank McDevitt wanted to let our new members know that there is a Pocono Base Pennant in the Wilson-Fischer Post that has the boat patches from all of our current members and is letting them know that they can have theirs added as well.

Skip Gallagher said that Sam is home now.

### **Calendar of Events:**

15 Dec 2017: Annual Base Christmas Dinner at the Robert Christians Restaurant in Blakeslee, Pa. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

20 Dec 2017: Monthly meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post. To be combined with our annual dinner.

25 Dec 2017: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2018: Happy New Year.

17 Jan 2018: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

21 Feb 2018: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

**Next full meeting** will be held on, 17 January 2018 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Mike Smith.

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 benediction at the end of our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1959 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. As a reminder, Base dues are due by the end of December.