

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 April 2018



USS Grenadier

SS-210

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 – James Kelly / 302 Frisco Court, East Stroudsburg, PA. 18301
Ph (570) 807-2453. E-mail address: masterchiefkelly@hotmail.com

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 1905 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

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after the moment of silence

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Mike Smith, Tom Dahl, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Bill Klose, Daryl Betz, Frank McDevitt and Tom Crosby.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the minutes for March for the members present and they were posted to the base website.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 March 2018.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we have 49 members on our roster

Correspondence: Mike Smith read a thank you letter from the American Legion Auxiliary for our donation to the Angel Tree Program.

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, especially the box at the Shop Rite in Mount Pocono.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No report. Trip was cancelled for this month.

Publicity: Bob stated he placed the ads in the local papers and the Pocono Record.

Speakers Bureau: Currently inactive.

Parades: There will be a Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 28 May 2018. Further information on line-up, location and step-off time in calendar of events.

Budget & Donation: No report.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grenadier (SS-210). Grenadier was lost due to Anti-Submarine actions and the boat was scuttled.

Old Business: Bob and Frank explained to our new members of how we obtained some of the Flag Drop Boxes from the Times News. They donated the refurbished and re-purposed newspaper boxes. They painted them in Red, White and Blue and had slots cut into the sides for the flags to be put into. Bob stated that there are pictures of these boxes on our webpage.

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

Bob also talked to the printer about possible sponsorship to help defray some of the costs and to perhaps reduce the size of the tickets as well.

We were unable to attend the Jim Thorpe St. Patrick's Day Parade back in March, due to poor conditions for Bob Smith to be able to get the float out of his shed without tearing up his yard. We also did not attend the Stroudsburg Parade since we did not receive an invitation to go.

Also, Bob stated that we did not attend the East Stroudsburg even on the 4th of Apr due to poor weather again. He believes that the event may have also been cancelled.

Frank McDevitt talked about our base volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again and is looking for members that would be interested in doing this. We can work on any of the days of the race events per person.

New Business: Mike Smith ran down the list of Eagle Scout Court of Honors that we have received lately. The certificate for Nicholas Govus was mailed. All other court of honor requests are in the Calendar of Events. They are for Kieran Laverty, Luis Santos, Aaron Lemos, River Marks and a dual presentation for a Michael Scardigno, Jr. and Eric Sharp.

Alan Dempsey stated that Jack Rader is having a seminary on Small Games of Chance on May 6th. Alan said that he was going and was going to re-apply at that time. A couple of member shad questions regarding what is required and limits for the games. Alan stated that he would get that information from the seminar.

Bob talked about the national site for the Subvets being changed to a new format and it caused a lot of issues. Bob said he complained about it as well as other complaints that were received from other members and based, that national reverted the website back to the old format.

Bob also said that the Scranton Base was looking into the possibility of doing a 'Back to Sub-School Graduation' trip in the near future. There is a Navy Lodge in the area that we would be able use as long as we are sponsored. No date has been presented yet, so please stay tuned.

Good of the Order: Congratulations to Bob Obrecht for being elected Vice Commander of the Lehigh Valley Base.

Also, our congratulations to Patricia 'Patie' Pule for her election as the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Commander.

Thoughts and prayers for Gerald & Nancy Zeman. Bob stated that their house had burned down and that they are ok and are currently living with their family in Wind Gap.

Calendar of Events:

21 Apr 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kieran Dalton Laverty at Moose Lodge #1336 in East Stroudsburg, Pa. Bob Obrecht will do the presentation.

5 May 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Luis Enrique Santos at the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Co in Pocono Summit, Pa at 4PM. William Gregor will do the presentation.

6 May 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Aaron A Lemos at Notre Dame Jr / Sr High School in East Stroudsburg, Pa. Bob Obrecht has agreed to do the presentation.

16 May 2018: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

19 May 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for River John Marks at the Chestnuthill Park Building on Rte 715, Brodheadsville, Pa at 3PM. Bob Smith agreed to do the presentation.

20 May 2018: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Michael A. Scardigno, Jr and Eric G. Sharp at the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Co at 3PM. Mike Smith will do the presentation.

28 May 2018: 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 a basic lunch at noon.

14 Jun 2018: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. We will look into providing food for this meeting. The meeting will start at 5PM. The Flag Day Ceremony will be held at 6PM with the Legion Post Members.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 May 2018 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

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.”

Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction at the closing of our meeting.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Bill Klose. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1954 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary