

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 August 2018



USS Flier

SS-250

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 1908 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, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, Darryl Betz, Frank McDevitt and John Kelly

Meeting Minutes: The July Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting. There are corrections to be made to the July Minutes and re-posted.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer e-mailed Bob Smith a copy of the financial report.

Committees:

Membership: Bob reported that we are currently at 49 members. Tom Dahl was inducted into the Holland Club last month.

Correspondence: The secretary mentioned that National sent a few test e-mails and one pertaining to National Elections being open. Bob also received a letter from National about the Bowfin Base.

Flag Boxes: Boxes continue to be active, Bob stated he intends to go and obtain the sandblaster from Ken Smith after the fairs. We need to overhaul a few of the boxes.

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

Parades: There are two Veterans Day Parades in November. Stroudsburg on the 4th of November, Lansford on the 11th.

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: There are no Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests at this time.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Flier. The Flier was lost after striking a mine. Also talked about the loss of 26 men who asphyxiated on-board the USS Bass I (SS-164) from an after battery room fire.

Old Business: There are two Veterans Day Parades coming up in November. The first one is on the 4th of November in Stroudsburg, PA with step off at 1PM. Bob Smith confirmed our entry into the parade. He has also asked that we be included closer to the other veterans groups instead of near the end.

The other parade will be held on the 11th of November in Lansford, PA. Further information will be made available as the date gets closer.

Bob has also submitted our application for the Chestnuthill Community Day on the 30th of September. Bob also asked that we be located back along the tree line so we aren't in the direct sun like last year.

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, 18 August at 10AM. The fair runs from Sunday, August 19th til Saturday, 25 August. Breakdown would then be on Sunday the 26th of August at 10AM. All days start at noon. Bob has fair passes available for those members that will be manning the booth.

The Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ is back on this year. The dates for this event are on the 8th and 9th of September.

Bob Smith showed the members present a t-shirt design that was created by a member of the Scranton Base. They have proposed to have them made and reached out to us if any are interested in getting one.

Bob Obrecht said that we are still waiting on word from Penn DOT as to when they will be installing the signs along Rte 115 by the racetrack and in Effort, PA. We will need to keep in contact with Jack Rader's office as well as the Time News for any photo ops and ceremony. We will also contact the Scranton Base to include them in a photo op of the sign unveiling.

New Business: Bob Smith talked about the letter he received about the Bowfin Base and how they are closing down their museum and have various brow banners and other items available. There was a request from Alan Dempsey that we try to obtain the one for the USS Barb. Bob replied to the e-mail asking if the base did have anything regarding the USS Barb and he is currently waiting for a response. Please contact Tom Crosby for FEDEX Shipping if any are interested in getting any of these banners.

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.

Frank McDevitt proposed that we have a plaque made up for the memorial in Tannersville, PA that would have the names of local people who served on-board submarine and were lost. Frank said he would look into it.

The USS Ling is looking for bases that like to obtain their torpedoes from the memorial. The site is closing as the area is to be vacated per the property owner. The USS Ling itself was vandalized by someone who broke into the sub and opened the hatches to the water. The sub is now currently flooded and all items on-board are damaged.

Good of the Order: Bob talked about the one section on our website called Interesting and Useful Sites and has been receiving e-mail from School teachers stating that their students have been using this for their research and then leaving other links in return.

We still have not heard from Dave Jones. Bob said that he has not been doing well lately.

Bob also stated that he was able to get ahold of Bob Vaughan and that they are now living in a senior home in New York and are doing well.

Calendar of Events:

19 - 25 Aug 2018: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Will need volunteers to help set up, run the booth and tear down.

8-9 Sep 2018: Victorian Day's in Belvidere, NJ.

19 Sep 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

30 Sep 2018: Chestnuthill Township Community Day Event

17 Oct 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs. Raffle winner to be drawn after meeting.

4 Nov 2018: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade, starts at the Stroudsburg High School, step off at 1PM.

11 Nov 2018: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA. Step off at 1:30PM.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 Sept 2018 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Mike Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Bill Klose

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 1945 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary