

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 14 June 2018



USS Herring

SS-233

Base Officers

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Meeting called to order at 1717 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 June:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

A moment of silence was held in lieu of an invocation.

The Acting Chief of the Boat led the members present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll Call: Members present were: Gerald Zeman, Don Ransel, Ken Kull, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith and Bob Smith

Also present were the wives of some of our members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary provided minutes for the members present at the meeting. The minutes have also been posted on the base website.

The May Minutes will be reposted upon completion of corrections to be made to the dates. Error was found by Bob Obrecht.

Treasurers Report: No Report, treasurer was out of town.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are still at 49 members.

Correspondence: Eagle Scout invitations, plus a letter received by Frank McDevitt from the Lehigh Valley Base for our donation of pins to their Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he was not able to place the usual ads in both the Pocono Plateau and the Focus papers.

Flag Drop Boxes: The flag boxes continue to be very busy, especially the one at the Flag Store in Sciota, Pa. Frank McDevitt is also looking for someone to take over the Flag boxes. They are also in need of some serious overhaul, especially the one in Mount Pocono Shop Rite.

Parades: The base did attend the Memorial Day Parade last month and had small, but good turnout from our members. Nothing coming up until Veterans Day in both Lansford and Stroudsburg. These are one week apart from each other.

Budget & Donation: No report until after the raffle.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht stated that the Lehigh Valley Base was going to do an event on the 15th of June.

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

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Herring. Herring was lost due to Shore Based battery with a direct hit to her conning tower.

Old Business: Mike Smith talked about the upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, there is a previous Court of Honor request for a Dominick Matthew Bierman at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe on June 18th at 6PM. Mike Smith stated he would do the presentation.

Bob Obrecht said that he was in contact with Jack Rader's office and was told that his original bill, H.R. 1964, has passed through the House and is now in the Senate. Bob was told that there were ten bills for naming the various roads and that they were combined into one bill

for consideration. Once the bill passes, Penn Dot has 60 days to have the signs in place. Bob Smith says that the section we will have named is 6.5 miles long from Jonas Road to Long Pond Road.

Bob Smith presented decal proofs for the members present to examine and vote on. One has an all-black submarine, the other has grey on the submarine. The members present selected the one with the solid black submarine from our base patch. The total cost will be \$125 and the order will be sent to the printer for a batch of 100.

New Business: There are two new Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests coming up. They are:

Court of Honor request for Pierce John O'Dowd to be held at the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church on June 23rd at 11AM. Bob Obrecht stated that he would do this presentation. This was a short notice request as the secretary inly received it a couple of days prior to the meeting.

There was also another Court of Honor request for a Christopher Acconzo to be held at the Pleasant Valley Estates Community Pavilion in Kunkletown at 12:30 PM on the 14th of July. Bob Smith said that he would do the presentation.

Mike Smith stated that he would let the recipients know of our intentions to do the presentations.

Bob Smith asked if we had any feedback from the first Pocono Race Weekend, but Daryl Betz was not here to report. Bob Obrecht said that they had members that were interested in doing this as well, but they need to register as a group with the Tricky Triangle online. There are forms available online to do so and to submit.

Tom Dahl wanted to attend, but neither Dave Padora, not Ivan Meixell were able to attend, so he did not have a ride. Bob Smith stated that we will do his Holland Club Ceremony when he can attend.

Bob Smith handed out the raffle tickets those members present. The packs were based on previous year's sales by individual members.

The West End Fair is almost upon us. The secretary stated that the fair will run from the 19th of August to the 25th of August. Setup is on Saturday the 18th at 10 and teardown will be on Sunday the 26th. Bob has sign-up sheets for those wishing to man the booth during the week. The fair opens at noon all week.

We will also be attending the Victorian Days event in Belvidere, NJ on the 8th and 9th of September, as the event is back on and we will be present for the Chestnuthill Township Community Day event at the end of September as well.

Good of the Order:

There is also food available for the members and the legion at the end of the Flag Day Ceremony.

Bob Smith said he talked to a woman at the Minisink Courthouse and asked if she had seen Bob Vaughan. She stated she had seen him a couple of months ago. Bob said he has been trying to get a hold of him multiple ways with no answer.

Bob and Mike Smith talked about a request from a Karl Micke to talk to us in an interview fashion about his time on board the USS Mataco and their rescue / salvage of the USS Halibut Spy Submarine of the cold war era. We would like to have him actually come to our meeting and Bob said he would ask him about doing so.

Calendar of Events:

18 Jun 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dominick Matthew Bierman at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe, PA at 6PM. Mike Smith will do the presentation..

4 July 2018: Happy 4th of July.

18 July 2018: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs

15 Aug 2018: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hrs.

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.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Gerald Zeman 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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1749 hrs.

The members present joined with the members of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1800 for the Flag Day Ceremonies. Dinner was provided by the Base and salads were made by Sheila Smith after the ceremony.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary