

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 28 March 2018



USS Perch I SS-176

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 / 26 N. Riverview Ave, Columbia, NJ. 07832

Ph (570) 856-3502. E-mail address: oldsteelhead@msn.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 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, James Kelly, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Bob Obrecht and New Member Jason Heimbach

Also present was Jason's guest, Greg Kokinda.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary stated that the minutes were posted to the website and provided minutes to the members present.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported ending actual balance of \$x as of 28 Feb 2018.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith said that we currently have 49 members, including new member Jason Heimbach at our meeting. All personnel are paid up to date with their dues.

Budget / Donation: No Report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read a thank you letter from Valor Clinic as well as more requests for donations to Wounded Warriors.

Flag Box Program: No report.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place the usual ads in the standard papers.

Parades: The next parade will be held on Memorial Day the 28th of May.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith reports that there are multiple invitations for Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Dates are listed in the calendar of events.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base just had another visit.

Fundraising: Bob Smith is looking in to the Camelback Prize again.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Perch I (SS-176). Sunk by scuttling per the order of the commanding officer, due to severe damage from multiple ASW attacks by Japanese Destroyers.

Old Business: General Elections:

The following members declared for the following positions:

James Kelly has declared for Base Vice-Commander

Alan Dempsey has declared for Base Treasurer

Mike Smith has declared for Base Secretary

There we no other nominations tendered for the officer positions. The secretary acclaimed that the declarations stand and the new officers are to be sworn in for the next two years.

Bob Smith has stated that he will remain as Base Commander, but is looking for someone to take his position as the new Base Commander.

Bill Klose, as a former base officer, administered the oath of office.

Thanks to poor weather, we were unable to attend the Jim Thorpe St. Patrick's Day Parade back on the 11th of March. Bob was unable to get the float out of his shed without damaging his lawn. We also did not attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 18th of March, as we did not get invited.

There is the Global Day Celebration event at East Stroudsburg University on the 4th of April. The theme for Wednesday is: **First A Warrior, Then A Hero: Armed Forces Careers** at 11AM. Setup around 9AM and would last until about 2PM. A few of the members present have expressed an interest in attending. The representative has asked for our float to be brought to the event for display.

Bob Obrecht brought us up to speed regarding the naming of Rte 115 to be the Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway. Based upon the last report, the legislation has passed in both the House and the Senate. The only thing left is when the actual ceremony and sign will happen. The section to be named will start at Long Pond Road by the Pocono Raceway, all the way to Effort. This is about a seven mile section of highway.

Bob Smith is still waiting for confirmation of the Camelback Prize again this year. Afterwards, Bob intends to visit Vena at the Flag Store in Sciotta if she would like to be our sponsor for the raffle.

Bob Obrecht talked the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program that the Lehigh Valley base is currently involved in in the Allentown Area.

New Business: Mike Smith talked about the three Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. For the benefit of our new member and our guest, the secretary gave a synopsis of what the program is about.

Bob Smith talked about some of the events we do during the year, including the West End Fair. Bob also stated that the Victorian Days event in Belvedere, NJ is back on this year. We also have attended the Chestnuthill Township Community Day event as well. Bob will try to get us located out of the sun for the next event.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith stated that he has been unable to get a hold of Bob Vaughan and will continue to try.

Calendar of Events:

8 Apr 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nicholas Govus at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

18 Apr 2018: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

6 May 2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Aaron A Lemos at Notre Dame Jr / Sr High School in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

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

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 lunch at noon.

14 Jun 2018: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 Mar 2018 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Bill Klose to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Bob Obrecht.

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 1959 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary