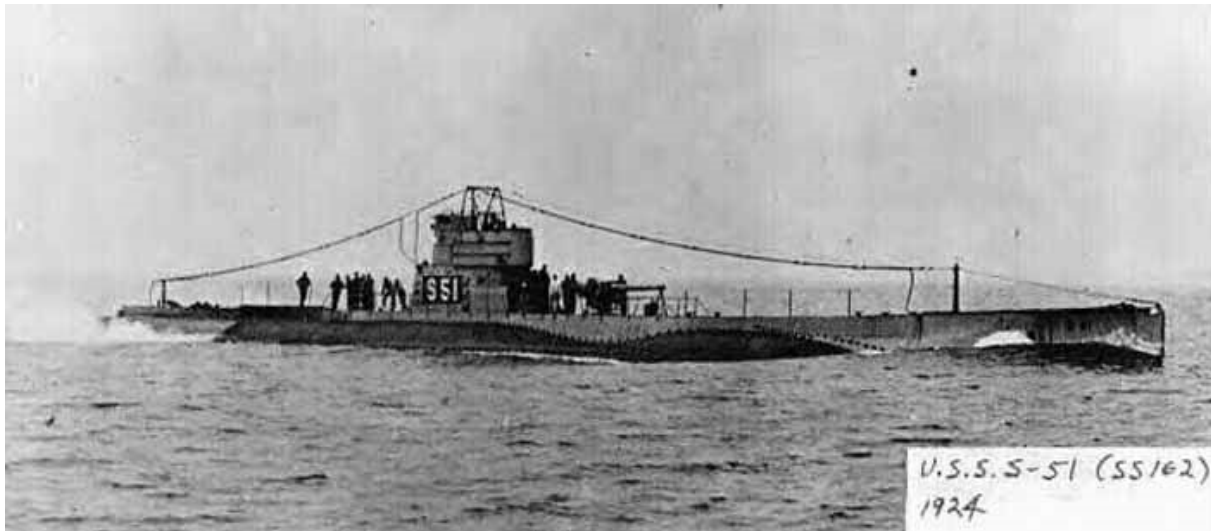


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 19 September 2018



USS S-51 (SS 162)

Base Officers

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

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Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

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Chaplain – Tom Crosby / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

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Meeting called to order at 1902 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht, Tom Crosby, Bill Klose, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe, Tom Dahl, Ken Kull, Dave Padora, Frank McDevitt and John Kelly

The base welcomed one of our newest members in attendance: Gene Peppe, who served and qualified on-board Sea Leopard (SS-483) from 1956-58.

The base members introduced themselves and the boats they served on. We were joined by family and friends for this meeting.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

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

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$x as of 31 Aug 2018.

A full report will be given at the October meeting when all raffle incomes have been tallied.

Committees:

Membership: We have gained 3 more members from the West End Fair, this brings our total of members up to 52.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary stated that the only correspondence was a Thank You letter from Dominick Bierman for our Eagle Scout Presentation. The treasurer received a letter and a donation of \$x Dyle E. Bray Home Association Inc., VFW Post 739. Bob Smith received another e-mail from a June Pepe of the East Stroudsburg University and is asking if we could attend the Military Friendly Event on the 22nd of Sept. Also an e-mail was received from Huey Dietrich in regards to the boat sponsorship program.

Flag Boxes: Bob Smith and Skip Donohue went to Ken Smith's house near Belvidere to pick up the last mailbox. Unfortunately it is mired in the ground and will need to be picked up later. Bob is already in possession of the sandblasted.

Charity / Donation: No report until after the raffle money has been turned in after the October meeting.

Publicity: Bob Smith has the usual ads in the local papers this month for our meeting,

Dinner/Dance: No report.

Parades: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade on the 4th of November and the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade on the 11th of November.

Eagle Scout: No invitations reported.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report.

Mike Smith read from an article from the ussnautilus.org website about the loss of the USS S-51. The S-51 was lost after being struck by the City of Rome.

Old Business: The Chestnuthill Township Community is coming up on the 30th of September from noon to 5. Setup will be between 9:30-10 AM timeframe. The event is located just off of Rte. 715.

Dave Padora talked about the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade that will be held in Lansford, PA on the 11th of November. Step off is around 1:30PM in the area of the football stadium.

We also have the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade that will start at 1PM from the Stroudsburg High School and end at the park in East Stroudsburg.

Frank stated that there is no further information about the plaques at the memorial in Tannersville, Pa.

Bob Obrecht talked about the initiative to have part of Rte. 115 named the US Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway. The track of road is from Long Pond Road next to the Pocono Raceway, all the way down to Jonas Road in Effort. The legislation has passed and now we are waiting on word from Penn DOT as to when they will be putting up the signs. The end at the Pocono Raceway may not happen for a while as they are widening Rte. 115 in that area.

New Business: Bob Smith read the e-mail from District Commander, Huey Dietrich about sponsoring the boats, in which we donate \$30 per boat and the boats receive a copy of the American Submariner Magazine.

Tom Crosby made the motion to re-activate our boat sponsorship and selected the USS Pittsburgh and the USS Pennsylvania. Frank McDevitt made the second motion with consideration of other boats to be named later based on sponsorship level. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Please make sure you get any outstanding raffle tickets and money turned in before the October 17th Meeting.

Bill Klose talked about some sort of dedication dealing with submarines at Fort Indiantown Gap in November. They were asking if we had any of the Anthracite Dolphins to present to an Admiral Conner, who is also a submariner. No further information is available at this time.

Bob Smith is asking for ideas for fundraising for next year. We have not been doing too well in the last couple of years and we need to relook other prizes. There is still the volunteer program at the Pocono Raceway on race weekends, where the track donates up to \$100 per person per day for veteran's organizations. Frank McDevitt did go for one day on the 2nd NASCAR race of the summer in August.

The base received a letter and donation from the Dyle E. Bray Home Association of the VFW Post 739 in Bangor Pa. The letter was from a Bob Washock of the US Navy Seabees. The Base Secretary will draft and remit a thank you letter for their donation. Mr. Washock met us at the West End Fair.

Bob Obrecht brought a sample mug from the Lehigh Valley Base with their logo as an extension of the vehicle window stickers that our base had made. If anyone is interested, please check with Bob at the end of the meeting.

Darryl Betz showed the members present a brochure on the new Submarine Memorial in downtown Groton, CT. The town wants to expand upon the original memorial and they are looking for donations to help purchase the additional land.

Bob Obrecht talked about the Lehigh Valley Base wanted to try and obtain the USS Groton Sail, but things fell thru and the sail is staying in Groton for their memorial.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith thanked the following for their assistance for the West End Fair and the Victorian Days events:

19 Aug Fair Setup: Don Ransel, Bob Sweeney, Bob Obrecht, Stan Dziuba, and Bob Smith.

20-25 Aug West End Fair: Bob Obrecht, Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Betz, Bill Klose, Skip Donohue, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Smith, Frank McDevitt, John Kelly, Ken Kull, Mike Smith, Jay Ansky, Alan Dempsey, Bob Sweeney and Don Ransel.

26 Aug Fair Takedown: Bob Sweeney, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Stan Dziuba, and Bob Smith.

8 Sep Victorian Days: John Kelly, Ken & Ev Smith, Bob Obrecht, Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Betz, Skip Donohue, Frank McDevitt, Alan Dempsey and Bob Smith.

9 Sep Victorian Days Breakdown: Darryl Betz, Skip Donohue, Alan Dempsey and Bob Smith.

The winner of the Raffle will be drawn next month after our regular meeting. According to Alan, we only have to have a record of who the winner is and his/her address. This information will not be made public. We just need it for our records for the Small Games of Chance.

There is a belief that the flooding of the USS Ling Submarine was an act of sabotage. There we also plaques removed from the memorial as well. They were looking for other bases to take the memorabilia for safekeeping, but they were given a storage location for the remainder of the memorabilia.

Next meeting will be held on the 14th of November, as the normal day is the eve of Thanksgiving. Information is on the calendar of events on the base website.

Calendar of Events:

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.

14 Nov 2018: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 October 2018 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Dave Padora to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby.

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.”

Chaplain Crosby offered a closing prayer.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2006 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. there may be food for the October Meeting. Also there was a short notice Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eric and Evan Bond in Brodheadsville, PA. Their certificates were mailed to them.