

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 April 2019



**USS Grenadier**

**SS-210**

#### Base Officers

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**Meeting called to order** at 1903 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: Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bill Klose, Don Ransel, David Wright, Darryl Betz, Ken Smith, Tony Sturla, Ken Kull, Gene Peppe, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht and Frank McDevitt.

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. There is a correction to be made for the March Minutes for Tony Sturla, name was misspelled. Minutes will be re-sent to Bob Smith for re-posting.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 March 2019.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that we have 51 members on our roster. Bob said he has also encouraged some of his shipmates to join, even if they don't live in the area. Bob said one of his shipmates from back in the 60's has joined our base as a Life Member. His name is Ron Scarlett. Tom Crosby has said he has a potential new member as well and he said he was interested in joining our base.

**Correspondence:** Mike Smith read a thank you letter from the Fisher House for our \$x donation.

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

**Flag Box:** Bob Smith brought more flags in and apologized to Frank McDevitt for not getting with him to deal with the box at Mount Pocono Shop-Rite

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht says that the Lehigh Valley Base has an event coming up this Friday.

**Publicity:** Bob stated he was unable to place the ads in the local papers this month.

**Speakers Bureau:** Currently inactive.

**Parades:** There will be a Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on 27 May 2019. 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 Grampus, a boat lost in March to make up for the error in reading a lost boat for April last month. Grampus was presumed lost due to aerial bombing and ASW attacks

**Old Business:** The base voted to attend the West End Fair again last month and to have our annual raffle again. Bob Smith said he would work on getting the prize package again from Camelback. We should know by the May Meeting. There was some discussion about making the winner accept the actual prize, instead of opting for the monetary equivalent. If anyone were to

take the Camelcash Prize, we would pay the cost then Camelback just send us a certificate that would have to be validated by them. Also, for Camelback, it is free advertising for them when we sell the tickets. This will be brought up again next meeting, as the tickets have not been printed yet. We are also going to ask Vena, at the Flag Store, if they would help sponsor the cost of the tickets. Bob Smith said that the cost of the tickets is about \$300. Tom Crosby said that the post uses a different printer and would look into what the cost would be for our base, by next meeting. Bob is looking for approval by next meeting, so he can move forward with getting them printed. Bob is also looking for help with this. The prize is a \$1500 Cash Card, only usable for anything owned by Camelback Property. There is also no expiration date for this card, if the prize is accepted. It terminates once all of the money is used.

Bob would like to get the float committee together at his house to go over the float and see what needs to be attended to. The Committee members currently are, Darryl Betz, Ken Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Gene Peppe and Bob Smith and any other member that would like to assist. Bob is looking at meeting around 1-2 PM on April 27<sup>th</sup> at his house. Bob will provide directions if anyone needs them and said that food would be provided. Mike Smith stated that the first item that needs to be addressed is the Cradle assembly, as it has parted due to all of the travel.

A couple of the members who went to Belvidere last year would like to see our base get the same spot as last year, as it seemed that there was a lot of foot traffic where the float was located, instead of in front of the courthouse. Also, we will look at getting our same spot for the West End Fair, near the Main Stage. The West End Fair runs from August 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. The Indy Car race is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the Airshow starts on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Frank discussed o the volunteer program once again for the members present. We go to gate 5 to check in and get our vest for the day. Gate 5 is the first gate after turning onto Long Pond Road from Rte 115. Frank asked said that we do not need to be there until 10 AM, instead of 7 AM and it lasts until about 3 PM or until the race is complete. We would be doing ushering, bag checks, ticket checks, etc. We will not be responsible for the parking area. We will also get \$95 per day per person this year.

**New Business:** After some discussion with Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht has agreed to become our new Vice Commander. James Kelly has been unable to attend any of our meetings, or the functions as Vice Commander due to his job.

We have the Pocono Pines Memorial Day Parade coming up on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Lineup is at 9:30 AM, with step-off at 10 AM. Bob smith said he would pick up any of our members at the Wilson-Fischer post no later than 9:12 AM and take them over to the school / staging area.

Mike Smith was asked by his co-worker, who is the Nesquehoning VFW Commander, about possibly joining them on Memorial Day for a Parade and Ceremony. Mike Smith stated that we would respectfully decline, as we are committed to the Tobyhanna Parade with the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Bob Obrecht also talked about a gentleman from the Bethlehem area, who would like to come up on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and photograph the parade and create a photo folder of it for us. We had sent him a donation some time ago.

Tom Crosby is asking if any of our members would like to help out with the Rifle Guard, as they are looking for personnel to man up the 7 members of the rifle team for the Memorial Day Service after the parade. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Tom Crosby.

Mike Smith talked about the 3 past Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. The certificate package was mailed to Jonas Rivera, since Mike didn't receive the letter until it was too late. Thank you to Bob Obrecht for doing the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April and the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

We now have 5 more Court of Honor invites, they are, in order:

A dual Court of Honor to be held for Alex Kelly and Samuel Anthony Matrisciano to be held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM at the St. Matthew's Church Parish Hall, 200 Brodhead Avenue, East Stroudsburg, PA. David Wright said that he would do this presentation.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jake Scott Oravec, to be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at the Twin Pines Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, 3000 Twin Pines Rd, Stroudsburg, PA. Mike Smith stated he would do this presentation, as he has not been back to the camp in years.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zach Henry Reagle, to be held on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the Chestnuthill Township Park Building on Rte-715 in Brodheadsville. Bob Smith said he would do this presentation.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Charles William Smith II, to be held on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 PM at the American Legion post 927, 646 Fairgrounds Road, Gilbert, PA. This is the post near the West End Fairgrounds. Bob Obrecht said he would do the presentation.

For the benefit of a couple of members, the secretary passed around a couple of the certificate packages and discussed the Eagle Scout Presentation Program, what the certificate says and what we typically do and talk about. Any one is welcome to come and join in the presentation. All packages were given to the respective presenters by meeting end. Bob Smith said that all of the Eagle Scouts that we have been contacted by and the courts we have attended are listed on the Pocono Base website.

Bob Obrecht brought in a book called Pennsylvania Laws Relating to Veterans. The book may, or may not be useful to us. Bob said he would have it available for anyone after he gets done with using it for a friend on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. He said his friend is eligible for some of the benefits listed in the book.

Bob Smith said that we have a lot of links for Veteran's items on our webpage. They are located in the lower left corner of the site.

There is still no word from Penn DOT, via Jack Rader's office about the installation of the signs for Rte 115. They may wait until the widening project is complete in the area of the racetrack.

The Keystone Base is having a Dedication of the Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial at the Ft. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. If anyone is interested in attending, please get with Bob Smith for the e-mail information.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith is asking for people to think about elections for the positions of our elected officers next year. Bob Smith says he will not accept continuation as Base Commander. He is looking for some of the younger members.

Bob Smith received a new book from Rick Campbell for any member of our base to read. Alan Dempsey will take it to read and give us feedback when he is done.

Bob Smith asked if anyone knows of a member that is on the Binnacle List. Frank McDevitt asked about Rich Holmes. Bob said he will be a hold of Janet to see how he is doing. Bob said Rich gets agitated when he reads our e-mails.

Bob and Ruth Vaughan are now living in a senior living apartment in New York.

### **Calendar of Events:**

28 Apr 2019: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Alex Kelly and Samuel Matrisciano in East Stroudsburg at 2:30 PM.

5 May 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for James Scott Oravec in Stroudsburg, PA at 3 PM.

15 May 2019: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

19 May 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Zach Henry Reagle in Brodheadsville, PA at 1 PM

27 May 2019: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at the 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.

31 May – 2 Jun 2019: 1ST Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for volunteering.

1 Jun 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Charles William Smith II in Gilbert, PA at 1 PM

14 Jun 2019: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. This is a tentative date, may get moved to Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> due to the post having a Bingo Tournament on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

26 -28 July 2019: 2nd Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering.

17-18 Aug 2019: Indy Car Race Weekend at Pocono Racetrack.

18-24 Aug 2019: West End Fair week. Setup to be on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and breakdown to be on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Further information to be included after the next set of meetings.

24-25 Aug 2019: Great Pocono Raceway Airshow Weekend.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 15 May 2019 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 delivered the benediction at the end of our meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Don Ransel.  
All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2004 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary