

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 14 August 2019



**USS Harder**

**SS-257**

#### 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 Acting 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)

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

The Acting 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, Bill Klose, Gene Peppe, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Dave Padora, Tom Kaluzny, Darryl Betz, Ken Kull, Frank McDevitt, Tom Dahl, Bob Sweeney and John Kelly.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on. We were also joined by the wives of a couple of our members.

**Meeting Minutes:** The July Minutes were posted to the website and the Base Secretary provided minutes at the meeting. The account has an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 July 2019.

**Treasurers Report:** The Secretary read the treasurer's report, as the treasurer was out of town.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob reported that we are currently at 52 members.

**Correspondence:** Bill Klose gave the secretary a pile of donation request letters from Wounded Warrior and a few from the Salvation Army. The secretary read an email given to him by Bob Smith. Information in the New Business section.

**Flag Boxes:** No report on the drop boxes other than needing to refurbish the one at the Shop Rite in Mount Pocono.

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

**Parades:** There are two Veterans Day Parades in November. Stroudsburg on the 3<sup>th</sup> of November. The Veterans Day Parade for Carbon County will be in Lehighton, PA this year on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Fund Raising:** Continuing raffle ticket sales until the October meeting.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that this week's visitation has been cancelled. Also, Bob reported that the number of kids visited by their base is actually closer to two hundred, not 100 as previously reported.

**Budget & Donation:** No report until raffle money is totaled.

**Eagle Scout:** The Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests are listed in the Calendar of Events and mentioned in both old business and new business.

**Float Committee:** Gene reported that there will be some repairs and work to be done at the West End Fair, including mounting the two fire extinguishers, donated by Dave Padora and Ivan Meixell and checking on the tail lights. All other repairs were accomplished at Bob Smith's house over the summer.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Harder. Harder was lost from Anti-Submarine operations as per Japanese Records after the War. Cdr. Dealey was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor as one of our greatest commanders of WWII.

**Old Business:** Mike thanked Bob Obrecht for attending the Court of Honor for Scott Eric Mackes. The Court of Honor was held at the American Legion Post 927 in Gilbert, PA on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at 2PM.

There were also two requests for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. First was from a Bruno Christian Hennings IV for his Court of Honor to be held on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of August at 1PM. It will be held at Peppe's Bistro, 100 Eagle Valley Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA.

The second request was for a Broderick Earl Acker. His Court of Honor is to be held on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of August at 1PM. The location is the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Road, Jim Thorpe, PA.

As there were no volunteers to do either of these presentations, the Eagle Scout Certificates and Patches were mailed to their intended recipients.

Bob has also submitted our application for the Chestnuthill Community Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September

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 19<sup>th</sup> til Saturday, 25 August. Breakdown would then be on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August at 10AM. All days start at noon. Bob has fair passes available for those members that will be manning the booth. The prize for this year has been simplified and is now only a \$x straight cash prize. Camelback has stopped their prize package this year.

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. All the members present supported this program idea.

The Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ is back on this year. The dates for this event are on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Setup is on the 8<sup>th</sup> and breakdown is on the 9<sup>th</sup> after the event.

Bob Smith and Bob Obrecht said that Penn DOT will be unveiling the Sign for Route 115 on Wednesday, September 4th at 11AM. The location will be in front of the Pocono Racetrack Entrance. We will have representatives from both the Scranton and Lehigh Valley Bases. Bob Smith and Mike Smith will try to get a hold of their respective contacts with the Times News Newspaper. This will be a great Photo Op for us and Bob Smith will look into submitting this to the American Submariner Magazine. Jack Rader's office will be involved as well.

Bob Smith asked that any member who has old American Submariner magazines and no longer wish to save them, to please donate them to places like doctor's offices and the like.

**New Business:** There are two Veterans Day Parades coming up in November. The first one is on the 3<sup>th</sup> of November in Stroudsburg, PA with step off at 1PM

The other parade will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in Lehighton, PA. Further information will be made available as the date gets closer. The secretary will also provide a map of the parade route.

There are a couple more Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. First is a Dual Court of Honor for a Patrick Timothy Carney and Anthony Joseph Nostro. This Court of Honor is to be held at the Great Bear Golf & Country Club, 1 Great Bear Court in East Stroudsburg, PA on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at 1PM. Bob Obrecht agreed to do our presentation.

We also received a request from a Matthew David Rogers. His Court of Honor is to be held at the Zion United Church of Christ, 14<sup>th</sup> North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at 2PM. No takers at this time.

Any member is invited to join our presentation at any of the court of honors. No two have ever been the same.

The Batfish Base sent an email to National for distribution. They are asking for donations to help with the repairs to the USS Batfish after the recent record flooding of the Arkansas River in Muskogee, OK caused damage to her mooring and caused her to re-float again. There was also damage to the interior from the flooding.

After a little discussion, Gene Peppe made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion that our base donate \$50 to the Charitable Fund for the USS Batfish restoration. John Kelly made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith talked about the boat sponsorship program and is asking the members present if we wish to continue with the program.

Gene Peppe made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion for us to continue our Boat Sponsorship, Dave Padora made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

**Good of the Order:** Jay Ansky, who is the friend of member Mike Smith and helper at the West End Fair was in the hospital towards the end of July for a potential life threatening blood infection. He is currently home and Mike Smith reported that he was giving Jay's medications during our trip to St. Louis the first weekend of August. Jay thanks Bob & Sheila for the Get Well Card.

Ken Smith is doing well after falling back on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, though he has to use portable Oxygen.

Skip Gallagher said that his with Sam is doing better, after Bob Smith was able to talk to him.

Bob and Ruth Vaughan are continuing to do well with living at a senior community in New York.

We have in our possession the books we inherited from Oliver Nordmark upon his death. They are currently over by the locker. It was brought up about possibly doing a 50/50 raffle at the conclusion of our meeting for a book. Another option is to bring them to the fair for sale.

### **Calendar of Events:**

17-18 Aug 2019: Indy Car Race Weekend at Pocono Racetrack. Frank McDevitt will email the pass needed to get in to volunteer.

18 Aug 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Bruno Christian Hennings IV in East Stroudsburg, PA at 1PM. Package mailed.

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 Aug 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Broderick Earl Acker in Jim Thorpe, PA at 1PM. Package mailed.

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

2 Sep 2019: Labor Day

7-8 Sep 2019: Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ.

14 Sep 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Camilo E Reyes at the St. Luke's Emergency & Transport located at 2884 Rte-611, Tannersville, PA at 12:30PM.

14 Sep 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew Roger Rakus to be held at 521 John Deere Drive, Sciota PA (Residence) at 1PM.

18 Sep 2019: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

21 Sep 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew David Rogers in Stroudsburg, PA at 2PM.

22 Sep 2019: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Patrick Timothy Carney and Anthony Joseph Nostro in East Stroudsburg, PA at 1PM. Bob Obrecht will be our presenter.

29 Sep 2019: Chestnuthill Township Community Day from noon to 5 at the Chestnuthill Township Park on Route 715. About 2 miles north on the left coming off of Route 209.

16 Oct 2019: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours. Winning raffle ticket to be pulled at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 18 Sept 2019 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Gene Peppe to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.”

A moment of silence was held in lieu of the benediction.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1949 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary