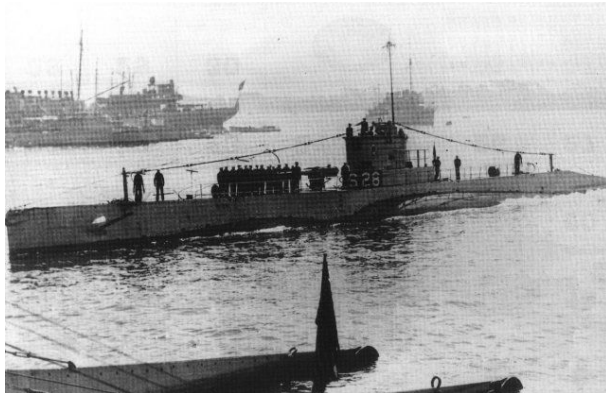


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 July 2019



USS S-28

SS-133

Base Officers

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

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Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732

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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 Acting Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of July:

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

The Acting Chief of the Boat led the members present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Gene Peppe, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Skip Donohue, Ken Kull, Tom Crosby, Darryl Betz and John Kelly.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified / served on. We were also joined by Darryl's family.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The June Minutes were posted to the base website and the Secretary provided copies of the minutes for the meeting. There will a corrected copy sent to be posted as there was an incorrect date for the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) event in June.

Treasurers Report: The secretary read the Treasurer report, as he is out of town for this meeting. There is an ending actual balance of \$x as of 28 June 2019, from an initial balance of \$x on the 1st of June.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we are still at 52 members. Bob also talked about continuing the promotion from last few years in signing up potential members at the West End Fair again. Members present agreed to adopt the recruiting tactic as last year.

Correspondence: The Secretary received a couple of Eagle Scout invitations. Will be covered under the Eagle Scout report. Also received a letter from the Treasurer with a refund check for the secretary needing to purchase certificate holders. Also enclosed was a copy of the check donation from Vena at the Flag Store in Sciota, Pa. Alan recommended that we send a thank you letter to Vena. The secretary will take care of that.

Bob Smith received ticket stubs from Tony Sturla. He also mentioned that Tony was going to be down at John's Hopkins for the time being.

Bob read an e-mail from the Clamagore Fund, further details under New Business.

Flag Memorial: Bob Smith brought in more flags from Kinsley's Shop Rite. They continue to produce.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he put the usual ads in the Journal of the Pocono Plateau and the Focus.

Parades: No Parades in the near future

Budget & Donations: No report.

Eagle Scouts: Eagle Scout Courts of Honor are listed in the calendar of events.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht stated that the Lehigh Valley Base has an event on the 19th of June. Bob said that they have visited over 100 children so far.

Fundraising: West End Fair after next month's meeting.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS S-28. The cause of her sinking remains unknown and the depth of the water precluded any rescue.

Old Business: Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor since last meeting.

Mike thanked David Wright for doing the presentation for Lucas Oliver Swanson on the 15th of June, same time as our meeting. Bob Obrecht for the court of honor for John Vile on the 22nd of June, Bob Smith for the presentation for Daniel Saviet on the 23th of June and Frank McDevitt did the presentation for Ethan Argot on the 23rd of June as well.

Mike talked about the Court of Honor that is upcoming for Scott Eric Mackes and as of this meeting, there have been no takers. Bob Obrecht said he would do this presentation. It is to be held at the American Legion Post 927 in Gilbert, PA on the 10th of August at 2PM.

Mike Smith wants to thank our storekeeper, Bill Klose, for mailing him more Eagle Scout patches, as Mike had run out as of last meeting.

Still no word on the installation of the signs from Penn DOT, most likely due to all of the road construction going on to widen Rte 115 between Rte 903 and Long Pond Road. Bob Smith will try to get further word from Jack Rader.

Word from the Float Committee is that there are a few other items to attend to, including mounting both fire extinguishers on opposite ends of the trailer and work on trying to fix the broken taillight on the right side. This will be accomplished at the fair.

New Business: Bob Smith read an e-mail from the USS Clamagore Fund. They are trying to stop the State of South Carolina from sinking the WWII era boat from becoming an artificial reef. They are asking for donations from each of the bases in this effort. We also talked about sending a donation to help with the upkeep of the USS Drum. We have sent money to the Drum in the past. The Drum is being kept up by volunteers.

Tom Crosby made a motion for the base to send \$50 apiece to support the USS Drum and the USS Clamagore. Skip Donohue made the second motion for the donations. All in favor, motion passed. Bob Smith will ask the treasurer to cut the checks when he returns from vacation.

Mike Smith talked about an upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor that he missed after returning home from the June Meeting for a Jeremy Adam Major. That certificate was mailed to him on the 12th of July. The Court of Honor was to be held at the Chestnuthill Township Park on the 13th of July @ 1PM.

There is a request from a Bruno Christian Hennings IV for his Court of Honor to be held on Sunday, the 18th of August at 1PM. It will be held at Peppe's Bistro, 100 Eagle Valley Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA.

There was also a Court of Honor request that was e-mailed to Mike Smith for a Broderick Earl Acker. His Court of Honor is to be held on Saturday, the 24th of August at 1PM. The location is the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Road, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Bob has sign-up sheets for the West End Fair and Victorian Days, so please sign up here or via e-mail. We will have vendor passes and guest passes for the week to be given at the August Meeting. The pass is good for the entire week. We usually do well in ticket sales at the fair. Bob also showed off the new prize package stands for display at the fair.

Skip Donohue brought Girl Scout Cookies in for the members present as part of an operation called Operation Cookie Drop. This is from the Hudson Valley area a woman from the area does this each month at the post that Skip is a member of. He picks them up from her every couple of months to be made into care packages to be sent overseas. She gave Skip a case of cookies with the stipulation that he gets a picture of us around the cookies and send the picture back to her. She is willing to send us more cookies.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith thanked those members that were able to make the meeting, as the weather has not been conducive for travel. Bob told Bill Klose not to worry about coming to the meeting due to the distance he has to travel.

Binnacle list: Tony Sturla will be at John's Hopkins in Baltimore, MD starting on the 8th of July for surgery.

Ken Smith took a bit of a tumble and fell at the boat dock, according to Ev and required stitches. This supposedly took place on the 4th of July. He is recovering from this and seeing his doctor.

Bob Smith also said that Bob and Ruth Vaughan are doing well and living at senior housing in NY.

Bob Smith still has patches he was given by a Chief that we had met at the Memorial Day event in Tannersville. We haven't been successful in getting the chief to join our group.

Calendar of Events:

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

10 Aug 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Scott Mackes in Gilbert, PA at 2PM. Bob Obrecht will do the presentation.

14 Aug 2019: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hours.

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

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

18-24 Aug 2019: West End Fair week. Setup to be on Saturday the 17th at 10AM and breakdown to be on Sunday the 25th 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.

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

2 Sep 2019: Labor Day

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

18 Sep 2019: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 Aug 2019 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Smith led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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 benediction at the end of the meeting.

1st motion made by Skip Donohue to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by John Kelley. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1935 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary