

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Saturday, 15 June 2019



USS Golet

SS-361

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 1504 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 June:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Ken Smith, Don Ransel, Bill Klose, Alan Dempsey, Gene Peppe, Bob Sweeney, Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bob Smith, John Kelly, Ken Kull and Frank McDevitt.

Also present were the wives and friends of some of our members.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary provided minutes for the members present at the meeting. The minutes have also been posted on the base website.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer report an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 May 2019.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we have 52 members.

Correspondence: Eagle Scout invitations, plus a letter received by Frank McDevitt from the Lehigh Valley Base for our donation of pins to their Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he was not able to place the usual ads in both the Pocono Plateau and the Focus papers.

Flag Drop Boxes: The flag boxes continue to be very busy, especially the one at the Flag Store in Sciota, Pa. Bob Smith is still looking to get with Frank to overhaul a couple of the boxes.

Parades: No parades on the horizon. We had a good turnout for the parade and ceremony in Pocono Pines. Some members went to

Budget & Donation: No report until after the raffle.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht stated that the Lehigh Valley Base has an event on the 21st of June. Bob said that they have visited about 100 children so far.

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

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Golet. Golet was lost due to Anti-Submarine actions in the area according to Japanese records after the war.

Old Business: Mike Smith stated that we have quite a few Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in the last few months. Bob Smith was our presenter at the court of honor for Zack Reagle at the Chestnuthill Township building in Brodheadsville on the 19th of May. Bob Obrecht did the presentation at the court of honor for Charles Smith II at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA on the 1st of June.

There was a Court of Honor for Hunterdon Grant Watts that was at the Middle Smithfield Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Middle Smithfield, PA (8-9 miles north of I-80 on Rte. 209).

To be held on the 25th of May at 2PM. This certificate package has been mailed, since there were no takers.

Court of Honor for Lucas Oliver Swanson to be held at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA on the 15th of June at 3PM. David Wright had agreed to do this presentation.

Court of Honor for John Vile to be held at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 2138 Croasdale Road, Stroudsburg, PA on June 22nd at 2PM. Bob Obrecht has agreed to do this presentation for our base.

Court of Honor for Daniel Saviet to be held at the Salem UCC Church, 117 Gilbert Road, Gilbert, PA on the 23rd of June at 2PM. Bob Smith has agreed to do this presentation.

Bob Obrecht talked about the work done by the float committee for the benefit of Ken Smith. The back of the cradle was repaired where it was breaking apart from all of the travels. The boat has been further secured with an adjustable bolt system, instead of the bungee cords that held it in place. The one light still requires repairs, but it is epoxied in place and will take some effort to fix.

Alan Dempsey talked about his time volunteering at the Pocono Racetrack for the first NASCAR weekend. Alan said he worked all three days of the event. Alan recommended that we keep track of who goes, so we can keep track of the monetary amount we will get at the end of the season. Alan said he was an usher for Friday and was with the special needs children in the Sensory Room for Saturday and Sunday. This is a place for children who cannot tolerate some of the loud noises, such as the fireworks and engine noises. Mike Smith said that he and his friend Jay Ansky were ushers on Saturday. We were down towards the end of Pit Lane. Alan recommended and we agreed that you definitely need sunblock to go with hearing protection.

Bob Smith presented the proof of what the raffle tickets are going to look like for this year to the members present. They are smaller in size due to not having the same description on them as the last few years. This will save some cost in printing. Due to the death of the previous owner, the shop that is printing the tickets is a bit behind. Bob Smith will mail out the initial batch of tickets to the members when he receives them.

New Business: There are two new Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests coming up. They are:

There is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ethan Isaac Argot to be held on Sunday, the 23th of June at Pocono Lake Wesleyan Church at 2Pm. Frank McDevitt has agreed to do this presentation.

There is also an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Scott Eric Mackes to be held on Saturday, the 10th of August at the American Legion Post 927 in Gilbert, PA at 2PM. No one has offered to do this presentation, yet.

The Eagle Scout Coordinator asked the storekeeper for more Eagle Scout patches to be sent to him, as the last one went to Frank McDevitt as of this meeting.

The West End Fair is almost upon us. The secretary stated that the fair will run from the 18th of August to the 24th of August. Setup is on Saturday the 17th at 10 and teardown will be on

Sunday the 25th. Bob has sign-up sheets for those wishing to man the booth during the week. The fair opens at noon all week.

We will also be attending the Victorian Days event in Belvidere, NJ on the 7th and 8th of September. Ken Smith said he tried to get a hold of a Mary Ann, but has had no luck so far. We are trying to get the same location as last year. The base did very well for the Saturday, including picking up two new members, but Sunday was a wash out from the rain.

Ken Smith said he is looking to get the remaining mailbox out of its location at his house. It will take a few people to move it and it still needs to be refinished. Ken suggested having the box located in Belvidere itself, but we do not want to intrude upon any organization that collects used flags.

Bob Smith had the privilege in presenting to John Kelly, his induction into the Holland Club for 50 Years of being Qualified in Submarines. John received a certificate, the Holland Club Membership Card, Holland Club Patch and a challenge coin.

Bill Klose said he would be able to get the Holland Club Pin for those who would like to have one.

Good of the Order:

The date for the August meeting has been moved to the 14th of August, due to the West End Fair going on during the week of our regular scheduled day.

Bob talked about the books we keep getting from Rick Campbell about getting them moved around to other members who may wish to read them. Rick has stated that he would like to meet us at one of our meetings. Rick's actual name is Eric and is a Submarine Veteran.

Bob Smith has asked if there are any members who have pictures of our events, please send them in so they can be posted to the website.

There is also food available for the members and the legion at the end of the Flag Day Ceremony.

Calendar of Events:

15 Jun 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Lucas Oliver Swanson in East Stroudsburg, PA at 3 PM. David Wright will do our presentation.

22 Jun 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for John Vile in Stroudsburg, PA at 2PM. Bob Obrecht will do our presentation.

23 Jun 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Daniel Saviet in Gilbert, PA at 2PM. Bob Smith will do our presentation.

17 Jul 2019: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hours.

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

14 Aug 2019: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hours.

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 17th at 10AM and breakdown to be on Sunday the 25th at 10AM. Further information to be included after the next set of meetings.

24-25 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 17 July 2019 at 1900 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Don Ransel.

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 1543 hrs.

The members present joined with the members of the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post at 1600 for the Flag Day Ceremonies. Dinner was provided by the Base and salads were made by Sheila Smith after the ceremony.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary