

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 March 2019



USS Perch I SS-176

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

Base Executive Officer – James Kelly / 302 Frisco Court, East Stroudsburg, PA. 18301

Ph (570) 807-2453. E-mail address: masterchiefkelly@hotmail.com

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 379-5187. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

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

Ph (570) 355-5876 / alanalan9633@hotmail.com

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

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Tom Crosby, David Wright, Tony Sterling, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe and Tom Dahl.

Also present were the wives of a few 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 Base Secretary stated that the minutes were posted to the website and provided minutes to the members present.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer's report was unavailable for tonight's meeting. Treasurer is out of town.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith said that we currently have 50 members and all personnel are paid up to date with their dues.

Budget / Donation: No Report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary read a thank you letter from the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation for our donation to the USSVI Joe Negri Memorial Clubhouse Fund.

Flag Box Program: Frank McDevitt reported that the boxes continue to be filled and we still need to refurbish the last box, as well as the one in the Shop Rite in Mount Pocono.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he placed the usual ads in the weekly papers.

Parades: The next parade will be held on Memorial Day the 27th of May. We received no invitation to the Stroudsburg parade.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith reports that there are multiple invitations for Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. Dates are listed in the calendar of events and in New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base just had another visit last Friday, the 15th of March. There is a little training that needs to be done, plus a background check.

Fundraising: Bob Smith is looking in to the Camelback Prize again.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Gudgeon. Possibly sunk by Japanese aerial attack and ASW operations.

Old Business: We will not attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA on the 24th of March, as we did not get invited. Also, Bob Smith will be out of the area and the recent rains make getting the float out of the upper garage problematic without destroying the lawn.

Bob Obrecht talked about the latest news on the Route 115 Sign. Penn DOT is currently working on expanding Route 115 to three lanes and we have not heard from them as to when they will be installing the Submarine Memorial Highway Signage. The northern sign to be posted at Long Pond Road on 115 South. The other sign will be at Jonas Road on 115 North. This has all been approved though the PA Congress according to Jack Rader's Office.

Bob Obrecht brought up something made by a member of the Lehigh Valley Base as well as a few other bases. They are coloring books for children and was initial part of the Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss) program.

Bob Smith talked about some damage that has occurred to the float and was noticed during the Veterans Day Parade in Lansford, PA back in November. The cradle has begun to separate from the jacking system. There is a float committee consisting of Bob Obrecht, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe, Ken Smith and Frank McDevitt. Bob Smith would like the committee to get together sometime in April when he gets back from vacation and start to address the repairs prior to the Memorial Day Parade in May. Bob will send an e-mail out with a couple of dates to get together.

New Business: Mike Smith talked about the mother-load of Eagle Scout Courts of Honor coming up. There was an invite from a Jonas Rivera for the 24th of March at 2PM. Due to the short notice from not being home to receive the mail, this one will be mailed.

There is also an Eagle Scout court of Honor for a Jack Hewlette Bullard to be held at the St. Luke's Ambulance Hall, 2884 PA-611, Tannersville, PA on Saturday, 13 April 19 at 1PM. Bob Obrecht stated that he would do this presentation.

We also received a triple-whammy for a Sean Bevilacqua, Anthony Ward and Bradley Buzzard for their Court of Honor to be held on the 6th of April at 2PM at the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Road, Jim Thorpe, PA. There were no takers for doing the presentation, yet. The secretary will be unavailable to take this as he will be out of town that day.

Congratulations to Ivan Meixell on his induction to the Holland Club for 50 Years, Qualified in Submarines. Frank McDevitt read the certificate of induction and was presented the Holland Club Certificate, Holland Club Patch, Holland Club ID and Challenge Coin.

There is also a couple of other members eligible for Holland Club. One is Bob Delaccio and Skip Baker. The third is John Kelly, when he attends one of our meetings.

Tom Crosby made the first motion that the base have a fund raiser this year. Bill Klose made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed. Bob Smith will contact Camelback once again for the prize package. Bob is also looking for help with this to ease the burden of getting this all together. Looking at West End Fair, Belvidere Victorian Days and Chestnuthill Township Community Fest.

Frank McDevitt talked again about volunteering our time to the Pocono Racetrack Events. Our base is now eligible for \$95 per person per day to be donated to the organization from the racetrack. We would be doing things like baggage checks, ticket checking, ushering etc... except vehicle parking. Events to be listed in the calendar of events. Open to friends and family and sign in with our members.

Base elections will be coming around next year. Bob Smith is asking for the members to consider running, as Bob stated, he is manning a position that he was not elected to.

Bob Smith thanked Ivan for the donation of another fire extinguisher and for having the one that Dave Padora donated last year, serviced.

Bill Klose is asking if there is room to add to the wall of memorabilia and will bring in a few things next meeting.

Frank talked about a different fundraising idea and events that we may make some extra money for the base. Frank will provide further information by the next meeting.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith recommends donating our American Submariner Magazines instead of throwing them out.

No one is listed on the Binnacle List.

Calendar of Events:

24 Mar 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jonas Rivera. Certificate package to be mailed.

6 Apr 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Sean Bevilacqua, Anthony Ward and Bradley Buzzard at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe at 2PM

13 Apr 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jack Hewlette Bullard at the St. Luke's Ambulance Hall in Tannersville, PA at 1PM. Bob Obrecht to do the presentation.

17 Apr 2019: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

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

14 Jun 2019: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

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

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

24-25 Aug 2019: Great Pocono Raceway Airshow Weekend

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 Apr 2019 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Mike Smith 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 led the members in a benediction

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1954 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary