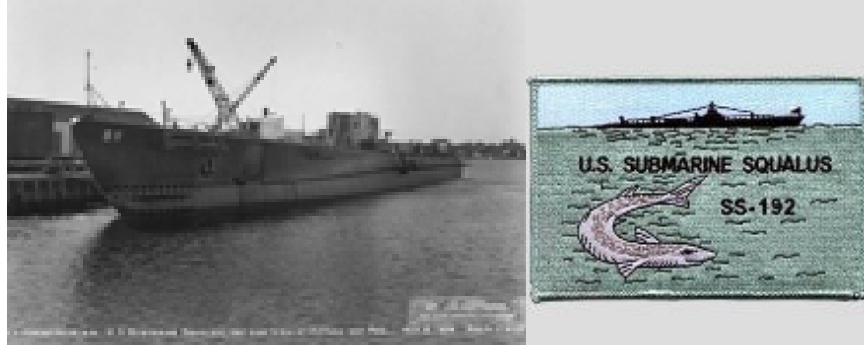


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 15 May 2019



**USS Squalus**

**SS-192**

#### Base Officers

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**Meeting called to order** at 1905 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 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: Alan Dempsey, David Wright, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, Darryl Betz, Ken Kull, Tom Crosby, Bob Obrecht & Frank McDevitt.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes for April have been posted and the Secretary provided the April Minutes for the members present.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported that our base had an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 April 2019.

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith stated that we are now up to 52 members. Welcome aboard to new member Steve Munding. Mike Smith met with Steve, who is the owner of Andreas Plumbing in Lehigh, PA. Mike noticed Steve's vehicle was sporting a Dolphin sticker and a Boomer sticker and invited him to join our group a couple of months ago.

**Ways and Means:** No report.

**Flag Box Program:** No report, other than needing to overhaul a couple of them.

**Correspondence:** Mike Smith received a thank you card from Jack Bullard, who wanted to thank Bob Obrecht for attending his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

**Budget / Donation:** No report.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he has placed the usual ads in the Focus and the Pocono Plateau.

**Parade:** We will be in the Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines on Monday, 27 May 2019. Line up will be at 0930 Hrs with step off at 1000 hrs.

**Speakers Bureau:** No report.

**Eagle Scouts:** There are a number of Eagle Scout Courts of Honor within the next couple of months as shown in the Calendar of Events.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base has one coming up at the end of this week.

**Old Business:** Bob stated that we have been invited to attend the re-dedication ceremony for the Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

The Pocono Pines Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, 27 May 2019 at 1000 with line up at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center by 9:30.

Bob Smith stated that he would pick up people at the American Legion parking lot around 9:12 and take them to the elementary center. There will be food sponsored by the legion after the ceremony.

Frank McDevitt talked about our volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again for those interested in doing this. There are four weekend events this year, 1<sup>st</sup> one on the first weekend of June, the next in July, and two events in August for Indy Car and the air show. Any person over 18 can volunteer for helping out. Just state what club you are representing and this includes family, or friends who wish to help out. Frank stated that he would e-mail the members a parking ticket that we can print out.

Bob Smith talked about the raffle prize from Camelback no longer being available, as it seem that Camelback Resort is being sold. He has asked the members what we should do now for this year's prize and let him know so the tickets can be printed in time. There was also a discussion of where to get the tickets printed, as there is a local gentlemen who prints them for free for veteran's organizations. Another prize that was tossed about was the Stock Car Experience as a top prize. After some serious discussion amongst the members, David Wright made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to have one prize of \$x for this year. Tom Crosby made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed. Bob Smith said he would talked to Vena again to see if she would like to sponsor the tickets again this year.

**Submarine Operations:** Mike Smith read from a site called navalhistory.org about the sinking of the USS Squalus and the recovery of the boat, later renamed the USS Sailfish. This was also a tale of the first use of the McCann Rescue Chamber. Squalus sank during sea trials when the induction valves failed to close, even though the Christmas Tree showed they were. 26 Men were lost. In a twist of fate, the crew of her sister boat, USS Sculpin, were taken prisoner by the Japanese after they were forced to scuttle the boat and the Sailfish sank the ship that they were being transported on in WWII. This is part of the story of these two boats from a book called "A Tale of Two Subs".

**New Business:** Mike Smith stated that we have quite a few Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in the last few months. Mike thanked David Wright for the court of honor on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Mike Smith did the court of honor on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Bob Smith will be doing the court of honor for Zack Reagle at the Chestnuthill Township building in Brodheads ville on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Bob Obrecht will be doing the court of honor for Charles Smith II at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

There have been four more requests since the April meeting, they are:

Court of Honor for Hunterdon Grant Watts to be held 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 25<sup>th</sup> of May at 2PM. Mike had e-mailed the members a few weeks ago, but has not received any takers. This certificate package will be mailed out instead.

Court of Honor for Lucas Oliver Swanson to be held at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 3PM. David Wright has 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of June at 2PM. Bob Smith has agreed to do this presentation.

Bob Smith thanked the float committee, consisting of Gene Peppe, Ken Kull, Darryl Betz, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht and Frank McDevitt for coming out on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May and helped repair the cradle and float itself. Also thanks to the wives of some of the members, who brought, or sent desserts. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Bob read about an event to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May at the Pocono Municipal Airport. They are have a Fly-In, Drive In breakfast and the public is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$6 for children. There will be airplane rides, helicopter rides, military vehicle displays. Bob will send out an e-mail to the base with the information.

The base has been invited to a Memorial Day service to be held at the Memorial located at the intersection of Rte 611 and Rte 715 in Tannersville, PA. The event will be held at 1PM. Any who wish to go, Bob will take members there and return them back to the Legion Post. This is doable since it is after our event in Pocono Pines. This is also on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

We have also been invited to the Murphy Challenge in Lehigh, PA, also on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. This invitation was sent by Ivan Meixell and is sponsored by the Coast Guard. Any member who wishes to attend this event is welcome. This does conflict with our normal obligation at Pocono Pines.

**Good of the Order:** Alan Dempsey stated that the book he borrowed from the last meeting was a good read and has left it for any other member to read.

Bill Klose said that the CO and a couple of other members of the USS Scranton will be coming in on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and staying for a few days. They will be going to various schools and a dinner will be held at the Marine Corps League Museum. Bob Smith will include further information in an e-mail.

Frank McDevitt passed around a picture of an old Russian Foxtrot Submarine that is now at the San Diego Maritime Museum, if anyone is planning on taking a vacation out there and want to visit it. Frank said that a friend of his visited there. From the picture, the boat looks to be in poor condition.

We are looking into starting up the raffle at the end of our meetings for items that have been donated to the base and have been in Bill Klose's keeping ever since. This was discussed, because Frank McDevitt was wondering what would happen to his submarine items after he passes.

Please let us know if any of our members know of any others on the binnacle list.

Also, if anyone has Rich Holmes in their mailing list, please remove him as it upsets him greatly anymore.

### **Calendar of Events:**

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

25 May 2019: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Hunterdon Grant Watts in Middle Smithfield, PA. Certificate to be mailed.

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

15 Jun 2019: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. Meeting will be at 3PM with the Flag Day Ceremony at 4PM. The base will provide food after both 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.

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 Saturday, 15 June 2019 at 1500 Hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post, followed by Flag Day Ceremony at 1600 Hrs.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bill Klose.

All in favor, motion carried.

The base members joined the Commander in reciting 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.”

At the end of the meeting, Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction to the members present.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2003 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Food will be provided by our base after the June meeting.