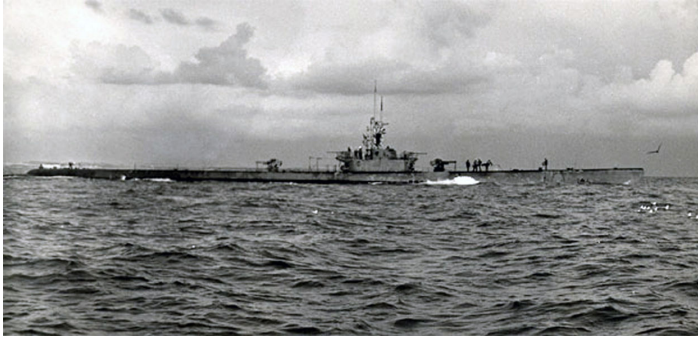


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 19 August 2020



## USS Bullhead SS-332

### 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 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)

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Bill Klose, Tony Sturla, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht and David Wright.

We were also joined by Sheila Smith and Jay Ansky.

**Meeting Minutes:** The July Minutes have been posted. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members to look at.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer report an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 July 2020. The treasurer also reported that we have received our \$x deposit back at this meeting, from Martz Bus Lines, since our bus trip to New York has been cancelled for this year.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob stated that we are still at 52 paid members. Bob said that we have 30 Holland Club and 17 Life Members in our group. Dave Padora will be eligible for the Holland Club next year.

**Correspondence:** We received multiple request for donations from Wounded Warriors, some letters included gifts like a kitchen magnet for 2020, a Challenge Coin and blank cards to use.

**Flag Memorial:** We have a couple of boxes stored at Locust Lake for overhaul. Also the flag drop boxes continue to be used as Bob Smith state he brought more in for tonight's meeting.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that has not placed any community notices in the local papers. Bob said he would get back to doing this for next month.

**Parades:** No Parades in the near future, though we have a standing invitation for the Veteran's Day Parade.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that this program is on hold until further notice.

**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:** Bob Obrecht went to Bob Smith's house and they installed some rope decorations on the bollards to spruce up the appearance.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Bullhead. Bullhead was presumed lost from Anti-Submarine operations in the area between Lombok & Bali. USS Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

**Old Business:** Mike Smith inquired about receiving a refund for our deposit for the West End Fair, since it is cancelled this year. Bob Smith stated that the West End Fair gave us a couple of options in regards to our deposit. 1<sup>st</sup> was to have our money returned, or 2<sup>nd</sup>, apply this year's deposit to next year. Bob said he spoke to the treasurer and they agree to just have the deposit applied to the 2021 fair.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that we received since March. All were listed in the July Minutes.

The only new request that came from David Farran, the National Eagle Scout Coordinator, for an Adam Lazar. This request is for a Court of Honor to be held in Duryea, PA at a future date. As this is within the area of the Scranton Base, we will just mail this one, even though they do not participate in this program.

Alan Dempsey talked about the Boat Sponsorship Program. Our base supports the Hyman G Rickover and the Montana. Alan said that the last issue of the American Submariner had him as making the donation, not the base itself.

The base is currently waiting on a menu from Murph's Hideaway in regards to this year's Christmas Dinner. The dinner is slated for Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December at 1PM. This time was chosen to see if we get more members to attend.

Last month, Bob Smith said that we had plaques made for Jack Rader, Mario Scavello, Chris Eckert and Vena Ackerman to have them made Honorary Base Members. Bob is looking for members to help present these plaques and have photos taken. Currently the list includes Bob & Sheila Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht, David Wright and Mike Smith. Bob will try to get Jack and Mario when they are not in Harrisburg. Bob said he will also try to get with Vena, as she is out on the road a lot. We will also try to get with Chris for his presentation. Chris is eligible to be an associate base member, since his father George was a member.

**New Business:** Bob Smith read an e-mail from our District Commander, Huey Dietrich regarding the 2021 Base Insurance Support Payments. This is so the National Treasurer doesn't have to keep sending out reminders before the bases send in their payments. The cost is \$25 per year. We can also pay ahead up to 4 years in advance.

Tom Crosby made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to pay \$100 for the next 4 years. Bill Klose made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed. This will keep us up to date until 2025.

Bob Smith said he will try to recruit and come up with an incentive for a list of prospective new members that we had from last year's fair. He suggests 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.

David Wright brought up the idea of possibly doubling our donation to the Legion Post for all of the help we get from them for allowing us to host our meetings and the inclusions in the various events.

Alan Dempsey recommended we hold off making any commitment until we have more members chime in. There were only eight of us at this meeting.

**Good of the Order:** Bill Klose gave the Legion Post a wooden war patrol pin replica to be hung at on the wall. Tom Crosby said that they will hang this one and another set at a later date.

Bill Klose stated that his daughter Thelma is recovering from a Chelating treatment to treat calcification of the heart valves. She is also dealing with COPD.

No further word about how Ken Smith is doing since he moved out of the place where he was staying and moving in with his daughter in Pittsburgh, PA.

Tom Crosby said that due to all of the current rules regarding the COVID-19, there are no plans to re-open the Legion Post anytime soon. All events remain cancelled for the foreseeable future. The only times the post is open, is for the Legion meetings and the Subvets meetings.

### **Calendar of Events:**

7 Sep 2020: Labor Day

16 Sep 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

21 Oct 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

3 Nov 2020: Election Day, please get out and vote.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 16 Sept 2020 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by David Wright

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 offered a benediction at the end of the meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1946 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary