

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 July 2020



USS Robalo



SS-273

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

Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.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 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 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

A moment of silence was held after the reading of the lost boats.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Frank McDevitt, Gene Peppe, Darryl Betz, Bob Sweeney, David Wright, Tony Sturla, Skip Donohue, Ken Kull and John Kelly.

Members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

We were joined by the wives of some of the members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

As this is our first meeting since nominations for the Base Officers opened in February, the Secretary cast the vote that the following members who declared their intentions, be elected for the next two year term for 2020 - 2022:

Bob Smith as Base Commander, though he is still looking for someone to take over.
Bob Obrecht as Base Vice-Commander
Michael D. Smith as Base Secretary
Alan Dempsey as Base Treasurer.

Meeting Minutes: The March to June Minutes have been posted. These were minimal minutes, more as placeholders. The February minutes have also been posted to the website.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer report an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 June 2020. Only 5 checks have been written since February.

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.

Correspondence: We received a couple of letters over the last few months.

One was a letter from the Salvation Army, Middletown Corps, saying that they are available for help if anyone needs any.

The only other item was an Eagle Scout request from last Friday.

Flag Memorial: We have a couple of boxes stored at Locust Lake for overhaul, including the one that was at Ken's place in New Jersey

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that has not placed any ads in the local papers since this all began.

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

Budget & Donations: No report.

Eagle Scouts: Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as stated in New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht stated that the program has been on hold since the pandemic started.

Fundraising: Raffle has been cancelled for this year, due to the cancelation of the West End Fair, Victorian Day's. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please come forward with the idea.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Robalo. Robalo was lost due to an explosion of her after battery. The only survivors were captured and never heard from again, based on a note that was received by Mrs. Mendoza. The sub sank a couple miles off the coast of Palawan.

Old Business: Bob talked about the West End Fair. This event has been cancelled this year, but we have not received our check back from them. It also has not been cashed in.

Since there is no fair and this is our largest event in which we sell the raffle tickets, it has been decided to cancel the raffle this year. The fair takes in enough to clear all of the expenses with the raffle.

Bob recommends the only donations are to go to the Wilson-Fischer Post this year.

The bus trip that we were trying to plan has been cancelled for this year as well. We will look into planning a trip for wither next spring or fall. Alan said that Martz would refund our deposit, but it could take about 30 days.

Bob said that the group had already approved in having business cards made, but we have not pursued this yet. We are also looking into having another replacement for our membership cards and get away from the metal versions.

New Business: Mike Smith talked about some Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that have been received since February.

1st was for a Darryl Hannig back at the beginning of March and Bob Obrecht had said he was going to do this one. We have since mailed this certificate.

There were three other requests and at the time of the meeting I had forgotten to bring them. There was to be a dual court of honor for a Warren Planker and Minto B. Soares Polanco that was to be held on the 28th of March at the St. Luke's Ambulance Bldg. in Tannersville.

The next request was an e-mail from David Farran, the USSVI National Scouting Program Chair, for a Matthew Jay Albert that was to be held at the Bangor VFW on the 20th of June. This has also been mailed.

A third request was a letter received for a court of honor for Harrison Rainsford Zeiler and is to be held on Saturday, July 25th at 1Pm at the Evans-Blitz American Legion Post 922 in Canadensis, PA. This is an outdoor ceremony and will follow all current COVID-19 guidelines. Due to the short notice, this will also be mailed.

Bob talked about the Christmas Dinner from last year at Woody's. While it was ok, there was room for improvement. Bob and Sheila were on the way back from dropping flags off at the post Sheila said they noticed that Robert Christians is under new management and spoke to the new owners about possible having our Christmas Dinner there this year. The place has been renamed as Murph's Hideaway. Since some of the members have asked over the years about having it during the day time, Sheila asked the owners if we could do so. The only date currently available was Sunday December 20th at 1PM. Sheila said they were willing to work with us. Other members have said that the food is good there.

1st Motion to have our Christmas Dinner to be held on the 20th of December at Murph's Hideaway was made by Skip Donohue. 2nd motion was made by Tony Sturla. All in favor, motion passed.

Good of the Order:

Binnacle List:

Frank McDevitt has been recovering from having a pacemaker installed on his birthday.

Gene Peppe has been recovery for some time and is doing well.

Ken Smith is now living with his daughter out in Pittsburgh and is doing a lot better than the home he was placed into.

Bob Burns, who lives in Florida, is recovering from knee surgery.

Before we adjourned, we were reminded that we had voted to make Mario Scavello and Jack Rader, honorary members. Bob had a couple of plaques made for their help in getting Rte. 115 named for the Submarine Veterans. Bob will also be making two more plaques. One is for Vena Ackerman, of the Flag Store, for all of her assistance over the years and one for Chris Eckert, son of late member George Eckert. Chris has been the one to invite us to the Chestnuthill Township Community Day over the last few years.

Calendar of Events:

19 Aug 2020: Monthly Meeting at 1900 Hours.

7 Sep 2020: Labor Day

16 Sep 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

21 Oct 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 Aug 2020 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.”

A moment of silence was held at the end of the meeting

1st motion made by Mike Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Frank McDevitt. 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