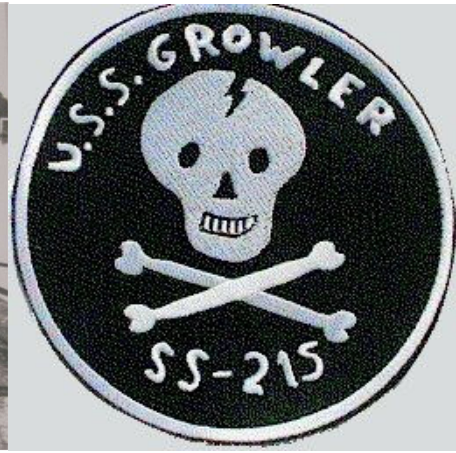


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 November 2020



USS Growler (SS 215)

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 1906 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Gene Peppe, Darryl Betz, Alan Dempsey and David Wright.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary provided the October Minutes for the members present as well as e-mailed to the base members. The October Minutes were posted to the website

Treasurers Report: The treasurer an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Oct 2020

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that have 53 members, Also, a reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 14th^t of December.

Correspondence: The only correspondence received was a Thank You card from Eagle Scout Jacob Glavich for the Court of Honor done by Bob Obrecht back in September.

Alan Dempsey said that the Legion Post did thank us for our donations.

Flag Box Program: No report. None of the boxes have been checked as of this meeting.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he placed the only ad for this month to the Time News.

Parades / Memorial Events: No parades in the foreseeable future

Budget / Donation: The only donations this year was for the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post for \$400 and their Angel Tree Program for \$100. Since there was no raffle this year, there were no other donations to be sent.

Storekeeper: Bill Klose has not received any calendars for next year. The theme for 2021 is submarine in movies.

Fundraising: Bob is asking the members for any ideas for next year's fundraising efforts.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 20th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA. See below for details.

Eagle Scout: There are no up-coming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as of this meeting.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht is reporting that this program is on hold til further notice.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht commented about the flags that we used during the parade. They were quite large and close to dragging on the ground. Will look into relocating the flag brackets for a better angle and other improvements to the float.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Growler. Her previous Commander received the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice to save the submarine and her men. Presumed lost due to rigorous Anti-Submarine Actions by the Japanese

Fleet. The picture used for this month was also featured in the movie, Operation Pacific in which the fictional Thunderfish rammed a Japanese Cargo Vessel.

Old Business: The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 20 Dec 2020 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There is further information on the base website. Please let Bob Smith know of your choice of meal and number of guest so they can plan accordingly. The price will remain \$20 per member. This is still tentative for now. If it does get cancelled, the funds paid by members will be refunded.

Mike Smith stated that there were no upcoming Court of Honor requests.

New Business: The weather for the Monroe County Veteran's Day Parade was excellent. We started from before turn 3 of the Pocono Raceway, down the front stretch (longest in NASCAR) to the end of the Pit Lanes and turned back towards the infield area. Spectators were lined up on both sides of the front stretch along the pit road wall and the stands. We had about 7 members in the parade.

Bob Smith is looking for members to come up with ways of raising money for our base and the charities that we donate to. Will the pandemic this part year, the fairs have been canceled and the West End Fair is the one in which we receive the most. There was talk about going back to Belvidere next year and Bob Smith has reservations after our base was accused of improper conduct towards a group of women. Bob is asking for someone else to look into going back next year.

David Wright talked about his work with a VA Community Living Center in Wilkes-Barre. He said that they would go up there and serve coffee and whatnot. Every couple of weeks they would take the mobile members out to lunch, or dinner. Since the shutdown due to the pandemic, Dave has said they can't even go up to visit the men living there right now. What the home has been doing, is using the rec center for take-out food days, where an organization such as ours could fund one of the meals instead. Dave will work on getting more information for a later date. Our base could handle this, funds wise. Dave will look at providing info at the dinner.

There is also a suggestion that we work with the Scranton Base in this endeavor.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues, also included is a form to fill out to correct, or update any contact information for the base sailing list.

A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31st of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DING at that time.

Good of the Order: There will be no meeting on the 16th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 20th of December. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Smith know and have your money available either in a mailed check, or in person the night of the dinner.

Tom Crosby mentioned that the Legion is currently open on a limited basis from Thursday to Sunday with all the proper guidelines being followed. Hours are 2-8 Thurs – Sat and 11-7 on Sunday. Food must be ordered and no sitting at the bar.

Members on the Binnacle List:

Ken Smith is still doing well living with his daughter after she got him out of New Jersey.

Frank McDevitt had his hip replaced and should be out of the hospital next week. Bob said that he is in some pain, but that was to be expected. He may be ready to join us at our dinner in December.

Barbara ‘Sam’ Gallagher, wife of Skip Gallagher is pretty much confined to a wheelchair. Skip told Bob that she has lost a lot of weight and is pretty frail now. Skip was hoping to join us this evening and passes his best wishes to us.

Bill Klose says that his daughter Thelma was sick back in the spring and now has heart issues.

Calendar of Events:

26 Nov 2020: Thanksgiving.

20 Dec 2020: Annual Base Christmas Dinner to be held at Murph’s Hideaway (former Robert Christians) on Rte. 940.

25 Dec 2020: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2021: Happy New Year

20 Jan 2021: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

17 Feb 2021: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next full meeting will be held on, 20 January 2021 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 20th of December.

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 offered a benediction at the end of our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1939 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary