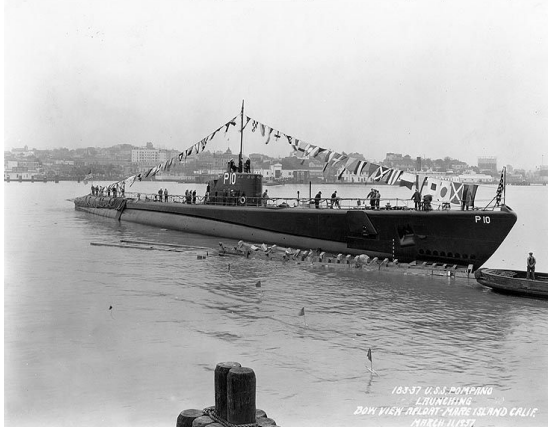


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

Photo # NH 44005 USS Pompano just after launching, at Mare Island Navy Yard, 11 March 1937



USS Pompano



SS-181

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

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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 Acting 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 Acting 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: Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Tony Sturla, Don Ransel, Daryl Betz, David Wright, Bob Sweeney, Ken Kull, Tom Crosby and John Kelly.

We were also joined by the wives and guests of a few of our members.

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

Treasurers Report: Bob Smith read the treasurer report, as our treasurer was on vacation. The report stated an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 July 2021.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we are still at 50 paid members. Skip Baker has remitted his payment for base dues and has been re-instated to our group.

Correspondence: The only correspondence was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite.

Flag Boxes: Bob Smith stated that he did not pick up any flags this time. David Wright reported that he has picked up about 25 flags of various sizes since the box was put in place in the development where he lives.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that has not placed any community notices in the local papers.

Parades: No Parades in the near future.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that this program is still 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 installed locks on the seats and also a way to keep the seats in the raised position on the float.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Pompano. Pompano is listed as "Cause Unknown" for her loss and she was lost with all hands in September, not August. Mike will work on covering lost boats not found in the Submarine Operations book going forward.

Old Business: There was a Court of Honor Invite for a Jonathon Christopher Smith. This was held at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA (other side of the West End Fairgrounds). The court was on Saturday, the 31st of July at 1PM. This certificate was mailed.

There was a dual court of honor for a Christopher Gibson and Brady Armstrong on Sunday the 1st of August. The Court was held at the Middle Smithfield Community Center on 5200 Milford Road in East Stroudsburg, PA at 2PM. These certificates were mailed.

The next Court of Honor invite was a special request. The Court is for a Jacob William Pino, who is the grandson of member Tony Sturla. The Court will be held at the Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church Fellowship Hall, 915 North Fifth Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 at 3PM, with dinner to follow. Tony Sturla will do the presentation.

Before he went on vacation, Alan Dempsey checked into our insurance for the float. For the same premium of \$51, we can have the coverage raised to \$x. If we double the premium, we can have it raised to \$x.

The West End Fair is just around the corner. Setup is on the 21st of August around 10AM. Bob is still looking for help to setup. Any member wishing to man the booth and haven't signed up, please contact Bob Smith and look at the schedule on our website. As it stands, the hours of the fair are from 3-9 PM daily starting Sunday the 22nd and going thru to Saturday the 28th of August. Gate 1 will open early for those events that will start before 3PM. Bob suggested that we offer the same incentive as before, about reducing the dues for the remainder of this year and the next year as well for new members. All the members present agreed.

Tom Crosby talked about the Celtic Classis in Bethlehem. Our group is a go for Sunday, the 26th of September. Tom said that we have 8 people to man the tent. He also said that there is a volunteer orientation, not mandatory, but will be giving out t-shirts and the parking pass. Again, we will be manning the beer tent, pouring drinks from the taps, collecting money and any tips we receive during our time frame belong to the base.

Bob Smith tried contacting the Wahoo Base in California in regards to the submarine plans that we sent them. Bob said that they had gone defunct and is trying to contact former members for more information.

Bob Smith has parking passes for any who wish to volunteer their time at the Pocono Raceway for the Airshow on the 21st & 22nd of this month. Parking lot opens at 10AM, with the gates opening at 11AM. The show starts at 1PM on both days. Any members wishing to volunteer most likely need to arrive at the volunteer tent around 7 each morning for assignments.

New Business: We received a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for Eric A. Reagle. The court will be held at the Chestnuthill Township Park Building, 221 PA-715 in Brodheadsville, PA at 1 PM on Sunday the 12th of September. David Wright has agreed to do the presentation. Eric's project was installation of bat boxes, bird houses and installation of informational placards and directional signs at the park.

Bob Smith obtained a set of International Maritime Signal Flags to place on the float. Due to their size, they may not be to the right scale and we would just place them on the tent. We will find out when the float is set up at the fair.

Bob Smith is asking for any member that has old American Submariner magazines they no longer wish to keep, to please bring them to the fair. They can be given out to prospective new members.

Good of the Order: Member John Kelly joined us this evening, since dealing with a foot injury. He said his foot is still swollen and painful, so he doesn't stay on his feet for too long.

Calendar of Events:

21-22 Aug 2021: Great Pocono Raceway Air Show.

22 Aug 21: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jacob Pino. Tony Sturla to do the presentation.

22 -28 Aug 2021: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA Times are 3-9 daily. Setup on the 21st, teardown on the 29th.

6 Sep 2021: Labor Day

11 Sep 2021: Belvidere Heritage Day in Belvidere, NJ from 9-5.

12 Sep 2021: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Eric A. Reagle. David Wright will do the presentation for our base.

15 Sep 2021: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 Sept 2021 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd 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 1929 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary