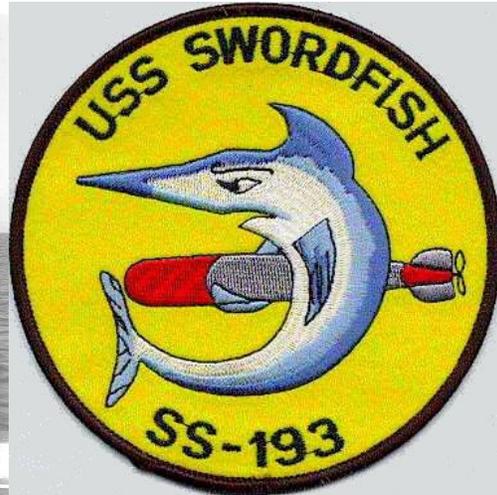


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 20 January 2021

Photo # 19-N-51811 USS Swordfish underway off San Francisco, California, 13 June 1943



## USS Swordfish SS-193

### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

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**Meeting called to order** at 1910 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 January:

15 Jan 1916	USS E-2	SS-25	4 Men
24 Jan 1942	USS S-26	SS-131	46 Men
10 Jan 1943	USS Argonaut	SS-166	105 Men
05 Jan 1944	USS Scorpion I	SS-278	77 Men
12 Jan 1945	USS Swordfish I	SS-193	89 Men

We also tolled the bell for each of our base members who preceded us on Eternal Patrol. Normally we would do this at our annual Christmas Dinner, but circumstances precluded us from having it last month.

Let us remember:

Charles Butler, Edgar Coumes, George Eckert, Harold Franklin, Grover Kiick, Joseph Kolb, Don Malkames, George McCutcheon, Oliver Nordmark, Eugen Rees, Harold Schedin, Tom Shields, David Spence, James Staub, Ezra Swartz, Robert Vaughan and Richard Holmes

Sailor's, rest your oars.

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with in invocation.

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

Bob Smith thanked the members who made it to tonight's meeting, the weather was iffy.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht and Bob Sweeney

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary reported that the December minutes were posted to the base website.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported the following ending balance for the month of December. There was an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Dec 2020. There was no income, nor expenses for December.

Alan also reported out on our requirement for the annual treasurer's report for National. Our operating expenses for the 2020 calendar year totaled \$x. This included paying the insurance to National up to 2025 and our Float Trailer registration out to 2025 as well.

Bob Smith paid for the Base Website for the next two years, as it was coming due before this month's meeting.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that there are 49 active members as of this meeting. There were 4 members who were removed for non-payment of dues. They are: Skip Baker, though Bob said he mailed his check, but we have not received it, Dave Jones, who moved to North Carolina, Marvin Bard, who joined us after the Nov 2019 Veterans Day event at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School and Jason Heimbach. We did add one member last month with the addition of Chris Eckert, son of former base member George Eckert. Bob said he did e-mail them.

Chris Eckert has since moved out of the area to north central PA near the NY state border and has had a home built for his wife, who is dealing with Parkinson's. Chris has stated he would join us at the West End Fair this year, if it happens.

**Budget / Donation:** No report.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Flag Box Program:** Flag boxes continue to be productive. Frank McDevitt has asked if anyone would like to take over the program. Alan Dempsey said he would check on the box at the Blakeslee Post Office and Tom Crosby said he would take the box at the Shop Rite in Mt. Pocono.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers.

**Parades:** No parades until at least March. Next parade may be St. Patrick's Day, but no invitations have been received. As of right now, there is no Memorial Day Parade in Pocono Pines due to Penn DOT not issuing any permits. The last parade we attended was the Veterans Day Parade that was at the Pocono Raceway.

**Eagle Scout:** No Courts of Honor received. Any that we do get will be mailed until the restrictions are eased.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht reported that this program is on Hold for now as well.

**Ships Store:** Bill Klose reported that he still had a fair amount of unsold 2020 calendars available to the members.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht reported out that the submarine cradle has been re-designed and the parts are built, just needs to be changed out on the float. There are new saddle frames for the flags to address the issue that arose from having the larger flags on the float for the Veterans Day Parade. The new design will allow for better seating when the boat is lowered.

**Fundraising:** Bob Smith stated the base voted to have another raffle this year and that we will attend the West End Fair again.

**Bus trip:** This event will be postponed until 2022. If things were to get back to some normalcy this year, there would most likely be too short of notice to properly plan.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Swordfish. Possible sunk by Japanese A/S operations, or mines. No Japanese records exist. She went down with all hands.

**Old Business:** Alan Dempsey stated that he sent an e-mail to the members about volunteering for the Pocono Race Weekend this year. Alan said he had received only one reply. The schedule is for June 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let Alan know of your intentions. We get money per person per day as a donation to our base. There are two races on the 26<sup>th</sup> and two races on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Alan will get the information as to the time we would need to be there. Typically an all-day affair.

Bob Smith would still like to plan a trip to Totowa, NJ to visit the John Holland burial site. There is also a replica of the USS Holland there as well.

**New Business:** Alan Dempsey asked if we wish to send another \$50 to the Holland Club Chair to help defray the costs of the Challenge Coins. A question was asked as to who was eligible this year and Bob Smith stated that Dave Padora is already eligible as of this meeting.

Tom Crosby made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to donate the \$50, Bob Obrecht made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Currently, the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post is tentatively scheduled for a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. If the restrictions are still in place and Penn DOT does not issue any permits, then the post will hold a small ceremony on that day in the parking lot.

We agreed to tentatively schedule our attendance to the West End Fair again this year, unless we get word about it. We have also agreed to the \$1000 prize again this year. We will wait until the fair is confirmed before ordering the tickets. The ones that were ordered last year were destroyed, as they contained the date and year if the drawing.

We are also going to submit for the Small Games of Chance permit again this year.

The question was asked if we are going to the Victorian Days event in Belvidere, NJ in September. Gene Peppe, or Tony Sturla were to try and contact the committee about our base attending again after alleged accusations were made towards our base and our not going in 2019.

Bob Smith had calendars available from Bill Klose. They are \$8 apiece and this year's theme is Submarine in the Movies.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith stated that he expects our District Commander, Huey Dietrich will join us for one of our meetings sometime during the year. Alan recommended if he does come here, we should have food.

We may have food for some of our meetings this year, since we did not spend any last year for the Christmas Dinner.

Alan Dempsey has destroyed any checks submitted for the Christmas Dinner at the respective member's request.

Bob Obrecht stated that he has made our base his primary base and may join the Lehigh Base if they hold any Kap(ss) for Kid(ss) event at the Lehigh Valley Hospital.

There was mention if any of our members was looking for the COVID-19 Vaccine to check with their local VA.

Tom Crosby said that the legion is open for normal hours with the proper Covid guidance in place. He said they are also looking to start their breakfast program with limited seating and takeout. Bingo is still on hold, due to spacing requirements. They would need at least 30 people just to make it profitable.

Binnacle List: Bill Klose sends his best and his daughter tis doing well enough.

Frank McDevitt is doing well and was tentatively going to come to tonight's meeting.

## Calendar of Events:

17 Feb 2021: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

17 Mar 2021: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 17 Feb 2021 at 1900 hrs at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

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.

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

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1953 hrs.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

