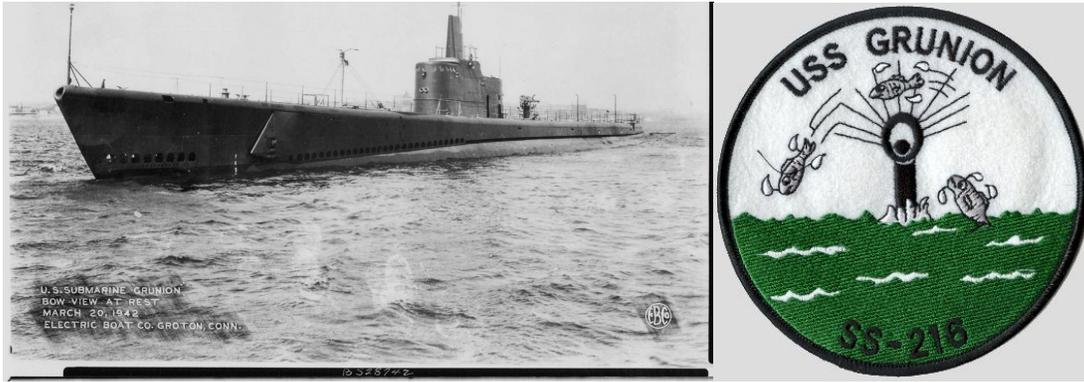


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 July 2021



USS Grunion SS-216

Base Officers

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Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

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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 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 Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Bob Sweeney, Mike Smith, Darryl Betz, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Tony Sturla, Frank McDevitt, and Gene Peppe.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and are posted on the website.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 June 2021. The check for the West End Fair has not been cashed, yet. A donation from the Flag Store of \$100 for our raffle tickets was received. Bob Smith said we received \$x in raffle ticket sales returned at this meeting tonight.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are still 49 active members as of this meeting.

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle is complete.

Correspondence: No correspondence received other than Eagle Scout Program.

Flag Box Program: The boxes continue to produce quite well. Alan stated that one of the flags in the box was a Coffin Flag that was still in excellent condition. Alan asked what we should do with it. Some suggestions were to donate to Ft. Indian Town Gap Cemetery, give it to the color guard. Frank McDevitt made the suggestion to give it to the local post office. It was agreed upon to donate to the post office.

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

Parades: No parades until probably Veterans Day.

Eagle Scout: The base secretary talked about the Court of Honor invites we received. Information is in Old Business and under New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Float committee met and worked on the float on the 10th of June. Details in Old Business.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are starting to come back.

Bus trip: On hold til further notice.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grunion. Grunion was lost off of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands due to unknown causes. It should be noted that the Grunion was located in 2007 and verified by the US Navy that the wreckage was indeed that of the Grunion in 2008.

Mike Smith also said that he would start researching other lost boats outside of WWII to read to the membership, since the book we read from is only during WWII.

Old Business: Tom Crosby also talked about base volunteering at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem on the last full weekend (the 24-26th) of September. Our time for manning the Beer Tent is Sunday the 26th of September from 1-4PM. We need about 8 people to man the beer tent. We will pour beer, check ID's and run the tent and collect the money for our stint. Any tips would belong to our organization. Continuing to look for 8-12 people to man the tent. Tom is accepting names at this time. Please let him know by the August Meeting if you can help. Friends and family can help as well and count towards the number we need. Minimum age to serve beer is 21. Information for shuttles and places to park will be upcoming. A volunteer pass will be given to those volunteering. The entry to the event is free.

Mike Smith thanked Bob Obrecht for attending the Court of Honor for James Haggerty 26 June 21 in Stroudsburg, PA.

We still have a Court of Honor Invite for a Jonathon Christopher Smith. This is to be held at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA (other side of the West End Fairgrounds). The court will be on Saturday, the 31st of July at 1PM.

Bob Obrecht talked about the latest happenings of the float committee. They met at Bob Smith's house on the 10th of June to clean up the model and trailer. They fixed the tail lights. The tent is stored in the trailer and the new cradle will allow for ease of access to the storage under the bench. The bench will have locks attached, so items can be securely stored during the fair and other events. Mike Smith still has the flags and harnesses from Memorial Day.

The West End Fair is on this year. The new hours are from 3-9PM, though the gates do open at 2PM. Bob will get passes for those that need them for the Gate Three parking area. Bob Smith is still looking for help with the manning the tent. He especially would like extra help in setting up on Saturday the 21st. Please let Bob know of your choice of days for the event posted on the website. Bob also had a sign-up sheet at the meeting. We are also looking for suggestions on how to shade our spot better, due to the afternoon sun in our face for a few hours.

Our base will also be attending the Victorian Day's, now called Belvidere Heritage Day, event in Belvidere, NJ. This is only a one day event this year and will be held on the 11th of September. Bob Smith is looking for help for set-up around 8 AM. The event runs from 9AM to 5PM. The site will be located near where we have been before, so as to not interfere with the car show.

Alan Dempsey talked about the Pocono Race weekend. The base is slated to get \$1000 to \$1100 for volunteering over the weekend. Alan thanked the members who donated their time for this year's event. There was criticism about the time to be at the track on the Friday, since nothing started until 2PM. That has been addressed. There is another opportunity for more with

the upcoming Pocono Raceway Airshow on the 21st and 22nd of August. There was a question from Bob Smith as to whether we could sell tickets at the raceway. As far as we can tell, we cannot, but we could get donations if we were to have our tent there. Alan said he would inquire about this.

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

1st was for a Cassidy Feuerstein that was held on the 17th of July at the Trexler Scout Camp Mess Hall in Jonas, PA. Cassidy was the first female Eagle Scout in the Minsi Trails region. Mike Smith did this presentation, as it was received with short notice before this month's meeting. She belongs to Troop 97, which is comprised of a number of girls.

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

The last Court of Honor invite was a special request. The Court is for a Jacob William Pino, who is the grandson of member Tony Sturla. At the time of the meeting Mike Smith did not have the full details as to location, as this was e-mailed to him. The Court of Honor is to be held on 22 Aug in the Stroudsburg area. Tony has accepted and was given the package.

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday the 19th of December at 1PM at Murph's Hideaway.

Mike Smith e-mailed a couple of pictures taken by Jay Ansky from a couple of Courts of Honor that he attended to Bob Smith for inclusion to the Base Website. The pictures were currently posted to our Facebook Group page.

Alan talked about our insurance coverage for the float. He has paid the bill for the year, but has concerns about the coverage being only \$1000. He is concerned we could not recoup the value of the float for all the material costs and labor if anything were to ever happen. The base only pays \$51 per year for the insurance. We got into a discussion as to who has the plans for the boats, if we would need to remake the boat. We had sent the plans to another base on the west coast with the condition that they could not be sent elsewhere. Ken Smith made of the float from what he knew about woodworking in general. The float was made of slats of ripped pine in layers and fiber glassed over the bottom section for water tightness. The plan was scaled up from a small model and includes hull frames internally. We estimate the cost to now be are \$10K for material and labor at this time. The members agreed to have the coverage increased to cover the float value. Bob Smith said he will try to ask Ken Smith if he has the plans still available.

Good of the Order: Tom Crosby talked about upcoming events at the Legion Post. The first is a dinner / dance to be held on Saturday the 24th of July from 6-10PM. Cost is \$10 per person if you wish to eat, \$5 if you just want to listen to the music. Music provided by one of the post members. Dinner will either be roast beef sandwiches, or sloppy joes along with potato salad, corn on the cob, tossed salad and dessert.

Bingo will be coming back on Friday's. Looking for help.

Breakfast will be on Sunday, August 1st at 8AM. Looking for help for this as well. Meal is \$8 per person, children \$5 for 12 and under. Tom said the last one on the 4th of July was extremely busy and any help is welcome.

There will also be a block shoot on the 15th of August.

Binnacle List:

Condolences to Darryl Betz and family on the loss of his mother in law at the end of June. Darryl said that she was dealing with Alzheimer's.

John Kelly is laid up with a badly infected foot.

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

A couple of members inquired about Bill Klose. Bill is busy going back and forth to Ohio and New York since he is a paleontologist and has been unable to attend any of our meetings.

Calendar of Events:

31 Jul 2021: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jonathon Christopher Smith.

1 Aug 2021: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Christopher Gibson and Brady Armstrong.

18 Aug 2021: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

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.

6 Sep 2021: Labor Day

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

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

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.”

Chaplain Crosby provided the benediction at the end of the meeting

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Mike Smith. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1957 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary