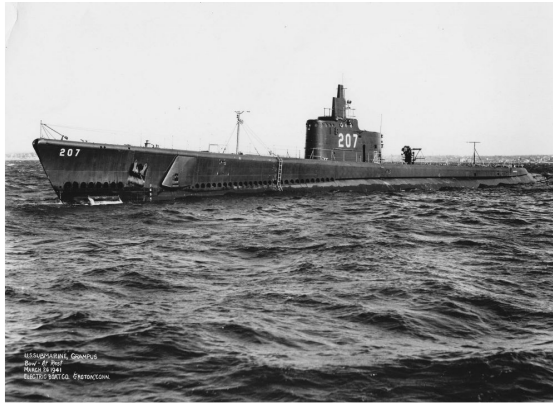


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021



USS Grampus SS-207

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601
Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlines@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 1902 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 March:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| 25 Mar 1915 | USS F-4 (Skate I) | SS 23 | 21 Men |
| 12 Mar 1920 | USS H-1 (Seawolf I) | SS 28 | 4 Men |
| 03 Mar 1942 | USS Perch I | SS 176 | 8 Men |
| 05 Mar 1943 | USS Grampus | SS 207 | 72 Men |
| 15 Mar 1943 | USS Triton | SS 201 | 74 Men |
| 26 Mar 1944 | USS Tullibee | SS 284 | 79 Men |
| 20 Mar 1945 | USS Kete | SS 369 | 87 Men |
| 26 Mar 1945 | USS Trigger | SS 237 | 91 Men |

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with in invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Dave Padora, Ivan Meixell, Alan Dempsey, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Darryl Betz and David Wright.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the February minutes were posted to the base website. These were a skeleton set, as there was no meeting due to inclement weather.

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 24 Feb 2021. There was no income, nor expenses for between January & February. We did send \$50 to the Holland Club Coordinator and received a thank you certificate in response.

The treasurer also reported that we have received our Small Games of Chance ID for the year.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are still 49 active members as of this meeting. We lost Dave Jones sometime after the new year, this was confirmed after contacting the American Legion Post in Gilbert, Pa. Bob Smith said he is working on getting replacement base membership cards to replace the metallic ones we were given.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The secretary read a letter from the Polk Township Supervisors. The letter was in regards to the Polk Township Veterans Memorial located in the area of Rte's 534 and 209. We have been asked for a donation for upkeep and a new plaque and to attend the rededication ceremony that will be held on the 30th of May at Noon.

Flag Box Program: The flag drop box at the Shop Rite in Mt Pocono was destroyed by the business, as it was in such poor condition. This information was relayed to Bob Smith from Frank McDevitt. We still have two others in storage and they need work before we can use them. Bob Obrecht said he would look into a new site to serve a small part of Carbon County with a drop box. We had already tried Country Junction years ago, but it was never really utilized.

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

Parades: No parades until at least Memorial Day.

Eagle Scout: No Courts of Honor received.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht reported that the cradle frame replacement parts are made and awaiting better weather to do these repairs. A new cradle will take the place of the old one. It is narrower in design and will allow us to sit on the bench / box better.

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: On hold til further notice.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grampus. Cause of loss remains unknown. Possible loss due to Japanese Anti-Submarine operations.

Old Business: Bob Smith said that he had to throw out all of the tickets that were purchased last year. We would have never recovered the expenses last year without the fair. Total costs, including printing, fair fee and prize amount to about \$1700. This is what we need to overcome to make a profit.

New Business: In regards to the Polk Township Veterans Memorial, David Wright made the first motion for the base to donate \$50 for the Memorial Rededication. Alan Dempsey made the second motion. All in Favor, motion passed. Bob Smith said he would find out more information for the April Meeting.

Alan reported that the Pocono Raceway asked about our base status as a 503(c) organization, including when we were formed. Alan is also asking for members to help out during the race weekend. As this is our third year for doing so, our base would receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We would be placed around the stands, or other areas, except the parking lot. This is a great way to earn income for our base, to be used for base operations and our charitable organizations that we donate to. Please respond to Alan Dempsey. As of this meeting we had 5 people total for the weekend.

Tom Crosby said that there will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. The route is being changed to start from the Legion Post and end at the cemetery. PennDot is still not issuing any permits and that puts the use of the small portion of Rte 423 off limit until all restrictions are lifted.

The West End Fair is a go for this year. They have decided to cut the hours to 3-9 and will be open the full week. Bob will wait until the April meeting to approach the printers. Dates for the fair are as follows: 22 Aug to 28 Aug with setup on the 21st and breakdown on the 29th of August.

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.

Tom Crosby reported that effective on April 4th, the Legion will be back to operating on their normal hours. The only requirements will be masks and distancing. No need to order food just to be at the bar. Tom will check on Flag Day. Unfortunately, Bingo cannot go on with the group size restriction. Would need at least 50 percent capacity to break even. Tom is asking for help with some of the events, including the block shoot and breakfasts, due to lack of volunteers among the legion members.

David Wright stated that the VA is accepting all Veteran Walk-ins for the COVID-19 vaccine. It's located on the 2nd floor at the VA in Wilkes-Barre. It is the two-shot vaccine.

Dave Wright also reported that the Thresher Base will hold a Virtual Memorial on April 10th for the anniversary of the loss of the USS Thresher.

As of this meeting it was noted that the National Website had gotten hacked and is limited in its functionality.

The base is looking into having food after our meetings, but it's hard to estimate how much to get. The one meeting in which we have food is on Flag Day after the flag retirement ceremony and we are joined by the legion post members.

The base is also looking into having a picnic. Bob Smith said we could have it at their home, and Tom Crosby recommended using the Legion. If the weather would turn sour, we would be able to move it into the bingo hall.

Congratulations to Dave Padora. Dave has been inducted into the Holland Club for having been qualified in submarines for 50 years. Dave was presented with the Holland Club Certificate, Challenge Coin and Holland Club Card.

Frank McDevitt is doing well since his surgery, but was unable to make it to tonight's meeting.

Calendar of Events:

21 Apr 2021: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

19 May 2021: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

31 May 2021: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post and will end at the cemetery. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade.

14 Jun 2021: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

25 -27 June 2021: Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 Apr 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.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by David Wright

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1958 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith

USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary