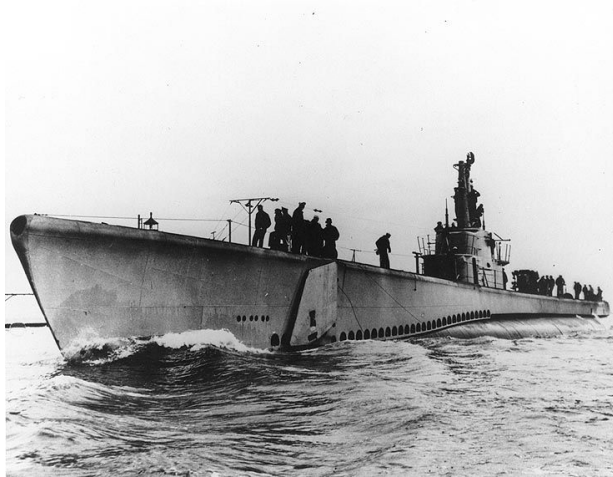


**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 19 May 2021**



USS Lagarto SS-371

Base Officers

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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 Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 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: Mike Smith, Don Ransel, Bob Smith, Tony Sturla, David Wright, Gene Peppe, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, and Frank McDevitt.

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 April 2021. Alan reported that he just received the bill for the West End Fair entrance fee. Also waiting on the bill from when the raffle tickets get made.

Committees:

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

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The secretary received a couple of letters from the base commander. The first was for the West End Fair, the other was the letter from the Holland Club that Bob Smith read last month.

Flag Box Program: The boxes continue to be busy with flags being dropped off. David Wright has won approval to have a Flag Box placed at the Admin Bldg of the community where he lives. Dave hopes to have the box in place by Flag Day. We have a couple of boxes in need of repairs before they can be used.

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

Parades: No Memorial Day parades this year.

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

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Float committee met and worked on the float on the 1st of May. Details in Old Business.

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 Lagarto. Lagarto was one of the last submarines lost in WWII. Lagarto may have been sunk by a Japanese Minelayer, she was lost with all hands. Lagarto was avenged when the USS Hawkbill sank the minelayer.

Old Business: Tom Crosby said that there will not be a Memorial Day Parade this year. 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. There will be a ceremony at the Tobyhanna Cemetery on Memorial Day around 11AM with food served afterwards. The legion will be doing the wreath laying ceremony at the cemetery. We have been invited to bring the float.

We have also been invited to attend the Polk Township Memorial re-dedication on Rte 209 on Sunday, the 30th of May at noon.

Alan is still 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. We also have the return of the Great Pocono Raceway Air Show on the 21st and 22nd of August. We still have not heard about the need for volunteers for the air show. Alan is trying to get the information as to when we need to be at the track for the race weekend. We also have not received our parking passes for the events

The West End Fair is coming up from the 22nd to the 28th of August. The hours for the fair are now 3 to 9 daily, with setup on the 21st and teardown on the 29th. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website.

Mike Smith reported on the three Eagle Scout Court of Honor invites. The first invite was for a Matthew Scardigno that was held at the Pocono Summit Fire Company on the 26th of April at 1:30 PM. This certificate package was mailed.

The second court of Honor was for a Trevor Napoli and was held at the Penn Forest Fire Station 1, Whispering Pines Hall at 1PM on the 1st of May. Mike Smith and Jay Ansky attended this court.

The third Court of Honor is for a James Haggerty to be held on Saturday, 26 June 21 at the Faith United Methodist Church at 1160 Clause Drive in Stroudsburg PA at 1PM. Bob Obrecht has volunteered to do this presentation.

Anyone else who would like to see a court of honor can do so. Bob had posted the information on the base website. Just click on the link to the Boy Scouts on the main page and it will take you to all of the scouts we have sent packages to, or attended in person over the years.

Members from the Float Committee met at Bob Smith's house on May 1st to place the boat on a new Keel Based cradle assembly. It was designed to allow the members to be able to sit on the bench without raising up the boat, and access to the storage area underneath as well.

Tom Crosby also talked about the possibility of our base volunteering at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem on the last full weekend (the 24-26th) of September. We would have a set time to man the Beer Tent and whatever tips received during that time period would belong to that group. We may not sell raffle tickets at this event. We would need about 8 people to man the beer tent. We would pour beer, check ID's and run the tent and collect the money for our 4-hour stint. Any tips would belong to our organization. Continuing to look for 8-12 people to man the tent. If we get our names in earlier, the better our chances for a favorable timeslot.

New Business: There is no current information about attending the Victorian Days Festival in Belvidere, NJ. We had received a bad rap for something that may, or may not have actually occurred and we were not invited back in 2019. Gene Peppe will look into seeing about getting us back in, Gene said he would try to get help from Tony Sturla as well, but they have not heard any response back from the organizers.

Looking at trying to have our Christmas Dinner on the Sunday before Christmas this year. We would try again for Murph's Hideaway like last year. Right now, that would be the 19th of December, which is a Sunday. The time for this has not been set yet, though tentatively around 1PM.

Good of the Order: Tom Crosby reported that effective back on April 4th, the Legion was back to operating on their normal hours.

We have not heard anything from Gerald Zeman in quite some time.

Calendar of Events:

31 May 2021: Memorial Day Ceremony at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post.

14 Jun 2021: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. Meeting at 1700, with Flag Day Ceremony at 1800.

26 Jun 2021: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for James Haggerty.

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

4 Jul 2021: Happy 4th of July.

21 Jul 2021: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

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

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

22 -28 Aug 2021: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA Times are 3-9 daily.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 1700 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 Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1949 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith

USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary