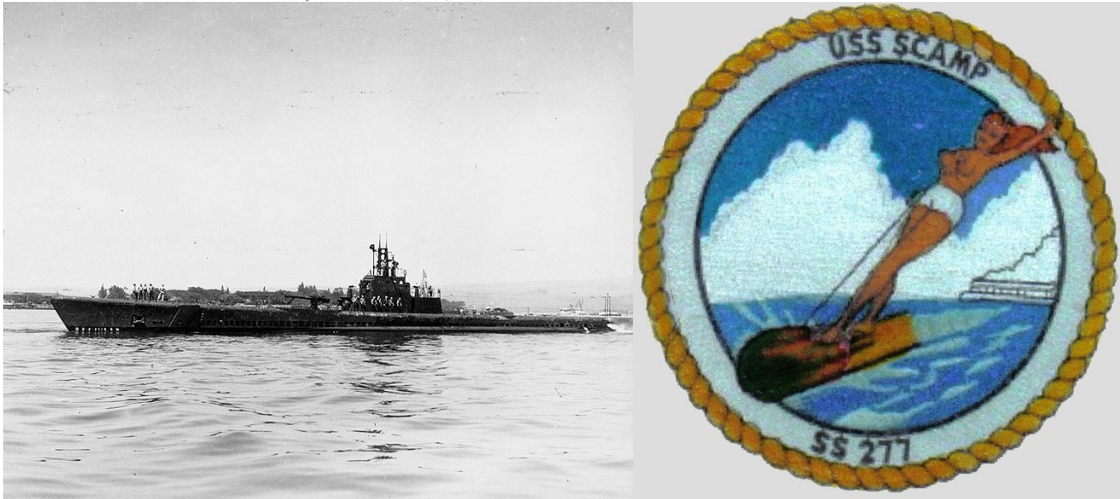


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Photo # 80-G-63898 USS Scamp in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1943-1944



## USS Scamp (SS 277)

### 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Ken Kull, Mike Smith, Frank McDevitt, Tony Sturla and Bob Sweeney.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary provided the October Minutes for the members present, as well as e-mailed to the base members. The October Minutes were posted to the website

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer an ending balance of \$x as of 29 Oct 2021. There are three outstanding checks that brings our actual balance down to \$x. One of the checks is the Raffle Payout that hasn't been cashed as of the meeting.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that have 55 members, Also, a reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 14th<sup>t</sup> of December.

**Correspondence:** The only correspondence received was a bit of a cryptic e-mail from Tom Denton asking about PPM and our base finances. Bob Smith said he would get back to Tom and ask what he meant by PPM.

Bob Smith read a letter from a Peter Dockter, where he stated that he was sending us copies of Submarine Prints that he purchased at an antique store. He is sending them to us for our enjoyment and possible use at next year's West End Fair event. Mr. Dockter said it was a pleasure meeting us at the West End Fair back in August.

Bob says he has the pictures, already framed, at home. He said they were too much to bring to tonight's meeting.

**Flag Box Program:** No report. None of the boxes have been checked as of this meeting.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he placed the only ad for this month to the Time News.

**Parades / Memorial Events:** No parades in the foreseeable future

**Budget / Donation:** The budget / donation committee met before tonight's meeting and made their recommendations for donations. Please see New Business for the distribution of monies.

**Storekeeper:** Bob Smith had 2022 Submarine calendars that he receives from Bill Klose. Cost is \$8 per calendar and are available to any member who wishes one.

**Fundraising:** Bob is asking the members for any ideas for next year's fundraising efforts.

**Dinner/Dance:** Christmas Dinner to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA. See below for details.

**Eagle Scout:** There are no up-coming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as of this meeting.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht is reporting that this program is on hold til further notice.

**Float Committee:** The last addition was some lights for the Sail as running lights. They were used during the Veterans Day Parade. They were a bit large for scale and really could not be seen. Mike Smith has LEDs from school that could be used. Alan Dempsey also dropped off the extension poles for the tent.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Scamp. Scamp was lost due to A/S operations from a Japanese Coastal Defense ship and over 70 depth charges launched by the ships. All hands were lost.

**Old Business:** The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 19 Dec 2021 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There is further information on the base website. Please let Bob Smith know of your choice of meal and number of guest so they can plan accordingly. The price will be \$25 per member and the first guest. Additional guests will be \$50 per person.

**New Business:** Bob Smith said that we have a new district commander. He stated that Huey Dietrich either decided not to run, or was not re-elected to the position of Northeast District 3 Commander. Our new District Commander is Tom Denton.

Tom Crosby talked about an annual parade in Bethlehem, called the Celtic Classic Parade of Shamrock's. It is held each year for St Patrick's Day along Main Street in Bethlehem and is sponsored by the Celtic Cultural Alliance. The alliance is looking for new members and we were asked to attend, since we helped out at the beer tent back in September. There is no cost to attend. The parade will be held on Saturday, 12 March 2022. A number of the members present were interested in attending.

The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$50
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$200
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$400
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$100
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$300
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$100
Salvation Army (in Honor of Robert Vaughan)	\$300
Operation Touch of Home	\$100
Disabled American Veterans	\$200

There were two donations made earlier this year, one for Polk Township, the other for the Holland Club Program to help defray the costs of the Challenge Coins.

We also have upcoming Boat Sponsorships for about \$30 apiece. We will look into which boats need sponsors. Historically, we have sponsored the Hyman G. Rickover and the Montana. We will have about \$200 left over for donations for the year.

Tony Sturla made the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve the list and values of the donations. Bob Sweeney made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

The base float was used at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA back on the 7<sup>th</sup> and was also brought to the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School on the 11<sup>th</sup> for the students to see.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues, also included is a form to fill out to correct, or update any contact information for the base sailing list.

\*A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DING at that time.\*

Alan Dempsey proposes that we offer food on about every other month to help as an incentive to have more members attend. The winter months are a bit more fluid as to whether we have a meeting, or not. All members present were in favor of this proposal.

Paul Lott is eligible for the Holland Club. Bob Smith had the package available for tonight's meeting. Bob will bring the Holland Club package to the Christmas Dinner for Paul, if he attends.

Tony Sturla will be Holland Club eligible next year.

**Good of the Order:** There will be no meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Smith know and have your money available either in a mailed check, or in person the night of the dinner.

Please keep Tony Sturla's wife in your prayers, as she is due for surgery down the line.

Gene Peppe's wife is also not doing too well with her knee and requires a lot of attention at this time.

### **Calendar of Events:**

25 Nov 2021: Thanksgiving.

19 Dec 2021: Annual Base Christmas Dinner to be held at Murph's Hideaway (former Robert Christians) on Rte. 940.

25 Dec 2021: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2022: Happy New Year

19 Jan 2022: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

16 Feb 2022: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

**Next full meeting** will be held on, 19 January 2022 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tony Sturla.

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 our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1941 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary