

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 October 2021



USS Tang (SS 306)

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@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 / E-mail address: scubapopalan@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 Acting Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of October:

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby delivered the invocation to the members present.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bob Sweeney, Don Ransel, Tony Sturla, Ivan Meixell, Dave Padora, Gene Peppe, Ken Kull, John Kelly, Darryl Betz, and Frank McDevitt.

Welcome aboard to our new members Paul Lott and Leon Hoffacker. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on. Paul Lott served onboard the USS John Marshall (SSBN-611) and Leon Hoffacker served onboard the submarine tender USS Howard H Gilmore (AS-16). Paul Lott is eligible for the Holland Club for having been qualified in submarines for 50 years

We were also joined by the wives and family of a couple of our members.

Meeting Minutes: The September minutes posted to the website by the Base Commander. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members. There is one error to be corrected, the last line still read out as Skip Donohue as writing the minutes.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported and actual ending balance of \$x as of the 30th of September. There are outstanding checks that have not been cashed and there were three deposits including \$x from our time at the Pocono Raceway. A full final tally will be made available for the November meeting.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we have 55 members in our base. They include the three new members from the West End Fair and our two new members from New Jersey.

Budget / Donation:

Correspondence: No mail received, but the secretary read a letter that was written by Bob Smith for Virginia Walton, who chairs the committee for the Belvidere event.

Flag Box Program: The flags were not picked up from the Flag Store, but the ones at the Blakeslee Post Office and Kinsley's Shop Rite were picked up. Tom Crosby would like our last remaining flag box to be used at the Wilson-Fischer Post. The box is currently in storage at Beech Mountain Lakes Estates. The base is willing to donate it to the Legion Post after it gets overhauled. This will deplete our spare boxes.

Publicity: No publicity entries were submitted for this month.

Speakers Bureau:

Dinner: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 19th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA at the former Robert Christian Restaurant.

Parades: Veterans Day Parade at from Stroudsburg, PA to East Stroudsburg, PA on the 7th of November.

Eagle Scout: No courts of honor noted.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the program continues to be on hold for the foreseeable future.

Float Committee: Bob Smith came up with an idea to have lights put under the float to help illuminate it, in conjunction with the overhead lights we already use at the fair. They would be attached to the cradle and shine upwards. Alan Dempsey also brought in a sample of the tent extension post with a bolt placed thru any of three holds at 6", 12" and 18" spots, depending on how far we want to raise the tent. This idea was originally brought up by Darryl Betz. Bob Obrecht will look into fabricating bases for the stilts instead of purchasing flanges. A concern about the wind taking the tent away, but we tie the tent down to the trailer.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of USS Tang. Tang was lost due to a circular run of her torpedo that struck the engine room. 9 men were rescued by the Japanese and were interred in camp until the end of the war.

Old Business: The Veterans Day Parade will be held in Stroudsburg and will travel to Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg. The parade will step off at 1PM on Sunday, the 7th of November. Line-up is at the Stroudsburg High School by 12:30PM. Members can park at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg and a bus will transport to the high school.

We were also invited to attend the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Jim Thorpe this year as well. This parade is also on the 7th of November and conflicts with the Stroudsburg Parade. The members voted to attend the Monroe County Parade.

Alan Dempsey reported that we now have \$x in coverage for the float and trailer. The actual cost for the remainder of this year was only an additional \$43 with what was already paid for this year, which was \$51. The annual cost will then be \$103 per year.

There were two Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests that were to be held on the weekend before our September meeting. The first was for a Dillon Corridore at the American Legion Evan-Blitz Post in Canadensis, PA. The other was for a Dominick Genovese at the VFW Post 2540 in East Stroudsburg, PA. Both of these were on the 11th of September and both packages were mailed.

There was a third Court of Honor request for Ethan Acevedo. This was believed to be originally scheduled last year, but was delayed due to Covid. The Court of Honor was held on the 9th of October at the St Paul Lutheran Church on Fish Hill Rd in Tannersville, PA. David Wright did our presentation.

Bob thanked Alan Dempsey and those that volunteered their time at the Pocono Raceway. We received \$100 per person per day spent at the racetrack. As mentioned by the treasurer, we received \$1300 for our time.

Wilson-Fischer Post Commander, Jen Crosby came over and thanked all of the members that manned the beer tent at the Celtic Fest in Bethlehem, PA back in September. This is the largest Celtic Event in the US. Our base only received \$104 in tips during the 4 hours, but the members enjoyed the day, overall. This year the committee was quite thankful, as there were about two hundred fewer volunteers than typical. If we are interested in volunteering next year, we would be quite welcome.

New Business: Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2022. National Dues are \$25. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out for those not at our meeting. Please get them sent in.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths for Veterans campaign again this year. The local Lions Club will have a ceremony on the 13th of November at 11AM at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The ceremony lasts about half an hour and all are invited.

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 cost per member and one guest is \$25 per person. For more than one guest, the cost will be \$50 per extra person. The base will pick up the remaining cost. Alan Dempsey made the motion for each member and one guest to pay \$25 and additional guests at \$50. Tony Sturla made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed. This is due to the increased costs for food.

Bob Smith would like to have the Budget / Donation Committee meet after this meeting as most of the raffle income has been received.

Good of the Order: It is with sadness that Bob Smith reported that 'Sam' Gallagher, the wife of member, Skip Gallagher passed away last Sunday, the 17th of October. She had been quite ill and was to have her legs amputated. There will be a celebration of life on the 24th.

Also, Mary Peppe. Wife of Gene Peppe, has been having knee issues and is having near constant treatment for them.

Tom Kaluzny has his foot in a cast after fracturing his ankle during a wedding rehearsal.

From Bob Smith:

I would like to thank, in no particular order, the following members, friends, and families for their participation at this year's WEST END FAIR, as well as SETUP, and BREAKDOWN :

Dave Wright, Bob Sweeney, Ken Kull, Tony Sturla,
Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Al Dempsey, Darryl Betz,
Chris Eckert, Skip Donohue, John Kelly, Gene Peppe

For an outstanding day at Belvidere :

Dempsey, Sturla, Betz, Obrecht, Smith R, and thanks to Chairperson Virginia Walton

and Friends :

Jay Ansky, Stan Dziuba, Nancy Parks, Vena Ackerman
and Wives, & Families

Frank McDevitt stated that there is a pennant in the bar area that has the patches of all of the boats we have served on. If the new members would like theirs added, please let him know.

Calendar of Events:

2 Nov 2021: Election Day, please get out and vote.

7 Nov 2021: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA

17 Nov 2021: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

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

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

Chaplain Crosby read the benediction to the members present.

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

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.”

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

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Food was provided by Sheila Smith and other wives at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.