

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 August 2022



**USS Cochino & Tusk**

**SS-345 & SS-426**

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

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

Ph (570) 355-5876 / [scubapopalan@hotmail.com](mailto:scubapopalan@hotmail.com)

**Chaplain – Tom Crosby** / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 1906 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 August:

17 Aug 1942	USS Bass I	SS 164	25 Men
29 Aug 1943	USS Pompano	SS 181	77 Men
13 Aug 1944	USS Flier	SS 250	80 Men

24 Aug 1944	USS Harder	SS 257	84 Men
06 Aug 1945	USS Bullhead	SS 332	84 Men
26 Aug 1949	USS Cochino	SS 345	1 Man
26 Aug 1949	USS Tusk	SS 426	6 Men (assisting Cochino)

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Don Ransel, David Wright, Ken Kull, Gene Peppe, Bob Sweeney, Josh Kolar and Frank McDevitt.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The July Minutes have been posted. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members to look at. A correction to the number of members of the base will be made to the master copy of the July Minutes. Was noticed by Bob Smith as to the error.

**Treasurers Report:** Bob Smith read the treasurer report, as our treasurer was on vacation. The report stated an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 July 2022. Alan canceled the check for the PO Box, as it was never cashed. Alan also wrote out a new check for our donation to the Wilson-Fischer Post. The original was never cashed.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob stated that we are still at 50 paid members.

**Correspondence:** The only correspondence at the meeting were thank you letters from the last few Eagle Scout Courts of Honor.

**Flag Boxes:** Bob Smith stated that he did not pick up any flags this time. David Wright brought flags from the Wilkes-Barre VA Center and Alan Dempsey picked up the flags at Blakeslee and at Kinsley's Shop Rite. One of the flags that Alan picked up was the blue line flag that is in excellent shape if anyone wants it.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that has not placed any community notices in the local papers.

**Parades:** The only parade in the near future is the Veterans Day Parade we have agreed to attend in Palmerton, PA.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that this program is still on hold until further notice.

**Budget & Donation:** No report until raffle money is totaled.

**Eagle Scout:** The Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests are listed in the Calendar of Events and mentioned in both old business and new business.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht said he went over and looked over the float to make sure it was ready for the fair. Bob said he made up a sign that says 'Support your local veterans' This will also be the first time of using the stilts to raise the tent so the sub can be seen better.

Mike Smith read from the website ussnautilus.org about the loss of the USS Cochino and the USS Tusk. Cochino suffered an after battery well explosion during exercises with the USS Tusk off the coast of Norway. The Cochino lost a civilian rider after he was swept away by the waves they were at state 4. Tusk lost six men while assisting the Cochino after 11 men were swept overboard and only 5 were recovered. Cochino was abandoned and sunk on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August

**Old Business:** There was a Court of Honor Invite for a Sophie Thompson-Best. This was held at the Elks Lodge in East Stroudsburg, PA on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July at Noon. Mike Smith did this presentation. Sophie is the second female in the Minsi Trails area to earn the Eagle Scout. She is the youngest in the region to have earned this rank at the age of 14.

There was a Triple Court of Honor for a Brock Oravec, Raymond Krezel and Colin Smith on Sunday the 7th of August. The Court was held at the Christ Hamilton United Methodist Church, 419 Bossardsville Road in Stroudsburg, PA at 3 PM. These certificates were mailed.

We received three thank you letters for the following Eagle Scouts:

Charles Maloy thanked David Wright for doing our presentation

Cody Robert Meckes and Sophie Thompson-Best thanked Mike Smith for doing their presentations.

Bob Smith and Mike Smith have ensured that all the Eagle Scouts that we have received invitations for have been placed on the website. Bob said that you click the Eagle Scout Logo on the website and it will take you to the list. They are also marked as to which ones were mailed, presented to and thank you letters received. There is also a list of all current and past members who have done our presentations over the years. Please let Bob know if you have done a presentation and are not listed on the link and he will add it.

Alan Dempsey said he paid for the Eagle Scout Patches that were ordered by Bill Klose. Mike Smith said he has received ten of them from Bill so far. Bill said he had ordered 50 of them.

The West End Fair is just around the corner. Setup is on Saturday the 20th of August around 10AM. Bob is still looking for help to setup. Any member wishing to man the booth and haven't signed up, please contact Bob Smith and look at the schedule on our website. As it stands, the hours of the fair are from 2-9 PM daily starting Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> except Wednesday and going thru to Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. Teardown will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> around 10AM. Bob Smith also asked the fair to ensure that we have more 'fill' in our site to help when it rains. This question was asked by David Wright. Bob said we have about 49 man-days covered over the week and said the more the merrier. Also, bring a chair as we have a limited number. We will have to use Gate 2 for entry, since the passes for Lot S now cost \$10 per pass. For those coming down multiple days, DO NOT surrender your pass for Gate 2.

**New Business:** As happens a lot the night of our meeting, Mike Smith received a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite in the mail for Alex Robert Heeter. The court will be held at the at 1 PM on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. The location is the VFW Post 2540, 546 Fawn Road, East Stroudsburg, PA. Looking for a presenter.

Bob Smith is asking for any member that has old American Submariner magazines they no longer wish to keep, to please bring them to the fair. They can be given out to prospective new members.

Bob Smith tried to contact the base in California in regards to the submarine plans that we sent them. Bob said that they had gone defunct and the float they made was transferred to the Mare Island Base in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bob said he will contact them and see about getting a copy of the plans sent back to us. The original base we sent the plans to was the Wahoo Base after looking back at prior meeting minutes.

Alan Dempsey said we worked 11 Man-Days at the Pocono Raceway and we should expect to see a check for \$1100 to our base. Alan thanked the following members who lent their time: David Wright, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith and Jay Ansky.

Next year will be the return of the Great Pocono Raceway Airshow and will feature the Navy 'Blue Angels' for the weekend.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith said that he had helped out a lady in Clarkesville, TN. She said her father, a WWII Submarine Vet, had moved and was no longer getting the American Submariner magazine. Bob said he contacted National and was able to have this issue resolved. Bob said she was 'beside' herself after hearing what was done and thanked Bob for the effort.

Bob Smith said he was in contact with Ken Smith's daughter and we have been given permission to go to where Ken lived in New Jersey to remove the boat and all of his belongings from the property after all of these years. We would need to borrow a trailer, as the boat is about 19 feet long. We will need to come up with a time and date to make this move happen. We can discussions at a later date. Nancy also thinks there may be a copy of the float plans there as well.

Mike Smith will take the Klaxon home to give it some maintenance and bring it to the fair on Sunday.

Gene Peppe's wife talked about a new museum that is in Mount Pocono about women in the military. It used to be where the Pizza Hut was located on Rte. 196 off of Rte. 611 in Mount Pocono.

### **Calendar of Events:**

21-27 Aug 2022: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA. Setup on the 20<sup>th</sup>, teardown on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

5 Sep 2022: Labor Day.

10 Sep 2022: Belvidere Heritage Day.

21 Sep 2022: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

25 Sep 2022: Eagle Scout Court for Honor for Alex Robert Heeter.

19 Oct 2022: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. Raffle Winner will be drawn at end of this meeting.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 21 Sept 2022 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

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 the meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1940 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

