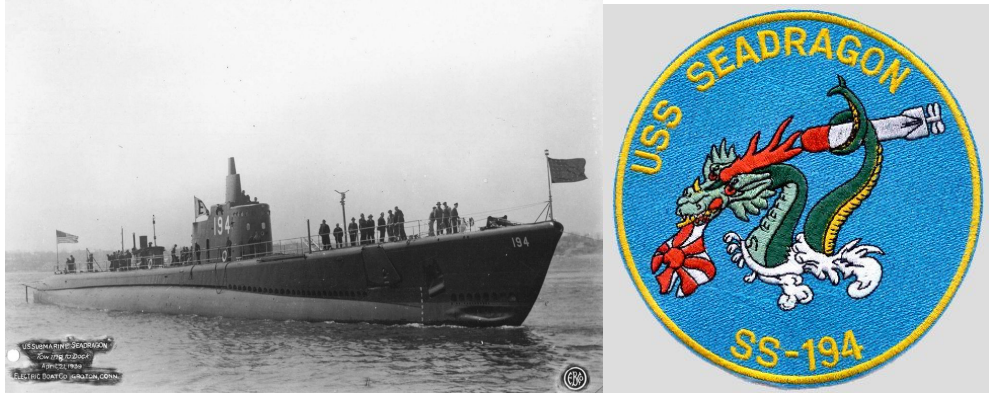


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

18 December 2022



USS Seadragon (SS-194)

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) 715-9257. 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

A brief meeting was held before the dinner at 1400 by Base Commander Bob Smith at Murph’s Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA (former Robert Christian’s). Bob Smith was the master of ceremonies. The Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following submarine force losses for the month of December and for our departed shipmates

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| 16 Dec 1917 | USS F-1 (Carp I) | SS 20 | 19 Men |
| 17 Dec 1927 | USS S-4 (Snapper I) | SS 109 | 34 Men |
| 10 Dec 1941 | USS Sealion I | SS 195 | 5 Men |
| 10 Dec 1941 | USS Seadragon | SS 194 | 1 Man |

Shipmates on Eternal Patrol:

Charles Butler, Edgar Coumes, George Eckert, Harold Franklin, Grover Kiick, Joseph Kolb, Don Malkames, George McCutcheon, Oliver Nordmark, Eugen Rees, Harold Schedin, Tom Shields, David Spence, James Staub, Ezra Swartz, Robert Vaughan, Richard Holmes, Donald Smith, Dave Jones, George Schimpf, Charles Parke, Skip Baker and Ken Smith.

Sailor’s, rest your oars.

Members present at the dinner were: Mr & Mrs Bob Smith, Skip Donohue, Ken Kull, Mr & Mrs. Tony Sturla, Don Ransell, Mr & Mrs Gene Peppe, Mr & Mrs Bob Sweeney, Mr & Mrs David Wright, Mr & Mrs Alan Dempsey, Mr & Mrs Tom Crosby, Mr & Mrs Bob Obrecht, Mr & Mrs Josh Kolar, Mr & Mrs Brett Moyer, Tom Kaluzny and family, Mike Smit & Jay Ansky.

Chaplain Crosby led everyone with an invocation.

All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting Minutes: The November 2022 minutes have been posted to the base website.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer gave the secretary a copy of the financial report for Oct 30 – 30 Nov 2022. There is an actual ending balance of \$x as of the 30th of November 2022.

Committees: No reports,

Correspondence: The base received a thank you letter from the Disabled American Veterans for our donation of \$200.

Since there is usually a short meeting before the meal, we do not have a reading of a lost boat for December. This month, let us remember the USS Seadragon (SS-194). On 10 December, she and sister ship Sealion, moored together, were caught in an enemy air raid against Cavite. Sealion took a direct hit which demolished her and damaged Seadragon. The force of the explosion ripped off part of the latter's bridge. Fragments and splinters punctured her ballast tanks and conning tower, killing one and wounding five. The heat of the explosion scorched her hull and blistered her black paint.

Fires and explosions raged along the wharf. A nearby torpedo shop went up and flames reached toward a lighter, loaded with torpedoes, lying alongside Seadragon. Submarine Rescue Vessel Pigeon, however, disregarded the danger and moved in to tow Seadragon into the channel; she continued into Manila Bay under her own power.

Temporary repairs were accomplished by tender Canopus and Pigeon; and, on the night of 15 December, Seadragon embarked members of the Asiatic Fleet staff. At 00:00, 16 December, she headed out of Manila Bay.

Escorted by destroyer Bulmer, Seadragon moved south, via Surigao and Makassar Straits to Soerabaja, where she disembarked her passengers; received further repairs, exclusive of a paint job; and prepared for her first war patrol.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: No Report.

Good of the Order:

Just a reminder that base and national dues are due by Dec 31, 2022, or you will be listed as DINQ.

Calendar of Events:

25 Dec 2022: Merry Christmas

1 Jan 2023: Happy New Year.

18 Jan 2023: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

15 Feb 2023: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 1900 Hrs.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 Jan 2023 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Crosby delivered the benediction after the dinner.

“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.”

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. The hors d'oeuvres were splendid and plentiful, and guests were invited to take remainders home. Murph's provided, on them, individual jumbo shrimp platters for each guest.

Guests cleared out pretty much by 4:00 Sunday afternoon looked like a winner for continued future parties.

That is all, another success.