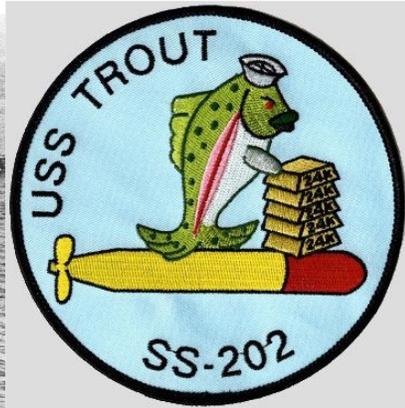


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 16 February 2022



USS Trout (SS-202)

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, Lehigh, 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 / 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 Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of February:

11 Feb 1942	USS Shark I	SS-174	58 Men
16 Feb 1943	USS Amberjack	SS-219	74 Men
27 Feb 1944	USS Grayback	SS-208	80 Men
29 Feb 1944	USS Trout	SS-202	81 Men
4 Feb 1945	USS Barbel	SS-316	81 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: Member's present were: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, David Wright, Tony Sturla and Josh Kolar.

We were also joined by the wives of Bob Smith and Josh Kolar.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reports that the January Minutes were posted to the base website. Also, minutes were provided at the meeting. Another correction will be sent, due to the omission of Bob Smith from the Roll Call for January and a grammatical error pointed out by one of our members.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported the following ending balance for the month of January. There was an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Jan 2022. One check outstanding is the donation to the Wilson-Fischer Post. Tom Crosby said he will look into finding it. The checks that have cleared were for the National Dues, and the Base Insurance. Upcoming will be the Small Games of Chance and any other payments as necessary.

\ Before the committee reports, Bob Smith said that we have Declarations and Nominations for Office, as this is an election year for our base.

Alan Dempsey declared his intent to remain Base Treasurer.

Mike Smith declared his intent to be the Base Secretary.

Tom Crosby declared his intent to remain as Base Chaplain.

Bob Smith declared his intent to remain as Base Commander. Bob is still looking for someone else to take the Commander position, which he has held for 12 years. Bob said he would continue as Membership chair.

Bob Obrecht has declared his intent to remain as Base Vice-Commander.

Nominations remain open until the March Meeting

By the rules of the Base By-laws, the nominations for the Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will remain open thru the March Meeting, at which time the votes will be cast by the members present at the March Meeting and Installation of Officers occurs.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that now have 51 active members as of this meeting. Charles Parke went on Eternal Patrol on Wednesday, the 2nd of Feb 2022 in New London, CT. Bob had printed a sample certificate for the Eternal Patrol from national and he also had a copy of Charles' Obit. Bob Smith also said Tony Sturla is now an eligible member of the Holland Club, but has not received the package, yet.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary was handed and read another thank you letter received by Alan Dempsey. This one was from the Warwick Valley Quilters Guild. They thanked us for our donation. Bob Smith said he has not checked our base post office box.

Flag Box Program: Flag boxes continue to be productive. Bob Smith said he did not do a pick-up from the Flag Store but will at a later date. Tom Crosby asked if we still had another

box available to be used by the Wilson-Fischer Post. It is currently in storage at Locust Lake Ridge and will take extra personnel to move it. It will also need refurbishment.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers but will look into restarting this practice.

Parades: No parades until at least March. Next parade will be the Parade of Shamrocks to be held in Bethlehem, PA on Saturday, March 12th. We were invited at no cost by the Celtic Cultural Alliance, thru Jennifer Crosby, wife of Tom Crosby. There is interest amongst the members in attending. More information to follow. There is also the St Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg that is scheduled for Sunday the 20th of March. We have not received an invitation for this one, yet.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith reported that there was an invite for a Tyler Mann. Details under New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No report. The Lehigh Valley Base is unsure if they wish to continue this program, and there is no information available.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Mike Smith is still looking into more to scale lights for the running lights for the conning tower. Have to dig out the electronics parts from college to look through.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Trout. The Trout was lost due to A/S operations when she was attacking a convoy in the area of the East China Sea. This information was found in the Japanese records after the war. She went down with all hands.

Old Business: The Base Secretary was able to finally send our thank you letters to those who have allowed us to install of Flag Boxes. The secretary apologized for not sending them sooner, but it took him a bit of time to obtain a new printer due to minimal supplies. The secretary also sent a separate card to Vena Ackerman for our condolences on the loss of her husband.

Tom Crosby was about the parade on Memorial Day this year, and Tom responded that it is scheduled to step off around 10AM on Memorial Day and the route will be from the legion post to the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. This way, the base will not need to involve Penn-DOT for closing part of Rte. 423. There will also be food after the parade at the post.

For the Parade of Shamrocks, Tom Crosby said he would like to get a tentative number of how many would attend. He said that the organizers include a parade marshal for every ten, or so attendees. They would very much like to see the float, if we were to attend. Bob Smith is looking for someone to take the float, if we are going to go. Mike Smith volunteered to take the float, just has to get an adjustable height hitch for the receiver. More information in an upcoming e-mail and on the base website under the calendar of events.

Tom Crosby will let us know when he would like to pick up the remaining box for flags from storage in Locust Lakes. It will take a truck to haul it, as it is a former postal box and is quite heavy.

Bob Smith is asking the members to take a look at the Base Website and look at the calendar. He is looking for any updates needed.

New Business: Mike Smith reported that there is an upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tyler Mann, son of Chestnuthill Constable Brad Mann. The court will be held at the Chestnuthill Twp Park building off of Rte. 715 on Saturday, the 19th of Feb at 1PM. Bob Obrecht has agreed to do our presentation. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome to go along to see what goes on with one of these events.

Alan Dempsey said that the Pocono Race Weekend is July 22 – 24. The Arca race is on Friday the 22nd. The Truck & Xfinity races are on the 23rd and the one and only Cup race is on the 24th. They are always looking for volunteers to help out with checking coolers, manning the ticket areas, ushering / monitoring the stands. We do not work in the parking lots. Last year our base received \$1300 for the 13 Man-day's we worked for the weekend. We are at the \$100 per person, per day level and is a great way for the base to earn extra money. It is not limited to just the members. We can bring our friends, spouses and children over 18 to help.

Bob Smith said that National is looking for Base Floats for this year's convention in Buffalo. Bob believes they are going to have a parade and wish to have the floats there. Bob doesn't think we would be going.

Bob Smith is asking if we are going to participate at the West End Fair again this year. Josh Kolar made the 1st motion for us to attend, David Wright made the 2nd motion. All in favor, motion passed. They will be looking for entry fee in the near future.

Good of the Order: David Wright said he was looking into finding information about member Larry Crawford. Dave said he could not contact him via e-mail or by phone and said he drove by the residence. The house is there with the family name and then sent a letter for information. Bob said he had heard from Larry's son a couple of years ago and said that his father has Alzheimer's and is no longer interested in things. We voted years ago to carry him as a Life Member of our base.

Tom Crosby brought our base up to speed on events and happenings at the WilsonFischer Post.

1st, Tom informed us about the passing of Mr. William Fields, former commander of the Wilson-Fischer Legion Post 413. Bill transferred to the Post Everlasting on the 2nd of Feb 2022 at LVHN-Pocono, surrounded by family. Tom Crosby now oversees most of the happenings at the post and will send things thru the canteen committee at the post if we need to have issues brought up.

Tom Crosby says the post is going back to having an Island Dance on the 26th of February. This is a dinner / dance where everyone is invited to attend. Just have a Hawai'ian shirt. More information will be on the website. All money's collected will be donated in

memory of Bill Fields. There will be a dinner from 6 - 8PM and the dance will start around 9PM. There will be music playing from around 5PM

Alan Dempsey and Tom Crosby talked about why the Bingo Hall Side was devoid of the plaques and pictures. Their intent is to make that side more family oriented. Most of the items that were hanging on the walls are to be transferred to the bar side of the post.

Bob Smith said he bumped into Gerald Zeman and said he is doing well. He is in remission from cancer and has moved to Bangor, PA. Gerald and his wife suffered a devastating house fire a couple of years ago and have recovered from that. Gerald would like to come to a meeting but does not like driving in the dark.

Calendar of Events:

19 Feb 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tyler Mann at the Chestnuthill Township Community Park at 1PM. Bob Obrecht will do the presentation.

12 Mar 2022: Parade of Shamrocks in Bethlehem, PA. More info to follow.

16 Mar 2022: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

20 Mar 2022: Stroudsburg St. Patrick's Day Parade at 1:30PM. No Invite, yet.

20 Apr 2022: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 Mar 2022 at 1900 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 David Wright to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1942 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

