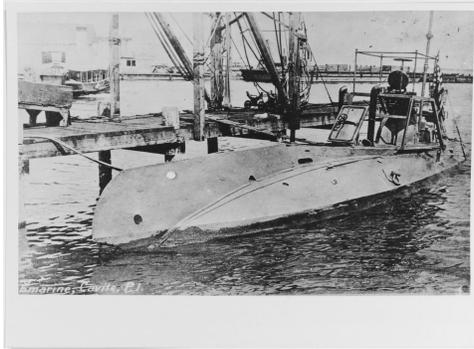


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 20 July 2022



USS A-7 (Shark I)

SS-8

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 / 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 July:

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------|--------|
| 17 Jul 1911 | USS A-7 (Shark) | SS-8 | 7 Men |
| 30 Jul 1919 | USS G-2 (Tuna I) | SS-27 | 3 Men |
| 30 Jul 1942 | USS Grunion | SS-216 | 70 Men |
| 04 Jul 1944 | USS S-28 | SS-133 | 49 Men |
| 26 Jul 1944 | USS Robalo | SS-273 | 84 Men |

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with in invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Bob Sweeney, Darryl Betz, Bob Smith, Tony Sturla, Ken Kull, Gene Peppe, David Wright, Bob Obrecht and Frank McDevitt.

We were joined by the wives of some of the members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and are posted on the website. The secretary also asked if there are any corrections that need to be made, please let him know.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 June 2022. There are more bills that need to be paid as of this meeting. We have also received \$270 in raffle money at the beginning of this meeting.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are still 49 active members as of this meeting.

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle is complete.

Correspondence: No correspondence received other than Eagle Scout Program.

Flag Box Program: The boxes continue to produce quite well. The Flag Store was full and the other boxes have been quite active, especially the post office in Blakeslee and Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheads ville. The box we donated to the Legion is still in repairs and will be posted when it is completed. One will be located at the Legion Post.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers for this month.

Parades: No parades until Veterans Day. Current invite is for the parade in Palmerton, PA this November. Nothing from Monroe County, yet.

Eagle Scout: The base secretary talked about the Court of Honor invites we received. Information is in Old Business and under New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): No Report.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: No report other than adding the lights to the trailer and making it ready for the fair. Bob Smith said he has pictures of the float that he will have available at the end of the meeting.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are starting to come back.

Bus trip: On hold til further notice.

Michael Smith read about a boat that was lost before WWII. The reading was on the loss of the USS A-7 (Shark I). The boat was lost on the 24th of July 1917 due to a gasoline explosion in the engine room. 6 men including the commanding officer were lost on the 25th due to their injuries and a seventh died on August 1st from his injuries.

Old Business: Mike Smith reported that he attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Cody Robert Meckes. The court was held at the Christ Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe, PA on the 3rd of July at 1PM. There was a reception following the ceremony. This invitation was received by e-mail.

There was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for a William J Stubblefield that was held at Our Lady of Victory Church Hall, 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Tannersville, PA. The court was at 1PM on Saturday, the 9th of July. There were no takers, so our Eagle Scout Package was mailed.

Mike Smith thanked David Wright for doing the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Andrew Hannig. This court was held at Memorytown, 432 Grange Road, Mount Pocono, PA. on Sunday the 10th of July at 2PM.

Bob Smith talked about having the new district commander, Tom Denton at our meeting last month. Tom is also the National Artist and had painting of nearly every boat with him for sale to those that wanted them. Tom was also joined by the treasurer, Cameron Mackenzie, of the Tri-State Base.

Bob Smith said he filed the annual base activity report on what we have been doing and will be doing for this year.

Tom Crosby also talked about base volunteering at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem on the last full weekend (the 23-25th) of September. Our time for manning the Beer Tent is Sunday the 25th of September from 1-4PM. We need about 8 people to man the beer tent. We will pour beer, check ID's and run the tent and collect the money for our stint. Any tips would belong to our organization. Continuing to look for 8-12 people to man the tent. Tom is accepting names at this time. Please let him know by the August Meeting if you can help. Friends and family can help as well and count towards the number we need. Minimum age to serve beer is 21. Information for shuttles and places to park will be upcoming. A volunteer pass will be given to those volunteering. The entry to the event is free. We have already received \$40 since Jen is going to man the register for our group.

The West End Fair is on this year. The new hours are from 2-9PM, though the gates do open at 2PM. Bob will get passes for those that need them for the Gate Three parking area. Bob Smith is still looking for help with the manning the tent. He especially would like extra help in setting up on Saturday the 20st. Please let Bob know of your choice of days for the event posted on the website. Bob also had sign-up sheets at the meeting. We are also looking for suggestions on how to shade our spot better, due to the afternoon sun in our face for a few hours.

Our base will also be attending the Victorian Day's, now called Belvidere Days, event in Belvidere, NJ. This is only a one day event this year and will be held on the 10th of September. Bob Smith is looking for help for set-up around 8 AM. The event runs from 9AM to 5PM. The

site will be located near where we have been before, so as to not interfere with the car show. Last year was a good time with good weather.

Alan Dempsey talked about the Pocono Race weekend. There is still time to get more volunteers beside those that have already signed up. We do not need to be at the track until noon on Friday the 22nd. Saturday and Sunday, we will be required to be at the track by 7AM until the end of the races.

New Business: Mike Smith talked about some more Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that have been received.

The first one is for a Sophie Thompson-Best and will be held at the Elk's Lodge, 260 Washington Street in East Stroudsburg on Sunday the 31st of July at Noon. Looking for someone to do the presentation. This will be the second female in the Minsi Trails Council to earn the rank of Eagle.

There is also a triple Court of Honor for Brock Oravec, Raymond Krezel and Colin Smith. This will be held at the Christ Hamilton United Methodist Church, 419 Bossardsville Rd, Stroudsburg at 3PM on Sunday the 7th of August. Looking for someone to do this presentation as well.

Mike Smith was able to contact Bill Klose about obtaining more patches. The supply is getting low with just enough to cover these new Courts of Honor. Bill stated that he has requested 50 from National.

Bob Obrecht talked about the possibility of our base donating to the Tunnels to Towers. This organization is about Honoring America's First Responders, Veterans and their Families. Tom Crosby stated that the S-A-L (Sons of the American Legion) has donated to this group last year. Bob Obrecht is looking to add this at the pleasure of the base, and we will revisit at a later date.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith has a box of business cards that he had made up. They feature the Dolphin Emblem and the word "Qualified" with a link to our base website on one side and the National Creed on the back. They are for everyone to take and use as needed for potential new members.

Binnacle List: None noted.

Calendar of Events:

22 -24 Jul 2022: Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering.

31 Jul 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Sophie Thompson-Best.

7 Aug 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brock Oravec, Raymond Krezel and Colin Smith.

17 Aug 2022: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

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

5 Sep 2022: Labor Day.

10 Sep 2022: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

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

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 Aug 2022 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Smith led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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 provided the benediction at the end of the meeting

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

