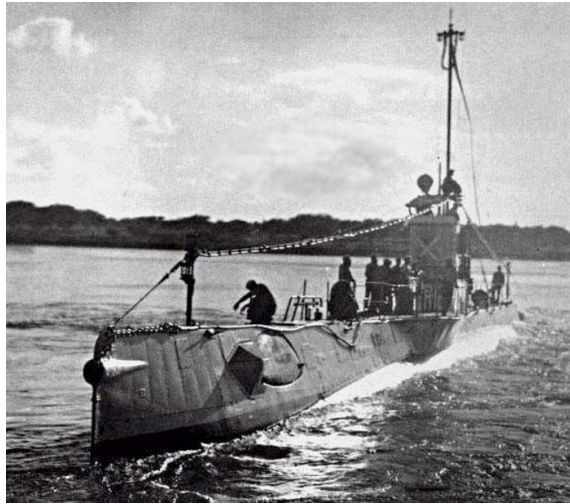


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 14 June 2022



USS R-12



SS-89

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 1713 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 May:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with in invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Dave Padora, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Darryl Betz, Mike Smith, David Wright and Frank McDevitt.

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

Also present were guests Tom Denton, Commander, Eastern Region North, District 3 and Cameron Mackenzie, Treasurer of USSVI Tri-State Base.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on-board.

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.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 May 2022. Alan reported that we that we paid out for Eagle Scout supplies, West End Fair entry fee and paid the insurance for the base float.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are still 50 active members as of this meeting.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The secretary said he would cover the correspondence, as it deals with the Eagle Scout Program

Flag Box Program: The flag drop boxes continue to be highly active. Flags were picked up at the Blakeslee Post Office, Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheadsville, PA. The Flag Store in Sciota, PA and the community where David Wright lives.

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

Parades: Invite for the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade.

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: Bob Obrecht talked about the installation of lighting on the float to help illuminate the Barb from the bottom. Bob Smith obtained the lights, and they were installed on the float. They have not been tested yet.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are available to members.

Bus trip: On hold til further notice.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS R-12. Only one of a few vessels lost in the Atlantic Ocean during WWII. R-12 was lost in about 15 seconds, most likely due to torpedo tube flooding. Only three men onboard survived as they were on the conning tower at the time. The remaining crew was lost including representatives from the Brazilian Navy.

Old Business: Bob Smith said that Don Ransel had gone to Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery for the dedication of the submarine memorial there last month, but he did not show to talk about it.

Bob Smith asked if anyone had come up with a design for business cards for the base. No one said they had/ Bob said he would take up the reins and have some made.

Alan is still asking for members to help out during the race weekend. As this is our fourth year for doing so, our base will receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We will be placed around the stands, or other areas, except the parking lot. This is a great way to earn income for our base, to be used for base operations and our charitable organizations that we donate to. Please respond to Alan Dempsey. As of this meeting now have 5 people total for the weekend. Alan says that one week before the race, we will be given the parking pass needed to enter the grounds and that he would e-mail them to those attending. We will enter at Gate 5 off of Long Pond Road and make our way to the far end of the parking area. The volunteer tent is located in that area. Make sure that those who are volunteering to bring a hat, sunblock, hearing protection (the cars are loud, but the jet driers are even louder) and something to drink for the day. Last year the base received \$x for our days there. Alan is still waiting for more information.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 22nd to the 28th of August. The hours for the fair are now 3 to 9 daily, with setup on the 21st and teardown on the 29th. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website.

Mike Smith reported that he attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Justin Rankel, Sean Droll and Alec Shonk. The court was held at the Akelaland Dining Hall on the Trexler Scout Reservation on the 21st of May at 1PM. There was a reception following the ceremony.

Mike Smith thanked David Wright for doing the presentation for Eagle Scout Charles Michael Maloy. The court was held at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post on Saturday, the 11th of June 2022 at 2PM.

We also have received an invitation for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brian Patrick Rogers. This court will be held on Saturday June 25th a 2PM and will be held at the Zion United Church of Christ, 14 North 8th Street, Stroudsburg, PA. Josh Kolar has agreed to do the presentation.

A third Court of Honor request was received by Mike Smith via e-mail. The court will be for Cody Robert Meckes and will be held on Sunday the 3rd of July at 2PM at the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Drive, Jim Thorpe, PA. Mike Smith said he will do this presentation.

Anyone else who would like to see a court of honor can do so. Bob had posted the information on the base website. Just click on the link to the Boy Scouts on the main page and it will take you to all of the scouts we have sent packages to or attended in person over the years.

New Business: Bob Smith talked about the invitation to the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade that will be held in Palmerton, PA this year. The parade will be held on Sunday the 6th of November. This parade cycles between various towns in Carbon County each year. Last year the parade was held in Jim Thorpe, PA.

There is no word yet from Monroe County for the Stroudsburg Veterans Day Parade.

David Wright made the 1st motion for the base to attend the parade in Palmerton. Dave Padora made the 2nd motion to attend. All in favor, motion passed.

There are a couple of new Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests that were received. The first is for a William J Stubblefield to be held at Our Lady of Victory Church Hall, 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Tannersville, PA. The court will be at 1PM on Saturday, the 9th of July. Looking for a member to do the presentation.

The second Court of Honor request is for Andrew Hannig. This court will be held at Memorytown, 432 Grange Road, Mount Pocono, PA. The event will be on Sunday the 10th of July at 2PM. David Wright has agreed to do the presentation. This was a postponed court of honor due to the pandemic.

Bob Smith said that we are scheduled to attend the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ again this year. The date of the event is on the website under calendar of events.

Raffle tickets are available for pick up at the meeting. Bob will send packets to each member as well.

Good of the Order:

The base offers a very warm welcome to our special guests, Tom Denton and Cameron MacKenzie of the USSVI Tri-State Base. Tom Denton talked about the difficulty in having personnel take the various positions with each base and even at the National level. There is ongoing difficulty in getting people to take the secretary, treasurer, Base & Vice Commander position. A lot has to do with how much time is spent doing these jobs. One of the things that Tom has recommended, is to have some sort of recognition for the members that have contributed to the base. Tom Denton is also the National Artist for USSVI. He even brought with him his artwork. Tom said he would try to visit each base at least once during his two year tenure.

Tony Sturla had a knee replacement and apologized for not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

Food was made available by our base for after the Flag Day Ceremony. Alan Dempsey thanked Sheila for her efforts in providing the food for tonight.

Calendar of Events:

25 Jun 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brian Patrick Rogers. Josh Kolar will do the presentation.

3 Jul 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Cody Robert Meckes. Mike Smith will do the presentation.

4 Jul 2022: Happy 4th of July.

9 Jul 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for William J Stubblefield.

10 Jul 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Andrew Hannig. David Wright will do the presentation.

20 Jul 2022: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

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

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

21-27 Aug 2022: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA.

5 Sep 2022: Labor Day

10 Sep 2022: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 1700 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 Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by David Wright.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1753 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. The members present joined the American Legion Members for the Flag Day Retirement ceremony after our meeting.

