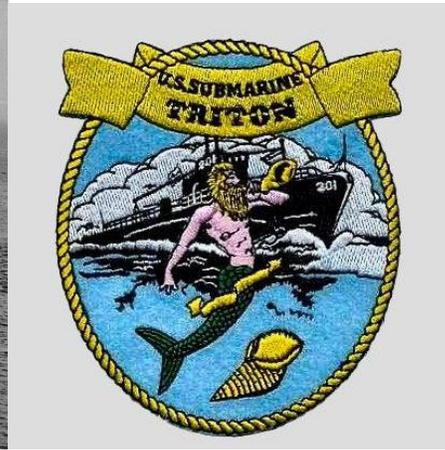


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

Photo # NH 99279 USS Triton underway, circa 1940



USS Triton SS-201

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 1903 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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 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: Member's present were: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Josh Kolar, Ken Kull, Bob Sweeney and Frank McDevitt.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the February minutes were posted to the base website. The secretary also provided copies of the minutes for the members present. The secretary also asked if any member notices things that need to be corrected, do not hesitate to contact him. The January Minutes were corrected due to the omission of Bob Smith from the roll call.

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 still outstanding is the donation to the Wilson-Fischer Post. Another check outstanding and not cashed is the \$56 P.O. Box Rent from last July. We re-opened the PO Box this year for \$85. The treasurer also just sent in the dues for the Small Games of Chance License for the year.

As this is an Election Year for the Base Officers, The following members declared their intentions, to be elected for the next two-year term for 2022 - 2024:

Bob Smith as Base Commander, though he is still looking for someone to take over.
Bob Obrecht as Base Vice-Commander
Michael D. Smith as Base Secretary
Alan Dempsey as Base Treasurer.

Bob Sweeney made the first motion for the Base Secretary cast the single election vote. Josh Kolar made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed. The Base Secretary cast the vote declaring the slate of officers as elected for the next two years.

Former Base Commander, Frank McDevitt administered the Oath of Office.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are down to 50 active members as of this meeting. Bob Smith received word that member Russell "Skip" Baker went on Eternal Patrol

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: No Correspondence.

Flag Box Program: Tom Crosby has taken possession of the last Flag Box we had. It was stored at Locust Lake. It is a former US Postal Box and it will be refurbished and used by the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post. The boxes continue to produce and the box at the Flag Store in Sciota had a thank you note with one of the flags. The note was from Stacy &

Kenny, thanking us for our service. They also were curious as to how do we 'Fly' the flag under water.

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

Parades: Next parade will be on Memorial Day.

Speakers Bureau: No report. We have not done this program in some time. There used to be a large event at the Pleasant Valley High School when Mr. Tramontina was there. The last visitation was on Veteran's Day at the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School. The float was kept outside this time, instead of being taken off and displayed in the cafeteria like last time.

Eagle Scout: Please see New Business.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht reported that this program is still on hold for now as well but the Lehigh Valley Base is looking into restarting the program.

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Mike Smith reported that he is currently in possession of the conning tower. He is in the process of adding the Navigation Lights to the conning tower that would be more to scale with the float and in their correct locations. The other set that was used were overly large. Mike Smith has high intensity LED's that can be seen in daylight to use. The difficulty in adding them is the tight open space in the tower to run the wires and solder the connections. They are to be powered with two 9V batteries and have an on/off switch for them as well. Bob Smith also said he is looking into adding lights to the inside edge of the trailer so that they would help illuminate the sub in its cradle. This would help people see what the model looks like, especially at the fair when it is under the tent. He said he has a couple of fluorescent light strips that could be mounted and pointed up. Alan also reiterated that he has the parts needed to raise the tent higher so that the float can be seen better as well. Right now, it is kind of hidden under the tent unless you are up close.

Fundraising: Bob Smith stated the base voted to have another raffle this year and that we will attend the West End Fair again.

Bus trip: On hold til further notice.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Triton. Triton was lost with all hands on the 15th of March due to Japanese destroyers conducting A/S operations in the area of the Admiralty Islands.

Old Business: Tom Crosby said that there will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. The date is the 30th of May. The route is changed to start from the Legion Post and end at the cemetery. There will be food provided by the post afterwards. The change in the route is still due to the uncertainty of obtaining the permit needed for closing part of Rte. 423. That money is not refundable. Step off will be at 10AM and a memorial service will be held at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center.

We were supposed to have participated in the Parade of Shamrock's in Bethlehem back on the 12th of March, but mother nature did not cooperate with the rain and snow that day. Also, the high winds would have precluded in taking the float safely to and from the parade. Gusts were expected to be in the 40's

Mike Smith and Tom Crosby had both volunteered to take the float to this parade. Mike Smith was going to do this one. Bob Smith is asking for any other members who would like to volunteer in taking the float to the various parades. This way, it is not just one person doing all the driving.

Bob Smith is still trying to get the new district commander to come to one of our meetings. It has been a while since our last district commander, Huey Dietrich visited our base.

Bob Smith brought the three framed pictures that were mailed to him by Mr. Peter Dockter of Staten Island. He had them on display for the members present. Bob will be talking with Tom Crosby if the Legion Post would like to hang them or use them at the fair.

There was a reminder from both Frank McDevitt and Alan Dempsey about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again this year. The dates for the race weekend are from the 22nd to the 24th of July. More information will be available as we get nearer to the dates of the races. We did quite well with the donation from the track for our Man-Day's that we spent there last year. Current donation rate is \$100 per person per day, including friends and family that help out during the weekend.

New Business: Bob Smith has the Holland Club Packages for two of our members. One is for new member Paul Lott from Hopatcong, NJ and the other is for Tony Sturla, from Belvidere, NJ. We will induct Tony Sturla when he is able to come to our meetings instead of mailing the package. Alan said he would hold onto the packages.

Bob Smith had a list of the various committees and is looking for members to help fill them. He had two copies available to be filled out. We are looking for more involvement from our members.

Mike Smith thanked Bob Obrecht for doing our presentation for Tylor Mann at the Chestnuthill Township Community Park. It was held back on the 19th of February. Alan Dempsey joined Bob at this court.

There is a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor request for a Steven Michiels. This court will be held at the Pocono Summit Fire Hall at 5335 Hummingbird Drive, Pocono Summit, PA on Sunday the 27th of March at 1:30PM. Frank McDevitt volunteered to do our presentation and may be joined by Josh Kolar.

There is also another court of honor request for Saturday, the 4th of June, but Mike Smith has not received any further information, other than a phone call the other night. Will have further information when it becomes available.

Anyone is welcome to accompany the presenter in any of these Court's of Honor. No two have ever been alike.

The West End Fair is a go again for this year. The dates are from the 21st to the 28th of August, but no invite has been received from them. Cost is tentatively \$250 for our reservation, but the request for money has not been received.

As soon as we receive our number for the small games of chance, Bob Smith will get the tickets printed., Bob said he will also inquire if Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store in Sciotta, PA if she would like to sponsor our raffle tickets again this year.

Bob Obrecht brought up a discussion about the base reimbursing the member who takes the float to an event to help defray the cost of gas. After some discussion Bob Obrecht made a motion to have the base reimburse the driver \$20 for taking the float. 2nd motion was made by Bob Sweeney. All in favor, motion passed.

Good of the Order: Russel “Skip” Baker went on Eternal Patrol on the 10th of March at his home in North Carolina. He had complications from diabetes and had a case of pneumonia. He died in his sleep at his home. Bob Smith will send the certificate to the Base Secretary to print and forward to Skip’s wife.

Tom Crosby said that the Wilson-Fischer Post is having a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on Saturday, the 19th of March. Tom does not have confirmation of the Flag Day Ceremony from the post, yet, but presumes it will be held on Tuesday the 14th of June at 6PM. Our meeting that day will start at 5PM and we will join with the Legion Members in the Flag Day flag retirement ceremony.

Josh Kolar said he would look into finding potential new members from East Stroudsburg University. They are expecting a sizable number of Navy veterans coming in for the next semester. Josh said he would ask June Pepe to see if there are any who served on submarines and would be interested in joining our base.

Bob Smith said that Gene Peppe’s wife is doing well after her surgery and was sent home.

Calendar of Events:

27 Mar 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Steven Michiels. Frank McDevitt will do the presentation.

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

18 May 2022: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

30 May 2022: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post and will end at the cemetery. Step off will be at 1000 hrs. There will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the cemetery across from the school after the parade.

14 Jun 2022: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 Apr 2021 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 Mike Smith 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 1951 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

