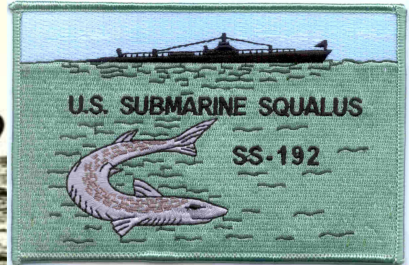


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 18 May 2022



## USS Squalus SS-192

### Base Officers

**Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith** / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: [rlines@ptd.net](mailto:rlines@ptd.net)

**Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht** / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732

Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: [aquaknot339@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

**Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey** / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

Ph (570) 355-5876 / [scubapopalan@hotmail.com](mailto:scubapopalan@hotmail.com)

**Chaplain – Tom Crosby** / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 1901 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:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 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, Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Frank McDevitt, Bob Sweeney, Bob Smith, Don Ransel, Bob Obrecht, David Wright, Tony Sturla and Josh Kolar

We were also joined by the wives of a few of our 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. If there are any corrections that need to be made, please let the secretary know.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 April 2022. Our Check for \$400 for the American Legion Post has not been cashed, nor has the \$56 check for our post office box from last year. Alan reported that the entry fee for the West End Fair increased to \$368 this year from \$258 last year.

**Committees:**

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

**Budget / Donation:** No report.

**Correspondence:** The secretary received a couple of letters from the base commander. The first was for the West End Fair, the other was the letter from the Holland Club that Bob Smith read last month.

**Flag Box Program:** David Wright brought three bag from his community box.

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

**Parades:** Memorial Day Parade on the 30<sup>th</sup> from the Legion to the cemetery. Details in Old Business.

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

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

**Ships Store:** No report.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht said that they repainted the conning tower after Mike Smith finished installing the lights and filling in the cracks in the joint of the conning tower with wood filler.

**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 Website <https://www.history.navy.mil/> about the loss of the USS Squalus. The Squalus suffered a catastrophic valve failure during a test dive off the coast of New England. The sub sank and came to rest on the bottom at 40 fathoms deep. The 33 men in the forward compartment were rescued by the newly developed McCann Rescue Chamber based on the original diving bell designed by Charles B. Momsen. The boat was subsequently raised,

repaired and was renamed the USS Sailfish. The name Squalus was decommissioned. During WWII she ended up sinking the Japanese Destroyer that held the men of her sister ship, the USS Sculpin. The 26 men lost were all in the flooded engineering spaces.

**Old Business:** Tom Crosby said that there will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. The date is the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The route was 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 have also been invited to attend the Polk Township Memorial re-dedication on Rte 209 on Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at noon.

Alan is still asking for members to help during the race weekend. As this is our 4th year for doing so, our base would receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We would 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 so we can have a nearly accurate number of volunteers. Friends and family can help out our base. Asking that we wear Khaki colored pants, a nice shirt. Also, bring sunscreen, a hat and earplugs. The cars are loud, but the track dryers are even louder.

Mike Smith reported that the base had received an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for three Eagle Scouts. This court is for Justin Rankel, Sean Droll and Alec Shonk. The court will be held at the Akelaland Dining Hall on the Trexler Scout Reservation on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May at 1PM. There will be a reception following the ceremony. Mike Smith said he would 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.

Alan Dempsey asked about our getting a AC Converter to power the base klaxon instead of the one currently installed. When the tow vehicle is idling and the brakes applied, it bogs down the electrical system and the klaxon on the float sounds rather sick. There was a question of possibly looking into one of the Gel Cell Battery Jumpers, they sometime have a built in AC Converter. Another question is how long one would last, as the base klaxon draws some decent current.

There was a question asked about the lighting that was to be installed on the float and point upwards to illuminate the boat from underneath. We have the lights and will need to experiment as to where they would need to be installed.

Mike Smith inquired of Tony Sturla if he had received his corrected Holland Club Certificate. Tony replied that he had received it within 4 days of contacting the Holland Club Coordinator.

**New Business:** Mike Smith also reported that the base has received an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for Eagle Scout Charles Michael Maloy. The court will be held at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 at 2PM. David Wright has agreed to do the presentation for our base.

We also have received an invitation for a Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brian Patrick Rogers. This court will be held on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> a 2PM and will be held at the Zion United Church of Christ, 14 North 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at 2PM at the Christ Lutheran Church, 189 Church Drive, Jim Thorpe, PA. Mike Smith said he will do this presentation.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. The hours for the fair are now 3 to 9 daily, with setup on the 20th and teardown on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website. Raffle tickets are available for the members.

Bob Smith is looking for possible designs for business cards to be made. Bob Smith said he has one the just features a set of Dolphins on one side and the base website on the other.

Mike Smith inquired as to whether we were going to invite Vena Ackerman and Jack Rader of Nancy Parks to our meeting on Flag Day. Mike Smith said he would reach out to them and invite them for the next meeting.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith said Bill Klose is still doing good but does not want to do the drive for our meetings.

Mike Smith is still on limited duty til the end of June for his workplace injury.

### **Calendar of Events:**

21 May 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Rankel, Sean Droll, and Alec Shonk. Mike Smith will do the presentation for the base.

29 May 2022: Dedication of the Polk Township Veterans Memorial.

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.

11 Jun 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Charles Michael Maloy. David Wright will do the presentation.

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

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 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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.

**Next meeting** will be held on Tuesday, 14 June 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.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by David Wright.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1938 hrs.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

