

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 November 2022



USS Corvina (SS 226)

Base Officers

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

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

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

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Meeting called to order at 1907 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

The Base Bell was tolled once more for our recently departed member: Ken Smith. Ken went on Eternal Patrol the morning of the 12th of November 2022. Ken was a plank-owner of the base and was the designer and builder of our replica of the USS Barb, of which he served on board after WWII. Chaplain Crosby offered a prayer of remembrance for our departed member. Sailor, Rest Your Oars, we have the watch.

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, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, David Wright, Ken Kull, Bob Sweeney, Tony Sturla, Bill Klose, Frank McDevitt and new members George Reid and Scott Gordon.

Welcome aboard to our two new members, George Reid and Scott Gordon. They both signed on at tonight's meeting. The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary apologized for not having minutes available for the meeting. They had to be re-created the night of the meeting and e-mailed just prior due to tonight's meeting. Original files ended up being corrupted and were unusable. Please let the secretary know if there are any corrections or additions that need to be made.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Oct 2022. Prior to the meeting, the Budget / Donation committee met and have decided to donate about \$x to various charities / organizations that we support.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that have 51 members, we had one member drop out and with the loss of Ken Smith, that dropped us to 49. With the addition of our two new members, we are back to 51.

Correspondence: Covered under Eagle Scouts.

Flag Box Program: No report. None of the boxes have been checked as of this meeting.

Publicity: Bob Smith stated that he didn't place any ads in the local papers.

Parades / Memorial Events: No parades in the foreseeable future. The Carbon County Veterans Day Parade was the last one of this year.

Budget / Donation: The budget / donation committee met before tonight's meeting and made their recommendations for donations. The list of organizations and amounts will be available for the next meeting.

Storekeeper: Bill Klose has 2023 Calendars available for the base. Cost is \$9 per calendar and are available to any member who wishes one.

Fundraising: Bob is asking the members for any ideas for next year's fundraising efforts.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 18th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA. See below for details.

Eagle Scout: There is one up-coming Eagle Scout Court of Honor as of this meeting. Information under New Business.

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

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht said that the float is doing well, but he would like to get a bunch of us together and repaint the sub and other preventative maintenance next year before we start using the float again.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Corvina. Corvina was the only submarine to be sunk by a Japanese I-Boat during WWII. She was also lost on her first and only war patrol in the area of the Truk. All hands were lost.

Old Business: The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 18 Dec 2022 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There is further information on the base website. Please let Bob Smith know of your choice of meal and number of guest so they can plan accordingly. The price will be \$25 per member and the first guest. Additional guests will be \$50 per person. Bob Smith has a list of the dinners that are available at the meeting as well as on the website.

Mike Smith thanked David Wright for doing the presentation for Eagle Scout, Justin Drennan. This was held at held at the Zion United Lutheran Church, 1919 US-209 in Brodheadsville, PA. The date of the court was on Saturday the 5th of November 2PM. Mike Smith Had made an error in contacting the recipient thru email, so the information of David Wright attending was not made until the day of the event.

There were two other Eagle Scout Court of Honors that their certificate packages were mailed:

1st was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for Jacob Possinger that was held on Saturday the 29th of October at 1PM. This was held at the Effort United Methodist Church, Merwinsburg Rd in Effort, PA.

The other Eagle Scout Court of Honor request received was for a Hunter Rack and will be held on Saturday the 12th of November at the Spruce Lake Retreat, 5389 Route 447, Canadensis, PA. The court was held at 2PM.

Bob Smith said we had our best year in money raised between the fairs and individual sellers. Bob congratulated the top ticket sellers: Tom Crosby with \$x worth, followed by Darryl Betz with \$x and Frank McDevitt at \$x. The West End Fair is our largest income producing event during our raffle season. We have also done very well at Belvidere, NJ. Thank you to all who participated in the fairs and raffle sales this year.

Bob Smith also stated that dues are starting to come in. Please make sure your dues are remitted by 31 Dec 2022, or you will become DINQ.

New Business: For the benefit of our new members, Bob Smith talked about our base raffle that typically runs from the spring until the drawing in October at the end of that meeting. The prize is \$1000 to the winner.

Multiple items that we do as a base were described for the benefit of our new members. One is the flag drop box program. We have multiple former Postal Boxes, or newspaper boxes in

which flag are deposited. Each year we coordinate with the legion on Flag Day and have a retirement ceremony after our meeting in June.

Alan Dempsey talked about another fundraising item we do during the year and that is volunteering our time at the Pocono Raceway. We help to check tickets, coolers and other items inside the gates. As a base, we now earn \$100 per person per day worked at the track. There is only one race weekend for NASCAR next year, but there is also the Great Pocono Airshow making its return next year as well.

Another is the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. We send thru the mail or deliver in person an Eagle Scout Certificate and Patch for these Courts of Honor. There is no set speech to use, it is up to the person attending. We have talked about our experiences in Submarines and how earning our Dolphins compares to the Eagle Scout. Also have talked about Eugene Fluckey, commanding officer of the USS Barb (The Sub That Sank a Train). No two courts have ever been the same. Anyone who wishes to attend on of these Courts of Honor are encouraged to go, not just the member doing the presentation.

There is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Emily Merritt and will be held on Saturday the 26th of November at 2PM. The location is St' Luke's Lutheran Church on 158 Fish Hill Road, Tannersville, PA. David Wright said he would do this presentation.

The base float was used at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Palmerton, PA. In honor of Ken Smith's passing, a picture of Ken standing next to the float at her christening was placed on the side of the submarine, as well as a neckerchief and white hat placed over the bow of the sub.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues, also included is a form to fill out to correct or update any contact information for the base sailing list.

Bob Smith commented on the new stilts that we used this year for raising up the tent so the sub could be seen better. The only issue was it made it harder to reach things even with just the 6-inch lift. Bob proposed that we invest in a small step ladder to use when the tent is put up.

David Wright made the first motion for the base to purchase a small step ladder. Alan Dempsey made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

There was also a proposal to have one donated, whichever comes first.

Good of the Order: There will be no meeting on the 14th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 18th of December. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Smith know and have your money available the either in a mailed check, or in person the night of the dinner.

Frank McDevitt inquired as to when we need to donate to the Legion Angel Tree. Tom Crosby talked about this. The tree still has a number of tags to be fulfilled and we would need to have this done by the 3rd of December. The base has agreed to donate \$x to the Angel Tree this year. We can also pick out one individually for any member to donate.

Bill Klose talked about a missing US Flag that the base had years ago. Bill said he found it amongst items he had in his possession with some paperwork. Bill also has calendars for sale as of the meeting and had only 5 left after the members present purchased some. Bill also had Anthracite Dolphins for the base. Bill is our base storekeeper and asked if any member needs patches or other items, please e-mail him at seagoatc@epix.net

A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31st of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DING at that time.

Please let Bob Smith know if you know of any member who is on the Binnacle List.

Lisa Newberry, granddaughter of Ken Smith, would like to hold a memorial service for her grandfather, Ken on Sunday the 27th of November in Bangor, PA. She extends an invitation to this service to those who can make it. Bob Smith said he would post further details on the base website or call him.

Calendar of Events:

24 Nov 2022: Thanksgiving.

18 Dec 2022: Annual Base Dinner at Murph's Hideaway

25 Dec 2022: Christmas

1 Jan 2023: New Years.

18 Jan 2023: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

16 Feb 2022: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next full meeting will be held on, 18 January 2023 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 18th of December.

1st motion made by David Wright to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

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.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1945 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary