

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 October 2022



USS Shark II (SS 314)

Base Officers

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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 1900 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 October:

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Shark II	SS 314	90 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby delivered the invocation to the members present.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

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

We were also joined by the Honorable Jack Rader and his assistant, Nancy Parks. The members resent introduced themselves to our guests and what boats we served onboard.

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

Meeting Minutes: The September minutes posted to the website by the Base Commander. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported and actual ending balance of \$x.xx as of the 30th of September. There are outstanding checks that have not been cashed and there were three deposits including \$x from our time at the Pocono Raceway. We received \$x in tips and the stipend for Jennifer Crosby from the Celtic Classic. A full final tally will be made available for the November meeting.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we have 51 members in our base.

Budget / Donation: Committee will meet ½ hour before the November Meeting to decide how much and who receives donations.

Correspondence: No mail received, but the secretary read a letter that was written by Bob Smith for Virginia Walton, who chairs the committee for the Belvidere event.

Flag Box Program: The flag boxes continue to produce

Publicity: No publicity entries were submitted for this month.

Speakers Bureau:

Dinner: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 18th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA at the former Robert Christian Restaurant.

Parades: Veterans Day Parade in Palmerton, PA to be held on the 6th of November with a rain date of the 13th.

Eagle Scout: No courts of honor noted.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht said that the program continues to be on hold for the foreseeable future.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht talked about redoing the base and created a case for the model of the Japanese I-Boat that we received at the West End Fair. Will have the float spruced up prior to the Veterans Day Parade.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of USS Shark II. Shark II was lost due to anti-submarine operations after sinking a Japanese Prison Ship.

Old Business: We were invited to attend the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Palmerton, PA. This parade is on the 6th of November and will step off at 2PM. Further information as the parade date gets closer. There is a rain date of 13 Nov if needed.

Mike Smith reiterated that he mailed the Eagle Scout Package to Alex Heeter as there were no takers to do the presentation. This was to be held at the at 1 PM on Sunday the 25th of September. The location is the VFW Post 2540, 546 Fawn Road, East Stroudsburg, PA.

The Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Vaughn M. Telepo was held at the Dyle E Bray Home Association (former VFW) at 202 Washington Blvd in in Bangor, PA on Sunday, the 16th of October 2022 at 2PM. This package was mailed to Gene Peppe who stepped in at the last minute to do our presentation.

Mike Smith received another Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite after getting home from the September meeting. This is for a Justin Drennan and will be held at the Zion United Lutheran Church, 1919 US-209 in Brodheadsville, PA. The date of the court is on Saturday the 5th of November 2PM. David Wright said he would do this presentation.

Bob thanked Alan Dempsey and those that volunteered their time at the Pocono Raceway. We received \$100 per person per day spent at the racetrack. As mentioned by the treasurer, we received \$1100 for our time.

Bob Smith said that the raffle sales were very good this year.

New Business: Mike Smith received an Eagle Scout Court of Honor invite for a Jacob Possinger to be held on Saturday the 29th of October at 1PM. This will be held at the Effort United Methodist Church, Merwinsburg Rd in Effort, PA. Package will be mailed if no takers.

Last Eagle Scout Court of Honor request received is 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 will be held at 2PM. Package will be mailed if no takers.

David Wright brought up a suggestion in having some sort of banner made to use during the Memorial Day parade for those who never came back. David Wright was asked to provide more information.

Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2023. National Dues are \$25. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out for those not at our meeting. Please get them sent in.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths for Veterans campaign again this year. The local Lions Club will have a ceremony on the 12th of November at 11AM at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The ceremony lasts about half an hour and all are invited.

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 cost per member and one guest is \$25 per

person. For more than one guest, the cost will be \$50 per extra person. The base will pick up the remaining cost.

Good of the Order: Raffle winner will be picked at the end of the meeting and the winner will be contacted.

Also, thank you to the wives for the food that was provided at the end of the meeting.

Tom Crosby said that the legion post will be doing a Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 12th around the flagpole around 6PM. There will be an open bar and food after the ceremony. All are welcome to attend. It will be \$20 per person unless you are a member of the Wilson-Fischer Post, then it will be picked up by the Son's of the American Legion.

Bob Smith asked again for any thoughts and a party on obtaining Ken Smith's belongings and unfinished boat that are in New Jersey. The boat is about 18 feet long and will need a trailer to move it. Looking for input on when to do this move and ideas where the boat can be placed. One idea is to possibly sell it for Ken. We may even get the plans for the float back, the copies went to a now defunct base in California.

Calendar of Events:

29 Oct 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jacob Possinger.

5 Nov 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Justin Drennan.

6 Nov 2022: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Palmerton, PA. Rain date on the 13th.

8 Nov 2022: Election Day.

12 Nov 2022: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Hunter Rack.

16 Nov 2022: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours. Budget / Donation Committee ½ hour before this meeting.

24 Nov 2022: Thanksgiving.

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

25 Dec 2022: Christmas

1 Jan 2023: New Years.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 Nov 2022 at 1900 Hours at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Crosby read the benediction to the members present.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by John Kelly.

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.”

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1949 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. Food was provided by Sheila Smith and other wives at the conclusion of tonight’s meeting.