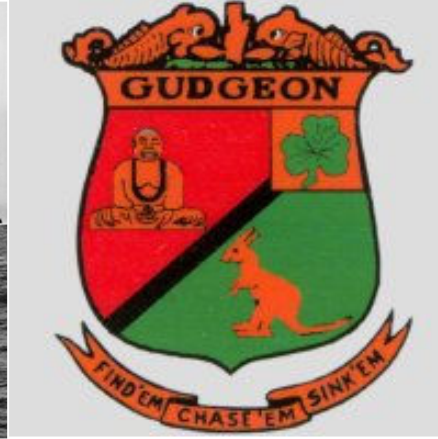


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 17 April 2024



## USS Gudgeon SS-211

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:aquaknot339@gmail.com)

**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 715-9257. 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 1911 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 April:

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	80 Men
08 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	88 Men
10 Apr 1963	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men
24 Apr 1988	USS Bonefish	SS 582	3 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Scott Gerber, Bruce Frisch, Bob Sweeney, David Wright, Don Ransel, Gene Peppe, Bob Obrecht, Bob Smith, Ken Kull, and Eric Geores.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on for the benefit of new member Eric.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting. Unable to send minutes for the March meeting due to issues with Outlook 365 and sending to a group. The March meeting was cancelled due to poor weather up in the Pocono Lake area that night. Multiple Snow Squalls.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x.xx as of 31 March 2024. There are a couple of outstanding checks to be cleared and a few more checks to be written at tonight's meeting. Alan wrote a check for the West End Fair for \$401 of which \$135 is for electricity usage. Will contest the charge again for this year. The first payment of \$201 was made and leaves a balance of \$200.

As a reminder, we have the following Declarations and Nominations for Office, as this is an election year for our base.

The election of new officers was to have bene in March, but with the meeting cancelled, the election and installation of officers occurred at the beginning of the April meeting.

These were the declarations for office:

Bob Smith declared his intent to remain Base Commander

Alan Dempsey declared his intent to remain Base Treasurer.

Mike Smith declared his intent to be the Base Secretary.

Bob Obrecht declared his intent to remain the Base Vice Commander.

As there were no other nominations for office, the Base Secretary cast the vote that the members that declared, remain in office. David Wright administered the oath of office. The current slate of officers remains until 2026.

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that we are now at 50 members with the addition of Eric to our base.

**Budget / Donation:** No report.

**Correspondence:** Only correspondence was a letter given to the secretary from Alan Dempsey. It was a thank you letter dated from Feb 2024 from Tunnels to Towers for our donation.

**Flag Box Program:** Alan stated he picked up the flags from Kinsley's Shop Rite and the post office in Blakeslee. Alan said he needs to talk to the manager at Shop Rite. They moved the box to the outside and it is now being filled with trash on top of the flags. Bob Smith picked up the flags at the Flag Store.

**Publicity:** No report.

**Parades:** Memorial Day Parade on the 27<sup>th</sup> from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The route will be the original route. More information in Old Business.

**Eagle Scout:** Please see Old and New Business.

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

**Ships Store:** No report.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht talked about the float being in good condition and the addition of a bubble machine to the back to simulate being underway during parades.

**Fundraising:**

**Bus trip:** On hold till further notice.

**Speakers Bureau:** No report.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Gudgeon. Sunk by Japanese Anti-Submarine operations according to their records at the end of the war. She was lost with all hands.

**Old Business:** The Memorial Day Parade will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. The route is the original route of starting at the Elementary Center and traveling in a loop onto 423 and back to Old 940 to the cemetery. The ceremony will begin after all have gathered. There will be food provided by the post afterwards. Step off will be at 10AM and a memorial service will be held at the cemetery across from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center.

We had a good turnout of members, good weather and had a good-sized crowd for the St Patrick's Day Parade in Bethlehem back in March.

Alan Dempsey talked about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again this year. He has signup sheets for those wishing to volunteer. The dates for the race weekend are from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. More information will be available as we get nearer to the dates of the races. Alan said he is waiting to be contacted by Starr about volunteering.

Bob Smith said that he has procured the new Small Games of Chance License to be displayed at the fair and will be with the trailer, and stated he will get the raffle tickets in the

works. Last year we purchased 8000 tickets. The prize again this year is \$1000 and the drawing will once again be held at the end of our October meeting.

Mike Smith talked about the base Eagle Scout program. Mike said he had taken over the duties from Frank McDevitt a couple of years ago. Mike said that it was starting to get busy again. The last couple of invitations came via e-mail, while one was sent via mail. Mike talked about the program and the creation of the certificates and the certificate holders, and that we give each Eagle Scout a patch as well. We are also coming up on 280 certificates mailed or presented in person.

The first invitation was for Eric Ranzan and forwarded the information to the base members soliciting for a presenter. I was in Texas at the time doing work. As there were no takers, the certificate package was mailed. The Court of Honor was to be held at the St Paul's Lutheran Church in Tannersville, PA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb at 1PM

The second invitation that was received by email is for a Thomas John Cullen and was held on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April at the Effort United Methodist Church in Effort, PA. The court was be at 1PM. Alan Dempsey attended this presentation.

The third Court of Honor that was received by mail this time, was for a Jordan Smalley and was to be held on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March at the Faith United Methodist Church in Stroudsburg, PA. There were no takers for this court as of the February meeting. Mike Smith decided at the last moment to do the presentation for our base.

We try to attend these Courts of Honor and do our presentation in person. All are welcome to join the presenter. Mike said he had the honor of presenting the first court of honor certificate to a young girl in the area.

**New Business:** There was another Court of Honor invitation for James Stewart Fahl. The court is to be held at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, 1445 Big Ridge Dr, East Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, 20 April at 1PM.

Another Court of Honor invite was received by e-mail. This is for a Jacob Allan Greene and is to be held at the East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, 83 S Courtland Street, East Stroudsburg, PA. The court will be on Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May at Noon, with a reception after. There were no takers as of the night of the meeting.

Bob Sweeney talked about the poker chips / challenge coins. He said he was going to give them to our storekeeper, Dave Wright. He is looking on how our base will distribute them. They are ceramic and resemble a poker chip. Bob Sweeney stated that we have 250 of them. After some discussion amongst the members present, Bob Smith suggested that a committee be formed to figure out how we will handle the tokens. There was proposal to add one to each Eagle Scout Package. Mike Smith took a package of 25 to do so.

Bob Smith received a phone call from the district commander during our meeting to talk about having each base provide some information so the national site can be updated.

Bob Smith talked about the banner for the USS Barb and mentioned that he was unaware that the Barb saw action in European waters. The battle flag does show a German Swastika, meaning a vessel was sunk. Alan stated that the first five patrols by the Barb were in European / Atlantic waters.

Dave Wright talked about the storekeeper items he inherited from Bill Klose when he took over the duties. There are patches in a book, others can be ordered. There are also 2024 calendars available. Dave also stated that this is the 60<sup>th</sup> year of USSVI. There is a commemorative patch, and a commemorative coin. They are \$10 each or both for \$15.

Tom Crosby talked about the items that they want to put back up on the walls at the legion post. He is asking for anyone who would like to help. There is a lot of stuff that we have inherited over the years, including the items we received from Frank McDevitt. Tom is just trying to clear up what the post has and what to display.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith talked about Darel Handley being eligible for Holland Club this year after being Qualified in Submarines for 50 years. Bob Smith said he will mail the Holland Club package to him.

Bob Smith said that he picked up the remaining items from Frank McDevitt's family last week.

Tom Crosby brought up the possibility of look at renaming the base after either our founding member Bob Vaughan or former Base Commander Frank McDevitt. We will look into this, but it is unknown if any USSVI Base has done so.

Frank McDevitt will be interred at Arlington Nation Cemetery in August. They are backlogged in the burials and that is when Frank will be buried. Also, we learned that Frank's friend Joan, passed away a week before the meeting.

Bob Smith also came across the title to the trailer while going thru the items from Frank. The title is already in the name of the Pocono Base, so no action is required for transfer other than a change of address.

### **Calendar of Events:**

20 Apr 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for James Stewart Fahl. The court is to be held at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall, 1445 Big Ridge Dr, East Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, 20 April at 1PM. This package was mailed as there were no takers when the email was sent out.

4 May 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Jacob Allan Greene. The court is to be held at the East Stroudsburg Untied Methodist Church at Noon. No takers for the presentation.

15 May 2024: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

27 May 2024: Memorial Day Parade at Pocono Pines. Line up by 0930 hrs. at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center 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 2024: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

4 Jul 2024: Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

12 - 14 Jul 2023: Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering

17 Jul 2024: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

21 Aug 2024: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post

18 - 24 Aug 2024: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 15 May 2024 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.”

Mike Smith offered a benediction at the end of our meeting as provided by our chaplain.

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

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2005 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

