

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 13 June 2024



USS Herring SS-233

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

Storekeeper - David Wright 201 Bear Run Dr. Drums, PA 18222

Ph 570-233-8044. E-mail address: dgwchem@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 1714 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Acting Chief of the Boat tolled the Base Bell once for each of the following US Submarine Force Losses during the Month of May:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

A moment of silence was held in lieu of the invocation.

The Base Vice-Commander led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members present were: Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Scott Gerber, David Wright, Gene Peppe, Ken Kull, and Bruce Frisch.

We were also joined by the wives of some of our members.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and the corrected minutes are posted on the website.

Treasurers Report: The Base Commander read the treasurers report. The treasurer was not at this month's meeting. Bob Smith said that there was an actual ending balance of \$x.x with a couple of checks outstanding.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are still 50 active members as of this meeting.

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle

Correspondence: The secretary picked up the mail for the base. It was the bill and insurance coverage for our base for the year. Will send the bill and paperwork to the treasurer to be paid.

Flag Box Program: Sheila Smith picked up the flags from the Flag Store in Sciotta. David Wright brought in more flags from the VA Hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Publicity: No Report.

Parades: No parades until the Carbon County and Monroe County Veteran's Day Parades in November. Paperwork has been submitted for the Carbon County parade in Lansford, PA this year.

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

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

Ships Store: David Wright has taken over the storekeeper duties. Please contact him for items from the ship's store.

Float Committee: No report. Float is ready to go for this season.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are available to members.

Bus trip: No Report.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Herring. The cause of the loss was from Japanese anti-submarine actions and was struck in the conning tower by a shore battery. This was noted as the only submarine sunk by land batteries during the war.

Old Business: Bob Smith asked if anyone had any information on public events that we may wish to attend, to please let him know and get placed on our base calendar on the website.

Mike Smith reminded the members present that Alan is still asking for members to help out during the race weekend. Our base will receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We will 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. One week before the race, we will be given the parking pass needed to enter the grounds and that he would e-mail them to those attending. We will enter at Gate 5 off of Long Pond Road and make our way to the far end of the parking area. The volunteer tent is located in that area. Make sure that those who are volunteering, bring a hat, sunblock, hearing protection (the cars are loud, but the jet driers are even louder) and something to drink for the day.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 18th to the 24th of August. The hours for the fair are now 2 to 9 daily except Wednesday, where it is 12 to 9. Setup will be on the 17th and teardown on the 25th. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website. There were sign-up sheets available at the meeting for anyone wishing to sign up.

There are two outstanding Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests.

The first request is for Christian Santos and will be held on Sunday the 23rd of June at 1PM at the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Hall, 5335 Hummingbird Drive, Pocono Summit. There will be a reception after the ceremony.

The second request is for Daniel Juchnicki and will be held at the Barrett Township Administrative and Recreation Complex (BARC), 1200 Rte.390, Cresco, PA. The ceremony will be at 2PM on Saturday the 13th of July with a reception after.

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.

Scott Gerber talked about the new banner for the USS Barb. Alan and Scott had submitted the design to the company to make the banner and they modified the design. The banner is six foot by one foot with grommets for hanging. All the members present liked the design. Scott said he e-mailed the new design to Alan.

New Business:

There were a number of new Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests received. Most of the invites have been from e-mail lately.

There was a request for Andrew Huntsberger. The court is to be held at the St Matthew's Church, 78 Ridgeway Street, Stroudsburg at 11AM on Saturday, 22 June 2024. This package will be mailed as there were no takers as of this meeting

There was a mailed invitation for a Jordan Oney. The court is to be held at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1160 Clause Drive, Stroudsburg, PA at 2PM on Saturday 11 August 2024. There are no takers as of the June Meeting.

Bob Smith e-mailed Mike Smith a Court of Honor request from Philip Cicchinelli. His court of honor is to be held at the Ebenezer E.C. Church, 441 Center Avenue, Jim Thorpe, PA on Sunday the 30th of June at 3PM. Mike Smith said he will do this presentation.

Mike Smith received a Court of Honor invitation via e-mail prior to the meeting. The court of honor is for Phoenix Kalavoda. The court will be held at the Carbon County Environmental Educational Center (CCEEC), 151 W White Bear Drive, Summit Hill, PA on Saturday the 29th of June at 1PM. Bruce Frisch has volunteered to do this presentation.

Bob Smith said that we are scheduled to attend the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ again this year. The date of the event is on the website under the calendar of events.

Raffle tickets are available for pick up at the meeting. Bob will send packets to each member as well.

David Wright purchased a dolly to help move the Storekeeper supplies around. This purchase was approved by the members at the May Meeting.

Good of the Order:

Alan Dempsey was not at the meeting tonight. His wife, Vicky, was in the hospital for knee replacement surgery.

Mike Smith said that there are some submarine books available for others to take home and read.

Food was made available by our base after the Flag Day Ceremony.

Calendar of Events:

22 Jun 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Andrew Huntsberger. The court is to be held at the St Matthew's Church, 78 Ridgeway Street, Stroudsburg at 11AM. This package will be mailed as there were no takers when the email was sent out.

23 Jun 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Christian Santos. The court will be at the Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Hall, 5335 Hummingbird Lane, Pocono Summit at 1PM. This package was mailed as there were no takers when the email was sent out.

29 Jun 2024: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Phoenix Kalavoda. The court is to be held at the Carbon County Environmental Educational Center (CCEEC), 151

W White Bear Drive, Summit Hill, PA at 1PM. Bruce Frisch will do this presentation.

30 Jun 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Philip Cicchinelli. The court is to be held at the Ebenezer E.C. Church, 441 Center Avenue, Jim Thorpe, PA at 3PM. Mike Smith will do this presentation.

4 Jul 2024: Happy 4th of July.

13 Jul 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Daniel Juchnicki. The court is to be held at the Barrett Township Administrative and Recreation Complex (BARC), 1200 Rte. 390, Cresco, PA at 2PM. There were no takers as of this meeting.

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

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

11 Aug 2024: Eagle Scout Cour of Honor for Jordan Oney. The court is to be held at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1160 Clause Drive, Stroudsburg, PA at 2PM

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

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

2 Sep 2024: Labor Day

7 Sep 2024: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 July 2024 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.”

A moment of silence was held in lieu of the benediction at the end of our meeting.

1st motion made by David Wright to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Ken Kull.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1737 hrs.

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

Ps. The members present joined the American Legion Members for the Flag Day Retirement ceremony after our meeting.

