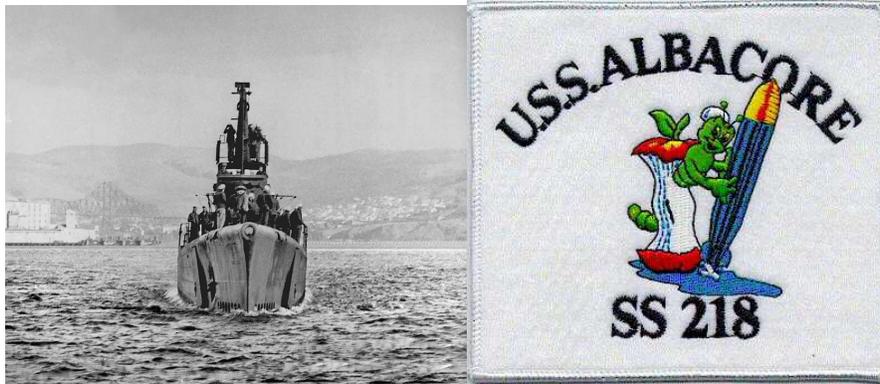


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 20 November 2019



## USS Albacore (SS 218)

### Base Officers

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were: Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Ken Kull, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Tom Crosby, Gene Peppe, George Williams, Don Ransel, Frank McDevitt, Darryl Betz, David Wright, Bill Klose, Marvin Bard and Bob Sweeney.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served on-board for the benefit of new members George Williams and Marvin Bard. Marvin qualified on the USS Greenling (SSN-614). George Williams qualified on the USS Ray (SSN-653).

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary provided the October Minutes for the members present as well as e-mailed to the base members. The October Minutes were posted to the website after making a correction in the spelling of Joe Lentivech's last name.

**Treasurers Report:** There were two reports from the treasurer, one is for the actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 Sep 2019 and the other is for the actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Oct 2019. There is still an outstanding check to be cashed from the Pocono Raceway. We were entitled to 7 Man-Days of Volunteer Pay, but only received 3 Man-Days worth. Alan is awaiting either the remainder of the balance, or a full replacement check until the deposit is made.

#### **Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that we now are up to 54 members, Also, a reminder that base and National dues need to be in by the 14th<sup>t</sup> of December.

**Correspondence:** The secretary was given a pile of donation requests from Wounded Warriors and the Salvation Army via Bill Klose. One envelope from Wounded Warriors contained a Challenge Coin, another had wrapping paper.

**Flag Box Program:** Frank said that they finally retrieved the remaining one from Ken Smith and have placed them in storage. The box that was at the Shop Rite in Mt Pocono has been removed, due to condition of the box and a change in the management of the site. No longer allowed. The other boxes still in use could use some work, but they all continue to be used very well. The intention is to have the new box installed at the new Shop Rite in Stroudsburg, once it has been reconditioned.

**Publicity:** Bob Smith stated that he did not place any ads this month, as he was quite busy.

**Parades / Memorial Events:** No parades in the foreseeable future

**Budget / Donation:** The budget / donation committee has given their recommendations as to the disbursement of the raffle proceeds. To be listed under New Business.

**Storekeeper:** No Report

**Fundraising:** No report. Done for the year, funds have been disbursed.

**Dinner/Dance:** Christmas Dinner to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December at Woody's Country House in Blakeslee, PA

**Eagle Scout:** There are no up-coming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor as of this meeting.

**Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss):** Bob Obrecht said that the Lehigh Valley Base had an event on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Bob Obrecht talked about the purpose of this program and how they visit children at Lehigh Valley Hospital, mainly the oncology children and play games, read, etcetera. There is also a cap that is given to these children, as well as a certificate making them Honorary Members.

**Float Committee:** The members did a nice job of creating Bollards for the float and repaired the trailer lighting

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Albacore. Lost due to striking an underwater mine off of Hokkaido, Japan.

**Old Business:** Bob Smith has the final fundraising report available for the members, the report will not be mailed out, unless specifically asked for. Credit goes to Daryl Betz for selling over \$300 in individual sales, Gene Peppe for over \$150 and Frank McDevitt for over \$100.

Bob Smith stated that the Christmas Dinner / Party will be held at Woody's Country House in Blakeslee, PA this year. The location is about ½ mile north of Long Pond Road, which is the north end of the Pocono Raceway grounds on Route 115. Cocktail hour will begin at 18:00 (6PM) and dinner will begin at 1900 (7PM) Cost is \$20 per person with the base picking up the remaining tab. Bob is asking that money be sent to him for the dinner to minimize confusion the night of the dinner. Bob is also asking that members attending to either call him or e-mail him as to meal choice to obtain an accurate number for the restaurant. The menu is also posted on the base website.

Bob Smith talked about the numerous events that we going on in the month of November around the time of Veterans Day.

Bob Smith talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg back on the 3rd of November. The weather was perfect. Also, at the end of the parade there was music and food at Dansbury Park. The only major comment Bob has was our location within the parade. We were towards the end of the parade. The parade was well attended by our members.

Bob also talked about the Veterans Day Parade in Lehigh, PA back on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. It was a chilly, but sunny day and was well attended by our members. The secretary was able to cut and paste a picture of our float in the Times News.

Frank McDevitt talked about the Wreaths Across America that was held. Frank said it was a great success again this year and that they actually had it on 11/11 at 11AM.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout program for the benefit of our new members. Mike explained our involvement with the Eagle Scout Program and what we give each of the Eagle Scouts upon request and how it relates to the Submariner's, especially with the exploits of Eugene "Lucky" Fluckey and the USS Barb in WWII. We also talked about how each Court of Honor that we have attended over the years, that no two have ever been the same. Any member is welcome to attend to see what goes on, or to do the presentation itself.

Mike Smith stated that there were no upcoming Court of Honor requests. Mike and Bob also talked about how this was one of our busiest years and November being one of the busiest

months. Mike Smith said he did the presentation for a Brian Bauer on October 19<sup>th</sup>, which was after our meeting that month. The Court of Honor for November 2<sup>nd</sup> was the one that got interesting for Bob Obrecht, who did our presentation. It started as a single request for Ean Lofstrom, then turned into a double when Mike Smith received a letter for Anthony Marucci to be held on the same day and at the same location. It got even weirder as Mike contacted one of the parents to let them know we had a member going to represent us. Mike found out that there was a third Eagle Scout by the name of Joseph Scaglia. Instead of leaving him out of the honor, I made a certificate package for him as well. So the single, turned double, ultimately became a Triple Court of Honor. Interesting to note, these were three Eagle Scouts from three different Boy Scout Troops that decided to have one large ceremony.

There was one Court of Honor that got re-scheduled to November 9<sup>th</sup>, from a September date. This was for Camillo Reyes. Mike had already mailed his package for the September date, as Mike was to be out of town for the month.

Alan Dempsey stated that part of Route 115 form Long Pond Road, by the Pocono Raceway, all the way to Jonas Road in Effort has been named in memory of Submariner's. This is for the benefit of our new members. We had a dedication ceremony in which plaques were given to Jack Rader and his assistant. We are looking at getting one for Mario Scavello as well.

Our base is looking at getting a Plaque for Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store in Sciota, PA. She has sponsored our raffle tickets for the last couple of years. We are also looking at either asking Chris Eckert, son of our late member George Eckert, if he wishes to be an honorary member, or become an associate member.

**New Business:** For the benefit of our new members, Bob Obrecht, Frank McDevitt and Alan Dempsey talked about the volunteering at the Pocono Raceway during the events last summer. Each Volunteer organization would get \$90 per person per day of volunteering towards their organization. Since Frank McDevitt volunteered for a few days last year, our daily rate went up to \$95 per person per day. Starting with the third year, the rate gets capped at \$100 per person per day. For next year though, there is only one race weekend for NASCAR. The dates are the 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of June and will feature two Cup Series Races on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will have the Xfinity Series before the Cup Race and Sunday will have the Gander Truck Series race before the Cup Race. On Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be the ARCA Series Race. This represents a great way to earn money for our base. We help with seating, bag checks, the Sensory Room and other activities, except parking.

From Bob Smith, he wants to remind everyone that next year is an election year for new officers. Please make your nominations accordingly. Nominations take place in February and go to the March Meeting, At that point a new board will be sworn in. The positions last for two years. They are Base Commander, Base Vice-Commander, Base Treasurer and Base Secretary.

The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. The following is the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$50
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$200
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$400
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$100
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$300
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$100

Salvation Army USA	\$200
Operation Touch of Home	\$100
Disabled American Veterans	\$200

The base added new charity was added, called Operation Chill Out, they are a lot like Valor and a donation of \$200 was made. Tom Crosby introduced another charity called Adopt a Platoon. Their purpose is the following: Supports American military personnel overseas by providing an on-going mail support system and sending comfort items in care packages overseas. The committee agreed to donate \$100 towards this charity. Total of all donations is \$1950 for this year.

Alan also reported that we have donated \$50 towards the USS Clamagore, \$50 for the USS Batfish, which broke free of her moorings and re-floated due to the excessive rains the Oklahoma received. We have also donated and have sponsored the USS Hyman G Rickover and the USS Montana, both for \$30 each. This allows the members to receive the American Submariner magazine and make them aware of USSVI and what we do as an organization.

There was also a donation for the Joe Negri Fund earlier this year at the request of National.

Alan stated that there was an earlier donation to Wounded Warriors for \$50 and that our donation was matched to bring the total to \$100 for a donation.

The USS Drum and the USS Clamagore are being refurbished and use these donations to help with their upkeep.

A motion to donate as described was made by Tom Crosby, Mike Smith made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

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.

\*A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 DINQ at that time.\*

Bob Smith thanked Darryl Betz and Skip Donohue for the creation of a Facebook Page for our chapter. This will help get us more recognition and perhaps new members once they realize there are others in the area. There is a link on our homepage that will take you there.

Bill Klose said that the new calendars are available for purchase. Cost will be \$8 apiece. Bill is looking to get a count to order. Bill will have them at the Christmas Dinner.

Bob Smith asked the members if we should have a raffle for next year. Gene Peppe made the first motion that our base have a raffle with the same \$1000 prize. Darryl Betz made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed. We'll be looking for a new printer for the up-coming year.

Bob Smith read an e-mail from Huey Dietrich, our District Commander, asking that each base remit \$25 for the National Insurance, already done. Boat Sponsorships, which we have already done and a donation of at least \$1 per Holland Club Member to the Holland Club to help defray the costs of the having the Holland Club Challenge Coins made. Alan Dempsey

recommended that we send \$50. Tom Crosby made the first motion that we remit \$50 to the Holland Club. Don Ransel made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Bob also said that Huey plans on visiting every base within the state of PA.

Frank McDevitt is interested in our base rejuvenating the bus trip to NYC. There will be further information in the coming year. Frank would like to have it next September and is asking for help. There was quite a number interested in doing this, just from our base members. The secretary will work on the brochure.

**Good of the Order:** There will be no meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. As of tonight's meeting, there were only 23 people going to the dinner. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Smith know and have your money available either in a mailed check, or in person the night of the dinner.

Frank McDevitt talked about our member Rich Holmes. Janet had mailed Frank regarding his condition. Rich is now in the care of Hospice at home, as Rich cannot do much anymore without major help. He has also had a number of mini strokes in the last couple of years and Janet is worried that if he has one that caused him to become paralyzed, he would need to be placed into a nursing home. Tom Crosby proposed that we send something to Janet, like flowers, or something. We came to an agreement not to exceed a total of \$50. All of the members present agreed to this cap. We are also looking into something from Edible Arrangements.

Members on the Binnacle List:

Dual member Frank Almer from the Lehigh Valley Base was in the hospital due to stomach issues and is now at home recovering.

Barbara "Sam" Gallagher, wife of Skip Gallagher has been very sick lately and had been in the hospital for some time. She is now recovering at a convalescent home until she is ready to come home. The Gallagher's have also lost their daughter a number of months ago.

Don Ransel will be having eye surgery in the coming months.

We haven't heard from Bob Vaughan lately, but said that we were doing great. He and Ruth have been living in a senior home for a while now. Bob Vaughan is our founding member of the Pocono Base, chaplain emeritus and was once the National Chaplain.

Congratulations to new member George Williams. George came to our base already qualified in Submarines for 50+ years and was installed into the Holland Club at the conclusion of our meeting. George was presented his certificate, challenge coin and ID card.

### **Calendar of Events:**

28 Nov 2019: Thanksgiving.

13 Dec 2019: Annual Base Christmas Dinner to be held at Woody's on Rte. 115. Short meeting to be held before dinner.

25 Dec 2019: Merry Christmas.

1 Jan 2020: Happy New Year.

15 Jan 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

19 Feb 2020: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

**Next full meeting** will be held on, 15 January 2020 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Don Ransel to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby.

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 2012 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. As a reminder, Base dues are due by the 14th of December.

Ps. the diving alarm needs maintenance, it was sounding rather sour when Frank tried to operate it.