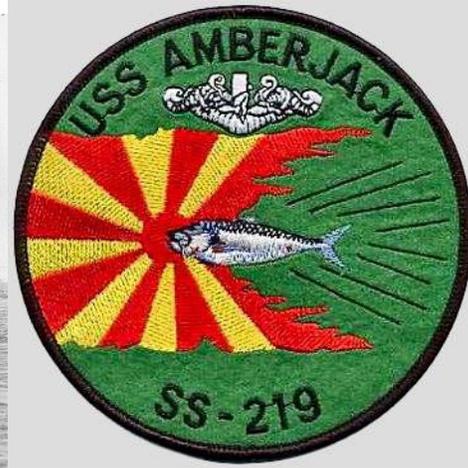
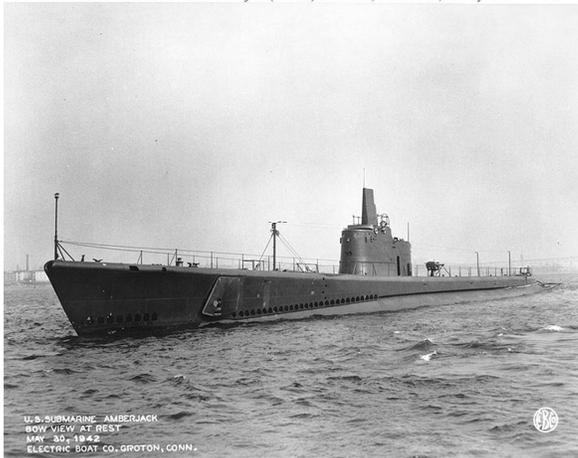


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 February 2020

Photo # NH 98486 USS Amberjack (SS-219) off Groton, Connecticut, 30 May 1942



USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlines@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 / alanalan9633@hotmail.com

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

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

Meeting called to order at 1902 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 February:

11 Feb 1942	USS Shark I	SS-174	58 Men
16 Feb 1943	USS Amberjack	SS-219	74 Men
27 Feb 1944	USS Grayback	SS-208	80 Men
29 Feb 1944	USS Trout	SS-202	81 Men
4 Feb 1945	USS Barbel	SS-316	81 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members with an invocation.

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Frank McDevitt, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bob Sweeney, Bill Klose, Darryl Betz, David Wright and Don Ransel.

We were also joined by a few wives and friend of the members present.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary the corrected Januarys Minutes will be re-submitted for posting to the website.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported the following ending balance for the month of January. There was an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 Jan 2020, with outstanding checks to be cleared. Base insurance and Small Games of Chance fees to be paid. The treasurer reported to National on the number of charities that our base donated to last year. We have made 19 donations last year. Alan talked about the balance that was owed to us from Pocono Raceway and that we finally received a check for the balance owed and then some. It has been deposited into our account.

Before the committee reports, Bob Smith said that we have Declarations for Office, as this is an election year for our base. We are also open for nominations.

Alan Dempsey declared his intent to be Base Treasurer and Chief of the Boat.

Bob Obrecht declared his intent to be Base Vice Commander.

Mike Smith declared his intent to be the Base Secretary.

Tom Crosby declared his intent to remain as Base Chaplain.

Bill Klose declared hit intent to remain as Base Storekeeper.

Bob Smith declines to make any declaration to remain as Base Commander. Bob is looking for someone else to take the Commander position, which he has held for 10 years. Bob said he would continue as Membership chair.

By the rules of the Base By-laws, the nominations for the Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will remain open thru the March Meeting, at which time the votes will be cast by the members present at the March Meeting and Installation of Officers occurs.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are 52 active members as of this meeting with no DINQ's. This is after losing two members to Eternal Patrol and Karl Pope being removed from our list.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The base received thank you letters from Valor Clinic and the Quilts of Valor. Also more donation requests from Wounded Warriors. Alan Dempsey reported that the donation to the Fisher House was returned due to have an incorrect address. Alan found the corrected address and re-submitted the donation to them.

Flag Box Program: Frank reported that a few of the boxes continue to be quite active and Alan commented on the condition of the one in Blakeslee as needed some maintenance. We will work on getting a party to

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers.

Parades: No parades until at least March. Next parade may be St. Patrick's Day, but no invitations have been received.

Eagle Scout: We also will be re-sending an Eagle Scout package to base member, Joe Lentivech in Georgia for his grandson, Quinn Henry Skurpski. Mike Smith had the last name spelled incorrectly. His court of honor is on the 24th of Feb. There is a Court of Honor for a Dylan Hannig on the Sunday the 15th of March from 1-3 PM at the Memorytown Heritage Barn just outside of Mount Pocono off of Rte 611. Bob Obrecht agreed to do the presentation.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Bob Obrecht reported that the Lehigh Valley Base will be going this Friday. Bob Obrecht said that any members may attend, but have to be a volunteer.

Ships Store: Bill Klose reported that he still had a fair amount of unsold 2020 calendars available to the members.

Float Committee: No Report.

Fundraising: Bob Smith stated the base voted to have another raffle this year and that we will attend the West End Fair again. Bob Smith also wished to talk to the Victorian Days committee about returning in September. He asked Tony Sturla to join him.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Amberjack. This month marks the 77th anniversary of the loss of the USS Amberjack in WWII. Amberjack was lost after being depth charged from anti-submarine attacks and being bombed by a patrol plane on the 16th of February according to Japanese records after the war. Sailors, rest your oars.

Old Business: Bob Smith talked about the raffle drawing this year being on the 21st of October. All members present agreed with this date. Tickets will be printed by Minuteman Press, who bought out Raffles for Less and the cost will be \$322 plus tax, since we do not have a State Tax Exemption Certificate.

Bob Smith stated that we had one member eligible for the Holland Club this year and that was David McIntyre. Since he lives in North Carolina, Bob mailed his certificate package to him.

Bus trip: We are looking at having a bus trip on Sept 19th to NYC this year. Looking at leaving from the Wilson-Fisher Post at 7AM and leave around 4:30 PM. Lunch will be on your own, but we are looking to have snacks and water for the trip. Drop off will be at the 9/11 Museum and we are looking at going to the Jewish Heritage Museum nearby. The rest of the day will be on your own. Stay tuned for further details. The committee will meet again at 6:15 PM on the day of the March Meeting. The bus we are looking into will hold 53 people

A down payment of \$200 will need to be made as a deposit for the Martz bus. David Wright made the first motion to make the deposit. Alan Dempsey made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Alan talked about the cost being about \$45-50 per person, to cover the rest of the bus fare, plus snacks and drinks and a little for our budget committee for donations. This is only for the bus itself, not any of the attractions in New York, since there is so much variation on the tickets for the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

Further details will be provided on the flyer when we get them created. We are looking to have all monies due by the 15th of August to pay the balance of the bus fare. Member get first dib's, then we open to the legion and then the public.

Bob Smith will go and get our Small Game of Chance Certificate early, so we can have the tickets printed.

New Business: Bob Smith is looking to see if anyone has the banner we used to have for our base picnic. Also, looking at possible having a base picnic later this year. Please give this some thought and how many would attend. Also suggestions where we could have one.

Bob Smith asking if our base would be interested in having Base Business cards for anyone to use. Bob Sweeney made the first motion to have the cards made. David Wright made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Also looking at going back to either paper, or plastic Base Membership Cards.

National is soliciting ads for the annual convention journal. No interest from our base.

Bob Smith will try to get with Tony Sturla about getting back into the Victorian Day's event in Belvidere, NJ. Would like to talk to the committee as we were passed over last year.

Good of the Order: We are still looking on getting flowers sent to Ruth Vaughan and Janet Holmes.

Bob said that the calendar of events on the base website is updated as far as possible. He will fill in information on the bus trip as it becomes available.

Ken Smith is still on the binnacle list. He is in pretty bad shape and is in a recuperation center after being released from the hospital. Also, he is being evicted from where he is living in Columbia, NJ and is planning on moving to where his daughter lives in Pittsburgh, or to Mexico, if his daughter moves there. Ev's daughter is the one who want Ken out of the apartment.

Gene Peppe requires a procedure to correct for an A Fib condition and will need a bypass.

Bob has been unable to get a hold of Gerald Zeman.

Ivan Meixell will be having a knee replaced.

Calendar of Events:

15 Mar 2020: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dylan Hannig at 1PM.

18 Mar 2020: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

15 Apr 2020: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 Mar 2020 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

“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.

1st motion made by Mike Smith to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1954 hrs.

Respectfully submitted
Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

