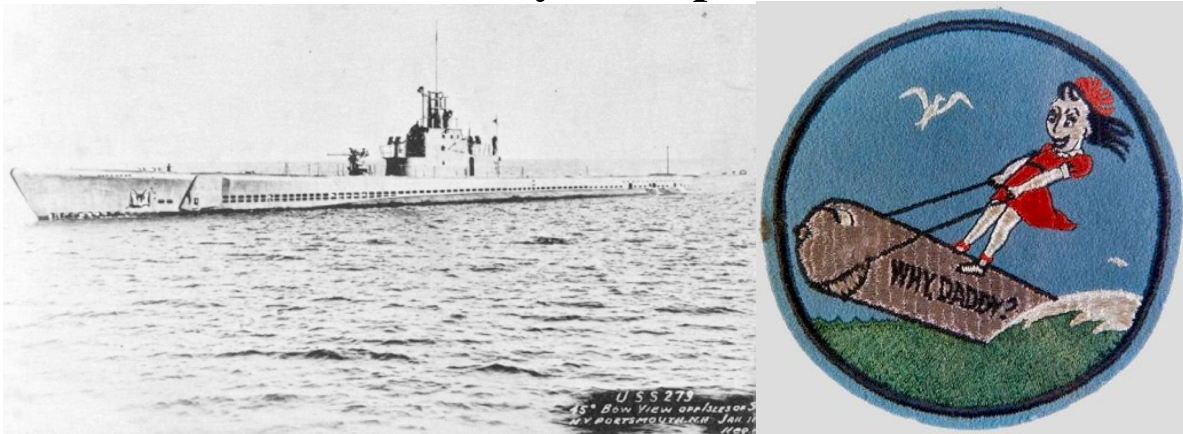


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 April 2023



USS Snook SS-279

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, Lehigh, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 715-9257. 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

Meeting called to order at 1905 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

Secretary Mike Smith led the members present with an invocation in the absence of the chaplain.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Frank McDevitt, Scott Gerber, Mike Smith, David Wright, Bob Smith, Ken Kull, Josh Kolar, Bob Sweeney, Bob Obrecht, and Tony Sturla.

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. The minutes were also posted to the website. The March minutes need to be corrected for Date.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 March 2023. There are a couple of outstanding checks to be cleared and a few more checks to be written at tonight's meeting.

The treasurer also reported that we have received our Small Games of Chance ID for the year.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are holding steady at 51 active members as of this meeting. Still need to recruit new members.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: The secretary read a letter from the given to him by Bob Smith. The letter was from the Keystone Base of USSVI, and it is an invitation to join them for the Armed Forces Day Celebration at the United States Submarine Service Memorial at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, PA on Saturday the 20th of May at 1PM. There will be a reception at the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club at 3PM. Bob Smith said that he added it to our bas calendar on the website. The secretary was also handed a copy of the contract for the West End Fair.

Flag Box Program: Bob Smith picked up the flags at the Flag Store. Box was nearly overflowing.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he has not placed any ads in the local papers.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade on the 29th from the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. The route will be the original. More information in Old Business.

Eagle Scout: There has been no correspondence.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht reported that the float needs more work than originally noticed. He said the wood needs repairing before painting. The float will need to be lifted off the cradle to facilitate painting. Looking to get a party together on the 6th or the 13th of May to affect the repairs. Bob Obrecht also brought replacement cleats to attach back to the float, as most of the others have broken off. They are also more to scale.

Fundraising: Bob Smith has the raffle tickets available.

Bus trip: On hold till further notice.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Snook. Possibly sunk by Japanese submarines.

Old Business: The Memorial Day Parade will be held on the 29th of May. The route is back to 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.

Alan Dempsey talked about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again this year. He has sign up sheets for those wishing to volunteer. The first is for the Great Pocono Raceway Airshow in May. The dates are the 27th & 28th of May. The dates for the race weekend are from the 21st to the 23rd of July. More information will be available as we get nearer to the dates of the races. Alan said he contacted Starr about volunteering for both and was asked to provide an estimate for how many are going for both. Please let Alan know what your intentions are so he can pass that along to Starr.

Mike Smith stated that he was able to obtain a new 10x10 canopy for use by the base. Forgot to bring to tonight's meeting. Bill was submitted to the treasurer for reimbursement.

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.

Bob Smith also said he ordered the raffle tickets. They are Mint Green this year and cost \$11 more than last year. The tickets were just duplicated from last year with a change of the date and the new license information. Tickets will be available at the next meeting. Bob is looking for help to sort and stuff envelopes with tickets for the members. Alan Dempsey said we got a donation of \$100 from the Flag Store to help defray the cost of the tickets.

Bob Obrecht said that due to lack of volunteers and other issues, we will not be attending the Crusaders for a Cause in Palmerton in May.

Bob Smith brought up the need to obtain a small stool or step ladder for the base. He asked if someone wanted to donate one or if the base had authorized the buy one. Josh stated that we could get one at Wal-Mart for about \$40.

Bob Smith talked about the contract for the West End Fair. The cost is over \$400 which includes a charge of \$135 just for electrical use. We only have LED Lighting and are in talks to get the price reduced. Bob asked for permission to send in the first half of the payment for the fair.

David Wright made the first motion for the base to send in the first payment for the fair. Josh Kolar made the second motion for the payment. All in favor, motion passed.

Josh Kolar stated that he was still looking into quotes for the new banners. He said that he has two so far and is waiting for a third quote. Pricing so far would be around \$100 per banner, maybe a bit of a discount for having multiples made. Josh was also asking if we had the original files for the base logo's to be used.

New Business: Mike Smith read out some propositions by Darryl Betz for our base to consider:

First was asking if the base would like to sponsor a 'Paver" stone for the USS Groton Memorial Park in Groton, CT. The cost is about \$300. The base did sponsor a brick years ago for the memorial at the Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Second item being asked is if the Base would like to sponsor the Pleasant Valley Cubs. This is to support the youth Football and Cheerleaders.

The third item, as stated, would be coming in a different e-mail was would we be interested in entering into a raffle other than our own that is being sponsored by the Zinc City Motorcycle Club.

It was decided that we table these discussions until the May Meeting.

Tony Sturla will get the name of the new contact for the Belvidere Heritage Day, as Virginia is no longer in charge. The festival is typically the Saturday after Labor Day and is only a one-day event now. Further information will be forthcoming as the date draws closer. The base has done very well with raffle sales over the years.

Good of the Order:

Calendar of Events:

17 May 2023: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

27-28 May 2023: Great Pocono Raceway Airshow.

29 May 2023: 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 2023: Monthly Meeting and Flag Day ceremony with the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

4 Jul 2023: Happy 4th of July.

19 Jul 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

21 -23 Jul 2023: Pocono NASCAR Race Weekend for Volunteering

16 Aug 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post

20-26 Aug 2023: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 May 2023 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.

1st motion made by Josh Kolar to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1940 hrs.

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

