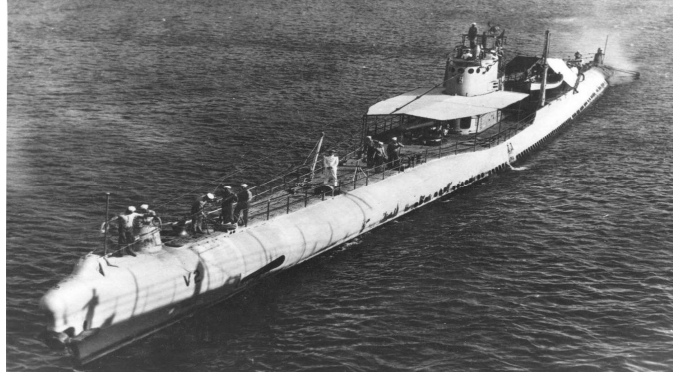


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 August 2023



USS Bass I SS-164

Base Officers

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

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Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732

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Base Treasurer / COB – Alan Dempsey / 132 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, PA. 18210

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

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Meeting called to order at 1906 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 August:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 17 Aug 1942 | USS Bass I | SS 164 | 25 Men |
| 29 Aug 1943 | USS Pompano | SS 181 | 77 Men |
| 13 Aug 1944 | USS Flier | SS 250 | 80 Men |
| 24 Aug 1944 | USS Harder | SS 257 | 84 Men |
| 06 Aug 1945 | USS Bullhead | SS 332 | 84 Men |
| 26 Aug 1949 | USS Cochino | SS 345 | 1 Man |
| 26 Aug 1949 | USS Tusk | SS 426 | 6 Men (assisting Cochino) |

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation and an extra prayer for Matthew Lott, son of member Paul Lott, who is dealing with cancer.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Frank McDevitt, Bob Smith, Mike Smith, Don Ransel, Bob Sweeney, Scott Gerber, Dave Padora, Tom Dahl, Ken Kull, Bob Obrecht and David Wright.

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

Meeting Minutes: The July Minutes have been posted. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members to look at.

Treasurers Report: The report stated an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 July 2023. One of the outstanding checks that has not been cashed is for the West End Fair for \$x.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we are still at 51 paid members. Bob hopes to sign up more at the fair. Bob also mentioned that dues for National have gone up \$5 for next year.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Flag Boxes: David Wright said he still continues to collect. and Alan Dempsey picked up the flags at Blakeslee and at Kinsley's Shop Rite.

Publicity: No Report

Parades: No invitations for parades yet. Next one will most likely be the Veterans Day parades in either Stroudsburg, PA or Carbon County. Carbon county cycles between Palmerton, Leighton, Jim Thorpe, Nesquehoning and Landford each year.

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

Budget & Donation: No report until raffle money is totaled.

Eagle Scout: The Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests are listed in the Calendar of Events and mentioned in both old business and new business.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht stated that the float is ready to go. The propeller has been repaired and all the items needed for the fair have been loaded.

Mike Smith read from the website: Naval History and Heritage Command on the USS Bass I. Originally named the V-2, she was a Barracuda Class Submarine, launched on 27 Dec 1924 from Portsmouth, NH. A fire broke out in the After Battery Room on 17 Aug 1942 and quickly spread to the after-torpedo room and starboard main motor. 25 sailors died from asphyxiation.

Old Business: There was a Dual Court of Honor for Nathan Calhoun and Robert Dutt. The court of honor was held at Chestnuthill Township Park on Saturday, 22 July at 1PM. This was emailed to the members on the 27th of June. As there were no takers to do the presentation, both certificates were mailed on the 15th of July.

The West End Fair is just around the corner. The setup is on Saturday the 19th of August around 10AM. Bob is still looking for help to set it up. Any member wishing to man the booth and haven't signed up, please contact Bob Smith and look at the schedule on our website. As it stands, the hours of the fair are from 2-9 PM daily starting Sunday the 20th except Wednesday and going thru to Saturday the 26th of August. Teardown will be on the 27th around 10AM. Also, bring a chair as we have a limited number. We will have to use Gate 2 for entry, since the passes for Lot S now cost \$10 per pass. For those coming down multiple days, DO NOT surrender your pass for Gate 2. Bob suggested that we offer the same incentive as before about covering the dues for the remainder of this year and next year. David Wright made the first motion that the base offer the discounted rate of \$25 for the remainder for this year and next year. Don Ransel made the second motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Alan Dempsey thanked all those who volunteered at the Pocono Raceway. Alan said we worked 14 Man-Days at the Pocono Raceway between the Airshow and the NASCAR Weekend, and we should expect to see a check for \$1400 to our base.

Bob Smith purchased the bubble machine as was discussed at last month's meeting and we will demo it. It runs on batteries or can be plugged into an outlet. We also have the 10x10 canopy that can also be used where needed, most likely at Belvidere and other events.

Alan Dempsey Tom Crosby also talked about base volunteering at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem on the last full weekend (the 22nd-24th) of September. Our time for manning the Beer Tent is Sunday the 24th of September from 1-4PM. We have the required 8 people to man the beer tent. We will pour beer, check ID's and run the tent and collect the money for our stint. Any tips would belong to our organization. Friends and family can help as well and count towards the number we need. The minimum age to serve beer is 21. Information for shuttles and places to park will be upcoming. A volunteer pass will be given to those volunteering. Entry to the event is free.

We are now in possession of our base banner. Josh and Pat Kolar dropped it off last week at Bob Smith's house.

New Business: Bob Smith recapped his attendance to the state meeting that was held in Harrisburg, PA last Saturday and was hosted by our District Commander, Tom Denton and our Northeast Regional Director, Leslie Altschuler. Items of discussion were communications between the bases and communications with National. There was also a session on recruitment and retention, especially with the increase in National Dues. There was also discussion on using the social networking tools, Facebook, Twitter (X), etc.... to get the message out as to who we are and the purpose of the organization. One of the bases in PA goes to senior living homes and gives out information about their base on what looks like poker chips.

Bob Smith said that he gave Skip Donohue software to create a newsletter for the base.

Good of the Order:

Mike Smith will take the Klaxon home to give it some maintenance and bring it to the fair on Saturday.

Bob Smith said he has the business cards available to the members of the base for us to hand out to prospective new members. Bob Obrecht had said he met a veteran at Shea's in Palmerton and that the person was not interested in joining our group.

Calendar of Events:

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

4 Sep 2023: Labor Day

9 Sep 2023: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

20 Sep 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

22-24 Sep 2023: Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival. Our shift to man the Beer tent is on the 24th from 1-4PM.

18 Oct 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. The Raffle Winner will be drawn at end of this meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 Sept 2023 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Don Ransell.

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 the meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1933 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

