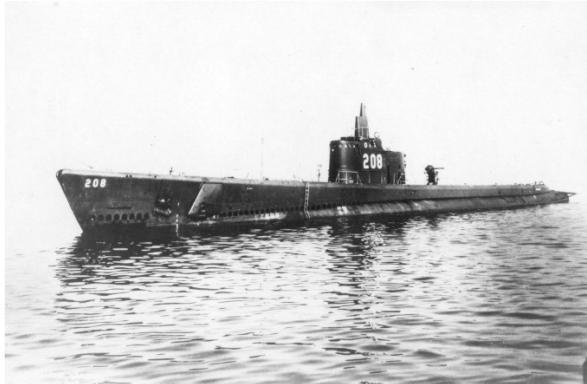


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 15 February 2023



USS Greyback (SS-208)

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 Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

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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 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 delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Member's present were: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Frank McDevitt, Bob Sweeney, Mike Smith, Scott Gerber, Tony Sturla, Bob Obrecht, Skip Gallagher and Bob Smith.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they served / qualified on for the benefit of our older members meeting the newer members.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary thanked Tom Crosby for taking the minutes for the January Meeting. The secretary went home ill the night of the meeting. Minutes were posted as is from Tom Crosby and were also e-mailed to the members.

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 2023. There are outstanding checks to be cleared. One of the checks is for the donation to the VA for the lunch. There was also base insurance to be paid. Upcoming will be the Small Games of Chance and any other payments as necessary.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that now have 51 active members as of this meeting. There are 15 life members and thirteen Holland Club members which will change tonight. There will be a Holland Club installation at the conclusion of tonight's meeting. National is also raising their dues on April 1st. The members can still decide to become life members and will be prorated for dues already paid this year.

Budget / Donation: Donations that our base has given out is over \$xk since we started. The breakdown is on the website.

Correspondence: The Base Secretary was handed three thank you letters from Alan Dempsey for our donations. They were from the Fisher House, Warwick Valley Quilters Guild, and the Salvation Army.

Flag Box Program: Flag boxes continue to be productive. Bob Smith said he picked up the flags from the Flag Store in Sciota, PA. One of our flag boxes has gone missing and no-one knows who took it or why.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers but will look into restarting this practice. Tom Crosby asked if the base wishes to join the Legion at the gun show coming to Split Rock Resort in Lake Harmony, PA on the St Patrick's Day weekend. Would be an opportunity to help recruit new members.

Parades: No parades until at least March. There is the St Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg that is scheduled for Sunday the 19th of March. We have not received an invitation for this one. Memorial Day parade is up in the air at this time. No one wants to run it. Stay tuned for further information.

Eagle Scout: Mike Smith reported that there are no invitations to any Eagle Scout Court of Honors. None receipted by mail or thru the phone.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht is looking to get together when the weather turns better to have the boat repainted. The paint needs to be redone after all of these years. Gene Peppe made a suggestion that we add Black Bunting to the float for Memorial Day. Gene said he had two with him tonight and will look into obtaining two more. Tom Crosby made the first motion that we re-imburse Gene Peppe for the cost of the buntings. Bob Sweeney made the second motion, all in favor, motion passed. Tom Crosby also recommended that we have another banner made that has our creed on it and hang from both sides.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Grayback. Grayback was lost due to a direct hit from a bomb dropped by a Japanese aircraft and finished off by Anti-Submarine operations. She was lost with all hands.

Old Business:

Tom Crosby talked about the parade on Memorial Day this year. Currently, there is no parade scheduled. Stay tuned for further information.

Bob Smith asked member Scott Gerber about his efforts to advertise for us on the local tv channels. Scott said he put them in for this region, but as he does not have those channels, he was unable to see if the information was aired.

Bob Smith is asking the members to take a look at the Base Website and look at the calendar. He is looking for any updates needed.

New Business: Bob Smith talked about the raffle tickets and the preference of stapled vs glued booklets. We will look into having them stapled this time. The glued version had a tendency to fall apart and a ticket may go missing. Bob is looking into having the ticket printing expedited.

Alan Dempsey said that the Pocono Race Weekend is July 21 – 23. The Arca race is on Friday the 21st. The Truck & Xfinity races are on the 22nd and the one and only Cup race is on the 23rd. They are always looking for volunteers to help out with checking coolers, manning the ticket areas, ushering / monitoring the stands. We do not work in the parking lots. Also, this year is the Great Pocono Raceway Airshow /featuring the Blue Angels and the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team. The dates are the 27th and 28th of May. There is limited volunteering for this event. Alan will contact Star Warner and have our group added to the list.

Bob Obrecht talked about his daughter hosting Crusaders for a Cause Carnival that would be held at the park in Palmerton, PA. She is asking if we could set up the float at the carnival for no charge. We would also need the raffle tickets by the May meeting. Another item we would need is manpower to man the table. The hours are short, and there are 4 days of this carnival. More information will be on the website. There will be security each night. The tent would be set up the entire time.

Alan Dempsey will get the paperwork started to get the new Small Games of Chance license. The new number must be used, the old one is only good til its expiration date.

The National Convention is in Tuscon, AZ this year. They are looking to each base to advertise in their journal. There are different size ads and the smallest at a 1/8th page is \$45. After some discussion we declined to have an ad placed.

Good of the Order: Skip Donohue had knee replacement surgery the day before this meeting and is recovering at home.

Calendar of Events:

15 Mar 2023: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

19 Mar 2023: Stroudsburg St. Patrick's Day Parade at 1:30PM. No invitation received.

19 Apr 2023: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs. at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

27-28 May 2023: Great Pocono Raceway Airshow.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 Mar 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.”

Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction at the end of our meeting.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Skip Gallagher.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1950 hrs.

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

Ps. Bob Sweeney was inducted into the Holland Club at the end of the meeting. Congratulations on being qualified in submarines for 50 years. Pictures were taken and posted on the page.

