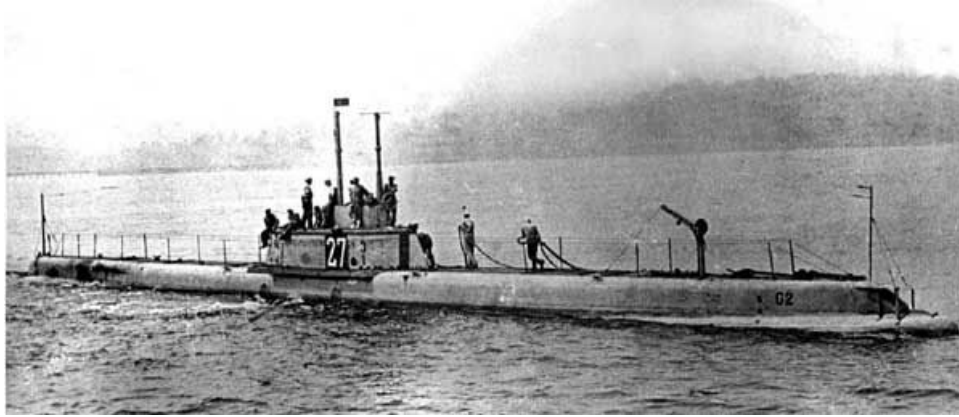


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 19 July 2023



**USS G-2 (Tuna I)**

**SS-27**

#### Base Officers

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

Ph (610) 681-2606 / E-mail address: [rlincs@ptd.net](mailto:rlincs@ptd.net)

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

Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: [aquaknot339@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:klaital@ptd.net)

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

Ph (570) 355-5876 / [scubapopalan@hotmail.com](mailto:scubapopalan@hotmail.com)

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

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

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with in invocation.

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

**Roll Call:** Members present were Frank McDevitt, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Don Ransel, Bob Smith, Gene Peppe, Bob Obrecht, Bob Sweeney, David Wright, Tony Sturla and John Kelly

We were joined by the wives of some of the members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The secretary stated that the minutes were sent early and also provided copies at the meeting.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 30 June 2023. There are more bills that need to be paid as of this meeting. One of the outstanding checks is the balance for the West End Fair and the insurance for the base and the float.

**Committees:**

**Membership:** Bob Smith reported that there are still 51 active members as of this meeting.

**Budget / Donation:** No report until after the raffle is complete.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence received other than Eagle Scout Program.

**Flag Box Program:** The boxes continue to produce quite well. The Flag Store was full, and the other boxes have been quite active, especially the post office in Blakeslee and Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheadsville. Alan said he deposited 6 bags at the shed at the legion. No one knows what happened to the box at the Pocono Pines Post Office. Box was pretty active.

**Publicity:** No Report.

**Parades:** No parades until around Veterans Day.

**Eagle Scout:** The base secretary talked about the Court of Honor invites we received. Information is in Old Business and under New Business.

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

**Ships Store:** No report.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht said that the float needs a few repairs. One of the props is missing a blade and he wants to center the boat in the cradle better.

**Fundraising:** Raffle tickets are starting to come back.

**Bus trip:** No information. Restart under progress for trip.

Michael Smith read about a boat that was lost before WWII. The reading was on the loss of the USS G-2 (Tuna I). This was from the website Naval History and Heritage Command. The boat sank unexpectedly on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July taking 3 of the 6 men with her. As there was nothing at the time to reach the boat even in only 13 fathoms deep, she was left on the bottom and decommissioned. They determined that it was too old to do anything with her, even though she was only ten years old.

**Old Business:** Mike talked about the request was for Brian O'Neill that was held on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of June at the Effort United Methodist Church. Darryl Betz had inquired as to whether the secretary had received the invite the day before and it came in the mail a day later. Darryl Betz did the presentation as it was for his own troop.

Alan is still asking for members to help out during the race weekend. As this is our fifth year for doing so, our base will receive \$100 per person, per day for our efforts. We will be placed around the stands, or other areas, except the parking lot. This is a great way to earn income for our base, to be used for base operations and our charitable organizations that we donate to. Please respond to Alan Dempsey. As of this meeting now have 6 people in total for the weekend. Alan says that one week before the race, we will be given the parking pass needed to enter the grounds and that he will e-mail them to those attending. We will enter Gate 5 off of Long Pond Road and make our way to the far end of the parking area. The volunteer tent is located in that area. Make sure that those who are volunteering bring a hat, sunblock, hearing protection (the cars are loud, but the jet driers are even louder) and something to drink for the day.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. The hours for the fair are now 2 to 9 daily except Wednesday, where it is 12 to 9. Setup will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> and teardown on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website. There were sign up sheets available at the meeting for anyone wishing to sign up.

Tom Crosby also talked about base volunteering at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem on the last full weekend (the 23-25<sup>th</sup>) of September. Our time for manning the Beer Tent is Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September from 1-4PM. We need about 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. Continuing to look for 8-12 people to man the tent. Tom is accepting names at this time. Please let him know by the August Meeting if you can help. Friends and family can help as well and count towards the number we need. 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. The entry to the event is free. We have already received \$40 since Jen is going to man the register for our group.

Our base will also be attending the Belvidere Day event in Belvidere, NJ. This is only a one day and will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Bob Smith is looking for help for set-up around 8 AM. The event runs from 9AM to 5PM. The site will be located near where we have been before, so as to not interfere with the car show. Last year was a good time with good weather.

Bob Smith stated he would pick up a small step ladder for use at the fairs as was discussed at a previous meeting, unless a member has one they are willing to donate or purchase. Will only need to have about three steps in order to reach the top of the tent when it is put up. Gene Peppe brought a small ladder with him to the meeting and donated it to the group.

Mike Smith brought the 10x10 canopy that the base authorized him to obtain.

No word has been received from Josh Kolar regarding the base banner. He has the one we use to be used as a template for a larger one for the float.

**New Business:** Mike Smith talked about an Eagle Scout Court of Honor that have been received.

There was an invitation received on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June for a dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nathan Calhoun and Robert Dutt. Was to be held at the Chestnuthill Township Park on Saturday, 22 July at 1PM. This was emailed to the members on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. As there were no takers to do the presentation, both certificates were mailed. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

Bob Smith asked if anyone would be interested in going to the District 3 conference in Harrisburg on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Bob said they plan on activities and interaction all day between the bases that make up District 3. There is a luncheon that will cost \$18 per person. Anyone interest, please see or contact Bob about going.

Bob Smith talked with Earl G from the Tri-State Base and got to talking about how their base uses a bubble machine in the back of their trailer that has their float. Makes for a good effect. After some discussion David Wright made the first motion for the base. Tony Sturla made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor, motion passed. Bob said he would pick one up.

Bob Smith said he went to our PO Box to renew for the next year and the cost has gone up to \$166 per year. Bob said we were not going to renew. After some discussion, we agreed to use the American Legion address for any of our correspondence. Tom Crosby said that legion could set aside a box for our mail. Tom will provide the address for the base and the secretary.

Alan Dempsey talked about trying to get larger signs for Rte 115 that designate a portion of the road as the Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway. Alan would like us to get in touch with Jack Rader about possibly having larger signs installed to replace the small ones. Blink and you will miss them. One is by Long Pond Road at the racetrack for Southbound. The other is at the traffic light in Effort for the north direction. Bob Obrecht said he would join the committee.

### **Good of the Order:**

**Binnacle List: None noted.**

### **Calendar of Events:**

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

22 Jul 2023: Dual Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Nathan Calhoun and Robert Dutt.  
Certificates were mailed.

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

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.

18 Oct 2023: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 16 Aug 2023 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Smith led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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 provided the benediction at the end of the meeting

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Tony Sturla. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1936 hrs.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael D. Smith  
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

