

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 14 June 2023



USS R-12unner



SS-275

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

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 / 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 1711 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 May:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men
18 Jun 1945	USS Bonefish I	SS 223	85 Men

A moment of silence was held in lieu of the invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Bill Klose, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Don Ransel, Skip Donohue, Gene Peppe, David Wright, Tony Sturla, Ken Kull, Scott Gerber, Bob Sweeney, Darryl Betz and Frank McDevitt.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and are posted on the website.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x as of 31 May 2023. Alan reported that there was only one outstanding check, and it was for Bill Klose to reimburse for the calendars that Bill purchased last year.

Committees:

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

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle

Correspondence: The secretary said the correspondence was for the Eagle Scout Program. The secretary also received a couple of thank you letters that were received by Bill Klose for our donations to the Salvation Army, dated 2018 and 2019.

Flag Box Program: The flag drop boxes continue to be highly active. Flags were picked up at the Blakeslee Post Office, Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheadsville, PA. The Flag Store in Sciota, PA and the community where David Wright lives.

Publicity: No Report.

Parades: No parades on the horizon. Next one will tentatively be 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 talked about the float needing a new screw for the port side. This one that was on there, fell off during the Memorial Day Parade.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are available to members.

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

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Runner. The cause of the loss remains unknown as she was lost with all hands.

Old Business: Bob Smith asked if anyone had any information on public events that we may wish to attend, to please let him know and get placed on our base calendar on the website.

Alan Dempsey talked about the Pocono Airshow and thanked Scott Gerber for volunteering as well. The base earned \$400 for the two days there.

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 5 people 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 would e-mail them to those attending. We will enter at 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 20th to the 26th 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 19th and teardown on the 27th. 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.

A Court of Honor request was received by Mike Smith for Michael Rodriguez that was held on Sunday, the 4th of June at Our Lady of Victory, 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Tannersville, PA. There were no takers for this court and the certificate package was mailed.

Anyone else who would like to see a court of honor can do so. Bob had posted the information on the base website. Just click on the link to the Boy Scouts on the main page and it will take you to all of the scouts we have sent packages to or attended in person over the years.

The base is looking to reschedule the bus trip to NYC for around September 2024. Too late in the current year to get the plan started. Will need to relook the cost of the bus, potential number of people that want to go and get a cost estimate per person.

The original wreath that the base had was located and used for the Memorial Day Service. The replacements that were purchased by Bob and Sheila were returned to Amazon.

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 stated he has a couple and he would bring one with him.

Bob Smith said he will redo the laminated sheets that show who we donate to due to them becoming deteriorated over the years. Also, the dates need to be changed on them as well. Alan Dempsey recommended removing Wounded Warriors from the sheet as we have cut back on our donation to them over the years.

Darryl Betz talked about the following items that the base tabled in April:

First, Darryl was asking if the base would like to sponsor a ‘Paver’ stone for the USS Groton Memorial Park in Groton, CT. There are different images that we could have placed on the paver. The cost is about \$300. The base did sponsor a brick years ago for the memorial at the Tobyhanna Army Depot. Darryl Betz has the information on the pavers.

Alan Dempsey made the first motion for the base to purchase a memorial paver for the Memorial Park in Groton, CT. Skip Donohue made the 2nd motion. All in Favor, motion passed.

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. Darryl said that there are tiered levels of sponsorship to help the youth. This would give our base a bit of advertising. After some discussion, it was decided to table this idea until after the raffle is over.

No information on the base banners. No report from Josh Kolar.

New Business:

There was a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor request that was received. The request was for Brian O’Neill and is to be held on Tuesday, the 20th 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 will do the presentation for our base.

Bob Smith said that we are scheduled to attend the Victorian Days in Belvidere, NJ again this year. The date of the event is on the website under the calendar of events.

Raffle tickets are available for pick up at the meeting. Bob will send packets to each member as well.

Good of the Order:

Bob Smith received a bunch of tickets or coupons to go see the Monster Trucks at the Allentown Fairgrounds for those who wish to go. Dates are June 30, July 1st & 2nd for the show.

Alan Dempsey said that there are some submarine books available for others to take home and read. Bill Klose also mentioned he still has the books that were donated to us by former member Oliver Nordmark.

Food was made available by our base after the Flag Day Ceremony. Alan Dempsey thanked Sheila for her efforts in providing the food for tonight.

Calendar of Events:

20 Jun 2023: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brian O’Neill. Darryl Betz will be doing this presentation.

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.

4 Sep 2023: Labor Day

9 Sep 2023: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 1700 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.”

A moment of silence was held in lieu of the benediction at the end of our meeting.

1st motion made by Skip Donohue to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Mike Smith.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1753 hrs.

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

Ps. The members present joined the American Legion Members for the Flag Day Retirement ceremony after our meeting.

