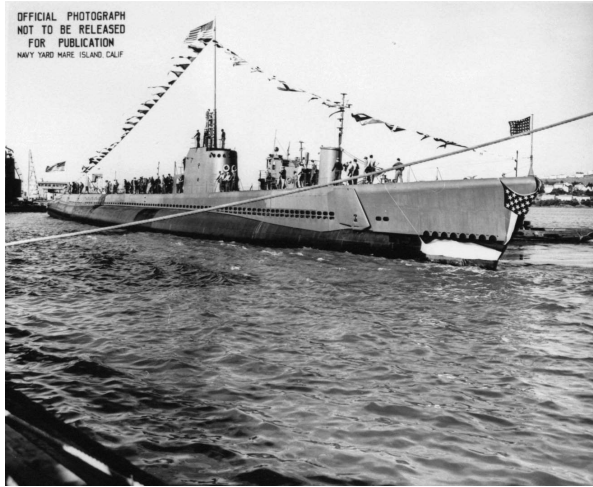


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 March 2023



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

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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 March:

25 Mar 1915	USS F-4 (Skate I)	SS 23	21 Men
12 Mar 1920	USS H-1 (Seawolf I)	SS 28	4 Men
03 Mar 1942	USS Perch I	SS 176	8 Men
05 Mar 1943	USS Grampus	SS 207	72 Men
15 Mar 1943	USS Triton	SS 201	74 Men
26 Mar 1944	USS Tullibee	SS 284	79 Men
20 Mar 1945	USS Kete	SS 369	87 Men
26 Mar 1945	USS Trigger	SS 237	91 Men

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: Member's present were: Tom Crosby, Ivan Meixell, George Reid, Frank McDevitt, Mike Smith, Alan Dempsey, Scott Gerber, Bob Smith, Gene Peppe, Daryl Betz, Josh Kolar and Bob Obrecht.

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary reported that the February minutes were posted to the base website. The secretary also provided copies of the minutes for the members present. The secretary also asked if any member notices things that need to be corrected, do not hesitate to contact him. February minutes do need corrections for lost boat image, member attendance and Bob Sweeney getting his Holland Club, not Gene Peppe.

Treasurers Report: No report this month, Treasurer did not receive the bank statement. There were checks written for the Small Games of Chance and checks for the new Life Members that were sent to National.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that there are 51 active members as of this meeting. The number of Holland Club members has increased by one as of last meeting. Tony Sturla and Bob Sweeney have applied for Life Membership with National, as the dues are going up in April. Will get a discount for this year.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: No Correspondence.

Flag Box Program: Bob Smith said he did not pick up any flags for this month. Alan said he picked up flags at Kinsley's and Blakeslee.

Publicity: Bob Smith reported that he did not place any ads in the local papers.

Parades: Next parade will be on Memorial Day.

Speakers Bureau: No report.

Eagle Scout: No Eagle Scout Court of Honor invitations.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht is looking into organizing another date to give the boat a fresh coat of paint and to repair some of the cracks that have developed over the years of travel. Looking to color match the paint better. Bob is also going to make up new topside cleats to replace the ones that have come off.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Tullibee. The events surrounding her loss weren't known until the only survivor was returned to

the US. She was lost due to a circular run of one of her torpedoes. All other men were lost when the boat went down for her last time.

Old Business: Tom Crosby said that there will be a Memorial Day Parade this year. It is currently in the committee phase and more information should be available by the April meeting. The date is 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. 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.

Bob Smith opened up the discussion again about getting another banner like the one we already have or coming up with a new one. He brought in the one we normally hang on the tent at the fair. Looking to have one on each side of the float and looking to have two made up. Josh Kolar stated he would look into different printers that he deals with from his work. Part of the discussion was having the banner made either 18-24 inches in height vs the 1 foot by 6 foot format it is now. Will make our creed easier to see. Bob Obrecht said fastening them to the float would be easy on the top due to the wood that is there along the edge. The issue will be tying them down on the bottoms. Most likely just hook style bungee straps on the bottom.

Bob Smith then talked about members becoming a Life Member's with National. Currently only \$120 until April, at which they will go to \$140. A couple of our members have already paid for this before the rate increase.

Bob Smith said he was contacted by the Monroe County Treasurer regarding the Small Games of Chance renewal. Bob was told he could renew up to two weeks prior to April 1st. After a bit of discussion, it was noted that the license can be renewed just about any time, but it is only good one year from the date it was renewed. Bob said he would run down and get the new license closer to the April 1st date.

Bob Smith said he is also looking for places to have the tickets printed but may end up going back to the company that printed them last year. We are trying to have them stapled, not glued. Makes them easier to separate.

There was a heated discussion as to what the wording is required to be on the raffle tickets regarding sale price of the tickets per the law for our raffle.

Gene Peppe talked about getting more of the Black and Silver Bunting as was discussed at an earlier meeting. What he had ordered ended up being sent to the wrong address and the company does not have any stock currently available. The money had been refunded and the hope is to have the bunting available by Memorial Day.

New Business: There was a heated discussion as to what the wording is required to be on the raffle tickets regarding sale price of the tickets per the law for our raffle.

Bob Obrecht talked about the upcoming event in May in Palmerton, PA. It is the Crusaders for a Cause that his daughter is helping to host. The dates are the 18th thru the 20th of May and the hours for each day are: 6 to 10 on Thursday, 5 to Closing on Friday (usually around 10), 4 to Closing on Saturday and 2 to Closing on Sunday (around 9PM). There are setup times on Wednesday or Thursday morning. Breakdown is either at the end of the fair on Sunday.

Mike Smith had a small tent that would have been useful, but it has since fallen apart. Mike Smith stated he was looking to get a replacement anyways. It was a 10x10 size and had brought it to the west end fair to help protect his A/V equipment from the sun. Also came in handy for extra cover when we got dumped on by mother nature the one year.

Josh Kolar made the first motion for Mike Smith to obtain a new canopy tent and be reimbursed for the cost. Tom Crosby made the second motion. All in Favor, motion passed.

Bob Smith is asking the members if anyone has events they would think we would like to attend, please let him know so it can be added to the calendar on the website.

Good of the Order: Frank McDevitt brought up that the American Legion post has an excellent breakfast the first Sunday of each month from 8 to 12. Cost is about \$10 per person, all you can eat. Tom Crosby has to look into the age for children where it is only \$5, and children under 3 are free. There are also Bloody Mary's and Mai Tai's available for \$4 each cash.

Josh Kolar said he would like to try and organize something along the lines of a meet and greet. Not necessarily held at the legion. Josh said he would have more information forthcoming.

Calendar of Events:

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.

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.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 Apr 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 Josh Kolar.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1956 hrs.

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

