

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 November 2023



USS Sculpin (SS 191)

Base Officers

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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 1904 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 November:

16 Nov 1943	USS Corvina	SS 226	82 Men
19 Nov 1943	USS Sculpin	SS 191	62 Men
23 Nov 1943	USS Capelin	SS 289	76 Men
07 Nov 1944	USS Albacore	SS 218	86 Men
08 Nov 1944	USS Growler	SS 215	84 Men
09 Nov 1944	USS Scamp	SS 277	83 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: Members present were: Bob Smith, Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, David Wright, Scott Gerber, Ken Kull, Mike Smith, Don Ransell, Bill Klose, Bob Sweeney, Josh Kolar and Bruce Frisch.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The Base Secretary stated that the minutes were sent out and posted early. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members to look at. Again, if there are any corrections that need to be made, please let the secretary know.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x.ss as of 31 Oct 2023. The base received a check from our time at the Pocono Raceway for the sum of \$x. Prior to the meeting, the Budget / Donation committee met, and they decided to donate about \$x to various charities / organizations that we currently support. Our base has added the following charities / organizations for this year: the VA Medical Center Canteen in Wilkes-Barre, 52 Boat Memorial in San Diego, CA and the USS Groton Sail Monument. Alan also reported that we sponsor the USS Hyman G Rickover and the USS Montana. The donations were for \$30 each and lets them receive copies of the American Submariner magazine.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we currently have 55 members. Our base will carry William Gregor till the end of the year. Bill Gregor stated that he is moving to Florida and wishes to be dropped from our base.

Correspondence: No report.

Flag Box Program: Alan Dempsey reported that he emptied the box at the Blakeslee Post Office, twice and the one at Kinsley's Shop Rite, three times. Bob Smith reported that he picked up the flag from the Flag Store in Sciota, PA.

Speakers Bureau: No report as Tony Sturla is out of the area and unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Publicity: Bob Smith and Bob Obrecht travelled to Tannersville, PA for a small segment on a morning show that was filmed at the memorial in Tannersville. It was for the announcement of the Veterans Day Parade.

Parades / Memorial Events: No parades in the foreseeable future. The Monroe County Veterans Day Parade was the last one of this year. Bob Smith thanked all who attended the parade and thanked Alan and Josh for handing out the candy by walking over to the sidewalks.

Budget / Donation: The budget / donation committee met before tonight's meeting and made their recommendations for donations. The list of organizations and amounts will be available for the next meeting.

Storekeeper: Bill Klose has 2023 Calendars available for the base. Cost is \$9 per calendar and are available to any member who wishes one.

Fundraising: Bob is asking the members for any ideas for next year's fundraising efforts.

Dinner/Dance: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 17th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA. See below for details.

Eagle Scout: No Report. Also unknown if Darryl Betz was able to attend the last Court of Honor or if he forwarded the package to the recipient.

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

Float Committee: No Report.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Sculpin. Sculpin was lost due to anti-submarine operations while trying to go after a convoy. Sculpin was scuttled and sent to the bottom. 42 of her survivors were taken by the Japanese and divided into two groups. In a twist of fate, the USS Sailfish (former USS Squalus) sank one of the ships carrying the Sculpin's survivors. Earlier, the USS Sculpin rescued the men of the USS Squalus (Sailfish) when she suffered a failure of her main induction valve and sank. This is told in the book: A Tale of Two Ships.

Old Business: The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 17 Dec 2023 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There is further information on the base website. Please let Bob Smith know of your choice of meal and number of guests so they can plan accordingly. The price will be \$25 per member and the first guest. Additional guests will be \$50 per person. Bob Smith has a list of the dinners that are available at the meeting as well as on the website.

Bob Smith also stated that dues are starting to come in. Please make sure your dues are remitted by 31 Dec 2022, or you will become DINQ.

Bob Smith stated that the winner of the base raffle prize, Wesley Pace had purchased his ticket while attending one of the breakfast events held at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

Bob Smith talked again if we would like to obtain medallions that are made of plastic and are similar to challenge coins to give to other veterans at different nursing homes. The Williamsport base had theirs made to say "Honorary Submariner" on theirs. After some discussion, the base has decided to use the current base logo on one side and a set of dolphins on the other. David Wright said he would contact the company and have the chips made.

New Business:

Alan Dempsey thanked those who participated this year at the Pocono Raceway for the Airshow and the NASCAR Weekend. The base received \$x towards our expenses and charities for volunteering there.

The base float was used at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg, PA. We had the addition of the bubble machine on the back as well as some repairs to the float before the parade. Mike Smith e-mailed a photo taken during the parade that was in the Pocono Record newspaper website.

Bob will be sending invoices for those who owe dues, also included is a form to fill out to correct or update any contact information for the base sailing list.

Alan Dempsey talked about our base flag that used to hang on the wall on the bar side of the post and that it needs to be updated with new patches for the boats that our new members served on. There are also pictures and other items on the back tables in the bingo hall from the legion and our base. We need to go thru them and select the items that will be hung back up on the walls on the bar side the post. Tom Crosby stated that they would like to keep the bingo hall side less cluttered.

Josh Kolar made the suggestion of having a flag drop box next to our stand at the next West End Fair. After a little discussion, the members decided that a small poster would suffice and state that we collect used US Flags.

David Wright mentioned that his grandson, Corbin Wright, was listed in the new American Submariner magazine as receiving a \$1500 scholarship from the USSVI Scholarship Program. The applications can be made online on the national website and look under the charity groups.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith stated that Bob Obrecht and his wife were involved in an accident on their way to tonight's meeting. Shiela was talking with them. They are ok, but their vehicle is not. They were at the State Police Barracks on Rte 209 when they called.

There will be no meeting on the 20th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 17th of December. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Smith know and have your money available in a mailed check, or in person the night of the dinner.

A thank you to Bill Klose for having been the Base Storekeeper for all these years. The reins have been passed on and a thank you to David Wright for stepping up and taking over the storekeeper duties. Bill Klose is also donating a book that he has about the history of the Submarine Service. A number of members have the same book in their possession.

A reminder, Base dues are open until the 31st of December. Please remit your payment to the base by then. If dues are not received by the end of December, the base will consider you DINQ at that time.

Please let Bob Smith know if you know of any member who is on the Binnacle List.

Calendar of Events:

23 Nov 2023: Thanksgiving.

17 Dec 2023: Annual Base Dinner at Murph's Hideaway

25 Dec 2023: Christmas

1 Jan 2024: New Years.

17 Jan 2024: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

15 Feb 2024: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next full meeting will be held on, 17 January 2024 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 18th of December.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Josh Kolar.

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 our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1941 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary