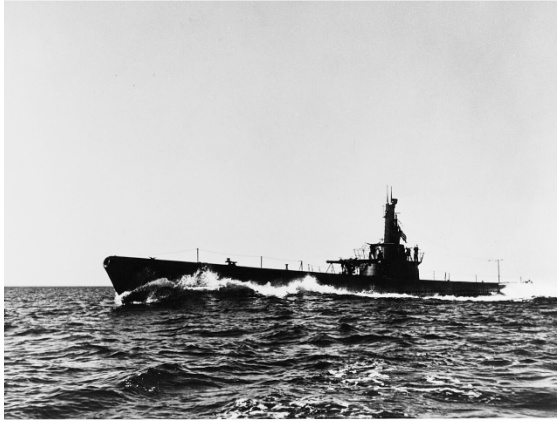


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 November 2025



USS Capelin (SS 289)

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) 715-9257. E-mail address: klaital@ptd.net

Base Treasurer – Scott Jackson / P.O. Box 223, Pocono Lake, PA. 18347

Ph (860) 234-9749. E-mail address: sjackson1997@yahoo.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 1903 by Base Commander Bob Smith at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post in Pocono Pines, PA. The Purpose of the Organization was read. The Acting 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

Mike Smith delivered the invocation after a moment of silence, as our base chaplain was unable to be at tonight's meeting.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Bob Smith, Scott Jackson, Alan Dempsey, Scott Gerber, Gene Peppe, Tony Sturla, Don Ransell, Mike Smith, Ken Kull, George Reid, Darel Handley, David Wright, Bob Sweeney, and Josh Kolar.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified / served on for the benefit of Darel Handley.

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 posted. 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: No report. Scott Jackson is still dealing with the transfer of the base account to his name after being elected as the new base treasurer.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we currently have 48 members, and one pending new member.

Correspondence: No correspondence received.

Flag Box Program: Bob Smith stated that the box at the Flag Store continues to be productive. David Wirght said the box he collects from has seen dlibs and drabs of flags deposited in it.

Speakers Bureau: No report

Publicity: Covered under old business.

Parades / Memorial Events: No more parades in the foreseeable future. The Carbon County Veterans Day Parade was the last one of this year. Bob Smith thanked all who attended the parades this past year.

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: David Wright has 2026 Calendars available for the base. The cost is \$10 per calendar, and they 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 14th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA. See below for details.

Eagle Scout: Covered under old business.

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

Float Committee:

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Capelin. Though her official cause for her loss remains unknown, it is believed that she was sunk due to the mines that were laid in the area by the Japanese.

Old Business: The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 14 Dec 2025 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 meals, 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. There will also be a brief meeting prior to the dinner. We will toll the bell for the lost boats of December and for each member of our base, who have departed on eternal patrol. Bob is asking that there are no checks on the day of the dinner. This is to make it easier to pay the restaurant and not waste time playing with the money. Please make your payments before the dinner.

Bob Smith also stated that dues are starting to come in. Please make sure your dues are remitted by 1 Dec 2025, or you will become DINQ. National dues remain \$40, and Base dues remain the same at \$10 per member.

Bob Smith thanked all who have joined us for the various parades this past year. The Carbon County Veterans Day Parade was the last parade attended by our members. This was held on the 16th of November. We also attended the Monroe County Veterans Day parade in Stroudsburg back on the 2nd of November. We were joined by Ken Smith's granddaughter for the Lehighton parade. She brought home baked cookies, bagels and bread for the members that were in attendance. Mike Smith commented about the Monroe County parade. He had recorded it and heard one of the announcers commented on our float being his favorite as we approached the reviewing stand. Bob Smith stated that the float did quite well, and Mike Smith said that the screws were probably spinning when we made the turn into the wind for the Lehighton Parade. Was definitely a windy day and the color guards were having problems with the flags.

Mike Smith talked about a couple of Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. The first Court of Honor was for Eric Bromley Hays and was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3232 Sunrise Drive in Stroudsburg on Sunday the 9th of November at 3PM. Scott Jackson did this presentation.

The second Court of Honor is for Jacob Franzo and will be held at Our Lady of Victory Church on 327 Cherry Lane Rd in Tannersville on the 23rd of November at 1PM. Scott Jackson said he would do this presentation.

George Reid spoke about the visit of a couple of the base members to Getz Personal Care Home back on Veterans Day. There was a question-and-answer session as well as certificates presented to 9 veterans living there. They were also presented with our base challenge coins. The staff was also presented with a certificate of appreciation. Bob Sweeny stated that he is working to get with other care homes so we can do more presentations.

New Business:

The Budget / Donation committee submitted a plan of donations from the money that was allocated to our donations pool from our raffle proceeds. Total donations this year amount to \$2160. Scott Jackson read the list of donations and amounts:

Wounded Warrior Project	\$x
Fisher House Foundation, Inc.	\$x
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post	\$x
American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post Angel Tree Program	\$x
VALOR Clinic Foundation	\$x
Warwick Valley Quilters Guild	\$x
Salvation Army (in Honor of Robert Vaughan)	\$x
Disabled American Veterans	\$x
Tunnels to Towers	\$x
Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation	\$x
Holland Club Challenge Coins	\$x

We also have Boat Sponsorships for about \$30 apiece. We sponsor the USS Hyman G. Rickover, and we are now sponsoring the new Virginia Class Boat USS Barb SSN-804. With this sponsorship, the boats sponsored receive copies of the American Submariner magazine.

Bob Smith stated that over the years, our base has donated around \$x to various charities. Bob also mentioned that our fundraising has concluded for the year. Bob also said he was able to get hold of the winner of our raffle. She is from the Jonas area and purchased her tickets at the West End Fair.

Bob sent 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.

Bob Smith said he was contacted by Paul McDevitt, son of our late commander, Frank McDevitt, and we will be taking possession of a scale model of the USS Senet, a replica of the boat that Frank McDevitt first served on. Paul stated that they are downsizing and would leave this model in our care. Bob Smith also stated that we sent Franks vest to Maureen McDevitt back in September. We had it on display at the West End Fair.

Scott Gerber talked about the various foundations that are available from National. They are for scholarships, medical issues, kids and for memorials. Scott said he was taking over the one dealing with memorials starting in January. Scott said that we could apply for a grant of up to \$3000 to help cover costs of keeping our float going, including maintenance of the trailer, as long as it is submarine-related.

Good of the Order: There will be no meeting on the 17th of December. We will have a small meeting prior to dinner on the 14th 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.

Dave Padora is healing up well from having surgery and visited us for the Veterans Day Parade in Lehigh, prior to him marching with his local American Legion Post.

Calendar of Events:

23 Nov 2025: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jacob Franzo at Our Lady of Victory Church on 327 Cherry Lane Rd in Tannersville at 1PM. Scott Jackson will do the presentation for our base.

27 Nov 2025: Thanksgiving.

14 Dec 2025: Annual Christmas Dinner at Murph's Hideaway.

25 Dec 2025: Christmas

1 Jan 2026: New Years.

21 Jan 2026: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

18 Feb 2026: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next full meeting will be held on, 21 January 2026 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post. A small meeting will be held prior to the dinner on the 14th of December.

1st motion made by Tony Sturla 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.”

Mike Smith offered the benediction at the end of our meeting.

Bob Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1948 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary