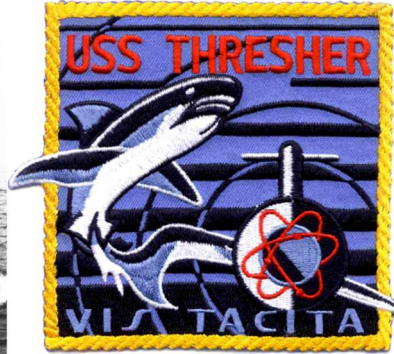


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 April 2026



USS Thresher SSN-593

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732 / Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.com

Base Executive Officer – Robert Sweeney / 74 Summit Drive, Saylorsburg, PA 18353 / Ph (570) 269-2990 / E-mail address: scran123@ptd.net

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/COB / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466
Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

Meeting called to order at 1909 by Base Commander Bob Obrecht 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 April:

20 Apr 1920	USS S-49	SS 160	4 Men
03 Apr 1943	USS Pickerel	SS 177	74 Men
22 Apr 1943	USS Grenadier	SS 210	4 Men
18 Apr 1944	USS Gudgeon	SS 211	80 Men
08 Apr 1945	USS Snook	SS 279	88 Men
10 Apr 1963	USS Thresher	SSN 593	129 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were: Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Bob Sweeney, Alan Dempsey, Bob Obrecht, Gene Peppe, Bob Smith, David Wright, Scott Gerber, Bruce Frisch, Tony Sturla, Scott Jackson, Bill Pancoast, and George Reed.

The members present introduced themselves and the boats they qualified / served on-board.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting. The minutes were not posted to the website due to being late in being sent.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported an actual ending balance of \$x.xx as of 31 March 2026. Scott reported that the DAV has not cashed the donation check as of this meeting, even though we did receive a thank you letter from them. Scott Jackson said that the bank has been giving him a bit of grief with how we write out checks for the base. As long as the account number is correct, there should be no problem,

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are at either 46 or 47 members. Bob said he couldn't get a good read on our roster from the newer USSVI Website. We had a prospective new member, but he did not come to our meeting tonight.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: Most of the correspondence are Eagle Scout Court of Honor invitations. The other correspondence was a letter from Tom Crosby stating that we have authorization to conduct small games of chance at the American Legion Post. This was needed to satisfy the Small Games of Chance License.

Flag Box Program: Alan stated he picked up the flags from Kinsley's Shop Rite and the post office in Blakeslee. David Wright said he brought about 4 bags of flags from his community. Bob Obrecht stated that he picked up the flags from the Flag Store in Sciota.

Publicity: No report.

Parades: Memorial Day Parade on the 25th at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center.

Eagle Scout: Please see Old and New Business.

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

Ships Store: No Report.

Float Committee: No Report.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets were purchased and were being distributed to the members present at tonight's meeting.

Bus trip: On hold till further notice.

Speakers Bureau: No report.

Michael Smith read from a letter called EB Landing on the loss of the USS Thresher. She was lost during sea trials of the coast of Massachusetts while conducting deep dive tests. She was lost with all hands including shipyard workers who were onboard while the tests were being conducted. Her loss began the SUBSAFE safety program. No more scram of the reactor and the ability to perform a rapid restart if needed, larger piping and drier air for the Emergency Main Ballast Tank Blow system. 129 men were lost.

Old Business: Scott Jackson stated that he got the Small Games of Chance License back on the 28th of March. Scott said we almost didn't get it unless we had the letter from the Legion.

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on the 25th of May. The route starts at the Elementary Center and travels 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.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that have been coming around lately.

The first was for Chandler Nicholas Smith on the 11th of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA. Scott Jackson stated he would do our presentation. Scott said he was unable to attend and will mail the package to Chandler.

The second is for Daniel Cunningham on the 19th of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA. David Wright stated he would do our presentation.

The third was for Rose Krezel on the 21st of March at 2PM at the Zion Untied Lutheran Church, 1919 Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA. Alan Dempsey did our presentation. Alan said they changed up the program by having food first, then the ceremony.

The fourth was for Eli Lovene Kresge and will be held at St Paul Lutheran Church at 158 Fish Hill Rd in Tannersville on the 18th of April at 1PM. There were no takers at this meeting.

Scott Gerber said that he would like to see us put up our display at a table at the Reading Airport for their military weekend, June 5-7. Scott said it would let us showcase how submarines played a part in WWII with the lifeguard duties of rescuing downed pilots. Scott also said he was able to get us a table at the event. If we were to sell our raffle tickets at the event, it would cost the base \$250 to be allowed to do so. Scott Gerber said that he looked for a Reading Base, but they may have disbanded and we ended up being the closest base. Ken Kull and Darryl Betz were going to join Scott at this event.

Scott Gerber also talked about the redesign of the base brochure and replaced a lot of the wording and brought it up to date by using QR Codes. Mike Smith asked for a copy to be kept with the secretary files.

Tom Crosby talked about Flag Day for the Legion Post. They have decided to hold the Flag Day Ceremony at 4PM on Saturday, the 13th of June. The post will have a band there from 5 to 9 in the bar area. This is also the same weekend as NASCAR at the Pocono Raceway. After some discussion amongst the members, we decided to have our regular meeting on Wednesday the 17th of June.

Alan Dempsey talked about volunteering at the Pocono Raceway again this year. He has signup sheets for those wishing to volunteer. The dates for the race weekend are from the 12th to the 14th of June. More information will be available as we get nearer to the dates of the races. Alan said he is waiting to be contacted by Starr about volunteering.

New Business: Bob Obrecht said there will be a Memorial Day event in Kresgeville on the 24th of May at the Polk Twsp memorial for those who would be interested in attending.

Mike Smith talked about the newest Eagle Scout Court of Honor invitations.

The first is for Nelson Figueroa and is to be held at the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. 2176 PA-715, Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, April 25th at 2 PM.

The second is for Wyatt Ayden Hubbard and is to be held at Waterfront Park, 1170 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday, May 30th at 11AM

The third court of honor is for Alexander Tsyganov Lamberton and will be held at Twin Pine Camp, 3000 Twin Pines Camp Rd, Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday the 6th of June at 2PM. Mike Smith stated that he did the ceremony for his brother a few years ago. All we received so far was an announcement, not an invite.

As of the meeting, there were no takers for these courts. If anyone is interested in doing our presentation, please contact Mike Smith.

Bob Smith stated that he received some literature from Stroudsburg about a parade on July 4th for the 250th birthday of the United States. Many of the members present expressed interest in joining the parade.

George Reed talked about something he call the Wishing Machines which is a gumball machine that dispenses wishes with the donations going to the charitable site for national. George stated that he couldn't have a wishing well and came up with this idea.

Tom Crosby asked the members present if we wish to work the beer tent again this year at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem. The date is September 27th. Tom also asked as to which tent we would like to volunteer at. The members present asked to man the tent closer to the Highland Games. Tom Crosby will pass that information on to the event committee. The members present agreed to attend.

Alan Dempsey provided the secretary with another piece of correspondence. This is for the Vietnam Veteran Moving Wall. It will be at the Stroudsburg High School from July 9th to the 13th and is sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 678

Good of the Order: Tom Crosby said that the post is having a Gun Bingo on July 25th. There are over \$12k in gun prizes to be won. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door.

Scott Jackson was trying to get a hold of the Scranton Base for as friend of his for the possibility of obtaining the sail of the USS Scranton. Scott said he got no response from the base. This is a major undertaking and Scott was trying to get information.

Bob Smith stated that the calendar of events online. Bob is asking if there are any events that our members would like added, please let him know so he can get it on the calendar. Bob is also asking if there are any corrections to the calendar, please let him know.

George Reed is offering tables for us at his business to sell items for our base and perhaps raffle tickets. Looking at having multiple events over the summer on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as long as weather permits. David Wright would like to use something like this to unload some of the items he's had in the quartermaster bin.

Calendar of Events:

18 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Eli Kresge. 1PM at St Paul Lutheran Church in Tannersville PA.

19 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Daniel Cunningham. 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA

25 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Nelson Figueroa, 2PM at the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. 2176 PA-715, Stroudsburg, PA

20 May 2026: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson Fischer Post at 7PM.

25 May 2026: Memorial Day and Parade at Pocono Lake.

30 May 2026: Court of Honor for Wyatt Hubbard, 11AM at Waterfront Park, 1170 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA.

6 Jun 2026: Court of Honor for Alexander Lamberton. 2PM at Twin Pines Camp, 3000 Twin Pines Camp Rd, Stroudsburg, PA

12 – 14 Jun 2026: NASCAR Pocono Race Weekend.

14 Jun 2026: Flag Day

17 Jun 2026: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

4 Jul 2026: Happy 4th of July.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 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.”

Mike Smith offered a benediction at the end of our meeting as provided by our chaplain.

1st motion made by Bob Sweeney to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Obrecht declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 2003 hrs.

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

