

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19 August 2026



USS Pompano



SS-181

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: scrn123@ptd.net

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Base Treasurer – Scott Jackson / P.O. Box 223, Pocono Lake, PA. 18347
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Chaplain – Tom Crosby/COB / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466
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Storekeeper - David Wright 201 Bear Run Dr. Drums, PA 18222
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Meeting called to order at 1908 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 August:

17 Aug 1942	USS Bass I	SS 164	25 Men
29 Aug 1943	USS Pompano	SS 181	77 Men
13 Aug 1944	USS Flier	SS 250	80 Men
24 Aug 1944	USS Harder	SS 257	84 Men

06 Aug 1945	USS Bullhead	SS 332	84 Men
26 Aug 1949	USS Cochino	SS 345	1 Man
26 Aug 1949	USS Tusk	SS 426	6 Men (assisting Cochino)

Chaplain Crosby led the members present with an invocation.

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

The Acting Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Roll Call: Members present were Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Scott Gerber, Dave Padora, Bob Obrecht, Mike Smith, Bill Orbenpost, Tony Sturla, Gene Peppe, Bruce Frisch, Bob Smith, Daryl Handley, Ken Kull, David Wright, Bob Sweeney, Scott Jackson, Josh Kolar, and Darryl Betz

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

This is the most members we have ever had at our monthly meetings. Great representation.

Meeting Minutes: The July Minutes have been posted. The secretary also provided minutes at the meeting for the members to look at.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer stated an ending balance of \$x.xx as of 31 July 2026. There were \$x.xx in deposits and the Holland Club Check cleared. The deposit for the West End Fair, \$x,xx has not cleared yet. We also received the donation from Pocono Raceway for \$600.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we are still at 47 paid members.

Correspondence: No correspondence, other than junk mail.

Flag Boxes: David Wright said he still continues to collect. and Alan Dempsey picked up the flags at Blakeslee and at Kinsley's Shop Rite and stated that they are goldmines for amount of flags dropped off. Bob Sweeney reported he picked up a full bag of flags from the Flag Store.

Publicity: No Report

Parades: See old business.

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

Budget & Donation: No report until raffle money is totaled.

Eagle Scout: No new Court of Honor requests.

Float Committee: The float is all ready to go for the fair and we have the new banner with the cutaway view of the Barb.

Michael Smith read from Submarines of WWII about the loss of the USS Pompano. The cause for her loss remains unknown to this day. Mike also stated he needs to relook the lost boats lists and make corrections as needed. Pompano was actually lost in September.

Old Business: The West End Fair is coming up from the 23rd to the 29th of August. The hours for the fair are 2 to 9 daily. The setup will be on the 22nd and teardown on the 30th. 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. Bob Obrecht has the parking, and guest passes for those that are going to work at the tent. Bob Obrecht is also looking for additional help for the setup on Saturday.

We also talked about the Belvidere Victorian Day that will be held on Saturday the 12th of September. The hours are from 10-6. Looking for volunteers for this event including the setup and teardown. Josh Kolar said he would be available to tow the trailer to Belvidere, as long as the trailer and float don't exceed 1000 pounds. Bob Sweeney will not be available to do the towing this year. Darryl said he could do the towing for the event.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brandon Neal and was held at the American Legion Post in Gilbert, PA on Saturday the 9th of August at 2PM. Mike Smith thanked Scott Jackson for doing the presentation.

Bob Obrecht also stated that there are a couple of days coming up at the Shop Rite in Brodheadsville after the West End Fair. Wednesday the 2nd of September and Friday the 25th of September. Both are scheduled from 11-3.

The next upcoming parade is currently scheduled for Nov 8th with a rain date of the 15th. This year, the parade will be held in Weatherly, PA. More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches. This will be the first time it will be held there and is quite a distance and a challenge to get to. The Monroe County Veterans Day Parade is tentatively scheduled for November 1st.

Tom Corsby talked about the base looking to work the beer tent again this year at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem. The date is September 27th. Tom Crosby has the sign-up sheet for this event and he also has a sheet that needs the names and DOB of those attending the event. We need around 8 members to attend

New Business: Bob Smith is asking for a refund for the parts he obtained for the tent damage repairs. The members present concurred with the reimbursement to Bob Smith for the parts.

David Wright talked about obtaining hats for the base that state Submarine Vet, Pocono Base and was looking at various vendors to obtain them. The Subvest Lady has so far been the cheapest around for purchase. Looking to get about 20 hats for the base to sell to our members.

David Wright also talked about Barb Challenge coins that Scott Gerber was able to locate. They feature the Barb Flag and go for \$25 for anyone interested in buying one. Dave said he has one at this time and could get more for those interested.

Daryl Handley talked about an event coming up on the 11th of November. It is a Veterans Dinner to be held at Penns Peak. It is hosted by Together with Veterans, Northeast District. There will be about 450 people attending and Daryl stated he would have tickets available if

anyone is interested in going. He and committee are looking to possibly have Dave McCormick as a guest speaker or perhaps the Adjutant General. There is no charge for the tickets. Bob Smith stated he would put it on our schedule with further information about the dinner.

Good of the Order:

Scott Gerber talked about possibly having the float brought to the Carbon County Vo-Tech for the woodworking shop as an opportunity to showcase what wood crafting can turn out to be for a career choice. Scott thanked Bob Smith for getting the pictures of the float as it was being made.

Calendar of Events:

23 - 29 Aug 2026: West End Fair in Gilbert, PA.

2 Sep 2026: Kinsley's Shop Rite Ticket sales from 11-3.

7 Sep 2026: Labor Day

12 Sep 2026: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

16 Sep 2026: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

25 Sep 2026: Kinsley's Shop Rite Ticket sales from 11-3.

21 Oct 2026: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

8 Nov 2026: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Weatherly, PA.

18 Nov 2026: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 Sept 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.”

Chaplain Crosby offered a benediction at the end of the meeting.

1st motion made by Tony Sturla to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Josh Kolar. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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

