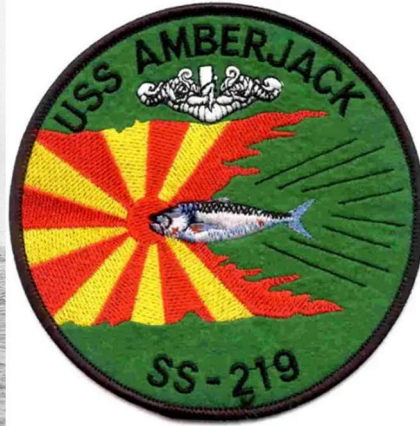
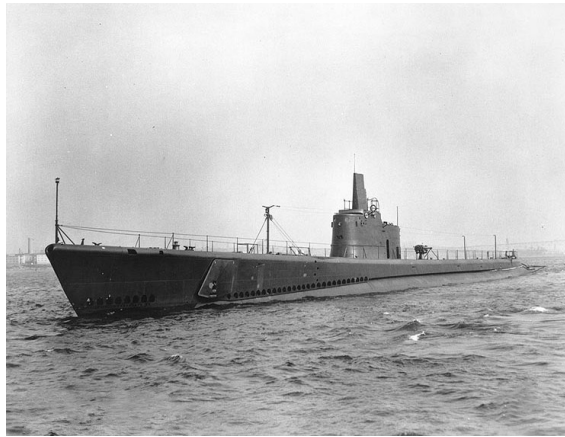


# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

## Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, 18 February 2026



## USS Amberjack (SS-219)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:aquaknot339@gmail.com)

**Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith** / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehigh, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 715-9257. E-mail address: [klaital@ptd.net](mailto: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](mailto:sjackson1997@yahoo.com)

**Chaplain – Tom Crosby** / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: [crosbytr@webcrosby.com](mailto:crosbytr@webcrosby.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 1901 by Base Vice 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 February:

11 Feb 1942	USS Shark I	SS-174	58 Men
16 Feb 1943	USS Amberjack	SS-219	74 Men
27 Feb 1944	USS Grayback	SS-208	80 Men
29 Feb 1944	USS Trout	SS-202	81 Men
4 Feb 1945	USS Barbel	SS-316	81 Men

The Secretary read the invocation. Our Chaplain was unable to make the meeting tonight.

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

**Roll Call:** Member's present were: Alan Dempsey, Bob Sweeney, Mike Smith, Bob Obrecht, George Reed, Scott Gerber, Scott Jackson, Ken Kull and Darryl Betz. We were also joined by member at large, Bruce Fields. The members present introduced themselves and the boat they served / qualified on.

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Base Secretary stated that the last full minutes were November 2025. There were abbreviated minutes for December 2025, the night of our Christmas Dinner. There were no actual minutes for Jan 2026, the meeting was cancelled due to possible inclement weather that night. Secretary also dealing with migration to a new computer and having issues with the e-mail, specifically.

**Treasurers Report:** The Base Treasurer reported the following ending balance for the month of January. There was an actual ending balance of \$x.xx as of 31 Jan 2026. The only outstanding check is the donation to the Disabled American Veterans for \$200. Scott stated the he needs to remit dues for 4 of our base members to National and \$50 for the Holland Club Challenge Coins.

Before the committee reports, Bob Obrecht said that we have Declarations and Nominations for Office, as this is an election year for our base.

Bob Obrecht was nominated for Base Commander by Bob Sweeney  
Bob Sweeney was nominated for Vice Commander by Scott Jackson and Darryl Betz,  
Mike Smith declared he would remain as Base Secretary  
Scott Jackson declared he would remain the Base Treasurer

By the rules of the Base By-laws, the nominations for the Base Commander, Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will remain open thru the March Meeting, at which time the votes will be cast by the members present at the March Meeting and Installation of Officers occurs.

### **Committees:**

**Membership:** We are at about 45 members in our base. There were a few members who either moved out of the area or have not remitted their dues for the new year.

**Budget / Donation:** Donations that our base has given out are over \$xx since we started. The breakdown is on the website.

**Correspondence:** The Base Secretary read the multiple thank you letters we have received over the last couple of months thanking us for our donations. They were from Disabled American Veterans, Warwick Valley Quilters Guild, Fisher House, and Wounded Warriors.

**Flag Box Program:** Flag boxes continue to be productive. Sheila picked up a bunch at the Flag Store in Sciota. Alan Dempsey said he picked up the flags at Kinsley's Shop Rite and the post office in Blakeslee.

**Speakers Bureau:** No Report.

**Publicity:** No report.

**Parades:** Parade of Shamrocks in Bethlehem, PA. 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Eagle Scout:** New Court of Honor requests to be covered under new business.

**Outreach:** Bob Sweeney reports that the committee is a work in progress.

**Ships Store:** No Report. Storekeeper was not present at tonight's meeting.

**Float Committee:** Bob Obrecht stated that the float would just need to be dusted off. No repairs are needed at this time.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Amberjack. She was sunk due to Japanese Anti-submarine actions. She went down with all hands.

**Old Business:** Bob Obrecht talked about the invitation to march in the Parade of Shamrocks in Bethlehem on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The invitation was from the Celtic Culture Club. There were several members present who showed interest in going. The parade steps off at 1PM and lines up on Broad Street and will march down to the base of the Hill-to-Hill Bridge. There is no listing of a rain date.

Scott Gerber modified our base brochure and replaced a couple of the items with QR codes that will link to our website.

**New Business:** Mike Smith talked about the upcoming Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. There were three invitations, one came via e-mail.

1<sup>st</sup> court of honor is for Chandler Nicholas Smith on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA.

2<sup>nd</sup> court of honor is for Daniel Cunningham on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April at 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA.

3<sup>rd</sup> court of honor is for Rose Krezel on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 2PM at the Zion Untied Lutheran Church, 1919 Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA.

Asking for any volunteers to do these presentations. If no takers, the certificates will be mailed.

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 made the first motion that we obtain the small games of chance. Bob Sweeney made the second motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Alan Dempsey talked about our volunteering at the Pocono Raceway and how we earn money for our base for the benefit of our new member. We get \$100 per person per day worked at the racetrack. We work the gates with ticketing and bag checks and help keep an eye on the stands. The race weekend this year is June 12th, 13th & 14th. The Arca race is on Friday, O'Reilly on Saturday and the Cup race is on Sunday. There is no Truck Race this time.

**Good of the Order:** Bob Smith is on the binnacle list and is recovering from a spinal injury. He has been at Lehigh Valley Hospital for rehab.

Scott Jackson would like to schedule a bike ride through the Lehigh Gorge between Jim Thorpe and White Haven. Scott is inviting any of our members if they would like to join him.

### **Calendar of Events:**

8 Mar 2026: Daylight Savings Time begins.

14 Mar 2026: St Patrick's Day. Parade of Shamrocks Parade in Bethlehem, PA. Line up by Noon with step off at 1PM. Parade Route is on Broad Street in the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will march down and turn right on Main Steet and will Dog-leg down to Spring Street (under the Hill to Hill Bridge).

18 Mar 2026: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson Fischer Post at 7PM.

21 Mar 2026: Court of Honor for Rose Krezel. 2PM at the Zion Untied Lutheran Church, 1919 Route 209, Brodheadsville, PA.

11 Apr 2026: Court of Honor for Chandler Nicholas Smith. 1PM at the Barrett twp. Admin & Rec Complex (BARC), 1200 Route 390, Cresco, PA

15 Apr 2026: Monthly Meeting at the Wilson Fischer Post at 7PM.

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

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

**Next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, 18 Mar 2026 at 1900 hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The members present joined the Base Vice 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.”

The Secretary read the benediction at the end of our meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Scott Gerber to adjourn the meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Bob Sweeney

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Obrecht declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1947 hrs.

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