

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 15 July 2026



USS S-28 SS-133

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

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638
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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 1902 by Base Commander Bob Obrecht 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 July:

17 Jul 1911	USS A-7 (Shark)	SS-8	7 Men
30 Jul 1919	USS G-2 (Tuna I)	SS-27	3 Men
30 Jul 1942	USS Grunion	SS-216	70 Men
04 Jul 1944	USS S-28	SS-133	49 Men
26 Jul 1944	USS Robalo	SS-273	84 Men

The secretary led the members present with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: Members present were Bob Sweeney, Mike Smith, Scott Gerber, Bob Obrecht, George Reed, David Wright, Gene Peppe, Tony Sturla, Ken Kull, Darryl Betz, Bill Pancoast, Daryl Handly, and Scott Jackson.

We were joined by the wives of some of the members.

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary stated that the minutes were sent early and also provided copies at the meeting. There were a couple of corrections to the June Minutes, as noted by Bob Smith and these were corrected and resent to the members.

Treasurers Report: The Base Treasurer reported a balance of \$x.xx as of 30 June 2026. There are outstanding deposits and payments to be processed, and the base will have an actual balance of \$x.xx. One of the outstanding checks is the insurance payment and the other is the full amount for the West End Fair, which has not cleared. There is also raffle money starting to come in as well.

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Committees:

Membership: No report, but the base is maintaining at 47 members.

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle is complete.

Correspondence: No correspondence received other than Eagle Scout Program.

Flag Box Program: The boxes continue to produce quite well. Bob Sweeney said he picked up two bags worth from the Flag Store in Sciota, PA. Alan Dempsey usually picks up the flags from the boxes at Kinsley's Shop Rite in Brodheadsville and the post office in Blakeslee, PA.

Publicity: No Report.

Parades: No parades until around Veterans Day. There is already one slated for Carbon County and will be held in Weatherly Borough, PA this year.

Eagle Scout: The base secretary talked about the Court of Honor invites we received. Information is in Old Business and under New Business.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht reported that the float is ready to go. There was some damage to the float that required repairs, including a new rudder and periscope. There was also bungees and poles for the tent that need to be obtained prior to the West End Fair.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are starting to come back.

Bus trip: No Report

Outreach Committee:

Michael Smith read from Submarines of WWII about the loss of the USS S-28. She was lost with all hands due to possible operating error or material casualty. She went down in over 1400 fathoms of water.

Old Business: 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.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 23rd to the 29th of August. The hours for the fair are now 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 is working on obtaining parking passes for those that are going to work at the tent.

Bob Sweeney mentioned the following reimbursements to be made:

\$200 for Scott Gerber for the table and entry fee for the Reading Air Show.
\$50 for Darryl Betz for gas money for the transport of the Barb Float
\$25 for Bob Sweeney for gas money for the transport to the 4th of July Parade in Stroudsburg

There was a discussion again on our base wanting to work the beer tent again this year at the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem. The date is September 27th. There will be more information upcoming, and Tom Crosby has the sign-up sheet for this event. We need around 8 members to attend. No other information, since Tom Crosby was not at tonight's meeting.

New Business: Bob Obrecht talked about 4 days coming up to sell tickets at Kinsley's Shop Rite. They are Wed, July 29th, Friday August 14th, Wed, September 2nd and Friday September 23rd. The hours are going to be 11-3 for these events. A sign-up sheet is available for those that wish to attend. Will also need to clear with Shop-Rite in order to bring the boat, weather pending.

We also talked about the Belvidere Victorian Day that will be held on Saturday the 12th of September. The hours are from 10-6. There was a recommendation to ask that the ambulances be parked elsewhere, as the float was hidden by them last year. There is also a sign-up sheet available for this event.

Mike Smith talked about a new Eagle Scout Court of Honor that has been received. The Court of Honor is for a Brandon Neal and is to be held at the American Legion Post in Gilbert,

PA on Saturday the 9th of August at 2PM. Scott Jackson said he would do this presentation. Bill Pancoast said that he would also like to attend. All are welcome to go and see what one of these courts looks like.

David Wright stated that the website quartermaster page has been updated with the current ships' store inventory. Scott Gerber said he obtained a Barb Challenge Coin via Amazon to be put in the Ship Store if anyone was interested in purchasing it.

Bob Obrecht would like to get hats for our base. Scott Jackson made a motion to get the hats. George Reed made the second motion for the hats. We will look into getting the 5 panel style hats with the base name in both silver and gold. Asking for any member into investigate where to get them from. Looking into obtaining 20 hats to start.

Good of the Order:

Binnacle List: No report.

Calendar of Events:

29 Jul 2026: Kinsley's Shop Rite Ticket sales from 11-3.

9 Aug 2026: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Brandon Neal at the Gilbert, PA American Legion Post at 2PM/. Scott Jackson and Bill Pancoast to attend.

14 Aug 2026: Kinsley's Shop Rite Ticket sales from 11-3.

19 Aug 2026: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post

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.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 Aug 2026 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The Base Commander, Bob Obrecht led the members present in the recitation of the USSVI National 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 provided the benediction at the end of the meeting.

1st motion made by Tony Sturla to adjourn the meeting, 2nd motion made by Gene Peppe. 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

