

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 17 June 2026



USS Bonefish

SS-223

Base Officers

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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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Meeting called to order at 1902 by Base Vice Commander Bob Sweeney 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 May:

20 Jun 1941	USS O-9	SS 70	34 Men
12 Jun 1943	USS R-12	SS 89	42 Men
30 Jun 1943	USS Runner	SS 275	78 Men
01 Jun 1944	USS Herring	SS 233	80 Men
14 Jun 1944	USS Golet	SS 361	82 Men

Chaplain Crosby delivered the invocation after a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Members present were Mike Smith, Scott Gerber, Tony Sturla, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe, Ken Kull, Bob Sweeney, David Wright, Alan Dempsey, Tom Crosby, Dave Padora, Tom Dahl, and Bob Smith

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

The secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The secretary made the minutes available at the meeting and were posted on the website. The secretary is asking the members to let him know if there are any corrections to be made to the minutes.

Treasurers Report: No Report. Treasurer out of town for a conference.

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith reported that we are holding steady at 47 active members as of this meeting. We still need to recruit new members. Also, we are waiting for our new member to get back to us.

Budget / Donation: No report until after the raffle

Correspondence: No correspondence this month

Flag Box Program: Bob & Sheila Smith picked up the flags from the Flag Store in Sciotta. David Wright stated that he had the drop box refurbished where he lives and Alan picked up the flags at the Blakeslee Post Office and Kinsley's Shop Rite.

Publicity: No Report.

Parades: Next parade in Stroudsburg, PA on July 4th. Intro to follow in Old Business

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

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

Ships Store: No report

Float Committee: The float is in need of minor repairs from the trip back from the Reading Airport. The rudder came off during transport back to Bob Smith's house and needs replacement. A working party will need to be formed and repairs made prior to the July 4th Parade in Stroudsburg.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are available to members.

Bus trip: No Report.

Michael Smith read from the Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of the USS Bonefish. She was lost with all hands due to Japanese A/S operations on or about June 18th. She was the last submarine sunk in WWII.

Old Business: Bob Smith asked if anyone had any information on public events that we may wish to attend, to please let him know and get placed on our base calendar on the website.

The next parade will be on July 4th in Stroudsburg, PA. The parade will step off at 10AM from the Stroudsburg High School and will end at Danbury Park in East Stroudsburg. This means that lineup will be at 9AM. There were a number of members present that expressed interest in attending.

Darryl Betz, Scott Gerber and Alan Dempsey recapped the WWII Weekend at the Reading Airport. The float and tent were set up on Thursday, and the event ran from Friday to Sunday. There was great interest in the float and the submarines that played a role in WWII, mainly from the lifeguard duties they were assigned to for downed pilots. The tent took a bit of damage on Saturday with the high winds and rain that came through the area. There was a lot of help in taking down the tent to minimize the damage to the float. All of the bungee cords had to be cut off to remove the panels so they wouldn't act as a sail. A couple of the poles were damaged as well but can be repaired. The float was outside and another table was set up in a different area. At no time during the event, that the float was left unattended while the show was ongoing. The base made \$583 in raffle sales for the weekend. Scott stated that the float was brought back home Saturday after the weather passed to further protect it from more damage and was not available for viewing on Sunday.

Scott Gerber said that there was a YouTube video made of the event and he emailed a copy of it to the base members. The video is about 15 minutes in length and has already garnered over a 1000 views.

Alan Dempsey made the first motion to reimburse Scott Gerber for the entry fee to the event. Tony Sturla made the second motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Alan Dempsey also made a motion to reimburse Darryl Betz for gas in the amount of \$50 for the transportation of the float. Tony Sturla made the second motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Sweeney recommended that we reimburse the drivers of the vehicles for the float be \$25 for the local events. This is due to the higher fuel costs at this time.

The base will pay for the replacement of the bungee cords that were cut. We will need 6 & 9 inch size cords according to Bob Smith. Recommended to get them from a trailer store or Tractor Supply, Bob Smith stated that the ones available from Amazon are cheap manufactured.

Alan Dempsey recapped the race weekend. We only had 6 man-days this year as Tom and Larry were unable to make it to the Sunday race. This will equate to a \$600 donation from the track.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 23rd to the 29rd of August. The hours for the fair are now 2 to 9 daily except Wednesday, when it is 12 to 9. 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.

Mike Smith talked about the Eagle Scout Courts of Honor that we have recently attended.

The first was 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. Scott Jackson did this presentation. We received a thank you letter from Wyatt for our base representation.

The second court of honor was for Aleksander 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. This package was mailed as there were no takers for this court of honor.

The third was for Nicolas Petroff and was held at Little Park, 309 Keokee Chapel Lane in Cresco, PA on Sunday, June 14th at 1PM. This package was mailed as there were no takers.

The 2nd is for Cameron Hayes and will be held at the Kunkletown Volunteer Fire Company, 597 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA on Saturday the 20th of June at 1PM. Bob Smith stated that he would do this presentation.

The secretary reminded the members present, that the Vietnam Veteran Moving Wall will be at the Stroudsburg High School from July 9th to the 13th and is sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 678.

Alan Dempsey said that he is looking into creating a petition to go to the Governor in regard to the Submarine Veteran Signs on Rte 115. He has not heard anything through the normal channels and feels that this is the next step.

New Business: Bob Smith stated that he sent an invitation to the Command Crew in regard to the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade. The 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.

Good of the Order:

Scott Gerber brought a banner that shows a cutaway view of the USS Barb for the base to display. Scott said that the banner is a donation to the base.

Bob Obrecht is home recovering from having knee replacement surgery and was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Calendar of Events:

20 Jun 2026: Court of Honor for Cameron Hayes at the Kunkletown Volunteer Fire Co, 597 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA at 1PM. Bob Smith will do the presentation

4 Jul 2026: Happy 4th of July.

9 – 13 Jul 2026: The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall will be displayed at the Stroudsburg High School.

15 Jul 2026: Regular membership meeting at 1900 hrs at the Wilson-Fischer Post.

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

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

7 Sep 2026: Labor Day

12 Sep 2026: Belvidere Victorian Fair.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 15 July 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.”

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

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by David Wright.

All in favor, motion carried.

Bob Sweeney declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1938 hrs.

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

