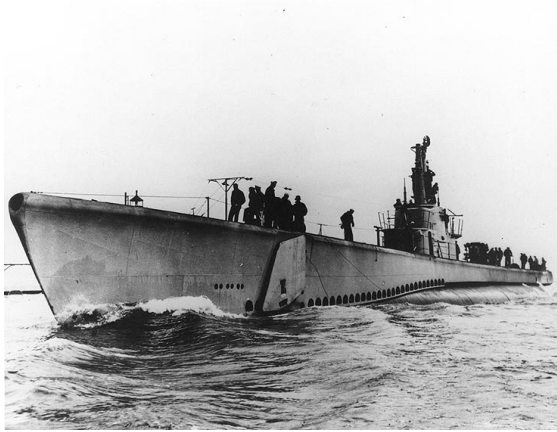


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 21 May 2025



USS Lagarto SS-371

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
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

Storekeeper - David Wright 201 Bear Run Dr. Drums, PA 18222
Ph 570-233-8044. E-mail address: dgwchem@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 1904 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 May:

23 May 1939	USS Squalus	SS 192	26 Men
03 May 1945	USS Lagarto	SS 371	88 Men
22 May 1968	USS Scorpion	SSN 589	99 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: Tom Crosby, Alan Dempsey, Mike Smith, Bob Sweeney, Scott Gerber, Bob Smith, Ken Kull, Bob Obrecht, George Reed, Tom Crosby, Bill Pancoast, Scott Jackson, and Daryl Handley.

We were joined by the wives of a few 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: The Base Treasurer reported a balance of \$x.xx as of 30 April 2026. Scott is looking to pay the entire balance of \$x.xx for the West End Fair, this includes the initial deposit. Scott also reported that he has a few checks that need to be deposited. There will be an actual balance of \$x.xx after deposits and checks to be sent. The donation check sent to the DAV was finally cleared back in April.

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.

Budget / Donation: No report.

Correspondence: There were two pieces of mail in the Legion mailbox, one was junk mail from Progressive Insurance and the other was a magazine from the Fisher House. The secretary will keep the magazine unless any member would like to read it. It is similar to the American Submariner magazine. There was a third piece of mail, and it was from National from the Charity program, thanking us for our donation for the Go Fund Me for the Halliday house fire.

Flag Box Program: Bob Obrecht picked up the flags at the Flag Store, Alan Dempsey picked up the flags from Brodheadsville and Blakeslee.

Publicity: No Report

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

Eagle Scout: Will be covered under Old and New Business.

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

Ships Store: No report.

Float Committee: No report.

Fundraising: Raffle tickets are available for the base membership.

Mike Smith read about the loss of the USS Lagarto. The sub was presumed lost due to encountering the minelayer, Hatsutaka in the shallow waters. She went down with all hands. The USS Hawkbill avenged the loss of the Lagarto by sinking the Hatsutaka.

Old Business: The Memorial Day Parade this year will be held on the 25th of May. The starts at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center and around to Rte. 423 and back up Old 940 to the cemetery. 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. In case of inclement weather, the parade will be cancelled, and the ceremony will be held at the Wilson-Fischer Post at 10AM. The wreath will be placed at the cemetery for us to post when called.

There is an open invitation to the July 4th Parade 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. Will check in the application to be sent back.

Alan is still asking for members to help during the race weekend in June. Our base will receive \$100 per person, per day, for our efforts. We would be placed around the stands, or other areas, except the parking lot. This is a great way to earn income for our base, to be used for base operations and our charitable organizations that we donate to. Please respond to Alan Dempsey so we can have a nearly accurate number of volunteers. Friends and family can help out our base. Asking that we wear Khaki colored pants, a nice shirt. Also, bring sunscreen, a hat and earplugs. The cars are loud, but the track dryers are even louder. Schedule for the Pocono Races is on the base website. We will be joined by Tom Denton, Region 3 Commander and 1st Lt Larry Harvin. They will join us for the race on Sunday the 14th of June. Sign Up sheet is available, and Alan will send out the passes for parking when he receives them.

Mike Smith talked about the following Eagle Scout Courts of Honor:

Scott Jackson said he still needs to mail the certificate package to Chandler Smith and said he does have the address.

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

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. Scott Jackson stated that he would do this presentation.

The third court of honor is for Alexander Tsyganov Lambertson and will be held at Twin Pine Camp, 3000 Twin Pines Camp Rd, Stroudsburg, PA on Saturday the 6th of June at 2PM.

Tom Crobbs 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. With this in mind, our June meeting will be on the 17th. This is the normal third Wednesday of the month.

Scott Gerber said that we are good to go to 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. we are able to sell our raffle tickets at the event. Ken Kull and Darryl Betz were going to join Scott at this event. Scott Jackson said he would like to attend for one of the days.

New Business: There was discussion about getting new locks for the flag boxes and obtaining ones that are keyed the same. Our current keys are not allowed to be duplicated as stamped on the keys themselves. George Reed stated that he has locks and keys for us and is asking for \$5 each for the locks. There was concern about the lack of keys to go around for those that check on the boxes. We have 4 locations, the Flag Store, Kinsley's Shop Rite, Blakeslee Post Office and the one where David Wright resides. Only three locks are needed.

There are new Eagle Scout Court of Honor requests:

The 1st is for Nicolas Petroff and will be held at Little Park, 309 Keokee Chapel Lane in Cresco, PA on Sunday, June 14th at 1PM.

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.

The base received a thank you letter from Rose Krezel for Alan Dempsey doing our presentation at her court of honor.

Bob Sweeney mentioned that there is a Memorial event at the Polk Township Veterans memorial on Sunday the 24th of May at 12:30. Daryl Handley stated that his wife is the guest speaker for this event. The location is across from the post office just off Rte 209 in Kresgeville.

The West End Fair is coming up from the 23rd to the 29th of August. The hours for the fair are now 3 to 9 daily, set up on the 22nd and teardown on the 30th. Sign up list for volunteer days to be on the base website. Bob Obrecht also has sign-up sheets on the table. Raffle tickets are available for the members.

Alan stated that he has been on a campaign to have the signs labeling part of Rte 115 enlarged. He stated he is running into the typical red tape with Harrisburg. He has sent letters to the Governor, PennDOT, and also Jack Rader and Rosemary Brown.

Scott Gerber talked about a museum that is in the Reading Area and is looking for donations that can be displayed about submarines. If anyone has any items, they would like to have displayed, Scott can let the gentleman who runs the museum know.

Good of the Order: No one on the Binnacle list.

Calendar of Events:

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

14 Jun 2026: Court of Honor for Nicolas Petroff at Little Park, 309 Keokee Chapel Lane in Cresco, PA at 1PM.

20 Jun 2026: Court of Honor for Cameron Hayes at the Kunkletown Volunteer Fire Co, 597 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA at 1PM

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

4 Jul 2026: Happy 4th of July.

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

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 17th of June 2024 at 1700 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 our meeting.

1st motion made by Bob Sweeney to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tom Crosby

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

