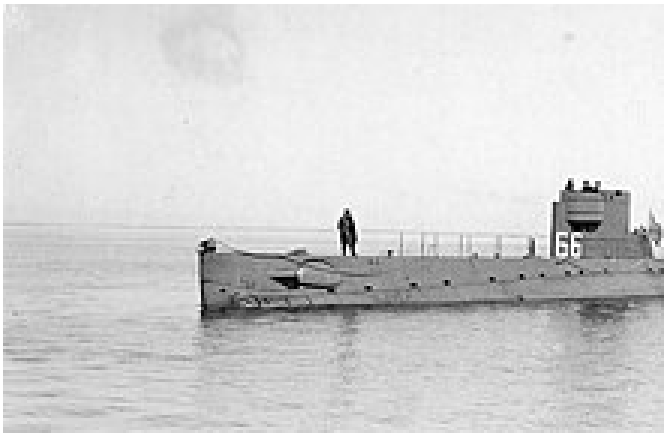
United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes \\
Wednesday, 21 October 2026



USS O-5 (SS 66)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732 / Ph (484) 464-7534 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.com
Base Executive Officer – Robert Sweeney / 74 Summit Drive, Saylorsburg, PA 18353 / Ph (570) 269-2990 / E-mail address: scran123@ptd.net
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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 1901 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 October:

28 Oct 1923	USS O-5	SS 66	3 Men
07 Oct 1943	USS S-44	SS 155	56 Men
11 Oct 1943	USS Wahoo	SS 238	79 Men
12 Oct 1943	USS Dorado	SS 248	78 Men
03 Oct 1944	USS Seawolf II	SS 197	102 Men
17 Oct 1944	USS Escolar	SS 294	82 Men
24 Oct 1944	USS Tang	SS 306	80 Men

24 Oct 1944 USS Shark II SS 314 90 Men

Chaplain Tom Crosby delivered the invocation to the members present.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

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

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

Meeting Minutes: The September minutes posted to the website by the Webmaster, and copies were provided to the members for the meeting.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer stated an ending balance of $x.xx as of 30 Sep 2026. There are a number of deposits that need to be made, including about $x.xx in ticket sales at Shop Rite. A final tally will be stated at the November Meeting

Committees:

Membership: Bob Smith stated that we have 47 members in our base. Bob also stated that we have three potential new members but they we not at tonight's meeting. One of the potential members was Leonard Polenka and he sent in his dues that we read at tonight's meeting. May be a mix up with the Legion Membership.

Budget / Donation: The budget and donation committee will meet approx. 45 minutes before the November 2026 meeting. The final tally will be made available at this time. Bob Smith stated that anyone is welcome to join the committee.

Correspondence: The only correspondence was junk mail from PNC Bank and a letter from a potential new member with his base dues.

Flag Box Program: The flags boxes continue to produce. Alan said he got the one in Blakeslee at the post office, and the one at Kinsley's Shop Rite. The Flag Store is also busy, and Bob Sweeney brought a large bag full of flags.

Publicity: To be covered in new business.

Storekeeper: David Wright stated that he has 2027 calendars available at $10 each and will have them available at the November meeting. There is also a list of what is available on the base website.

Speakers Bureau: No Report.

Dinner: Christmas Dinner to be held on the 13th of December at Murph's Hideaway in Blakeslee, PA at the former Robert Christian Restaurant.

Parades: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade from Stroudsburg, PA to East Stroudsburg, PA on the 1st of November. Also, the Carbon Veterans Day Parade on the 8th of November in Weatherly, PA.

Eagle Scout: There were no Court of Honor invitations.

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

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht stated that the float is ready to go but we still have not received the registration to go with the new tag on the float. Mike Smith stated he wants to take the conning tower back after the last parade. There are some issues with the lighting that need fixing.

Mike Smith read from US Naval Institute website on the loss of the USS O-5. She was struck by the cargo vessel Steamship SS Abangarez around Cristobol in the Panama Canal system. Three men were lost from the collision and subsequent flooding. 16 men were rescued immediately, and 2 other men were rescued a couple of days later from the forward torpedo room after she was lifted of the bottom by the Ajax, a large mobile crane that was being used in the Panama Canal.

Old Business: The Veterans Day Parade will be held in Stroudsburg and will travel to Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg. The parade will start at 1PM on Sunday, the 1st of November. Line-up is at the Stroudsburg High School by 12:30PM. Members can park at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg, and a bus will transport them to the high school. A number of members present indicated that they would be attending the parade. The rain date is the 8th. If the weather forces a reschedule, the members voted to attend the Weatherly Parade. We have attended Stroudsburg numerous times.

We were also invited to attend the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Weatherly, PA this year as well. This parade is on Sunday, the 8th of November at 2PM. Line up will be starting at noon with further information to follow once we are checked in at the parade. There were a number of members who indicated that they would attend. This is the first time in 27 years for the parade to be held in this town.

Bob Sweeney apologized for not looking into the outreach program due to ongoing medical issues. Bob stated that he was not able to get any information on veterans at any of the nursing homes in time for Veterans Day. Bob sweeney is asking for help as he stated he will be in the hospital starting on the 10th of November. Bob has the blank certificate for the veterans and another for the caretakers. Mike Smith said he would be able to print the information on them after developing a template for the certificates. David Wright said he would take a few to hand out at the VA.

Gene Peppe stated he has new lights for use on the float. They are three-panel design, and he said he will donate to the base. Gene stated he would bring one in November.

New Business: Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2027. National Dues are $40. Base dues remain at $10. Invoices for dues will be sent out for those not at our meeting. Please get them in by the 1st of December.

The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 13 Dec 2026 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. The menu was made available to the members' present and will be posted on the website. Cost per one member with one guest is $25 each.

Alan Dempsey made a recommendation that we keep the three-tier prize for the raffle going forward. Alan also is looking to have a certificate of appreciation for Mr Kinsley for hosting our base at Shop Rite in Brodheadsville. The recommendation is to bump up the second and third place prizes. Bob Obrecht stated we had a banner year for raffle ticket sales this year.

David Wright would like to give a shout out to the National Scholarship program. Dave stated his grandson got a $2400 scholarship this year and would like to let the members know about this program. Scott Jackson commented that they are opening the program to trades and not just college.

Good of the Order: Scott Jackson said he did a bike ride down the Lehigh Gorge trail these last two weekends and was joined by Scott Gerber on the ride this past Saturday. Scott said his one friend was going to try and get him a point of contact for the USS Barb commissioning when that date arrives.

Calendar of Events:

1 Nov 2026: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg PA at 1 PM

8 Nov 2026: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Weatherly, PA at 2PM.

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

26 Nov 2026: Thanksgiving.

13 Dec 2026: Annual Christmas Dinner.

25 Dec 2026: Christmas

1 Jan 2027: New Years.

20 Jan 2027: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next meeting will be a held on Wednesday, 18 Nov 2026 at 1900 Hours at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Crosby read the benediction to the members present.

1st motion made by Tom Crosby to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Tony Sturla.

All in favor, motion carried.

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."

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

PS. The winning tickets for the Base Raffle were drawn, and the winners were contacted by Bob Obrecht.