

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 16 September 2026



USS S-51 SS-162

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732 / Ph (484) 464-7534 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.com

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Meeting called to order at 1903 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 September:

25 Sept 1925	USS S-51	SS 162	32 Men
09 Sept 1943	USS Grayling	SS 209	76 Men
28 Sept 1943	USS Cisco	SS 290	76 Men

The secretary led the members with an invocation.

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

Roll Call: The following members were present: Alan Dempsey, Bill Orbenpost, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Bob Obrecht, Bob Sweeney, David Wright, Bruce Frisch, Scott Jackson, and Gene Peppe.

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes: The August Minutes were made available at the meeting. The secretary was having problems again trying to send attachments after the last computer update..

Treasurers Report: The treasurer stated an ending balance of \$x.xx as of 31 Aug 2026. There are a number of deposits that need to be made, including about \$x.xx. The treasurer reported that he has about \$x.xx to deposit from our raffle sales so far. This is mainly from the fair and the Shop Rite sales. Will have a grand total once all of the individual sales are turned in. The check for the West End Fair has not been deposited yet. There is a \$x.xx reimbursement due to Bob Sweeney for the hats.

Committees:

Membership: We currently have a total membership of 47. Bob Smith stated he was expecting two new members for tonight's meeting. Josh Kolar has also been reinstated as a member.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Flag Boxes: The boxes have continued to be productive. Alan Dempsey stated that the box at Kinsley's was full. Bob Sweeney stated he would check the Flag Store at another date. That box is typically full, too.

Publicity: No report.

Christmas Party: Looking at the 13th of December. More information to follow.

Parades: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade, Weatherly, PA and Monroe County parade in Stroudsburg, PA. Covered in old business.

Eagle Scout: No new Court of Honor requests.

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): Not active.

Budget/ Donation: Budget committee to provide report once the base raffle concludes in October. They will meet 45 minutes before the November Meeting.

Float Committee: Bob Obrecht stated that there are some minor repairs to be made. Mike Smith asked to have the conning tower removed after we are done with parades this season. He would like to repair the navigation lights

Lost boat of September.

Mike Smith read from the Submarine Force Museum website about the loss of the USS S-51. She was struck by the Merchant Ship, City of Rome and sank in about 130 feet of water. 23 crew members perished in this accident. Both vessels were determined to have been at fault, the captain of the City of Rome for failure to follow standard navigation rules and the flaw with the navigation lights on the S-51 not conforming to International Laws.

Old Business: The Celtic Classic in Bethlehem again, is coming up shortly. Unfortunately, due to conditions beyond our control, we will not have our time slot for the Beer Tent on the 27th of September. Tom Crosby had texted Scott Jackson during the meeting with the news.

The raffle will be drawn after the Oct 21st meeting. Any outstanding tickets **MUST** be received by the end of the meeting. Any late ones will need to be refunded. The winner will be contacted that night.

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. Bob Obrecht stated that we are confirmed for this parade. 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. We have not received invitation about this parade as of tonight's meeting. Bob Smith said he would contact Monroe County about the parade.

Bob Obrecht said that the Belvidere Victorian Day's was slow this year and did not take in as much on raffle money as we have in the past. Saturday was a good weather day for it.

Last Shop Rite event will be on Friday the 25th of September from 11-3. All are welcome to join in this last major sales day.

Bob Sweeney talked about the hats for the Pocono Base that are now in the storekeeper's possession. They are \$15 each and only one was a six-panel design. They were obtained from the Vest Lady. There are three with gold dolphins for a few of our members that held officer ranks, the rest are silver dolphins.

New Business: Alan Dempsey said he had talked to another vendor at the West End Fair and stated that she did not pay for the electricity use this year. He stated that she was using a portable power bank for her booth. Alan asked Bob Smith to talk to Peanut on the use of portable power units at the fair and that we should look into purchasing one. Our lighting system is LED based and barely warrants the electricity charge for the fair of \$142.50. Alan believes it would pay for itself in a couple of years of not needing to pay that portion of the entry fee.

David Wright talked about the base coins that we still have and looking for other places to use them for. The secretary adds one for each Eagle Scout package. Dave is also looking for other places we can use them.

Gene Peppe talked about not being able to see the boat properly from a distance and especially at night and is looking to donate a couple of bright Led lights. We do have light bars on the float, but the direction of the float this year to match the cutaway banner places the lights to the back of the tent.

The budget committee will meet 45 minutes before the November Meeting to work on the donations for the year. If there are any charitable organizations that would be worthwhile, please make your recommendation.

Good of the Order: Bob Obrecht talked about the Base Christmas Dinner this year. Currently want to hold it on the 13th of December and is looking into either Murph's Hideaway again or look into the Kresgeville diner on Rte. 209 just near the Rte. 534 intersection. Also looking into other food options if we do go back to Murph's. Bob Obrecht said he would have something firm by the October Meeting.

Calendar of Events:

25 Sep 2026: Kinsley's Shop Rite Ticket sales from 11-3.

21 Oct 2026: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post.

1 Nov 2025: 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.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 October 2026 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

The secretary led the members with a benediction at the end of the meeting.

1st motion made by Bruce Frisch to adjourn the meeting; 2nd motion made by Alan Dempsey

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 1942 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D Smith.
Pocono Base Secretary

