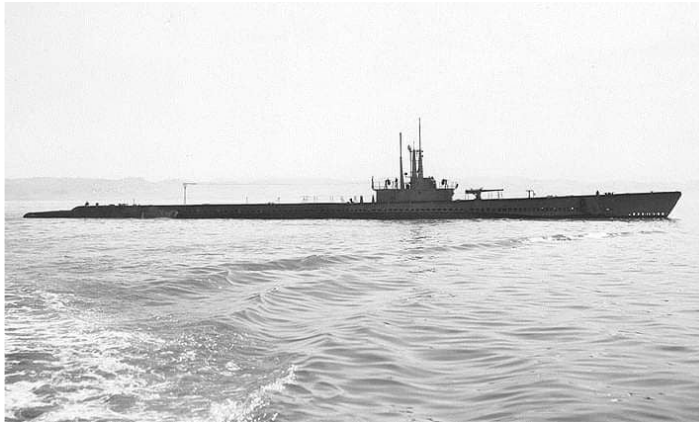


USSVI, Inc.
Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 15 October 2025



USS Shark II (SS 314)

Base Officers

Base Commanding Officer – Robert Smith / P.O. Box 601, Kresgeville, PA. 18333-0601

Ph (610) 681-2606. E-mail address: rlincs@ptd.net

Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732

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Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehighton, PA. 18235-2638

Ph (610) 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 / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

Ph (570) 350-4657 / E-mail address: crosbytr@webcrosby.com

Meeting called to order at 1913 by Base Commander Bob Smith 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, Alan Dempsey, Gene Peppe, Bob Obrecht, David Wright, Mike Smith, Don Ransell, Bruce Frisch, Tony Sturla, Scott Jackson, Ken Kull, George Reid, Bob Smith, and Bill Pancoast

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 Base Commander, and copies were provided to the members for the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Scott Jackson was unable to obtain the balance for the base treasury. There was a problem with the Minutes and the Letterhead having the wrong title for our base. These will be rectified by the secretary and Scott will work on getting access to our account. Bob Smith asked Alan Dempsey if he would sign a check for David Wright for Storekeeper supplies. Alan said he would.

Committees:

Membership: Bob stated that we have 48 members in our base, and one new member present tonight.

Budget / Donation: The budget and donation committee will meet approx. 45 minutes before the November 2025 meeting. The final tally will be made available at this time. Bob Smith stated that anyone is welcome to join the committee.

Correspondence: One correspondence received was a late invitation for the Carbon County Veterans Day Parade. Bob Smith also stated that he received it via email and has returned it with our entry. The other letter was a thank you letter for our donation to Charlie Dehart for rehabilitation after a serious accident. This letter was actually sent back in July.

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.

Publicity: To be covered in new business.

Storekeeper: David Wright stated that he has 2026 calendars available at \$10 each and has also gotten in touch with the Scranton Base to handle their storekeeper needs. 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 14th 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 2nd of November. Also, the Carbon Veterans Day Parade on the 9th of November in Lehighton, PA.

Eagle Scout: Court of Honor to be covered in Old Business.

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 read from Submarine Operations of WWII about the loss of USS Shark II. Shark II was a victim of Japanese A/S operations after attacking a prisoner transport.

To reiterate from last month's special election, Scott Jackson was sworn in as the new base treasurer due to the resignation of our previous treasurer.

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 2nd 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.

We were also invited to attend the Carbon County Veterans Day parade in Lehigh, PA this year as well. This parade is on Sunday, the 9th of November at 2PM. Line up will be along Coal Street between 7th and 9th streets.

There was an Eagle Scout Court of Honor request received a few months ago for Dylan Payne. The court was held back on August 9th and we were unfortunately able to do this in person. The secretary has made numerous attempts to contact Dylan to obtain his address to mail him the package, but the attempts have been unsuccessful. All that was originally received was the invitation by e-mail.

New Business: Annual Base and National Dues are to be turned in by January 1st, 2025. National Dues are \$35. Base dues remain at \$10. Invoices for dues will be sent out for those not at our meeting. Please get them sent in.

The Annual Base Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, 14 Dec 2025 at Murph's Hideaway on Route 940 at 1PM. This was formerly known as Robert Christian's. There will be further information posted on the website including menu. Cost per one member with one guest is \$25 each.

Bob Smith said that the base made \$x in sales at Shop Rite on the 24th of September, and \$x at Shop Rite of the 4th of October. The base took in \$x at Belvidere this year. Traffic was light there too. We took in \$x at Tractor Supply. The base will look into having table sales prior to the West End Fair next year. This year's ticket sales at the fair were quite lite. The base also took in over \$x in ticket sales by the members via mail and whatever was turned in as of tonight's meeting.

Bob Sweeney talked about an upcoming visit to Getz Personal Care Home in Kunkletown, Pa about three quarters of a mile from Valor Clinic on Veterans Day in November. The visit will be with veterans who reside there and would like to hand out our certificates of appreciation and our base coin to those veterans. Mike Smith said he would help with the printing of the certificates and was given 10 preprinted blanks to use. They will be given back to Bob Sweeney at the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade. Bob Sweeney said he would not be able to attend that day and is asking for other members to attend in his place.

Gene Peppe recommended that the base look into having a tiered raffle prize next time to try and garner more sales. The members agreed to table this until next year when we start planning for the raffle next year.

Good of the Order: Bob Smith asked Tom Crosby to verify a couple of events hosted by the legion post were correct on our online calendar and Tom stated he would check into that.

Scott Jackson is looking to organize a bike ride down the Lehigh Gorge trail on Saturday the 18th of October. Scott Jackson is asking if anyone is interested to email him about the details.

Calendar of Events:

2 Nov 2025: Monroe County Veterans Day Parade in Stroudsburg PA at 1 PM.

9 Nov 2025: Carbon County Veterans Day Parade in Lehighton PA at 2PM

19 Nov 2025: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

27 Nov 2025: Thanksgiving.

14 Dec 2025: Annual Christmas Dinner at Murph's Hideaway.

25 Dec 2025: Christmas

1 Jan 2026: New Years.

21 Jan 2025: Monthly meeting at 1900 Hours.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19 Nov 2025 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 Smith declared the meeting of the Pocono Base adjourned at 1944 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Smith
USSVI – Pocono Base Secretary

Ps. The winning ticket for the Base Raffle was drawn, and the winner was contacted by Bob Smith.