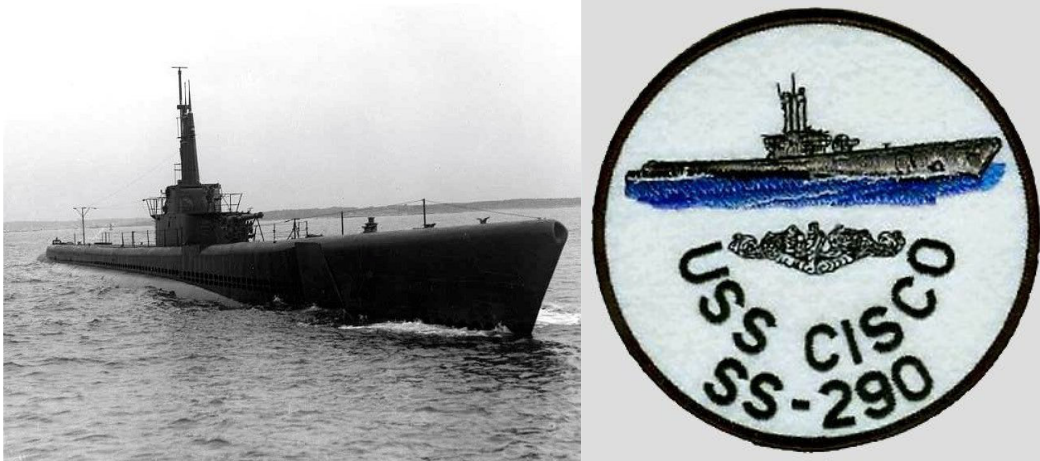


United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. Pocono Base – Meeting Minutes Wednesday, 17 September 2025



USS Cisco SS-209

Base Officers

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

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

Base Executive Officer – Robert Obrecht / 339 Lehigh Avenue, Palmerton, PA. 18071-5732 Ph (484) 705-6018 / E-mail address: aquaknot339@gmail.com

Base Yeoman – Michael D. Smith / 40 Stedman Avenue, Lehigh, 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 / 605 Gordon Lane, Tobyhanna, PA. 18466

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

Meeting called to order at 18:59 by Base Commander Bob Smith 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

Chaplain Tom Crosby 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: Tom Crosby, Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Scott Jackson, Scott Gerber, Darryl Betz, Gene Peppe, David Wright, Josh Kolar, Tony Sturla, Bob Obrecht, George Reid, Alan Dempsey and Bruce Frisch

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

The Secretary verified that a quorum was present.

Prior to the rest of the meeting, a special election was held to nominate, vote and install a new Base Treasurer. Alan Dempsey resigned his position as Base Treasurer and Chief of the Boat.

Tom Crosby nominated Scott Jackson for the position of Base Treasurer. Bob Obrecht made the second nomination for Scott Jackson. Scott Jackson accepted the nomination to become the new Base Treasurer. As there were no other nominations for the position, Base Secretary, Michael D Smith cast the vote for Scott Jackson to be the new Treasurer.

Scott Jackson accepted the position and was sworn in as the Base Treasurer by the Base Secretary. This position is for the remainder of the 2024 – 2026 cycle and will re-open in January 2026.

Meeting Minutes: The August Minutes were posted to the website but were subject to questioning. The Base Secretary was not at the August meeting, and the minutes were taken by Scott Jackson.

Treasurers Report: No Report.

Committees:

Membership: We currently have a total membership of 49. Bob Smith stated he was expecting two new members for tonight's meeting. They filled out the paperwork but have yet to pay their dues. Dues for the remainder of this year and through next year are \$47. Our Base dues are \$10 for next year.

Correspondence: The base received a thank you letter from Vena Ackerman of the Flag Store. Mike Smith read the letter to the members. Vena thanked us for the invitation to the Flag Day ceremony back in June and stated that she enjoyed reading "Blind Man's Bluff".

Flag Boxes: The boxes have continued to be productive. Alan Dempsey stated that the box at the Blakeslee Post Office looks very good and thanked Scott Gerber and Bob Sweeney for their assistance. Tom Crosby stated that the one in front of the legion post is constantly full.

Publicity: No report.

Christmas Party: No report.

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

Eagle Scout: Please see New Business and the Calendar of Events.

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: Float is ready to go for future events and the parades.

Mike Smith read from Submarine Operations of WWII on the loss of the USS Cisco. Cisco was lost due to anti-submarine activity and bombing attacks from Japanese Aircraft. Cisco was lost with all hands.

Old Business: Bob Smith reported that we only made \$2170 at the West End Fair this year. Enough to cover our raffle expenses. We received \$1000 from our time at the racetrack back in June. A total of \$98 was received from raffle ticket sales at Tractor Supply last week. We have upcoming dates for more table sales on the 24th of September and on the 4th of October at Shop Rite in Brodheadsville, PA.

The Celtic Classic in Bethlehem again, is coming up shortly. Our group is a go for Sunday, the 28th of September. Again, we will be manning the beer tent, pouring drinks from the taps, collecting money and any tips we receive during our time frame belong to the base. Tom said he sent the information to Bob Smith for dissemination to those members going to the Celtic Classic. We are encouraged to wear our vests and even bring the Base Banner. The information contains a map of the festival ground, how to get there and where to check in. Links to the website are also included. The time of our shift has moved from 1:30PM to 12:15. Please

The raffle will be drawn after the Oct 15th 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.

There was a Court of Honor for Dylan Payne back on August 9th. As there were no takers for this court of honor, Mike Smith will have the package sent out as soon as he can contact Dylan for an address. His invitation was received via email.

Tony Sturla talked about the Belvidere Heritage Festival. He stated that attendance was down this year due to lack of proper planning. Their short notice requests resulted in fewer groups showing up due to prior commitments. Tony doesn't expect it to be any better next year. Tony also stated that they had finally got electricity in the afternoon for our tent.

Alan Dempsey stated that the base has still not received the new permit from the state for the trailer. Alan provided the new treasurer with a copy of the letter that was sent back on August 16th. We have not received a reply as of tonight's meeting

New Business:

Scott Jackson will need to be added to the Authorized Signature list at PNC Bank. We will need a letter from our base using our letterhead and a signed copy of our meeting minutes

stating that Mr Jackson is the new Base Treasurer. Information about the account is in the Treasurer package.

We received an invitation to the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade months ago. There are two parades. One is on the 2nd of November for the Stroudsburg parade and the 8th for the Carbon County Parade. Will line up at the Stroudsburg High School by 12:30 PM and step off at 1PM. The parade will end at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg, PA. The Carbon County parade will step-off at 2PM and will be in Lehighon this year. Lineups and maps will be finalized by the October Meeting. Scott Gerber stated that we have not received an invitation for the Carbon County Parade as of tonight's meeting.

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.

There was a Eagle Scout Court of Honor request received by mail for a Jake Merritt. His court of honor will be held at St Paul's Lutheran Church, 158 Fish Hill Road in Tannersville, PA on Saturday the 20th of September at 2PM. Scott Jackson said he would do this presentation.

Scott Gerber talked about the car show that was postponed back in June at the Polk Township Fire Company due to poor weather conditions. Scott stated that the gentleman is looking at having a couple of shows. The first is on the 21st of September at the Blue Ridge Winery, the next is on the 18th of October at the Polk Township Fire Company. Scott suggested attending to build a good rapport with the organizer. Bob Smith stated that we do try to do these types of events to help educate the public about our mission and what we did as submariners.

Alan Demspey stated that donations to our base are reported at the end of the year financial report to national. These are separate entries that need to be reported.

Daivd Wright talked about going to the Scranton Base to be their storekeeper in a similar fashion to what Bill Klose used to do. Dave said he talked with Jeff Owens, former commander of our base before the split to form the Scranton Base. Bob Smith also stated that there is now a link on our website to the ships stores and what is available.

Bob Smith stated that he would like to try and fix the link to our bylaws. Bob stated that the bylaws are truncated on the right side and words are missing. Bob is asking the permission of the base to attempt the fix. All were in favor.

Good of the Order: Dave Padora is recovering from having surgery on his back earlier this month and is doing well.

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:

20 Sep 2025: Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jake Merritt at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Tannersville, Pa. Scott Jackson will do our presentation.

27-28 Sep 2025: Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival. Our shift to man the Beer tent is on the 28th from 1-4PM.

15 Oct 2025: Monthly Meeting at the American Legion Wilson-Fischer post. The Raffle Winner will be drawn at end of this meeting.

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

8 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.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 October 2025 at 1900 Hrs. at the American Legion, Wilson-Fischer Post.

Chaplain Tom Crosby led the members with a benediction at the end of the meeting.

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

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 1942 hrs.

Respectfully submitted Michael
D Smith.