

March Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the March Meeting Perch Base – USSVI

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans – Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62; Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 08 March 2003. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander - Dave Harnish.

The members were led in the "pledge of allegiance"; followed by the dedication, moment of silence for our departed shipmates, "tolling of the boats" and the invocation by Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle.

There were 25 members and 4 guests attending the meeting according to the sailing list.

The members welcomed new member; Greg Olson, with a round of applause.

The members also welcomed guests: Bob Gilmore, Harry McAfee and Jim Foote (USSVI - Western Regional Director).

It was moved and the motion seconded that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter; "The MidWatch". The motion carried by voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of March, 2003:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Vice Commander - Glenn Herold reported for the Ship's Store, indicating that the store had several new items - dolphin pins, Diesel Boats Forever patches, Cold War patches, vehicle decals and more. Glenn also encouraged members to consider purchasing the USSVI Flag. It is a great companion flag to fly with the National Ensign.

Chief of the Boat - Doug LaRock announced that the annual Perch Base Picnic will be held at Margaret Hance Park in Phoenix on Saturday April 12th. Other details will be published in the monthly newsletter and on the Perch Base Web Site.

Howard Doyle - Base Chaplain informed the members of the heart problems Garry Shumann was suffering and asked them to remember Garry in their prayers.

Chuck Emmett asked members to provide him, on a regular basis, any individual or family information worthy of mentioning in the newsletter. The objective is to include more member information in the "Midwatch".

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Harnish announced that the Perch Base Newsletter had been recently entered in competition for the USSVI Newsletter Award. Dave also read a citation the Perch Base sent to the "Joe Negri" awards committee nominating Ed Brooks for that award.

Dave informed the members that the Board of Directors had voted to donate the Base's TV/VCR equipment to the Arizona Veteran's Home.

Dave also reminded the members that those who plan to attend the National Convention in Reno (September 2 through 5, 2003) should make guest arrangements as soon as possible. Hotel rooms in the Convention Hotel are running out and the RV sites at the Convention RV Park are down to only 10 sites. A discussion was held as to ways members could get together at the convention and it was suggested that the Perch Base have a banner or placard to position at one of the tables in the Hospitality Room each day. Members could use that as a gathering point. Ed Brooks agreed to have a large placard made up for the occasion.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the recent tragedy where a night club in Rhode Island burned and killed a large number of people - two of which were a Submarine Chief Petty Officer and his wife. The death of the Chief left 4 children without a father. A Fund has been set up within the USSVI Charitable Foundation (the Fredrickson Family Fund) to allow members to contribute to a trust fund for the children's future. Dave also informed the members that the Board of Directors had voted to contribute \$200 to this fund.

Mike Keating reminded everyone of the opportunity for members to interact with the Girl Scouts organization at a regional event in Chandler on April 26. Anyone interested should contact Mike.

Roger Cousin was asked to brief the members on the activities of the Phoenix Society (SSN 702). Roger took the floor and provided a detailed update of the progress in creating a memorial using the salvaged sail structure of the USS Phoenix (SSN-702.) The current prospective site for the memorial is to be near the VA Hospital. However, there is also growing support to locate the memorial at Steele Park near the Arizona Veteran's Home. Funds for the

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New Base Officers Sworn In



Jim Foote, Western Regional Director, USSVI, swears in the new officers of Perch Base. From left to right: Adrian Stuke — Vice Commander, Glen Herold — Commander, Ed Brooks — Secretary, and Bob May — Treasurer and Membership Chairman.

Special Award



Outgoing Base Commander Dave Harnish presents a set of "Ed Brooks" dolphins as appreciation for service to Mike Keating and his granddaughter, Brandy Hershey. Brandy is the young "associate shipmate" from whom we buy our 50-50 tickets.

"Bravo Zulu" Mike and Brandy!

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construction and maintenance of the memorial are being raised through the sale of personalized bricks that will form the deck surrounding the sail.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Harnish read a recent letter from John Peters - USSVI National Commander. The letter thanked Perch Base for its financial support of the 2002 Diner for Sailors Program (currently named the Brotherhood Fund of the USSVI - Charitable Foundation). The letter also included the text of a letter from Commander Submarine Force who indicated that certain tragedies in the Submarine Force had made the contributions timelier than ever for Submariners and their families. The typhoon that hit the Submarine Base in Guam created unusual need for submarine families.

Dave Harnish also announced that a new USSVI Base has been formed in Yuma. It was named the Yuma Barbel Base. There are currently eleven Perch Base members that reside in and around Tucson, so future plans are to create a new base there as well.

Robert (Swede) Hanson was thanked by the members for his donation of a submarine painting that will be displayed in Perch Base's meeting room at the American Legion facility. The framed painting is a classic view of a fleet submarine underway in choppy seas.

All the Perch Base Holland Club members were called front and center for the initiation ceremony. Eight Holland Club members mustered as Dave Harnish called F. J. (Ted) Asbell to face the group. Ted became the newest member of the Perch Base Holland Club and received a letter from National Holland Club Commander Bill Britt, a Holland Club certificate, membership card, Holland Club and Perch Base patches, a lapel pin and coffee mug. After the induction ceremony, Ted was congratulated by all the Holland Club members as well as the Perch Base members.

Dave Harnish called for the election of Perch Base Officers by reading the names of the candidates for the various Base Officer positions and then asking if there were any nominations from the floor. As there were no new nominations, a motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote that the candidates be elected by acclamation. Elected to office for the current year were: Base Commander - Glenn Herold; Base Vice-Commander - Adrian Stuke; Base Treasurer - Bob May; Base Secretary - Ed Brooks.

The elected officers were then called front and center for swearing in. The newly elected Base officers were sworn in

by USSVI Western District Commander - Jim Foote.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mike Keating and Brandi Hershey were called front and center by Dave Harnish. Mike and Brandi were presented with their set of hand carved mahogany dolphins in appreciation for their generosity and benevolence in contributing \$150 or more to the USSVI- Charitable Foundation's 2002/2003 fund drive.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 raffle was conducted and Davy Jones was the winner. Davy was offered a choice of 50% of the proceeds from the raffle or a set of hand carved dolphins. Davy elected to receive the carving.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours.

Edgar T. Brooks – Base Secretary



TORPEDOES, (continued from page 11)

helped invent what is now known as the intercontinental ballistic missile while in a rowboat at Morris Dam.

"If the rocket would fire underwater, the Navy was particularly interested in knowing whether it would produce bubbles that could be tracked from above," Snyder said.

Snyder and his co-workers took a half-dozen 4 1/2-inch-diameter barrage rockets up to Morris Dam to find out. They tied an improvised pipe "firing tube" to two pieces of rope, stuck one of the artillery rockets inside and connected igniter wire to it.

"One emerged from the water about 50 feet from us and shot out of the lake. It landed on the shore, luckily not starting a fire in the dry brush," he said. "We were happy

there was no fire — we left it there and went home."

Snyder's accidental underwater rocket launch eventually helped trigger development of what would become the Navy's submarine-launched Polaris ICBM — a strategic weapon in maintaining the balance of power in the Cold War that came later. Caltech's presence at Morris Dam increased as more sophisticated torpedo test facilities were built there. The goal of each was to determine how various styles of torpedoes reacted when they hit the water at various speeds and angles.

The heart of the test site was the ski jump-like structure about a quarter mile north of the dam, however. The \$3-million "variable angle launcher" boasted a 300-foot-long welded-steel frame that could be moved to change the direction that torpedoes were fired into the water.

The 500-ton framework was equipped with blowgun tubes 22 1/2 and 32 1/2 inches wide that used compressed air to shoot torpedoes into the lake at speeds of up to 680 mph. A counterweight on the opposite side of the spit of land that the launcher was built on could roll the frame up and down the ramp so the torpedo angle could be adjusted from 5 to 38 degrees.

A network of cameras mounted on the shoreline — on cables above the water and in housings beneath the water — recorded the tests on film. An array of underwater hydrophones also plotted the torpedoes' trajectory by sound.

None of the torpedoes carried explosives. But there were mishaps — such as the time a torpedo bounced along the lake surface instead of going underwater. It shot over the top of Morris Dam at about 600 mph and disappeared down the canyon. It was recovered. But dozens of the underwater missiles disappeared after sinking into mud at the bottom of the lake.

"We found a whole bunch of torpedoes when we cleaned out the reservoir in the mid-'90s. We called the Navy to come take it away. We'll probably find more the next time we clean it out," said Leopoldo Herrera, a water resources engineer for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The county took over the dam from the Metropolitan Water District in 1995.

The \$10-million worth of towers, steel framework and other equipment, along with a few barrels of lead-contaminated soil, were removed in the early 1990s after the Navy ended its Morris Dam operations. These days the lake stores water that is carefully released into downstream percolating basins to replenish San Gabriel Valley groundwater supplies.
