

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

By the time you read this, 2009 will have come to an end and we can look back and say that we have accomplished a lot: a new website, many new members, a productive year with our float, new goals with the "SAVE OUR SAIL" project to name just a few. I am looking forward to an equally productive new year.

Our next meeting will be January 9th with our annual Awards Dinner the following week, January 16th. Get your reservations in to Walt Blomgren as soon as possible and join us.

I hope all of you have had a great holiday and will be ready to help us make Perch Base even better in the coming year.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

December Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1205, 12 December 2009. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in December and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, 32 members and guests were present. Guests included Pete Sattig who is a member of Internet Base and will be joining us here at Perch Base. Also in attendance was Herb Herman who is with Blueback Base in Portland and finally John Young who was invited by Tim and joined Perch Base today.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the November 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jim announced that Wayne Pettes will be taking over as Acting Treasurer the first of January and he will be a candidate for this office in the March election. As Acting Treasurer, Jim Denzien reported on the base's financial status as of 01 December 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Jim reported that the next All Arizona Base Picnic will be sponsored by Perch Base and will take place on 10 April 2010 in lieu of our meeting. It will be held at the White Tanks Regional Park. Additional information for that event will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event date.

Our next event will be the Annual Awards Dinner to be held in January and Walt is accepting money for reservations. The dinner will be here at Post #105 and will be catered by Stan Reinhold.

The membership was reminded that we have a nominating committee and base elections will be coming up in March. There are four elected positions; Commander which is a two year position and comes up again in 2011. The other three positions are the Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer and we are looking for potential candidates for these three elected positions. Any members who might be interested in serving are encouraged to step forward and throw their names in the hat.

Chuck and Rick still working on the Policies and Procedures Manual and hope to have a working draft completed for review by just after the first of year. We want to have a final version in place shortly thereafter and we would like input from the membership for consideration for the final working document. Much of the information including job

descriptions is currently available for review on our website.

We are re-working our Memorial Day wreaths and the ladies will be taking care of that responsibility.

We are planning on having our next guest speakers on board for the February and May meetings. Potential possibilities including Jay Wisner who runs the NJROTC program for Glendale High School. Jay is a retired Navy Chief who is qualified in submarines. The other possibility is Bob "BJ" Johnson who was one of our Marines who participated in the "Chosin Few" experience during the Korean Conflict. His veteran's organization has a historic photo display that they present to groups around the valley. Because of full meeting agendas for January, March and April, we are not planning on guest speakers for those meetings. In June we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Perch Base.

Members were reminded that their annual base and national dues are due and payable no later than 31 December 2009. Anyone who is not paid up will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle had nothing to report.

Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – TBA

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren reported that regretfully we lost our friend and associate member Frank Bono to cancer. Frank was instrumental in helping us with the construction of our float. Walt asked Joe Varese to give us an update. Joe reported that Frank passed at 0630 on 11 December 2009. He had been home for about 10 days with hospice care. Joe spent about 12 hours a day with Frank in his final days. The family is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. There will be a family memorial in the near future and Joe will give us the particulars about that when he gets the information.

Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster – Chuck Emmett reported that the web page is essentially complete. Everything is there except for Ship's Stores which he and De Wayne will continue to work. Chuck would like your feedback and/or comments related to the content and format. With respect to the newsletter, Chuck reported that Booster Club recognition for monies being paid in now will be effective with the January 2010 issue. Names that currently appear are for donations for the 2009 Booster's Club. Kudos to Chuck for an excellent job on both the newsletter and web page both of which will be submitted for 2010 national awards.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reminded the membership that he has some good deals on shirts for Christmas presents.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported that we still have twenty (20) members remaining owing base dues and nineteen (19) owing national dues. We are doing well for this time of the year and Rick will get membership cards out soon. He has been experiencing some software problems. Rick announced that longevity pins will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold was not present.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Misc. Jim announced that the Gold Rush Days are being held in Wickenburg in February and we have been asked by one of our members to participate in that event. That event is on our meeting date and we are trying to work out the logistics on how we can participate.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reiterated that the Awards Banquet will be 16 January 2010 here at the American Legion Post #105. It will commence at 1730 with a no host bar and will conclude at about 2000. Walt is the POC for information and reservations. We will need an accurate head count for this event so please let Walt know your intentions.

All hands need to prepare for the March elections for which there will be three offices be chosen, Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. At this point we have one candidate for Vice-Commander (Howard) and one for Treasurer (Wayne Pettes) and Tim has not committed for the Secretary position.

There is currently an election in progress for the Western District 1 Commander position. There is currently one

candidate, incumbent Jack Messersmith. There are write-in ballots and members are encouraged to vote for their selection. Jim took a vote by a show of hands and 21 members voted for Jack Messersmith. Some members have already voted by e-mail.

New Business

Jim re-iterated that Perch Base will sponsor the All Arizona Base Picnic on 10 April 2010. He will contact the other Arizona Base Commanders regarding this event. We will provide the burgers, hot dogs buns condiments and cold drinks and the remainder will be "pot luck" provided by the picnic attendees. Participants can have beer as long as it is in plastic or aluminum containers. We have already reserved a ramada for this event. The picnic will be from 1100 until 1500. We will need an accurate head count for this event.

Good of the Order

Jim reported on an interview that Chuck did with radio talk show host, Charlie Bolts of KPHX 1480 AM. Kudos to Chuck for an excellent job with this interview. Chuck spoke about the submarine service, the USSVI and Perch Base veteran's organizations and our SOS project. Charlie Bolts is going to get Chuck an audio copy of the interview. This interview was set up as a result of Howard visiting a friend at Banner Estrella Hospital and meeting Charlie Bolts on the elevator. After a brief introduction Charlie asked Howard to participate on his radio show and Howard recommended Chuck who was available and the interview was scheduled.

For our participation in the 11 November Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade, Perch Base won first place for the Veteran's Service Organization for our float entry. We also received a trophy and a first place ribbon.

Billy Grieves wife Muriel has been hospitalized. She went in for about nine days, was released but had to go back in and that is where she is right now but she seems to be doing better.

Jim Newman has improved significantly but circumstances dictated that he should stay at home. He is continuing physical therapy and should complete that by the 21st of this month. He wanted to make sure that Jim Denzien, Chuck and De Wayne knew how grateful he was to them for preventing him from falling which could have caused more severe injuries.

Walt reported that Joe Bono, Frank's son, expressed his desire to tow the float next year in the Veteran's Day Parade using Frank's truck. Everyone agreed this is a good idea and should be doable.

Jim announced that in addition to Michael Bircumshaw, National Junior Vice-Commander, Carl Schmidt, Central Region Director has announced his candidacy for National Commander for the USSVI. Carl is a Past Base Commander for the Razorback Base, has been a District Commander and has been on the E-Board. Members are encouraged to vote online when the time comes.

Jim formally announced that "Hell has frozen over". It is indeed true that Davy Jones has acquired a computer. Shipmate Bob Warner was the one who facilitated getting Davy the computer and we want to thank Bob for his generous contribution to Davy being enabled to gracefully enter into the 21st century. Bob reported that Davy may need a little training. Davy's e-mail address is scpodavyjones@yahoo.com.

The VA is opening a new service center in the Northwest valley. It will be located at 13985 W. Grand Ave. in Surprise.

Jim announced that the board approved and we are having a plaque made for and in the memory of Frank Bono. This plaque will be permanently affixed to the float trailer. The plaque will be inscribed to say "In memory of Frank Bono, exceptional craftsman, honorary submariner and friend. December 2009".

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Richard Bernier who won \$42.00.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1308 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

