

June 2010 Perch Base 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 June 2010. 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 the month of June and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol. We also tolled the bell for our shipmate Wayne Pettes who passed away unexpectedly on May 29th.

Jim recognized some members whom we haven't seen for a while and introduced Jack Messersmith who is a Perch Base member and Western District 1 Commander. According to the Sailing List

there were 30 members present. Those in attendance included:

Jim Denzien	Chuck Emmett	Jack Moore	Ron Dutcher
Howard Doyle	Ed Hawkins	Jack Messersmith	Ted Hunt
Richard Kunze	Roger Cousin	Angus McPherson	Billy Grieves
Walt Blomgren	Tim Moore	Gene Crabb	Steve Day
George Crider	Jim Newman	Jim Newman	Royce Pettit
Jim Nelson	Stan Reinhold	John Schlag	Dan Moss
De Wayne Lober	Joe Varese	Charles Brady	Tom Clonts
Rick Simmons	Richard Bernier		

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the May 2010 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

With the passing of Wayne Pettes, Jim Denzien will be acting as Interim Treasurer and reported on the base's financial status as of 31 May 2010. Jim asked the membership for anyone who might have some financial experience to consider volunteering and stepping up to serve as Treasurer. 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

Our next event will be the Prescott Frontier Days celebration on Saturday, the 3rd of July in Prescott. Final details for that event will be forthcoming. Several Perch Base members will be participating with Gudgeon Base members in that event.

We purchased the display case here in the meeting room and we will be modifying it with new shelves and lights facilitate displaying awards and artifacts we have received over the years. Anyone interested in assisting with the modifications, please see Jack Moore.

We still need to perform some additional maintenance and modifications to our float.

Jim let the membership know about Joe Varese's recent motorcycle accident. Joe had to lay down his bike to avoid hitting a car (with no brake lights) that stopped suddenly in front of him. Joe ended up with a leg injury which may require surgery and was fortunate that he wasn't injured more seriously.

It has been decided to review the Perch Base Constitution for possible changes. The USSVI may be making some changes to our National Constitution and we will modify ours to be in compliance. Chuck & Rick Simmons will be working on this endeavor. The changes at the National level will take place at the Convention in September and we will plan on implementing our changes accordingly.

Upcoming events we are considering include some swap-meet type events that will take place in the east valley. Dates for these events are; 9/11 which is our meeting date, the 6th of November which is around Veteran's Day and the 4th of December which is around the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

We also may participate in the Glendale Safety Days in October and we have been invited to participate in the Mesa Veteran's Day Parade. We will need to be selective about choosing events to avoid conflicts with dates and commitments.

Stan Reinhold will be returning to the valley on a permanent basis so hopefully our meals will be provided through his facility in the future

We have current board vacancy for the position of Treasurer. Our current constitution precludes having associate members in any of the board positions. The national constitution states that the Commander and Vice-Commander positions are elected positions and must be filled by regular members of the USSVI. However other positions including the Secretary and Treasurer are appointed positions and can be filled by Associate Members. Our Secretary and Treasurer positions are currently elected positions which are filled by current regular members of Perch Base and the USSVI. As part of the review of our constitution, we are considering making changes to these provisions to be in compliance with National.

All hands are encouraged to participate in the National elections which are going on now and will continue on until just prior to the National convention. It is very easy to log into the National website and vote in this year's election. All hands should read the candidate's bios as well as other USSVI issues that will be decided in this year's election.

Jim was asked to make a presentation about the status of the Save Our Sail project to the UAV (United Arizona Veterans) organization. It has been approved by the Parks & Recreation Dept. in Phoenix to erect the monument Steele Indian School Park here in Phoenix. There are some differences of opinion about the site selection by the Phoenix Commission and some people are more in favor of having the monument in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza which might be more appropriate. Jim advised the UAV that he would be researching how some other bases have been able to put their monuments together and will report back to the UAV after he has completed his fact finding mission this summer. In particular, the Lapon memorial in Springfield, MO was put together at a fraction of the projected budget for the Phoenix project. Jim stated we need to find out why there is such a great disparity. We (Perch Base) volunteered to take over the stewardship of the SOS project some two years ago and it's time for us to make an effort towards fulfilling this commitment.

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 it was good to have Jim Nelson, George Crider and Joe Varese "The Wanderer" with us today. He also mentioned that he has the book "Whales Tales" available for anyone who might be interested in reading it.

Chief of the Boat – Jack Moore reported that we would like more volunteers to step up to the plate and offer to tow the float to events when needed. Currently there are only five members who have volunteered in the past and we would like some additional help as needed. Any members, who are interested in helping out, please contact Jack Moore via e-mail.

MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster – Chuck Emmett reported that the board requested that we make paper copies of the Flash Traffic messages that are sent out each month. Each month Chuck will provide a clipboard with the previous month's Flash Traffic messages for anyone who may have missed them. Chuck also reminded the membership that we have a classified section on the webpage for anyone who might have items to sell. The classified ads are free for the membership.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reported that he has calendars for sale at discounted prices.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported that Perch Base now has 160 members. Jim added that we want to encourage the membership to sponsor Associate Members in an effort to attract different types of talent to the base and grow the membership.

Historian – Jim Newman made a Perch Base 15th anniversary presentation, see the Good of the Order section below.

Events Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

Old Business

Jim reported that our next event would be Frontier Days in Prescott over the 4th of July weekend. Particulars about that event will be forthcoming.

New Business

We will be begin preliminary planning for our August Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) visit to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. We encourage as many members as possible to participate in this very worthwhile event.

Good of the Order

Jim mentioned that Jim Nelson's son, Brent Nelson, is a member of the Blue Crew of the USS West Virginia an Ohio class boomer operating out of Kings Bay, GA. Recently the West Virginia came in from patrol and was positioned off shore and embarked with about 50 midshipmen including many women that will be indoctrinated into submarine duty. These midshipmen will be at sea until sometime around the 4th of July at which time they will return after completing this patrol.

Rick reported that the format of the Sailing List had changed to reflect the member's current e-mail address.

Walt reminded the membership to submit articles to the MidWatch for the "*Now This Ain't No Sh*.t*" column. He stated that he and other members would enjoy the "sea stories".

As of the 20th of June of this year, Perch Base will celebrate our 15th year since we received our charter. Jim introduced some of the founding members who were present today. They included; Jim Newman, his son Jim Newman and Steve Day who is currently Commander of the White Mountain Base. These gentlemen are three of the seven founding members who formed Perch Base on June 20, 1995. Jim also recognized the Past Commanders of Perch Base. Those (in chronological order) included; Jim Newman who was the founding Commander, Frank Rumbaugh (deceased), Brian Thomason, Roger Cousin, Don Wannamaker (deceased), Dave Harnish (deceased), Glenn Herold, Tim Moore and Stan Reinhold. At this point Jim introduced Jim Newman, Base Historian and the founding Commander of Perch Base who gave us a historical perspective of Perch Base.

Jim Newman commented that back in 1994 he saw two women on a Phoenix TV channel talking about an "underway" on a submarine and this caught his attention. They also commented on the "702 Society" and the USSVI both of which he said he had no knowledge. He contacted the "702 Society" and they gave him information about the USSVI including contact information for the then National Commander, Charlie Marin. Jim ended up being assigned to a base in San Diego. At this time there was no base in Arizona so Jim decided to start one and had Charlie Marin send him a copy of the Base Startup Plan. The requirements were that you needed five members in good standing with the USSVI to form a base. Charlie also sent Jim a list of current USSVI members living in Arizona. Jim sent out a letter to these individuals about starting a local base and Frank Rumbaugh was the first to respond.

The first official meeting of the Perch Base was held on April 1, 1995. Those present at that meeting included; Joe Otreba (Prescott), Bill Hatcher, Steve Day, Whitie Johns (Nogales), Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newman, and his son Jim. At this meeting they elected officers and Jim was elected to be the Commander. Frank asked Jim if he would be Commander and Jim said he would if Frank would be Vice-Commander and that is how it all began. Jim Newman's son Jim was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The early meetings were held at Jim's home. Eventually the base started meeting at the DAV in Glendale. Jim was very complimentary of all who have served as officers and board members of Perch Base. He commented that Billy Grieves, Frank Rumbaugh and Bob Mays were all very instrumental in contributing to the early success of our base. In closing Jim was most thankful for all the officers who served down through the years who have done such a fine job including the present group and to the current memberships who make this base what it is today. He said that it was beyond his imagination that Perch Base would have become what it is today and he expressed his thanks and gratitude to the entire membership.

A commemorative cake was shared by all who were in attendance. Jim Denzien complimented Jim Newman and the founding group about the work they did in getting this base started back in the mid 1990's. At that time Perch Base was the only Base in Arizona. Since that time we have grown to six bases in Arizona all of which were started as a result of our original base being here. We have bases in Yuma, Tucson, White Mountains, Casa Grande, and Prescott Valley. Even with the spinoff bases being formed, Perch Base continues to grow.

Jack Messersmith announced that he and Jim Dunn have come up with a patch for Western District 1 which can be ordered through our National Storekeeper Huey or through BC Patch. Jack also announced that he took over the Boat Sponsorship program from Michael Bircumshaw. Boat sponsorships can be obtained for \$30.00 a year.

Jim Denzien announced that although he couldn't be here today, Jim Dunn, Western Region Director passed along his regards to the Perch Base membership on this commemorative occasion. Jim wished he could have been with us today but he was on the road taking care of Western Region business for the USSVI.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Jim Nelson who won \$41.00 of the \$82.00 that was in the drawing.

Adjournment

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

All 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 1315 hours.

Tim Moore

Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



A Submariner's Prayer

"Eternal Father, strong to save
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep.
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

Bless those who serve beneath the deep.
Through lonely hour their vigil keep.
May peace their mission ever be,
Protect each one we ask of Thee.
Bless those at home who wait and pray,
For their return by night or day."

Do you know a shipmate who is on the lee side of a fair wind? Someone who could use the help of a shipmate? Remember, we are the "**Brotherhood** of the Phin."

Contact our Base Chaplain if you know of any way we can help:

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The Chaplain has no new information to report this month.

