

## From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

The cruise was fantastic! We really enjoyed it! We went from Port Canaveral to Haiti, Jamaica, Caiman Islands, Cozumel and back to Port Canaveral.

We are getting closer to Frontier Days in Prescott. The parade will be on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> and we are participating with Gudgeon and Tucson bases. We have been entered as "Arizona Submarine Veterans". If you are planning on attending, let our Vice-Commander Howard Doyle know. Howard will return on June 27.

Hope to see you in Prescott and on July 9<sup>th</sup> at our meeting.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

## June 2011 Minutes of the Regular Base Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead, in Glendale, AZ at 1230 hours, 11 June 2011. The meeting was called to order by Howard Doyle, Base vice-Commander.

The "Call to Order" was followed by a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Reciting of our Creed. 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.

Howard Doyle introduced the guests present at today's meeting:

- William Tippet (he had a Saturday off from work and is a current member of Perch Base)
- George Baumann (he will be joining Perch Base)
- Herb Coulter (he will be joining Perch Base)
- Jerry Pittman (recently retired as Command Master Chief NRD, Phoenix, he will be joining Perch Base)

According to the Sailing List there were 30 members and guests present. The complete sailing list included:

Howard Doyle	Chuck Emmett	Bob Warner	Rick Simmons
Walt Blomgren	Richard Kunze	John Schlag	DeWayne Lober
George Baumann	Herb Coulter	Jerry Pittman	Bill Tippet
Rick Baxter	Jack Kimball	Robb Roberts	Peter Tardiff
Don DeMarte	Steven Balthazor	Davy Jones	Bob Gilmore
Richard Bernier	Dan Moss	Layne Moss	Ron Dutcher
Tom Clonts	Theodore W Hunt	Joe Varese	Charles Brady
Heather Diaz	Don Unser		

### **Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report**

Howard asked that the minutes from the May 2011 regular meeting be approved as published in the "Mid Watch" monthly newsletter. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Base Officers and Board of Directors Reports**

**Treasurer** – Bob Warner reported on the base's financial status as of 31 May 2011. A motion was made and sec-

ended to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Chief of the Boat** – Richard Kunze had nothing to report.

**Chaplain** – Walt Blomgren reported that we had no new additions to the Binnacle List. Ed Hawkins was supposed to be here. He is not present. Walt, will call to verify. Howard added that some members that had been on the Binnacle list were at the meeting, Ted Hunt and Don Unser.

**Membership Chairman** – Rick Simmons had nothing to add.

**Secretary** – John Schlag had nothing to report.

**Communications Officer** - Chuck Emmett had nothing to report.

**Base Storekeeper** – DeWayne Lober announced that once again he had for sale shirts, decals, cups and patches for sale.

### **Old Business**

**Master Chief Pittman's Retirement – Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Perch Base's float helped make the ceremony very impressive and it was attended by people from all over the world who came to honor the Jerry. It was a good send-off for Master Chief Pittman.

**Flagstaff Parade – Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>** – We took the float to Flagstaff on Friday. We were well represented. Howard received an e-mail from parade committee thanking us for our participation and asking that we continue to come every year. They were very appreciative of us coming to Flagstaff and bringing our float.

**Memorial Day – Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>** – At the Phoenix National Cemetery the Base presented our wreaths for the Submarine Veterans of WWII as well as USSVI. There were 15 members who showed up. After other events, we conduct a Tolling Ceremony for all of the Boats at the Circle of Life. In prior years we had maybe 4 or 5 non-submarine veterans. This year we had somewhere between 30 and 50 non-sub vets that came and attended our ceremony. It was very well received, the people were very respectful. As we were leaving the Assistant Director of the cemetery thanked us for being there and conducting our part of the ceremony. Next year we are hoping for a better turnout.

Howard stated that 'Flash Traffic' had been sent to the membership asking why there had been such a poor turnout. He emphasized that it was not being critical, we ask for return comments. The purpose was to ask the membership what they wanted Perch Base to be doing. Howard felt that the Memorial Day Service and the Veterans Day Parade should be the primary things attended by the Base. He stated that everyone's input either positive or negative as to what we are doing was welcomed. If any member has an idea of what we are doing they should bring it up at a Base Meeting or to one of the base officers. He stated that there are no bad ideas, except for the one that was not stated.

### **New Business**

**Prescott 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade July 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 A.M. start time** – We will take part along with both Gudgeon Base and Tucson Base. Gudgeon Base has paid the entrance fee for the combine entry. Both Tucson and Perch Base will take their floats. Members planning to attend get with Howard and Rick Simmons after this meeting.

**Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Nov 11<sup>th</sup>** – More Information to follow later

Veterans Day events are popular in the Valley and other events that do not conflict with Phoenix's will be considered. Gilbert has a parade that will be attended, however Mesa has a parade that is at the same time as Phoenix's parade.

### **Good of the Order**

Binnacle list (normally at this place in the meeting, had already been covered by the Chaplain.)

There was discussion of how to obtain a ride to an event if needed, Let Howard, Jim Denizen or Rick Simmons know and we'll make the connection happen.

There was a question of supporting various charities. Ronald McDonald House was brought up. Howard stated that we have tried to maintain charities we are associated with the Navy and the Submarine Service, For several years at Christmas we have sent money to San Diego to The Command Master Chief for the Boats that are in port for the enlisted men that are having trouble, Food boxes and thing like that.

The Base received from Don DeMarte a painting of the USS Batfish donated by the artist's wife and the Daisy Mountain Veterans Association which will be mounted and displayed here at Dillions.

## 50/50 Drawing

Won by Bill Tippet Total \$98 = \$49.

## Adjournment

All outstanding business having been concluded,

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1318 hours.

John Schlag, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



- *John Philip Holland built several submarines before the USS Holland, which became the first undersea craft commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The Holland was accepted on April 11, 1900 for a price of \$150,000. Today's nuclear powered submarines cost in excess of \$30,000,000 exclusive of the power plant.*
- *The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.*
- *Alexander the Great (356 to 323 B.C.) ruler of Macedonian and conqueror of the known world in his time, is the first person known to have descended into the sea in a vessel of any kind.*
- *Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."*
- *Records of attempts to utilize submarine warfare go back to the earliest writings in history. Herodotus (460 B.C.), Aristotle (332 B.C.) and Pliny, the elder, (77 A.D.) mention determined attempts to build submersibles.*
- *Interest in submarines extends to royalty and presidents. The King of England and the King and Queen of Spain are among those who have made submerged cruises in submarines. As a result of a trip in an early United States submarine, President "Teddy" Roosevelt ordered extra compensation for personnel serving in the "Silent Service." President Harry Truman made a 440 foot dive in a captured German submarine. The first President to cruise aboard a nuclear submarine was President Eisenhower who rode the USS SEAWOLF out of Newport, Rhode Island on September 26, 1957.*
- *Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.*
- *Leonardo da Vinci, the Florentine Renaissance inventor and artist, developed plans for an underwater warship but kept them secret. He was afraid that it would make war even more frightful than it already was.*
- *Many instances of submarines being 'caught' by fishing vessels are on record. The NAUTILUS, world's first nuclear powered vessel, was caught in a fish net and towed the fishing vessel several miles before the situation was cleared up. There is one instance of a submarine being captured by an abandoned balloon, and on another occasion a submarine rescued a blimp and towed it to safety.*
- *A church in Kyoto, Japan calls its congregation to worship with a bell from a submarine. The bell, from the submarine USS RAY was purchased for the church, and was transported to Yokosuka, Japan by another submarine, the USS RONQUIL.*
- *For entertainment on U.S. submarines movies, television, ice cream machines and stereo music players are available. The USS SEAWOLF also had an electronic organ. There have been instances of boxing matches held onboard, and the crew of one submarine had a kite flying contest from an anchored submarine.*
- *Modern submarines can travel faster submerged than they can on the surface. They can fully submerge in less than a minute.*
- *Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat, was an avid submarine enthusiast. He built several submersible warships, one of which was known as the Nautilus.*