

Table	of contents:	
2	Upcoming Events	18
3	Birthdays	19
7	Classifieds	19
10	Good of the Order	20
14	Tolling of the Boats	21
17	2019 Donor List	22
	2 3 7 10 14	3 Birthdays 7 Classifieds 10 Good of the Order 14 Tolling of the Boats

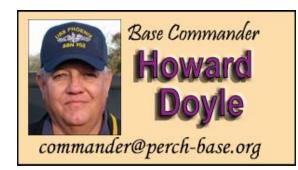


Our organization's purpose is . . .

"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.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The o that w sl The part subn made The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



From "Snipes Castle"

This last quarter has been busy as always; static display in Gilbert and at the STEM school in Peoria, parades in Anthem, Black Canyon City, and Phoenix along with the wreath laying on Pearl Harbor Day. More miles on the float and exposure to the public that for the most part have never

seen a submarine or spoken to a sailor. If you weren't at one or more of these events you truly missed a blessing.

Coming up in January is the annual awards dinner [January 11, 2020] at the Pebble Creek Country Club, the location for the last three years. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there; remember that this year the dinner is on the second Saturday [January 11] so there will be NO regular meeting at Dillion's. See the Flash Traffic for details about how to make reservations with Jim Andrews and also give him your dinner preferences.

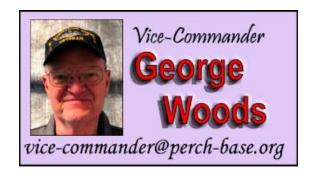
In February, there is the parade in Laveen so make your plans accordingly.

The annual Western Region Roundup will be in Laughlin, the last week of March.

The end of August the USSVI national convention is going to be held in Tucson with Perch Base listed as co-host; thus, there is a request for volunteers to assist with the various activities; let Jim Denzien or Vic VanHorn know if you can help.

And lastly, BZ to Don Unser who stepped up and delivered a touching and accurate eulogy at Ken Meeks services when our regular chaplain was not able to make the schedule because of work commitments.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!







If you haven't been visiting the website (or Facebook) there has been a lot added due to all our events over the Veterans Day period. Since the last MidWatch, I have added photos of Chris Urness' USS Pogy (SSN-647) Reunion, Jim Newman's 90th birthday party, the Mesa Marketplace Military Day, Luke AFB Retiree Appreciation Day, the USS Vallejo (SSBN-

658) Sail Memorial Dedication, Don & Marcia Unser In China, the Prince of Peace Veterans Day Celebration, Gilbert Veterans Day Ceremony, Sierra Verde Elementary School Veterans Appreciation event, the Anthem and Black Canyon City Veterans Day Parades, Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

During the past 3 months, there were 4,568 page views on the Perch Base website during 1,780 sessions by 944 users based on Google Analytics.

If you use Facebook, we have 62 of our members that are also signed up our Facebook page, "Perch Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc." The numbers continuously rise, but not many of you participate. Jump in, the water's fine.

As always, if you have photos or suggestions for the website, please email them to me at webmaster@perch-base.org.



With the coming of a new year it is time for me to ask everyone to please make sure your contact information is up to date.

If you or someone you know is not receiving any of the Base emails, Flash Traffic, Newsletter or the USSVI National Communications please let me know.

The easiest and quickest way is to simply email me, and I will be able to verify that it matches the email address we have in our records. If it doesn't match, I can then fix it.

If you have any ideas for something you'd like to see in future Newsletters, please email me.



For I am a Submariner

By John Chaffey SSN639, SSN687, SSBN619

I served on the Holland over a century ago. I still serve to this day on the Trident, Los Angeles, Seawolf & Virginia class boats and look forward to Rigging-for-Dive the Minnesota and North Dakota. Places like Fremantle, Rota, LaMadd, Chinhae, Pattaya, Sasebo, and Subic stir my soul.

For I am a Submariner.

I rest in peace beneath many seas across this earth. I was on the Barbel off Palawan, the... Scorpion off the Azores and the Bonefish in the Sea of Japan. We gave them hell in the harbors at Wewak and Namkwan. I am a Shellback, a Bluenose, a Plank Owner, a MCPO of the Navy, a CNO, and a President.

For I am a Submariner.

I heard Howard Gilmore's final order, "Take Her Down."
I heard the word passed, "Underway on Nuclear Power."
I have done every job asked of me, from a Sparks to
Messcook to Torpedoman to Motormac to Ping-Jockey,
even Friggin-Nuke, COB and Skipper. I know "Snorkel
Patty" and Admiral Rickover.

For I am a Submariner.

I have twin Dolphins tattooed on my chest and twin screws tattooed on my ass. I know the difference between a Lady and a Hooker but treat both with equal respect. I know Georgia Street and Magsaysay drive. And although the Horse & Cow keeps moving I will always find her. I know the meaning of "Hot, Straight, and Normal."

For I am a Submariner.

Continued next page

I have stood tall and received the Medal of Honor and been thrown in the Brig for being Drunk & Disorderly. I know the reverent tone of "Diesel Boats Forever" and the Gudgeon's "Find em, Chase em, Sink em." I was on the Spearfish evacuating nurses from Corregidor and the Skate when she surfaced at the North Pole. I have spent time in the Royal Hawaiian.

For I am a Submariner.

I have gone by names like Spritz, Cromwell, O'Kane, Ramage, Breault, "Mush" and Lockwood. I have served on boats like the Nautilus, Thresher, Parche, Squalus, Wahoo and Halibut. On December 7th I was onboard the Tautog at Pearl Harbor. I was also on the Tusk in 49 and sacrificed myself for my shipmates on the Cochino. For I am a Submariner.

I have stood watches in the cold of Holy Loch and the heat of the South Pacific. I know what the "41 For Freedom" accomplished. I was on the Sealion at Cavite in 41 and the Archerfish in Tokyo Bay in 45. I have endured depth charges and POW camps. I was on the Seafox when we lost five sailors to a Japanese ambush on Guam.

For I am a Submariner.

I tip beers over sea-stories with my shipmates at yearly conventions. We toll the bell and shed a tear for our buddies who are on eternal patrol. Many pilots have been glad to see me, including a future president.

I have completed numerous highly classified missions during the Cold War. Because "Freedom Is Not Free," be assured that I am out there at this very moment.

For I am a Submariner.



"Habits are like submarines; they run silent and deep."

Denis Waitley











House Approves Money For Carriers, Aircraft In New FY 2020 Funding Bill

Ben Werner, USNI News, December 17

The House of Representatives approved Fiscal Year 2020 funding for the Department of the Navy's new ballistic missile submarine, the future frigate, Ford-class aircraft carrier, F/A18E/F Super Hornets and F-35 Lighting II Joint Strike Fighters.

The Navy and Marine Corps funding is part of the \$693.3 billion FY 2020 total for the Department of Defense and part of the \$1.4 trillion spending bill Senate and House negotiators created that avoids a possible federal government shutdown at the end of this week. The spending bill still needs Senate approval and Trump's signature before becoming law.

"Today the House will appropriate essential funding for our troops and the Department of Defense. This action comes nearly three months into the fiscal

Continued next page

year, but it is not substantially different from the version passed by the House months ago," read a statement from Rep. Mac Thornberry, (RTexas) the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

The bill provides \$24 billion in FY 2020 funding for 14 ships, including:

- \$1.8 billion in advance funding for the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine
- \$2.2 billion for the third and fourth Ford-class aircraft carriers
- \$1.3 billion for the future frigate
- \$5.3 billion for the Virginia-class submarine and \$3 billion an advanced funding for future submarines in the program.

The Pentagon funding also provides the Department of the Navy \$20 billion for aircraft, including for F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, F-35B and F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters, V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, P-8A Poseidon and E2D Hawkeye aircraft.

The Navy receives funding to field a force of 340,500 active duty personnel, an increase of 5,100 people from the FY 2019 funding. The Marine Corps is funded to field a force of 186,200 Marines, which is about the same as the FY 2019 funding.

However, the bill also addresses some concerns lawmakers have over how some of the Navy's purchasing agreements are structured.

The funding bill provides \$407 million for the Navy to buy large unmanned surface vehicles in fiscal year 2020, but had limits. The Navy can't arm LUSVs with missile-carrying vertical launch systems.

The Navy already has two large USVs, which are part of the Pentagon's Overlord program that converted surface vessels to operate under autonomous controls. The Navy wants to take the existing LUSVs and the two new vessels to start Phase 2 testing for more advanced work on navigation, test hull, mechanical and electrical systems, and work with payloads and command and control systems.

The U.S. Navy's New Orca Drone Submarine Could Get Offensive Role

H I Sutton, Forbes, December 17

The U.S. Navy's Boeing Orca underwater drone could play an offensive role in future conflicts. Writing in the highly regarded U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) blog,

Continued next page

retired Commander Brian Dulla argues that the U.S. Navy should invest in mine laying capabilities. It's an arena where large drones like the Orca could have advantages.

Mine warfare feels neglected in the popular defense media. It may be perceived as old-fashioned or uninteresting. The reality can be quite different. Put yourself in the mind of a captain whose ship has just strayed into a minefield. Or the EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) diver sent to defuse the mines. Even low tech or vintage mines pose a very real threat to modern navies.

Commander Dulla's mine proposal is innovative. Yet like many good ideas it will seem obvious when you read it. He proposes to combines the range, autonomy and flexibility of a UUV (unmanned underwater vehicle) with the warhead of a mine. This allows it to be used as a moored mine that can propel itself into position, keeping the launch platform far from harms way. It could also be used as an extra slow torpedo to target ships in harbor. Because of its combined features Dulla terms this concept the 'moor-pedo.'

At the same time, underwater drones are a hot topic for the Navy. It's a natural pairing because mine laying is dangerous to perform, especially in the enemy's back yard. Aircraft, ships or submarines are put in harm's way and distracted from their primary purposes. Crewless platforms mitigate some of the inherent risks involved.

Although unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) have become a common sight on the battlefield, development has been slower in the undersea domain. And until now the majority of UUVs used by navies have been very small. To lay a minefield a UUV would have to be much larger, large enough to carry a useful number of mines.

Not surprisingly the U.S. is the first sea power to start building extra-large unmanned underwater vehicles (XLUUVs). But other navies are also entering the arena, including Britain and Japan. And China, Russia, and South Korea also have large UUV projects.

Dulla proposes that the Navy's large-displacement drones (LDUUV) could be employed. The Orca design will be even larger and therefore could patrol further and could carry more. The Orca is up to 85 feet long, an order of magnitude larger than anything else out there as the moment. It has a flexible payload section which is large enough to carry multiple torpedo sized payloads. Initially these could be smaller UUVs. In the future they could be Tomahawk cruise missiles, or as the USNI article implies, mines.

Previous Quarter Highlights

Fourth Quarter events for Perch Base.

For more Pictures and details check out perch-base.org.

Frank Swihel Shadow Box



At the meeting on October 12, 2019, an Arizona Pigboaters WWII Submarine Veterans flag and a shadow box were donated to the Base by LuAnn Thomas. She had no information to explain the materials. The shadow box belonged to Frank Swihel, who served from 1962 to 1968. After leaving the Navy, he went to work in Nebraska for 31 years and retired to Surprise, AZ, perhaps as early as 2001, and passed on Eternal Patrol on June 15, 2018. There's no indication that he ever joined Perch Base or attended any meetings.

Mesa Marketplace Military Day

Perch Base USSVI displayed the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float on October 19, 2019. The theme was the remembrance of the Beirut Barracks bombing on October 23, 1983, with a keynote speech by Rear Admiral James A. Symonds (ret) with honors by the Arizona American Legion POW MIA KIA Honor Guard, one of whom is a Beirut Barracks bombing survivor.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

Luke AFB Retiree Appreciation Day



Perch Base USSVI and other Armed Forces retirees attended the Luke AFB Retiree Appreciation Day on October 26, 2019.

Activities included up-close tours of an F16 & F35 with their pilots and crews, demonstrations by the Security Force and their dogs, legal aid by the Judge Advocate, immunizations, food and more.

Prince of Peace Veterans Day Celebration

The Prince of Peace Church in the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish held a Veteran's Day celebration and luncheon on 11/06/2019.

Perch Base Life Member and Membership Chairman Jim Andrews and his wife Marcie are members of the parish.

The Guest Speaker was Perch Base Life Member and Holland Club member Jim Denzien. Jim is also the USSVI Western Division Director. Jim spoke about his deep submergence experience on the Trieste II (DSV-1).

Gilbert Veterans Day Ceremony

Several Perch Base members brought the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) to the 2019 Town of Gilbert, AZ Veterans Day Ceremony on November 7, 2019, at the Gilbert Municipal Center.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

Sierra Verde Elementary School

Perch Base took the USS Phoenix float to the Sierra Verde Elementary School for a static display on Friday, November 8, 2019.

Sierra Verde, a Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) school, conducted a Veterans Appreciation Day program.





They fed us breakfast then held an assembly to show their appreciation for Veterans and their patriotism. They really treated us like VIPs!

Anthem Veterans Day Parade

Perch Base took the USS Phoenix float to the Daisy Mountain Veterans Day Parade in Anthem, Arizona, on Saturday, November 9, 2019.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

Black Canyon City Veterans Day Parade



Perch Base took the USS Phoenix float to the Black Canyon City, Arizona, Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 9, 2019.

They were so pleased to have us back that they have already extended an invitation for 2020.

Of course, the first thing we had to do was stop at the Rock Springs Cafe along our way for a slice of pie and a cup of coffee.



Phoenix Veterans Day Parade



Perch Base took the USS Phoenix float to the Phoenix, Arizona, Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11, 2019.



What our shipmates were up to last quarter.

For more Pictures and details check out perch-base.org.

USS Pogy (SSN-647) Reunion



Perch Base USSVI Member Chris Urness attended the USS Pogy (SSN-647) Reunion on October 3-6, 2019 in Baltimore, MD.

Chris is also the Vice Chairman & Secretary of the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) Foundation Committee.

Happy Birthday Jim Newman

Perch Base Life and Holland Club Member Jim Newman celebrated his 90th birthday at a party on 10/5/2019.

Jim is a (1995) charter member (a.k.a., Plankowner) of Perch Base and was our first Base Commander.



Shipmate Spotlight (cont.)

USS Vallejo (SSBN-658) Memorial Dedication



Perch Base USSVI Base Commander Life and Member Howard Doyle attended the USS Vallejo (SSBN-658) Memorial dedication on October 24, 25 and 26, 2019. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation hosted the celebration commemorate the sail of the Mariano G. Vallejo.

Don & Marcia Unser In China

Perch Base Life Member and Holland Club Member Don Unser and his wife, Marcia, recently returned from a tour of China. Note the Great Wall in the background of the picture.

Don is our Perch Base Events Coordinator and Marcia is our Base Secretary.



Shipmate Spotlight (cont.)

Chuck Luna Visits Pearl Harbor



Perch Base USSVI Communications Officer Chuck Luna visited the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites with his wife, Laura, and mother-in-law, Gladys, over Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2019. Chuck is also our Perch Base Newsletter Editor and Historian.

Generally, the photos include the USS Arizona (BB-39) Memorial, the USS Missouri (BB-36) Memorial, the USS Bowfin (SS-287), and the Pacific Aviation Museum.



Although the USS Bowfin submarine was open for tours, the Bowfin museum was closed. They are adding to it and when it reopens next year it will be the "Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum," not just the about the Bowfin.





Departed shipmates from previous quarter.

For more Pictures and details check out perch-base.org.

Kenneth Meeks, MMCS(SS)



Perch Base Member Ken Meeks unexpectedly departed on Eternal Patrol on the evening of Friday, December 6, 2019.

Our condolences to his wife, Soon Young, his daughter, April Meeks, his son, Will, and the rest of the family.

The funeral chapel service was held at the Heritage Funeral Chapel at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, December 17 and burial service followed at 2:00 PM at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.

Ken enlisted in 1976 and qualified in submarines in 1980 aboard the USS Seadragon (SSN-584). He also served aboard the USS George Washington (SSBN-598), and the USS Los Angeles (SSN-688), leaving the Navy in 1993 as MMCM(SS).

He was a member of USSVI Perch Base in Arizona since 2015.

Vpcoming Events

Remember to check Perch-Base.org often for up-to-date information on all events.

Monthly General Meetings

Saturday's, February 8, & March 14 At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant

20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.

(Left-click address, above, for a Google map to Dillon's.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch! 50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

2018 Perch Base Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 11

Doors open at 1800 hrs. Dinner will be served at 1915 hrs.

Located at the Pebble Creek Tuscany Country Club in the Chianti Room.

16262 Clubhouse Dr, Goodyear, AZ 85395 (Left-click address for a Google map.)

- 1. Take the I-10 westbound to the "Pebblecreek Parkway."
- 2. North on "Pebblecreek Parkway". Left on "Clubhouse Drive".
- 3. Tell the guard at the gate house where you are going.
- 4. Continue approximately ½ mile and you'll see the Pebble Creek Tuscany Country Club sign.
- 6. Turn right and you'll immediately see a parking lot on the right. Enter this lot and continue through towards the far end.
- 7. Park as available.
- 8. The building at the far end (north end) of this lot is where the banquet is held. We will have our Perch Base signs from the float placed to help locate the facility.

Laveen Parade

Saturday, February 1

This year's theme is "Getting Stronger Every Day!"

Watch for further updates in a Flash Traffic.

Western Regional Roundup

Monday, March 22 through Friday, March 27

Will be at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort & Casino in Laughlin, NV.

Details on the website http://wrroundup.com

Deadline for the Spring Quarter MidWatch

Friday, March 20, 2020

All input must be into Chuck Luna, <u>Communications Officer</u>, to be included in the next MidWatch Newsletter to be published on Friday, April 3, 2020.

First Quarter Birthdays

JANUARY

- 2 Marion Cartland
- 3 Robert Hanson
- 5 Brent Nelson
- 5 William Monk
- 7 Roger Cousin
- 7 Douglas Ewen
- 10 Eldon Hartman
- 10 Ted Frve
- 12 John Schwab
- 14 Jerry Allston
- 16 Doug Newland
- 18 James Cooper
- 22 Jerry Pittman
- 23 James Denzien
- 26 Stephen Day
- 27 Henry Fernandez
- 29 Robert Warner
- 31 Frank Morris

FEBRUARY

- 1 Royce Pettit
- 3 Mary Denzien
- 4 John Mosher
- 10 David Kleinz
- 11 Dan Moss
- 12 Paul West
- 13 Edgar Brooks
- 14 Jerry McKay
- 16 Michael Dahl
- 16 Steven Marcellino
- 19 Mel Rycus
- 24 Emil Schoonejans

MARCH

- 1 Robert Saenz
- 4 Bernard Fromm
- 9 John Beckett
- 9 Warner H. Doyle Jr.
- 11 Marcus Hensley
- 11 Glenn Herold
- 11 Dennis McComb
- 12 Governor Joy
- 13 Ralph Brown
- 16 Marcia Unser
- 19 Burtis Loftin
- 20 Scott Strey
- 25 Harold Kerton
- 29 Michael Hinderliter
- 30 Roger Miller
- 31 David Metje

Perch Base CLASSIFIEDS

Your chance to advertise for free! Items from Base Members to other Members, and almost anything is fair game. Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, anything illegal, commercial items or anything in general poor taste. Send your ad to: newsletter@perch-base.org





(This card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage and park for the November Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought if you need tires or service.)

Classified Size Limits Four lines of 10 pt Arial font, one column wide. Pictures may be included -- and are encouraged -- but make the picture a separate "jpg" or "png" file. If we can't format your ad as a Word document, it won't run.



Base Ride Share

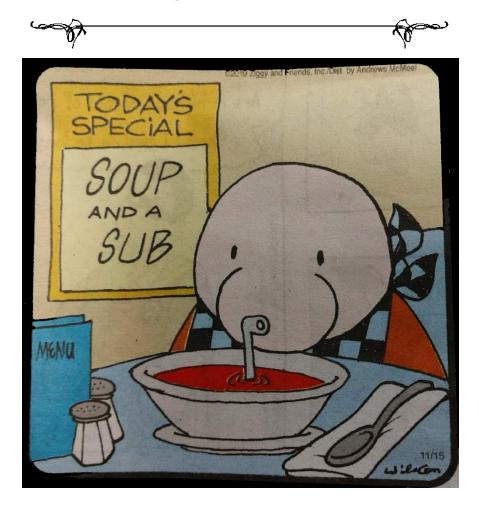
In need of a ride to a base meeting or event?

Like to help a shipmate in need of a lift?

Please contact:

Dan Marks at <u>webmaster@perch-base.org</u> Or

Marcus Hensley at storekeeper@perch-base.org



LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL



Tolling of the Boats for January

5	USS Scorpion (SS-278)	1944	77 men lost
10	USS Argonaut (SS-166)	1943	102 men lost
12	USS Swordfish (SS-193)	1945	89 men lost
20	USS S-36 (SS-141)	1942	no loss of life
24	USS S-26 (SS-131)	1942	46 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for February

4	USS Barbel (SS-316)	1945	81 men lost
11	USS Shark (SS-174)	1942	59 men lost
16	USS Amberjack (SS-219)	1943	72 men lost
26	USS Grayback (SS-208)	1944	80 men lost
28	USS Trout (SS-202)	1944	81 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for March

3	USS Perch (SS-176)	1942	6 men lost as POWs
5	USS Grampus (SS-207)	1943	71 men lost
12	USS H-1 (SS-28)	1920	4 men lost
15	USS Triton (SS-201)	1943	74 men lost
20	USS Kete (SS-369)	1945	87 men lost
25	USS F-4 (Skate) (SS-23)	1915	21 men lost
26	USS Tullibee (SS-284)	1944	79 men lost
26	USS Trigger (SS-237)	1945	89 men lost

2019 Perch Base Operations Supporters

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

Jerry Allston Ken Anderson Jim Andrews Steven Balthazor Richard Bernier Ronald Beyer Edgar Brooks John Carpentier John Cash Anthony Christianson Roger Cousin Eugene Crabb Don Demarte Jim Denzien Mary Denzien Billy DeShong Howard Doyle Charles Emmett Howard Enloe Douglas Ewen Tom Farley George Gillette

Robert Gregg Tom Gregory Kelly Grissom Mike Haler Robert Hayball David Heighway Harry Heller Glenn Harold Davy Jones Governor Joy David Kleinz Charles Kotan Doug LaRock Bob Lancendorfer DeWayne Lober Burtis Loftin Dan Marks Charles Marshall Ray Marshall Dennis McComb Angus McPherson Ken Meeks Alan Miller

Frank Morris John Mosher Brent Nelson Jim Nelson Donald Robertson Robie Robinson Russy Rutowski Pete Sattig Emil Schoonejans Rick Simmons Wayne Smith Steve Stanger William Tippett Jim Tolsma James Trail Chris Urness Janice VanHorn Victor VanHorn James Wall Joshua Whitmore Bill Woolcott John Zaichkin