

**From the Wardroom:**

We are moving into 2002 with a bang. The January meeting was well attended by the base membership as well as Western Regional Director Jim Foote and District 8 Commander Frank Rumbaugh. Also introduced to the membership was new member Dick Caracker. Shipmate Caracker is the Commander of the Sub Vets WWII Pigboaters Chapter and was warmly received by the crew. The BOD approved our continued support of the AMERICAN SUBMARINER boat sponsorship program for 2002. The one change that will take place is that since the USS Kamehameha has been decommissioned, that sponsorship will go to COMSUBRON 7. A letter will be sent to each of our sponsored commands informing them of our actions. Base Chaplain Howard Doyle has requested that if any crewmember is ill, in the hospital or any of those things that he could be of assistance with that you contact him. The contact information is located on the front page of the newsletter. Membership Chairman Ray Samson has been doing a superb job with the membership rolls but really needs all of our help. So many times a phone number, address, e-mail address or similar information changes and Ray only finds out when a newsletter is returned resulting in additional cost to the base to re-mail them or e-mails are returned and again additional work for Ray. We are also looking at ways of reducing costs for the MIDWATCH and one of the ideas that has been suggested is to have members that have the ability to receive the newsletter via e-mail or those that wish can read it on our web site. Your ideas on this are requested and can be directed to any of the Wardroom. MIDWATCH Editor Ray is also accepting business card size advertisement for the newsletter, again contact Ray for information. The contact information is located on the cover of the MIDWATCH. Much work has been put into establishing a Scholarship program at the base and the BOD's have made a decision to take any monies raised for our scholarship program and donate them to the USSVI scholarship program in Gary Patterson's name. It is felt that this will help to serve more than we could ever hope to at our level. We will continue to look at ways for us to do something at our level, but until a substantial source of income can be found that would provide for a continuous support of this endeavor this seems like the best solution. If you are interested in becoming involved in the base in a leadership roll we are soliciting members to run for the following offices, Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer. If you, or if you know of a crewmember, that would be interested in serving in one of these positions please contact Vice Commander Glen Herold and make this known. We will be having elections soon and the nominees need to be published. The dates for the District 8 meeting, which we are trying to hold again this year at the Ramada Express in Laughlin,

are not yet firm but we are looking at possibly the second week in April. We would like to encourage all that could make this meeting to do so as it is a great forum for exchanging ideas and learning how others are doing things. Sales of the USSVI calendars have not been what we were anticipating, but Calendar Chairman Don Wanamaker is pushing ahead with the project. If you have not yet bought your 2002 calendar you can contact Don or Storekeeper Gary Shumann via phone or e-mail as listed on the cover of the MIDWATCH. Remember the proceeds from this project support the USSVI Scholarship program as well as Perch Base. Your help is requested to help secure a suitable storage location for our parade float. As you are traveling about the valley be alert for a building that may work to house the float during the periods when we are not using it but that would still provide us access for maintenance. Any ideas that you may have for us that would make this a better base or to serve you better would be most appreciated. Let us hear from you. Fraternally, *Dave Harnish*, Commander, Perch Base

**Minutes from January's Meeting:**

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, 12 January 2002. 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 invocation. There were 26 members and two guests attending the meeting according to the sailing list. The Base welcomed member Dick Caraker to our meeting. Dick is a member of SubVets WWII and USSVI - Perch Base. He is a plank owner on the second USS Runner and made 3 war patrols. The members gave Dick a rousing round of applause. Roger Cousins introduced his guest Harold Avent who was welcomed by the members. It was moved and the motion seconded that the minutes from the last 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 January, 2002; Dave Harnish reported that Don Wannamaker was not present at the meeting due to the continuing problems with his health. Dave also asked all the members to remember Don in their prayers. Dave Harnish announced, for the benefit of all those members that didn't attend the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade, that the Base had been awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of more than 100 entries. The whole affair was very positive and helped to draw attention to the Perch Base and the Submarine Veteran Community. Dave Harnish introduced Jim Foote; USSVI Western Regional Director to the members. He

also introduced Frank Rumbaugh; USSVI District Eight Commander and Perch Base member.

#### **OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Glenn Herold; Vice Commander, reported for the Base Storekeeper stating that many new items were available to purchase from the Ship's Store. The new dungaree shirt and Perch Base Plaques were the highlight of items of interest. Membership committee chairman; Ramon Samson reported that Base membership reached 124 at the end of 2001. A good majority of the members have already re-enlisted and he is looking forward to 100% renewal of membership. No other reports were offered from the floor.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dave Harnish asked the membership to consider new ways the Perch Base can advertise itself and attract new members. Currently available methods include; local radio public service announcements, a video clip for running on local TV stations, bumper stickers, USSVI business cards and submarine service window decals. Other ways need to be explored. Dave Harnish reported that the 2002 calendar project was nearing the break-even point. USSVI's national treasury financed the project to the tune of \$12,466.20. Perch Base has thus far reimbursed the national organization with \$10,000 in proceeds from the calendar sales. Full reimbursement must take place before revenue sharing kicks in. Everyone was encouraged to buy calendars.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Harnish announced that the Base Family Picnic will be hosted by the Maricopa Live Steamers again this year. It will be held at the Railroad Park on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Further details will be published as plans are in place. It was announced that the 2003 USSVI National Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada. It will be combined with the annual convention of the SubVets WWII. The first combined convention of its kind. The next combined convention is expected to take place in Kansas City in the year 2005. The 2002 USSVI National Convention will be held in Duluth, Minnesota. Perch Base received a nice Christmas Card from the USS Torsk memorial committee. The card was circulated at the meeting for members to appreciate.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dave Harnish explained the process for becoming an Holland Club member in USSVI. There are two basic requirements (1) being designated "Qualified in Submarines" for the past 50 years (2) be a "Life Member" (USSVI) for a period of one year or a regular member for a minimum of 5 consecutive years. The Holland Club is a distinguished organization within the USSVI.

Dave also briefed the membership on the US Submarine RV'ers organization. The organization consists of Submarine Veterans that travel in Recreation Vehicles (trailers, campers or

motor homes) and meet as a group at different places in the US. The organization is not part of USSVI, but many members are also members of the RV'ers. Anyone interested should contact Dave. Dues are \$30 initiation fee and \$5 annually. Ed Brooks announced that he had committed to carve two sets of teak dolphins for the bell joke at the Bangor Submarine Memorial in Bangor, Washington. He asked the membership's approval to donate the dolphins in the name of Arizona SubVets - Perch Base. The members agreed to let Ed do that.

#### **50/50 DRAWING**

The 50/50 raffle was conducted and Adrian Stuke was the winner. The winner's share of the raffle was \$48.

#### **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 Base Chaplain; Howard Doyle led the membership in the benediction and closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1345 hours.

#### **Welcome Aboard New Crewmen:**

For the month of February, we welcome aboard new member, George Petrovitz. Kelly qualified on the USS USS Redfish (SS395), in 1946. George and wife Mariam, reside in Cottonwood, and is sponsored by shipmate, Billy Greives. George served on (7) other Boats. USS Sablefish SS303, USS Lizardfish SS273, USS Diodun SS349, USS Bream SSK243, USS Charr SS328, USS Besugo SS323, and USS Menhaden SS377. Note from R Samson: When George made RMC(SS), in 1957, he was a shipmate of mine on USS Charr, and LCDR Thomas Auger was CO. It is indeed a small world.

#### **Holland Club Up-Date:**

Another Arizona Perch Base member is inducted into the Holland club. Joseph R. Mullins, who qualified on USS Segundo SS398, in 1948 is the latest Holland Club member. Joseph retired from the Navy as RMCS(SS). With his wife Sharon, they reside in Mesa. Joseph "Moon" Mullins joined USSVI and Arizona Perch Base on July of 1996, and has been a member in good standing since. Thank you "Moon", for dedicated service to your country. It would be a pleasure to see you at a meeting in the near future.

#### **Re-Enlistment for 2002:**

As of the date of this writing, we have 21 members that have not sent their dues. If you have not received the re-enlistment notice please call me at 623-815-9247 for a follow up letter. Those of you that are not going to re-up, for whatever reason, please send your reasons to the membership chairmen Ramon Samson. If we need to change our ways, we need your input,