

From the Wardroom

Shipmates, the year is almost over. By the time you receive this, the 2004 Veterans Parade may be over. I am looking forward to a good turn out this year.

We have a number of other things to look forward to including the Navy League Pearl Harbor Day Dinner on night of December 7 at Luke AFB. We have two tables reserved for Submarine shipmates and wives and guests that would like to attend. Please contact Larry Rankin in regards to getting your reservations made.

The Christmas/Hanukkah Dinner and Dance Party at Luke AFB will be December 11. Dave Harnish is the person to contact and to get your reservations made. He has a cut off date in order to get the names of members that will be attending so they may be turned over to the security police on the base. We will be announcing and presenting the "Sailor of the Year award." The Past Commanders, will select the shipmate that receives this award. It is an acknowledgement for his contributions and efforts for the betterment of Perch Base.

Our Ad Hoc committee will be meeting with the board at the November meeting to give us their views as to the best means of increasing revenues for the base. We are looking forward to hearing their ideas and suggestions on this subject. As I am sure the membership will be.

Our District 8 Commander Leif Larsen has asked us to host next years District 8 meeting in Phoenix. A vote was called for, to host the meeting, and it was accepted by the membership.

With our new bases we have the largest concentration of bases in the district. We have a great location and it is a fine chance to test the waters for hosting a National Convention in the future. A committee has been formed to see to the needs of hosting the District 8 Meeting in April 2005.

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August Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 16 October 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Joe Bernard (Chaplain - Pigboater's Chapter) led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony for submarines lost during the month of August.

According to the sailing list, there were 31 members present at the meeting; which included 1 new member. Those present welcomed new member and visitors – Shipmates George Long, Archie Day and George Cryder. Each took the floor – introduced themselves and gave the members a brief description of their submarine experiences. They were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of October, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore reported that his investigation of coatings for the Perch Memorial torpedo concluded that the method currently being used was probably as good as anything available today. Glenn Herold then asked for volunteers to act as a working party for maintaining the Memorial and the torpedo. A group of volunteers offered their participation which included; Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newman and Roger Cousin.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore was not present at the meeting. However, Glenn Herold reported that liaison with the American Legion Post indicates that the new Post building is moving forward and is now in the permitting and contractor selection phase.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not present at the meeting.

Membership Chairman and WebMaster – Ramon Samsen reported that Perch Base is working with the 2 new Bases in Arizona to allow them to participate on the Perch

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The selection of new base officers is just around the corner. I am asking again for the membership to look around, talk with your shipmates, and encourage him to accept a nomination. We need new ideas, and new blood to take Perch Base into the future.

We will be having a meeting in December on the third Saturday of the month. In the past, our Dinner and Dance date was at the same time as our meeting date. This will allow us to get more base business taken care of, before the New Year starts.

On behalf of the Canadian Submariner, that lost his life to a fire and left a wife and child. A donation was taken at the meeting and we raised \$220.00 for his family. BRAVO ZULU shipmates, that's what it is all about..." shipmates helping shipmates."

Fraternaly yours,

Glenn Herold
Commander
Perch Base

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Website and the Newsletter (Midwatch). It appears that Yuma Base and Tucson Base have their own newsletters. Ray also reported that Perch membership has been affected to some degree by the transfers to Gudgeon Base (Prescott area) and White Mountain Base (Snowflake area). Ray announced that we are at the 10 year anniversary of the formation of Perch Base which will be commemorated on the Web Site. Ray indicated that the process for asking members to download and print the Base Newsletter is showing results in the Base's finances. The month prior to the process taking effect, the cost to produce and mail the newsletter was \$272. After the process took effect, the total cost was \$80.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett was not present at the meeting.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson, who is on a Tiger Cruise aboard the USS Salt Lake City with his submariner son Brent, was not present at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that Howard Doyle and Chuck Emmett are putting the final touches on the preparations for the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade. Participants are asked to meet at the Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix at 0800 hours on Thursday, November 11th. The parade will again feature the USS Bang float, the Goodyear Classic Fire Truck, and perhaps a 1-ton Stake Bed Truck to accommodate riders. Glenn asked if any of the members knew where we

could borrow the stake bed truck. Dick Caraker indicated that Sanderson Ford had provided that type of vehicle in the past and would be a good place to start a search. Jim Wall volunteered the use of his flat bed trailer if the truck is not attainable.

A suggestion was made that Perch Base make up a banner to publicize its address and a phone number instead of the National Office. It was agreed that this would be an effective thing to do for recruiting purposes. Glenn Herold agreed to look into the banner.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the details associated with attending the 2004 Perch Base Christmas Party. The party will be held at the Luke Air Force Base Enlisted Club on the evening of December 11th. Social hour, with no-host cocktails, will start at 1730 hours and the meal will be served starting at 1900 hours. The per-person price to attend has been set at \$30. Reservations, which must include payment as well as your name and address (as it appears on your picture ID,) have to be received by Dave prior to December 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold briefed the members on the National Convention. Glenn assured the members that the slate of national officers were capable and good men. Glenn added that the Board of Directors had started a discussion into the possibility for Perch Base hosting a National Convention in the 2010-2011 time frame. Phoenix will be the site for the 2005 District 8 meetings which will provide a unique opportunity to gain some experience in hosting meetings in the area. Glenn then asked for volunteers to serve as a committee to make arrangements for the 2005 meetings and collect information and contacts for exploring the convention prospect.

Volunteers for the committee included; Dave Harnish, Glenn Herold, Frank Rumbaugh, Dick Caraker, Larry Rankin and Stan Reinhold.

Larry Rankin was asked to brief the members on the Phoenix Navy League Pearl Harbor Day festivities. Larry indicated that the dinner would be held on December 7, and the affair will begin at 1800 hours and include dinner and a speaker. Anyone interested should contact Larry.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Glenn Herold offered a discussion on the possibility for Perch Base to support local efforts to send sundry items to our troops in the Middle East. It was also suggested that the Base could get involved with forms of support for families of the troops living in the Phoenix area. After some discussion it was agreed that the Base could and should pursue both efforts. Frank Rumbaugh and Dave Harnish volunteered to investigate the possibilities for participating in both programs.

(continued next page)

They would then brief the members on provisions to support the efforts.

Glenn also announced that a fire had occurred on one of Canada's submarines. This resulted in one person losing their life and 3 others injured. The one casualty to the crew left two children without a father. Groton Base has asked other USSVI members to help with cash donations to form a fund to help the children of the deceased submariner. A basket was passed among the members and cash donations were collected.

Glenn Herold read a certificate of appreciation Perch Base received from White Mountain Base that indicated their gratitude for the help Perch Base provided to the formation efforts of their Base.

Ed Brooks asked to be recognized and called numerous members front and center to receive Certificates of Appreciation from the Chairman of the USSVI Scholarship Fund. The certificates recognized members who had contributed more than \$50 to the Scholarship Fund. Ed informed the members that they had contributed more than \$5,000 to the Charitable Foundation more than \$2,000 of that amount to the Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ed also informed the members of a telephone contact with Honorary Perch Base Member Thomas Moore (one of the survivors of the sinking of the USS Perch during WWII). Thomas had arranged for Perch Base to receive a copy of the book; "War Tales" which contained an account of Thomas' experiences on the USS Perch and in Japanese POW Camp. The book was entered into the Perch Base Library. Thomas had also sent a donation to the Perch Boosters Club.

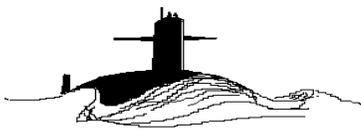
50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Dave Harnish was the winner. Dave donated the winnings to the Perch Base Treasury.

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 closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1414 hours.



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dominate the littorals while maintaining undersea dominance in the open ocean.

Virginia Gov. Mark Warner said he was proud to have the lead ship of the class named for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Virginia's support of the United States Navy goes back to the founding of our country when the first USS Virginia was commissioned in 1777," Warner said. "Virginia values its long-standing relationship with the Navy and is proud so many vessels call the Commonwealth home."

"With new tools like the USS Virginia and other Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, this nation will continue to have the best equipped and best trained military in the world," he concluded.

Under an innovative agreement, General Dynamics Electric Boat is producing the Virginia-class submarines as part of a team effort with Northrop Grumman Newport News. Virginia has improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that enable it to meet the Navy's multimission requirements. With a modular design, the Virginia class will be able to accommodate technology upgrades throughout the life of the class.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said the submarine, and the men who sail on her, will take the battle to the enemy with stealth, endurance and agility.

"We need this submarine and its capabilities at sea," Clark said. "Virginia is designed to take care of and defeat the enemies of the 21st century."

"She will bring her greatest capability - her stealth - into the warfighting calculus in a way that will tremendously complicate life for our future and potential enemies and greatly enhance our own warfighting capabilities," he added.

Virginia is 377 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 34 feet, a navigational draft of 32 feet, displaces approximately 7,800 tons submerged, can dive to depths greater than 800 feet, and can sustain speeds of more than 25 knots when submerged.

According to Virginia's Commanding Officer, Capt. David C. Kern, his proudest moment was a foggy day in Groton, Conn., when he first took Virginia to sea.

"The fog was thick as I stood on the sail of Virginia, returning from our first underway," Kern explained. "Her engines pulsing with power, her crew having operated the boat for the first time. On that day, I was filled with pride for the accomplishments of this crew."
