

December Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 20 Dec 2008. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Vice-Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Howard Doyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in December and a moment of silence was observed for shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, twenty-one (21) members and two (2) guests were present. One guest and potential new base member, Charlie Runyan was introduced. Accompanying Charlie was his wife Bev who sat in with the SubVettes. Also in attendance were Sandy Bernard and one long time member Curtis "Tex" Lofton.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the November 2008 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Dave Harnish was not present and Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of 01 Dec 2008. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Commander – Stan Reinhold was not present. Jim Denzien reported that Stan's wife Jane is having rotator cuff surgery and that is the reason Stan is not with us today.

Base Vice-Commander – Jim Denzien reported that at the last meeting (November 2008) the board voted to make a payment for all unpaid annual Perch Base USSVI membership dues to meet the end of December USSVI deadline to ensure that those members do not go delinquent and fall of the membership rolls. Perch Base members who have not sent in their annual dues by the end of December will be invoiced by Treasurer, Dave Harnish, in January.

It was reiterated that we formed the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation as a means whereby people, base members and non-members alike, can make tax deductible donations to the Perch Base to support the base and our activities. If anyone wants to make donations for the Booster Club or in support of Perch Base activities and wishes to have a tax deduction, the checks must be written to the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation. It was also again brought up that we do not have any means to raise money to support the Perch Base general fund except for membership dues and a few MidWatch newsletter ads. If anyone has any ideas for fundraisers to support the Perch Base general fund treasury, please bring those ideas forward to the board.

Base Secretary (Interim) – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish was not present.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett reported that effective January 2009, Perch Base monthly meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. As a result of this change, all articles for the MidWatch monthly newsletter will need to be submitted to Chuck by the Friday of the last weekend of the month preceding the publication of the newsletter.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman – Dave Fledderjohn was not present. On behalf of Dave Fledderjohn, Dave Harnish has been filling in assisting with the Membership Chairman responsibilities until Dave Fledderjohn returns, hopefully in January.

Webmaster – Ramon Samson introduced Robbie Robinson who reported on Les Hillman's current condition. He reported that Les has a nervous disorder and is currently undergoing a new procedure to treat and hopefully remedy the problem.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported on Jim Nelson's current condition. Jim has been hospitalized for eleven (11) weeks now, has had abdominal surgery and is currently going through rehabilitation. The MRSA infection he contracted has finally cleared up and he is improving. He may be relocating again soon, but currently he is at Kindred Hospital located at 13216 N. Plaza del Rio Blvd., Peoria, AZ. Jim would love to have visitors but it would be advisable to contact Nancy Nelson at 623-824-2519 prior to visiting to ensure that Jim will be available for your visits.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Our new float, the 1/15th scale model replica of the USS Phoenix SSN-702 won the First Place Award for Veterans Service Organizations Historical category at this year's Veteran's Day Parade. Options for permanent float storage were discussed but no final decisions were made.

The 2009 USSVI National Convention will be held at the Town & Country Resort Hotel & Convention Center in San Diego from September 8-12, 2009. This year's convention will be held jointly with the ISA-USA (International) Convention. Information for this convention can be found by logging on to the Perch Base website and clicking on the USSVI link and the conventions link.

We will be having a spring 2009 picnic. Reservations have been made at the picnic area in the White Tanks (west of Phoenix) for late March. The final date and time will be announced at a later date.

Plans for forming an East Valley Base are still pending. There are a number of East Valley shipmates interested but no decisions have been made.

New Business

Effective January 2009, Perch Base meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the American Legion Post #105.

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on 24 Jan 2009 at the American Legion Post #105 from 1730 until approximately 2200.

At last month's meeting (November 2008) Barry Bowers was elected as Float Coordinator. All inquires for potential use of the float for parades or static displays need to be directed to Barry. We currently have some tentative obligations for the float including helping the City of Goodyear with one of the displays they will be having and possibly participating in Navy Week in March. We are also tentatively planning on taking the float to San Diego as a static display provided that adequate security can be provided.

At the last Phoenix Commission meeting in November, Jim Denzien made a request for the Commission to fund the costs involved with the formation of the Save Our Sail Foundation. It will be set up the same was as our Perch Base foundation which is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. This will be a completely separate entity for the Save Our Sail project. There are currently funds in a 702 Society account that hopefully will go into the foundation fund to support the project.

A number of issues for the Save the Sail project were discussed. A site has been approved to erect the memorial at the Indian Steele Park in downtown Phoenix in the area of Central and Indian School Rd. Perch Base will be the administrative arm for this project and will be forming a 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation to solicit funding. A planning meeting to launch the Save Our Sail Foundation project will be held in January 2009. We will be looking for outside help to assist us with this effort including of having some of the current Phoenix Commission members joining Perch Base as Associate Members. We are anticipating that the Navy will scrap the USS Phoenix in 2012 to 2013 at which time the sail and rudder will be made available for transporting to Phoenix. This is subject to change depending on the priorities and needs of the US Navy. At one point in time, the Phoenix Commission had a commitment from Swift Transportation to provide the trucking to transport the sail & rudder down to Phoenix after the boat was scrapped by the Navy. We need to try and re-establish that commitment. We met with Chris Winters who is a Landscape Architect in downtown Phoenix and also two principals in a graphic arts business called The Kitchen Sink. These people were instrumental in working on the graphic presentations when the conceptual designs were done for the last monument. They are donating their time and are working on a conceptual drawing of what has already been approved by the City of Phoenix. We will be soliciting Perch Base and Phoenix Commission members to assist in further developing strategic plans to make this project a success.

Good of the Order

Tim Moore reported that UPS (United Parcel Service) made a \$500.00 contribution to the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation. We have a recognition page for Foundation Shipmates in the MidWatch where we will recognize all contributors to our foundation. We will also provide ad space for business card ads for all business who contribute \$100.00 or more to our foundation.



All hands were reminded that our Perch Base elections will be coming up in March 2008. We will be looking for people who might be interested in running for Perch Base positions. Jim Nelson was originally slated to fulfill the Secretarial position but when he became incapacitated with health issues, Tim Moore volunteered to fill the position on an interim basis. If anyone is interested in running for any of the base officer positions, please make your desires known to one of the current base officers.

It was announced from National that we have a shipmate, Doug Jensen, who is in Dire Straights. Doug qualified on the USS Sea Owl SS-405 in 1964 as a MM3(SS). He lives in Friendship, WI. He lost his home and everything in it to fire, including two vehicles in his garage. National has established an emergency Doug Jensen fund within the Brotherhood Fund of the USSVCF to aid Doug in his time of need. For more information on how you can help, log on to the Perch Base website and go to the USSVI link. Once on the USSVI link click on the SubVets News link and the Flash News link to get the most current information on how you can assist this shipmate.

Ray Samson announced that he and Dave Harnish have been working on the membership e-mail list which still has a number of errors. If you want to be kept updated on news and current event via e-mail, please make sure that either Ray Samson or Dave Harnish have your current correct e-mail address.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Walt Blomgren.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The benediction was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1401 hours.

Tim Moore, Interim Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

Perch Base SubVettes

Christmas is but a fond memory and I, personally, am looking forward to New Year's Eve. A time for great appetizers, staying up until midnight (groan) and those pesky resolutions – I am going to keep some of them in 2009!

I was so happy to see Sandy Bernard at the meeting. Jackie and Ed Hawkins are absolute dears for bringing her. She always adds so much to our meetings. Oh yes! We had a guest too! Beverly Runyan. We hope to see her at future meetings.

My taste buds are anticipating the Awards Banquet on January 24th, catered by Subvet Commander, Stan Reinhold. I just know it's going to be outstanding. Let's support the guys and demand our husbands take us "out to dinner".

Jim Nelson has been moved to HealthSouth and can receive visitors. Please have the courtesy to contact Nancy so she can let you know if Nelson is going to be available to visitors. He will be receiving a lot of therapy and we certainly don't want to slow that down!

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, Saturday, January 10th at 12:00 pm.

Mary



HAVE YOU HEARD: 'WELL,' snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman, 'I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave?' 'Not me, Chief!' the Seaman replied. 'Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!