

From the Wardroom
Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

The National Convention has come and gone and it seemed to be quite successful. Our float was one of three that were on display. Mary and I had a fantastic time participating in the meetings and seeing old shipmates. Personally, I was disappointed with the lack of interaction with the International Submariners and the Canadian Submariners. I, for one, had hoped for a lot more.

We have an all AZ base picnic coming up on Oct. 17 at Picacho Peak State Park. All members should plan on attending. There will be additional information coming out soon.

The biggest downcheck from recent events has been the tragic and untimely loss of our friend and shipmate, Dave Harnish. He will be sorely missed.

Please plan to attend our next meeting on Oct. 10 and enjoy the fellowship with your shipmates.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

August
Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1200 hours, 8 August 2009. Jim Denzien, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

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

According to the sailing list, twenty-seven (27) members and guests were present. One new member, Joe Varese, was introduced and he shared his background with the membership. Joe is retired Navy having spent 21 years in the service of our country. Welcome aboard, Joe.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the July 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Dave Harnish reported on the base's financial status as of 01 August 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Items reported included but were not limited to the following:

1. The September Perch Base meeting is cancelled due to the USSVI National Convention. Then next general meeting will be Saturday, 10 October 2009.
2. Jim reported on the insurance presentation that Mert Bean made to the BOD. It informed us about the specifics of the policy. We need to get a few questions answered and hopefully some modifications to the policy will be forthcoming which will result in reducing some of the costs related to the premium.

Other items discussed were addressed in the normal course of the general meeting.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle was not present.

Base Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish had nothing to report.

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren welcomed Jim Nelson, Frank Bono and Tim Moore back after their recent absences due to medical issues.

Base Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett inquired if everyone had received the last issue of the MidWatch in which he published a page entitled “Shipmates, we have decisions to make...” This was a solicitation for feedback from the membership asking for suggestions as to what we, as an organization, should have as an agenda, i.e., what should we be doing, what are we doing right, wrong, what would you, the membership, like us to be doing? Chuck received absolutely no responses back from this inquiry, which indicates a high degree of complacency on the part of the membership. Chuck will run the request for feedback for ideas in one more issue of the MidWatch. The next issue will be published in October. Even if you have no suggestions for ideas or improvement, let us know that you have at least read the inquiry and have nothing to offer at this time.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reported that he had some good deals on hats and has about twenty (20) Perch Base Challenge Coins remaining for sale.

Membership Chairman/Webmaster – Ramon Samson was not present.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reminded the group that the USSVI National Convention will be held 8 – 12 September 2009 at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego. It sounds like Perch Base will be well represented at the convention this year. A number of us will be “caravanning” on the morning of 8 September 2009. Chuck Emmett volunteered to tow the float. We would like to get underway at about 0800 departing from the Tolleson area. Anyone interested in joining the caravan should contact Jim Denzien, Chuck Emmett or Dave Harnish.

Jim made contact with Base Commander Hopper from Tautog Base and confirmed the All Arizona Base Picnic is still on for 17 October 2009 at Picacho Peak State Park located on I-10 half way between Phoenix and Tucson. Tautog Base will provide hamburgers, hot dogs buns, condiments and soft drinks. Participating base members should plan to bring a potluck dish to share with others.

New Business

With respect to float utilization, the next scheduled event is the USSVI National Convention in San Diego. We will need a float work party prior to this trip to make sure everything is “shipshape”. The work party will probably take place at Butch Deshong’s warehouse in East Mesa. Anyone who is interested in assisting should contact Jim. He will send out an e-mail with details about the work party as soon as it is scheduled.

Jim mentioned that we still need additional board members for the Perch Base Foundation. We also still need a Chief of the Boat and one member has expressed interest but his final decision is pending.

Jim announced that he had received an e-mail from Ray Samson who has resigned from his position as Webmaster and Membership Chair. Rick Simmons has stepped up to the plate and offered to take the Membership Chair position and Jim offered his gratitude and thanks to Rick. The rest of the officers and membership would also like to extend their thanks to Rick for volunteering. We will bring Rick up to speed as quickly as possible. Chuck Emmett volunteered to be Webmaster on an interim basis until we get someone to take over this responsibility. We are looking for someone with expertise in building, maintaining websites, so if any of the membership has this type of background, please step forward, and lend us a hand.

Jim made one last appeal for anyone who is willing or interested in helping us out with the COB responsibilities, Webmaster, or in any other capacity. We are always receptive to any members who will step forward and assist. We need new ideas and fresh faces to move the organization forward. This appeal also applies to the need for additional members on both the Perch Base Foundation and SOS Foundation boards. The Perch Base Foundation will include only Perch Base members. For the SOS Foundation, we will be going outside the organization with the emphasis on soliciting participation from former Phoenix Commission members. Their experience in the community will be invaluable to the organization.

Good of the Order

Jim Denzien welcomed Jim Nelson back after an extended absence for medical reasons. He also announced that Jim is scheduled for another surgical procedure the 17th of this month. Jim will probably be able to have visitors but potential visitors should call Nancy first to make sure it is O.K. Jim and Carolyn Newman have been out of town and will return tomorrow the 9th. Jim will be going in to have a polyp removed from his larynx on Tuesday the 11th. We need to keep these shipmates in our prayers for successful surgical procedures and speedy recoveries.

Rich Simmons gave a DVD to the base which is a movie starring Kevin Bacon called *Taking Chance*. He also gave one to Post 105. Anyone who wishes to watch the movie is welcome to borrow it from the base. Thanks to Rick Simmons for his generosity.

Tim Moore announced that the next Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) event will be Thursday, 27 August 2009 at Phoenix Children's Hospital located at SR51 and E. Thomas Road. Anyone interested in participating should plan on showing up between 1100 and 1115 hours and meet in the main lobby of Bldg. A. Davy Jones suggested that attendees should plan on arriving early because of construction in the area of the hospital.

Dave Harnish announced that an organization has been started up in the Bremerton area called the Silent Service Motorcycle Club. The dues are \$20.00 per year and Dave would like to start a chapter in the Phoenix area. Five riders are needed to start a chapter. Anyone interested should contact Dave and he will get you in touch with the right people.

Jim Denzien announced that our Annual Awards Banquet will be held in January 2010. It will be the third Saturday of January (16 January 2010) at the American Legion Post #105 pending their agreement for hosting the event on that date. Stan Reinhold will plan the dinner and the post will host the bar as was done at our last banquet. Walt Blomgren is in charge of coordinating the event and Barry Bowers will assist.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Sandy Martin who won and donated \$25.00 back to the Booster's Club.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1245 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore

Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

