

Perch Base Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2025

Perch Base Commander David Heighway called the monthly meeting to order at Dillon's Restaurant, in Glendale, AZ at 1200 hours, November 8, 2025.

Governor Joy gave the invocation. David Heighway led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Paul Miller read the USSVI Purpose. A moment of silence was followed by the Tolling of the Boats lost in the month of November.

Per the sailing list, the following attended the base meeting:

John Beckett	John Brown	CC Clarke
Carik Culbertson	Jim Denzien	W. H. Doyle, Jr.
Chris Gahan	Bob Gilmore	David Heighway
Hila Heighway	Mimi Hirmiz	Governor Joy
John Manning	Dan Marks	Paul Miller
Carl Miner	Rick Prill	Kevin Sheehan
Joe Trotter	Don Unser	Marcia Unser
George Williams	Alice Woods	George Woods

No guests introduced themselves:

The minutes of the October 2025 meeting were offered for review. No changes were proposed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. There was no further discussion and the minutes were accepted, as published, by voice vote.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer – Kevin Sheehan

Kevin gave the treasurer's report. Perch Base Operations: \$17,232.83.

Perch Base Foundation Balance: \$8,334.91.

This month's Rattle Can goes to the Perch Base Foundation.

We have successfully initiated the capability to make Zelle payments to USSVI National. We are not accepting Zelle payments. We are accepting credit cards for donations, dues, and dinner tickets for the Annual Awards Banquet.

Past Commander – George Woods

Western Region Roundup is in April. Additional information is on the website.

Scholarship information is on the website and applications must be submitted by mid-January.

Next USSVI Convention will be in Corpus Christi and information is on the National website.

Storekeeper – John Beckett

John emphasized the he has rocker patches to be placed on top of Holland Club patches, for 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 years for under \$5 each. The last MidWatch has selected items for sale that would be excellent Christmas gifts.

Communications Officer & Newsletter Editor – Chris Gahan

Chris reported the deadline for input to the next MidWatch Newsletter is Friday, December 19, 2025. He has some input from members, but keep it coming. Chris emphasized that input to the MidWatch is welcome from ALL members, including articles, jokes, etc.

The United Arizona Veterans (UAV) emphasis this month has been Veterans Day. He encouraged participation with us in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

Chris encouraged wearing our hats. As an example, he was asked by a stranger where to dispose of a tattered flag. He was able to suggest several places, including Home Depot, Lowes, and most VFW posts and American Legion posts.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Dan displayed a Sub School class photo. It was a 1957 class photo and included our Holland Club member, present at this meeting, George Williams. George had been trying for 5 years to get it added to the other class photos on the USSVI National website. With Dan's help, it is now on the website.

Dan showed the Annual Awards Banquet menu selection ticket order form and stated that reservations may be placed online at <https://form.jotform.com/252894660217160>. Dan showed links available on the homepage and the Sailing Orders page. Orders may also be placed at future meetings up to and including the January 7, 2025 monthly meeting.

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting the Jim Wall Eternal Patrol Notice, posting the MidWatch and snail-mailing copies of the MidWatch to the 3 members without email. Routine updates during the past month included updating the Sailing Orders page, Flash Traffics, base correspondence and meeting minutes uploaded, Lost Boat notices and Half Staff notices posted and links updated. Similar updates have been maintained on the Perch Base Facebook Page.

During October, there were 13,064 page views on the Perch Base website during 9,713 visits by 7,949 users based on Awstats. The number of visits and users is a continuously increasing trend since March 2025. The number of page views is radically higher than usual and presumably due to search engine robots located in the United States, China and Israel. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Sailing Orders, Glossary, then the Links page. The most downloads were the Historic List of Submarine Classes, followed by the Hurt Feelings Chit, then the Mabus letter.

During October, the Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 1,024 and the Content Interactions (The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content, including ads. Content can include formats such as posts, stories, reels, videos and more.) was 38. These are decreased numbers since last month. Our Facebook page has a total of 249 Followers, increased by 1. The top post was the "JIM WALL ETERNAL PATROL..

Membership – Paul Miller

Paul reported that membership is 163. We have 18 of 47 annual memberships renewed.

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Governor Joy presented the Binnacle List:

- Laura Anderson (Kirby's wife)
- Barbara Cosgrove (Jim's wife, they are in Portland, OR)
- Jim Denzien
- Mary Denzien (Jim's wife)
- W. Howard Doyle, Jr.
- Georgianne Gahan (Chris' wife)

Governor thanked the membership for our response following the passing of his wife, Lori. He emphasized how supportive the submarine veterans and their families have been.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

CC reported the Sierra Verde STEAM Veterans Appreciation breakfast, assembly, and static display were a blast.

Upcoming:

- Daisy Mountain/Anthem Veterans Parade (in-progress during our meeting)
- 11/11: Phoenix Veterans Day Parade
- 11/14: USS Arizona Legacy Foundation luncheon at Biltmore
- 12/6: Pearl Harbor Remembrance at Wesley Bolin Plaza
- 1/17: Annual Awards Banquet at Pebble Creek Tuscany Country Club
- 1/31: Laveen Community Parade

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Don Robertson was not present at the meeting. He and Kirby Anderson were at the Daisy Mountain/Anthem Veterans Parade with our USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float.

Chief Of the Boat – Kirby Anderson

Kirby Anderson was not present at the meeting. He and Don Robertson were at the Daisy Mountain/Anthem Veterans Parade with our USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float.

Secretary – Ed Henry

Ed was not present due to attending a VFW event in Tucson, AZ.

Base Historian – Chuck Emmett

Chuck was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Carol Culbertson reported the groundbreaking for the USS Phoenix Cold War Memorial at Indian School Park will be next spring. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony and the date will be announced later.

NEW BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Jim Denzien reported on his Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. It was an extremely wonderful experience. Jim would be happy to help anyone eligible to apply.

50/50

Don Unser won the 50/50 drawing. The total drawing value was \$87. Don's share came to \$43.50. Perch Base received \$43.50. Don Unser donated his \$43.50 winnings back to the Perch Base Foundation.

The Rattle Can contributions were \$60.34 to the Perch Base Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Governor Joy led the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Submitted by:

Dan Marks,

Filling in for Ed Henry

Secretary, Perch Base