Perch Base Minutes March 2026

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, March 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Commander David Heighway.

Governor Joy gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Dave Heighway. The USSVI Creed was read by David Heighway and The Tolling of the Boats lost in March was read by David Heighway.

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

Dan Marks	CC Clarke	Paul Miller
George Woods	Chuck Emmett	Jim Denzien
Kevin Sheehan	W. H. Doyle Jr.	Carl Miner
Joan Miner	John Brown	Bob Gilmore
Curt Thomez	Jay Denzien	Don Robertson
Bob Saenz	Carol Saenz	Pete Owen
George Williams	John Mosher (Old Mbr. From CO)	Governor Joy
Maison Walker (Guest)	Don Schafer	George Gillette
Joe Trotter	Vic VanHorn	Jan VanHorn
John Manning	David Heighway	Hila Heighway
Randy Pirkle	Jeff Brower	Paul Cole
Carol Culbertson		

The first item of business was a call for approval of the February 2026 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which were seconded and approved by voice vote.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary-Ed Henry

Nothing to report.

Treasurer-Kevin Sheehan (absent) (Dave Heighway presented)

Perch Base Operations - $23, 027.07

Perch Base Foundation – $7,094.04

Rattle Can for March goes to National Foundation

Past Commander– George Woods

Provide updates of current USSVI National membership. National is requesting local USSVI Bases to push Lifetime Memberships.

The USSVI national website will be shut down for five days after the March 31 testing period is complete to transition to the new website. All Bases are requested to ensure all dues and membership changes are up to date to support the transition.

A national memorial service for Wayne Standerfer will be held in May 2026; Texas bases have the lead.

Members were urged to participate in Base Elections. Nationwide there was a 14% participation rate.

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Nothing to Report

Storekeeper – CC Clarke

Informed group he received a great turnover from John and he has stuff to sale.

Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Not at meeting, tending to family.

Communications – Chris Gahan (absent, presented by Dave)

Reported that the Mid-Watch newsletter submission deadline is March 20th, 2026.

The UAV Patriotic Awards Luncheon is scheduled for May 1, 2026, at the Doubletree Hilton Phoenix-Mesa.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Dan requested photos from those attending the upcoming base activities at next week's Spring Training Game and the USS ARIZONA (SSN 803) Crewmember functions.

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting an article about the submarine dolphin anniversary, the new 2026 Arizona property tax exemption for VA 100% Disabled Veterans, posting the presentation of the "Sailor of the Year" award to our Chief of the Boat (COB) Kirby Anderson. the presentation by Vice Commander Don Robertson titled "Initial Response Phase 1941 - 1942 (S-Boats & Fleet Boats)" given at the February monthly meeting, the presentation by Artist Steve Voita of his USS Phoenix (SSN-702) artwork and posting the obituary notices for the wives of two of our members, Colleen Williams and Mary Denzien. The website was also updated to reflect the appointment of CC Clarke as Base Storekeeper and Jim Denzien as Base Historian. Additionally, a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Jim Denzien of more photos was added to the Float Construction page. 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 February, there were 11,472 page views on the Perch Base website during 8,482 visits by 6,436 users based on Awstats. The most page views were from the United States, followed by Japan, Vietnam, then China. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Glossary, Sailing Orders, then the Links page. The most downloads were the usual pages: the Historic List of Submarine Classes, followed by the Hurt Feelings Chit, VA burial benefits, then the Mabus letter.

During February, Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 2,914 (decreased slightly) 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 97 (also decreased slightly). Our Facebook page has a total of 254 Followers, +2 from last month. The top post was the "BRAVO ZULU KIRBY…" receiving the "Sailor of the Year" award.

Historian- Jim Denzien

Updated crew that he has relieved Chuck as Historian.

Membership – Paul Miller

Membership is 162 with the addition of three new members prior to the meeting. He is still reaching out to those dink members

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Governor reminded all to keep those members on the binnacle list in their thoughts and prayers.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

1. Perch Base Annual Picnic, Saturday, 4/11/2026 (National Submarine Day), Paloma Community Park
2. Western Region Roundup, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV, 4/15-19/2026
3. Mary Denzien Celebration of Life, Saturday, 4/18/2026 at 12:00 PM, American Legion Hall Post 29, 6822 N. 57 Drive, Glendale, AZ
4. VA Cemetery, Memorial Day
5. Prescott Frontier Days Prescott, Prescott, AZ, July 4, 2026
6. National Convention, Corpus Christi, TX, September 6 – 11, 2026

Old Business

Spring Training Baseball

Those who have purchased tickets are on track for attendance at the March 16th game. Governor Joy had two tickets to give away and Jeff Brower had one.

Annual Picnic

Venue is reserved. Don will coordinate with Stan and Kirby for preparations and let board know if there will be a need for a working party for the setup on Saturday Morning.

PCU ARIZONA Crew Visit

Reminded attendees of the three "Meet the PCU Arizona Crew" opportunities. Coordination is in place for Perch Base presence at all scheduled events.

Vice Commander Election

Since only one candidate, a voice vote was held, and Don Robertson was voted for another term as Vice-Commander.

New Business / Good of the Order

Jim Denzien presented a slideshow of the history behind the construction of the USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) float.

Three new members introduced themselves to the base.

1. Curt Thomez Qual Boat USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN 699)
2. Pete Owen Qual Boat USS KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642)
3. Paul Cole Qual Boat USS HADDOCK (SSN 621)

BINNACLE LIST

Binnacle List is posted as Appendix 1.

50/50

Drawing results: The 50-50 raffle ($126) was won by Vic VanHorn. Final count of $63 went to the Perch Base Fund and $63 went to Vic VanHorn. As part of the raffle Vic also received a US Navy logo thermal cup donated to the base by a local gift shop.

Rattle Can

Proceeds to National Foundation at a total of $56.00

ADJOURMENT

Benediction was led by Governor Joy. The meeting adjourned at. 1257 pm.

Submitted:
Ed Henry
Secretary Perch Base

USSVI Perch Base Binnacle List

Laura Anderson
Jim Denzien
Davey Jones
Barbara Cosgrove
Georgianne Gahan
W. Howard Doyle Jr.
Chris Gahan