

Perch Base Minutes September 2026

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, September 12, 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 CC Clarke and The Tolling of the Boats lost in September was read by David Heighway.

A Moment of Silence was observed for those lost lives on September 11, 2001, at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and in Pennsylvania, and for those live lost on September 11, 2012, in Benghazi.

Guests were welcomed, Eric Unser, Don Unser's son and Carol Pirkle, wife of Randy Pirkle.

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

Kevin Sheehan	Joe Trotter	Ken Kennedy
David Heighway	Hila Highway	CC Clarke
Randy Pirkle	Carole Pirkle	John Brown
Jim Denzien	Jay Denzien	George Williams
Bob Saenz	John Beckett	John Manning
Eric Unser	Don Unser	W. H. Doyle Jr.
John Richard Smith	Ed Henry	Chris Gahan
George Woods	Governor Joy	

The first item of business was a call for approval of the August 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)

Perch Base Operations - \$15,754.69

Perch Base Foundation – \$7,984.24

Rattle Can for May goes to National Charitable Foundation

Discussed with the members that the 2026 Membership drive would be via electronic communications.

Past Commander– George Woods

2027 Western Region Roundup, April 15 – 17 at the Westing Denver. Registration will open after the National Convention.

Western Region Roundup April 2028 will be in Portland, OR, hosted by USSVI Blueback Base

Western Region Roundup April 2029 will be in Albuquerque, NM, hosted by USSVI Bullhead Base

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Nothing to report.

Storekeeper – CC Clarke

He will have the 2027 USSVI Calendars available at the next meeting. Bring your money.

Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Nothing to report.

Communications – Chris Gahan

The Fall Mid-Watch newsletter submission deadline is September 25, 2026.

UAV is preparing for their Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, on October 23, 2026. Ticket sales for the Induction Ceremony Luncheon are now on sale. Members can purchase individual tickets or a table of ten.

The VA hospital now hosts a Robotic Surgical Suite, bringing Veterans health care to a new level.

September 18th is POW/MIA Remembrance Day with events scheduled throughout the Valley. If anyone is interested in a particular event, Chris will assist with getting additional information for the event.

The Luke AFB is sponsoring a Military Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 0800 – 1200 at the Navy Reserve Center on Luke AFB (Bldg 300, 14160 Marauder St., Luke AFB, 85309). They welcome military retirees from all the services and their spouses. The opening ceremony will be at 0830 with guest speakers 56th fighter Wing Command Team and Mayor of Glendale. The mission of Luke AFB is to train the world's greatest fighter pilots and combat ready airman will be highlighted. There will also be 40 informative providers available at the event: healthcare, homecare, VA, Veteran Service Organizations including the VFW, DAV, American Legion, MOAA, AFSA, Marine Corps League, Fleet Reserve Association, MOWW, Honor Flight, Gold Star Spouses and many more. **Bring a copy of your DD-214 if you desire to inquire or obtain services from the organizations listed above.** Must have DOD ID to attend or for those who do not have must go to the Base Pass and ID for DBIDS verification.

The Navy Ball will be held on the 10th of October. Tickets can be purchased on the Phoenix Navy Ball Website.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Activity since the last BOD meeting included posting Jim Denzien's presentation about WW2 Submarine Veteran, Brad Braastad that Jim gave at the August meeting and Don Robertson's presentation about the USS Whale (SS-239), that Don Robertson gave at the August meeting. 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 August, there were 18,570 page views on the Perch Base website during 15,688 visits by 13,207 users based on Awstats, which is typical. The most page views were from the United States, followed by Japan, China, Brazil, then India. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Glossary, Sailing Orders page, Cold War Memorial Groundbreaking, and the Eternal Patrol page. The most downloads were the Historic List of Submarine Classes, the Hurt Feelings Chit and the current MidWatch Newsletter.

During August, Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 2,856 (increased) and the Content Engagement (The number of reactions, clicks, comments, shares and saves on your posts.) was 117 (also increased.) Our Facebook page has a total of 274 Followers, +2 from last month.

Historian- Jim Denzien

Nothing to report.

Membership – Paul Miller (Absent)

Dave reminded all that the Membership Drive starts in October.

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Reminded all to keep on the Binnacle list in their thoughts and prayers.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

1. Gudgeon Base Picnic, 1100 – 1400, 18 September, 7051 North Antelope Meadows Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86315
2. Flagstaff Navy Week, November 9 – 16, 2026. Crew members from the USS Arizona (SSGN 803) will be in attendance.
3. Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2026, more information to follow.

Arizona WWII Hero

ENC(SS) Raymond "Ray" Marshall. Served on USS Porpoise (SS 172) six war patrols and USS Guavina (SS 362) six war patrols. Passed away on September 10, 2021, at the age of 101.

Old Business

None

New Business / Good of the Order

Perch Base Annual Awards Banquet

The Perch Base Commander reported to the membership that the annual awards banquet is canceled for 2027 and would be discontinued due to a lack of base participation.

Perch Base Health and Wellness Check

The Perch Base Commander reported on the Base Boards progress on establishing a Health and Wellness Check Program to reach out to those Base Members who may be in need of support.

BINNACLE LIST

Carole Pirkle, wife of base member Randy Pirkle informed the base of the ongoing medical issues with their daughter, Stephanie, and requested members of the base to keep their daughter in their thoughts and prayers.

Binnacle List is posted as Appendix 1.

50/50

Drawing results: The 50-50 raffle (\$70) was won by Joe Trotter. Joe donated his winnings to Perch Base Operations and \$35 went to the Perch Base Foundation.

Rattle Can

Proceeds to USSVI National Charitable Foundation at a total of \$44.93. Total donated to USSVI Charitable Foundation for the quarter was \$127.85

ADJOURMENT

Benediction was led by Governor Joy. The meeting adjourned at 1236 pm.

Submitted:

Ed Henry

Secretary Perch Base

USSVI Perch Base Binnacle List

Laura Anderson
Georgianne Gahan
W. H. Doyle Jr.
Joe Trotter

Barbara Cosgrove
Chris Gahan
Dalene Doyle

Stephanie Pirkle
Davy Jones
Jim Denzien