

The MidWatch

The Quarterly Newsletter

Perch Base, USSVI
Phoenix, Arizona

WWW.PERCH-BASE.ORG

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USSVI Creed

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.


In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

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▲ Message from the

Base Commander

Howard Doyle

commander@perch-base.org



From "Snipes Castle"

Mid-March already and time for another column; most times I struggle with what to write but I will try. First, as pointed out by Don Unser at the March meeting, we have an upcoming event which entails the entire purpose of Subvets of WWII and USSVI both, to remember those who passed before us, remembering the sacrifices made by all of those still on patrol. Every year at the National Cemetery after the general ceremony, we move to the area designated for all U. S. Navy submariners where we conduct a tolling of the boats. It truly bothers me that out of the 175 members in Perch Base there are less than 30 members who show up [and this includes family members]. Yes, I know, this interferes with your picnic or trip to Flagstaff or wherever. It is time to show up and exhibit what we talk about in the purpose of our group; we are more than a beer and a sandwich once a month.

As the school year winds to a close, it is again time to remind that Perch Base awards scholarships; but before we can do that we have to have an application [found on the website]. Do it now.

As a reminder the Western Region roundup is in Laughlin the end of March and the national convention is in Austin, Texas in August. Time now to sign up and then go and make your voice heard as well as having a "GOOD" time.

The Perch Base picnic is coming up in April [the 13th] at White Tank regional park. Come out and enjoy the Arizona spring; to hot for some, to windy for others, but you all get to hear Davy Jones tell sea stories!



Event Coordinator
Don Unser
 events@perch-base.org



In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem; how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts greater, and much faster than iron when it's chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would roll right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'



Base Webmaster
"Bits & Bytes"
DAN MARKS
 webmaster@perch-base.org



I am always adding content to the website. Since the last MidWatch, I have added photos from the Laveen Parade, Annual Awards Banquet, the ASSM receiving a check from Dillon's that drove the fundraising total over the goal, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and an Eternal Patrol page for George Debo. If you haven't seen these photos, come and visit the website, or as Mae West said, "Why don't you come up some time and see me?"

During the past 3 months, there were 3,177 page views on the Perch Base website during 1,340 sessions by 757 users based on Google Analytics. If you use Facebook, we have 46 of our members that are also signed up our Facebook page, "Perch Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc."



Communications Officer

Chuck Luna

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Browser vs. URL

Whether you know them or not, these terms are what help you surf the web. Simply put, a browser is the application you use to access a webpage. But to get a bit more intricate, when your electronic device—computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone—connects to the Internet, it’s really just pulling files from a server somewhere that it then has to translate into content on your screen. When that data reaches your device, it’s all in code—a really long string of jumbles. To turn this into something aesthetically pleasing, that code is broken down by your browser. The most common examples of browsers are Edge (the default on Windows PCs), Safari (for Apple Devices) and Google Chrome (an alternative browser available on both). Your choice of browser is less important than how you use it, as they all have optional tools (“plugins”) that will do certain tasks for you. The URL, or the Uniform Resource Locator, can be accessed on any browser and is essentially the web address that locates the page you’re looking for.



The Vice-Commander

George Woods

vice-commander@perch-base.org




“Member Mogul”

Membership Chairman

JIM ANDREWS

membership@perch-base.org





CHIEF-OF-THE-BOAT

Carl Miner

COB@perch-base.org



Treasurer

David Heighway

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Chaplain Governor Joy

chaplain@perch-base.org



Secretary

BASE MEETING MINTUES

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Storekeeper
 Marcus Hensley
 storekeeper@perch-base.org




Sage Words of Wisdom . . .
 from the past Base Commander
Chuck Emmett
 past-commander@perch-base.org



U.S. Undersea Warfare News

U.S. Navy won't alter sail-bys at sea despite China maneuver

Jim Gomez, Associated Press, Mar. 18

MANILA, Philippines -- The U.S. Navy won't alter its so-called "freedom of navigation" sail-bys in the disputed South China Sea and has pressed ahead with such operations despite a dangerous maneuver by a Chinese navy ship against an American destroyer, a senior U.S. Navy commander said Monday.

Vice Adm. Phillip Sawyer, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, told reporters in Manila that Washington protested that "unprofessional behavior" by the Chinese ship, which maneuvered very close to the USS Decatur as the latter sailed closely by a Chinese-occupied island in the Spratlys in September.

Continued following page

"No, it's not going to change where we do our freedom of navigation operations," Sawyer said when asked if the Sept. 30 incident off Gaven Reef would change such U.S. Navy operations. Several such sail-bys have been undertaken by American naval ships since that close encounter in the disputed waters, he said.

"It was concerning because the ships got too close," Sawyer said, adding that U.S. officials have voiced "our displeasure with what we consider to be unprofessional behavior."

The USS Decatur had sailed within 12 nautical miles of Gaven Reef when a Chinese destroyer dangerously approached within 45 yards (41 meters) of the bow of the U.S. Navy ship, which changed course to prevent a collision. The Decatur was also warned to leave the area, U.S. Pacific Fleet officials said at the time.

China said the Luoyang, a Chinese missile destroyer, was deployed to identify the U.S. warship and drive it away near Chinese territory. Beijing protested the Decatur's action as provocative.

One of seven disputed reefs transformed by China into militarily fortified islands in recent years, Gaven is claimed by China, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan. Malaysia and Brunei also have claims in the South China Sea.

While Washington has no claims to the strategic waterway, it has declared that freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of the disputes are in the U.S. national interest. The U.S. has also questioned China's expansive claims, bringing it into a collision course with Beijing.

The U.S. Navy will continue freedom of navigation sail-bys and patrols in the South China Sea and elsewhere "until there are no excessive maritime claims throughout the world," said Sawyer, who spoke onboard the USS Blue Ridge, which arrived in Manila on Thursday for a visit after sailing through the South China Sea.

China has long been wary of the U.S. military presence in the disputed waterway and has asked Washington not to meddle in a purely Asian dispute. The U.S. has insisted the routine patrols and exercises it has carried out with allies in the region for more than 70 years has helped foster the regional stability that has allowed many Asian countries to prosper economically.

Sawyer said the Navy's joint or multilateral exercises with American allies were crucial in the region or elsewhere. "I encourage bilateral and multilateral exercises, the more the better," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said during a visit to Manila early this month that the United States is committed to ensuring the South China Sea remains open to all kinds of navigation and that "China does not pose a threat" of closing the disputed sea lanes.

Previous Quarter Highlights

First Quarter events for Perch Base.

For more Pictures and details check out our [website](#).

ASSM Reaches Goal!

On Friday, 11 Jan 2019
ASSM was presented a
check from Dillon's
bringing them over the
goal needed to begin
construction.



Annual Awards Banquet

January 19, 2019



Western Region Director, Jim Denzien, conducted the Holland Club Induction Ceremony for Vic Van Horn and the Oath of Office for Vic as the new District Commander Western District 1 (WD1).

Perch Base Chief of the Boat (COB), Carl Miner, was selected "Sailor of the Year."



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

Annual Awards Banquet (cont.)



Guest Speaker, Bob Bissonnette, STSCS(SS), (ret), spoke on ICEX 2018.



Bob also brought some cold weather MRE's (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) for the Perch Base members to sample.



During ICEX 2018, the USS Connecticut (SSN 22), USS Hartford (SSN 768), and the Royal Navy Trafalgar-class submarine HMS Trenchant (S91) surface through the ice.

Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

Laveen Community Parade



Perch Base participated on February 2, 2019 in the 19th Annual Laveen Community Parade.

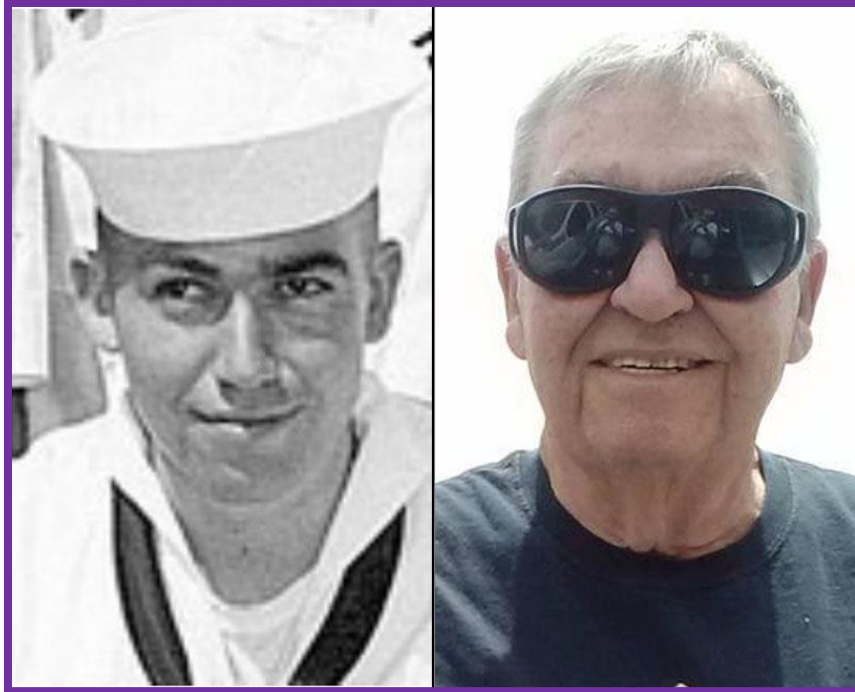
Base Vice Commander Sworn In

Western District 2 Commander, Vic Van Horn, administers the oath of office to George Woods for Base Vice Commander at the monthly meeting on March 9, 2019.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

ETERNAL PATROL



Dewey Reed

Perch Base Life Member and Holland Club Member Dewey Reed, STC(SS) departed on Eternal Patrol on March 4, 2019. Dewey enlisted in 1957 and was assigned to his first boat, the Blenny (SS-324) out of Key West, FL, where he qualified and married Dorothea (Dottie) Soley in 1957.

Our condolences to his wife, Dottie, and the rest of the family.

SAILOR, REST YOUR OAR! YOUR WATCH HAS ENDED.

Your Brothers of the 'Phin Have the Watch.
Fair Winds and Following Seas, Shipmate.



Upcoming Events

Remember to check Perch-Base.org often for up-to-date information on all events.

Annual Picnic Meeting at White Tanks Park

Saturday, April 13, 11 AM to 2 PM

There will be no meeting at Dillon's. Perch Base will be providing the picnic meal, including soft drinks and water, however there is a \$7.00 fee per vehicle to enter the park which must be paid by the driver. All Arizona sub vets and their families are cordially invited! You are allowed to bring your own beer, but no glass containers, please. If you're coming, we'll need a head count by April 6.

[20304 West White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell, AZ 85355](#), Ramada 4F.

A few volunteers are needed to come early/stay late to help the COB.

Monthly General Meetings

Saturday's, May 11, & June 8

At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant

[20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.](#)

(Left-click address, above, for a Google map to Dillon's.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch!

50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Flagstaff Armed Forces Day Parade

Saturday, May 18, 11:00 AM

Historic Downtown Flagstaff

We have been invited to parade the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float, as in previous years.

Watch for Flash Traffic's as more details become available.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 27, 8:00 AM

This is one of the two most important events of our yearly calendar.

Because of the large crowds at this event, and the scarcity of available seating, it is strongly urged that everyone get there no later than 7 a.m.

As in previous years, we will follow with the Tolling of the Boats in the Circle of Remembrance at the World War II Submarine Torpedo monument.

[23029 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85024](#)

Deadline for the Summer Quarter MidWatch

Friday, June 14

All input must be in to Chuck Luna, [Communications Officer](#), to be included in the next MidWatch Newsletter to be published on

Friday, July 5, 2019.

Second Quarter Birthdays

APRIL	
1	Robert Faulkner
11	Submarine Force
13	James Wall
14	Rick Simmons
16	James Edwards
16	Donald Walbaum
18	Tom Farley III
22	John Messier
22	Tim Moore
28	Anthony Christianson
30	Davy Jones

MAY	
2	Donald Shafer
3	Doyle Egg
7	Stanley Reinhold
8	Ramon Samson
11	George Woods
17	Steven Balthazor
18	Joseph Hawkins
24	George Gillette
24	Jennifer Zazueta
25	Donald Robertson
25	Richard Noreika
30	Carl Scott

JUNE	
3	James F. Newman
4	Steve Snyder
7	Robert "Matt" Hayball
7	Dan Marks
9	Garry Shumann
11	Glenn Posniack
19	Tom Carrier
20	David Fyock
20	James Ratte
23	Donald Demarte
27	James Evans
30	Ed Gonsowski

Perch Base CLASSIFIEDS

Your chance to advertise for free! Items from Base Members to other Members, and almost anything is far game. Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, illegal, commercial items or anything in general poor taste. Send your ad to: newsletter@perch-base.org



(This card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage and park for the November Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought if you need tires or service.)

Classified Size Limit: Four lines of 10 pt Arial font, one column wide. Pictures may be included -- and are encouraged -- but make the picture a separate "jpg" or "png" file. If we can't format your ad as a Word document, it won't run.

Good of the Order

Base Ride Share

In need of a ride to a base meeting or event?

Like to help a shipmate in need of a lift?

Please contact:

Dan Marks at webmaster@perch-base.org

Or

Marcus Hensley at storekeeper@perch-base.org

Scholarships Available

Do you know a young adult who is the son, daughter, step son, step daughter, grandson, granddaughter or under the legal guardianship of a Regular Member in good standing of Perch Base who could use extra money for schooling? (Not just college.) See the Perch Base instruction on our website at <http://www.perch-base.org/Total Perch Base Scholarship Package.pdf> for details.) You can also access the instructions in the Navigation Menu in the upper left corner of any Perch Base webpage and drop down to "Docs and Forms".

The deadline is July 31 so don't delay!





Western Region Roundup 2019

The 2019 Western Region Roundup was conducted from March 25th through March 29th at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort and Casino in Laughlin NV. Representatives from the many diverse bases of the Western Region were in attendance; also, in attendance was our National Commander, Wayne Standerfer; and the Central Region Director, Tom Williams.

We enjoyed a new format for our meetings: utilizing proactive workshops rather than lectures. The topics were "Recruitment and Retention" and "How to conduct a better meeting". The workshops were facilitated by Barry Wyatt, Base Commander of Gold Country Base, who in his private life is a professional in this area.

Our guest speakers included Frank Hood, Base Commander of Marblehead Base in Massachusetts and the co-author of "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots". His brother Charles was his co-author. Our own Dick Noreika was the speaker at our Chuckwagon Banquet on Thursday evening. He spoke of his experiences with Admiral Rickover during his career.

We had karaoke entertainment, a spirited live auction and a silent auction. We entertained presentation for both the 2019 National Convention in Austin TX and the 2020 National Convention in Tucson AZ. Additionally we had a presentation from Western District 4 Commander, Jim DeMott, offering Bremerton WA as a potential site for the Western Region Roundup in 2020.

All in all, everyone there had a good time with great camaraderie. New friendships were made, and old ones were renewed. Looking forward to 2020!

Jim Denzien
Western Region Director

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL



Tolling of the Boats for April

3	USS Pickerel (SS-177)	1943	74 men lost
8	USS Snook (SS-279)	1945	84 men lost
10	USS Thresher (SSN-593)	1963	129 men lost
18	USS Gudgeon (SS-211)	1944	80 men lost
22	USS Grenadier (SS-210)	1943	4 lost as POWs

Tolling of the Boats for May

3	USS Lagarto (SS-371)	1945	86 men lost
22	USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	1968	99 men lost
23	USS Squalus (SS-192)	1939	26 men lost
29	USS Stickleback (SS-415)	1958	no loss of life

Tolling of the Boats for June

1	USS Herring (SS-233)	1944	83 men lost
12	USS R-12 (SS-89)	1943	42 men lost
14	USS Golet (SS-361)	1944	82 men lost
18	USS Bonefish (SS-223)	1945	85 men lost
19	USS S-27 (SS-132)	1942	no loss of life
20	USS O-9 (SS-70)	1941	34 men lost
30	USS Runner (SS-275)	1943	78 men lost

2019 Perch Base Operations Supporters

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

Jerry Allston	Robert Gregg	Frank Morris
Ken Anderson	Tom Gregory	John Mosher
Jim Andrews	Kelly Grissom	Brent Nelson
Steven Balthazor	Mike Haler	Jim Nelson
Richard Bernier	Robert Hayball	Donald Robertson
Ronald Beyer	David Heighway	Robie Robinson
Edgar Brooks	Harry Heller	Russy Rutowski
John Carpentier	Glenn Harold	Pete Sattig
John Cash	Davy Jones	Emil Schoonejans
Anthony Christianson	Governor Joy	Rick Simmons
Roger Cousin	David Kleinz	Wayne Smith
Eugene Crabb	Charles Kotan	Steve Stanger
Don Demarte	Doug LaRock	William Tippet
Jim Denzien	Bob Lancendorfer	Jim Tolsma
Mary Denzien	DeWayne Lober	James Trail
Billy DeShong	Burtis Loftin	Chris Urness
Howard Doyle	Dan Marks	Janice VanHorn
Charles Emmett	Charles Marshall	Victor VanHorn
Howard Enloe	Ray Marshall	James Wall
Douglas Ewen	Dennis McComb	Joshua Whitmore
Tom Farley	Angus McPherson	Bill Woolcott
George Gillette	Ken Meeks	John Zaichkin
	Alan Miller	