

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

Time is moving fast, it will not be to long before we will be making plans for our annual meeting in Prescott.

I just got back from having a great time with Ed Brooks and a number of other shipmates at the Sirago and Sea Leopard, joint reunion. My first, and hopefully not my last reunion.

We made a presentation to Dex Armstrong, of the "America Bluejacket" A carving by Ed Brooks on behave of Perch Base for Dex's outstanding salesmanship of our own Perch Base cook books. It brought tears to his eyes, and a smile to our hearts to see how moved he was by the presentation.

It was an honor to have two new inductees receiving their Holland Club awards, Charles A. Chapman and George "Pete" Petrovitz. Bravo Zulu shipmates.

Our Saturday work party came off smoothly. Thanks to Roger Cousins, Sandy Martin, Ramon Samson, and tugboat Tilley.

The Float is bolted back solid to the trailer, The diving klaxon and speakers are set up and painted. Boat is painted from bow to stern. The cover is back on, and the Float is ready to go for the Veterans Day parade.

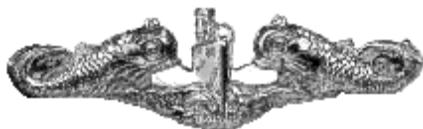
Fraternally yours,

Glenn Herold
Base Commander

WWII -Boats

Short Facts

U.S. torpedoes contained only 20% of the explosive power of Japanese ones. Japanese "fish" were built with warships as the primary target in mind, where as our torpedoes were built for use against merchant ships.



May Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62; Peoria, AZ at 1255 hours, 10 May 2003. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

The members were led in the pledge of allegiance, followed by the dedication, moment of silence for our departed shipmates, a tolling of the boats and the invocation by Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle.

There were 27 members and 3 guests attending the meeting according to the sailing list.

The members welcomed new member – Ed Brzezinski who was attending his first meeting with a round of applause.

The members also welcomed the wives and guests.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the March meeting be approved as published in the base newsletter, The MidWatch. The motion carried by voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the base financial status as of the first day of May, 2003.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Vice Commander – Adrian Stuke had nothing to report.

Chief of the Boat – Doug LaRock had nothing to report.

Chaplain – Warner Doyle reported that Shipmate Joe Bernard had undergone surgery and was recuperating.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett apologized for the newsletter being mailed late and vowed to avoid it in the future.

Storekeeper – Jim Nelson encouraged everyone to buy the specialty items offered by the Ship's Store. New items will be procured as the inventory is depleted.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold asked the members to recognize and congratulate Doug LaRock for having organized and carried off a wonderful annual Base Picnic. The members showed their appreciation with a resounding round of applause.

Glenn also announced the recent appointment of Jim Nelson as Base Storekeeper. The members applauded Jim and his appointment.

Glenn announced the time and place for a working party to do current repairs and maintenance on the Base parade float. Those wishing to participate were asked to gather at Glenn's house located at 839 North Rogers, Mesa at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, May 17.

It was also announced that Perch Base would again participate in the Memorial Day Services at the National Cemetery. Joe Bernard will, as in past years, officiate at the submarine memorial part of the ceremony. A working party was called to prepare the submarine memorial (plaque and torpedo) and get everything in top shape before Memorial Day. Volunteers were asked to sign up with Glenn Herold.

It was announced that the Yarnell Spring Festival parade would not be held this year, since that community decided to forgo the affair for 2003.

A status report was given on the success of the Internet Auction to benefit the USS Razorback memorial. The Razorback is on its way to the Port of Little Rock, Arkansas and will become an active submarine memorial at that location.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the SS Lane Victory cruise scheduled for September 13th, following the national convention. This is the only still functioning WWII Victory Ship. She will depart San Pedro, California on that date. Tickets for the cruise are \$100 for adults and \$75 for children. Interested parties should contact Dave Harnish prior to July 31.

A discussion of the efforts by the Idaho Hawkbill Base to form a memorial was initiated. The ensuing discussion confirmed what the Board of Directors had concluded in their meeting. The status of the memorial is unknown, its location is in question and there are more questions than answers. No action is prescribed until further investigation is conducted.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold informed the members that the Board of Directors had voted to buy a brick commemorating the USS Perch SS-176 at the Avery Point Lighthouse Walk of

WWII -Boats

Short Facts

Submarines *Cero*, *Shad* and *Grayback* formed the first wolf-pack employed in the Pacific. She carried Capt. Momsen as pack commander.

Honor. The brick will cost the Base treasury \$50 and the funds will go to create the brick walkway and help restore the lighthouse.

Glenn also read a letter of appreciation from John Carcioppolo, Groton Base Commander, to Perch Base recognizing the Base's contribution to the Fredrickson Family Fund. The family fund, initiated by Groton Base raised \$20,000 and establishes a trust for the Fredrickson children who recently lost both parents in a Rhode Island nightclub fire.

Roger Cousin was given the floor to brief the members on the latest status of the USS Phoenix memorial project. Roger showed the members an artists rendering of a memorial utilizing the USS Phoenix sail and a concrete bow section as if the ship was in the process of surfacing.

Phoenix Steele Park and the VA Hospital are being considered as potential sites for the memorial. Roger also provided membership applications for joining the Phoenix Society (a 501 (c) (3) charitable association.

Dave Harnish, as District 8 Commander, handed out 2003 ballots for election of a new District 8 Commander. The ballots must be returned to Dave no later than June 30, in order to be counted in the election.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

All the Perch Base Holland Club members were called front and center for an initiation ceremony. Eight Holland Club members mustered as Dave Harnish called Charles A. Chapman and George (Pete) Petrovitz to face the group. Charles and George became the newest members of the Perch Base Holland Club and received a letter from National Holland Club Commander Bill Britt, a Holland Club certificate, membership card, Holland Club and Perch Base patches, a lapel pin and a coffee mug.

After the induction ceremony, Charles and George were welcomed by the existing Holland Club members and congratulated by the Perch Base members.

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50/50 DRAWING

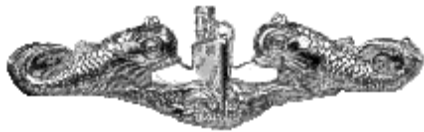
The 50/50 raffle was conducted and Bob May was the winner. The winner's share of the drawing was \$47.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1342 hours.

Edgar T. Brooks - Base Secretary



Eternal Patrol June 7, 1944

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

U.S.S. Gudgeon (SS-211) 78 men lost



Armed with the pride bone of her successes on eleven previous war patrols, GUDGEON, under Lt. Cmdr. R.A. Bonin, sailed from Pearl Harbor on April 4, 1944 to conduct her twelfth patrol in an open area in the northern Marianas. She left Johnston Island on April 7, 1944, after having topped off with fuel, and was never heard from again.

Originally scheduled to leave her area on 16 May, she was ordered on May 11th to depart her area in time to take

station for a special assignment. An acknowledgment for this message was required and when none was received, it was asked for again on May 12th. On May 14th, her special assignment was give to another submarine, and GUDGEON was told to return to Midway. She should have arrived at Midway about May 23rd, but failed to do so and on June 7th she was reported as presumed lost.

GUDGEON was assigned to patrol a specific area, but if she arrived earlier than April 22, 1944, she was to patrol an area to the northeast. Using normal cruising speed, she would have arrived in the are assigned about April 16th. Assuming that nothing irregular happened en route, she might be expected to have been in the northern area from April 16-22. On April 18th, enemy planes claimed that they dropped bombs on a submarine. "The first bomb hit a bow, the second bomb direct on bridge. The center of the submarine burst open and oil pillars rose." The position given for this attack is 166 miles from "Yuoh" Island. No island approaching the spelling or sound of this word can be found in the Pacific, and it is assumed that a mistake has been made either by the Japanese or in translation of the position. If the island referred to could be Maug, the position given would be in the middle of the area in which GUDGEON should have been at the time specified. The attack described cannot be correlated with any known attack on an U.S. submarine near this time, but it is felt that the possible errors in assuming that this attack sank GUDGEON are too great to list as anything but a possibility.

On May 12, 1944, a number of submarines patrolling the Marianas reported that the enemy engaged in intensive antisubmarine tactics. Early that afternoon, SAND LANCE states, "while patrolling off Saipan looking for convoy, we heard about forty depth charges eight to ten miles away." Later SAND LANCE met three bombs and twenty-one depth charges herself. SILVERSIDES heard both the first attack and the one made on SAND LANCE. TUNNY heard depth charging during the afternoon. No submarine returning from the area reported having been attacked on May 12th but SAND LANCE. Japanese date for the attack give little information save that it was made by planes in cooperation with ships. With so many submarines in the vicinity, and the enemy conscious of their presence, as they undoubtedly were, the attack which was not on SAND LANCE might easily have been on a false contact.

The probability as to the cause for GUDGEON's loss is that she was depth-charged, bombed, or both. The attack on May 12 occurred slightly south of GUDGEON's area, but it was not unusual for submarines to leave their areas temporarily for tactical reason. Since the antisubmarine measures in the Marianas were so intense, it is not

(See "GUDGEON," on Page 8)