

From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

As most of you are aware, last month we had our first meeting at our new meeting site. I have received favorable feedback regarding our accommodations and the warm and supportive welcome we received from the board and membership of American Legion Post #105. For the near term, we will continue meeting there. The e-board of Post #105 has also voted in favor of and has graciously offered us storage space. With some good planning, this may accommodate all of our ship's stores and perhaps some, or maybe even all, of our library storage needs. Thank you to Jim Edwards and Post #105 for your support.

Today I returned from the Western Region USSVI Conference in Reno, NV. The meeting was hosted by Corvina Base with Western Region Director Dave Harnish presiding. Arizona was well represented. The attendees included; Glenn Herold, District 1 Commander, Jack Messersmith, Gudgeon Base Commander, Ed Brooks (too many titles to mention here), John Dudas Gudgeon Base Member and National Veterans Affairs Chairman, and John's wife Carol. Don Brown and his Corvina Base shipmates did an outstanding job hosting this event which was held at the El Dorado in Reno. I got a lot out of the conference and it was well worthwhile. If you ever get an opportunity to attend a Regional Conference, a WWII Submarine Veterans Conference or a National Convention, you absolutely need to do it. The esprit de corps, brotherhood and sharing is motivational and spiritually uplifting. Attending these events should be a high priority for all the members of our organization. There are at least two more opportunities for your participation this year. There is no doubt in my mind that if you attend, you will get a great deal out of it and be glad that you went.

Keep in mind, that we will have our Perch Base elections at our next meeting. Your participation is extremely important. I look forward to seeing you this coming Saturday.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, commander, Perch Base USSVI

February Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105 Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 18 February 2006. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

The members were led in a prayer of invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were twenty-nine (29) members and two (2) guests at the meeting. Guests were Wayne Pettes and William Custance.

The guests were welcomed with a resounding round of applause.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of February, 2006. 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

Base Vice Commander – Stan Reinhold was not at the meeting.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore reported the American Legion Post #62's new building was open and being occupied by the Post. However, all the available meeting space is used on Saturdays for bingo and currently there is no provision for Perch Base to meet in the facility on that day of the week.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported on the sickness and distress of several of our members including; Joe O'treba, Harold Lister and Kay Hamish. Everyone was encouraged to remember them in our prayers as they battle to overcome their individual ailments.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that there are 16 members who have failed to renew their membership in the organization. There is currently 138 active members in Perch Base.

Webmaster – Ramon Samson had nothing new to report. However, it was acknowledged that the web site has been and is an effective recruiting tool.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett was not at the meeting.

Ship's Storekeeper – Jim Nelson reported that the special order items recently requested are in.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that, for the time being, future Perch Base meetings will most likely be held at the American Legion Post #105. Shipmate Jim Edwards has been of invaluable assistance in arranging for the accommodations by the Post and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Tim also announced that the annual Perch Base picnic will be held at the Maricopa Live Steamers Train Park on March 25. The event will start at 1100 hours and conclude at 1600 hours. The price for attendance will be \$5 per person for adults, while children will be free.

It was announced that the Parade Float Committee will be investigating other local events in which Perch Base may participate as a group. The value of participation in parades and other public events includes the memorial aspect as well as a recruiting tool for new members. Other recruiting ideas are being solic-

ited from members.

Members were again encouraged to become actively involved with the Phoenix Society/Commission in their efforts to establish a submarine memorial in the Phoenix area using the sail and rudder from the USS Phoenix.

Members were also encouraged to attend the Submarine Veterans – WWII Southwest Caucus in Laughlin, Nevada in April and offer their support and assistance to our WWII SubVets.

Dave Hamish reminded the members that the March meeting will feature the election of officers. The current slate of officers has all agreed to allow their names to be placed in nomination for the offices they now hold.

Tim Moore reminded members that tickets for the raffle of cash and accommodation upgrades on the 2007 Convention Cruise to Alaska are still on sale. A portion of the revenue from the ticket sales also comes back to the Base Treasury.

Dave Harnish reminded members of the upcoming Western Region Conference which starts on March 6th and ends March 8. The event will be held in Reno, Nevada at the El Dorado Hotel.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Rumbaugh inquired as to the status of the Perch Base Policy and Procedures Manual. It was indicated that the publishing of the manual was still not complete and the effort has stalled.

A discussion was introduced with regard to the Base's involvement in outside charitable causes in order to draw attention to the Base for publicity and ultimate recruitment of new members. No actions were offered for a vote.

Another issue was brought to the floor regarding the Christmas Party/Awards Banquet location. Tim Moore asked the members to offer any alternatives to the Luke EM Club location. The deposit made to reserve that facility for the 2006 party is refundable until July, and if no other alternatives are identified by then, the event will be held at that location.

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Ray Samson announced that the USS Torsk (SS-423), Memorial in Baltimore, MD has the opportunity to procure two MK 14 torpedoes at a total expense of \$3000. Anyone who would like to help in this effort may contribute funds to the Torsk Memorial.

Dave Hamish reminded the members that the USSVI Scholarship Program is accepting applications from qualified high school and college students. He also mentioned that there were 24 scholarships awarded in 2005 and if contributions allow, even a larger number will be awarded this year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Tim Moore advised the members that thank-you letters have been sent to the individuals and organizations that provide valued support to Perch Base in participating in the Phoenix Veterans' Day Parade.

It was also announced that Perch Base will not be participating in the May celebration in Yarnell, AZ (Yarnell Daze). It was suggested that Gudgeon Base may want to participate.

A suggestion was made that Perch Base and Gudgeon Base have a joint meeting in July or August. It was a practice in past years, for Perch Base to hold one of their meetings in the Prescott area. Now that there is a Base in the Prescott area, it would be a positive event to have a combined meeting.

Tim Moore presented Ray Samson with a letter of commendation for the Perch Base Web Site being recognized for its quality and content. Perch Base was selected as First Runner-Up for the Best USSVI Web Site of 2005.

Howard Doyle asked the members to notify him of any and all members who are experiencing illness or health problems.

Dave Hamish gave the members a report of the recognition awards recently given to Phoenix area Eagle Scouts and extolled the benefits of SubVets participating in this special program.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Emil Schoonejans.

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 closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours.

Ed Brooks, secretary, Perch Base



ANNUAL PERCH BASE SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, March 25, 2006

1100 until 1600

Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Park.

Lunch, catered by Stan Reinhold — served around noon.

\$5.00 for each adult, children under 12 are free.

Several prizes will be raffled off.