

January Meeting Minutes


The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 17 Jan 2009. The meeting was called to order by Stan Reinhold, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Dave Harnish followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in January and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, twenty-seven (27) members and guests were present. New members and guests included: Dick Miller who qualified on the USS Tecumseh SSBN/SSN-634 in 1965; Cliff Forrester who qualified on the USS Irex SS/AGSS-482 in the early 60's; John Flynn visiting from Bullhead Base; Tom Clonts who was a Phoenix Commission Member and served in the US Army in the Field Artillery and is now an associate member of Perch Base; and Ray Marshall who is visiting from New Jersey and qualified on an "S" Boat in 1940.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the December 2008 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Treasurer Dave Harnish reported the Base's financial status as of 31 Dec 2008. \$1,200 received in December was income received as a result of a request to the Phoenix Commission to provide the money needed for the formation of the Save Our Sail Foundation. This was done so there would be no expenses incurred by Perch Base to get the foundation running. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.



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Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander – Jim Denzien reported that one of the Phoenix Commission members who is very active in the local Lion's Club in Laveen has requested that we bring the float to participate in the Laveen Community Parade on 31 Jan 2009. We also have a request from Happy Trails in Surprise

for us to participate in a small Veteran's Day Parade on 23 Jan 2009. These showings give us excellent exposure in the community and give people the opportunity to learn about Perch Base and what we are all about.

Base Secretary (Interim) – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish reported that Ray Binns passed away on the 6th of January from pancreatic cancer. Also the former Sr. vice Commander for USSVI Jim Foote, lost his wife on the 6th of January as well. Dave also reported that he has the 2009 Membership Stickers for the annual dues paying members for anyone who might want one.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett had nothing to report.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman – Dave Fledderjohn was not present. Stan reported that we have had ongoing problems with the Membership Chairman position because of Dave Fledderjohn's absence. Ray Samsom has agreed to take over Membership for the interim.

Webmaster – Ramon Samson had nothing to report.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not present.

Historian – Jim Newman asked Stan to announce that he brought in some awards that we had won for the float and a photo album and asked Stan to pass them around for everyone to see.

Stan mentioned that once we get the pictures of the chronology of the building of the float catalogued, we will give the information to Jim for the archives. Stan also mentioned that if anyone has any other historical documents or photos about

our base's operation or of other historical significance, you should give the info to Jim Newman who is our Historian so he can put it in the archives for others to see when we are no longer active or here.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

We will have a guest speaker for our 14 February 2009 meeting. Cdr. Darryl Toppin, XO for NRD (Navy Recruiting District) Phoenix will address our group. He will discuss the Navy today and the upcoming Navy Week events tentatively scheduled for 4-11 March 2009. Other topics of discussion may include having some of our members participate in their Recruiting District Advisory Council (RDAC).

14 March 2009 our guest speaker will be Cdr. C. Les Parsons, USN Retired who was skipper of the Bathyscaphe Trieste. He will give us a discussion about his experiences aboard the Trieste including an extremely interesting slide presentation with some fantastic photographs that were taken at the bottom of the Puerto Rican Trench some 20,000 feet down.

We will be having a board meeting for the Save Our Sail Foundation and we would encourage anyone who is interested in assisting with the fund raising project to attend this meeting. The Save Our Sail project will be a monumental effort and Perch Base will be the administrative arm to handle all the fundraising. The purpose of the meeting is to lay out a business plan for everything that needs to be considered for this project. Major items to be considered would be such things as establishing a means to transport the sail and rudder from Bremerton, WA to Phoenix and formulating plans for the fund raising effort. A site for the memorial to be established at Steele Indian School Park was approved by the city on 23 Oct 2008. A date for the Save Our Sail Foundation meeting has not been established but it is tentatively scheduled to be held towards the end of January or the first part of February.

New Business

There was discussion on what we need to consider for a permanent float storage container/location. Billy Grieves reported that Jack Richardson has said that the WWII SubVets organization would give \$1000.00 towards the purchase of a permanent storage facility for the float.

Under consideration is 40' long x 8' wide x 8' tall Sea Van storage container at a cost of \$3200.00 from Mobile Mini. Walt Blomgren has volunteered his property to store the container. This would provide adequate space to store the float and other equipment and supplies. We are looking at some creative ways to finance this project to minimize any negative impact on our treasury.

The annual awards banquet will be held next Saturday, 24 Jan 2009 at the American Legion Post #105. Surf 'n Turf will be served which includes stuffed shrimp and filet mignon. Included with the awards banquet will be a Holland Club induction ceremony and Jack Richardson, former past president of SubVets WWII will be inducted.

Stan offered a congratulatory note to our SubVettes ladies group who purchased a supply of cookie dough and Stan's crew went to work and baked and wrapped the cookies and got them to Jim to send to our troops in Iraq. A big Bravo Zulu to the ladies for their effort.

The Base will have a spring picnic at the White Tanks Recreation Park on March 28. The picnic lunch will include chicken, burgers, brats, condiments, soft drinks and water. It will be BYOB so members will need to supply their own alcoholic beverages if they want them. The cost of the picnic meal will be \$7.00 per person and admission to the White Tanks Recreation Park is \$6.00 per carload so it is recommended that attendees try carpooling. To get to the White Tanks Recreation Park go west on Olive Ave. as far as you can go and you end up at the park.

Good of the Order

Dave Harnish will be going to Laughlin the week of 19 January where the Western Regional Director will be having a meeting with the District Commanders. One of the topics of discussion will be having each district attempt to get insurance as a district. It would be much less costly on a per base basis, to get insurance as a state or district rather than on an individual base basis.

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Chuck Emmett has contacted the POC's of some of the larger bases across the country to solicit ideas for fund raisers. Perch Base needs a means to raise money for our ongoing normal base expenses. One suggestion was to have a spaghetti dinner for which Stan said he could donate \$200.00 for the food and cook the dinner to feed up to 500 people and the proceeds would go to the base. He also stated that he could probably get the Masonic Hall donated to support this fund raiser.

To help support the float and the Save Our Sail project, we will have a "donation bucket" or "tip jar" for contributions and we will sell USS Phoenix SSN-702 hats to raise money.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Jim Walls who donated the \$51.00 winning share to the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The benediction was offered by Dave Harnish and the meeting was adjourned at 1402 hours.

Tim Moore, Secretary (Interim), Perch Base USSVI



From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

Perch Base SubVettes

The Awards Banquet was very successful. It's a real shame more people couldn't attend. Stan's dinner was excellent, as advertised. I predict there will be photo's in the Midwatch.

Congratulations to Carolyn Newman, our SubVette of the Year! Those of you who attend meetings know that she does a fabulous job as Secretary. She certainly is a welcome asset to the SubVettes.

One more time . . . another plea for you ladies to attend meetings. Please! It's only for a few hours one day a month! We invite you all to join us, give us feedback on what we are doing and what you would like to help us to accomplish in the coming year.

Remember; Base and National dues are due this month. Perch Base Annual dues are \$10.00 and National's Annual dues are \$10.00. Send your checks to Jane Reinhold or me. Better yet – bring them to the February Meeting.

The Annual Picnic is scheduled for March 28 at White Tank Mountain Park. We will be holding a "garage sale" to raise funds for the Ladies group. Bring items for "donation" with prices on them (they should be negotiable) and the monies collected will go to the SubVettes. Items not sold will have to go home with the owner on the day of the picnic.

Re: Cookies for my son: I got the package of cookies you sent today. They are great. Please tell the ladies that put them together thank you very much. All of the folks here have been enjoying them immensely.

Update on Jim Nelson – he's going home! He'll be there by the time you read this! Let's continue to keep Nancy in our thoughts and prayers.

Surprise me! Be at the February 14th meeting! See you there!

"WWII Diesel Boat Trivia"



There were no Silver Metal Dolphins for enlisted personnel. Dolphins for enlisted personnel consisted of embroidered "patches" (white for blues and blue for whites) sewn on the right forearm. Silver Metal Dolphins for enlisted personnel was authorized after WWII. All enlisted personnel wore embroidered "patches" as distinguishing marks, e.g., if you were a designated striker you could wear the insignia for that specialty on the left upper sleeve. Other distinguishing

Marks for enlisted personnel were "patches" on uniforms, e.g., an Expert Lookout "patch" binoculars, a diver a divers helmet (M for Master with degree of qualification indicated on the chest section of the helmet.