

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

Since last meeting we have participated in the "Salute to Veterans" parade in Riverside CA with our float. This parade continues to get larger each year and our float was well received. Tucson Base and Trieste Base also had floats in the parade so the Submarine Force was well represented.

We are beginning to see more requests to participate in parades and static displays with the "USS Phoenix". As a result we need more participation from base members. Help us out and support you base!

Remember that the National Convention in San Diego is coming in early September. There will also be a gathering of international submariners as a joint convention. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet and talk to other "Brothers of the Phin".

We are still collecting funds to purchase a sea van for our equipment and float storage. We are grateful to shipmate Butch DeShong for the use of part of his warehouse to store the float. Thanks again Butch!

See you at the May meeting.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien. Base Commander

April 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, 11 Apr 2009. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

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

According to the sailing list, 22 members and guests were present. Three new members were introduced, they were; Henry Lines, David Coats and Richard Kunzes.

Jim Denzien announced that today, 11 April 2009, is the 109th anniversary of the Submarine Force.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the March 2009 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 Mar 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Jim Denzien added that future Treasurer Reports will include the status of the Perch Base Foundation bank account information. This information will be reported in the Treasurer's Report effective with the May 2009 meeting.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander/Chaplain – Howard Doyle, had nothing to report.

Base Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish had nothing to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards was not present

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett apologized for the clarity of the business card ads in the April edition of the MidWatch. It was decided that we would try out the idea of using a classified ads page which will solve the problem of clarity problem caused by the business card ad file size space requirements.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reported that he has hats and shirts which have been donated that he is selling for \$10.00 each. Prices of products from future purchases will go up. Dave Harnish offered special recognition to DeWayne Lober for the good job he has been doing as Storekeeper. Our base treasury has been growing because of Dewayne's efforts.

Membership Chairman/Webmaster – Ramon Samson had nothing to report.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reported that Bob Gilmore had inspected the Perch Base Memorial (torpedo) at the National Veteran's Cemetery and said it was in pretty good shape. Cemetery personnel told Jim that the large plaque affixed to the memorial is scratched and in need of maintenance. We need a work party to assist Bob Gilmore in the maintenance of our memorial site in preparation for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

The membership was reminded that our National Convention will be held September 8-12, 2009 in San Diego at the Town & Country Resort & Convention Center. Members were referred to the USSVI website for additional details. The ISA-USA conference is being held in conjunction with the USSVI event. It has been determined that the USSVI scheduled events are much more economical than the ISA-USA events. A number of the ISA-USA scheduled activities are cost prohibitive to many of our members.

The Perch Base By-Laws were published in the last issue of the MidWatch. The re-writing of the By-Laws was done so that we are in compliance with the USSVI National By-Laws. A motion was made and seconded that the new By-Laws be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. There was no further discussion, questions or comments related to this re-write so a vote was taken and carried by unanimous voice vote.

It was announced that we will be participating in the Riverside "A Salute to Veterans Parade" next weekend in Riverside, CA. Participating members will depart on 17 Apr and return on 19 Apr, 2009. Additional information regarding this event can be found on the internet at a website at www.asalutetoveterans.com.

New Business

Jim announced that we are in need of a new Perch Base Chaplain. With Howard Doyle being elected Vice-Commander, we need someone to step up and take over the Chaplain responsibilities. If no one volunteers to fill this vacated position, Howard will continue in that capacity as long as needed. A notice will be published in the next edition of the MidWatch asking for volunteers to fill that position

There are a number of requests for float utilization coming up in the future. In addition to the Riverside event, other events include; the Goodyear Marketplace Car Show on 04 Apr 2009, the Goodyear Marketplace Service to Community Event (a military event) on 23 May 2009, and we may take the float to the Memorial Day Service on 25 May 2009. Beyond that, we are planning on participating in the 4th of July parade in Prescott and future events might include the USSVI National Convention in September in San Diego.

There was a great deal of discussion about float utilization and the scheduling of the same. We need adequate lead time to make arrangements to pick up the float and prepare it for events. To assure that we have adequate lead time it was recommended that the base be given one week advanced notice for the scheduling of all float activities. It was moved and seconded that the one week advanced notice be adopted as a recommended procedure.

After more discussion and clarification, the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

We will need a work party for float maintenance to prepare for the Riverside event. The float will be transported to Dave Harnish's house on Wednesday, 15 Apr 2009 for a maintenance work party commencing at noon. In the future, we will need to maintain a float utilization log so that we can properly schedule future float maintenance.

With regards to the SOS (Save Our Sail) project, Jim Denzien announced that the Phoenix Commission was officially disbanded as of the 1st of April because of budgetary issues. There are two bank accounts that will be transferred to our Save Our Sail Foundation accounts in the near future.

We will need members to step up and serve on both the Perch Base and Save Our Sail Foundations. Currently, there are only a few Perch Base members participating and we will need additional help to move these projects forward.

The SOS project will be a long term project, perhaps up to ten years and will require a long term commitment from the membership.

Howard reported that the Grand Marshals for the Anthem Daisy Mountain Veteran's Day Parade were our WWII Submarine Veterans Billy Grieves and Emil Schoonejans. The Daisy Mountain Veterans had a commercial photographer produce a DVD of the parade and they wanted to especially thank our WWII Vets for their participation and make sure that they each received complimentary copies of the DVD.

Our Western District 1 Commander, Jack Messersmith, is in El Paso today presenting the Charter for the newest base in District 1, which is the New Mexico Base. This will be the eighth chartered base in Western District 1. Jack has requested that we send "seed money" to help this base get started. It was moved and seconded that Perch Base donates \$100.00 from our treasury that does not need to be repaid to help the New Mexico Base get started. A voice vote was called for and there was opposition. As a result of the opposition, a hand vote was called for and the motion was carried by a majority hand vote of 14 to 5. And still another expenditure is made that will delay the purchase of a sea-van for the float.

Jim Denzien reported that there will be a meeting with the City of Phoenix to go over the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Save Our Sail project. The MOU is simply a document that explains how we will work with the Parks and Recreation Department to further our project. According to Jim Denzien, this meeting should occur in the near future.

Good of the Order

We received a "thank you note" from the City of Goodyear for our participation in the West Valley Safety Expo. The City of Goodyear was most appreciative of our participation with the float. The note was signed by P.J. Miller.

Jim Denzien reported that at the Del Mar event we raised over \$318.00. \$100.00 was used to establish the Save Our Sail Foundation account and the remainder went into the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation account. It was further discussed that monies raised and not specifically designated to either of the foundations can go into the base general fund.

We had our spring picnic on Saturday, 28 Mar 2009. We had our Holland Club Induction Ceremony and four of six Holland Club inductees were present and inducted into the Holland Club. It was also reported that the base made a little money on this event.

As a result of the article about our float in the American Submariner, Jim received an e-mail from Gary Walters who is a member of the Great Lakes Base in Wisconsin. They built a model of the Skipjack which will be unveiled this Memorial Day. Jim is communicating with this base regarding insurance issues.

Tim Moore passed around copies of the two-sided handout we use in conjunction with float activities for the USS Phoenix SSN-702/ Save Our Sail project. This printing job was donated by ARC Impressions, a local printing and graphic arts company. The total retail value of this printing project was over \$900.00 and was contributed to the Perch Base Foundation. Jim is going to send ARC Impressions a thank you letter and kudos to Chuck Emmett for his design work.

Michael Bircumshaw sent an e-mail reminding all hands that boat sponsorships are up for renewal for all members who participate in that program.

Tim also reported that he received a telephone call from Lena Moore, the widow of Thomas Moore who was a USS Perch survivor and recently passed away in Florida. Tom was 86 and he and Lena had lived in Florida for twenty-six years. Lena said Tom had spent twenty years in the Navy. She mentioned that she had received an official certificate from President Obama. It was honoring the memory of Tom and his service to our country. She has requested that the issuing office send us a copy of this certificate for our historical archives

Future Perch Base meetings will convene at 1200 rather than 1300. We will not be having e-board meetings the same day as the general membership meeting. Our social hour will begin at 1100 followed by the general meeting at 1200. This change in scheduling will be announced in the next issue of the MidWatch.

Howard reported that Mobile Mini is holding our quoted price for the Sea Van until future notice. The quoted price was around \$3,900. Howard also reported that the Northwest Territorial Mint should have the design work done for our SOS Challenge Coin within the next two weeks so we should have something to see at our next meeting.

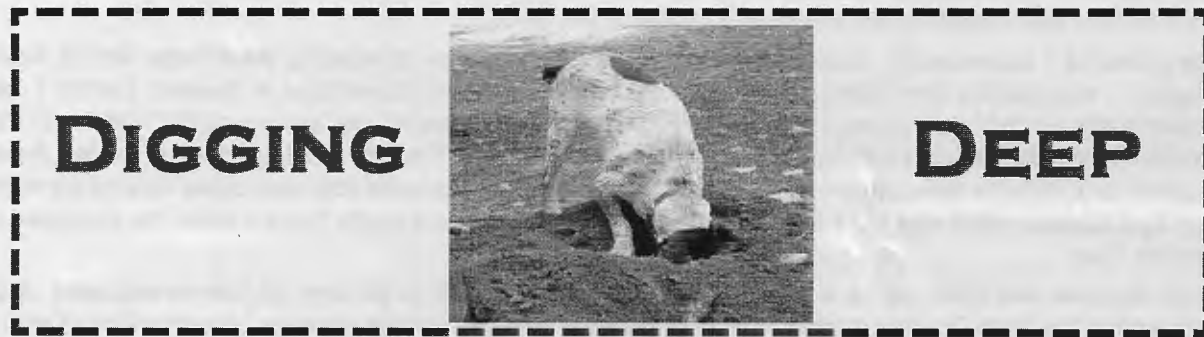
50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Paul Miller who won \$34.00.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The benediction was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1425 hours.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



You have to dig deep for facts like these:

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China , 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.
2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika." All three were soon changed for PR purposes.!
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.
5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hirooyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet, tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go way down.
7. When allied armies reached the Rhine , the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton, who had himself photographed in the act.
8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City (one way) , but they decided it wasn't worth the effort.
9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.
10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians, and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans, and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands . 21 troops were killed in the assault. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.