

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

Perch Base has completed two successful outings with our float: our second appearance at the Laveen Community Parade on February 6th where we received an award in the "Military Float" category; our first appearance at the "Gold Rush Days" in Wickenburg on the 13th. Wickenburg's parade was very large and our float was well received. There was a lunch at the American Legion afterward. Bravo Zulu to those who represented the base!

We also did a Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event at Children's Hospital on the 18th. We changed the format of our visit and were able to see more of the children and interface with them better than we have before. We all had a truly outstanding experience!

Our next meeting is March 13th and we will be conducting our annual elections. The positions being elected are Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. Have a voice in your base operations. Show up and vote!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

February Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1225 13 February 2010. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

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

According to the sailing list, 31 members and guests were present. Davy Jones brought two guests, C.M. "Neil" Dora and his son Joe Dora. Neil served in the Air Force and his son Joe is a Marine and served in Desert Storm. Also in attendance was Eldon Hartman who lives in Mesa and qualified in submarines aboard the USS Queenfish SS/AGSS-393 in the early fifties. Eldon announced that there will be a Queenfish reunion in Mesa in October. We also had a guest speaker Jay Wisner who is a retired Master Chief. Jay is currently a teacher who is involved in the Glendale Union High School NJROTC program.

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the January 2010 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Treasurer Wayne Pettes reported on base's financial status as of 01 February 2010. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Jim reported on upcoming events one of which is the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days which is taking place (on the meeting day) in Wickenburg. Perch Base members participating in that event include Rick Simmons, Howard Doyle and Chuck Emmett. Also attending are Jim Evans and Jim Walls who live in that area and Joe Varese, who is towing the float for this event.

Jim announced that next month we will be having base elections. Up for re-election will be Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. Howard Doyle will be running for Vice-Commander, Tim Moore for Secretary and Wayne Pettes for Treasurer. We have had one member who has expressed interest in the Chief of the Boat position and a decision regarding filling that position will be forthcoming and should be announced prior to our next meeting.

Chuck Emmett and Rick Simmons are working on documenting our Policies and Procedures Manual and we are anticipating that a draft of that will be ready by our next monthly meeting.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle was attending the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days event.

Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Wayne Pettes had nothing to report.

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren had nothing to report.

Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster – Chuck Emmett was attending the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days event. Speaking for Chuck, Jim announced that anyone wanting anything posted to the web site should e-mail Chuck. Also any comments about the new web site should be addressed to Chuck as well.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober reminded the membership that he still has a number of \$10.00 shirts available. When these are gone, all the new shirts will be \$20.00.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons was attending the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days event. In his absence and on his behalf Jim reported on our reenlistment status. For Perch Base members owing National dues, we had 64 members owing and 57 that paid for an 89% re-enlistment return rate. For the 87 Perch Base members owing base dues, we had 80 that paid for a 92% re-enlistment return rate. Kudos and a big Bravo Zulu to Rick for a fine job on the re-enlistment effort. Additionally, we had 62 members that made Booster Club donations for 2010 so thank you and a big Bravo Zulu goes out to the base membership for their financial support of Perch Base.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Events Coordinator – Barry Bowers had nothing to report.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reminded the membership about the All Arizona Base Picnic which will be taking place at White Tanks Recreational Area on the 10th of April and will take the place of our April meeting. Reservations for a ramada have been made and confirmed and the picnic will go from 1100 until 1500. We have received positive responses from Tucson Base and Barbel Base in Yuma. Final details will be forthcoming.

With elections coming up, Jim reminded the membership that we always encourage more people to participate in the operation of the base. New faces and new ideas are always welcome and would be greatly appreciated by the current board members and all of your shipmates.

New Business

Next Thursday, the 18th of February we will be having our semi-annual Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event at the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Phoenix Children's Hospital is located at the 51 Freeway (19th St.) and E. Thomas Rd. on the south side of Thomas. We will muster in the lobby of Bldg. A at about 0945. Participants should plan on wearing hats and vests.

Upcoming events include the Riverside, CA Veteran's Parade 17 April and the theme for this year is "Honoring the Veterans in Your Life". This will be our fourth year participating in this event and Tucson Base will be taking their float and participating as well. The current plan is to go over on Friday and return on Saturday or Sunday. If you are interested in participating, please contact one of the base officers.

Good of the Order

We participated in the Laveen Parade and were presented two awards for our participation. One was a Participation Award and the other was a Community Spirit Award. This event is sponsored by the Lion's Club and this is the second year we participated.

Jim asked for more of the membership to participate in future events especially Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. For the smaller events and parades, 5 or 6 people are generally enough to support that type of activity.

We will be looking into the possibility of acquiring a display case to showcase Perch Base awards and other memorabilia. Tim and De Wayne will try to locate some sources for suitable display cases and Tim will contact Post #105 to see if they will provide space in the main meeting room.

One other event that will be coming up soon is Navy Days which will probably take place during the first two weeks of March at the Peoria Sports Complex. Like last year we would like to participate in one of the events and details

for that activity will be forthcoming in the near future.

Stan reported on his recent trip on Saturday January 23rd to San Diego. The deep submergence community, Don Walsh, 17 pilots, 6 crew members, and about 8 tech reps were included in about 200 people who celebrated the actual 50th anniversary of the Challenger Deep Dive with Trieste that took place on the 23rd of January in 1960. Rolex was there with the original watch that made the dive on the exterior of the boat which was pretty amazing when you consider that it went to 35,800 feet. Stan said the crystal on the watch was an inch and a half thick. The MTS (Marine Technological Society) sponsored the dinner and Rolex passed out hats commemorating the occasion. This was the West Coast version of the reunion that will be happening in Washington D.C. in April. The reunion will be from April 15th to the 19th.

Jim reported that Jack Kimball and his son attended the decommissioning ceremony for the USS Los Angeles (SSN-688) also on the 23rd of January.

It was brought up at the board meeting that we are collecting memorabilia, awards, plaques, etc. that have been presented to Perch Base for various reasons. In the past the officers of Post #105 had offered some space in the main meeting room to display some of our items. We will be contacting the new administration to see if that offer still stands. We will be looking to acquire a lockable display case the dimensions of which might be 6' to 7' tall x 6' to 8' wide x 12" to 24" deep whichever is standard for this type of display case. If any of the membership knows where we might acquire a display case that would accommodate our needs, please let one of the base officers know.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Neil Dora who won \$40.00.

Guest Speaker

Master Chief Jay R. Wisener United States Navy (Retired) was our guest speaker. Jay was born and raised in Glendale, AZ where he attended Sevilla Elementary School and Alhambra High School. He joined the Navy in 1971 went to IC School and attended submarine school in New London. After sub school he received orders to the USS Sailfish (SS-572.) In addition to a number of other commands, Jay served aboard the USS Parche (SSN-693,) the USS Drum (SSN-677) and the USS Guardfish (SSN-612.) He also served in the Navy Recruiting District San Diego where he was the Nuke Recruiter of the Year in 1982. He also served with the Navy Recruiting District Phoenix, AZ. After 23 years of military service he received a degree in Secondary Education and History from Ottawa University and became a Naval Science Instructor at Glendale High School.

In addition to teaching, Jay is involved with the NJROTC programs for the Glendale Union High School District and his presentation today is about this program. The overall curriculum includes citizenship, leadership, Navy orientation, history, sea power, seamanship, navigation and meteorology. It is a combination of academics, athletics and military drill. The NJROTC program is a combination of 60% academics and 40% military drill and physical fitness. Extracurricular activities include marksmanship and orienteering. ROTC in high school is not considered a recruiting program. The main emphasis is giving students more knowledge about our country, about patriotism and about service to our country. Some students do go into military service and the percentage of those who do varies between 2% and 10% of any graduating class. High school students can participate in ROTC from 1 to 4 years. If they do choose to go into military service out of high school, those that complete 2 years of NJROTC go into the service as an E-2 and with 3 or more years will go in as E-3. The exception is the Marine Corps which will not allow recruits to go in above E-2. Parents and school districts are very supportive of ROTC programs and the students who participate are generally very good citizens and grateful for the opportunity to participate in the program.

The Base expressed thanks to Jay for enlightening us about the NROTC program. One of our future goals will be to work with NJROTC program and the participating students.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1340 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

