

December 2010 Perch Base Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1205 hours, 11 December 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 December and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the Sailing List there were 30 members and guests present. Jim Denzien introduced two guests who he met at Costco. The first was Charles Hooper who spent eight years in the Navy and served aboard the Sablefish and Robert E. Lee. Next he introduced Bob Johnson who is a WWII shipmate who was a Radioman and served aboard the USS Blower SS-325. Tim introduced a new guest/member Steve Stanger who he also met at Costco. Steve was a Second Class Engineman who served aboard the USS Blackfin SS-322. Steve is also the Post Commander for the VFW in Black Canyon City. Dick Caraker introduced his son Gary who is an Air Force Veteran. Also joining us today were Bill Walcott who is a retired Senior Chief and Rich Womack (Yakima Base) who is visiting us from Roslyn, WA which is the home of the TV series "*Northern Exposure*". Other members and guests in attendance at this meeting included:

Jim Denzien	Howard Doyle	Tim Moore	Bob Warner
Jack Moore	Ed Hawkins	Rick Simmons	DeWayne Lober
Doug LaRock	Richard Kunze	Jim Newman	Mike Dahl
Chuck Emmett	Bill Woolcatt	Walt Blomgren	Herb Herman
Roger Miller	Davy Jones	Steve Stanger	Ted Hunt
Rich Womack	George Crider	Jim Wall	John Schlag
Richard Bernier	Karl Krull	Dick Caraker	Gary Caraker
Robie Robinson	(One Unreadable Name)		

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

Jim Denzien, acting as Interim Treasurer, reported on the base's financial status as of 30 November 2010. Jim announced that he is in the final stages of turning the Treasurer responsibilities over Bob Warner who will begin presenting the Treasurer's Report effective with the next meeting. Some funds will be transferred into CD's at the Treasurer's discretion. 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 that the float is now at the Goodyear Self Storage facility which was provided to Perch Base at a significant discount. A storage locker was provided at \$30.00 per month and the covered storage at \$40.00 per month. This is a temporary solution until something better comes along.

Tim will be vacating the Secretarial position and we need a volunteer to step up and take over that position in conjunction with the March 2011 base election process.

We are in the process of getting letters and applications out to the ladies group to invite them to join us as Associate Members. Rick will be following up on this after the first of the year.

We discussed having a silent auction to offer up some memorabilia items as a fund raiser for the base. One of the items is a WWII spyglass that came off one of the diesel boats that has been donated by Billy Grieves.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle reported that we were approached at the Veteran's Day Parade by the Naval Sea Cadets about participating with them in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. If this can be cleared with the Fiesta Bowl Committee we will send out a Flash Traffic message to all hands soliciting volunteers to assist with this endeavor. We have also been invited to participate with the Navy Operational Support Center (Navy Reserve Center) in a Family Day Christmas Party on December 18th. They have asked that we bring the float for a static display from 0900 until 1600. Members are invited to participate in this event. The location is at the NOSC on 35th Avenue south of the I-10 on the east side of the street.

Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Warner reported that he is in the process of getting the financial reports and computer files squared away so that he can effectively assume the Treasurer responsibilities.

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren went over the binnacle which included Davy, Ted and DeWayne who were all present at the meeting and seemed to be doing quite well. He also reported that we lost shipmate Dick Weber who recently passed and is now on *eternal patrol*. Dick Weber is to be cremated and his remains will be going to Montana. Jim Nelson seemed to be doing ok the last time Walt spoke with him. Chuck went through a procedure for his back and is in some discomfort but recovering. Billy Grieves is doing fine but his wife Muriel continues to have some problems. Dan Moss had a triple by-pass procedure on the 3rd of December and Layne said he is now at home and doing quite well.

Chief of the Boat – Jack Moore had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor/Webmaster – Chuck Emmett was not called upon.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober has some \$15.00 shirts, \$5.00 cups and the 2011 calendars are available for \$10.00 each.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported on the re-enlistment effort. He said that we are currently at 82% base re-enlistment and 78% national re-enlistment. Rick has requested that the remaining members, who have not re-enlisted, do so as soon as possible. He also reported that he has 2011 I.D. card stickers available for the annual dues paying members. There will be a \$5.00 late charge for payments received after 31 December 2010.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Events Coordinator – Joe Varese reported that we have the potential for a static display for the float in the East Valley on the 15th of January. Joe has volunteered to take the float to this event but a final decision is still pending. The only other event is the St. Patrick's Day event in March which is in the planning stages.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold was not present.

Old Business

With respect to the float storage issue, Steve Spanger reported that he has a canopy type cover that he is willing to donate to the base for covering the float.

Elections will be coming up in March and the only two positions are the base Commander and base Vice-Commander. Jim will be running for Commander and Howard will be running for the Vice-Commander position. Jim went on to re-iterate that we want to encourage members to consider volunteering for base positions. The best way to familiarize yourself with how the base and the USSVI function is to work your way up through the various positions such as Treasurer, Secretary, and then stepping up to Vice Commander and Commander. Again members are encouraged to actively participate in base operations.

Jack Moore reported that RADM Barry Bruner, COMSUBGRU 10 in Kings Bay, GA will be in attendance as a guest speaker at our Annual Awards Banquet. We met the admiral at the Navy Days event at the Peoria Sports Complex last spring. RADM Bruner is from Casa Grande, AZ and is a graduate of ASU. The cost for the banquet will be \$15.00 per head with a deadline for getting payments in of January 8, 2011 which coincides with our January meeting. We will accept payments at the door on the day of the event at \$20.00 per head. There will be a no-host bar cocktail hour commencing at 1730 followed by the evening's festivities. Chuck will send out a Flash Traffic message with the particulars. Payments should be made out to Perch Base and sent to Jack Moore. Vests are encouraged with business casual being optional dress.

New Business

Chuck reported that we now have a promotional 2-page flyer about the history of submarines to hand out at static displays. This is currently under review and once a final decision is made by the board, the flyer will be printed for future use. We also have a new temporary tattoo and some stickers to hand out to kids who visit with us at static displays. We are also developing a video that we would like to incorporate for use at static displays.

For the benefit of new members, Jim reported that Perch Base has taken on the responsibility of the SOS (Save Our Sail) project. The Navy has authorized us to procure the sail, sail planes and upper rudder from the USS Phoenix SSN-702. The Phoenix is a Los Angeles class fast attack submarine which has been decommissioned and sitting in Bremerton Naval Shipyard waiting to be scrapped. We have received approval to erect the sail as a permanent memorial at the Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. This program will be pursued after the first of the year. The Navy has said that they are anticipating scrapping the submarine in the 2012 to 2013 timeframe. There is information about this project on our website.

Other upcoming events include the Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) event in February. We will be visiting the kids in the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Details will be announced to the membership when the plans are finalized. Any member who actually reads these minutes will be eligible to enter a raffle for a prize which will be awarded at the January meeting. To be eligible for this raffle, you must be present at the meeting and ask Tim for a raffle ticket.

Jim announced that there will be another VHP (Veterans History Project) event which is in the planning stages for March 2011 in Tempe. This is a Library of Congress sponsored project done through the City of Tempe. Initially this was a project aimed at interviewing WWII vets to gain their perspective on the historical events that took place during the war. There are countless numbers of untold stories that need to be told and documented for historical purposes. After the WWII stories have been told and documented, the VHP will pursue, Korean, Cold War, Viet Nam and other stories up to and including Desert Storm and our current involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have been invited to participate in the Salute to Veteran's Parade in Riverside, CA in April. We have participated in this event in the past and received a promotional flyer announcing the upcoming event. A decision has not been made whether or not we will participate. The membership will be advised when a decision is made.

We are looking at the possibility of having a picnic in early April in conjunction with the Submarine Birthday. If we do not have another All Arizona Base event, then we will probably do something for Perch Base. The Command Master Chief for NRD Phoenix is a submariner and suggested that we do something together for the submarine birthday in April.

Good of the Order

Jim announced that he will be taking on the responsibility of Eagle Scout Coordinator for the Western Region of the USSVI.

It was announced that we have one laptop and one desktop computer available for any of our shipmates who may be in need. Anyone interested should contact Bob Warner.

We also still want to get more sea stories for the *Now This Ain't No Sh*t* column in the MidWatch.

Tim announced that he met with a lady by the name of Kathleen Lewis who is CEO and founder of Packages from Home. Tim will get the Packages from Home website information so we can have a link on our website and see what interest our membership might have in supporting this worthwhile effort. Our troops need simple things like soap, toothpaste, socks, etc.

Walt announced that we would like to solicit more participation from our members in Perch Base sponsored events. We need new ideas for the present and future on what we intend to do as a base. We need the membership to provide constructive feedback and things that will make this base better and promote future growth.

In closing, Jim encouraged the members to attend the Annual Awards Banquet. Not only will we have RADM Bruner as a guest speaker, but we will also be conducting a Holland Club ceremony which will include some 14 new members. Longevity pins will also be handed out to those who qualify and participate.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Walt Blombren who won \$48.00 of the \$96.00 contributed for the drawing.

Adjournment

All 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 1310 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI