



June 2013 General Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead, in Glendale, AZ at 1206 hours, 08 June 2013. The meeting was called to order by Howard Doyle, Base Commander.

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

Rick Simmons stated we had three new members join this month and one was present, Mark Field. The two new members who weren't present are currently on active duty. One is Jerry Pittman, Jr., son of Jerry Pittman and he is a Ltjg on the USS Cheyenne SSN-773 and the other is Juan Amaya who is a MM2 serving on board the USS Jefferson City SSN-759 and he is Jerry Pittman's nephew. Mark Field brought his mom as a guest today and Steve Leon had his son Joseph as a guest as well. Rick also announced that he has some generic Perch Base business cards for anyone who needs them.

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the May 2013 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurers report for the financial status for the month ending 31 May 2013 will be delayed as our Treasurer Bob Warner is out of town on a work assignment.

According to the Sailing List there were 21 members, along with some guests, present. The complete sailing list included:

Howard Doyle	Chuck Emmett	Rich Kunze	Jim Denzien
Tim Moore	Rick Simmons	DeWayne Lober	Jack O'Connor
Walt Blomgren	Steve Leon	Doug LaRock	Milton McNeill
John Mosher	Paul Miller	Don DeMarte	Thomas Farley
Ted Hunt	George Crider	Dan Moss	Royce Pettit
Mark Field			

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

The Annual Picnic was held on 11 May 2013 and there were some 65 people in attendance. A good time was had by but it was noted that we could have used one more container of potato salad for this number of attendees. Howard said that if anyone had any suggestions on how we might improve the picnic for next year to let him know. There were Holland Club Induction Ceremonies held for both Gudgeon and Tautog Bases.

On Saturday the 18th of May we attended the Armed Forces Day event in Flagstaff and it was a success. Tucson Base also brought their float up for this event. We had 7 members and 2 wives in attendance and it was mentioned that this was the 7th year they have had the parade and the 7th year that Perch Base has participated in this event. The event planners were very appreciative of our participation in their event and we were also very well received by the crowd.

On the 27th of May we attended the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery and we presented wreaths for both the WWII submarine veterans and Perch Base. Following the main ceremony we conducted a tolling ceremony narrated by Chuck Emmett for all lost U.S. submarines. It was a good turnout and Howard suggested that if you have not attended in the past, you are encouraged to attend in the future. He went on to say that this is probably the primary event for submarine veterans and Perch Base.

We are going to have an election for District Commander WD1. Jack Messersmith from Gudgeon Base is the current District Commander and his term will be expiring with the upcoming national convention. Currently we have one candidate for District Commander WD1 and that is Jim Denzien. A Flash Traffic will be sent out to all hands with a ballot with Jim's name and a place for write-in nominees as well. These ballots need to be returned to Howard electronically by the end of June. Paper ballots will be sent out to those members who do not have e-mail. We want to encourage all members to vote to show support for this election.

Herb Herman is currently dealing with some medical issues and is in Good Samaritan Hospital. Family members are the only ones who have visitation at this time. Chuck will keep us updated on Herb's condition as he receives information. During Herb's absence, Tim Moore will act as Interim Secretary.

The Board of Directors voted to send \$1.00 per member, for a total of \$153.00, to the USSVI for the support of the National Holland Club. They solicited the bases to consider donating \$1.00 for each Holland Club member they have. The Board of Directors decided that since we will all eventually be Holland Club members that we would donate \$1.00 for each Perch Base member and a check has been issued.

Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander/Communications Officer – Chuck Emmett mentioned there has been some confusion about the deadline for submission of articles for the MidWatch. It is a "fixed" time and all articles need to be submitted no later than 8:00 am on the 3rd Friday preceding the base meeting that is 3 Fridays before the monthly meeting. There will be a box on the right side of webpage that notes the deadline date. There will also be a box or link, on the left webpage that you can click on to view pictures of the most current event. You will be able to click on a directory of the last events and then click on the event you wish to view.

Chuck also brought up the issue of when it is appropriate or not appropriate for veterans to salute or not salute when the flag passes in review or we hear the National Anthem. Recently legislation has been passed addressing this issue. Jim Denzien will look into what is the correct protocol and let Chuck know and this information will be published in a future newsletter article.

Interim Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Warner was not present.

Membership Chair - Rick reported that there were no changes in the membership which currently stands at 153.

Chaplain – Steve Leon stated that Angie Gram (Joe Varese's daughter) and her husband are ardent supporters of Perch Base and what we do. Steve recommended that we offer her an Associate Member position. Each Perch Base member can sponsor one Associate Member and Steve has used his sponsorship. Steve has offered to pay for Angie's dues for the first year and Doug LaRock volunteered to be her base sponsor.

Events Coordinator – Walt Blomgren mentioned the only upcoming event is the Prescott Frontier Days 4th of July Parade which will be held on Saturday, July 6th. Walt said as soon as he gets the particulars he will send out a Flash Traffic with the necessary updates. Howard added that anyone who wants to go up the day before (Friday the 5th) should give their name(s) to him and he will try to make reservations. George Crider will be bringing his trailer so there will be plenty of room for people to ride in this parade. There was also discussion about future events and parades and details will be announced and published as plans are solidified for these events.

Chief of the Boat – Rich Kunze added that it is always a lot of fun to go to Prescott the night before the 4th of July Parade and attend the rodeo.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober announced he has some new officers and enlisted caps for \$12.00 each. He also has dolphin stickers for the backs of cars and trucks and some shirts on sale for \$5.00 each.

Past Commander – Jim Denzien reported on his attendance at the Unified Arizona Veterans meeting which is conducted on the 1st Saturday of the month at state Veteran's Home. This was the last meeting before the summer break and the next meeting will be the 1st Saturday of September. A representative for the VA Medical Center announced that the Buckeye facility will be closed on at least a temporary basis because they have not been able to contract with a physician to perform services there. A state Representative by the name of Kathryn Miranda who represents District 27 addressed the group and said that there are three legislators who formed a group called the Veteran's Caucus to deal with veteran's issues in the legislature. Jim added that there are three people who are part of the Military Veteran's Commission for the City of Phoenix and they are John Altman, Melissa Lang and Howard Goldman. They are supposed to be taking over the leadership and scheduling of events for the Veteran's Day Parade. Howard Goldman said that at this time there is nothing is definitive. The VA is no longer participating as a major sponsor for the parade so we will need to rely on The City of Phoenix

and keep pushing them for an answer about the parade status. Jim announced that the Secretary of State, Ken Bennett, introduced a paver program for the WWII Memorial that will be established at Wesley Bolin Plaza. This program will be to purchase bricks with inscriptions from the donor. There will be three sizes; 4" x 8", 8" x 8" and 12" x 12". These can purchased for \$125.00 with three lines of information on the 4" x 8" size and the prices go up from there. Anyone interested in this project can get the information from Jim Denzien. Jim recommended that Perch Base gets one of these bricks to support this WWII Memorial project.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Old Business

Howard announced that Tim Moore went to Italy and attended the I.S.A. (International Submariners Association) 50th Congress which was held in Catania, Sicily. Tim presented a 12 minute PowerPoint presentation for the enjoyment of the group.

New Business

There was no new business announced.

Good of the Order

Jim Denzien announced the he and Richard Kunze would be attending the USSVI National Convention in Rochester this year. Richard will be the designated representative for Perch Base and Jim & Mary will be leaving in August and will be traveling as tourists. If anyone has any issues they would like addressed at this year's convention, see Jim or Richard.

Steve Leon announced that Billy Grieves and his wife Miriam are not doing too well. They are both in their 90's and are slowing down. Billy went on to say that they were both prepared to move on. Steve said that's the reality of their lives and we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Tim Moore who won \$50.00.

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 1303 hours.

The benediction was offered by Base Chaplain Steve Leon.

Tim Moore

Interim Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

