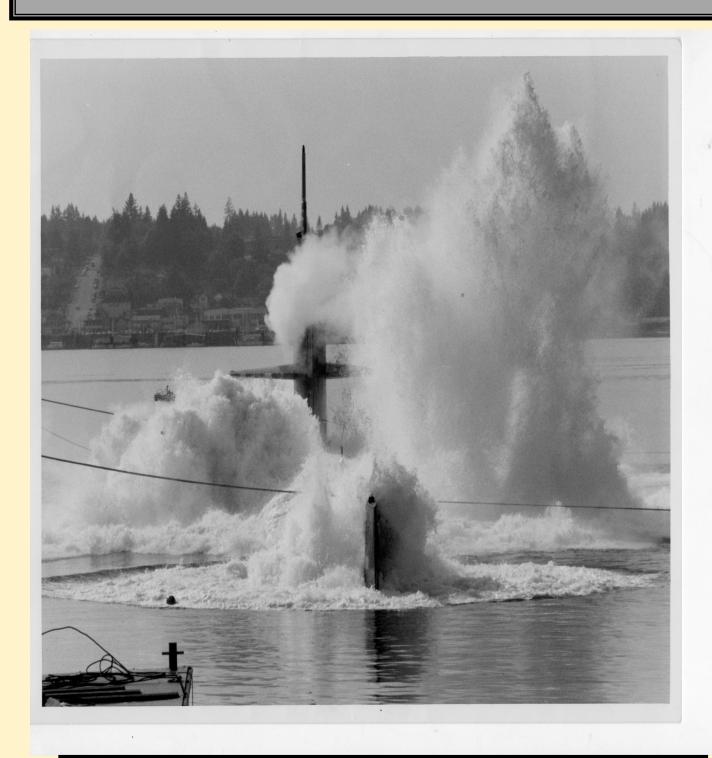
THE MIDWATCH

USSVI Perch Base Phoenix, Arizona Quarterly Newsletter Second Quarter 2024



Testing the Emergency Blow System

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"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment.

Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie.

We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



Volume 10, Issue 2

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Editor: Chris Gahan

Contact: newsletter@perch-base.org

Perch Base Wardroom













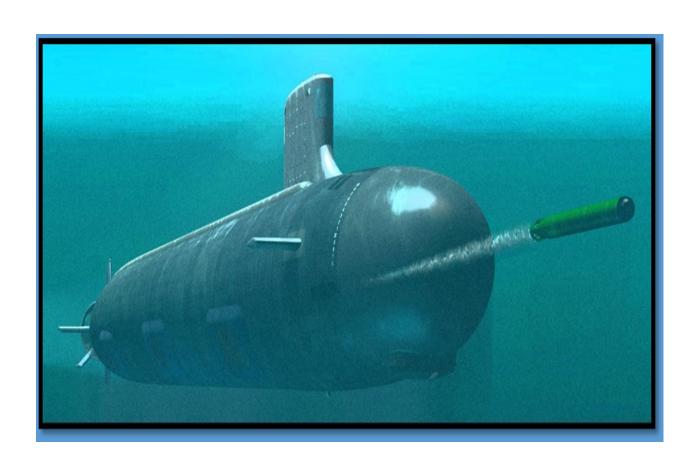














Base Commander George Woods commander@perch-base.org

From the Wardroom:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Base for their many calls and concerns during this most difficult time our family has been going through, it is said, "time heals all wounds", and we hope this is true. Once again thank you for all your prayers.

2024 is shaping up to bring about a number of changes for Perch Base. At our March base meeting David Heighway was elected Vice Commander. Carl Miner was thanked for his many years on the Board of Directors as both COB and Vice Commander, Thanks Carl.

I wish all those who celebrate a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

In April we will host our Annual Lunch Picnic meeting at Paloma Community Park in Peoria 29799 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy. Peoria, AZ 85383. it is truly the best place for an outing. The ramadas are clean, facilities are available and close by. The base will provide hamburgers and hot dogs & cold drinks. Side dishes are welcome, contact our COB Don Robertson to avoid duplication of dishes. There will be a silent auction for six gift baskets, with the proceeds donated to Perch base.

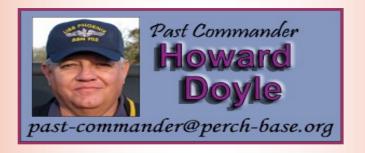
Perch Base is in need of your help. Serious help to fill open positions on the Board of Directors. We need an Events Coordinator, Secretary, Membership Chairman and a Chaplain. These are essential BOD positions. We greatly thank those that have volunteered their time over the years. If you would be interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact the Base Commander or Vice Commander.

The Western Regional Roundup, April 11th to April 13th 2024, Silverdale Washington. There are many events scheduled at the Sub Base. Unfortunately, the roundup is scheduled the same week of our picnic.

Monday May 27th Memorial Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85024. Perch Base will conduct Tolling of Boats Ceremony in the Circle of Remembrance at the World War II Submarine Torpedo monument ter the Wreath presentations and National Cemetery Ceremony. We always expect a good crowd and look forward to seeing you there.

Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade 2024, July 6th 2024, if you plan to attend and stay overnight in Prescott, book your hotel ASAP, Frontier Days events draws a good crowd and local hotels fill up quickly.

Check <u>perch-base.org</u> for the most current event information.



From Snipes Castle:

Aloha from Hilo, Hawaii.

Due to a family situation, I am currently in Hilo, Hawaii staying with my granddaughter. At present I will be here until mid-May so I have missed a lot of Perch Base activities, I am able to keep up via cell phone and email. Hilo gets an excess of 140 inches of rain a year, I had forgotten how much I disliked humidity, clouds, and drizzling rain. There was also a small earthquake which really got my attention.

Memorial Day is fast approaching and we all need to remember our purpose and creed and show up at the national cemetery for the Tolling of the Boats. This is probably the most important outside event that Perch Base and USSVI participates in every year. Put on your cap and vest and show some respect!

Congratulations to David Heighway on his election as Base vice commander.

"Remember the ALAMO - FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!"

"PRIDE RUNS DEEP"

Howard



Webmaster Dan Marks webmaster@perch-base.org

The time frame in the spring is not usually very busy for Perch Base, but we defied the routine and did quite a bit this quarter. I have been posting updates for all our events. If you have not been a participant at our events, I hope you are at least checking the website to see what you missed. Activity with the website since the last MidWatch included the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day wreath laying, the Dick Bernier Eternal Patrol Ceremony, the Annual Awards Banquet, the installation of additional bricks at the Arizona Silent Service Memorial and Joe Trotter's presentation at Naval Order of the United States Sea Services History Society. I posted additional photos for the Arizona Military Vehicle Show, the solar alignment at the Anthem Veterans Memorial, the Laveen Community Parade and the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation Launch. Photos were also posted of Perch Member participation in several Phoenix Navy Week events, including the Phoenix Navy Week Proclamation Ceremony and the Phoenix Navy Week Veterans Ceremony. Finally, photos were posted for David Heighway's installation as our new Perch Base Vice-Commander. Congratulations to Dave, who was previously our Event Coordinator, and thanks to Carl Miner for his service as the past Vice-Commander since April 10, 2021 (not to mention Carl's contribution as Chief of the Boat (COB) prior to that.)

Similar updates have been maintained on the Perch Base Facebook Page.

(continued on next page)

(Webmaster continued)

I am also the Webmaster for the Western Region Roundup, which will be in Silverdale, Washington on April 11 through 13, 2024. I hope many Perch Base members will also attend the Roundup to see what's happening in Bremerton.

Since the last MidWatch, there were 17,074 page views on the Perch Base website during 6,323 visits by 3,351 users based on Awstats. Most of the traffic was to the home page followed by the Glossary and the Sailing Orders. The majority of the page views were from the U.S., followed by Romania, China, then Russia. Our Facebook page Post Engagement (The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts) was 705. Our Facebook page had 8 new Page Likes for a total of 182 and a 9 new Followers for a total of 215 Followers. All of these statistics are significantly higher, which appears to be influenced by the Phoenix Navy Week.

If you have any suggestions or input for the website, send an email to webmaster@perch-base.org.



Treasurer

Joe Trotter

treasurer@perch-base.org

February this year saw a return of Fleet Week to the Phoenix Valley. The USS Arizona Legacy Foundation sponsor several members of the USS Arizona SSN 803 Pre-commissioning Unit who participated in many of the event around town including the Launch ceremony for the Foundation held at the Arizona Heritage Center in Tempe. One the more moving moments during this ceremony was the presentation to Commander Tom Digan, the PCU's commanding office, a U.S. Navy Command at Sea Badge that was made from the metal recovered from a USS Arizona BB 39 artifact. The badge is to be worn by the current commanding officer of the SSN 803 and is to be passed on to their reliefs for the life of the boat.

You can follow the progress of the SSN 803 PCU by signing up for the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation newsletter "Deep Dive" at www.ussazlegacy.org.







Communications Chris Gahan communications@perch-base.org

Normally, the early spring months are not that eventful for the base. Nevertheless that has not been the case. As the highlights on pages 11—16 demonstrate, we have been "endeavoring to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today." The wardroom appreciates the membership participation during these events but some new faces to these event would be even more gratifying.

The Base is also entering a phase were members of the Base Wardroom are either transferring to other duties or retiring. That means there is an opportunity for you to step up and volunteer to fill these open positions. The Base Commander on page 4 has highlighted those future needs. The upcoming annual picnic would be a great opportunity for any of you that are interested to inquire about any of the opening positions from of the present incumbents.

On this coming Memorial Day, May 27, the base will participate in a memorial celebrations at the National Cemetery. The program always includes a Fly-over, Presentation of the Colors from different veteran organization, guest speaker, and the wreath presentations and much more dignified prompt and circumstances. As this program is winding down, all attendees will be strongly encourage to attend the Perch Base "Tolling of the Bells" ceremony held at the USS Perch Torpedo memorial. Our Submarine Float will be there as an static display. The "Tolling" will not be just the boats lost in May but all the boats on eternal patrol. The feedback from attendees is always heartfelt and appreciative. This a great family event but don't forget to invite your neighbors and colleagues at work.

As always, I am on the prowl for articles, personal stories, cartoons, and photos that can be shred with the Perch Base membership. Don't withhold it, share it!

Passion

"There is no substitute for passion. If you don't have an intense burning desire for what you are doing, there is no way you'll be able to work the long hard hours it takes to become successful. Passion is a private grit. But it only works if you are good at what your are passionate about.

Surround yourself with people who are passionate about their roles. You'll catch their passion. You can't be passionate when you feel like it. You must be passionate about your job, product, or cause all the time."

Harvey Mackay, AZ Republic, 06/05/2023

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS



Russian submarine breaks through the sea-ice. Photo: Russian Northern Fleet

Russian subs to sail more under Arctic sea-ice

Operations under the sea-ice will be one of the top priorities for our submariners in 2024, Russia's Northern Fleet underlines.

The nuclear submarine crews will undergo both theoretical and practical training and special attention will be given to under-ice operations of the strategic subs, the Northern Fleet <u>informs</u>. According to the fleet, valuable under-ice training was conducted in 2023 when the *Tula*, a Delta IV nuclear sub, for the first time made a launch from a new location in the Laptev Sea. The exercise "confirms the capacity of the strategic nuclear naval forces to resolve problems from any part of the Arctic," a statement reads.

(article continued on next page)

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS

(article continued)

The Russian Navy has conducted comprehensive under-ice Arctic operations for decades. But the war in Ukraine and Moscow's increasingly hostile approach to its neighbors have made the activities more aggressive.

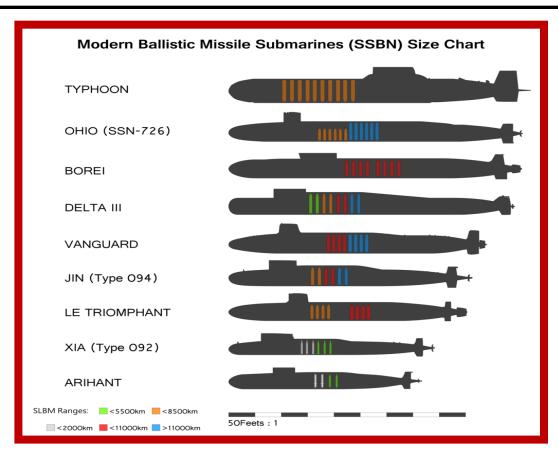
The Northern Fleet is based in Severomorsk, Kola Peninsula, and is the most powerful unit in Russia's Navy. It includes a significant number of nuclear submarines, among them two strategic subs of the Borei class.

Another three Borei-class vessels are under construction, the first one due to be handed over to the Northern Fleet in late 2024.

The Russian Pacific Fleet today includes five strategic Borei subs.

In August 2023, Russia's newest Borei-class sub, the *Generalissimo Suvorov*, set out from the Kola Peninsula and sailed through Arctic waters to the far eastern Vilyuchinsk base as part of its transfer to the Pacific Fleet. Major parts of the voyage was made under the Arctic sea-ice.

The Borei class vessels can carry up to 16 ballistic Bulava ballistic missiles.



Previous Quarter Highlights

The Annual Awards Banquet



Perch Base Commander George Woods awarded our Communications Officer and MidWatch Editor Chris Gahan the "Sailor of the Year" award.



Perch Base Commander George Woods conducted the Holland Club Induction Ceremony. This year's inductees are Charles Tobias, John Mammetti, Chris Gahan, and Jerry Benham.



The Keynote Speaker was Rear Admiral Michael E. McLaughlin (ret). At the time of his retirement, Admiral McLaughlin was the Commander, Submarine Group TWO, comprising the 25 attack submarines on the East Coast and associated 4,000 men and women. Earlier in his career, he commanded the submarine USS LA JOLLA (SSN-701)



Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) set up a static display of the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float and several tables at the Military Vehicle Collector Club (MVCC) Arizona Military Vehicle Show at the Peoria Sports Complex in Peoria, AZ, on January 26 - 28, 2024. In addition to "showing off" the USS Phoenix, our participation in the event was to promote the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) Cold War Museum Monument at the Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, Arizona and the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) in Wesley Bolin Plaza.



(l-r) Perch Base members Carl Miner & Chris Gahan staffing the display on Friday, 01/26/24. Chris Gahan (CWO3 (SS), USN (ret)) is also a Director with the Cold War Museum Monument Committee.

Special thanks to 3 Navy Sea Cadets who visited our display on Saturday morning, 01/27/24. They wiped down the USS Phoenix (field day!) In appreciation of their work, Joe Trotter gave each of them a Perch Base challenge coin. They were really impressed with their gift.





BRAVO ZULU JOE TROTTER!

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Life
Member and Treasurer Joe Trotter gave a
presentation on January 23, 2024, to the Naval
Order of the United States Sea Services History
Society. Joe discussed submarine life in the
1970's. Bravo Zulu to Joe for supporting our Creed
to "... endeavor to educate all third parties it
comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

Seven Perch Base members participated on February 3, 2024, in the 23rd Annual Laveen Community Parade. This year's theme was "The Future is Now!" Our Perch Base entry was awarded the Third Place (Motor Vehicle Group) trophy!

The crowds along the side of the

The crowds along the side of the parade route expressed their appreciation of our service as our float went by.





At the Laveen Parade, The
Phoenix Police
Department was the
parade entry right behind
us. They shared the
donuts that Joe Trotter
brought to the parade.

USS ARIZONA LEGACY FOUNDATION LAUNCH

Several Perch Base members, including Base Commander George Woods, Treasurer Joe Trotter, Ed Henry and Charles Tobias attended the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation Launch at the Arizona Heritage Center in Tempe, AZ, on February 26, 2024. Established in 2021 to support the commissioning of the fourth U.S. Navy vessel in American history to bear the name Arizona, the Foundation vision is to honor, expand, and nurture the memory of the USS Arizona battleship BB-39 while forging the future legacy of the USS Arizona Virginia-class fast attack submarine SSN-803.





Perch Base members Dan Marks and Bob Gilmore attended the **Phoenix Navy Week Proclamation Ceremony at** the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River in Scottsdale, AZ, on February 27, 2024. Several sailors from the Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) of the USS Arizona Virginia-class fast attack submarine SSN-803 attended the ceremony. (l-r) Chief of the Boat, ETVCM (SS) Dave Jackson; Lt. Alex Collins (note the silver dolphins); MM2(SS) Alexander Piscopo; EM2(SS) Uciel Romero. The USS Arizona (SSN-803) PCU Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Thomas Digan, was also in Phoenix, but was at another event.

Perch Base member David Heighway was installed as Vice-Commander on March 9, 2024. Congratulations to Dave, who was previously our Event Coordinator, and thanks to Carl Miner for his service as the past Vice-Commander since April 10, 2021 (not to mention Carl's contribution as Chief of the Boat (COB) prior to that.) (l-r:) Base Commander George Woods, Jim Denzien, David Heighway. David was sworn into office by Perch Base Life and Holland Club member Jim Denzien. Jim is a Past Perch Base Commander and Past Western Division Commander.



Editors Note

There is much more information on these events highlighted on our website.

Spotlight



ASSM MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER INSTALLATION

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) Joe Trotter and Dan Marks installed four new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers on January 17, 2024 at the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in front of the Arizona State Capital building. Joe Trotter is the Treasurer and a Board Member of the ASSM Foundation Committee, a 501(c) 3 Organization, as well as Treasurer of Perch Base Submarine Veterans USSVI. Dan Marks is the Perch Base Webmaster. Thank you for the generosity of those that bought new ASSM Memorial Brick Pavers, which support the upkeep of the ASSM Memorial: Bob Saenz: 8" X 8" brick, Tim Haueter: 4" X 8" brick, Kelly & Jill McLaughlin: 4" X 8" brick, Barry Wyatt & Marriah L. Dobbins: 4" X 8" brick.

PHOENIX NAVY WEEK VETERANS CEREMONY

Perch Base member Joe Trotter attended the Phoenix Navy Week Veterans Ceremony & dinner service at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, AZ, on February 29, 2024. Joe represented the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) and the Naval Submarine League (NSL.) Joe is also the Treasurer on the ASSM Board of Directors. Joe was accompanied by Lt. Cmdr. Hsin-Fu "Sinker" Wu (ret.) Sinker served a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy, in which he developed and implemented strategies for coalition, joint, naval, and undersea warfare.





Remember to check the <u>Perch Base website</u> and watch for Flash Traffic emails for the most up-to-date information.

Monthly General Meetings:

Saturday's, May 11th and Jun 8th.

At Dillion's KC BBQ restaurant

20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.

(Left click above address for a Google map.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch!

50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Perch Base Annual Picnic:

Saturday, April 13th

At Paloma Community Park in Peoria 29799 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy. Peoria, AZ 85383. It is truly the best place for an outing. The ramadas are clean, facilities are available and close by. The base will provide hamburgers and hot dogs & cold drinks. Side dishes are welcome, contact our COB Don Robertson to avoid duplication of dishes. There will be a silent auction for six gift baskets, with the proceeds donated to Perch base.

Western Regional Roundup, Silverdale, WA:

From April 11th—13th and hosted by the USSVI Bremerton Base. For attendance details go to the website.

Memorial Day at the National Memorial Cemetery:

On May 27th at 0800. 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ.

Deadline for the MidWatch Newsletter third 2024 edition

Friday, June 14th, 2024

All input must be into Chris Gahan, Perch Base Newsletter Editor, to be included in the next MidWatch Newsletter to be published on Wednesday, July 10th, 2024.

Please watch for updates on the <u>Perch Base website</u> and <u>Flash Traffic</u> emails as events may be updated, added or amended.

Fourth Quarter Birthdays

APRIL

- 1 Robert Faulkner
- 12 Frank Hausen
- 13 James Baker
- 13 James Wall
- 14 Richard Simmons
- 16 James Edwards
- 18 Thomas Farley
- 20 Ed Sarlo
- 22 Billy Johnson
- 30 Davy Jones

MAY

- 2 Don Schafer
- 3 Doyle Egg III
- 3 Bernie Jacques
- 7 Stan Reinhold
- 8 Ramon Samson
- 11 George Woods
- 12 James Tolsma
- 13 Mike Baka
- 13 Duane Kanitz
- 17 Steven Balthazor
- 18 Joseph Hawkins
- 23 Randy Pirkle
- 24 George Gillette
- 25 Don Robertson
- 25 Richard Noreika
- 26 Vic Van Horn
- 29 Charles Tobias
- 30 Carl Scott

JUNE

- 3 James Newman
- 4 Patrick Habel
- 4 Steve Snyder
- 5 Ralph Jennings
- 7 Robert Hayball
- 7 Dan Marks
- 11 Glenn Posniack
- 12 Gerald Maly
- 17 John Brown
- 17 Don Petty
- 19 Mike Weeks
- 20 David Fyock
- 20 James Ratte
- 27 James Evans







Keep these shipmates in your prayers

Howard Doyle Jr., Wayne Hembree, DeWayne Lober,
Jim & Mary Denzien, Marcia Unser, Victor Van Horn, and
Richard Simmons

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Base Ride Share

In need of a ride to a base meeting or event? Like to help a shipmate in need of a lift? Please contact: Dan Marks at

webmaster@perch-base.org

Stan Reinhold wants to inform the membership that the US Navy Deep Submergence Group Association 2024 reunion will be held September 27th through the 29th. The event will be held at the Best Western Plus Silverdale Beach Hotel, 3937 NW Buckin Hill Silverdale, WA, 98383 (800-780-7234).

GOOD OF THE ORDER



This "TEDDY" is awarded to recognize the unselfish, faithful, and devoted service of Carl Miner. Carl has served Perch Base over the years as COB and Vice-Commander. He unfailingly participated in our parades, static displays, and monthly meetings. Carl 's performance is an example by which we all can pattern ourselves after.

"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who point out how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man or women who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood: who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again: who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion and spends themselves in a worthy cause: who if they win, knows the triumph of high achievement: who if they fail, at least fails while greatly daring, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt

Tolling of the Boats



Tolling of the Boats for April

3	USS Pickerel (SS-177)	1943	74 men lost
8	USS Snook (SS-279)	1945	84 men lost
10	USS Thresher (SSN-593)	1963	129 men lost
18	USS Gudgeon (SS-211)	1944	80 men lost
22	USS Grenadier (SS-210)	1943	no loss of life; 4 lost as POWs

Tolling of the Boats for May

3	USS Lagarto (SS-371)	1945	86 men lost
22	USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	1968	99 men lost
23	USS Squalus (SS-192)	1939	26 men lost
29	USS Stickleback (SS-415)	1958	no loss of life

Tolling of the Boats for June

1	USS Herring (SS-233)	1944	83 men lost
12	USS R-12 (SS-89)	1943	42 men lost
14	USS Golet (SS-361)	1944	82 men lost
18	USS Bonefish (SS-223)	1945	85 men lost
19	USS S-27 (SS-132)	1942	no loss of life
20	USS O-9 (SS-70)	1941	34 men lost
30	USS Runner (SS-275)	1943	78 men lost

2024 Perch Base Operations

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts (1 October 2023 thru 30 September 2024) to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

James Andrews	John Beckett	John Carpentier
Howard Doyle	Howard Enloe	Thomas Farley III
David Fyock	Chris Gahan	James Glass
Howard Goldman	David Heighway	Governor Joy
Douglas La Rock	DeWayne Lober	Chuck Luna
Laura Luna	Dan Marks	Paul Miller
Carl Miner	Curt Morgan	Cynthia Morgan
Noisy Can	James Paper	Michael Haler
Don Robertson	Donald Schafer	Richard Simmons
Joseph Trotter	Don Unser	Marcia Unser
Vic Van Horn	Janice Van Horn	Michael Weeks
Joshua Whitmore	George Williams	George Woods
John Zaichkin	Chuck Emmett	Georgianne Gahan
Linda Hayball	Stan Reinhold	Steven Stanger
Alice Woods		

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE!

Reach your fellow Base Members directly.*





Ad size limit: 300 characters, including spaces. Pictures may be included, and are encouraged. Please provide the picture as a separate file in one of the following formats: jpg or png. If you are not sure which one to use or the file is over 600kb, email the editor at newsletter@perch-base.org for assistance and to discuss options.

If your ad can not be formatted in Word, it will not run.

Send your ad to:

*Perch Base, the Board Members, and the MidWatch editor or not responsible for the collection, exchange or storage of items advertised here or any fees exchanged for goods.

**Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, anything illegal, commercial items or anything deemed by the Base Board and/orMidWatch editor to be inappropriate. Decisions of the Board and editor are final.



This Firestone card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage the trailers and park for the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought the next time you need tires or service.







HELP BUILD

THE USS PHOENIX (SSN-702)
COLD WAR MONUMENT

IN STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK PHOENIX, ARIZONA



HONOR • LEARN • REMEMBER

PLEASE DONATE

YOUR TIME

YOUR \$\$

YOUR BIZ LEADS

AND

YOUR SUPPORT!

Become a friend of the USS PHOENIX COLD WAR MONUMENT

To Make a Tax-Deductible Donation Visit Our Website: www.ussphoenixmonument.org



USS Phoenix (SSN-702)
Cold War Monument Foundation
P.O. Box 30892, Phoenix, AZ 85046

MAKE IT HAPPEN!