

Perch Base, United States Submariners

Flash Traffic

Number: 04-03-2026

Date: 04-10-2026

**Subject: Spring Edition of the Midwatch
Newsletter**

The Base was very busy last quarter, and a summary is in this edition of the Midwatch newsletter. Read and enjoy, and as always feedback to edition is appreciated.

This is an official email communication from the USSVI Perch Base and does not require a response.

THE MIDWATCH

USSVI Perch Base Phoenix, Arizona Quarterly Newsletter First Quarter 2026

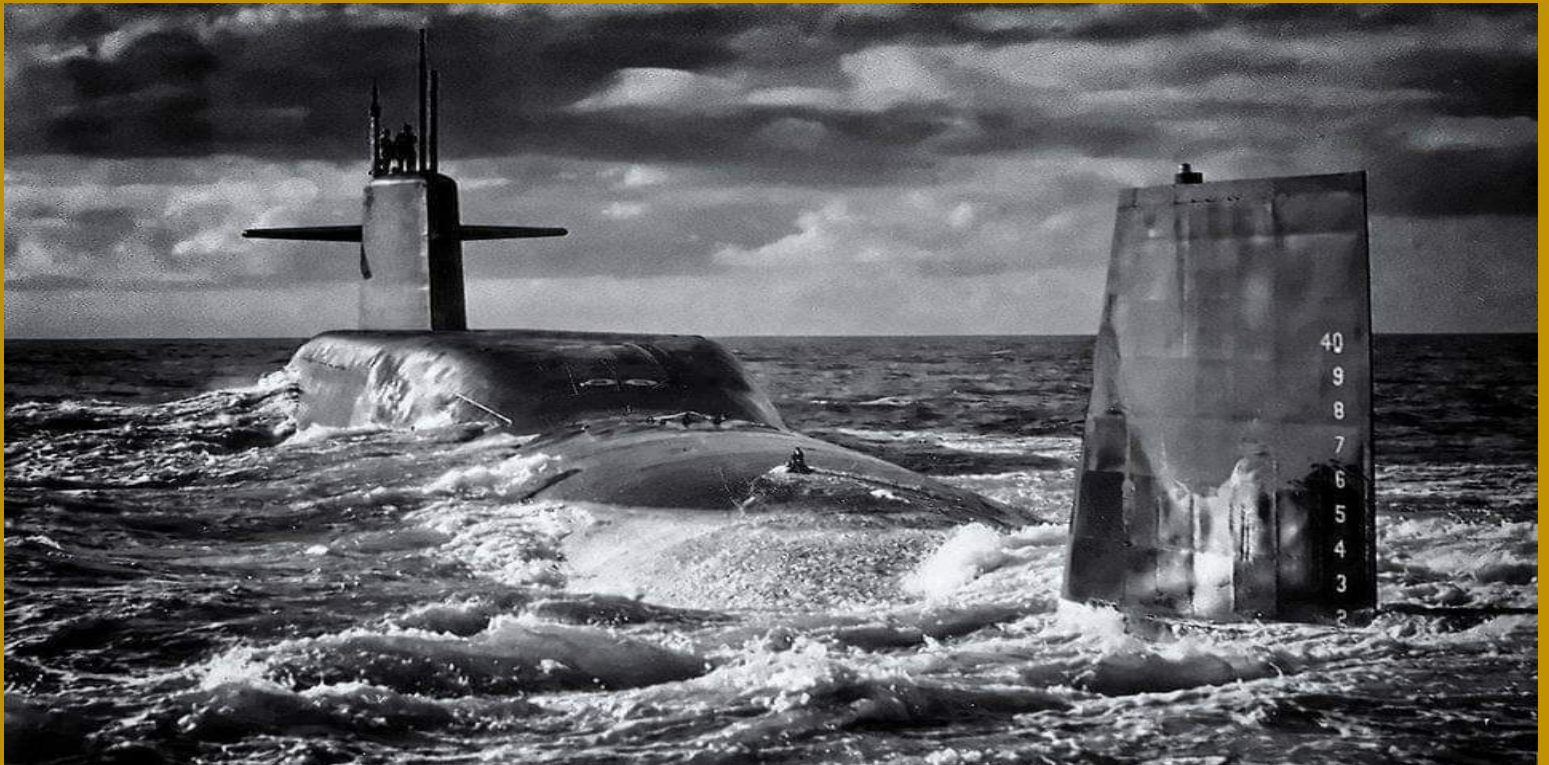


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"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge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



Perch Base Ward Room

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Spring 2026 MidWatch

Base Commander's Log

As we come into the spring quarter, Perch Base will be busy.

April's meeting will take place at our Annual Picnic. This takes place on the anniversary of the USS Holland being purchased by the US Navy and the beginning of the Submarine Service. 126 years! The Navy has now had submarines for more than half of its existence.

May brings our regular meeting and the remembrance that is Memorial Day. Perch Base will remember the submariners lost on duty by conducting the full Tolling for the Boats after the Memorial Day Services at the Phoenix National Cemetery. If you have not participated in this event, please consider attending this year's ceremony. It reflects the very core purpose of USSVI.

June is when Perch Base celebrates its anniversary as we became an official base of USSVI in 1995. The original organizing meeting was held in April with the official certification as a Base in June. We have enjoyed the camaraderie of our fellow submariners for all this time.

I have often heard the saying that this Base is yours as members. I would say that the health of our fellowship is something that every one of us should consider. Reach out when you see another submariner and let them know of our organization. This is how we can continue growing and upholding the Purpose found in our Creed.

Join us in celebrations and memories! See you soon!



Webmaster

Dan Marks

webmaster@perch-base.org

Webmaster's March Midwatch input:

Since the last Midwatch was issued, pictures and stories have been added to the Perch Base website including an article about the submarine dolphin anniversary, the new 2026 Arizona property tax exemption for VA 100% Disabled Veterans, the presentation of the "Sailor of the Year" award to our Chief of the Boat (COB) Kirby Anderson, a presentation by Artist Steve Voita of his USS Phoenix (SSN-702) artwork, and posting the obituary notices for the wives of two of our members, Colleen Williams and Mary Denzien. The website was also updated to reflect the appointment of CC Clarke as Base Storekeeper and Jim Denzien as Base Historian, a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Jim Denzien of more photos was added to the Float Construction page, photos of the Laveen Parade, the Anthem Solar Alignment, Missing In America Project (MIAP) Ceremony at the National Cemetery of Arizona, the Annual Awards Banquet, three presentations by Vice Commander Don Robertson perpetuating the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country during WW2 given at our monthly meetings, and a photo of the First Place trophy from Honoring America's Veterans for the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float in the 2025 Phoenix Veterans Day parade were also posted. I encourage all who haven't visited the website or attended those events to check out the photos on our website.

Since the last Midwatch was published, there were 29,776 page views on the Perch Base website during 22,622 visits by 7,514 users based on Awstats. The most page views were from the United States, followed by Japan, Vietnam, then China. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Glossary, Sailing Orders, then the Links page. The most downloads were the usual pages: the Historic List of Submarine Classes, followed by the Hurt Feelings Chit, VA burial benefits, then the Mabus letter.

During February, the Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 7,514 and our Facebook page has a total of 254 Followers.

As always, if you have suggestions for the Perch Base website or our Facebook page, please send them to webmaster@perch-base.org.

Dan Marks



Communications Chris Gahan

communications@perch-base.org



ZZZZZZ.....ZING

The USS Sculpin (SSN-590) was my qual boat and I joined the crew in December, 1972. The boat had recently returned from a WestPac deployment and most of the month of January, 1973 was devoted to a major repair upkeep while tied up to the USS Mckee (AS-41) in San Diego. About a third of the crew had turned over.

In late February, the boat began weekly operations for weapons recertification, drills, and training. When I first reported aboard, the MK-37 was the primary weapon. As the weekly ops continued, the new MK-48 torpedoes were being loaded aboard. These were not war shots, but for operational testing of the this new torpedo. During weekly ops, one day was devoted to testing these new torpedoes. Our HPACs in ERLI ran almost continually on these days. I was also being fast tracked to qualify for ERLI watch station.

In late spring we deployed to Nanoose Bay, Canada for further MK-48 testing. There was a joint USA/ Canada testing range located there. By now, I was qualified to stand ERLI and was on a port & starboard rotation, while hot racking with the other ERLI watch stander.

Through scuttlebutt on the mess deck, I found out we were also testing a new acoustic mine along with the MK-48. The word was these mines would be deployed and rest on the ocean floor. The concept was that these mines were programmed to activate when a specific ship's sound signature, submerged or surfaced, was detected. When the vessel was detected, the mine would activate and release a torpedo to intercept and destroy the target.

So, the Sculpin would cruise submerged back and forth across the range. Sometimes the mine activated sometimes not; nevertheless, this was new weapon that need testing. Once activated, the test team would immediately send a shut down command to prevent the mine's torpedo from being activated.

Sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield. I was heading aft to relieve the watch when the "Collision Alarm" sounded and the 1MC "Rig ship for collision" was announced. I was trapped in AMSUL when we started to hear it. ZZZZZZ.....ZING!! As quickly as it appeared the sound dissipated. We secured from the collision, but our routine and emotions were a bit frazzled.

From scuttlebutt on the mess decks, we learned that the mines torpedo was inert, but if it had stuck the Sculpin it could potentially cause serious damage. The Skipper had us return to our mooring buoy just off the coast from the small burg of Nanaimo Bay. I am sure the Skipper's daily debrief with the testing team was a very exciting and energetic meeting.

Throughout the rest of my career, I never heard the sound of a torpedo at close quarters as I did that day. Sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield.

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS



UK and Norway team up to hunt Russian submarines and undersea sabotage

New frigates, joint P-8 maritime aircraft patrols and more frequent anti-sabotage elite training were on the table when Norway and the UK on Thursday signed a first-of-its-kind defense agreement that will let the two navies operate side by side in the North Atlantic.

By Thomas Nilsen, "The Barents Observer", 4 December, 2025.

The partnership is designed to protect undersea oil and gas pipelines, as well as cables for data traffic.

Both navies will operate as one – sharing maintenance facilities, technology and equipment to create truly interchangeable forces able to deploy rapidly wherever needed, the British Ministry of Defense said in a [press release](#).

This is the most comprehensive defence agreement in modern times, the [Norwegian Ministry of Defense](#) added as the deal was signed by Defence Secretary John Healey and his Norwegian counterpart Tore O. Sandvik at 10 Downing Street on December 4.

"The British presence in the High North plays a crucial role in safeguarding Norwegian and European security," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre [said](#) after he met his British colleague Keir Starmer in London.

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS

The two prime ministers then flew north to the Royal Airforce base Lossiemouth in Moray, Scotland. It is from here British P-8 maritime patrol aircraft are operating when flying missions over the North Sea or further north over the Norwegian and Barents Seas.

Throughout 2025, London and Oslo have teamed up more closely in many fields of security cooperation. In February, Secretary Healey and Minister Sandvik [drove snowmobile](#) along the border with the Kola Peninsula, Russia's military bastion in the north. The day after, visiting Bodø in northern Norway, the two [announced their intention](#) to sign a more comprehensive agreement on cooperation to counter Russian undersea threats.

It is this agreement that was now signed by the two top military leaders. "In this new era of threat and with increasing Russian activity in the North Atlantic, our strength comes from hard power and strong alliances. When our critical infrastructure and waters are threatened, we step up," John Healey said.

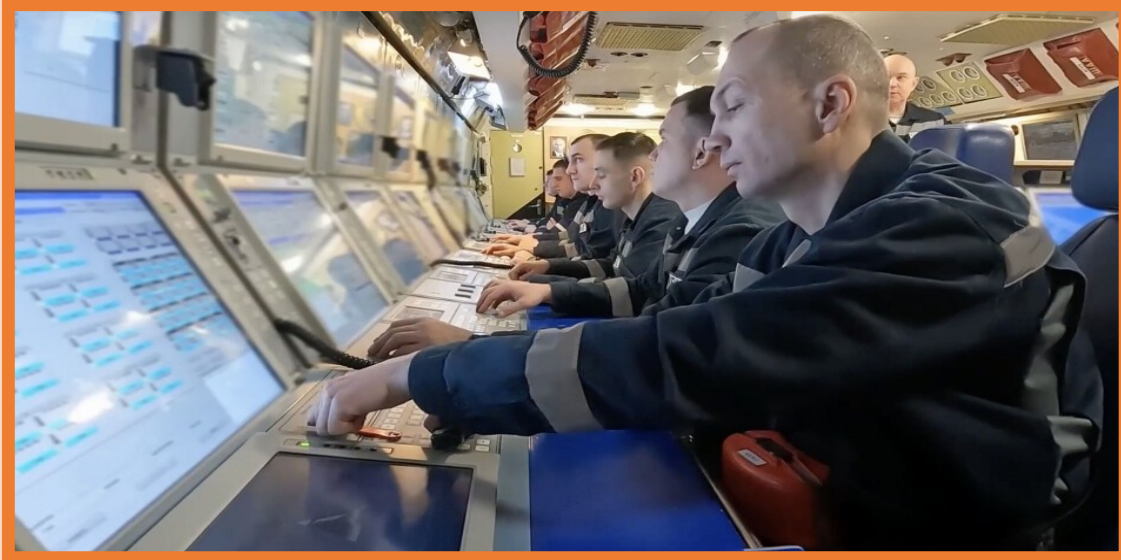
He added: "We will patrol the North Atlantic as one, train together in the Arctic, and develop the advanced equipment that will keep our citizens safe now and into the future. We are stepping up on European security and delivering on our NATO-first plan."

The [Barents Observer](#) has for years put focus on Russia's fleet of special surface vessels and deep diving mini-submarines capable of conducting work on the seabed. The Defense Ministry's so-called Main Directorate for Deep Sea Research (nick-named GUGI) operates out of [Olenya Bay](#) on the Kola Peninsula and from St. Petersburg.

Russian ships capable of conducting advanced underwater operations have increased their sailing in waters near the UK and Norway after the full-scale war on Ukraine started in 2022. A web of gas pipelines crosses the North Sea from British and Norwegian petroleum installations to continental Europe. Hybrid warfare conducted by non-state actors and countries like Russia is today high on agendas among European allies fearing attacks against critical infrastructure amid higher tensions as Moscow's war against Ukraine soon enters its twelfth year.

Contributed by our shipmate Donald Unser: *"When asked what I did to make life worthwhile in my lifetime....I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy Submarine Force, "The Silent Service"!".*

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS



Northern Fleet launches cruise missile from submerged submarine amid NATO Arctic drill

An Oniks anti-ship cruise missile was launched from the multi-role nuclear-powered submarine *Kazan* in the Barents Sea, striking a sea target 300 km away.

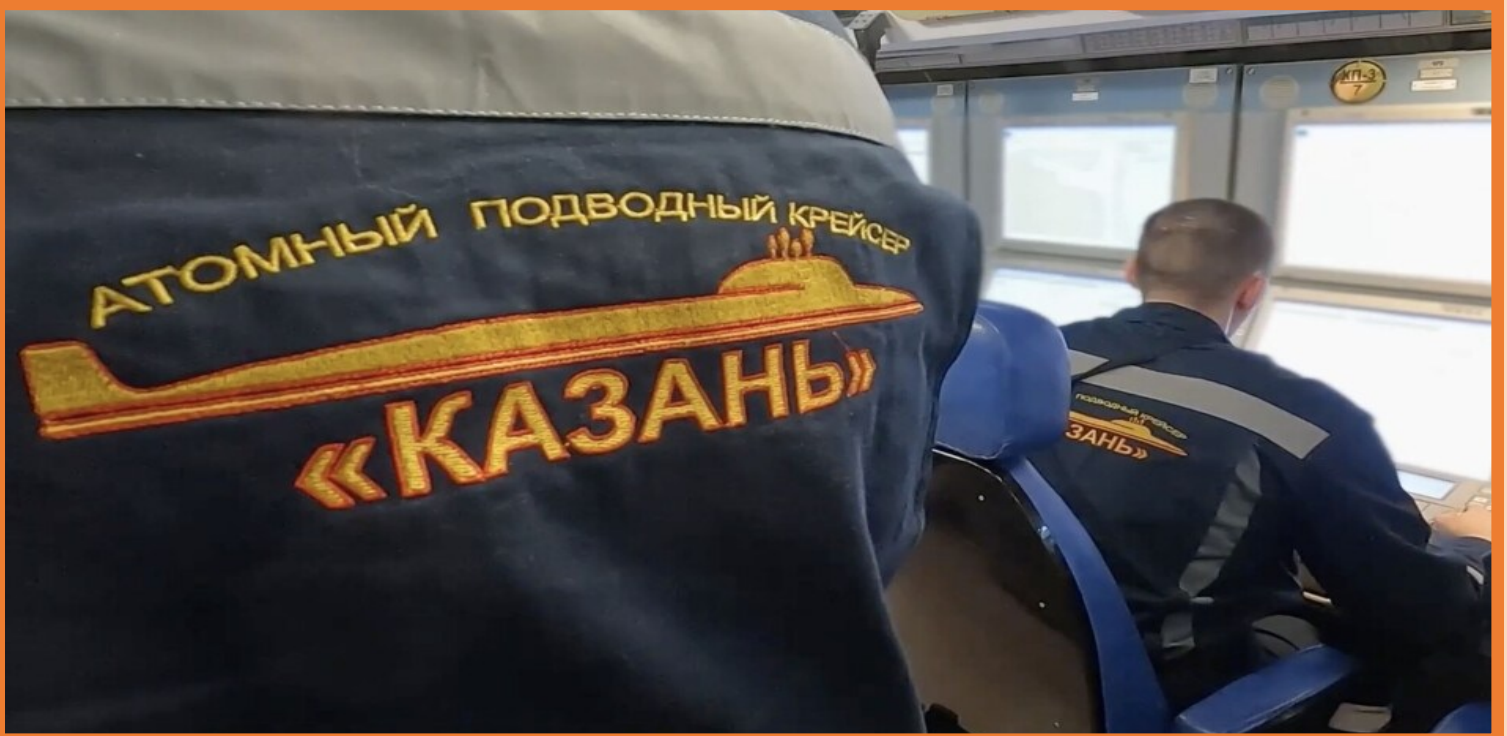
By Thomas Nilsen, “The Barents Observer”, 12 March, 2026

Ahead of the launch, Russia issued a [warning to aviation and shipping](#) that a missile would be fired sometime between 11 and 13 March. The restricted area lies across the maritime border between Norway and Russia.

“As part of planned combat training activities, the Northern Fleet’s nuclear-powered submarine *Kazan* fired an Oniks cruise missile from a submerged position at a sea target designated as a simulated enemy ship located at a distance of up to 300 kilometres,” the Russian [Northern Fleet’s press service](#) said on Thursday.

If the clock on the wall in the control room of the *Kazan* is correct, as shown in the video from the press service, the launch took place at 11.14 am Moscow time.

UNDERSEA WARFARE NEWS



The screens with positioning information were all blurred, making it impossible to tell where in the Barents Sea the launch took place or the location of the mock enemy ship. The information has not been confirmed by independent sources.

The Norwegian Armed Forces declined to confirm whether they observed the Russian activity in the Barents Sea.

“This is classified information and something we cannot comment on,” said Jonny Karlsen, a spokesperson for the Joint Headquarters, speaking to The Barents Observer.

It is likely that Russia’s launch of a cruise missile towards a simulated enemy ship in the Barents Sea is saber rattling, intended as a form of military signaling directed at Norway and NATO.

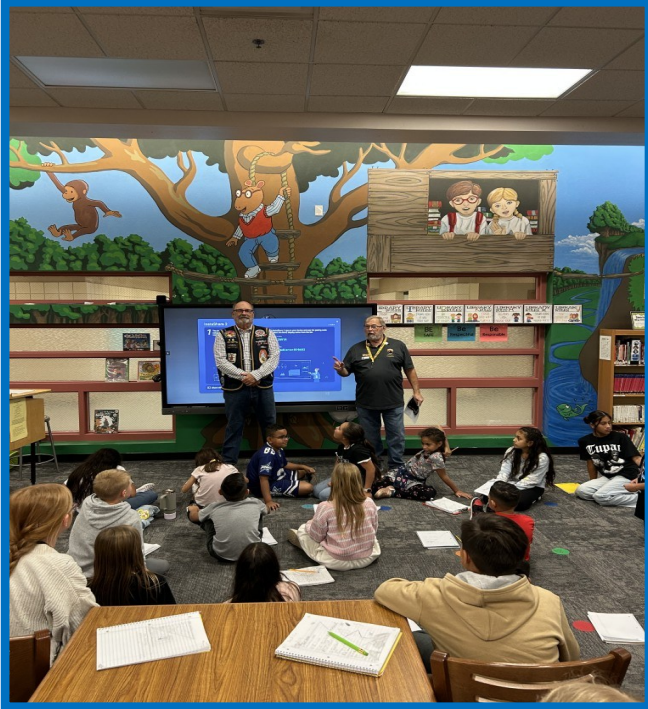
Earlier this week, NATO and allied forces began a major military exercise across northern Finland, Norway and Sweden. The Cold Response 26 exercise brings together around 25,000 troops from 14 countries to train for the defense of NATO’s northern flank in winter conditions.

As part of the exercise scenario, troops are moving from northern Norway into both Sweden and Finland.

Cold Response will run until 21 March.

Contributed by our shipmate Donald Unser: *“When asked what I did to make life worthwhile in my lifetime....I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, “I served in the United States Navy Submarine Force, “The Silent Service”!.*

Previous Quarter Highlights



GILBERT PRESENTATIONS

The Gilbert Veterans Advisory Board sponsored educational presentations for fourth grade students at 13 elementary schools in Gilbert in November and December of 2025. These presentations covered the history of the USS Arizona BB 39, the attack on Pearl Harbor at the beginning of WWII, and an introduction to the new USS Arizona SSN 803 and Gilbert's role as its sponsor city. Perch Base member Joe Trotter was a co-presenter at seven of these schools. This picture shows Joe with a co-presenter Army Vietnam veteran Jim Lykins.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Perch Base Annual Awards Banquet was held Saturday, January 17, 2026.



The Guest Speaker, Capt. Robert Bogan, Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Center, Phoenix, AZ.



(l-r) Perch Base Commander David Heighway inducting new Holland Club Member John McKee.

Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

(Annual Awards Banquet continued)

Perch Base Commander David Heighway then conducted the Holland Club Induction Ceremony. The Holland Club is a special group of members of the United States Submarine Veterans who have been designated "Qualified in Submarines" by the United States Navy for 50 or more years. They dared to do what others feared and went where others dared not. They hold pride in whom and what they were and are today. Pride in whom and what they represent today, the United States Submarine Veterans, and pride in the Silver or Gold Dolphins on their chests. As the ceremony started, Perch Base Commander David Heighway had all the Holland Club members stand to honor the new inductees. The Holland Club Induction was performed for John McKee.

Perch Base Commander David Heighway announced our Chief of the Boat (COB) John Kirby as the recipient of the "Sailor of the Year" award. Unfortunately, John had a "last minute" callout at work and was unable to be present at the banquet.

Perch Base Commander David Heighway welcomed our Guest Speaker, Capt. Robert Bogan, Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Center, Phoenix, AZ. We were aware that Capt. Bogan's first at sea assignment was the USS MICHIGAN (SSBN-727) BLUE. While there, he served as the Reactor Controls Assistant, Electrical Assistant, Main Propulsion Assistant and Assistant Weapons Officer. CAPT Bogan's next assignment was at Commander Submarine Group Seven where he served as a Submarine Watch Officer and then as the Korean Exercises and Plans Officer. We weren't aware until discussed by Capt. Bogan, how important the Navy reserves are to the support of the active submarine fleet. In honor of his presentation, Perch Base Commander David Heighway gave Capt. Bogan a Perch Base Challenge Coin and a Certificate of Appreciation.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Two Perch Base members, Webmaster Dan Marks and Joe Trotter, attended the Missing In America Project (MIAP) Procession and Interment Ceremony at the National Cemetery of Arizona on January 21, 2026. The Missing In America Project (Arizona) led this Interment with Honors of 19 Forgotten and Unclaimed American Veterans and 2 spouses from Maricopa County, Arizona.

The Purpose of Missing In America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes like these 19 brave veterans and 2 spouses of Arizona.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



LAVEEN COMMUNITY PARADE

Eleven Perch Base members and two guests participated on January 31, 2026, in the 25th Annual Laveen Community Parade.

This year's theme was "Laveen Vibes". The crowds along the side of the parade route expressed their appreciation of our service as our float went by.

USS PHOENIX ART

Our Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) February 2026 Meeting included a presentation by Artist Steve Voita. Steve rode the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) as a civilian and created a painting (7 feet wide) that shows the bridge and sailplanes. Additionally, the painting includes the light cruiser USS Phoenix (CL-46), which survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and participated in World War II in the Pacific. She was later decommissioned on 3 July 1946 after WWII and then sold to Argentina on 9 April 1951. She was renamed ARA General Belgrano, and ultimately was sunk during the Falklands War in 1982 with the loss of 323 lives by the British nuclear-powered submarine HMS Conqueror, the only ship ever sunk in combat by a nuclear-powered submarine.



Steve's original painting hung on display in the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport in 1989 as an "Exhibit Honoring Past and Present USS Phoenix Naval Ships and Crews" when the City of Phoenix adopted the USS Phoenix (SSN-702). The original painting was later removed from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and is now on display at the Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat in Young, Arizona, east of Payson. A smaller copy of the painting is on display in our meeting room at Dillon's KC BBQ Arrowhead, 20585 N 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308.

Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



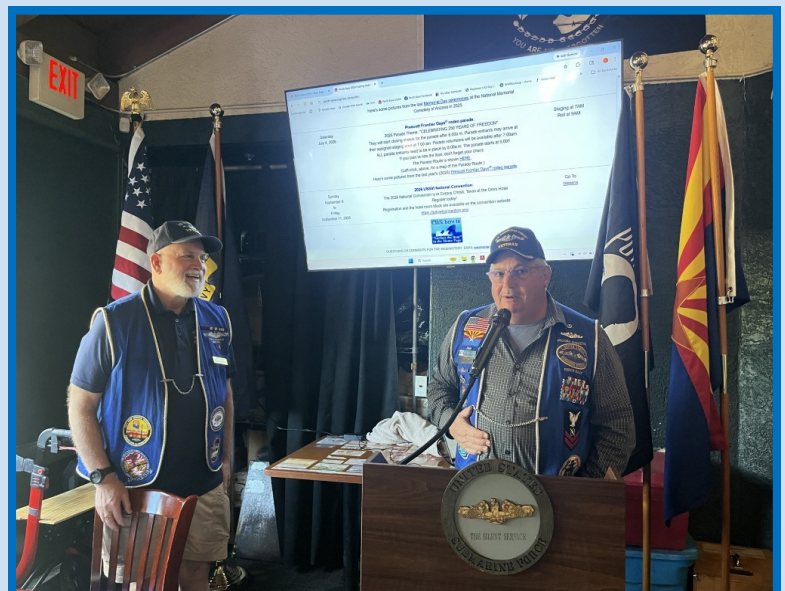
BRAVO ZULU KIRBY

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) February 2026 Meeting included a presentation of the "Sailor of the Year" award to our Chief of the Boat (COB) Kirby Anderson.

The award was announced at the Annual Awards Banquet on January 17, 2026, but Kirby was unable to attend because he was out-of-town on business. Congratulations to Kirby Anderson on this well-earned recognition.

MARCH BASE MEETING

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) March 2026 base meeting on 03/14/26 included a presentation of 25 year longevity award pins to our Perch Base Treasurer Kevin Sheehan and Chuck Emmett, a Perch Base Past Base Commander, a presentation of the construction of the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float from 2007 to 2008 by Jim Denzien, another Past Perch Base Commander and current Base Historian, and the reelection of Don Robertson as our Base Vice Commander.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



SAN DIEGO PADRES vs. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Perch Base Submarine Veterans (USSVI) attended a Spring Training ballgame with the San Diego Padres and the San Francisco Giants. A **"Bravo Zulu"** to our Perch Base Membership Chairman, Paul Miller, for organizing the event. A great time was had by all. What better way **"for all Submariners to**



gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment" as stated in our CREED!

PCU-803 VISITS AZ DIAMONDBACKS vs. CHICAGO CUBS

On March 18, 2026, The five members of the Prospective Commissioning Unit (PCU) crew of the USS Arizona Submarine (SSN-803) at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River, adjacent to the ballpark. (l-r:) LCDR(SS) Willis McShane, Navigator & Acting XO; MMN2(SS) Nathaniel Pollinger; ETN2(SS) James Davis; MMN1(SS) Micah Buck; CPO LSSC(SS) Juan Acevedo, Leading Logistics Specialist. The farthest on the right is Nicole LaSlavic, President and CEO of the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation who accompanied the crew at the game. Joe Trotter and Paul Miller attended and represented Perch Base.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)



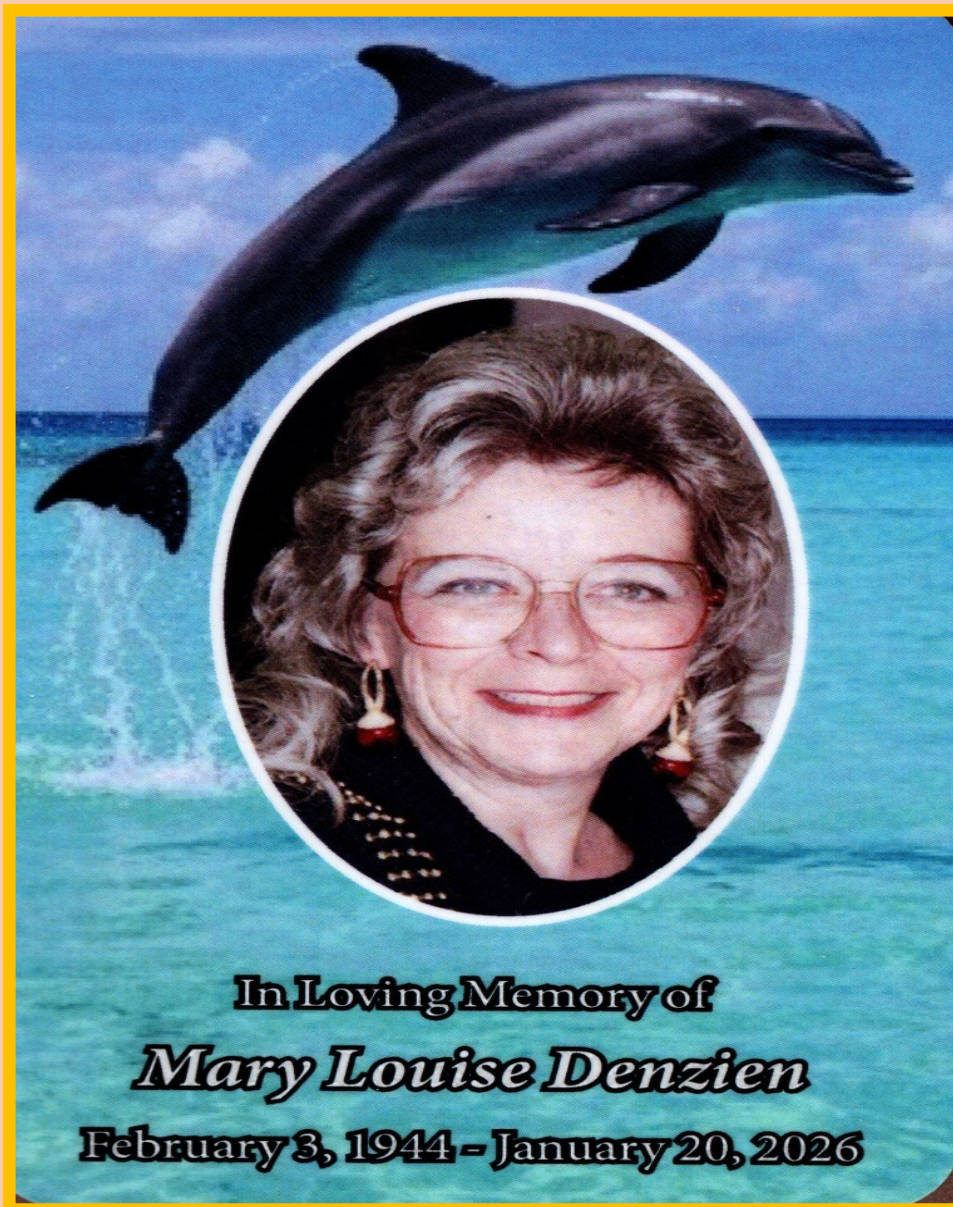
PCU-803 MEET & GREET AT COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Four Perch Base USSVI members (Dave Heighway, Chris Gahan, Bob Gilmore & Joe Trotter) participated in a "Meet and Greet" with 5 members of the Pre-Commissioning Crew of the USS Arizona (SSN-803) fast attack submarine at the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa, Arizona on Monday, March 16, 2026. Thanks, in particular to Joe Trotter and Bob Gilmore for their input and photos presented in this webpage. After the five 803 crew members went on a ride in the B-25J Mitchell, "Maid in the Shade," a twin-engine medium bomber used in WWII, the Commemorative Air Force had a brief presentation about their mission and introduced the five PCU Arizona crew members. Following the presentations, the four Perch Base members, the five SSN-803 crew members and two members of the Arizona Legacy Foundation had lunch at Rancho de Tia Rosa restaurant in Mesa.



Back row L-R:) Jonathan VanNoy, Master Chief Ret.; ETN2 James Davis, RC Division; MMN2 Nathaniel Pollinger, M Division; MMN1 Micha Buck, RL Division; SKC Juan Acevedo Supply Division. (Front row L-R:) Nicole LaSavic, USS Arizona Legacy Foundation President and CEO; LCDR Will McShane, Navigator/XO; Karrin Taylor Robson, USS Arizona Legacy Foundation Board of Directors.

In the Spotlight



MARY DENZIEN

We regret to inform our membership that we were notified by Perch Base Life Member, Holland Club Member, and Past Base Commander Jim Denzien that his wife, Mary Denzien, passed away January 20, 2026. Our condolences to Jim and his family. Most Perch Base members will remember Mary routinely attending meetings and events with Jim. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the American Legion Post 29, 6822 N. 58th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

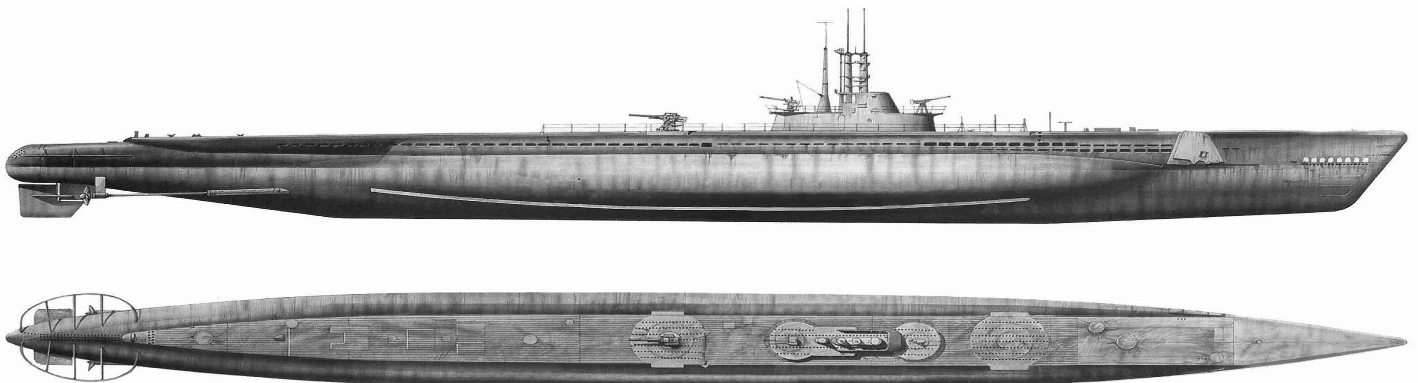
In the Spotlight



SUBMARINE DOLPHIN INSIGNIA ANNIVERSARY MARCH 24, 1924

The U.S. Navy Submarine Warfare Insignia ("Dolphins") was officially approved for wear on March 24, 1924, by Acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt Jr. after being proposed by Captain Ernest J. King in the summer of 1923, while serving as Commander, Submarine Division Three, the design features a bow view of an O-class submarine flanked by dolphins (mahi-mahi). From 1924–47, "Qualified" enlisted personnel wore an embroidered cloth version of this design on their right sleeve, midway between the wrist and elbow. Officers wore a gold-plated metal pin on their left breast above their ribbons and medals. In 1947, new regulations dictated that enlisted personnel wear the embroidered insignia on their left breast—in the same position as officers. When the Navy began allowing officers to embroider a gold insignia on their uniforms in 1950, enlisted personnel were allowed to wear a silver-plated metal version of the pin.

This article was submitted by our shipmate Bob Saenz (Bob da COB.)



In the Spotlight

SUBSEQUENTLY

HOW SUBMARINE HABITS FIND THEIR WAY INTO CIVILIAN LIFE AFTERWARDS

Many thanks for my fellow sub sailors on the FaceBook site: Cold War Submarine Veterans

Taking a 2 minute shower... or an ENDLESS SHOWER!

Remaining very calm during civilian emergencies, when others freak out.



Sleeping with a fan pointed at your kisser.



Using 'Say Again' instead of 'Excuse me?'

Verbatim repeat backs AYE!

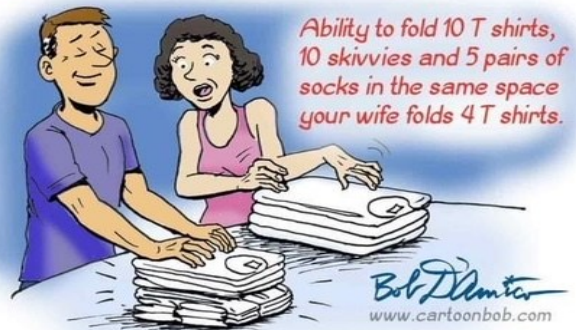
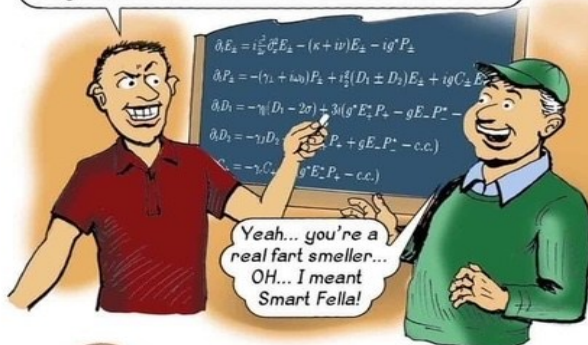


Endrun out-of-the-box thinking... great problem solving.



Sleep anywhere... OK with multiple wake-ups.

Bet you don't know the I.Q. needed to become a sub sailor!



Bob Danton
www.cartoonbob.com



Hooter Hilites • A Publication of the USS Sea Owl Association • Web Site: <http://www.usseaowl.com>
We still give a hoot! • June 2015 Issue



A graphic at the top of the page features two spotlights, one on the left and one on the right, both pointing towards the center. A bright yellow beam of light from the spotlights illuminates the text below. The text reads "In the Spotlight" in a large, black, serif font. The word "Spotlight" is significantly larger than "In the".

In the Spotlight

HOW TO DRIVE IN PHOENIX:

1. You must first learn to pronounce the city name, it is: FEE-nicks. There are other names to learn such as Awatukee (Ah-wa-TOO-Kee) but that will be included in the advanced course.
2. The morning rush hour is from 5:00 am to noon. The evening rush hour is from noon to 7:00 pm. Friday's rush hour starts on Thursday morning.
3. The minimum acceptable speed on most freeways is 85 mph. On Loop 101, your speed is expected to at least match the highway number. Anything less is considered 'Wussy'.
4. Forget the traffic rules you learned elsewhere. Phoenix has its own version of traffic rules. For example, cars/trucks with the loudest muffler go first at a four-way stop; the trucks with the biggest tires go second. However, in the East Valley, SUV-driving, cell phone-talking moms ALWAYS have the right of way.
5. If you actually stop at a yellow light, you will be rear ended, cussed out, and possibly shot.
6. Never honk at anyone. Ever. Seriously. It's another offense that can get you shot.
7. Road construction is permanent and continuous in Phoenix. Detour barrels are moved around for your entertainment and pleasure during the middle of the night to make the next day's driving a bit more exciting.
8. Watch carefully for road hazards such as drunks, skunks, dogs, barrels, cones, cows, horses, cats, mattresses, shredded tires, squirrels, rabbits, crows, vultures, javelinas, roadrunners, and the coyotes feeding on any of these items.
9. Maricopa Freeway, Papago Freeway and the 'I-10' are the same road. SR202 is the same road as The Red Mountain FWY. Dunlap and Olive are the same street too. Jefferson becomes Washington, but they are not the same street. SR 101 is also the Pima FWY except west of I-17, which is also The Black Canyon FWY, and The Veterans Memorial HWY. Lastly, Thunderbird Rd. becomes Cactus Rd. but, Cactus Rd. doesn't become Thunderbird Rd. because it dead ends at a mountain.
10. If someone actually has their turn signal on, wave them to the shoulder immediately to let them know it has been accidentally activated.
11. If you are in the left lane and only driving 70 in a 55-65 mph zone, you are considered a road hazard and will be 'flipped off' accordingly. If you return the flip, you'll be shot.
12. For summer driving, it is advisable to wear potholders on your hands.

Submitted by our shipmate Domald Unser: *"When asked what I did to make life worthwhile in my lifetime....I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy Submarine Force, "The Silent Service"!"*

Upcoming Events

Remember to check the [Perch Base website](#) and watch for Flash Traffic emails for the most up-to-date information.

Monthly General Meetings:

Saturday's, 9 May and 13 June 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:

This year all Arizona-based USSVI members from all AZ bases are invited to join Perch Base for our annual picnic festivities on National Submarine Day at the Paloma Community Park in Peoria, Arizona. **For Perch-base members, this event is going to serve as a concurrent monthly meeting, in lieu of meeting at Dillon's Arrowhead.** This year, we have reserved the entire East Ramadas #6, #7, & #8, so we won't have to "compete" with an adjacent party like last year! These ramadas are next to the ones we've used in previous years. View [ramada #6, #7, & #8](#) locations at the park. The base officers will be hosting/cracking and there will be steak burgers, hot dogs, and hot brats grilled to order. Each participating member/family is asked to provide a single picnic appropriate side dish for the mutual enjoyment of all to partake.
[Paloma Community Park 29799 N. Lake Pleasant Pkwy, Peoria, AZ 85383](#)

Western Regional Roundup:

will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from Thursday, April 16, 2026 thru Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall.

[5111 Boulder Hwy. Las Vegas, NV 89122](#) (Left-click address, for a Google map.)

Visit the [Roundup website](#) for more details.

This 2026 Western Region Roundup is hosted by USSVI Base 51.

Registration and sponsorship forms are available on the [Roundup website](#) and a Link to get the discount hotel rate is [HERE](#).

2026 USSVI National Convention:

The is scheduled from Sunday, September 6 to Friday, September 11. The 2026 National Convention is in Corpus Christi, Texas at the Omni Hotel. **Register today!** Registration and the hotel room block are available on the convention website: <https://subvetconvention.org/>.

Deadline for the Midwatch Newsletter second 2026 edition:

All articles, reports, and sea stories must be sent to Chris Gahan, Perch Base Newsletter Editor, to be included in the second quarter, 2026 Midwatch Newsletter, by Friday, March 20th , 2026.

Please watch for updates on the [Perch Base website](#) and Flash Traffic emails as events may be canceled, added or amended.

First Quarter Birthdays

APRIL

- 1 Robert Faulkner
- 12 Frank Hausen
- 13 James Baker
- 14 Rick Simmons
- 16 James Edwards
- 18 Tom Fairly III
- 20 Ed Sarlo
- 22 Billy Johnson
- 30 Davy Jones

MAY

- 2 Donald Schafer
- 3 Doyle Egg
- 3 Bernie Jacques
- 7 Stanley Reinhold
- 8 Ramon Samson
- 11 George Woods
- 12 James Tolsma
- 13 Duane Kanitz
- 17 Steve Bathazor
- 23 Randy Pirkle
- 24 George Gillette
- 25 Donald Robertson
- 26 Vic Van Horn
- 29 Charles Tobias
- 30 Carl Scott

JUNE

- 3 James Newman
- 4 Patrick Habel
- 4 Steven Snyder
- 7 Robert "Matt" Hayball
- 11 Glenn Posniack
- 12 Gerald Maly
- 17 Don Petty
- 17 John Brown
- 19 Michael Weeks
- 20 David Frock
- 20 James Ratte
- 22 Frank Elliot
- 23 Kenneth Kennedy
- 27 James Evans



Binnacle List

Keep these shipmates in your prayers

Howard Doyle Jr.

Jim Denzien

Chuck Emmett

Davy Jones

Barbara Cosgrove

Laura Anderson

Howard Goldman

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

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

2026 Perch Base Operations

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts (1 October 2025 thru 30 September 2026) to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do. The list reflects donation as of March 31, 2026

Curt Morgan	“Noisy Can”	Cynthia Morgan
John Carpentier	Howard Enloe	Thomas Farley III
David Fyock	Chris Gahan	Georgianne Gahan
Alan Miller	David Heighway	Governor Joy
Douglas La Rock	DeWayne Lober	Chuck Luna
Jerry Allston	Dan Marks	Laura Luna
Steven Sanger	James Andrews	John Brown
Howard Goldman	James Paper	Michael Dahl
Michael Haler	Donald Schafer	Billy Deshong
Howard Doyle	Patrick Habel	Paul Miller
Linda Hayball	John Manning	James Glass
George Woods	Margaret Robinson	Kevin Sheehan
Carl Miner	John Beckett	Elbert Huber
Kirby Anderson	CC Clarke	Don Robertson
Robert Hayball	Don Unser	Marcia Unser
Joe Trotter	Holly Anne Walker	

Perch Base

CLASSIFIEDS

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Reach your fellow Base Members directly.*

Everything is acceptable.**



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/or MidWatch editor to be inappropriate. Decisions of the Board and editor are final.



Josh Hockenbraugh
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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.

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Learn, Honor, Remember

Coming Soon to Downtown Phoenix, Arizona

The USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) Cold War Monument

Become Part of the Monument!
Buy a Paver!

100% Design Review Approved

Estimated Construction Start Date Summer 2026

Become a Permanent Part of the Monument

Purchase a Paver for the Flagpole Entryway or the Bow of the Submarine Monument for yourself or to commemorate a loved one.

To purchase use the QR Code to the right.

Time is Running Out - Place Your Order

Only 400 Spaces Available – Buy Now!



A Cold War Monument featuring the Sail and Rudder of the

USS PHOENIX (SSN 702)

To be constructed in Steele Indian School Park next to the Arizona State Veteran Home Phoenix and the Phoenix VA Hospital



USS Arizona Legacy Foundation

The USS Arizona Legacy Foundation is dedicated to supporting the commissioning of the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name Arizona. Our vision is to honor the memory of the USS Arizona BB-39 while shaping the future legacy of the USS Arizona (SSN-803) Virginia-class fast attack submarine.

OUR MISSION

Celebrate

We are thrilled to celebrate the addition of the USS Arizona submarine to our Naval Fleet. Join us for a series of grand festivities and community events as we honor this monumental occasion.

Educate

We strive to educate future generations about the history and significance of the Pearl Harbor, USS Arizona battleship, and the brave men who served aboard her. Through our educational programs and resources, we keep their legacy alive.

Support

We are committed to supporting the crew of the USS Arizona submarine and fostering a lasting bond between them and the citizens of Arizona. Our initiatives ensure ongoing support throughout the life of the boat.

**Donate
Today !**

P.O. Box 10802, Tempe, AZ, 85248

Ussazlegacy.org

602-616-7664