



The MidWatch™

The Quarterly Newsletter

Perch Base, USSVI Phoenix, Arizona

WWW.PERCH-BASE.ORG



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USSVI CREED

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"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."



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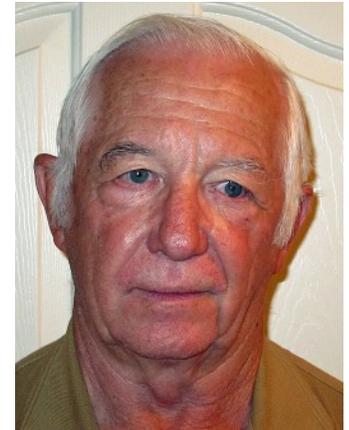
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Summer always seems to be slow for Perch Base and this year looks to be no exception. With the exception of a scheduled Base meetings, we really don't have any all-base functions until Gudgeon Base's picnic in late August. (Details on this event will be sent later.)

But we left our Base's active season with a "whiz bang" Fourth of July parade in Prescott. Not only was this event well attended by our Base members, it looked to be the heaviest viewed parade we had ever been in, certainly in recent memory, with crowds 10 to 12 people deep over the entire route. It was good to again really feel appreciated.

So, don't forget our August meeting on the 8th, and September's on the 12th of that month. As stated, details on the Gudgeon picnic in August will be sent in a Flash Traffic later.

Chuck Emmett
Base Commander



Email: Vice-Commander@perch-base.org
COB@perch-base.org

The members that attended to Gudgeon Base picnic last month enjoyed cool weather, good food and overall a good time. Gudgeon Base inducted two of their members into the Holland Club and Perch Base stole back the "Traveling Dolphins" with a Sea Story told by Jim Andrews. The dolphins will be on display at the September meeting. We urge all of you to try to attend the Veterans Days events we are participating in the month of November (1 static and 3 parades so far). For future planning purposes try to attend the Western District Roundup in Laughlin, NV (first week in May 2016) and the USSVI National Convention (in Reno, NV Aug 12-16, 2016).



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VACANT

Email: Chaplain@perch-base.org



Email: events@perch-base.org

See the most recent information on upcoming events on the Perch-Base.org website under the "Hot Items" link.

If contacted by someone wishing Perch Base to participate in their event, please forward the request to Don.



"Member Mogul"
Membership Chairman's Message

JIM ANDREWS

Email: Membership@perch-base.org



Look for membership renewal information coming in late September or early October. DON'T BE A DINK!



HISTORIAN

Chuck Luna

Email: historian@perch-base.org



Email: webmaster@perch-base.org

During the past quarter, our Perch Base website page views have risen from about 10,000 to 10,457. I am staggered by the magnitude of the traffic and about 28% of that traffic is from within Arizona, so I will assume that is from YOU. If there is anything I can do to increase your interest or participation, please let me know with an email to webmaster@perch-base.org. I have been trying to make the main page more dynamic with pictures and links to recent Perch Base events and memorials to perpetuate the memory of departed shipmates.

One of the most common posts in our Facebook group is a request for event times, locations and directions. I am working with the Board of Directors to try to post event details, such as times and locations earlier. Sometimes we just don't get those details from the event organizers until the "last minute," but sometimes the Board just isn't sharing what we know in a timely manner. Don't forget that Facebook includes a feature to "View Map." Once the map is open, you can have it give directions from your current location or from another location of your choice. I have included the same feature on the HOT ITEMS page of our Perch Base website. Just left-click on the address.

I am also interested in hearing from those of you that use our new Facebook group. I see some "likes," which I value highly, but I'm not sure if you want me to simply duplicate what is added to the website, or you want something different. I put almost anything new on the website on our Facebook page, also. One exception is Flash Traffics. Since they are already emailed to every Perch Base member, I haven't been copying Flash Traffics to the Facebook group. There has been an occasional "like" in response to one of my Facebook posts, and even fewer posts by other members on the Facebook group, but it is mostly a one-way conversation.

Our Facebook page is a closed group, only for Perch Base members. In contrast, our web site is open to any viewers. Although the majority of visitors to the website are outside of Arizona, YOU are my audience, and you are the ones I want to serve. Just keep me posted how I can best serve you.

You can reach me at webmaster@perch-base.org, or talk to me at a meeting.



Email: secretary@perch-base.org

Please see the website for copies of the meeting minutes



LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

Tolling of the Boats for June

USS Herring, (SS-233): Lost on June 1, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. Herring was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower and causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. Herring was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

USS R-12 (SS-89): Lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

USS Golet (SS-361): Lost on June 14, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. On her 2nd war patrol, Golet was apparently lost in battle with antisubmarine forces north of Honshu.

USS Bonefish (SS-223): Lost on June 18, 1945 with the loss of 85 men when sunk near Suzu Misaki. Winner of 3 Navy Unit Citations, Bonefish was on her 8th war patrol. After sinking a passenger-cargoman, Bonefish was subjected to a savage depth charge attack.

USS S-27 (SS-132): Lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescue.

USS O-9 (SS-70): Lost on Jun 20, 1941 with the loss of 33 men when it foundered off Isle of Shoals, 15 miles from Portsmouth, NH.

USS Runner (SS-275): Lost between June 26 & July 4, 1943 with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargoman off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

Tolling of the Boats for July

USS S-28 (SS-133): Lost on July 4, 1944 with the loss of 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, and Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28 sank. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

USS Robalo (SS-273): Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

USS Grunion (SS-216): Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

Tolling of the Boats for August

USS Bullhead (SS-332): Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

USS Flier (SS-250): Lost on August 13, 1944, with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly navies guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin (SS-272).

USS S-39 (SS-144): Lost on August 13, 1942 after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

USS Harder (SS-257): Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously. Harder is ed for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

USS Cochino (SS-345): Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.

Tolling of the Boats for September

USS S-5 (SS-110): Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

USS Grayling (SS-209): Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

USS Pompano (SS-181): Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.

USS S-51 (SS-162): Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

USS Cisco (SS-290): Lost on Sept 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with the loss of 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindinao.

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

Tolling of the Boats for October

USS Seawolf (SS-197): Lost on Oct 3, 1944 with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

USS S-44 (SS-155): Lost on Oct 7, 1943 with the loss of 56 men when it was sunk off Paramushiru, Kuriles. S-44 was on her 5th war patrol after attacking a target thought to be a merchant on the surface, S-44 found herself in a losing gun battle with a heavily armed Japanese destroyer. Two men were taken prisoner and survived the war.

USS Wahoo (SS-238): Lost on Oct 11, 1943 with the loss of 80 men near La Perouse Strait. Under command of one of the great sub skippers of World War II, LCDR "Mush" Morton, Wahoo was on her 7th war patrol. Wahoo had won a Presidential Unit Citation and ranks 5th in the number of enemy ships sunk. She was lost to depth charges dropped by a Japanese patrol aircraft.

USS Dorado (SS-248): Lost on Oct 12, 1943 with the loss of 77 men when she was sunk in the western Atlantic near Cuba. Newly commissioned, she had departed New London and was enroute to Panama. She may have been sunk by a U.S. patrol plane that received faulty instructions regarding bombing restriction areas or a German U-boat that was in the vicinity.

USS Escolar (SS-294): Lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.

USS Shark II (SS-314): Lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.

USS Darter (SS-227): Lost on Oct 24, 1944 when she became grounded on Bombay Shoal off Palawan and was then destroyed to prevent her falling into enemy hands intact. The entire crew was rescued by USS Dace. Winner of one Navy Unit Commendation, Darter had sunk a heavy cruiser and damaged another and went aground while attempting an "end around" on an enemy formation in hopes of getting in an attack on a battleship.

USS Tang (SS-306): Lost on Oct 25, 1944 with the loss of 78 men in the Formosa Strait. Tang was on her 5th war patrol. Tang ranks 2nd in the number of ships sunk and 4th in tonnage, and had won two Presidential Unit Citations. During a daring night surface attack, Tang was lost to a circular run by one of her own torpedoes. Nine of the crew were taken prisoner, including CDR. O'Kane and five who had gained the surface from her final resting place 180 feet below. All survived the war, and CDR O'Kane was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

USS O-5 (SS-66): Lost on October 29, 1923 with the loss of 3 men when rammed and sunk by SS Abangarez off the Panama Canal.

Western District #1

District Commanders Comments



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Shipmates:

Western District 1 continues to do well. The attendance at the annual picnic hosted by Perch Base attended with representatives from four of the six Arizona bases present. We were blessed with great weather and everyone had a good time.

The convention in Pittsburgh is the next major event on the USSVI calendar. The dates are September 7 to September 12. If you plan on attending, get your registration in now. The registration form is in the latest edition of the American Submariner. The convention is a great opportunity to reconnect with your old shipmates.

Fair winds and following seas!



Newsletter Editor/Treasurer

Email:

newsletter@perch-base.org or treasurer@perch-base.org

Shipmates:

This newsletter is late

I will endeavor to complete this task in a more timely fashion in the future.



Sage Words of Wisdom . . .
from the past Base Commander
Howard Doyle

Email: past-commander@perch-base.org



Arizona Silent Service Memorial

ASSM UPDATE

Fundraising has started!

Visit the ASSM website at: ArizonaSilentServiceMemorial.org

Buy a brick! This is a great way “To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country”.



2015 Perch Base Operations Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.



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(This card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage and park for the November Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought if you need tires or service.)

