

## From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

It's hard to believe but this is my first anniversary *From the Wardroom* article. It has been an interesting year, a good learning experience, and for me, personally rewarding. I've had the good fortune of participating two of my boat reunions, our National Convention and the Western Region Conference. In each of these events, I've made new friends, renewed old acquaintances and have enjoyed some memorable experiences.

Our base remains healthy. Even with the expansion of offshoot bases and other types of attrition, we are managing to maintain our membership level by attracting new members and acquiring some relocation memberships from other bases. Our membership level remains at 145 to 150 members which I believe has been consistent for the past two or three years. However, we should not get complacent and we need everyone's help in soliciting new members through our collective efforts. I know there are many other shipmates out there who do not know we exist and we need more creative ideas on how we can reach out, find them and recruit them.

We have faced the challenge of losing our meeting facility and through the efforts of shipmate Jim Edwards found a new facility that is willing to take care of our meeting needs as well as the needs of the SubVettes. It seems that whenever we are faced with situations which test our will and fortitude, we can always depend on shipmates to step up to the plate and meet these challenges, overcome any obstacles with which we are faced and move on in a positive direction.

We have experienced our share of joy and sorrow this past year. The simple joys of sharing quality time with friends and shipmates through meetings, reunions, and special events such as picnics, planned outings and holiday festivities. The special joy of experiencing friends and loved ones recover from serious illnesses and medical conditions. At times like these it is easy to see how truly blessed we really are. And then there is the extreme sorrow we have experienced in losing shipmates who have departed on eternal patrol . . . *sailors rest your oars*. They will most certainly be missed among our ranks but will never be forgotten. We must remain steadfast and vigilant in perpetuating their memory as well as those who have passed on before. This is, of course, an important part of our mission.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the other officers, board members, SubVettes and shipmates who have provided me assistance in the pursuit of my duties. I could not adequately fulfill my responsibilities without this support group and I am sincerely grateful. Thank you all.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

## March Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105 Phoenix, AZ at 1306 hours, 18 March 2006. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

The members were led in a prayer of Invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were twenty-nine (31) members at the meeting. The members welcomed new members George Debo and Bernie Fromm after which George and Bernie briefed the attendees on their submarine experiences.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried.

Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of March, 2006. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried.

### **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

**Base Vice Commander** – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

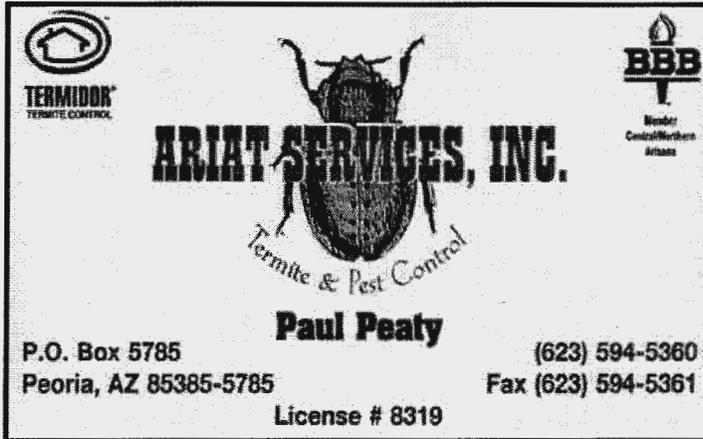
**Base Chief of the Boat** – Bob Gilmore had nothing to report.

**Base Chaplain** – Howard Doyle had nothing to report.

**Membership Chairman** – Ramon Samson reported that there are still members who have not renewed their membership for 2006. Ray also asked member that knew the delinquent members, to help contact them and find out the reasons they aren't renewing their membership.

**Webmaster** – Ramon Samson had nothing new to report.

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett urged members who wanted information included in the news letter to get the information to him as early as possible and at least by Friday one week before the monthly meeting.



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**Ship's Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson reported that several special order items have still not been picked up.

Western Regional Director, Dave Harnish, reported that the Western Regional Conference held in Reno, Nevada was a notable success with 72 SubVets attending the regional meeting. Dave also indicated that there is a move afoot to hold the National Convention and Regional Conferences on alternating years. This would provide more incentive for members to attend the Regional meetings.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that the annual picnic is being held on March 25 at the Maricopa Live Steamers Railroad Park. The menu for the event will include BBQ and hot dogs. SubVets from the Base in Tuc-

son, White Mountain and Prescott have been invited and some are expected to attend.

Tim also announced that the Memorial Committee will be visiting the Perch Memorial to assess the problems with the torpedo pedestal so that corrective action can be taken prior to Memorial Day services.

Everyone was encouraged to explore different ways for contacting and recruiting submarine veterans in the area to invite them to become members of USSVI and Perch Base.

The members were reminded of the upcoming US SubVets WWII Southwest Regional Caucus to be held April 12 thru 14 in Laughlin, Nevada. Members that are able to attend are encouraged to support and help at the meeting to take on some of the chores associated with the meeting.

Tim also announced that Perch Base has made a \$500 donation to the USSVI Archive restoration project and challenged other bases to match the contribution in an effort to stimulate contributions to the project.

Glenn Herold – District 1 Commander – Glenn Herold announced that White Mountain Base will be holding a golf tournament to raise money for charitable purposes. Jim Klewett also has invited Perch members with RVs to camp at his home while attending the tournament. The RV accommodations at Jim's home are fully equipped and conveniently located.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that the annual Memorial Day Services will be held at the Phoenix National Cemetery followed by a SubVets service at the Perch Memorial. The ceremonies will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Those attending should plan on arriving prior to 800 hours in order to find convenient parking near the ceremonies.

All the SubVets of WWII were recognized and applauded.

Perch Base will enter the Base Web Site and Newsletter in the national competition for 2006. Since the Base received first runner-up in these categories in 2005, everyone hopes the Base can win the first prize this year.



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Dave Harnish announced that nominations for election to the District One Commanders office are open until the end of May. Anyone knowing someone that would be a good candidate for the position should forward their names as nominees.

Dave Harnish moved that the slate of officers for 2006 be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Frank Rumbaugh announced that there will be a special event organized to induct the 2006 Holland Club members. The particulars of the event will be announced or published in approximately 90 days.

Ray Samson announced that all but 10 members have renewed their membership in the Base.

Gudgeon Base Commander - Jack Messersmith announced that John Dudas of Gudgeon Base has managed to convince the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors to issue a proclamation recognizing April 11<sup>th</sup> for it being the 106<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Submarine Service. Gudgeon Base members will attend the meeting where the proclamation is to be read.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Tim Moore introduced a letter from J. K. Davis who was the former skipper of U.S.S. Perch SS-313 advising members that he has a collection of memorabilia from the Perch II including some pieces of teak from the deck.

It was announced that the guest speaker for the April meeting of the USAF Pilots Assoc. will be Col. Allan Gaugert.

Dave Harnish reported that Perch Base representatives will be attending the second Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1330 hours on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ray Samson announced that SubVet Wife Judy Wannamaker has donated two of Don's books "U.S. Navy" and "U.S. Submarines" to be raffled at the Base picnic.

Glenn Herold announced that Yuma's Barbel Base has managed to recruit Les Parsons (former skipper of the Trieste).

Tim Moore presented Chuck Emmett with a letter of commendation for the Perch Base Newsletter's being recognized for its quality and content. Perch Base was selected as First Runner-Up for the Best USSVI Newsletter of 2005.

### **50/50 DRAWING**

A drawing was held to award the winner with a book. The lucky winner was Jim Newman. The 50/50 drawing was also held and the winner was Frank Rumbaugh.

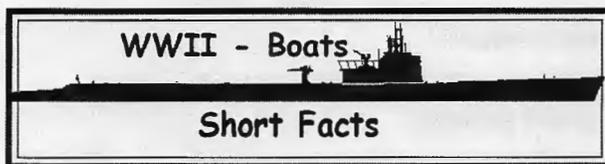
Prior to adjournment, a moment of silence was called for to commemorate the life of WWII SubVet Vern Speed who had recently departed on eternal patrol.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1401 hours.

Ed Brooks, Secretary, Perch Base



- The first Japanese casualty to American arms during WW-II was an aircraft shot down on Dec. 7th, 1941 by the USS Tautog.
- The first submarine force casualty suffered in WW-II was G. A. Myers, Seaman 2, shot through the right lung when USS Cachalot was strafed during the Pearl Harbor raid.
- The first "live" torpedoes to be fired by a Pearl Harbor submarine were fired by the USS Triton, four stern tubes fired on the night of Dec. 10, 1941.
- The first Pearl Harbor boat to be depth charged was the USS Plunger on Jan. 4, 1942, 24 charges.
- The first "down the throat" shot was fired by USS Pompano on Jan. 17, 1942.