

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

It has been a busy month for float usage: a parade in Flagstaff; a Memorial Day Remembrance at the Goodyear Marketplace; the annual Memorial Day Observance at the National Cemetery. All events went well and were better attended by base members. Thanks for participating!

BRAVO ZULU to Bob Gilmore for his work on the torpedo at the cemetery! BRAVO ZULU to Chuck Emmett for the "Tolling for the Boats"! The Tolling Ceremony was well attended by non-submariners.

We have a new Chaplain. Shipmate Walt Blomgren has stepped up and volunteered to assume those duties. We still need a COB. Contact either Howard Doyle or me if you are interested in this position. I will be asking again on the 13th.

See you at the June meeting.

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

May Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1202 hours, 09 May 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

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

According to the sailing list, twenty-six (26) members and guests were present. Visitors included Steve Day who is a Perch Base member as well as Commander of the White Mountain Base. Also visiting was Bob Snedaker who did the fiber glass work for our float. Two other visitors included Bill Allen and returning member Bill Lund.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the April 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Treasurer Dave Harnish reported the Base's financial status as of 01 May 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Items reported included but were not limited to the following:

1. The possibility of taking our float to the USSVI National Convention in San Diego.
2. Encouraging the membership to get registered for the National Convention which includes the International Submariners Association Convention.
3. Additional funds added to our treasury (SOS account) that were received from the Phoenix Commission as a result of its recent cessation.
4. Future float obligations and the results of recent float activities. Upcoming float obligations include; the Flagstaff Armed Forces Day Parade which will be held on 16 May 2009, the Goodyear Market Place Memorial Day Services on 23 May 2009, the National Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Services on 25, May 2009 and the 4th of July Prescott Frontier Days in Prescott.
5. We recently updated our By-Laws to be in compliance with our national organization. We now are going to review the way we do business and will be updating the Policies and Procedures Manual accordingly. Chuck Emmett and Dave Harnish will be spearheading this project and may be calling on the membership to support this effort. We want to finish this project by the end of this year.

6. We have a draft of a proposed Perch Base budget. The budget items presented were based on what was reported for last year's income and expenditures as well as other activities and past experience and some projected future needs. The budget is a "work in progress" and will be used as a "preliminary budget" for the remainder of this year and will be used as a foundation for future budgets.

7. Jim Denzien spoke with an insurance agent, Mert Bean who was referred by Chuck Emmett. Mert is an independent broker who made a presentation to the Deer Valley Pilots Association. Jim discussed our float needs as well as full spectrum of general coverage for Perch Base based on our activities. Jim received an e-mail confirmation from Mert stating that he would keep us posted as to his progress related to researching our insurance needs.

8. We have been invited to an all Arizona base picnic. Jim received an e-mail from Jack Messersmith, Western District 1 Commander that went out to all base commanders in Arizona from Tautog Base Commander, Stu Hopper. The e-mail stated that the members of Tautog base in Casa Grande have invited all the other Arizona base members to an All Arizona Submarine Base Picnic to be held on 17 Oct 2009 Picacho Peak State Park which is located about half way between Phoenix and Tucson on Interstate 10. Tautog base will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers buns and condiments and further stated that participants should bring their own drinks. The consensus of the board was that we participate along with the other five bases.

9. Jim announced that we need to have meetings of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation and The SOS (Save Our Sail) Foundation. Currently the AZ SubVets Perch Base Foundation directors include Stan Reinhold, Bob Gilmore and Jim Denzien. The SOS Foundation directors include Dave Harnish, Tim Moore and Jim Denzien. We need Perch Base members to participate and be board members for both of these foundations. Dates for meetings will be announced in the near future.

10. We still have yet to come up with an acceptable meeting date to meet with the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department to complete the work on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the Phoenix Memorial project. We also need to follow-up with the landscape architect, Chris Winters, so he can proceed with the things he wants to accomplish from the Phoenix Memorial architectural renderings.

11. Because of the importance of the Float Coordinator Position and the associated float activities, we came to the conclusion that we wanted to make Barry Bowers an active member of the Perch Base Board of Directors. Barry has been informed of this decision and is now the newest member of the board.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander/Chaplain – Howard Doyle, had nothing to report.

Base Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish had nothing to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett suggested that if members could receive our newsletter electronically, it would save the base considerable expense related to printing and postage. Any member who has this capability should let Ray Samson know so you can be added to the electronic distribution list. There is also an official daily newsletter that is available on line. It is called Undersea Enterprise News Daily. Chuck will send out the link via e-mail and Ray will add the link to the website. He will be publishing a float schedule in the newsletter. He reminded the membership that float activity is a base activity and all members are encouraged to participate.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman/Webmaster – Ramon Samson had nothing to report.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers had nothing to report.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Jim Denzien reported on the status of the Perch Memorial at the National Cemetery. He wanted to pass along a Bravo Zulu to Bob Gilmore, who at some time in the past had signed up to be responsible for its maintenance. On a recent inspection, Bob noticed that the large plaque on the front of the memorial was in need of repair because the

black background had been severely scratched. This condition was also reported to us by cemetery personnel including the Director of the cemetery. Bob took it upon himself to take care of the problem and it was reported back that the memorial now looks great.

Jim reiterated that those who plan on attending the USSVI National Convention at the Town & Country Convention Center in San Diego should get their registrations in now.

We are still looking for a new chaplain. Howard Doyle is still acting as chaplain and is also Vice Commander and we would like someone to step up and replace Howard as chaplain to help spread the work load. Also because of Jim Edwards's work and travel schedule, he can no longer continue as COB. So we would like for someone to take over the responsibilities of Chief of the Boat.

New Business

As was mentioned in the Commander's earlier report, there will be an All Arizona Submarine Base Picnic on 17 Oct 2009 from 0800 until 1800 at Picacho Peak State Park locate on Interstate 10 about half way between Phoenix and Tucson. Membership participation is encouraged.

Good of the Order

Jim reported that our participation in the Riverside parade was very well received. Of the three submarine floats in the parade, ours, Tucson Base and the Trieste Base float, our float, by far, was superior to any of the others. Again, we encourage more membership participation in all float events.

Jim reported that Frank Bono, the man that did the welding on our float has been diagnosed with Stage 2 cancer in his lower intestinal track. A card for Frank was passed around for everyone to sign to be sent on to Frank. Frank has been in and out of the hospital and is now recuperating at home. We need to keep him in our prayers.

Tim Moore reported that he sent a letter to the family of Jack McCarthy inquiring about his death. If anyone knows the location of Jack's next-of-kin, please let Tim know. We are seeking information so that we can advise Jack's shipmates that he has gone on Eternal Patrol and make the appropriate announcements in the MidWatch and the American Submariner.

Steve Day announced that White Mountain Base will be sponsoring its annual charity golf tournament on 06 June 2009 in Show Low. The Perch Base membership is cordially invited. All proceeds go to local charities including The Love Kitchen, Hope House & Safe House. Steve announced that this year's tournament is dedicated to the memory of Armand DePrins an associate member of the White Mountain Base. Armand and his wife Simonne were tragically murdered outside of the Wal-Mart in Show Low.

Jim Denzien received information from Marty Zipser (Phoenix Commission) about a shipmate named Joe Bullock IC2(SS) who rode the USS Phoenix from 1983 – 1987 and went to the decommissioning ceremonies. Jim has been corresponding with him via e-mail. Joe told Jim he had a lot of on board pictures of which he made copies and will be sending them to Jim. This will be good to have to utilize with our float display.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Howard Doyle who won \$35.00.

Adjournment

The benediction was offered by Howard Doyle.

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1258 hours.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

