

October Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1210, 10 October 2009. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in October and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol. A moment of silence was also observed in honor of the memory of our shipmate Dave Harnish, who was tragically taken from us on 19 September 2009.

As the first order of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the August 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

As Acting Treasurer, Jim Denzien reported on the base's financial status as of 01 October 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Jim reported that Wayne Pettes has stepped forward and offered his services to fill the vacated Treasurer's position. Thanks to Wayne from the board and the membership for taking on this responsibility.

According to the sailing list, thirty (30) members and guests were present. One new member, Gene Crab, was introduced and he shared his background with the membership. His bio included tours as XO of the Grayback as well as Commander of the Bashaw. Gary Waterbury was introduced. He did a tour of duty in the Navy as well as a twenty year career in the Air Force. Welcome aboard Gene and Gary.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Jim reported on the recent USSVI Convention in San Diego. While the convention was a success overall, we were disappointed with the lack of camaraderie and participation between the USA & ISA attendees. It seemed that there was a lack of coordinated or

planned events for introducing the two groups and promoting interaction.

Jim reported that until Wayne can officially take over the Treasurer position that he (Jim) will continue in the roll of Acting Treasurer and all members should send in all dues or any other payments to Jim at his home address in Tolleson.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle reported that all members are invited to the 04 November USS Phoenix Commission "Decommissioning Party". Members were reminded that Pete Lumianski has requested that all members send an R.S.V.P. He also reported that we will be participating in the Anthem Veteran's Day Parade on 7 November and Phoenix on 11 November. We need a head count on who will be attending so we have adequate transportation.

Base Secretary – Tim Moore encouraged all members to attend both the "Decommissioning Party" and both Veterans' Day parades. They are enjoyable events

and the "Decommissioning Party" will be an opportune time to promote the "SOS" project.

Base Treasurer – TBA

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren spoke with Frank Bono's wife and reported that Frank is back in the hospital but seems to be doing well. Joe Varese further reported that Frank had fallen down into some cactus which resulted in cactus poisoning. Joe also stated that Frank seems to be on the mend but does not wish to receive visitors. Joe will keep us posted on Frank's progress. Walt went on to report that Jim Nelson has taken a turn for the worse and will be going back to the doctor for further evaluation. Jim Denzien then interjected

that Nancy broke her foot as a result of attempting to catch Jim when he fell down.

Base Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster – Chuck Emmett reported that we are in a transition with our Membership Chairman and Webmaster positions being recently vacated. Chuck commended Rick Simmons on the great job he has done of taking over and updating the membership list. He further reported that it has been determined that we now have only 35 members who do not have good e-mail addresses and receive the newsletter via snail mail. Because of the costs related to the printing and mailing the newsletter, in the near future we will be going paper-

less. Simply stated the cost of mailing a member the newsletter exceeds the membership dues received. All other correspondence and communications are sent to the membership via e-mail. All members are encouraged to get set up with e-mail post haste.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober announced some special prices he had on some summer weight hats. He also acquired some posters from the USSVI convention that depict historic submarine silhouettes from early production through 2003. These posters are available for \$1.00 ea.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported that between Holland Club and Perch

Base Life members, we only collect annual dues from about thirty (30) people. The result is we do not receive much revenue from dues paying members and are becoming more dependent upon Booster Club participation. He further encouraged all members to assist us with Booster Club contributions. Rick also stated that we want to have our Holland Club Induction Ceremony at the Annual Awards Banquet. So anyone who qualified in 1960, is eligible for Holland Club so be sure you get your dues sent in so we can update our records with National. Rick also reported that if any member needs transportation to any of our meetings, or knows of someone who does, please let one of the board members know so we can arrange help.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers was not present.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold reported that he had provided all the food for the Dave Harnish memorial service at the cost of \$150.00 out of pocket. He requested that the base reimburse him \$140.00. We “passed the hat” and Stan received his reimbursement of \$140.00 and there was an additional \$92.00 donated by the membership. It was moved and seconded that those funds be donated to the base treasury in memory of Dave Harnish. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. A big “BRAVO ZULU” to you, the membership for assisting with this worthwhile cause. Also it should be noted that our shipmate Stan Reinhold and his crew deserve kudos for the terrific job they did on behalf for our past shipmate’s memorial service... thank you Stanley.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Jim Denzien announced that on Saturday, 17 October the All Arizona Bases Picnic at Picacho Peak State Park. He asked for a show of hands from all who plan to participate. It is anticipated that 35-40 Perch Base members and guests will be in attendance. There is an entry fee of \$6.00 per car and picnic will be held at the Ironwood Ramada. Tautog Base will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, plastic knives & forks, plastic cups, paper plates, soft drinks ice, etc. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share with others.

We need two replacements for the BOD, one elected position, (Treasurer and one appointed position (Chief of the Boat). Wayne Pettes will take over the Treasures position and we still need a volunteer for the COB. The COB position still needs to be defined.

Jim announced that Rick Simmons will be filling in and assisting Chuck on developing the Policies & Procedures manual. Chuck reminded all hands that any input the membership has to offer would be greatly appreciated.

New Business

Jim re-iterated that the USS Phoenix Commission “Decommissioning Party” previously discussed will be at Aunt Chiladas from 1700 to 2000.

In addition to the Veteran’s Day events, our float will be present at the USS Phoenix Commission “Decommissioning Party” and we have the potential of displaying it at the Palo Verde retirement party on the 30th of October.

With respect to the Phoenix Veteran’s Day Parade, Palo Verde is picking up all costs with the exception of towing the Goodyear Fire Truck. Howard Doyle made arrangements with EZ Towing to provide for the transporting the Fire Truck.

We need to come up with some innovative fund raising ideas to bolster the Perch Base treasury. One idea is to conduct an Opportunity Drawing. Keep in mind that the Perch Base Submarine Veterans Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization so monies received from outside sources is fully tax deductible. Many of you probably have contacts would be willing to make contributions to support our cause knowing that they are tax deductible. Other ideas on the table include raffles for gift certificate for a grocery store or a weekend at a local resort. We would like the membership to ponder these suggestions and make some suggestions or recommendations on other ideas we could explore which will aid us in becoming more self supporting.

The Annual Awards Banquet will be 16 Jan 2010 at the American Legion Post #105. Walt Blomgren is coordinating

the event and he will be working with Stan on planning the banquet dinner. Awards that will be considered are not limited to but include; Sailor of the Year, Vendor of the Year and Longevity Pin Awards. Longevity pins are awarded to members in 5 year increments, who have 5, 10, 15 year anniversaries (and beyond) in the USSVI. We will also conduct the 2010 Holland Club Induction ceremony for all members who qualified in 1960. The Sailor of the Year is determined by a committee of Past Commanders who make this selection. Additional details about the Awards Banquet will be forthcoming as plans are made.

Jim received an e-mail for the National office announcing that they are conducting a nationwide poll. The annual conventions are becoming more expensive and the poll is to determine if the USSVI membership would or would not be in favor of having the conventions every other year in conjunction with the National elections. Members are encouraged to log on to the USSVI website at www.ussvi.org and vote in this poll.

Joe Varese aka "The Wanderer" is putting together a CD with pictures of the USSVI Convention to give to Frank Bono. Frank had originally planned to attend the convention but because of his health problems he was unable to attend. Joe will make two CD's one of which will be given to Frank and the other to the base for our historical archives. Members who attended the convention are encouraged to send their photos to Joe via e-mail.

Jim announced that he and Stan will be meeting with Steve Hall who is a professional fund raiser to discuss ideas for the SOS project.

Good of the Order

Jim Denzien announced that Billy Grieves will be our guest speaker for our November meeting. Billy made many WWII war patrols and his presentation is entitled "A Tribute to Skippers". Members are encouraged to attend, especially past CO's.

Tim Moore announced that his company is looking for a Spanish speaking person to work as an air conditioning company representative in Home Depot. If any of the membership knows of a reliable, bi-lingual individual who might be interested in this part time opportunity please let Tim know.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Richard Kunze who won \$52.00.

Adjournment

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 1330 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

