

Perch Base Minutes December 14, 2019

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant, in Glendale, AZ at 1200 hours, 14 October 2019. The meeting was called to order by Commander Howard Doyle Jr.

Governor Joy gave the invocation and Howard gave the Pledge of Allegiance, Vic Van Horn read the USSVI Purpose. A moment of silence followed by the Tolling of the Boats lost in December.

The base welcomed new member Jessie Taylor, and guests David Kleinz, Evelyn Robertson, Ray Perron, Neil Robertson, Grace Goodum (Miss Grand Canyon Teen) and Danielle Skranak (Miss Gilbert), Joe Trotter, Charlie Tobias, Toby Baca and Jeff Waldmann

Per the sailing list, the following attended the base meeting:

Robert W. Wright	David Kleinz	Mike Keating
John Carpentier	Rick Simmons	Jerry Allston
Don Unser	Marcia Unser	Davy Jones
Jessie Taylor	W. H. Doyle Jr.	Steve Hough
Joe Trotter	Robie Robinson	Don Schafer
David Heighway	Pete Sattig	Charlie Tobias
Doug LaRock	Don Robertson	Evelyn Robertson
Neil Robertson	Jessie Taylor	Sam Mecham
Chuck Emmett	George Gillette	Jim Wall
Tim Moore	George Woods	Bill Woolcott
Jim Denzien	Vic Van Horn	Wayne D. Clark
Jim Andrews	John Mosher	Mike Dahl
John Engelmann	Dan Marks	Edward Gonsowski
Dick Noreika	David Metje	Ray Perron
Steve Snyder	Kelly Grissom	Governor Joy
Toby Baca	Jeff Waldmann	Carl Miner
Joan Miner	Grace Goodum	Danielle Skranak

The first item of business was a call for approval of the October meeting minutes. There were no corrections and the minutes stand approved as posted on the website.

David Heighway gave the Treasurer report for December.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Communications Officer/Historian/MidWatch – Chuck Luna

Chuck was not in attendance.

Commander – Howard Doyle Jr.

Howard had each member stand up and introduce themselves to the group. He also reminded the members that the deadline for the MidWatch is Friday, December 20, 2019.

Howard reported that we lost a shipmate of Perch Base earlier this month. The funeral for Ken Meeks will be held at 12:30 PM on Tues., Dec. 17, 2019, at the Heritage Funeral Chapel. His interment will be that afternoon at 2:00 PM at the National Memorial Cemetery in Arizona.

Vice Commander – George Woods

George Woods had nothing to report.

Chief of The Boat – Carl Miner

Carl had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Dave Heighway

Dave had nothing more to report.

Storekeeper – Marcus Hensley

Marcus was not in attendance.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Major activity with the website during the past month has been an addition to the Glossary, a photo from Don & Marcia Unser's trip to China, the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, Black Canyon City Veterans Day Parade, Daisy Mountain (Anthem) Parade, Sierra Verde Static Display, Gilbert Veterans Day Ceremony, and the Prince of Peace Church Veteran's Day celebration and luncheon. A link was added to the ABC video "A Rare Look Inside Nuclear Powered Submarine USS Florida" broadcast 11/04/19. Routine updates during the past month included updating the Sailing Orders page, Flash Traffics and meeting minutes uploaded, Lost Boat notices and Half Staff notices posted and links updated. Similar updates have been maintained on the Perch Base Facebook Group.

During November, the annual hosting fee, \$38.88, was paid by the Webmaster and reimbursed by the Treasurer. The storage currently in use on the website is 16.51 GB of the 20 GB of storage available under our present hosting plan. The usage is almost exclusively a result of the photos added for each base event. Since January, we have added 3.36 GB, thus by the next renewal, we are likely to be about 19.87 GB, close to or exceeding the limit of our current hosting plan. This could be avoided by eliminating many years of past event photos, but that would defeat the archival value of the website. It could also be avoided by reducing the file size of all the photos, which would result in reduction of the resolution and clarity of the pictures. The third option, which I have already implemented is to upgrade the hosting plan which increases the annual hosting fee. The upgraded hosting plan includes unlimited file space while only increasing the annual hosting fee from \$38.88 to \$57.88, a net increase of \$19.00 which will be due on November 23, 2020. There are other improvements associated with the upgraded plan, although they do not impact features we currently use. The only other cost, which remains regardless of the hosting fee is an annual domain renewal fee due on March 10, 2020, which is \$15.16 per year. Thus, the total website operating cost for 2020 is projected to total \$73.04.

During November, there were 1,680 page views on the Perch Base website during 640 sessions by 344 users based on Google Analytics. These numbers are typical. Approximately 85% of the sessions originated in the US and the remainder were widely scattered around the world. Approximately 44% of the U.S. based sessions were from locations in Arizona, which is assumed to come from our membership. 44% of the traffic was to the home page, 10% to the Sailing Orders page, 9% to the Glossary, 5% to the Video page, and 2% to each of the Veterans (Anthem Black Canyon City, and Phoenix) Day parades and the Eternal Patrol page.

Dan also reported that he has calendars for sale at \$10.00 a piece.

Membership – Jim Andrews

Jim reported that we now have 185 members. Jim also reported that the following monies have been collected:

USSVI - \$1,630.00, which equates to 69%

Perch Base - \$730.00, which equates to 73% of those required to pay.

Donations - \$4,716.00, which equates to 58% of members of Perch Base.

Jim announced that he will be stepping down as Membership Chairman, and that Joan Miner will take over in January, 2020.

Events Coordinator – Don Unser

Don reported the following events:

Jan. 11, 2020 – Awards Banquet

Feb. 1, 2020 - Laveen Parade

March 22-27, 2020 - Western Region Roundup in Laughlin, NV

April 11, 2020 - Base Picnic

August 23 – 30, 2020 – Convention in Tucson

Past Commander – Chuck Emmett

Chuck urged members to check out our website.

Secretary – Marcia Unser

Marcia had nothing to report.

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Governor Joy reported that Ken Meeks' daughter, April, was overwhelmed when she found out what Perch Base was doing for her late father, regarding the funeral and interment.

Western Regional District 1 Commander – Vic Van Horn

Vic reported that he has the forms for the Boat Sponsorship Program and encouraged members to sponsor a boat, which is only \$30.00 a year.

He also has a set of Dolphins that will be raffled at the banquet.

Western Region Director – Jim Denzien

Jim reported that the speaker for the banquet will have an excellent presentation. He also reported that the Western Region Roundup will be held at the Riverside Casino, in Laughlin, NV. The dates for this are March 22-27, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

Howard reminded the members that they can sign up for the Awards Banquet today. Members can pay at the door, also, but he needed to know how many will be attending and the meal choice, so he can inform the resort.

Jim Denzien reported that the plans for the 2020 Convention in Tucson are going well. Registration is now open for the convention.

Howard also mentioned that you can go on the website for the convention and sign up to help volunteer online.

NEW BUSINESS

Don reported that those veterans, who have a valid VA Card, can now get access to any military base to use at the Exchange and Commissary. He encouraged members to register with the VA to get this card.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Howard reported that Amazon has set up an Amazon Smile function, where, when you order anything on Amazon, and designate USSVI Charitable Fund, Amazon will contribute 0.5% of the purchase price to that fund.

Steve Snyder announced that the American Legion is now open to any veteran who has served since Pearl Harbor.

Tim Moore gave a brief summary of what's happening with the ASSM. He's hoping to have the dedication sometime in April 2020. Howard encouraged everyone to be present at this event.

BINNACLE LIST

Jim Edwards

50/50

The raffle amount was \$183.00. Marcia Unser won the raffle, which her half was \$91.00.

ADJOURMENT

Benediction was led by Governor Joy., and adjourned at 1302 hrs.

Submitted:
Marcia Unser
Secretary Perch Base