

## Perch Base Minutes December, 2025

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, December 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Commander David Heighway.

Don User gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Dave Heighway. The Reading of the USSVI Creed was read by Steven Stanger and The Tolling of the Boats lost in October was read by David Heighway.

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

David Heighway	Hila Heighway	Ken Kennedy
Jim Denzien	CC Clark	Paul Miller
Don Unser	Maria Unser	Randy Pirkle
Jeff Brower	Rick Simmons	Dianne Smith
Samuel Mecham	George Woods	Kriby Anderson
Tobert Haggett	Kevin Sheehan	George Williams
John Beckett	Polly Beckett	Governor Joy
Don Robertson	Dan Marks	Ed Henry
Steven Stanger		

The first item of business was a call for approval of the November 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which were seconded and approved by voice vote.

### OFFICERS REPORTS

#### Secretary-Ed Henry

Showed a short, animated video fly-by of the USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) Cold War Monument coming soon to Steele Indian School Park.

#### Treasurer-Kevin Sheehan (absent) (Paul Miller presented)

Perch Base Operations - \$18,606.34

Perch Base Foundation – \$8773.75

Kevin reported the Rust Insurance premium will increase in 2027 to \$100.00 per year. He paid the premium for the maximum allowed three years at the current \$25.00 rate covering the base through 2028.

#### Past Commander- George Woods

2026 National Convention is in Corpus Christi; the website is operational for those who desire to register early. Western Region Round-up 2026

Sam's Town Resort and Casino 14 – 16 April 2026

Sponsorships are available through the website.

There are two openings at USSVI National. Veterans Service Officer and National Historian. Both members are retiring from their positions.

#### Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Reported on the bases' participation in the Serra Verde Veterans Recognition Day highlighting the effort put out by the entire student body. and made a call for more membership participation in this and other Perch Base sponsored events.

#### Storekeeper – John Beckett

John reminded all that there is a Storekeeper's page in The MidWatch advertising the base's inventory.

#### Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Added to Don's comments and made a call for more member ship participation in this and other Perch Base sponsored events.

## **Communications – Chris Gahan (reported by Dave Heighway)**

Deadline for the Midwatch Newsletter is December 19, 2025.

Deadline for Scholarship applications is January 15, 2025.

## **Webmaster – Dan Marks**

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included completing delivery of Robie Robinson shadow box to widow Marge and family, posting links to purchase menu selection tickets for the Annual Awards Banquet, posting a thank you from the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation President & CEO, Nicole Laslavic to Perch Base following their luncheon in the Biltmore Gold Room, a Who IZZAT? article about George Williams' Sub School photo, the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, the Daisy Mountain Veterans Day Parade in Anthem, Arizona, and the Sierra Verde STEAM School Veterans' Appreciation Assembly. Routine updates during the past month included updating the Sailing Orders page, Flash Traffics, base correspondence 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 Page.

During November, there were 9,087 page views on the Perch Base website during 6,844 visits by 5,143 users based on Awstats. The most page views were from the United States, followed by Japan, then China. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Sailing Orders, Glossary, then the Links page. The most downloads were the usual pages: the Historic List of Submarine Classes, followed by the Hurt Feelings Chit, then the Mabus letter.

During November, the Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 1,702 and the Content Interactions (The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content, including ads. Content can include formats such as posts, stories, reels, videos and more.) was 75. These are increased numbers since last month, presumably due to more activities around Veterans Day. Our Facebook page has a total of 249 Followers, no change from last month. The top post was the "PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE.

## **Historian- Chuck Emmett**

Not present at the meeting

## **Membership – Paul Miller**

Membership is 164 with addition of Richard Prill.

21 – 2026 Dues are still outstanding.

## **Chaplain – Governor Joy**

Arrived at meeting after attending the memorial service for Perch Base member John Brown's brother Paul. Also in attendance was Bob Gilmore. With the number of old High School and College friends of Paul's, Governor compared it to the type of camaraderie shared by the members of the submarine force and Perch Base.

## **Events Coordinator – CC Clarke**

1. Perch Base Annual Banquet, Saturday, 1/17/2026
2. Laveen Parade, Saturday, 1/31/2026
3. Western Region Roundup, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV, 4/15-19/2026

## **Base Commander – David Heighway**

Reached out to the base for a volunteer to run the Silent Auction at the Annual Banquet.  
Echo'd the COB's call for more participation in base events.

## **Old Business**

No old Business.

## **New Business / Good of the Order**

Paul reported on findings for potential Perch Base attendance at a Spring Training game. Minimum number of tickets to receive group rate (10% discount) and recognition is 20. Tickets cost approximately \$50.00 depending on seat location. The stadium requires 50% payment up front with final payment three weeks prior to the game. Paul recommended the March 13 game of the Dodgers vs. Mariners. Joe Trotter made the recommendation to contact

the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation to see if they have arranged a game with crew members of PCU Arizona that we may be able to combine with them.

Vice Commander Don Robertson's "Boat of the Month" presentation was a short story he wrote about the crew of the USS Archerfish called "Uncle Charles Lost Brass".

Joe Trotter spoke of his involvement with the USS Arizona Legacy's visits to Gilbert area 4<sup>th</sup> Graders telling the history of Pearl Harbor Day and need for more participation by groups like Perch Base. Steve Stanger spoke of his recent involvement assisting in transporting elementary and junior high students to the State Capital Building and Wesley Bolyn Park and his renewed efforts to participate in base functions. Jim Denzien and Don Unser also echoed the need for more participation by base members in Perch Base sponsored events.

#### **BINNACLE LIST**

Laura Anderson (Kriby's wife)  
Mary Denzien  
Georgianne Gahan (Chris' wife)

Barbara Cosgrove (Jim's Wife)  
W. Howard Doyle, Jr.  
Davy Jones

James Denzien  
Chris Gahan  
W H Doyle Jr.

#### **50/50**

Drawing results: The 50-50 raffle (\$79) was won by Diane Smith. Final count of \$39.50 went to the Perch Base Fund and \$39.50 went to Diane Smith.

#### **Rattle Can**

Proceeds to Perch Base Foundation at a total of. \$95.14

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Benediction was led by Governor Joy. The meeting adjourned at. 1310 pm.

**Submitted:**  
**Ed Henry**  
**Secretary Perch Base**