

Perch Base Minutes January 2026

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, January 10, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Commander David Heighway.

Governor Joy gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Dave Heighway. The Reading of the USSVI Creed was read by John Manning and The Tolling of the Boats lost in January was read by David Heighway.

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

David Heighway	Hila Heighway	Bob Gilmore
George Woods	Dan Marks	Kirby Anderson
Michael Weeks	Chris Gahan	Johnny Corbin
Jeff Brower	John Brown	John Beckett
Paul Miller	John Manning	Carol Culbertson
Jim Denzien	Jay Denzien	Carla Denzien
W. H. Doyle Jr.	Stan Reinhold	Steven Stanger
Ed Henry	Governor Joy	Don Robertson
MMA3(SS) Travis Parker	Laura Fraxil (Travis' Mom)	

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary-Ed Henry

Briefed group on donations received for the Annual Banquet's Silent Auction reporting a windfall of small items which some will be used in conjunction with the General Meetings 50/50 Raffle.

Treasurer-Kevin Sheehan (absent) (Dave Heighway presented)

Perch Base Operations - \$20,710.98

Perch Base Foundation – \$9693.89

Kevin reported minor issues using Zelle to forward funds to National concerning the limited number of characters allowed on the sender account. He has discussed the issue with the bank and the National Storekeeper and believes the use of Zelle is sound and will work fine now that he knows the limitations.

Past Commander- George Woods

Reported on openings coming available in the Western Region Leadership, more information can be provided if interested.

He passed a draft of an Eternal Patrol Card to the Base Commander and Communications Officer for review and comment. The card, which contains the Perch Base contact information, is intended for retention in base members' personal effects so upon their departure on Eternal Patrol their next of kin can inform Perch Base leadership of the life event.

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Nothing to Report

Storekeeper – John Beckett

Informed membership of his intent to retire from the Storekeeper position with March being his last meeting in this position. He thanked all for their purchases and support during his tenure

Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Reminded all the upcoming Laveen Parade and called for a working party on January 30th to prep the USS Phoenix float for the event.

Communications – Chris Gahan

Reported that the Mid-Watch newsletter will be released by close of business Monday, 12 January.

Provided information of the upcoming Missing in America Project event that is scheduled at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. Twenty unclaimed veterans and two spouses will lay to rest on the 21st of January. More information about the event can be found on the Perch Base website.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting the photo of the First Place trophy from Honoring America's Veterans for the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float in the 2025 Phoenix Veterans Day parade, and posting the presentation by Vice Commander Don Robertson titled "UNCLE CHARLIE'S BRASS SUBMARINE" given at the December monthly meeting. 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 December, there were 8,720 page views on the Perch Base website during 7,084 visits by 5,482 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 Glossary, Sailing Orders, 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 December, Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 1,042 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 20. These are decreased numbers since last month, presumably due to less activities after Veterans Day. Our Facebook page has a total of 252 Followers, an increase of 3 from last month. The top post was the "USS S-4 (SS-109) Eternal Patrol Notice.

Historian- Chuck Emmett

Not present at the meeting

Membership – Paul Miller

Membership is 164 with 12 membership dues still outstanding. Those members will be contacted. Paul reported that prior to the meeting Mike Weeks signed up for a Life Membership.

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Spoke briefly to keep those members on the binnacle list in thoughts and prayers. Showed members the two "SubVet Edition" auto stickers he is donating for the annual banquet auction.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

1. Perch Base Annual Banquet, Saturday, 1/17/2026
2. Laveen Parade, Saturday, 1/31/2026
3. Perch Base Annual Picnic, Saturday, 4/11/2026 (National Submarine Day), Paloma Community Park
4. Western Region Roundup, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV, 4/15-19/2026

Old Business

Paul passed around a sign-up sheet for a March 16th Spring Training game between the Padres and Giants. This game is a Monday afternoon game with a 1:00 PM first pitch. This will be one of the Hometown Hero games to honor veterans and first responders. 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 must have your request no later than 1/23/26 to ensure tickets for the game.

New Business / Good of the Order

Don Robertson's "Boat of the Month" presentation was a report on WWII Submarine Force Stats.

In attendance was MMA3(SS) Travis Parker, an active-duty A-Ganger stationed on USS IDAHO (SSN 799) and his mother, Laura Fraxil. After completing his application and paying his dues, Petty Officer Parker is now an active member of Perch Base bringing our membership to 165.

BINNACLE LIST

Laura Anderson (Kriby's wife)
Mary Denzien
Davy Jones

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

James Denzien
Georgianne Gahan (Chris' Wife)

50/50

Drawing results: The 50-50 raffle (\$83) was won by Carl Miner. Final count of \$41.50 went to the Perch Base Fund and Carl Miner donated \$43.50 to the Perch Base Foundation. As part of the raffle Carl also received a US Submarine Veteran RFID wallet donated to the base by a local gift shop.

Rattle Can

Proceeds to National Foundation at a total of \$58.00.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted:

Ed Henry

Secretary Perch Base