

Perch Base Minutes February 2026

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, February 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Commander David Heighway.

Don Unser gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Dave Heighway. The USSVI Creed was read by Ed Henry and The Tolling of the Boats lost in February was read by David Heighway.

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

David Heighway	Hila Heighway	Bob Gilmore
Bob Saenz	Carol Saenz	Kirby Anderson
Michael Weeks	Chris Gahan	Johnny Corbin
Dan Marks	John Brown	John Beckett
Paul Miller	John Manning	Carol Culbertson
Jim Denzien	Jay Denzien	Kevin Sheehan
W. H. Doyle Jr.	Joe Trotter	Steven Stanger
Ed Henry	C. C. Clarke	Don Robertson
Don Unser	Marcia Unser	Carl Miner
Steve Voita	Linda Voita	

The first item of business was a call for approval of the January 2026 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which were seconded and approved by voice vote.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary-Ed Henry

Nothing to report.

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

Perch Base Operations - \$22,874.60

Perch Base Foundation – \$9718.89

Rattle Can for February goes to National Foundation

Past Commander– George Woods

Not present, recovering from surgery.

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Nothing to Report

Storekeeper – John Beckett

Informed membership his relief of Storekeeper by C. C. Clarke. He thanked all for their purchases and support during his tenure

Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Nothing to report.

Dave announced to the group that Kirby has been selected as the Perch Base Sailor of the Year and presented him with the SOY Certificate.

Communications – Chris Gahan

Reported that the Mid-Watch newsletter submission deadline is March 20th, 2026.

Provided information on the upcoming Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Luncheon and of the state legislation regarding VA/VSO scams.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

The previously budgeted annual domain renewal fee (\$16.18) by our hosting company, Namecheap, will be billed and paid on March 10, 2026. Last year's actual was \$15.16. As usual, I will pay the fee and submit the expense report with an equal donation for a net zero cost to the base. The annual hosting fee will come due in November and is expected to be about \$122.88 as was billed last year. This is not a significant change or impact from the approved budget.

Activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting the photos from the Laveen Parade, the Anthem Solar Alignment, Missing In America Project (MIAP) Ceremony at the National Cemetery of Arizona, the Annual Awards Banquet, posting the presentation by Vice Commander Don Robertson titled "DEADLY EFFECTIVE" given at the January monthly meeting, and posting the MidWatch and snail-mailing copies of the MidWatch to the 3 members without email. 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 January, there were 9,584 page views on the Perch Base website during 7,056 visits by 5,352 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, VA_burial_benefits, then the Mabus letter.

During January, Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 3,558 (increased significantly) 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 102 (also increased significantly). Our Facebook page has a total of 252 Followers, no change from last month. The top post was the "USS S-26 Eternal Patrol Notice."

Historian- Chuck Emmett

Not present at the meeting, Dave announced that Jim Denzien will be relieving Chuck as Historian

Membership – Paul Miller

Membership is 164 with 10 membership dues still outstanding. Those members have until the end of March or they will be removed from the roster. Those members will be personally contacted.

Chaplain – Governor Joy

Not present at the meeting.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

1. Perch Base Annual Picnic, Saturday, 4/11/2026 (National Submarine Day), Paloma Community Park
2. Western Region Roundup, Sam's Town, Las Vegas, NV, 4/15-19/2026
3. Prescott Frontier Days Prescott, Prescott, AZ, July 4, 2026
4. National Convention, Corpus Christi, TX, September 6 – 11, 2026

Old Business

Paul has received requests for the 20 tickets required to receive the group discount and the veteran's recognition at the game between the Padres and Giants at the Peoria Sports Complex. Paul is collecting the funds and forwarding the tickets to those participating.

New Business / Good of the Order

Joe Trotter provided information on the possibility of an event with USS ARIZONA (SSN 803) crewmembers possibly as early as March. He also provided information of the upcoming ASSM bricklaying and if anyone would like to purchase a brick before then to contact him. \$150 for a 4 X 8 Brick, \$250 for a 8 X 8 brick.

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

Speaker for the February 2026 General Meeting was Steve Voita, artist, who painted the USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) picture that hung in Sky Harbor Airport before being removed and relocated to Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat in Young, Arizona. He provided a brief history of his involvement with USS PHOENIX (SSN 702) VIP rides and the creation of the picture.

BINNACLE LIST

Laura Anderson (Kriby's wife)
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 (\$95) was won by Paul Miller. Final count of \$48 went to the Perch Base Fund and Paul Miller donated \$47 to the Perch Base Foundation. As part of the raffle Paul also received a US Navy logo luggage tag and car cup holder coasters donated to the base by a local gift shop.

Rattle Can

Proceeds to National Foundation at a total of \$47.35.

ADJOURMENT

Benediction was led by Don Unser. The meeting adjourned at. 1257 pm.

Submitted:

Ed Henry

Secretary Perch Base