

Perch Base Minutes August 2026

The monthly meeting of Perch Base was held at Dillons Restaurant, Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, August 8, 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 George Woods and The Tolling of the Boats lost in July was read by David Heighway.

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

Don Robertson	Bob Gilmore	John Brown
Kirby Anderson	Jim Denzien	Jay Denzien
Chris Gahan	Georgianne Gahan	Johnny Corbin
Don Unser	Marcia Unser	Ed Henry
George Woods	Dave Heighway	CC Clarke
Ken Kennedy	John Beckett	W. H. Doyle Jr.
Carl Miner	Joan Miner	Randy Pirkle
Kevin Sheehan	Nancy Conway	Lilee May Conway
Chuck Emmett	Dan Marks	

The first item of business was a call for approval of the July 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)

Perch Base Operations - \$15,733.47

Perch Base Foundation – \$7,934.24

Rattle Can for May goes to National Charitable Foundation

There are no outstanding checks.

State Farm Premium is paid for 2026/2027

Past Commander– George Woods

Reminded all members of the upcoming USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi, TX. **Hotel room block extended to August 18th and the Registration deadline is August 20th.**

Western Region Roundup April 2027 will be in Denver, CO

Western Region Roundup April 2028 will be in Portland, OR

Western Region Roundup April 2029 will be in Albuquerque, NM

Vice Commander – Don Robertson

Nothing to report.

Storekeeper – CC Clarke

Request Base Members provide input for submarine items they would like to see carried in the Perch Base Store.

Chief of The Boat – Kirby Anderson

Nothing to report.

Communications – Chris Gahan

The Fall Mid-Watch newsletter submission deadline is September 25, 2026.

USS Phoenix (SSN 702) Cold War Monument groundbreaking ceremony was a success and thanked those members who participated in the event.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

. Activity since the last BOD meeting included posting Jim Denzien's presentation about WW2 Submarine Veteran, Emil Schoonejans that Jim gave at the July meeting, posting "And God Created Smoke Boat Sailors" by Mike Hemming, Don Robertson's presentation about the USS Peto (SS-265), that Don Robertson gave at the July meeting, and the Cold War Monument

Groundbreaking Ceremony held at the Steele Indian School Park. 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 July, there were 19,830 page views on the Perch Base website during 15,200 visits by 12,854 users based on Awstats, which is typical. The most page views were from the United States, followed by New Zealand, Japan, then China. Most of the traffic was to the home page, followed by the Ed Brooks Eternal Patrol Page (posted in 2024,) Glossary, and the Sailing Orders page. The most downloads were the 4Q2024 MidWatch Newsletter, the "Uncle Charlie's Brass Submariners

presentation given in 12/2025, and the Historic List of Submarine Classes. During July, Facebook Views (The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.) was 795 (decreased) and the Content Engagement (The number of reactions, clicks, comments, shares and saves on your posts.) was 40 (also decreased) probably due to the low number of events during July. Our Facebook page has a total of 272 Followers, +8 from last month.

Historian- Jim Denzien

Nothing to report.

Membership – Paul Miller (Absent)

Dave reminded all that the Membership Drive starting in October.

Chaplain – Governor Joy (Absent)

Nothing to report.

Events Coordinator – CC Clarke

1. National Convention, Corpus Christi, TX, September 6 – 11, 2026

Arizona WWII Hero

LT Wayne Anton "Brad" Braastad, Perch Base Member, during WWII served a Motor Machinist (MOMM) on the USS Trumpetfish (SS 425), USS Skate (SS 305), USS Kingfish (SS 234) and USS O-8 (SS68). presented by Jim Denzien. Of note, Brad was a Navy Mustang, retiring as a LT and was the first Base Commander of USSVI Tucson Base.

Boat of the Month

A presentation on USS Whale (SS 239), a Gato Class submarine. USS Whale completed eleven WWII War Patrols receiving eleven battle stars presented by Don Robertson

Old Business

None

New Business / Good of the Order

PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) Classification Change to SSGN

Bob Gilmore received an update from USS Arizona Legacy Foundation President & CEO, Nicole Laslavic that the PCU Arizona has recently been redesignated as an SSGN

Phoenix Navy Ball

Carol Culbertson provided flyers and noted to the members that the Navy Ball is scheduled for October 10, 2026, at the Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Conference Center, 9495 W Entertainment Blvd, Glendale, AZ. Early bird tickets at a reduced price are available through August 15th. More information is available on phoenixnavyball.com.

USSVI National Scholarships

Kevin Sheehan reported that the USSVI National awarded eighty scholarships at \$2500 each. Of the eighty awardees, thirty were repeats from the previous year. From Perch Base, Kevin's three granddaughters received scholarships and George Wood's granddaughter also received a scholarship.

BINNACLE LIST

Binnacle List is posted as Appendix 1.

50/50

Drawing results: The 50-50 raffle (\$81) was won by George Woods. George received \$41 and the Perch Base Foundation \$40.

Rattle Can

Proceeds to National Charitable Foundation at a total of \$31.92.

ADJOURMENT

Benediction was led by Don Unser. The meeting adjourned at 1245 pm.

Submitted:

Ed Henry

Secretary Perch Base

USSVI Perch Base Binnacle List

Laura Anderson
Jim Denzien
Davey Jones

Barbara Cosgrove
Georgianne Gahan
Joe Trotter

W. Howard Doyle Jr.
Chris Gahan