

The MidWatch

July 2013
Volume 19 - Issue 7

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, Perch Base, USSVI Phoenix, Arizona



Visit our web site at:
www.perch-base.org

USSVI CREED

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."

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2013 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

Remember, if you contribute by check, it must be made out to the "Perch Base Foundation."

These are the 2013 Foundation Donors



Jerry N. Allston
Kenneth R. Anderson
Reynaldo F. Atos
Steven Balthazor
Gary Bartlett
Kenneth E. Becker
Richard Bernier
Ronald B. Beyer
Walter Blomgren
Herbert J. Jr. Coulter
Roger J. Cousin
Eugene V. Crabb
George L. Crider
James R. Denzien
Don DeMarte
Warner H. Doyle Jr.
James N. Edwards
Harry Ellis
Charles Emmett
Howard M. Enloe
James Evans
Thomas J. Farley III
David G. Fledderjohn
Thomas E. Fooshee
James Foote
Billy A. Grieves
Michael J. Haler

Eldon L. Hartman
Robert M. Hayball
Harry Heller
Herbert Herman
Glenn A. Herold
Steve Hough
Theodore Hunt
David L. Jones
L. A. (Mike) Keating
Karl G. Krull
Richard F. Kunze
Douglas M. La Rock
Robert A. Lancendorfer
Albert Landeck
Robert W. Lents
Steve Leon
DeWayne Lober
Burtis W. Loftin
George Long
Raymond Marshall
Dennis McComb
Angus Howard McPherson
Alan H. Miller
Tim Moore
Danny R. Moss
James F. Newman
James W. Newman

Bryan M. Pellegrini
Royce E. Pettit
Ernie Plantz
James Ratte
Stanley N. Reinhold
Bruce "Robie" Robinson
Stanley I. Rud
Larry D. Ruggles
Ramon Samson
Pete Sattig
John C. Schlag
Carl Scott
Garry L. Shumann
Richard H. "Rick" Simmons
Wayne Kirk Smith
William M. Tippet
Joseph J. Varese
Eugene Veek
Patricia A. Warner
Robert Warner
James L. Wall
Forrest J. Watson
Rich Womack
George C. Woods
William Woolcott
John G. Zaichkin

PERCH BASE OFFICERS



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TREASURER
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CHIEF OF THE BOAT
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MEMBERSHIP
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EVENT COORDINATOR
Walt Blomgren
(602) 309-4407
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HISTORIAN
Jim Newman
(602) 840-7788
historian@perch-base.org



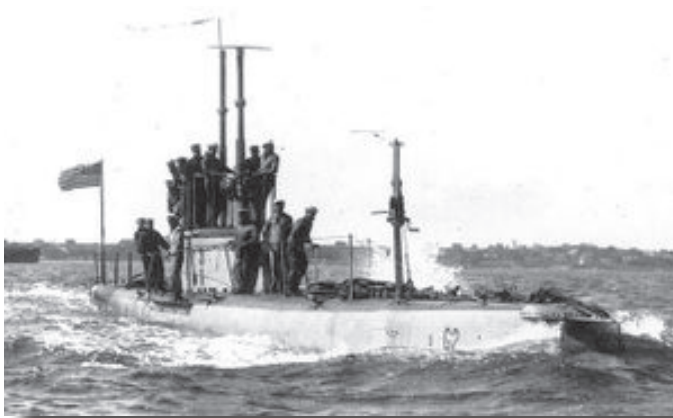
STOREKEEPER
De Wayne Lober
(602) 944-4200
storekeeper@perch-base.org



PAST-COMMANDER
Jim Denzien
past-commander@perch-base.org

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

JULY ETERNAL PATROLS



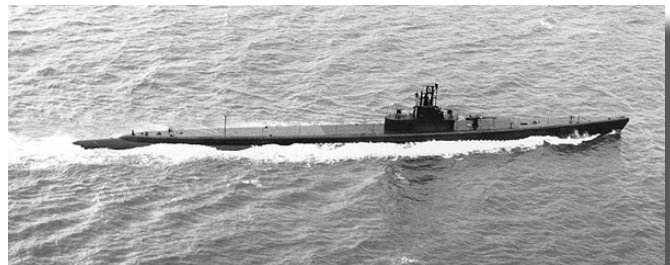
July 30, 1919 USS G-2(SS-27) 3 men lost
Sank during an inspection by a maintenance crew near Niantic Bay.

July 30, 1942 USS Grunion(SS-216) 70 men lost
Lost off Kiska, AK -- presumed by enemy action -- but officially "overdue and presumed lost." The final location was found and verified in 2008 but actual cause of her loss is still unknown. (Note: Sunk by armed Japanese freighter Kano Maru)



July 4, 1944 USS S-28 (SS-133) 49 men lost
Following a Hawaii overhaul S-28, on 3 July 1944, began training operations off Oahu. The antisubmarine warfare exercises continued into the evening of 4 July. As evening began contact between her and surface ships became sporadic and, at 18:20, the last, brief contact with S-28 was made and lost. All attempts to establish communications failed and a thorough search of the area failed to locate the submarine. A Court of Inquiry was unable to determine the cause of the loss of S-28.

July 26, 1944 USS Robalo(SS-273) 81 men lost
From a POW's note, it was concluded Robalo was sunk on 26 July 1944, 2 mi off the coast of Palawan Island from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy mine. There were four survivors captured but they did not survive the war. Robalo was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 16 September 1944.





**SHIPMATES
WITH
JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Douglas R. Ewen	July 1
Wayne A. Braastad -	July 7
Bernard Juracka	July 7
Richard Miller	July 8
Jim Foote	July 12
Kurt Eselgroth	July 12
Nicholas Dovic Jr.	July 16
Richard D. Weber	July 16
David Fledderjohn-	July 16
Richard Bernier	July 21
Bradley L. Butler-	July 25
Carl Scott	July 26
Forrest J. Watson-	July 27
Howard S. Goldman	July 30
Jack Messersmith	July 31

**Sailing
Orders**

July 6

**Prescott Frontier Days
Parade**

*This is always a big, very enjoyable event with a very enthusiastic crowd. The time and staging location has not been released yet but the information will be published in a **Flash Traffic** just as soon as it is available.*

July 13

Regular Perch Base Meeting

*Our monthly meeting, held at our usual location, "Dillions Arrowhead", 59th Ave. and the Loop 101.
Happy/Friendship Hour = 11 a.m.
Regular Meeting = noon*



Scan for the Perch Base Web Site



OUR PERCH BASE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REQUIRES THAT ANY CHANGES TO THAT DOCUMENT MUST BE POSTED IN THE MIDWATCH FOR TWO (2) MONTHS PRIOR TO A VOTE TAKEN BY THE BASE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS PROPOSED THE FOLLOW CHANGES AS INDICATED BY THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING. IN ALL CASES, THE CHANGES ARE EITHER REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OR ARE EDITORIAL CHANGES.

Proposed Amendment to the Perch Base Constitution and Bylaws.

The following changes are proposed to bring our Constitution and Bylaws into better compliance with the USSVI Constitution and Bylaws.

Various Locations

The term "Submariners" is used in the title of the organization in place of the misleading "Submarine Veterans, Inc."

Article VII –Membership, Section 3 Associate Membership

Change paragraph 1 to read "Associate Membership is reserved for persons not otherwise eligible for regular membership. Details on Associate Membership shall be as defined in, and controlled by, the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)"

Delete the rest of Section 3

Justification: The details on Associate membership belong in the document that details the other activities of Perch Base. The Constitution and Bylaws provide an overview of activities not the details.

Article VII – Membership, Section 6 Honorary Members

Add to paragraph 1 "The Board of Directors must vote in the majority to approve this action.

Justification: Prudent action for the position.

Article VIII – Membership Dues, Section 4 New Member Dues

Add to the end of the paragraph "as defined in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)"

Justification: Consistency with similar statements throughout the document.

Article IX – Officers, Section 2 Appointed Officers

Add Membership Chairman to the list.

Justification: Consistency, the Membership Chairman position is an appointed officer in the Policies and Procedures Manual

Article XVI – Amendments, Section 2 Approval

Add to the first sentence of paragraph 1. "...for the good of the Base and to ensure the amendment does not conflict with the National Constitution or Bylaws."

Justification: Required by the National Constitution.

Article XVI – Amendments, Section 3 Effective Date

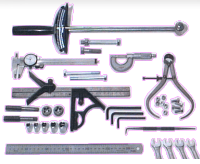
Change to read

Amendments which are passed shall be sent to the District Commander for approval and will then become effective upon publication of the final document in the MidWatch.

Justification: Required by the National Constitution.

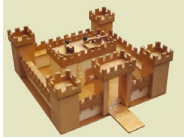
Reports from the Base Officers





The “Snipes Castle”

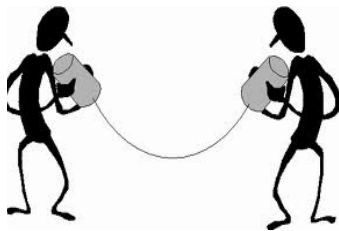
Comments of the Base Commander
Howard Doyle



Summertime! Yes, it is finally here according to media, the calendar, and the thermometer; maybe a good reason to make the trip up the hill to Prescott for the parade on Saturday, July 6th. The COB will be towing the float and George Crider is taking his 16 foot trailer for people to ride so make, or change your plans, now to join Perch Base, Gudgeon Base, and maybe Tucson Base for the second biggest parade in Arizona. Gudgeon Base commander Tom Warner has invited everyone there for the parade to his home afterward for a picnic. He will supply the food and is asking that you supply your own drinks. Please let me know if you plan on being there so he will have an idea of how much food to buy [he doesn't have Stan to do the planning].

The votes continue to trickle in for the voting for the USSVI western district commander position. Please vote before the end of June as voting closes on June 30th. Jim Denzien, past Perch Base commander is running for that position.

Nothing else much but everyone stay cool and hydrated. Also welcome aboard for the new members!



“Soundings”

Vice Commander/Communications Officer
Chuck Emmett

(My thoughts while wearing two hats!)

On the page just prior to this one, I have posted, for the second month, a copy of the changes that have been proposed to the Perch Base Constitution. The Constitution itself dictates that we must publish the proposed changes for two consecutive months in the newsletter. This will be followed by a vote of the Base at the regular meeting at the following (August) meeting. If you haven't read these proposed changes, take a minute to do so. These are important changes and it's vital for every base member to be aware of the documents — and proposed changes to the documents — that help us run the Base.

On the communications front, I've just finished a total reloading of the entire Perch Base web page onto a new server. Although this will be transparent to all viewers, it's been a pretty major undertaking. We did this for two reasons. First, it's corrects a problem we had forwarding some of the Base officers' e-mails to their own, home, e-mail addresses. And secondly it will give us a faster web page speed and at a much lower overall cost to the base.

If you see any errors in our internet site (www.perch-base.org), please be sure and let me know just as soon as you can. I've done all I could to try to make sure that everything is working properly, but some things could have slipped through the cracks. Remember, the web page is a vital tool for communication to our Base members as a means to, *“perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country.”*



"Member Mogul"
Membership Chairman's Message

Rick Simmons - Membership

June was another good month for increasing our membership. During the month we added 4 new members. The new members are:

- Juan Amaya Jr. who qualified in 2013 on the USS Cheyenne SSN 773. Juan is the nephew of Jerry Pittman and is currently on active duty as a MM2 on the USS Cheyenne.
- Mark Field who qualified in 1982 on the USS George Bancroft SSBN 643. Mark is the publisher and editor of Arizona Veterans Magazine and resides in Surprise.
- Angie Grams who is the daughter of shipmate Joe Varese who departed on Eternal Patrol earlier this year. Angie lives in El Mirage with her husband Jeffery.
- Jerry Pittman Jr. who qualified in 2012 on the USS Jefferson City SSN 759. Jerry is the son of Jerry Pittman and adds another father – son team to our ranks. Jerry Jr. is currently on active duty as a LTJG on the USS Jefferson City.

Welcome aboard shipmates, we look forward to seeing you at all our meetings and events. Please remember that spouses, significant others, family members, friends and acquaintances are always welcome.

For those of you who lost count, we now have 4 Pittman family members in Perch Base 3 of which are on active duty. They are Jerry (retired), his wife Heather, an YNC at the Phoenix MEPS, his son Jerry Jr. and nephew Juan.

When Steve Leon announced at the last meeting that Angie Grams wanted to join us as an Associate Member and needed a Regular Member as a sponsor it was heartwarming to see how many hands went up. Doug La Rock is Angie's sponsor. Many thanks to Steve, Doug and all members for bring Angie on board.



From the Chief of the Boat July 2013

Hope everyone has an enjoyable 4th of July holiday weekend. For those of you who are able to make it to the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade on Saturday July 6th, we should have room for everyone (members and family) who shows up to ride in the parade. The electrical (wiring) problems have been fixed on the float.

Richard Kunze.

cob@perch-base.org





Summer is always a slow time for events and there's nothing on the calendar except for the Prescott Frontier Days Parade, but that's a big one! If you can, try and make it. There will be further information in a **Flash Traffic**.



Greetings

This coming Fourth of July marks the 237th annual celebration of our country's independence. We are a nation, which has experienced great blessings and, in turn, returned many of those blessings to other nations in need.

During this holiday period, please take the time to dwell on the source of our country's many blessings, the God of mankind, and thank Him for His personal touch on our national destiny.

May we heed the wisdom of President Lyndon B. Johnson: "This, then, is the state of the union: free and restless, growing and full of hope. So it was in the beginning. So it shall always be, while God is willing, and we are strong enough to keep the faith."

Ave Deus,

Steve Leon

Binnacle List

Please keep the following crew members in your thought and prayers:

- Herb Herman- undergoing treatment at Good Samaritan Hospital ICU for abdominal issues.
- DeWayne Lober- recovering from a ladder fall; undergoing physical therapy rehabilitation.
- Milton McNeill- undergoing chemotherapy for abdominal cancer.

Reflections on Life

A Fourth-of-July Prayer

We lift up our hearts, O God, on this day of celebration
in gratitude for the gift of being Americans.

We rejoice with all those who share
in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all.

With flags and feasting, with family and friends,
we salute those who have sacrificed that we might have the opportunity to bring to fulfillment our many God-given gifts.

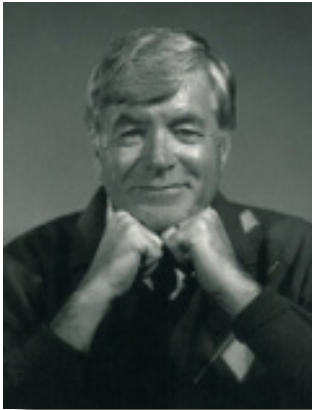
As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts,
may we also clearly declare our intention to work for the time when all people, regardless of race, religion or sex,
will be granted equal dignity and worth.

(Continued on next page)

Come, O gracious God,
who led your children Israel from slavery, keep us free from all that might hold us in bondage.
Bless our country and join our simple celebration
that we may praise you, our Source of freedom, the One in whom we place our trust.

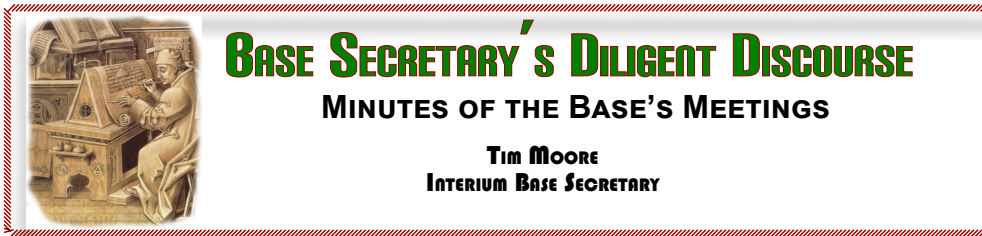
Ed Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac (www.appleseeds.org)

On Eternal Patrol



John Dwane Pirkle died May 19, 2013 a long and tremendous battle with his illness. Skip” was born Oct 20, 1937 in Monroe, LA, son of John H. and Mary Pirkle. He grew up in Oakdale and graduated from Oakdale High School in 1955, “The best graduating class ever!” He served in the Navy, as an electronics technician and bugler on the submarine, Gudgeon. He was initiated into the Brotherhood of Shellbacks, as the Gudgeon had circumnavigated the globe. In a book titled Blind Man’s Bluff, there is an accounting of a chilling tale that took place while he was on board. Amongst the many hats he wore, he worked as junior technician on the Apollo Missile, General Dynamics VP in systems engineering, 1st Security VP of data graphics, etc., and retired a precious metals commodities broker. He loved life! He was a great father, loving husband, and a good friend. A colorful story teller and had a wonderful sense of humor. He enjoyed his birds, his truck, traveling, guns, golf, music, sports, skin diving and most of all fishing in his boat. He is survived by his spouse, Honey and their seven children, Kathy, Jerry, Bob, Brian, Jerry, Andrea, Lori and ten grandchildren. He is also survived by his Aunt Gerri Brian his brother William Pirkle. A celebration of life will be 6pm Friday, June 21,





June 2013 General Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead, in Glendale, AZ at 1206 hours, 08 June 2013. The meeting was called to order by Howard Doyle, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Base Chaplain Steve Leon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in the month of June and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

Rick Simmons stated we had three new members join this month and one was present, Mark Field. The two new members who weren't present are currently on active duty. One is Jerry Pittman, Jr., son of Jerry Pittman and he is a Ltjg on the USS Cheyenne SSN-773 and the other is Juan Amaya who is a MM2 serving on board the USS Jefferson City SSN-759 and he is Jerry Pittman's nephew. Mark Field brought his mom as a guest today and Steve Leon had his son Joseph as a guest as well. Rick also announced that he has some generic Perch Base business cards for anyone who needs them.

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the May 2013 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Treasurers report for the financial status for the month ending 31 May 2013 will be delayed as our Treasurer Bob Warner is out of town on a work assignment.

According to the Sailing List there were 21 members, along with some guests, present. The complete sailing list included:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Howard Doyle | Chuck Emmett | Rich Kunze | Jim Denzien |
| Tim Moore | Rick Simmons | DeWayne Lober | Jack O'Connor |
| Walt Blomgren | Steve Leon | Doug LaRock | Milton McNeill |
| John Mosher | Paul Miller | Don DeMarte | Thomas Farley |
| Ted Hunt | George Crider | Dan Moss | Royce Pettit |
| Mark Field | | | |

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

The Annual Picnic was held on 11 May 2013 and there were some 65 people in attendance. A good time was had by but it was noted that we could have used one more container of potato salad for this number of attendees. Howard said that if anyone had any suggestions on how we might improve the picnic for next year to let him know. There were Holland Club Induction Ceremonies held for both Gudgeon and Tautog Bases.

On Saturday the 18th of May we attended the Armed Forces Day event in Flagstaff and it was a success. Tucson Base also brought their float up for this event. We had 7 members and 2 wives in attendance and it was mentioned that this was the 7th year they have had the parade and the 7th year that Perch Base has participated in this event. The event planners were very appreciative of our participation in their event and we were also very well received by the crowd.

On the 27th of May we attended the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery and we presented wreaths for both the WWII submarine veterans and Perch Base. Following the main ceremony we conducted a tolling ceremony narrated by Chuck Emmett for all lost U.S. submarines. It was a good turnout and Howard suggested that if you have not attended in the past, you are encouraged to attend in the future. He went on to say that this is probably the primary event for submarine veterans and Perch Base.

We are going to have an election for District Commander WD1. Jack Messersmith from Gudgeon Base is the current District Commander and his term will be expiring with the upcoming national convention. Currently we have one candidate for District Commander WD1 and that is Jim Denzien. A Flash Traffic will be sent out to all hands with a ballot with Jim's name and a place for write-in nominees as well. These ballots need to be returned to Howard electronically by the end of June. Paper ballots will be sent out to those members who do not have e-mail. We want to encourage all members to vote to show support for this election.

Herb Herman is currently dealing with some medical issues and is in Good Samaritan Hospital. Family members are the only ones who have visitation at this time. Chuck will keep us updated on Herb's condition as he receives information. During Herb's absence, Tim Moore will act as Interim Secretary.

The Board of Directors voted to send \$1.00 per member, for a total of \$153.00, to the USSVI for the support of the National Holland Club. They solicited the bases to consider donating \$1.00 for each Holland Club member they have. The Board of Directors decided that since we will all eventually be Holland Club members that we would donate \$1.00 for each Perch Base member and a check has been issued.

Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander/Communications Officer – Chuck Emmett mentioned there has been some confusion about the deadline for submission of articles for the MidWatch. It is a "fixed" time and all articles need to be submitted no later than 8:00 am on the 3rd Friday preceding the base meeting that is 3 Fridays before the monthly meeting. There will be a box on the right side of webpage that notes the deadline date. There will also be a box or link, on the left webpage that you can click on to view pictures of the most current event. You will be able to click on a directory of the last events and then click on the event you wish to view.

Chuck also brought up the issue of when it is appropriate or not appropriate for veterans to salute or not salute when the flag passes in review or we hear the National Anthem. Recently legislation has been passed addressing this issue. Jim Denzien will look into what is the correct protocol and let Chuck know and this information will be published in a future newsletter article.

Interim Secretary – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Warner was not present.

Membership Chair - Rick reported that there were no changes in the membership which currently stands at 153.

Chaplain – Steve Leon stated that Angie Gram (Joe Varese's daughter) and her husband are ardent supporters of Perch Base and what we do. Steve recommended that we offer her an Associate Member position. Each Perch Base member can sponsor one Associate Member and Steve has used his sponsorship. Steve has offered to pay for Angie's dues for the first year and Doug LaRock volunteered to be her base sponsor.

Events Coordinator – Walt Blomgren mentioned the only upcoming event is the Prescott Frontier Days 4th of July Parade which will be held on Saturday, July 6th. Walt said as soon as he gets the particulars he will send out a Flash Traffic with the necessary updates. Howard added that anyone who wants to go up the day before (Friday the 5th) should give their name(s) to him and he will try to make reservations. George Crider will be bringing his trailer so there will be plenty of room for people to ride in this parade. There was also discussion about future events and parades and details will be announced and published as plans are solidified for these events.

Chief of the Boat – Rich Kunze added that it is always a lot of fun to go to Prescott the night before the 4th of July Parade and attend the rodeo.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober announced he has some new officers and enlisted caps for \$12.00 each. He also has dolphin stickers for the backs of cars and trucks and some shirts on sale for \$5.00 each.

Past Commander – Jim Denzien reported on his attendance at the Unified Arizona Veterans meeting which is conducted on the 1st Saturday of the month at state Veteran's Home. This was the last meeting before the summer break and the next meeting will be the 1st Saturday of September. A representative for the VA Medical Center announced that the Buckeye facility will be closed on at least a temporary basis because they have not been able to contract with a physician to perform services there. A state Representative by the name of Kathryn Miranda who represents District 27 addressed the group and said that there are three legislators who formed a group called the Veteran's Caucus to deal with veteran's issues in the legislature. Jim added that there are three people who are part of the Military Veteran's Commission for the City of Phoenix and they are John Altman, Melissa Lang and Howard Goldman. They are supposed to be taking over the leadership and scheduling of events for the Veteran's Day Parade. Howard Goldman said that at this time there is nothing is definitive. The VA is no longer participating as a major sponsor for the parade so we will need to rely on The City of Phoenix

and keep pushing them for an answer about the parade status. Jim announced that the Secretary of State, Ken Bennett, introduced a paver program for the WWII Memorial that will be established at Wesley Bolin Plaza. This program will be to purchase bricks with inscriptions from the donor. There will be three sizes; 4" x 8", 8" x 8" and 12" x 12". These can purchased for \$125.00 with three lines of information on the 4" x 8" size and the prices go up from there. Anyone interested in this project can get the information from Jim Denzien. Jim recommended that Perch Base gets one of these bricks to support this WWII Memorial project.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Old Business

Howard announced that Tim Moore went to Italy and attended the I.S.A. (International Submariners Association) 50th Congress which was held in Catania, Sicily. Tim presented a 12 minute PowerPoint presentation for the enjoyment of the group.

New Business

There was no new business announced.

Good of the Order

Jim Denzien announced the he and Richard Kunze would be attending the USSVI National Convention in Rochester this year. Richard will be the designated representative for Perch Base and Jim & Mary will be leaving in August and will be traveling as tourists. If anyone has any issues they would like addressed at this year's convention, see Jim or Richard.

Steve Leon announced that Billy Grieves and his wife Miriam are not doing too well. They are both in their 90's and are slowing down. Billy went on to say that they were both prepared to move on. Steve said that's the reality of their lives and we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Tim Moore who won \$50.00.

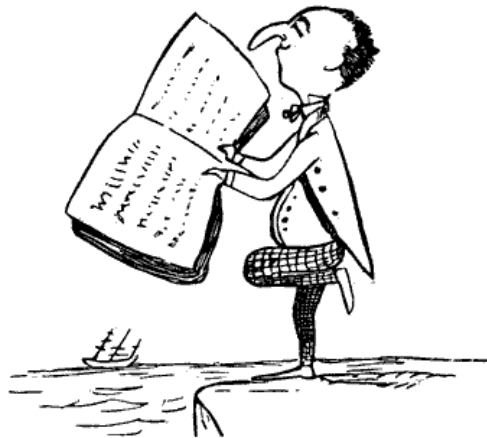
Adjournment

All outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1303 hours.

The benediction was offered by Base Chaplain Steve Leon.

Tim Moore

Interim Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



Brief History of the I.S.A.

I had the good fortune and pleasure of attending the I.S.A. (International Submariners Association) 50th Congress in Catania, Sicily this past May. (See photo, at right.) I traveled with Ken Earls, Jack Messersmith and Bill Larime who are shipmates from Gudgeon Base. (See below, right) Ken is President of the USA/ISA. Jack is Vice-President and District Commander WD1, and Bill is USA/ISA Stand-by Member at Large. Like the USSVI the ISA was formed by some WWII submarine veterans back in the 60's. Unlike the USSVI it does not have a formal structure with elected officers, a constitution and policies & procedures. It is strictly an informal, social organization that gets together once a year in the spring somewhere in the world where one of the 24 member countries hosts the event.



The I.S.A had its first meeting when WWII French Commander Jean Blanchard and German Commander Adalbert Schnee had

the opportunity to meet in Paris in 1962. They were both highly decorated with medals of merit. Although they fought on opposite sides, they shared their common experiences and became friends. This 1962 meeting was such a success; they arranged another meeting the following year in the same place. Admiral Parona, Commander of the Atlantic base of Italian boats in Bordeaux joined the initiative at this second meeting in the spring of 1963. The first Italian meeting was then held in Venice in 1965. From 1968 until 1996, meetings have taken place every year in rotation with the exception of 1968 and 1996.



After a few years, Austria, Great Britain and the U.S.A. joined and in recent years Russia, Poland, Chile and the Ukraine joined as well. They were followed by Israel and Argentina. The I.S.A. continues to grow and as of this year there are members from 24 countries, most of whom are submarine veterans. Other members include active duty personnel from E-3 to O-10 and membership is open to anyone with an interest in submarines.



Anyone interested in joining should check out the ISA/USA website at www.isausa.org. On the website you will find more information about the organization including membership applications. Membership dues are \$20.00 a year or \$50.00 for a lifetime membership. I highly recommend joining and attending one of the future Congresses, it is a memorable experience. The 51st I.S.A. Congress will be held in May 2014 in Athens,



What's the Base Been Up To . . .

We've made a big change! Instead of a few pictures of an event posted here, we've set up a great and easy to use link on the main web page (www.perch-base.org) that will take you to a selection page with links to all the events of the year where we have photographs. Click on any individual photo and the original full-size photo is available. Look for the icon, shown below, on the left side of the main web page.



The Pacific !!

Five things Every Sailor Should Know about the Plans for the Pacific

Navy Times, Jun. 3

As the Pentagon shifts its focus to the bustling Pacific region, the Navy is weighing how to work with more countries and to manage more ships. The Navy's top officer spoke about these issues after a recent trip to the area. Here's what you need to know:

1. The strategy.

The Asia-Pacific region is enormous, spanning nine time zones. Planners have broken it into two regions where different kinds of warships are needed. Combatants such as cruisers, submarines and aircraft carriers will patrol the East China Sea and Sea of Japan to deter a bellicose North Korea and an assertive Chinese navy. Meanwhile, smaller ships like the littoral combat ship will focus on the Indian Ocean region, training partner navies and offering relief when needed.

"The shift to Southeast Asia: It's about forging deeper partnerships and building new ones," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jon Greenert in a May 21 speech at the Center for a New American Security think tank in Washington, D.C.

2. Japan's new role.

One of America's closest allies in the region is assessing whether to bolster its defense by operating closer with the U.S. Navy, a vision that could have Japanese ships steaming in U.S. strike groups. "Think NATO, think U.K.," Greenert said, describing the arrangement Japanese leaders are considering.

3. China cooperation.

China's naval might is felt throughout the region, including in territorial disputes. But Greenert sees plenty of chances for cooperation. For the first time, China's fleet will participate in the Rim of the Pacific exercise in 2014. And the CNO will host his Chinese counterpart, Adm. Wu Shengli, on an upcoming visit.

"We just gotta keep being persistent," Greenert said of engaging with China's navy. "I think we want the same thing: Prevention of miscalculation."

4. Battle plans.

The services are developing a new strategy to counter adversaries capable of mining waters and shooting down aircraft to deny U.S. forces access.

This Air-Sea Battle concept focuses closely on joint missions between the Air Force and the Navy and is widely



believed to be the blueprint for countering China, an application officials rarely address. But it will require the U.S. military services to break down their barriers, Greenert said.

5. More LCSs coming.

The Navy's first LCS, Freedom, is testing Singapore as a base and logistics hub, where crews can on load mission packages and head out without spending weeks in transit to and from U.S. bases.

"We think it's the right size for Southeast Asia," Greenert said of LCS in a May 15 speech in Singapore. "And by 2020, we'll have about seven operating in and around this region."

Four are to be based in Singapore and three in Japan.



At left, is the second LCS, the USS Independence a tri-hull design. At this time, it is planned that LCS's will be a mixture of the two types.



Eternal Patrol

July 26, 1944

Editors Note: Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest
Is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.



USS Robalo (SS-273) July 26, 1944

Photo # NH 69250 - Launching of USS Robalo, at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, 9 May 1943



GATO-CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

Displacement: 1,549 tons (surf) 2,463 tons (sub)
Length: 311 ft 9 in; Beam: 27 ft 3 in; Draft: 17 ft 0 in]
4 × Fairbanks-Morse Model 38D8-1/8 9-cylinder diesel engines
driving electrical generators; 2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries]
4 × high-speed GE electric motors with reduction gears two propellers]
5,400 shp (surf); 2,740 shp (sub)
Speed: 21 kn (surf); 9 kn (sub)
Range: 11,000 nmi surfaced at 10 kn
Endurance: 48 hours at 2 kn sub, 75 days on patrol
Test depth: 300 ft
Complement: 6 officers, 54 enlisted
Armament: 10 × 21-inch torpedo tubes
(six forward, four aft), 24 torpedoes
1 × 4-inch/ 50 caliber deck gun
Bofors 40 mm and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon

(edited from) Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Career:

Builder: Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Laid down: 24 October 1942

Launched: 9 May 1943

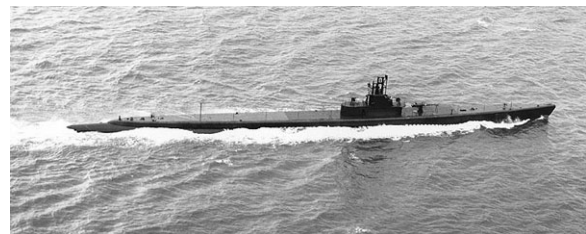
Commissioned: 28 September 1943

Struck: 16 September 1944

Fate: Mined west of Palawan, 26 July 1944. 4 of the 81 crew survived, died as POW's

USS Robalo (SS-273), a Gato-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the róbalo or common snook. Her keel was laid down on 24 October 1942 by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She was launched on 9 May 1943, sponsored by Mrs. E.S. Root, and commissioned on 28 September 1943.

After passage by inland waterways and being floated down the Mississippi River, Robalo deployed to the Pacific. On her first war patrol (under the leadership of Commander Stephen Ambruster, Annapolis Class of 1928), she sortied from Pearl Harbor, hunting Japanese ships west of the Philippines. There, en route to her new station in Fremantle, she damaged a large freighter, firing four torpedoes at 3,100 yards (2,800 m). She spent 36 of her 57-day mission submerged. When she arrived, her commanding officer was summarily relieved by Admiral Christie and replaced with Manning Kimmel (Class of 1935).



In March 1944, Christie (based on Ultra) feared surprise from a strong Japanese force. When Chester W. Nimitz, Jr. in USS Haddo (SS-255), made contact on his SJ radar and reported "many large ships", Christie scrambled to

respond. Robalo, along with USS Flasher (SS-249), USS Hoe (SS-258), USS Hake (SS-256), and USS Redfin (SS-272) all ran to intercept. No attack ever materialized.

For her second patrol, Robalo went to the South China Sea, assigned to interdict Japanese tanker traffic from French Indochina to the fleet anchorage at Tawi Tawi. On a "wildly aggressive patrol" lasting 51 days, Robalo fired twenty torpedoes in four attacks. She was bombed by a Japanese antisubmarine aircraft, suffering shattered and flooded periscopes and loss of radar, while taking a harrowing plunge to 350 feet (110 m) after her main induction



was improperly closed (a casualty frighteningly reminiscent of Squalus) in diving to escape. When she returned to Fremantle, Captain "Tex" McLean (commanding Subron 16) and Admiral Christie both considered relieving Robalo's skipper for his own safety. She was credited with sinking a 7500-ton tanker which was not confirmed postwar by JANAC. (NOTE: The *Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee* was a United States inter-service agency set up to analyze and assess Japanese naval and merchant marine shipping losses caused by U.S. and Allied forces during World War II.)

Robalo departed Fremantle on 22 June 1944 on her third war patrol. She set a course for the South China Sea to conduct her patrol in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. After transiting Makassar Strait and Balabac Strait (which was well-known to be mined), she was scheduled to arrive on station about 6 July and remain until dark on 2 August 1944. On 2 July, a contact report stated Robalo had sighted a Fusō-class battleship, with air cover and two destroyers for escort, just east of Borneo. No other messages were ever

received from the submarine and when she did not return from patrol, she was presumed lost.

Fate of Survivors

On 2 August, a note was dropped from the window of a cell of Puerto Princesa Prison Camp on Palawan Island in the Philippines. It was picked up by an American soldier who was on a work detail nearby. The note was in turn given to H.D. Hough, Yeoman Second Class, who was also a prisoner at the camp. On 4 August, he contacted Trinidad Mendosa, wife of guerrilla leader Dr. Mendosa who furnished further information on the survivors.



From these sources, it was concluded Robalo was sunk on 26 July 1944, 2 miles (3.2 km) off the western coast of Palawan Island from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy mine. Only four men swam ashore, and made their way through the jungles to a small barrier northwest of the Puerto Princesa Prison Camp, where Japanese Military Police captured them and jailed them for guerrilla activities. On 15 August, they were evacuated by a Japanese destroyer and never heard from again. Robalo was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 16 September 1944.

There are two Japanese destroyers lost in August 1944 in either of which the four survivors could have been held:

1. Akakaze, sunk on 23 August 1944 off Cape Bilinao (Luzon), by USS Haddo (SS-255).
2. Yūnagi, sunk on 25 August 1944 off northwest Luzon by USS Picuda (SS-382).

Robalo earned two battle stars for World War II service.



Return To:

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NEXT BASE MEETING
July 13

