

The MidWatch

The Quarterly Newsletter

Perch Base, USSVI
Phoenix, Arizona

WWW.PERCH-BASE.ORG

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Editor: Chuck Luna

Contact: newsletter@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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A Message from the
Base Commander
Howard Doyle
commander@perch-base.org



From Snipe's Castle:

It is March already, one quarter of another year all ready under the keel; the annual awards dinner out of the way and one parade down, and I am still working on my taxes [someone has to pay so the sailors at sea get their paychecks].

Perch Base seems to be holding its own in the membership department, with the passing of several members last year and the addition of a few new members and some transfers from other bases as people move from the snow and cold to "warm and sunny" Arizona.

In the next quarter we will have two events for which we need a head count in order to be successful. The first is the "FREE" base picnic at the White Tanks Regional Park in May; the food and drink are free but there is an admission fee for entrance to the park. Please let membership chairman Jim Andrews know if you are coming. The second event for which we need a head count is the Flagstaff Armed Forces Day parade. If we have enough people, we will have the "new" people trailer but if we don't have a good turnout there is no sense to haul the trailer up the "hill". Please let event coordinator Don Unser know if you are planning on being in Flagstaff. [You will need to bring a chair or plan on sitting on the trailer deck].

Lastly, Jim Denzien [Western District One Commander /jdenzien@cox.net] and Dennis Ottley [Tucson Base Commander /dottley888@comcast.net] are exploring the idea of Tucson Base sponsoring the 2020 USSVI national convention. In order to do this, they are requesting assistance from Perch Base; approximately 20 people to handle convention related events, everything from registration to ticket takers, etc. If you are interested contact either Jim or Dennis for more details.



Event Coordinator
Don Unser
events@perch-base.org

Cold War Submarine Memorial Foundation
Submarines and the Cold War

That terrible War we feared never came. America's leaders placed special trust and confidence in the Submarine Force, who went to sea entrusted with weapons of incredible destructive power, propelled by power plants of unbelievable sophistication, armed for Armageddon, while charged with the solemn responsibility of preventing it.

U.S. strategy during the Cold War relied on our ability to dominate the seas. This strategy required naval forces capable of projecting power to deter and prevent conflict, and when required, to fight and win. Undersea superiority was a vital aspect of this strategy, and for this reason our submarines were key elements of U.S. forces.

Throughout the Cold War, a cornerstone of national security was deterrence. SSBNs were the preeminent and survivable leg of the strategic triad that was instrumental in deterring global nuclear war for half a century. Lurking in the ocean depth, anyplace around the globe, and capable of retaliation to an enemy attack on America, SSBNs carried over half of our nation's strategic warheads at less than 20% of the total costs.

Deterrence of war has been the sole mission for the SSBN since its inception in 1960. It was on a November day in 1960 that the GEORGE WASHINGTON left Charleston on that first patrol - at the height of the Cold War. We were all on guard against a belligerent, nuclear-armed Soviet Union.

Attack submarines, SSs and SSNs, deployed to every region of the world during the Cold War, operating in the open ocean, in choke points and narrow waterways, and under the arctic ice. The U.S. dearly dominated the undersea environment and the Soviets knew it - such that the attack boats were also a deterrent force.

Cold War submarines made over 3,500 strategic deterrent patrols and uncounted surveillance and barrier patrols. In addition, during the major campaigns in this war such as Korea and Vietnam, submarines made many offensive, defensive, and special operations patrols.



Secretary
 BASE MEETING MINTUES
Marcia Unser
 secretary@perch-base.org



Here's something I found in the paper a while back.

WHAM - Veterans & First Responders Program

WHAM is providing a professional art course to all veterans who apply, though it is mostly targeted at veterans with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

This program is FREE to the veteran and includes all art supplies, equipment, and a lunch for approximately 20 veterans at a time.

WHAM offers veterans classes in drawing, painting, clay sculpture, gourd making, mixed media and many other mediums.

There are 12 classes a year, one a month. Each class is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes a FREE lunch.

The classes are held in Surprise and Peoria

Call 623-584-8311 to reserve a place or contact Marty Wolfe at marty.wolfe@wham-art-org for more information.

You can also access their website: <http://www.wham-art.org/>



Communications Officer
Chuck Luna
 communications@perch-base.org



If you have any input or suggestions for something you'd like to see in the MidWatch, let me know. Email me at the above link, I'm always open to new ideas or suggestions.



The Vice-Commander **Glenn Posniack**

vice-commander@perch-base.org



CHIEF-OF-THE-BOAT

Carl Miner

COB@perch-base.org



"Member Mogul"

Membership Chairman

JIM ANDREWS

membership@perch-base.org



Treasurer

David Heighway

treasurer@perch-base.org





Base Webmaster
"Bits & Bytes"

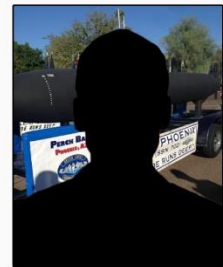
DAN MARKS

webmaster@perch-base.org



Chaplain
Governor Joy

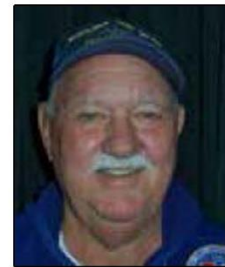
chaplain@perch-base.org



Storekeeper

Herb Herman

storekeeper@perch-base.org



Sage Words of Wisdom . . .
from the past Base Commander

Chuck Emmett

past-commander@perch-base.org



U.S. Undersea Warfare News

USS Colorado Commissioned

SUBLANT Public Affairs, Navy.mil, March 17

GROTON, Conn. – Colorado is the first submarine to bear the name and third vessel to be named for the state and was brought to life by her sponsor, Annie Maybus Mabus, daughter of the 75th Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

"To the crew of USS Colorado, this is your day" said Mabus, addressing the crowd and ship's company during the ceremony. "The commissioning crew truly does bring life to the boat. The pride I feel for the crew of this boat knows no bounds."

As the most modern and sophisticated attack submarine in the world, the submarine can operate in both littoral and deep ocean environments and presents combatant commanders with a broad and unique range of operational capabilities.

"This is an amazing group of Sailors that are outfitted here. Every day we are doing something new for the first time. Just in the time that I've been here, I've watch the team transform into a high performance team that is able to operate the Navy's newest and most capable war fighting ship at sea, in the harsh ocean environments, ready to carry out our mission," said Cmdr. Reed Koepp II, Colorado's commanding officer, as he underscored the boat's most important asset: the crew. "I have seen them achieve greatness in qualifications and I have seen them build to a level of experience and expertise, ready to start executing the nation's missions and get through our initial tactical certifications and engineering readiness."

Colorado is a flexible, multi-mission platform designed to carry out the seven core competencies of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, delivery of Special Operations Forces (SOF), strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and mine warfare.

Colorado is a part of the Virginia-class' third, or Block III, contract, in which the Navy redesigned approximately 20 percent of the ship to reduce acquisition costs. Colorado features a redesigned bow, which replaces 12 individual Vertical Launch System (VLS) tubes with two large-diameter Virginia Payload Tubes (VPTs) each capable of launching six Tomahawk cruise missiles, among other design changes that reduced the submarines' acquisition cost while maintaining their outstanding warfighting capabilities.

After the ceremony, Colorado was opened up for tours to the general public, to include the crew's mess, the wardroom, control, and the torpedo room.

"Our submarines are in high demand today and the expectations for Colorado are a mile high," said Director of Naval Reactors, Adm. J. Franklin Caldwell, Jr. as he addressing the attendees. "In her lifetime, Colorado will travel thousands of miles undetected to protect our nation and our interests around the globe. We cannot begin to imagine all the missions that she will do and all of the places she will sail, but we do know that Colorado's stealth, her endurance, her combat power, and her speed will ensure that our Navy remains in control of the undersea domain."

Colorado also has special features to support Special Forces, including a reconfigurable torpedo room which can accommodate a large number of personnel and all their equipment for prolonged deployments and future off-board payloads.

"We are very proud to represent the great state of Colorado and we are very excited for the future of the ship," said Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Col. "I can honestly say I have the greatest job in the Navy."

Also, in Virginia-class SSNs, traditional periscopes have been replaced by two photonics masts that host visible and infrared digital cameras atop telescoping arms, which are maneuvered by a Xbox controller. Through the extensive use of modular construction, open architecture, and commercial off-the-shelf components, the Virginia class is designed to remain at the cutting edge for its entire operational life through the rapid introduction of new systems and payloads.

"I couldn't be more proud and honored to serve with and for the crew," said Koepp. "The Colorado is a gem of an assignment for any submariner, whether you are a first-term, junior Sailor or you are the commanding officer. I couldn't be more proud to lead and serve with the crew."

SSN 788 was built at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn and is 7,800 tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet and operates at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a nuclear reactor plant that does not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

For more information about the USS Colorado visit:

www.navy.mil/coloradocommissioning and
<http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2018/03/13/five-things-to-know-about-uss-colorado/>

For more information on the submarine force, visit the Submarine Force web site at www.sublant.navy.mil and www.navy.mil/local/sublant/.

Previous Quarter Highlights

First Quarter events for Perch Base.

For more Pictures and details check out our [website](#).

Annual Awards Banquet

Longevity pins to members that were present. Dave Heighway received a 5-year pin, Don Demarte and Herb Herman received 10-year pins, Dewey Reed received a 15-year pin and Rick Simmons received a 20-year pin.

Assistant Western Region Director Jim Denzien conducted the Holland Club Induction Ceremony for members, Bryan Pellegrini, Don Unser and George Woods, into the Holland Club.



Congrats to Don Unser for being selected "Sailor of the Year."

Upcoming Events

Page 1

Saturday, April 14

Monthly General Meeting

At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant

[20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.](#)

(Left-click address, above, for a Google map to Dillon's.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch!

50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Monday, April 23-27

2018 Western Regional Roundup

To review the agenda and register Visit the Roundup website at

<http://wrroundup.com>

Tours will include Lake Mead and the Mob Museum.

The Roundup will be at Sam's Town in Las Vegas, NV. Room rates vary according to amenities and views desired (and perhaps if you want a coffee pot in your room.)

Use the Group Rate Code "A8USC04" when booking.

Saturday, May 12

Annual Lunch Picnic Meeting at White Tanks Park

There will be no meeting at Dillon's. Perch Base will be providing the picnic meal, including soft drinks and water, however there is a \$6.00 fee per vehicle to enter the park which must be paid by the driver. All Arizona sub vets and their families are cordially invited! You are allowed to bring your own beer! But no glass containers, please. If you're coming, we'll need a head count by May 6.

[20304 West White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell, AZ 85355](#), Ramada 4F.

A few volunteers are needed to come early/stay late to help the COB.

Saturday, May 19

The 11th Annual "Flagstaff Armed Forces Day Parade"

We have been invited to parade the USS Phoenix (SSN-702) float.

The theme will be "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

"Parade Check-In" begins at 8:00 AM at San Francisco de Asis Catholic School.

We won't know our staging location until check-in, but it should be within a block or two of this location. [320 N Humphreys Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001](#)

Staging from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Roll at 11: a.m.

No word yet if the American Legion Post 3, [204 W. Birch Ave.](#) will have the usual pancake breakfast.

Upcoming Events

Page 2

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

8:00 a.m. Perch Base will attend the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. This is one of the two most important events of our yearly calendar. Because of the large crowds at this event, and the scarcity of available seating, it is strongly urged that everyone get there no later than 7 a.m. As in previous years, we will follow with the Tolling of the Boats in the Circle of Remembrance at the World War II Submarine Torpedo monument.

[23029 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85024](https://www.google.com/maps/place/23029+N+Cave+Creek+Rd,+Phoenix,+AZ+85024)

After the ceremonies, all shipmates (and family/spouses) are invited to join us for brunch at a restaurant TBD.

Saturday, June 9

Monthly General Meeting

At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant

[20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona.](https://www.google.com/maps/place/20585+North+59th+Avenue,+Glendale,+Arizona)

(Left-click address, above, for a Google map to Dillon's.)

The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch!

50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Friday, June 15

Deadline for the Spring Quarter MidWatch

All input must be in to Chuck Luna, Communications Officer, to be included in the next MidWatch Newsletter to be published on July 6, 2018.

Saturday, June 30

Prescott Frontier Days© Rodeo Parade

2018 Parade Theme: "Honoring Our Every Day Heroes"

We do not have our assigned staging position, yet.

They will start closing streets for the parade after 6:00a.m. Parade entrants can start arriving after 6:00a.m. Parade volunteers will be available after 7:00am. ALL parade entrants need to be in place by 8:00a.m. The parade starts at 9:00!!



The Laff Page

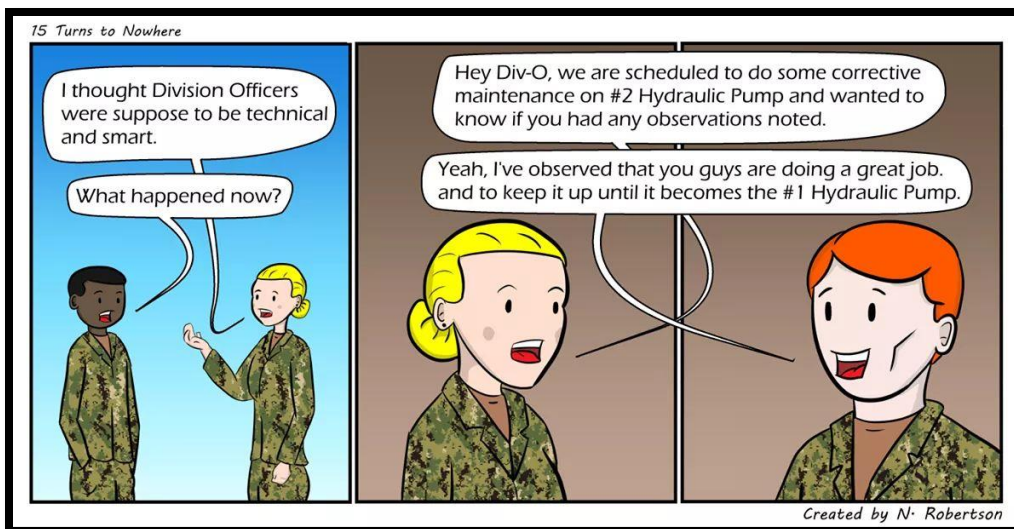
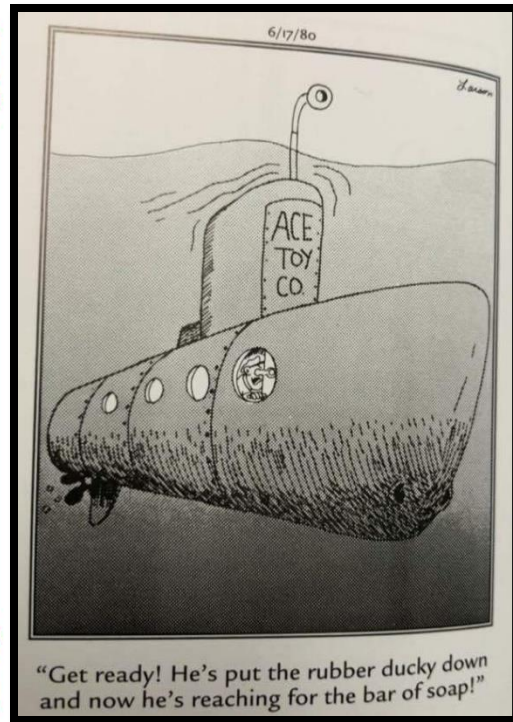
The crusty Navy Master Chief noticed a new seaman and barked at him, "Get over here! What's your name sailor?" "John," the new seaman replied. "Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they're teaching sailors in boot camp these days, but I don't call anyone by his first name," the chief scowled. "It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my sailors by their last names only; Smith, Jones, Baker, whatever. And you are to refer to me as 'Chief.' Do I make myself clear?"

"Aye, Aye, Chief!"

"Now that we've got that straight, what's your name son?"

The seaman sighed. "Darling, My name is John Darling, Chief."

"Okay, John, here's what I want you to do"



First Quarter Birthdays


APRIL	
1	Robert Faulkner
12	George Crider
13	James Wall
14	Rick Simmons
16	James Edwards
16	Donald Walbaum
18	Tom Farley III
22	John Messier
22	Tim Moore
28	Anthony Christianson
30	Davy Jones

MAY	
2	Donald Shafer
3	Doyle Egg
7	Stanley Reinhold
8	Ramon Samson
11	George Woods
17	Steven Balthazor
18	Joseph Hawkins
21	George Debo
24	George Gillette
24	Jennifer Zazueta
25	Donald Robertson
25	Richard Noreika
30	Carl Scott

JUNE	
3	James F. Newman
4	Steve Snyder
7	Robert "Matt" Hayball
7	Dan Marks
9	Garry Shumann
11	Glenn Posniack
19	Tom Carrier
20	David Fyock
20	James Ratte
23	Donald Demarte
27	James Evans
30	Ed Gonsowski

Perch Base CLASSIFIEDS

Your chance to advertise for free! Items from Base Members to other Members, and almost anything is far game. Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, illegal, commercial items or anything in general poor taste. Send your ad to: newsletter@perch-base.org



Glenn I. Posniack
Financial Representative

Gilbert, AZ 85298
C 480-785-6280
glenn.i.posniack@mwarep.org



Adam Stadnik
General Manager

291 W. Chandler Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85010
Ph: 602.241.1845
F: 602.241.0899

www.FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com

(This card is from the store that graciously gives us space to stage and park for the November Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Give them a thought if you need tires or service.)

Classified Size Limit: Four lines of 10 pt Arial font, one column wide. Pictures may be included -- and are encouraged -- but make the picture a separate "jpg" or "png" file. If we can't format your ad as a Word document, it won't run.

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL



Tolling of the Boats for April

3	USS Pickerel (SS-177)	1943	74 men lost
8	USS Snook (SS-279)	1945	84 men lost
10	USS Thresher (SSN-593)	1963	129 men lost
18	USS Gudgeon (SS-211)	1944	80 men lost
22	USS Grenadier (SS-210)	1943	4 lost as POWs

Tolling of the Boats for May

3	USS Lagarto (SS-371)	1945	86 men lost
22	USS Scorpion (SSN-589)	1968	99 men lost
23	USS Squalus (SS-192)	1939	26 men lost
29	USS Stickleback (SS-415)	1958	no loss of life

Tolling of the Boats for June

1	USS Herring (SS-233)	1944	83 men lost
12	USS R-12 (SS-89)	1943	42 men lost
14	USS Golet (SS-361)	1944	82 men lost
18	USS Bonefish (SS-223)	1945	85 men lost
19	USS S-27 (SS-132)	1942	no loss of life
20	USS O-9 (SS-70)	1941	34 men lost
30	USS Runner (SS-275)	1943	78 men lost

2018 Perch Base Operations Supporters

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

Jerry Allston	Robert Hartman	Royce Pettit
Ken Anderson	David Heighway	James Ratte
Steven Balthazor	Harry Heller	Stanley Reinhold
Gary Bartlett	Glenn Harold	Louis Reynolds
Ronald Beyer	Steve Hough	Donald Robertson
John Carpentier	Davy Jones	Robie Robinson
Roger Cousin	Governor Joy	Larry Ruggles
Eugene Crabb	Mike Keating	Pete Sattig
George Crider	Doug LaRock	Donald Schafer
George Debo	Bob Lancendorfer	Carl Scott
Don Demarte	DeWayne Lober	Garry Shumann
Jim Denzien	Dan Marks	Rick Simmons
Mary Denzien	Charles Marshall	Wayne Smith
Billy DeShong	Ray Marshall	Steve Stanger
Howard Doyle	Dennis McComb	William Tippet
James Edwards	Angus McPherson	James Trail
James Evans	Ken Meeks	Marcia Unser
Douglas Ewen	Carl Miner	Donald Walbaum
Tom Farley	Frank Morris	James Wall
David Fyock	John Mosher	Forrest Watson
Robert Gregg	Dan Moss	Joshua Whitmore
Tom Gregory	James Newman	George Woods
William Grissom	Dick Noreika	Bill Woolcott
Mike Haler	Mike Olsen	John Zaichkin