

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

Our website is undergoing a major rework and Chuck Emmett is doing a fantastic job. It is already quite something and will be even better when it is finished. Check it out!

November was a busy month for our float and base activities. We participated in the "decommissioning" of the Phoenix Commission (Nov. 4,) the Anthem parade (Nov. 7,) a Veterans Day ceremony in Gilbert (Nov. 10) and the Veterans Day parade in Phoenix (Nov.11.) The float took first place in our category, Veterans Service Organizations (Float). The float has now been returned to its storage location and we will be doing maintenance on it in the near future.

Billy Grieves' presentation at our last meeting, entitled "A Tribute to Skippers", was well received by all who attended. Unfortunately, we were only able to get one of our former Commanding Officers to be in attendance. BRAVO ZULU to all of them!

Our next meeting is December 12. Plan on being there! Also, put January 16, 2010 on your calendar and get your reservation to Walt Blomgren for our annual Awards Banquet. Find out who the Sailor of the Year for 2009 is!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

November Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1222, 14 November 2009. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

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

According to the sailing list, forty-three (43) members and guests were present. Guests included Jack Messersmith, Western District 1 Commander and member of Gudgeon Base, Ed Brooks, Gudgeon Base Commander, and past Skipper Brad Veek who was CO of the USS Tirante SS-420 out of Key West and is also a life member of Perch Base and current member and vice-Commander of Gudgeon Base. New members included Gary Waterbury, Chris Calnan and Tom Brady.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the October 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

As Acting Treasurer, Jim Denzien reported on the base's financial status as of 01 November 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Jim reported that Wayne Pettes has offered his services to fill the vacated Treasurer's position and will take over the 1st of January. Wayne's name will also be on the ballot for the March election.

Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report

Jim reported that Barry Bower's job of Float Coordinator has been expanded and will be called Event Coordinator. We need to further define what that job will entail and Barry will continue in that position.

The membership was reminded that we will have an election in March for three of the elected positions and they include Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. We are looking for potential candidates for these elected positions.

We are still working on the Policies and Procedures Manual and hope to have a working draft completed for review by the board by the first of the new year.

Our first, of what we hope will be many, Special Guest Speakers (Billy Grieves) is with us today for a presentation. We are working on other future possibilities including Jay Wisner who runs the NJROTC program for Glendale High School. Jay is a retired Navy Chief who is qualified in submarines.

We are also trying to establish a working relationship with the Navy Operational Support Center/Naval Reserve which is relocating to Luke AFB. The hope is that this relationship will result in the possibility of storage space for our float and all the rest of the items we have in storage. Currently Butch Deshong is providing covered storage in East Mesa and we are extremely grateful to Butch for his assistance.

The membership was reminded that there are still some annual dues paying member who need to pay their annual Perch Base and USSVI dues. The National organization is very adamant about members being paid up on time by the end of December of their names will be dropped from the membership rolls and longevity will be forfeited.

Tautog Base sponsored the All Arizona Base Picnic this past month and Perch Base will sponsor the next one in April 2010. It has tentatively been scheduled for second Saturday of April (10 April 2010) at the White Tanks Recreational Area. Additional information for that event will be forthcoming.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Vice-Commander – Howard Doyle reported that we attended two Veteran's Day parades, one in Anthem and the other in Phoenix. Jim and Doug LaRock also took the float and attended a Veteran's Day ceremony in Gilbert on the Tuesday before Veteran's Day.

Secretary – Tim Moore reported that the company, for which he works, American Home Maintenance, will make contributions to our organization for referrals for air conditioning inspections, system estimates and referrals for ADT home security system installations.

Tim will get additional information to Chuck for future publication.

Treasurer – TBA

Chaplain – Walt Blomgren had nothing to report.

Chief of the Boat – TBA

MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster – Chuck Emmett was not present.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman – Rick Simmons reported that all annual dues paying members should have a membership card from National and it is updated with a sticker every year when dues are paid. If anyone is missing their membership card let Rick know and he will get a new one issued. Do Not throw your membership cards away.

Historian – Jim Newman was not present.

Float Coordinator – Barry Bowers had nothing to report.

Past Commander – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

Old Business

Jim Denzien announced that the Awards Banquet will be held the third Saturday of January (16 Jan 2010) at the American Post #105. Awards that will be presented are; Sailor of the Year, Longevity Pin Awards and the Holland Club Induction Ceremony. All members who are eligible for the Holland Club are encouraged to attend so you can be honored for your service to our country in the submarine force. It will be good opportunity to enjoy some fellowship and camaraderie with other members of the base. We will be charging \$20.00 per person and additional information will be forthcoming. Stan will be catering the event.

New Business

Jim re-iterated that the 2010 All Arizona Base Picnic will be sponsored by Perch Base and will be in April, possibly the second Saturday, 10 April 2010.

Good of the Order

Tim Moore reported that the company, for which he works, American Home Maintenance which is an air conditioning company, will make contributions to our organization for referrals for air conditioning inspections, system estimates and referrals for ADT home security system installations. This has the potential of being a perpetual fund raiser for

our base. Tim will get additional information to Chuck for future publication. Butch Deshong added that on behalf of his company, he would offer \$25.00 to the base for water softener and reverse osmosis system installations. Butch also offered a 10% discount to all base members and their referrals.

Roger Cousins proposed the possibility of sponsoring a trip to a casino. The trip to the casino costs \$10.00 per person which is reimbursed by the casino and the money would go back to the base. So if we had a bus of 50 people going to the casino, the base would receive \$500.00. Roger is willing to put one of these trips together.

Jim received an e-mail from Ed Brooks, Gudgeon Base Commander, that legislation is being re-introduced to issue the Cold War Service medal. The medal would be for anyone who served on active duty for not less than two years or was deployed for 30 days or more during the period of 2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991. Anyone who meets these criteria would be eligible for the medal and ribbon.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Don Unser who won \$82.00 and donated \$42.00 back to the Perch Base Foundation.

Adjournment

All the 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 1330 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



Weird but True!

Fact #1: Strange Currencies

When the country of Tripoli issued their demands for tribute from the United States for ships to operate freely off their coasts, their demands were: \$40,000 in gold and silver, \$12,000 in Spanish currency, three diamond rings, one sapphire ring, and one ring with a built-in watch, 141 ells of cloth, and four caftans of brocade.

Fact #2: Hoodwinked

In 1911, when civil war broke out in Honduras, Sam Zemurray, an American businessman with many interests in Honduras, appealed to the US government to protect his businesses. He even paid for part of the US Naval expedition that was sent. President Manuel Bonilla, who was deposed in the civil war, was restored with American assistance. He then rewarded Zemurray with large holdings of land for his booming banana business, which eventually became the huge United Fruit Company. Only long after was it learned that Zemurray was the one who financed the war that deposed Bonilla in the first place.

Fact #3: Overkill?

General Douglas MacArthur had a three-point plan to win the Korean War. First, drop fifty atomic bombs on Chinese bases and staging points. Second, Land half a million Chinese Nationalist troops from Formosa behind Communist lines with two US Marine divisions in support to cut off supply lines, and third, after the Red Chinese were defeated, laying a barrier of radioactive cobalt along the Yalu river to keep the Chinese at bay. Needless to say, none of this ever happened.

Fact #4: Size does Matter

In 1932, there were officially 138,069 men on active duty in the regular US Army. But only about 30,000 would have been immediately available for combat. Some guarded the Mexican border, while others served in non-combat roles.

Fact #5: Let's be Fair

On the dark day of September 11th 2001, George W. Bush was widely criticized for waiting seven minutes before reacting to the news of the terrorist attacks. It was easy to forget that Franklin Roosevelt waited 22 minutes before reacting to the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Fact #6: Damn Computers

In 1980, the computers of the Strategic Air Command in Nebraska indicated that the US was under attack missiles launched by submarine. Within minutes, more than 100 B-52 bombers loaded with nuclear bombs were on their way to the Soviet Union. Fortunately, it was quickly discovered that the computer made a mistake. The culprit was a computer chip, which cost 46 cents.