

Perch Base Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2023

Perch Base Commander George Woods called the monthly meeting to order at Dillon's Restaurant, in Glendale, AZ at 1200 hours, July 8, 2023.

Governor Joy gave the invocation. George Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance, Jerry Benham read the USSVI Purpose. A moment of silence followed by the Tolling of the Boats lost in July.

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

Jim Andrews	John Beckett	Jerry Benham
C. C. Clarke	Chris Gahan	Georgianne Gahan
W. H. Doyle, Jr.	David Heighway	Davy Jones
Governor Joy	Ken Kennedy	Dan Marks
Sam Mecham	Paul Miller	Carl Miner
Mike Ortiz	Romie Ortiz	Dennis Ottley
Carole Pirkle	Randy Pirkle	Don Robertson
Robie Robinson	Bob Saenz	Don Unser
Jan Van Horn	V. P. Van Horn	Colleen Williams
George Williams	Alice Woods	George Woods

Several new members who plan to join Perch Base introduced themselves: George introduced VIPs Dennis Ottley, our Western District 1 (WD1) Commander, and Mike Ortiz, the Tucson Base Commander.

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

Dan Marks, filling in for Joe Trotter, gave the Treasurer's Report. The month of June started with \$5,794.35. Income was \$449.12. Expenses were \$395.52, ending the month with \$5,847.95.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Vice Commander – Carl Miner

Carl had nothing to add.

Events Coordinator – Dave Heighway

Dave reported the only upcoming events prior to the National Convention are monthly meetings:

Communications Officer & Newsletter Editor – Chris Gahan

Chris reported the deadline for input to the next MidWatch Newsletter is Friday, September 15, 2023. Chris emphasized that input to the MidWatch is welcome from ALL members, including articles, jokes, etc.

Treasurer - Joe Trotter

Joe was not present. George Woods noted that sheets to sign up for Perch Base volunteer support for the National Convention in Tucson were in the back of the meeting room. He had the volunteer sheet from the Convention Committee with the specific positions needed. The volunteer list is also linked on the Perch Base website. If you see anything that you are willing to help with, contact Joe. George also discussed 2023 National Convention sponsorship opportunities.

Past Commander – W. H. Doyle, Jr.

Howard Doyle encouraged membership to view the movie, "Sound of Freedom." The movie addresses human trafficking, particularly children.

Chief Of the Boat – Don Robertson

Don had nothing to add.

Webmaster – Dan Marks

Major activity with the website since the last BOD meeting included posting the Emil Schoonejans Eternal Patrol Notice and the Prescott Frontier Days® Rodeo Parade..

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 June, there were 702 page views on the Perch Base website during 387 sessions by 264 users based on Google Analytics. These numbers are slightly lower than usual. During the month, approximately 79% of the sessions originated in the US, 2% from China and the remainder were widely scattered around the world. Approximately 20% of the U.S. based sessions were from locations in Arizona, which is assumed to come from our membership. Most of the traffic was to the home page (39%), followed by the Glossary (14%), Sailing Orders (13%,) the Emil Schoonejans Eternal Patrol Page (4%,) the Eternal Patrol page (3%,) and the Memorial Day Ceremony (2%).

During June, the Facebook Post Reach (The number of people who saw any of our posts at least once. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your posts by the same people.) was 9,205. The Facebook Post Engagement (The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts) was 369. Our Facebook page had 4 new Page Likes for a total of 166 and 9 new Follows for a total of 189 Followers. These numbers are a significant increase. The top post was “WWII Veteran Emil Joseph Schoonejans, TM2(SS) ETERNAL PATROL World War 2 submarine veteran, Holland Club member and Perch Base Life . . .” with 88 Post Impressions, a Post Reach of 85, and a Post Engagement of 12.

Storekeeper – John Beckett

John reported that he has stock again in Perch Base challenge coins. He also has plastic “poker style” chips that are labelled “Honorary Submariner” that are great for giving to kids. John also had vest clips for sale.

Commander – George Woods

George had nothing to add.

Membership – Chuck Luna

Chuck was not present.

Secretary – Laura Luna

Laura was not present.

Chaplain – Jim Denzien

Jim was not present.

Base Historian – Chuck Emmett

Chuck was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

WD1 District Commander election

George Woods reminded the meeting attendees that the deadline for the WD1 District Commander election ballot submittal is July 15. George had ballots on-hand.

National Convention

Western District 1 (WD1) Commander Dennis Ottley, with additional input from Mike Ortiz, the Tucson Base Commander, gave an update on the Tucson 2023 National Conventiion status. 337 members and guests are signed up and he expects quite a few additional procrastinators to sign up. There are still 110 room-nights available at the \$99 per night rate.

NEW BUSINESS

Email intrusions / Fraud / “STOP USING REPLY TO ALL”

George Woods discussed a recent (unsuccessful) attempt to get funds from a base officer and to be suspicious of fraud. A report was made to the FBI.

Loss of Email host for flash traffic notifications

Dan Marks discussed that the Perch Base website host for our email distribution has changed. The key to our successful continuation of email distribution for Flash Traffics, newsletters, etc. is to ensure that our Membership Chairman is kept notified of any email address changes. Dennis Ottley emphasized that this also ensures receipt of notifications from the National USSVI organization.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The “Noisy Can” was passed around. This quarter’s proceeds benefit the USSVI National Charitable Foundation.
- Jim Andrews encouraged participation in the Honor Flight program, which he attended last year. George Woods noted that Laura Luna is attempting to book an Honor Flight guest speaker to come to a future base meeting.
- Governor Joy discussed the difficulty the military branches are having with recruiting. Governor pointed out how successful most submariners have been after their military experience and suggested we could point that out to potential recruits who are willing to put in a sincere effort how it may benefit them.

BINNACLE LIST

- Chuck Emmett’s wife, Karen passed away while Chuck was in the hospital being treated for infections. Chuck is now out of the hospital, in assisted living, but still in isolation due to the infections until July 19.
- Jim Denzien was in the hospital but has been released
- Governor Joy
- DeWayne Lober

50/50

Vic Van Horn won the 50/50 drawing. Vic’s share came to \$66.00. Perch Base received \$67.00.

ADJOURNMENT

Governor Joy led the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Submitted by:
Dan Marks,
Filling in for Laura Luna
Secretary, Perch Base