



August 2008  
Volume 14 - Issue 8

**What's "Below Decks"  
in the Midwatch**

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
Perch Base "Booster Club"	2
List of Base Officers	3
Sailing Orders	3
Map to August Meeting in Prescott	4
"Shipmate to Shipmate" important notices top all Base members.	5
Base Float Progress Photos	6
July Meeting Minutes	7
From the Desk of the "Sea Hag"	9
July SubVettes Meeting Minutes	9
Criteria for Kay Harnish Scholarship - - Application for Scholarship	10
Lost Boat -- USS Grunion (SS-216)	11
Mailing Page	13

# The "MidWatch"



*The monthly newsletter of  
Perch Base - USSVI  
Phoenix, Arizona*  
<http://perch-base.org>



## Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

### AUGUST ETERNAL PATROLS

<b>USS Bullhead</b>	<b>SS332</b>	<b>Aug. 6, 1945</b>	<b>84 men</b>
<b>USS Flier</b>	<b>SS250</b>	<b>Aug. 13, 1944</b>	<b>78 men</b>
<b>USS Grunion</b>	<b>SS216</b>	<b>Aug. 16, 1942</b>	<b>70 men</b>
<b>USS S-39</b>	<b>SS144</b>	<b>Aug. 16, 1942</b>	<b>none lost</b>
<b>USS Harder</b>	<b>SS257</b>	<b>Aug. 24, 1944</b>	<b>79 men</b>
<b>USS Cochino</b>	<b>SS345</b>	<b>Aug. 26, 1949</b>	<b>(see note)</b>
<b>USS Pompano</b>	<b>SS181</b>	<b>Aug. 29, 1943</b>	<b>76 men</b>

NOTE: Although Cochino lost no men in its sinking, 7 men from the USS Tusk were lost in the rescue of Cochino's crew.

### NEXT MEETING

**Joint Meeting with Gudgeon Base, Prescott, AZ  
(See details inside)**

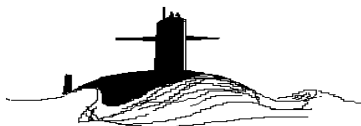
## 2008 Booster Club

*Perch Base, USSVI, cannot support its operation on dues alone. Nor does the Base have any other successful source of income. The Booster Club is a list of those individuals who contribute extra money to keep the Base solvent.*



**Jerry Allston, David Anderson, Ted Asbell, Reynaldo Altos, Gary Bartlett, Kenneth Becker, Richard Bernier, Ron Beyer, Walt Blomgren, Ed Brooks, David Carpenter, Roger Cousin, George Crider, George Debo, Jim Denzien, Butch Deshong, Jim Edwards, Harry Ellis, Joe Errante, David Fledderjohn,**

**Tom Fooshee, Charles Greene, Billy Grieves, William Grissom, Michael Haler, Robert Hanson, Dave Harnish, Ed Hawkins, Harry Heller, Glenn Herold, Les Hillman, Stephen Hough, Davy Jones, Mike Keating, Denny Kerton, Jack Kimball, Darrell Lambert, Al Landeck, Doug LaRock, Burtis Loftin, George Long, George Marions, Raymond Marshall, Sandy Martin, Terry Martin, Bob May, Alan Miller, Paul Miller, Roger M. Miller, Tim Moore, Bob Nance, Jim Nelson, James F. Newman, James W. Newman, Joe Orteba, George Petrovitz, Royce Pettit, Wayne Pettes, Stan Reinhold, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Mel Rycus, Ken Schonauer, Emil Schoonejans, Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, Wayne Kirk Smith, Adrian Stuke, Jim Thomson, Turk Turner, William Tippet, Jim Wall, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin.**





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# Sailing Orders



## AUGUST MEETING

The August Perch Base meeting will be with Prescott's Gudgeon Base on the 9th of August at the Moose Lodge in Prescott Valley. The social hour begins at 1100 and the meeting begins at 1200.

## USSVI

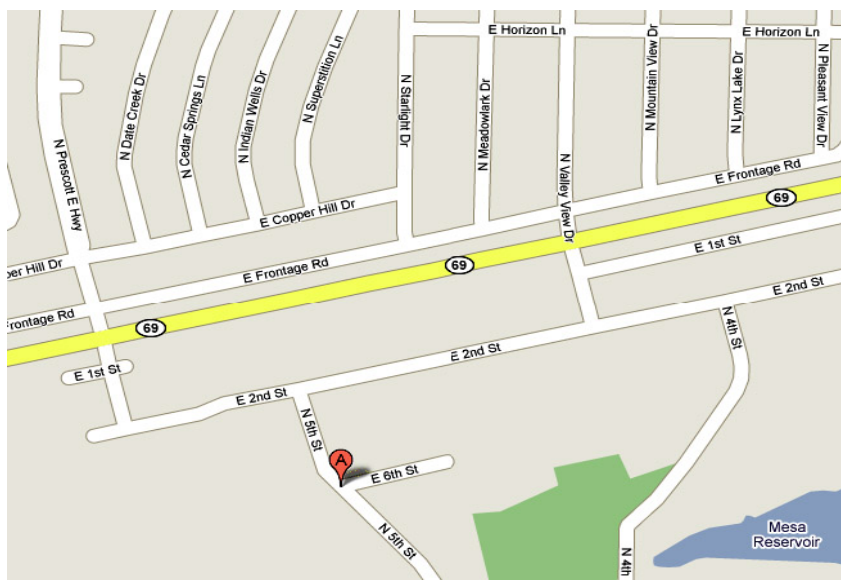
2008 National Convention  
Fort Worth, Texas  
September 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

**NO "MIDWATCH"  
WILL BE PUBLISHED  
NEXT MONTH,  
SEPTEMBER.**



**This map will get you in the ball park.**

**Then, use the map below to find the Moose Lodge,  
6501 East 6th Street,  
Prescott Valley, AZ.**



# Shipmate



# Shipmate

**Take a chance to win a King's Ransom!!** (OK, maybe not quite that much . . .)

It's a new 50/50 drawing, with the top prize 50 percent of all sales – and this is NATIONAL shipmates!!

2nd through 10th prizes will be equal prizes made up of the other 50% of the prize money.

Dave Harnish has SubVets 50/50 Opportunity Drawing tickets for sale. The tickets are \$10.00 each with 50 percent of the monies going to Perch Base Treasury.

The drawing will be held at the National Convention September 1-7, 2008

Contact Dave at [daveharnish@cox.net](mailto:daveharnish@cox.net) and send him your check to:

Dave Harnish  
6509 West Devonshire Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85033-3350

Dave will fill out the ticket stubs and mail your tickets to you.

---

Jim Nelson has been our Base's Storekeeper sine the Navy went nuclear! Well . . . not really that long, but a long time and **he's ready to let another shipmate take on that noble and very vital job.**

If you can help the Base by taking on the Storekeeper's job, contact Jim Nelson at (623) 972-1044.

And, speaking of Ship's Stores, Jim is having a closeout sale on all of the shirts shown in the photograph, at right, with a **whopping 50% off!**



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## WE STILL NEED A TRAILER THAT WILL FIT THIS 10-FOOT MODEL.



The photo, at left, is of the incredible submarine model of the USS Cavalla (SSN-684), a Sturgeon-class boat, that shipmate Mike Keating has built. Mike is rightly proud of his model and he, and Perch Base would like to have the public see it when the Base participates in parades and even on its own.

But, the model needs a trailer on which to ride.

At 10 feet long, the model needs a trailer that's low-sided enough to show it off.

If any shipmate has trailer that can be loaned to the Base for events, please contact Mike Keating (480) 699-3024 or any Base officer. This is too fantastic a job not to help show it off!

# Base Float is Progressing!



*Shipmate Howard Doyle sands the stacked foam sheets that form the bow section of the model. Fiberglass will be molded over the foam sections for a smooth hull finish. The sail and planes will be constructed similarly.*

*Shaping and sanding of the nose is checked with a plywood template to ensure the bow has a true-to-scale "702" configuration.*



*A seven-bladed, scimitar shaped propeller as declassified on models of the Sturgeon-class boats is shown attached to the aft hull. The propeller and "duce cap" will be bronze colored.*

## July Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at Happy Trails Resort, Surprise, AZ at 1300 hours, 19 July 2008. Stan Reinhold, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

The membership was led in a prayer of invocation by Chaplain Howard Doyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a standard ceremonial opening. A moment of silence was observed for shipmates on eternal patrol and the tolling ceremony for boats lost in May was conducted.

According to the sailing list, there were eighteen members present.

Minutes from the June 2008 regular meeting as published in the Midwatch were approved.

Treasurer Dave Harnish reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of July 2008. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

**Vice Commander** - Jim Denzien had nothing to report.

**Secretary** - George Debo was not present.

**Chief of the Boat** – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

**Chaplain** – Howard Doyle has received a card from Joe O'treba's widow and it was passed around for all to see. He also reported that shipmate Rick Simmons had had surgery this past week but was not current with his status.

**Membership** – David Fledderjohn was not present.

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett had nothing to report.

**Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson reported that he still had shirts to sell at reduced prices.

**Webmaster** - Ray Samson reported on his work with the 702 Society website.

**Past Base Commander** - Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Commander Stan Reinhold reported that he had received four tickets for the opportunity raffle from the Holland Club. He reported that he put them in the base's name and returned them. The base will be getting 200 tickets and base Treasurer Dave Harnish will be selling them.

### Old Business

Jim Denzien reported on the status of the new float construction. Some of the in process work was shown by photographs: prop with dunce cap, stern section, tanks making the main body. Volunteers are still needed. Contact Jim Denzien or Howard Doyle to volunteer. Jim discussed the trailer procurement options. The final decision will be made after the final quote is received. Potential storage sites were discussed.

Base Commander Stan Reinhold conducted a vote for the next Western District 1 Commander by a show of hands. The vote was unanimous for Jack Messersmith.

There is a Base meeting location committee consisting of Jim Edwards, Wayne Pettes, Dave Harnish, Tim Moore and Jim Denzien. We are expecting a report from the group sometime in August. Tim Moore discussed a site selection form that he had developed.

### New Business

The next meeting is with Gudgeon Base on August 9th. We are trying to coordinate riders and drivers due to higher costs for gas.

Base Commander Stan Reinhold reported that the E-Board decided that the Annual Awards Banquet will be conducted in January/February due to logistic concerns. Also the annual Holland Club induction will be conducted at the Banquet.



All members are encouraged to vote in the National election online. Your votes are important. There are also Constitution and Bylaw changes to be voted on.

**Good of the Order**

Shipmate Walt Blomgren is out of the hospital and staying with his daughter Catherine, 17448 N. 41st Ave., 602-439-3067.

Shipmate Rick Simmons is recovering from surgery, 10868 W. Crosby Drive, Sun City, 623-583-4235.

Shipmate Jack McCarthy has recently been taken to the hospital. Status to follow.


Shipmate Time Moore discussed the purchase of hats for the Kaps for Kids Program. A motion was made and seconded to purchase hats to support another presentation at Children’s Hospital. A vote was taken and passed with Shipmates Chuck Emmett and Howard Doyle dissenting.

**Adjournment**

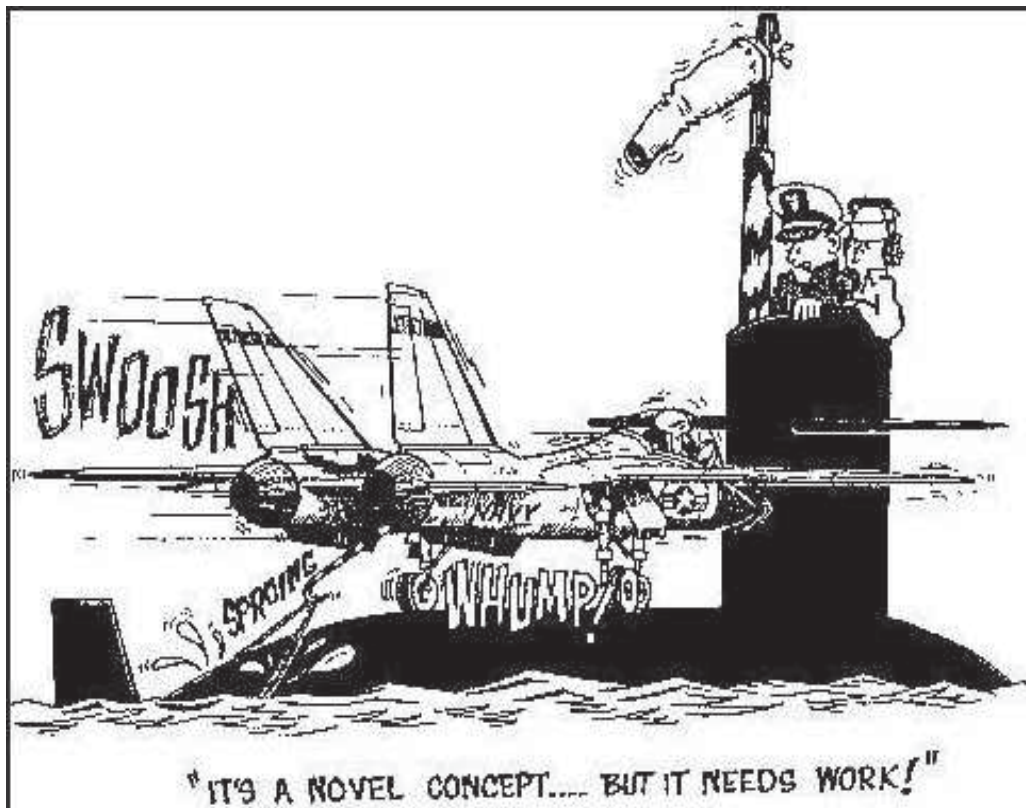
All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chaplain Howard Doyle offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Denzien (for George Debo), Vice Commander



**Bob Snedaker**  
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<http://www.fairings-etc.com>







## From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

### Perch Base SubVettes

Ladies, don't forget that in August, our meeting will be Aug. 9 at 11:30 am. We will meet at Oaxaca Mexican Restaurant, 1516 W. Van Buren (that's 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & West Van Buren.) The entrance to the parking lot is off 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of West Van Buren. It is centrally located, so I hope to see lots of you there! Please call me (602) 332-3938 (cell) or (623) 547-7945 (home) if you are planning to come, so I can make reservations. I'd like to hear from you by August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us in remembrance of Laurie Phillips, our dear Jacquie Hawkins daughter, by lighting a candle on 8/10/08 at 8 p.m. The family is scattering her ashes in Colorado.

It was great having Jacquie joining us again. We have certainly missed her fabulous personality and terrific laugh! Glad she could find us!

At this time, we don't know where the September meeting is going to be held. I'm certain that the guys will let us know. I hope we aren't gypsies for long.

That's it for this month. Stay safe, healthy and cool and see you at Oaxaca on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

Mary

### SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES July Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mary Denzien. There were 7 members in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was let by President Mary Denzien. The Invocation was given by Muriel Grieves.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the MidWatch was made by Jane Reinhold and seconded by Jacqui Hawkins.

Jane Reinhold gave the Treasurers report; motion to accept was made by Nancy Nelson, and seconded by Jacqui Hawkins.

President Mary Denzien made the announcement that there would not be an Annual Awards Banquet in December 2008, but there would be something announced for early 2009. Information will be forthcoming.

Judy Wannamaker volunteered to make contact with Luke Air Force Base to find out about making a donation to the Families left behind, or other worthy charity. She will make a report at our September meeting.

President Mary Denzien will make sure we have reservations for our next meeting at Oaxaca restaurant on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. If anyone who wasn't present at the July meeting would like to attend, please let Mary know by August 3<sup>rd</sup> latest.

We all would like to commend Stan Reinhold for wonderful lunch he provided for the July meeting, everything was exceptional, especially the strawberry shortcake.

THANK YOU STAN FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING MEAL!!

We hope all will mark your calendars to light a candle on August 10 in memory of Jacqui's daughter Laurie, whose ashes will be scattered by family members in Colorado.

God bless Jacqui and her family.

Judy and Jacqui both donated funds to the Cookie Fund, to send more of Stan's yummy goodies to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Phoenix, AZ 85019

The 50/50 drawing was won by Jane Reinhold, her winnings were \$20 which she donated the Kay E. Harnish Memorial Scholarship Fund. If anyone would like to apply for the \$1,000 scholarship please see the insert in the MidWatch (EDITOR: below, this page) or you can view it on the Perch Base web site. All the criteria and applications are available at any time on the website.

All business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



**CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR THE  
KAY E. HARNISH MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**

To qualify for the Kay E. Harnish Scholarship, the applicant must be related, by blood, to a member of the Subvets/ SubVettes of the Arizona Perch Base.

The Subvet/SubVette must be a member in good standing, with all dues paid.

Two (2) letters of recommendation must be submitted: one from a teacher; the other one from your church, employer or professional friend.

You must be registered as a full-time student to qualify for the funds.

All scholarships are provided as an award of \$1,000.00 with the check issued jointly in the name of the recipient and the college or institution you will be attending for the current year.

Students applying for scholarships must have the application process completed by February 1, 2009.

The SubVettes of Perch Base will notify your institution of the award with a copy of the check and the letter you will receive.

Along with your COMPLETED APPLICATION, you will need the following:

An ESSAY ON PATRIOTISM not to exceed one (1) double-spaced typed page.

A LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE from the school (a copy is allowed).

**KAY E. HARNISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
SUBVETTES/SUBVETS OF PERCH BASE**

**Part I APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 4.  
 School Name, Address & Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. School Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II SPONSOR INFORMATION** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Submarines served on & years: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Part**

**III EDUCATION** Name/Address of High School Attending/Graduated: Dates Attended: Graduation Date/  
 Major Full Time? Name/Address of College(s)/Accredited Institution(s)  
 Attending Dates Attended Graduation Date/Major Full Time

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Eternal Patrol August 16, 1942

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 Grunion SS-216



The **Gato-class submarine** was the state of the art in American design at the start of World War II. Using the previous Tambor-class submarine as a basis, Gatos incorporated improvements to increase their overall patrol and combat abilities. Modifications to the diesel engines and batteries increased patrol duration over Tambors, and internal alterations provided more amenities for the crew. The class is named after its lead ship, USS Gato (SS-212).

Displacement: 1,526 tons surf., 2,424 tons sub.  
Length: 311ft 9in, Beam: 27 ft 3in, Draft: 15 ft 3in  
Test depth: 300ft., Speed: 20 knots surf., 9 knots sub.  
Armament: 10 x 21 in torpedo tubes (6 forward, 4 aft, 24 torpedoes)  
1 x 3/50 cal AA gun, 2 x .50 cal, and 2 x .30 cal machineguns  
Crew: 80 – 85 officers and men  
Powerplant: •4 x 1350 hp 16cyl GM 278A diesels  
(except SS228-239 and SS275-284 10cyl Fairbanks-Morse 38D-1/8),  
2 x 1370 hp GE electric motors  
(except SS228-235 Elliott Motor or SS257-264 Allis-Chalmers),  
two 126-cell Exide main storage batteries  
(except SS261, 275-278, & 280 Gould)  
Range: •11,800 nm at 10 knots surf, 100nm at 3 knots sub.  
Submerged Endurance: 48 hours

**USS Grunion (SS-216)** was a Gato-class submarine. She was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the grunion, a small fish of the silversides family, indigenous to the western American coast.

Her keel was laid down by the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 22 December 1941, sponsored by Mrs. Stanford C. Hooper, wife of Rear Admiral Hooper, and commissioned on 11 April 1942 with Lieutenant Commander Mannert L. Abele in command.

After shakedown out of New London, Grunion sailed for the Pacific on 24 May. A week later, as she transited the Caribbean Sea for Panama, she rescued 16 survivors of USAT Jack, which had been torpedoed by a German U-boat, and conducted a fruitless search for 13 other survivors presumed in the vicinity. Arriving at Coco Solo on 3 June, Grunion deposited her shipload of survivors and continued to Pearl Harbor, arriving 20 June.

Departing Hawaii on 30 June after ten days of intensive training, Grunion touched Midway Island; then headed toward the Aleutian Islands for her first war patrol. Her first report, made as she patrolled north of Kiska Island, stated she had been attacked by a Japanese destroyer and had fired at him with inconclusive results. She operated off Kiska throughout July and sank two enemy patrol boats while in search for enemy shipping. On 30 July the submarine reported intensive antisubmarine activity, and she was ordered back to Dutch Harbor.

Grunion was never heard from nor seen again. Air searches off Kiska were fruitless; and on 5 October Grunion was reported overdue from patrol and assumed lost with all hands. Her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 2

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November 1942. Captured Japanese records show no antisubmarine attacks in the Kiska area, and the fate of Grunion remained a mystery for 65 years until her discovery in the Bering Sea in August of 2007. The reason for her sinking is still a mystery.

Grunion received one battle star for World War II service.

The Web site maintained by the Public Affairs Office of Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), states that Yutaka Iwasaki, “a gentleman [sic] in Japan,” had a Web site with information about Japanese ships sunk during World War II. The numerous misspellings, bad syntax, and incorrect grammar make COMSUBPAC Public Affairs Office’s description of the site difficult to understand (and contrast sharply with the preceding Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships entry). However, it may be possible that on the morning of 31 July 1942 a troop transport was attacked by Grunion. Only one of the four torpedoes hit and detonated, and Grunion surfaced to finish her target by gunfire. However, Kano Maru returned fire with her own three-inch deck gun and 50-caliber machine guns. Allegedly, a single shell hit on Grunion’s conning tower sank her.



### The search for the Grunion

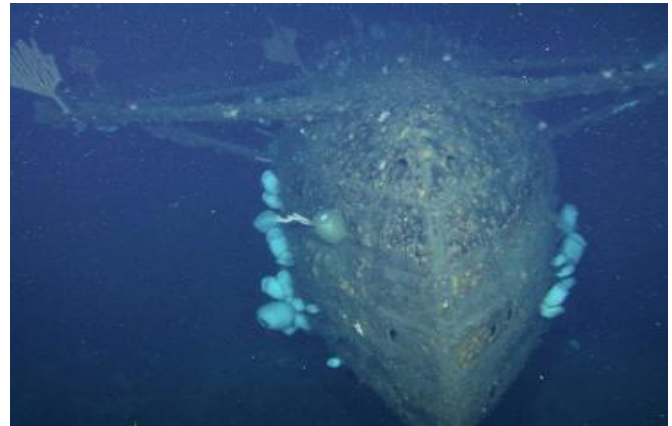
Lt. Cmdr Abele left three sons, Bruce, John, and Brad, when the Grunion disappeared in 1942. For years, they engaged in a search for the final resting place of the ship. The search had been mostly funded by John Abele, founder of Boston Scientific (who began funding it personally after discussion with Robert Ballard, who declined to take part). The search was conducted mostly around the Aleutian Islands, an extremely volatile part of the sea.

In 2002, with Iwasaki’s translation in hand, the search took on a new vigor, and with the enthusiastic cooperation of Japanese officials and veterans, the Abele brothers also began to search for several lost Japanese sub chasers, SC-25 and SC-27, and the destroyer Arare, all of which sank in the same area.



In August 2006, an expedition led by Williamson & Associates onboard the ship Aquila, relayed sonar images to Bruce Abele. The images depicted a “smooth, oblong object with features that could be a conning tower and periscope mast.” Subsequent imaging passes have revealed more detail about the object that could be the long-lost USS Grunion.

On August 22, 2007 USS Grunion was found by the search team in the Bering Sea off the coast of the Aleutians in about 1000 meters of water.



**Return To:**

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<http://perch-base.org>



*AUGUST MEETING, Aug. 9, 2008, 12 noon  
Gudgeon Base, Prescott Valley  
(See map on page 4)*