



July 2008  
Volume 14 - Issue 7



# Perch Base - USSVI Phoenix, Arizona

<http://perch-base.org>

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**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

**JULY ETERNAL PATROLS**

<b>USS S-28</b>	<b>SS133</b>	<b>July 4, 1944</b>	<b>52 men</b>
<b>USS Robalo</b>	<b>SS273</b>	<b>July 26, 1944</b>	<b>81 men</b>
<b>USS Grunion</b>	<b>SS216</b>	<b>July 30, 1942</b>	<b>70 men</b>

### NEXT MEETING

Happy Trails RV Resort Club House  
17200 W Bell Road, Surprise, AZ 85374  
(Loop 303 & west on Bell Road).

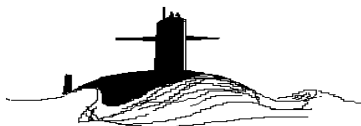
## 2008 Booster Club

*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  
Tippett, Jim Wall, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed  
Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin.**





**BASE OFFICERS**

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# Sailing Orders



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**JULY MEETING**

**July 19, 2008**

**12 noon**

--

**Happy Trails RV Resort  
(Club House)**

**17200 W Bell Road  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
(Loop 303 & west on Bell Road).**

**LAST TIME THIS FAR  
WEST!!**

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## CHANGE IN 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.

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

## WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

DAVE HARNISH  
6509 West Devonshire Ave.  
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Home (623) 846-0367  
Cell (602) 526-6100  
[daveharnish@cox.net](mailto:daveharnish@cox.net)

## GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT COMMANDER ELECTIONS 2008

Each base in the Western Region has the names of the candidates nominated for USSVI western Region District Commanders. If not contact USSVI Western Regional Director.

1. The ballot for your district is included with this communication.
2. Election results must be received by Western Regional Director (Dave Harnish) NLT 23 July 2008. Late reports will not be honored. Reports may be via e-mail, USPS Mail or telephone.
3. Base Commander may conduct District Commander election as he sees fit; that includes e-mail, USPS mail, in person, by phone or by acclamation where there is only one candidate. **EVERY PRIMARY BASE MEMBER MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE.**
4. Every primary base member must be informed of how the base is conducting this election.
5. Election results will be announced NLT 31 July 2008.
6. Term of office will begin with the announcement of the election results by the Western Regional Director and NLT 15 August 2008.

Dave Harnish  
Western Regional Director

# **U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC. WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Dave Harnish  
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Phoenix, AZ 85033-3350  
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[daveharnish@cox.net](mailto:daveharnish@cox.net)**

## ***2008 BALLOT FOR WESTERN REGION DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER***

**SELECT ONE**

**Jack Messersmith (Gudgeon Base)**

WRITE IN \_\_\_\_\_

**Return ballot to your Base Commander.**

Base Commander send tally to WRD NLT 23 July 2008

# Shipmate



# Shipmate

Shipmates, the Perch Base float project is in dire need of someone with basic welding skills. Nothing fancy -- no exotic gas environment stuff -- just basic welding. We need this assistance to join the major hull sections and other basic construction. This is a chance to use your skills to directly help Perch Base.

If you can help, or know someone who can, please contact Howard Doyle (623) 935-3830 or Jim Denzien (602) 332-3925

Jim Nelson has been our Base's Storekeeper since 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!**



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!

## From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Dear Friends and Shipmates,

The July 19 Meeting is scheduled at Happy Trails RV Resort, 7200 W Bell Road, Surprise, AZ 85374 (Loop 303 & west on Bell Road). There is a map to the location on the next page.

If you would like to volunteer for other projects such as a trip by Perch Base members to one of the museum boats for a work week to help maintain them. Please contact Howard Doyle who is collecting names of interested parties. The following link is great:

<http://www.submarinemuseums.org/>

Walter Blomgren continues to improve and is progressing well enough they are going to transfer him to a rehabilitation center. I was able to visit Walter for a short time on Thursday evening at Banner Thunderbird Hospital. He was in good spirits and was very appreciative of the flowers we sent from Perch Base. As we were leaving Walter's grandchildren showed up and the smile on his face was priceless. Regular visitor have been Howard Doyle, Chuck Emmett and Jim Denzien, thank you shipmates for supporting our brother in time of need.

T Michael Bircumshaw has located the picture taken on the USSVI Cruise to Alaska and I have enclosed it for Chuck to publish in the Mid-Watch.

Shipmate Jim Nelson has asked to be replaced as Storekeeper. If you are willing and able to assist the base please contact any member of the E-Board. I personally would like to thank Jim Nelson for his outstanding efforts in maintaining the Perch Base Ship's Store and years of dedication to Perch Base as Storekeeper.

The USS Phoenix (SSN-702) Float has entered from design and planning stage into the construction phase thanks to the efforts of Frank Bono Medal Fabrication, our outside welder.

The E-Board members are:

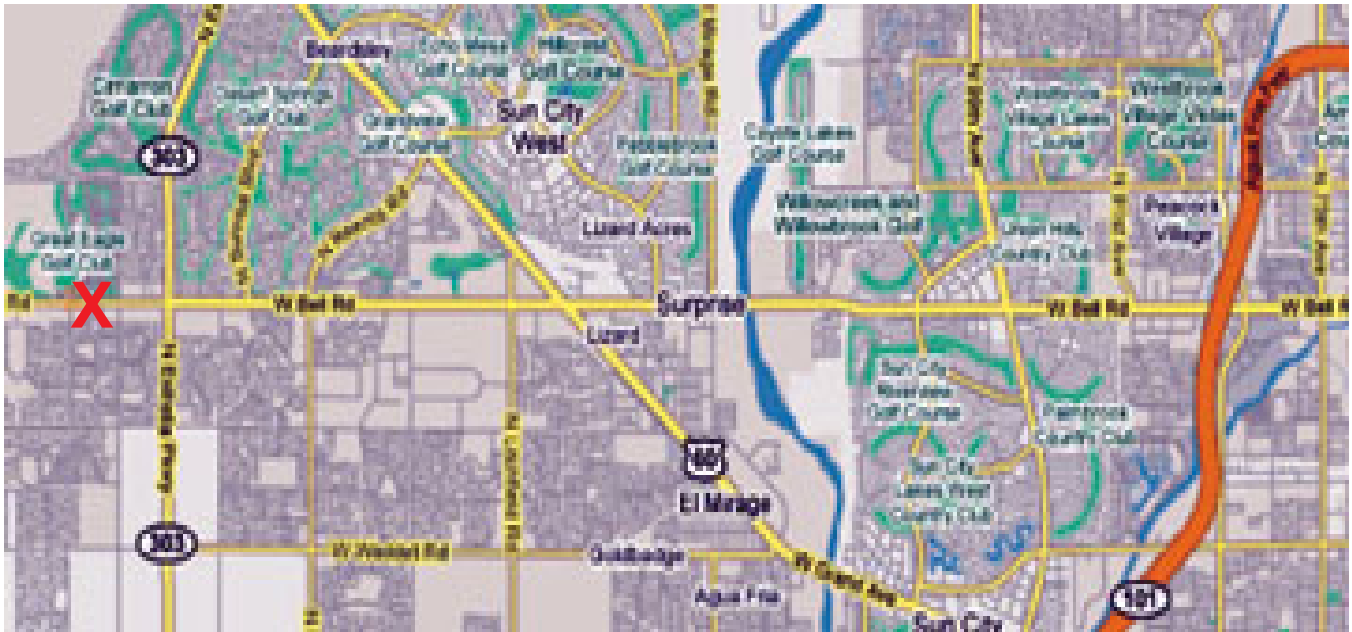
Base Commander: Stan Reinhold  
Vice Commander: Jim Denzien  
Secretary: George Debo  
Treasurer: Dave Harnish  
COB: Jim Edwards  
Chaplain: Howard Doyle  
Storekeeper: Jim Nelson  
Newsletter Editor: Chuck Emmett  
Membership: David Fledderjohn  
Web Master: Ray Samson  
Historian: Jim Newman  
Public Relations: Ben Acosta

Fraternally,

Stan Reinhold, Commander – Perch Base USSVI



# Map to Happy Trails RV Park



## June Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at the Happy Trails Resort, Surprise AZ at 1303 hours, 21 June 2008. Stan Reinhold, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

The membership was led in a prayer of invocation by Jim Denzien, 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 June was conducted.

According to the sailing list, there were seventeen members and guests present. Retired Capt. Ed Kolonoski gave a recap bio of his time in the boats

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


Treasurer Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of June 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

**Commander** - Stan Reinhold read a letter from the National Headquarters thanking us for our scholarship donation.

**Vice Commander** – Jim Denzien reported on the status of the work on the float. He also reported that Perch base is now in charge of the "Save the Sail" project. He also reported that the e-board authorized Chuck Emmett to investigate the potential for purchasing a generator.

**Secretary** – George Debo made a motion that the base purchases this generator. The motion was seconded and approved.



**Bob Snedaker**

623-536-0951 (business)  
623-203-9795 (cell) bob@fairings-etc.com  
<http://www.fairings-etc.com>



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

**Chaplain** – Howard Doyle was not present.

**Webmaster** – Ray Samson had nothing to report.

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

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett had nothing to report. He also gave an update on shipmate Walt Blomgren who is in Thunderbird Hospital.

**Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson reported that he was selling some clothing items for 50% to 75 % off.

**Past Base Commander** - Tim Moore was not present.

The Subvettes were not represented.

**Old Business**

Base Commander Stan Reinhold reported that the Daisy Mountain Veterans have requested our float for the Anthem parade in November. We will try to accommodate them if possible.

Shipmate Mike Keating has a model of the USS Cavalla that will be finished in time to also be in the parade for Veterans Day.

**New Business**

Vice commander Jim Denzien reported on our foundation status and how we can use it for giving tax exempt status for

donations.

**Good of the Order**

We conducted a moment of silence for departed shipmate Joe O'treba

**Adjournment**

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

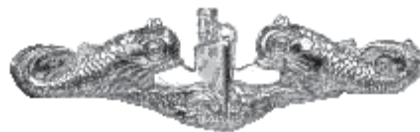
Vice Commander Jim Denzien offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

George Debo, Base Secretary

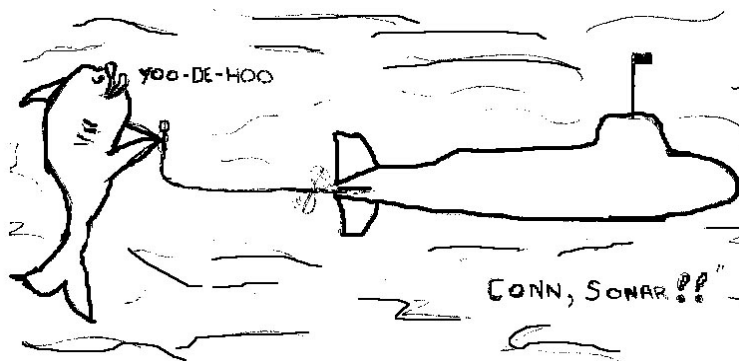


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SEANUTS





## From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

### *Perch Base SubVettes*

It was wonderful to see everyone on the 21<sup>st</sup>! Judy Wannamaker returned to the fold and we welcomed Nancy Taylor, who came all the way from Payson to join our merry band! Nancy is Davey Jones' sister.

Sandy, you were missed. I hope you're improving and will be joining us soon. We love you, dear friend.

Ladies, don't forget that in August, our meeting will be the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Oaxaca Mexican Restaurant at 1516 W. Van Buren (that's 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Van Buren; the entrance to the parking lot is off 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Van Buren) and we are meeting at 11 am. It is centrally located, so I hope to see lots of you there! The guys will in Prescott for the Gudgeon/Perch Base annual meeting.

It wasn't reflected in the minutes, but Nancy Taylor's birthday was June 11. Happy Belated Birthday!!

Our next meeting is July 19<sup>th</sup> at Happy Trails. I hope the men are searching for a facility to meet at that is more centrally located and has adequate accommodations for our meetings. I will address this issue at the next Executive Board Meeting. Until the 19<sup>th</sup>...stay cool and be safe!

## *SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES June Meeting*

Meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by President Mary Denzien. At sign in, there were seven members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Mary Denzien and invocation by Mary Lou Nance. Minutes of the February Meeting were accepted as published in the Midwatch.

Treasurer's Report we have over \$3000.00 in our Treasury

### **Old Business:**

Raffle tickets for mobile - \$5.00 each

Publish scholarship in Mid-Watch for the July issue.

Pop tops for Mary Lou Nance, she made a HAUL. Thanks to everyone!!

### **New Business:**

We signed a new member, Nancy Taylor, Davey Jones' sister.

Cookies for Jason Sheer - Stan should have cookies before our next meeting.

SubVette August 9th Meeting will be held @ Oaxaca Restaurant, 15<sup>th</sup> & Van Buren @ 11am.

Save the Sail Project involves bringing the sail from Bremerton WA. to Steele Indian School Park.

### **For the Good of the Order**

#### March, April, May, & June Birthdays

Karen Emmett 3/14, Carolyn Newman 4/12, Muriel Grieves 4/16, Layne Rumbaugh 5/19, Lee Brooks 5/20, Linda Wall 5/28, Sandy Bernard 6/1, Janie Stuke 6/1, Jacque Hawkins 6/6, Marge Robinson 6/17.

50/50 Drawing was won by Muriel Grieves. She donated half to the cookie fund and the other half to the Kay Harnish Memorial Fund. The total was \$15.00

Motion to Adjourn made by our Mary Lou Nance, seconded by Jane Reinhold at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Nelson, SubVettes Vice President and acting Secretary

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 PREPARATIONS**

Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice and place it with your will or important papers.

#### **IMPORTANT**

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).

This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at [office@ussvi.org](mailto:office@ussvi.org).

### ***Eternal Patrol - Fred Kramer***

Pigboater Shipmate Fred Kramer departed on Eternal Patrol May 23, 2008. Fred had been a Life Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WW II and, when he left the Navy, was a Chief Engineman. He and his wife Ann Franklin lived in Prescott at the time of his death.

Fred served on, or was part of the relief crew for, the USS Swordfish, USS Moray, USS Sunfish, USS Corsair and USS Tigrone.





## Eternal Patrol July 26, 1944

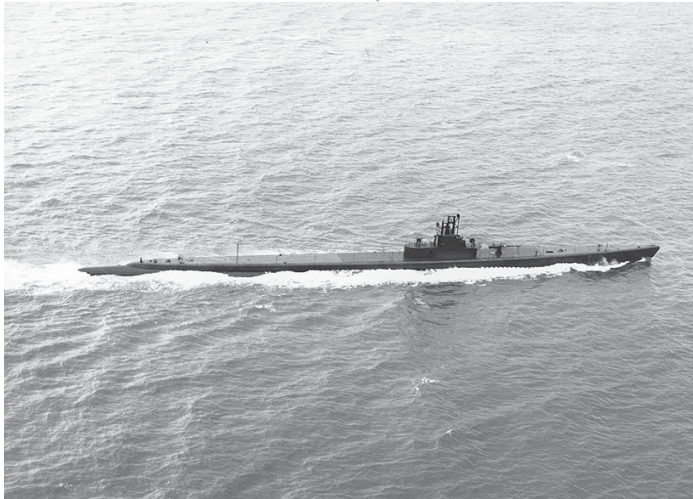
Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

### 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.



Photo # NH 98273 USS Robalo underway off Panama, 19 November 1943



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 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, a warm water sport and food fish. 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 with Commander Manning Kimmel (son of Admiral Kimmel) in command.

After passage by inland waterways and being floated down the Mississippi River, *Robalo* deployed to the Pacific. On her first war patrol, she hunted for Japanese ships west of the Philippines, where she damaged a large freighter. During her second patrol in the South China Sea near Indochina, she damaged a 7500-ton tanker.

*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, 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 that *Robalo* had sighted a *Fusô*-class battleship with air cover and two destroyers for escort. The ship was then 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.

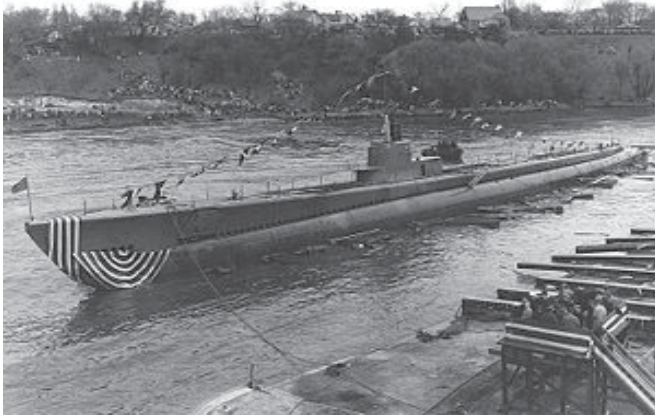
On 2 August a note was dropped from the window of a cell of Puerto Princesa Prison Camp on Palawan Island in the Philippines. It was picked up by an American soldier who was on a work detail nearby. The note was in turn given to

**Don Adams**  
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Photo # NH 69262 USS Robalo afloat just after launching, at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, 9 May 1943



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 that *Robalo* was sunk on 26 July 1944, two miles off the western coast of Palawan Island from an explosion in the vicinity of her after battery, probably caused by an enemy naval 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 struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 16 September 1944.

*Robalo* earned two battle stars for World War II service.

Note — In regard to the fate of the four survivors, there are two Japanese destroyers lost in August 1944 in either of which the four men could have been held:

Akakaze sunk on 23 August 1944 off Cape Bilinao, Luzon by USS *Haddo* (SS-255).

Yunagi was sunk 25 August 1944 off N.W. Luzon by the USS *Picuda* (SS-382).



*Submarines have been invented which have been propelled by cars, sails, treadles, hand operated screws, clockwork, springs, steam stored in tubes, chemical engines, compressed air, stored gases, electric motors, and nuclear power.*

*In clear water, a submerged submarine can be spotted from the air at depths up to 100 feet.*

*The self-propelled torpedo, which gets its name from the eel TORPEDO ELECTRICUS, was invented by Robert Whitehead in 1868, a number of years before a practical submarine was developed.*

*Insignia of the Navy's submarine service is a submarine flanked by two dolphins. Dolphins, or porpoises, the traditional attendants to Poseidon, Greek God of the Sea and patron deity of sailors, are symbolic of a calm sea, and are sometimes called the 'sailors' friend. In addition to the Dolphins, those World War II submariners who participated in successful combat patrols may wear the coveted Submarine Combat Insignia.*

*The first submarine which actually sank another enemy vessel under combat conditions was the CSS HUNLEY built during the Civil War. The Union frigate HOUSATONIC on blockade station off Charleston, S. C. was the victim. The incident occurred on February 17, 1864.*

*Traditionally, United States submarines have been named after fish and other marine creatures. One exception was the Navy's first submarine HOLLAND which was named after its inventor, John Philip Holland. Today, ballistic missile submarines are named for famous American patriots, with the newest class, the OHIO class, named after states. The LOS ANGELES class of attack submarines are named for United States cities.*

*Records for enemy shipping sunk by U.S. submarines during World War II are held by two boats built by Electric Boat. The USS FLASHER sank 100,231 tons of Japanese shipping, while the USS TAUTOG holds the record for the most ships - 26.*

*Per cubic inch, there is more science packed into a submarine than into any other warship. Submariners say 'There is room for everything aboard a submarine except a mistake.'*

**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



***JULY MEETING, July 19, 2008, 12 noon  
Happy Trails RV Resort (Club House)  
17200 W Bell Road, Surprise, AZ 85374  
(Loop 303 & west on Bell Road).***