

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 24
September 2009

Dear Shipmate,

Once again, Albacore was the beneficiary of the labors of a new group of "Boot Chiefs". On Saturday, 15 August, a gang of E6.5s (an unofficial rate between 1st class and Chief) arrived at Albacore Park and contributed three hours of strength, skill and sweat in titivating Albacore and her surrounding environment. These CPO candidates came from the shipyard and boats in overhaul and were guided in their efforts by Chiefs from their parent commands. Our congratulations to the newest Chiefs on reaching this significant milestone in their careers.

Oral History interviews are underway. Bruce Stave, our oral historian, has completed the first series of interviews in the CT & RI areas and has started on the second group in MA & NH. Bruce and his wife Sondra were given a personalized tour of Albacore by "Butch" Jordan after our Friends meeting on August 15th.

Both speed record pennants (under Captains Springer and Organ) are now on display in the museum. Thanks to shipmate Norm Bower and PPMMA Board member/FOA Committee member Ken Herrick for their work in getting these artifacts of Albacore's history framed. You can view the results of Norm and Ken's efforts by going to our website "ussalbacore.org", opening the News & Events page and clicking on "Speed Record Pennants".

The latest orders received for Memorial Blocks include ones ordered by Ernie Mallett for himself and for Tony Szymbor, Thomas Lawn and Anetta (Stanton) Kraus for her mother Doris Stanton Harrison (569's sponsor) and Anetta's father MoMMC Arthur Stanton (lost on the 218 boat). If you would like to order a block for yourself or to honor a shipmate, a form is provided at the end of this letter and also on our website. Each 4 X 8 granite block has three lines of up to 13 spaces per line. The engraving is highlighted in black. The cost is \$60 for a block. You can view a sampling of blocks by going to our website "ussalbacore.org", click on the "News & Events" page and then click on "Memorial Block Program." To date, we have placed 68 blocks in the Garden.

An exchange of e-mails produced the following from Plank Owner Bob Abbott: "I joined the Navy in September, 1952. After boot camp at Bainbridge I was sent to Key West for Sonar training and stayed an additional 6 months to help with attack teacher classes for officers. I applied for sub duty and left for New London. I completed sub school and received orders to Albacore arriving not long before the commissioning ceremony on December 5, 1953. I left when my enlistment was completed on September 10, 1956 as a SO2 and relocated 10 miles down the road as a freshman at UNH. I left UNH with my BS in 1960 with thanks to the GI Bill.

On Albacore, I was given the "opportunity" to learn from the ground up as was appropriate for rookies who knew little or nothing. I washed everybody's dishes, did their floors, their bilges and anything else that remained but it was a great time to be there. The whole crew of that time was sent to the David Taylor Model Basin in D.C. to learn about the concept of Albacore's design, see the test facilities for various models, etc. Years later I heard from friends about "The Silent War" (John Pina Craven) and "Blind Man's Bluff" (Sontag & Drew) that described the reality developed from the early vision of what Albacore was all about.

I visited the Park about 5-6 years ago with my wife. It all came alive again and I think it's a great story. I was lucky to share in any part of it.

Bob

Shipmate Directory updates have been received for the following: Grant Humphrey has moved to 1662 Laslo Drive, Escondito, CA 92025. Alfred Marin's new e-mail is "mmps_vt@yahoo.com". Bob Abbott has a new e-mail of "bob_abbott@comcast.net." Richard Burke's new e-mail is "pburke@myfairpoint.net". Doug Stanton's new e-mail is "doug.stanton8@gmail.com".

We regret to report that shipmate Richard "Saint" St. Hilaire departed on final patrol on 1 August. And shipmate Cliff Cormier departed on final patrol on 1 September. Condolence cards have been sent to their wives on behalf of their Albacore shipmates.

Thanks to Thomas Lawn's wife and daughter-in-law, we have identified several additional shipmates who are now listed as Missing. They are: Lts. Denbigh and Campbell, G.E. Fiegehen, S. Isquith, R.A. Junk, H.D. Page, A.V. Underwood and C.E. Werner. If anyone has any information on their whereabouts, please contact Jack Hunter.

Skip Vellom sent along some unusual pictures of Albacore when she was in Key West in the late 50s. They will be posted shortly on the Flotsam & Jetsam page on our website "ussalbacore.org".

Thanks go again to shipmate Walt Sawka for his annual renewal of our Photo Gallery section of our website. If you have pictures you would like to share, please log on to that page and follow the instructions posted there.

Frank Lyons soon will be sending an ALL HANDS questionnaire with updated information on the reunion. Please send your responses to Frank as soon as possible so he can determine the level of interest in having a May 2010 reunion.

The latest United Way Day of Caring was Wednesday, 9 September. Among other things, a LOT of "stuff" was cleaned out of the forward battery well. Our thanks go to the hard working team from Liberty Mutual who adopted Albacore for the fifth time as their Day of Caring project. They were watered (bottled, not battery) and fed submarine sandwiches (what else?).

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday 31 October in the museum building.

If you are receiving this newsletter via Uncle Sam's postal service, it is because we do not have an e-mail address for you. We would prefer to deliver the newsletters electronically to save on paper and stamps. So, if you have recently gotten on-line, or had a change of address, telephone number, e-mail provider or if you just have something you would like to submit for posting on the website, please pass that information along to Jack Hunter at one of the below addresses.

Until next time shipmate.

Jack Hunter
37 Namquid Drive
Middletown, RI 02842-4569
Jhunter2007@cox.net

FRIENDS OF ALBACORE MEMORIAL BLOCK ORDER FORM

Please Print the Following

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Rate/Rank & Calendar Years Onboard: _____

Other (Nickname, position, etc.): _____

NOTE: There is room for 13 characters/spaces per line. If adjustments are required due to space limitations, we will obtain your approval before placing your order. Cost is \$60 for each block.

Your Address: _____

Your Telephone Number: _____

Make check payable to "Friends of Albacore"

Mail to: Jack Hunter, 37 Namquid Drive, Middletown, RI 02842-4569