

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 25
November 2009

Dear Shipmate,

The Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) Board of Directors has several maintenance projects on its 'to do' list. One is to replace deteriorating parking lot light poles. A second is to re-roof the museum building. A third, more costly project on the drawing boards, is that of stabilizing the deteriorating walls of the basin in which Albacore resides. Additional work items include having a smoke/fire detection system and lighted EXIT signs installed throughout the boat. PPMMA plans to engage the services of the Portsmouth Fire Department in surveying and recommending the number and locations of these devices. Downstream, PPMMA plans to re-align the fencing around Albacore to improve safety, security and to channel visitors to the museum building before boarding Albacore.

Oral History interviews are continuing. Bruce Stave, our oral historian, completed the first group of interviews in the CT & RI areas and has finished all but two interviews in the NH, MA and ME group. Next up will be interviews of either the MD/DE/VA or the CA group.

To date, we have placed 68 memorial blocks in the Garden. 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 room for 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." With the winter months upon us, any blocks ordered now will be held for placement until early spring. There is plenty of time to have your block prepared and placed before the May 2010 reunion.

The Friends Committee welcomes a new member - Phil Munck. Phil is a retired Commander who served on the USS Harder among other boats. Phil lives in nearby Somersworth, NH and has been volunteering some of his free time helping out around the museum and on the boat. Welcome aboard, Phil.

Frank Lyons sent out reunion surveys with updated activity and projected cost information to 237 of our shipmates. If you haven't received your copy, one has been posted on the Albacore website on the News and Events page. Or, contact Frank directly at 1-973-628-1743. Please send your responses to Frank by the end of December so the reunion committee can determine the level of interest in having a May 2010 reunion. The end of December is "fish or cut bait" time. So far, of the 45 responses received, 33 have indicated that they are interested in attending the reunion.

Shipmate Directory updates have been received for the following: Dean Stratsma's correct e-mail is "ds14@bellsouth.net" and Russ Van Billiard's e-mail is "rbtim@yahoo.com". The following no longer have active e-mail addresses: Art Allum, John Hall, Louis Messina, Fred (Pete) Smith and Walter (Doc) Roberson. Roger Junk has surfaced and is living at 869 Alisal Road, Solvang, CA 93463, email "roger.j@verizon.net".

Of the 238 shipmates we have addresses for: 38 live in NH; 21 in FL; 15 in CA; 13 in VA; 12 in MA; 11 in CT; 10 in TX; 9 in WA; 8 each in PA and NJ; 7 each in SC, NY, MD, and OH; 5 each in GA and NC; 4 each in MI, WI and AZ; 3 each in AL and VT; 2 each in MS, TN, NV, DE, LA, RI, IA, IL and NE; CO, HI, IN, OK, OR, MN, NM, ND and ID each have one. There are another 152 names of shipmates listed on the Missing section of the Shipmate Directory for whom we have no addresses or contact information. If you have any information on anyone on this list, please send it to Jack Hunter.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday 12 December 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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, shipmate. And please, if you haven't already done so, get your reunion surveys in to Frank Lyons.

Until next time.

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 on each of three lines. 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