

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 30
September 2010

Dear Shipmate,

The Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) hired a company to make several test borings of the area around the edge of the basin Albacore rests in. The purpose of these borings was to determine the composition of the landfill that makes up the basin sides. Once the report is in hand, PPMMA can begin to address possible methods for stabilizing the basin walls. The probable increase in heavy truck traffic past the Park (see next paragraph) will only added to the urgency of implementing a solution to the crumbling basin wall problem.

The Maine-New Hampshire study on what to do about the downtown Memorial and Route 1 By-Pass bridges is edging toward a conclusion. Owing to the poor economy and great demand for state dollars, the current thinking is that the two-lane Memorial Bridge that connects Kittery to Portsmouth may be demolished and not replaced. The Sarah Mildred Long Bridge (Route 1 By-Pass bridge) may be replaced with a higher, four-lane bridge to be built to the west of the existing one. This would entail widening the Route 1 By-Pass roadway from two to four lanes, which in turn would move the roadway about 10 feet closer to Park property. Currently, the State of New Hampshire leases from PPMMA the connector road in front of the bow of Albacore that joins the By-Pass to Market Street. The state would most likely take by eminent domain that road, the bridge that crosses over a small channel and some additional Park property alongside the road. Stay tuned.

The Friends of Albacore Committee decided to take advantage of a PPMMA offer to join them in financing a new printing of 500 copies of the soft-back version of the Robert Largess and James Mandelblatt book "U.S.S. Albacore, Forerunner Of The Future". The book sells well at the museum store and supplies are running low. We expect to realize almost double the cost of our investment from sales of this popular book.

NavSea conducted its annual inspection of Albacore on 10 July. Overall, the inspection appeared to have gone well. PPMMA is still waiting for the official report.

Shipmate Directory updates have been received for the following: Doc Roberson has a new email address of "wroberson@stx.rr.com". Frank Sardinha checks in with a new email address of "funchalfrank@bellsouth.net". Jim Goode appears to have given us the slip again as mail to the Collinsville, OK address has been returned. Edward "Tex" Schovajsa has surfaced at 8627 Greiner Drive, Houston, TX 77080-3503, telephone (713) 468-6532. "Tex" was an EN2 on board during 56-58. Pat Wiley has an email address of "writepat@comcast.net". David Pinkham's correct telephone number is (860) 599-1686. Marvin Bissonnette has a new number (850) 421-2689. Mac Dixson has a new email of "Stanberry@frontier.com". Tom Bachman's new email is "core569@yahoo.com". Brian Smith has surfaced at 20 Grove Street, Trumbull, CT 06611, telephone (203) 262-3553 and an email address of "brianps3553@att.net".

According to his daughter, who visited the museum last month, Robert "Bones" Taylor departed on Eternal Patrol several years ago. Gregory Davidson's daughter Deb Gude reported that her father went on Eternal Patrol in July of 1987. "Sailor, rest your oar".

Jim Tyrell has contributed his recollection of an early 60's operation with a destroyer determined to pin down the Albacore. It makes for some interesting reading and will be found on the Flotsam & Jetsam page of our website "ussalbacore.org". From first hand experience as the OOD for Condition 1AS operations on a DD back in that time, the story rings lots of familiar bells with respect to the difficulty in finding, tracking and attacking a sub in those days - especially a very maneuverable one like Albacore.

To date, we have placed 79 memorial blocks in the Garden. Four new blocks have been ordered for Marvin Bissonnette, Mike Murray, Frank Sardinha, and Frederick "Pete" Smith. We have 16 blocks remaining. If you would like to order a block to mark your time on board or if you would like 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."

When you shop at Home Depot and Lowe's, ask about their military discount program. You will need to show a military ID card to qualify for their year-round 10% discount. Not all items are discounted, so you will need to check on specific items.

The last United Way Day of Caring for the year was held on Wednesday, September 15th. For the eighth time, Liberty Mutual pitched in and helped clean up the Park and prepare it for the coming winter. While clearing out some brush off Albacore's bow, the group uncovered an old anchor! Check it out on our website on the News & Events page. Thanks to team leader Kristen Tsakiris and her crew of thirteen stalwart helpers for a job well done.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, October 16th in the museum building at Albacore Park. All are welcome.

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 be GREEN and 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: 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