

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 35

July 2011

Dear Shipmate,

Albacore Park Executive Director John Maier has expanded the sales area in the main lobby. John has added more items of clothing and things for children. Go to our website "ussalbacore.org" and open the Visitor's Center page to see what's new.

Jim Wakefield, PPMMA Board Member, reported that all discrepancies from last year's NavSea inspection have been corrected and the boat is ready for this year's. The last item to be corrected was to replace the nylon safety lines strung topside with braided wire. The inspection is scheduled for 17 September.

Other PPMMA items of interest are:

1. There will be an open house from 0930 to 1730 on Saturday, August 20 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Albacore's being open to the public. Admission to the boat that day will be free. There will be a tent for shade, a brief rededication of the Park ceremony at 1100, a vendor selling (what else) submarine sandwiches, a submarine toy test tank, raffles, an amateur radio operation where you can brush up on your Morse Code, a large cake in the shape of a submarine, balloons, a trivia quiz for children about subs, several "meet the submariner" sessions starring former Albacore crew members and members from three boats in overhaul at the shipyard. Author Dennis Robinson will be signing copies of his book "Maritime Portsmouth - The Sawtelle Collection." Mark your calendar and drop by if you can.

2. On the following day, Sunday, there will be a wedding ceremony held in Albacore's Control Room.

3. There has been a recent spate of vandalism at the Park. Specifically, the monuments in the Memorial Garden were sprayed with some type of green gel-like substance that stained the marble surface. Thanks to Norm Bower's application of copious amounts of Clorox and five hours of hard scrubbing, the monuments look as good as new. PPMMA is considering possible additional security measures to help the police apprehend vandals damaging property within the Park.

4. Those unsightly barrels that divided the parking lot have been removed. NHDOT and the Park will block off the former southern entrance and exit. This action continues to prevent people from using the parking lot as a cut through from Market Street to the Route 1A By-Pass and opens up the under-used southern end of the lot.

5. Once the southern entrance is blocked off, plans are to relocate the sign from that entrance onto Park property at the bow of the boat where it will be more visible.

6. Also under consideration is moving the current Park sign on Market Street to the western (other) side of the entrance for a more visible and timely alerting of the public of the Park's existence.

The final total of memorial blocks in the Garden is 108. Stan Isquith got his block order in before the 30 June cutoff, as did John Moran, Lawrence Sheridan and Dave Guerard. Our thanks to everyone who participated in this effort.

The local chapter of the United Way is holding its Fall Day of Caring on Thursday, 15 September. We will be looking toward preparing the Park for the winter with a final clean up of the grounds and touching up paintwork. If you are in the area, plan to stop in and lend a hand.

Fred Saunders has a new email of "f.saunders@comcast.net". Jim Goode has an email of "crobar1@earthlink.net". At 74, Jim continues to travel all over the country. His permanent home is in Oklahoma but he keeps his mailing address in Florida. He retired from the Navy in '74 as an EMC.

Lynn Arndt, John Thomson's daughter, reports that her father passed away in March of this year. John was aboard Albacore from 1959 to 1964. An Albacore Condolence Card has been sent to Lynn. A crewmember of the George Bancroft reported that Frederick Tharin, a former Albacore shipmate, is listed as deceased on the Bancroft website. He had no amplifying information.

The reunion team would like to hear from their shipmates as to when the next reunion should occur. Would you like a spring or fall time of the year and would you prefer 2013 or 2014? Send your responses to either Red Walker "why@atcnet.net", 2338 N. 2930 W, Arco, ID 83213-8723, or Bill Freligh at "billfreligh@bellsouth.net", 106 Greensboro Lane, Ladson, SC 29456, or Luke Riley at "family2006@windstream.net", 11311 Kluttz Road, Gold Hill, NC 28071-9441 or Jim Kraut at "krautsare@comcast.net", 13244 Fieldstone Way, Gainesville, VA 20155-6611.

Brian Smith made a short video during the 2006 reunion. You can see it by going to "<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az9Pw4omUOQ&feature=fvsvr>".

The family of long time Portsmouth Naval Shipyard employee Clifford Priest, who recently passed away at the age of 93, has generously requested that any donations in Clifford's name be sent to the Friends of Albacore for the betterment of Albacore Park. Mr. Priest had a warm spot in his heart for Albacore and the Park. We thank the family for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, September 24 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.

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