

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 39
March 2012

Dear Shipmate,

The winter (?) has been kind to the Park and Albacore. There has been minimal snow and rain. Lots of cold weather, but that's to be expected. The snow plowing folks have had to come calling but one time, so the Park budget has been spared from paying a fortune in snow removal bills so far this year. During the recent January-February shutdown period, the Park staff and the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) Board have been working on compiling a list of near and long term projects that need to be done at the Park. On the list are the following items: 1. Stabilizing the basin walls. (A group of senior year civil engineering students at UNH have taken on this project and are working toward providing a recommended course of action by May.) 2. Protecting the lower planes. (The watertight integrity of these two planes has been compromised.) 3. Rust removal in the superstructure. (Clean areas and apply rust conversion paint.) 4. Remove trash from the superstructure. (Debris from the final yard time remains in the superstructure.) 5. Hull Preservation. 5A) Short term. Clean up running rust and repaint outer hull. 5B) Long term. Remove BONDO patches, hydro blast upper hull, grit blast lower hull and paint. 6. Reorganize museum displays. (Interns from UNH to provide assistance.) 7. Reorganize retail area of museum. (Merchandising interns from UNH to assist.) 8. Refurbish and relocate the large Albacore Park sign now on the By-Pass to the bow of Albacore. 9. Working with UNH students in School of Merchandising, set up an on-line display of goods available in the museum store. 10. Install LED lighting throughout the museum. 11. Host a Navy History Day event on 19 August. Obviously, there will be some large expenses involved in some of the major projects: stabilizing the basin walls and cleaning and preserving the hull. Discussions on how to finance the work are continuing.

As you may recall, the Friends of Albacore paid for the installation of an audio tour system in the Park and inside Albacore. PPMMA has supplemented the original installation by adding audio of Morse code being transmitted in the Radio shack and a recording of biologics and other sounds of the sea in the Sonar shack. In the near future, PPMMA and the Friends will be adding a recording of our diving procedure to play periodically through a speaker in the Control Room.

Robert Arnold has surfaced. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 649, Dover, TN 37058. His phone is (931) 627-7506. Bob was a MM2 and served onboard from July of '64 to July of '68. Welcome back, Bob. Paul Azarian is recovering from bypass heart surgery. He and Carole can be reached at P.O. Box 352, Adamstown, PA 19051. New email is "pcazarian@gmail.com". James Swinburnson also has surfaced and can be contacted at 1057 Birch Bay Lynden Road, Lynden, WA 98264, e-mail "jswinburn@msn.com". Jim was only on Albacore for 4 months before she was decommissioned and he left as a QMSN (SU) after lowering the flag at decommissioning. He next served on Barbel and left the Navy as a QM2 (SS). He owns a construction company and as of this writing is in Ketchikan, Alaska helping build a shipyard facility. Plank owner Alfred Woodard has also surfaced. He is living at 611 Horseback Road, Carmel, ME 04119, telephone (207) 884-7745. Don Engle met Capt.

Wally Greene at a subvets meeting at The Villages where Don lives. In case you missed it, the Captain's email is "wagsuz@centurylink.net".

Our thanks go to Darcy Schondorf for her generous contribution to the Friends of Albacore sent in her Dad Russ' name. This was her Christmas gift to Russ and it honored both his service and his time on Albacore. Russ was a MM2 and served on board from '66 to '68. (And, no, Russ is not on Eternal Patrol.)

Thanks also go the Steve Cuff. Just before we were going to put FOA's 2-foot long Phase 1 model of Albacore up on eBay for bids, Steve came in with a request to "rent" the model and loan it to a friend. A deal was struck and the model, which has been in my family room for several years, will be moving to a new temporary home. Once the model is back in FOA's hands, it will go up on eBay for bids.

Captain Springer has been working to have the theme for the 2013 Submarine Birthday Ball in Groton be the USS Albacore. Last years Ball celebrated the anniversary of the USS Triton's circumnavigation of the world. Since 2013 will be the 60th anniversary of Albacore's commissioning, it seems a logical follow-on to last year's theme. Should Albacore be the subject, the Park and FOA plan to contribute related memorabilia for display at the Ball site. We are hopeful that the Yard will loan some of its Albacore material also. We'll keep you posted.

On 13 April, the Park again will host a group of students from the Berwick Academy. This is their annual Youth Service Day wherein students and faculty go out into local communities and donate their time and energy doing chores for non-profit agencies. For the past four years, these youngsters have come in for a submarine orientation and then tear into the Park's "If we had the time, manpower and money, these are the things we would like to get done" list. Anywhere from 8 to 12 students with a school faculty member will be putting in 3 to 4 hours worth of hard work to begin the process of shaping up the Park for the coming visitor's season. If you are in the area, stop in. We have lots of equipment you can use to help out.

Our next Friends meeting will be Saturday, 7 April in the museum building, and 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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