

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 41

July 2012

Dear Shipmate,

As noted several newsletters ago, the Civil Engineering students at the University of New Hampshire undertook as their senior project the survey of Albacore's basin. Their objective was to apply the latest engineering/construction principals and recommend one or more ways to redo the deteriorating walls. The students have completed their study and have forwarded a report to PPMMA that contains several suggested courses of action to renew/replace the walls. The cost of executing any one of the suggested solutions will be a major consideration.

On Saturday, June 16th, Albacore Park joined with about a dozen family members to celebrate the 83 birthday of Alfred Woodard. Alfred was an engineman who served on Albacore from shortly after her commissioning until 1957. He started out as an auxiliaryman and later moved back to the engineroom. After a tour of the boat, Alfred and his family were treated to a birthday cake courtesy of John Maier and the Park staff.

Many thanks to a number of people/organizations who pulled together and painted Albacore. Specifically, Jim Wakefield who, all by himself over the course of two days, painted Albacore's sail. Then, a professional outfit, hired by PPMMA, painted everything aft of the after gangway including the after control surfaces plus the entire lower ten feet of the hull. Finally came a gang (two Coast Guardsmen and many men and women civilian senior managers) from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard who completed painting the rest of the hull. They started at 0600 and finished a little after 1000, were cleaned up by 1100 and were enjoying Moes sub sandwiches by 1200. Albacore really looks great!

At our June and July Friends meetings, the following topics were covered. 1) We listened to the final cut of the diving procedure. The recording has been turned over for digitizing, setting up the hardware in Radio, running a cable into the Control Room to a speaker near the BCP and mounting/wiring a pushbutton to activate the recording. All is expected to be in place around Labor Day. 2) Everyone commented on the excellent looking paint job done on the boat. 3) At the July PPMMA Board meeting, there was a proposal made to determine the feasibility of building a maritime museum on the Park grounds. An ad hoc committee was formed. 4) Due to the recent series of fires around and on USS MIAMI, the scheduled Shipyard Superintendent's Association cocktail party at the Park on the 22nd of June was cancelled and the Family Day at the Park was postponed. 5) The storage shed we (FOA) donated \$1,100 toward will be a prefabricated one. Total cost is estimated at around \$4K. 6) The Tall Ships festival in Portsmouth (July 13-15) was centered at Prescott Park. Albacore Park helped staff a table at Prescott Park and also placed an ad in the Tall Ships flyer that was honored as a discount admission at our park. 7) The audio tour podium nearest the Memorial Garden has been reworked and repainted. The other two podiums will also be refurbished as they are beginning to show the effects from their constant exposure to the elements. FOA will pick up the tab for these treatments. 8) A team from the Naval Heritage and History Command was at the Park June 22/23 to reconcile what they think the Park has in the way of historic material (ship plaques, etc.) with what the Park thinks it holds. 9) The Park was recently given two copies of Phase I Albacore manuals (piping and electrical). Somehow these manuals fell into the hands of a surface ship association who offered them to the Park before putting them up on eBay for bid. The only cost to the Park was postage. 10) Some months ago, someone stole the dolphins from the Memorial Garden sign. Park Executive Director John Maier has obtained a replacement set of dolphins that will be securely mounted after the sign itself is freshened up. There now is a security camera that looks into the Memorial Garden and there are signs that indicate the area is under surveillance which hopefully will deter future acts of vandalism 11) Albacore Park now

has Facebook and Twitter sites. 12) If you have a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) coming up and would like to celebrate it at the Park, please contact Executive Director John Maier at (603) 436-3680 to make arrangements. 13) Two large double pane windows in the museum building will be replaced owing to their deteriorated condition.

As part of the ongoing saga of the replacement of the Memorial and Sarah Mildred Long bridges, the NH Department of Transportation is in the process of evaluating the permanent incorporation of the temporary road that connects Market Street with the US Route 1 By-Pass - better known as the Albacore Connector Road. As currently envisioned, the connector road will become a part of the city of Portsmouth's street system and as such will be maintained by the city. Because there is federal funding involved with the taking of a portion of the property where the historic vessel ALBACORE is located, this project must comply with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA requires that NH DOT identify parties with a direct interest in historic properties that would wish to consult on actions that may have an effect on those properties. The Friends of Albacore have been identified as a "consulting party" and as such will function in an advisory capacity. By law, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) must carefully consider a consulting party's input before making a final decision on how the project will affect historic properties. We, the Friends, will be working closely with PPMMA as this project moves toward a conclusion. The next step is for the State to complete its cost appraisal of the land and bridge it intends to take.

Joe Jackson has an email of "jj_jackson@sbcglobal.net". Dan Moss has a new email of "subdude282@yahoo.com". Philip Randt has submerged and dropped out of sight. Does anyone know of his whereabouts?

It is with regret that I inform you of QM1(SS) Larry Wagner's departure on Eternal Patrol on 23 June 2012. An Albacore Condolence card was sent to his wife Dorothy at their home address of 3001 S. 51st Street, Lincoln, NE 68506. Also of note, Joseph Mehalick, who served on the first Albacore, passed away on 20 July in Groton. He was a member of the SubVets of WWII and was a Holland Club member. Sailors, Rest Your Oars. We have the watch.

The Fall Day of Caring, sponsored by the United Way, will be Tuesday, September 11th. We have asked for a group of up to 14 volunteers from local businesses to help give the Park a final clean up as we head into the fall and winter seasons. If you are in the area on the 11th, please join us. We will even feed you lunch in return for a little sweat.

Thank you to all who have responded to the urgent appeal to "Save The Clamagore", the last of the Guppy III's. The Friends are sending \$100. The Friends are also contributing \$200 toward the Thresher Memorial site in Kittery.

Our next Friends meeting will be at 1100, Saturday, 18 August at the museum. 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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