

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 42
September 2012

Dear Shipmate,

The State of NH will be taking land along the existing Albacore connector road that runs between the Route 1 By-Pass and Market Street and also the 1-acre parcel between the By-Pass and the connector. The State has made an offer, PPMMA submitted a counter offer and the State has made a second offer that PPMMA is considering. To lessen the impact on the possible building of a maritime museum on the northwest corner of the park property, PPMMA would like the 100-foot right-of-way to be bordered on the western edge of the connector and extend to the east. The State is considering this. A point of contention that still exists between the State and PPMMA is compensation for the impact the road has on the National Historic Landmark (NHL) - Albacore. The State's position is there is no impact because Albacore should not even be considered as a NHL because it doesn't meet the criteria for such a designation. They base this on the fact that Albacore is neither waterborne nor in a dry dock-like setting. PPMMA has presented its case that the roadway cuts off what once was Albacore's access to water and thus they should receive some compensation for the loss of access. Stay tuned.

Saturday, August 18th saw Albacore Park and the John Paul Jones House celebrate Navy History Day. It was on that date in 1812 that the Navy frigate Constitution defeated and captured the HMS Guerriere. A number of tall posters scattered around the propeller field presented information about the Navy's role in that war. There were a series of tents set up around the Park that covered an eating area, a children's coloring book table, the Superintendent's registration table and finally an area for lectures/seating. Two local authors made presentations on their recent books. Captain Rod Watterson, author of "32 in 44, Building the Submarine Fleet in World War II" described how the shipyard ramped up from building two subs per year in the 30's to turn out 32 boats in 1944. Local historian J. Dennis Robinson discussed his book "America's Privateer: Lynx and the War of 1812". Also on that Saturday, the National Association of Superintendents held their 100th anniversary celebration in conjunction with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Superintendents Association and the Albacore Park Board of Directors. Anyone working at the shipyard was admitted free to the Park and to the Albacore. The weather cooperated and a good crowd kept the parking lot full throughout the day. Shipmates Norm Bower, Butch Jordan, Larry Leppard and Jack Hunter tended the brows to regulate traffic flowing on board and to answer questions. The museum store was kept busy selling MOES sandwiches, soft drinks and water as well as numerous souvenirs to the enthusiastic crowd of visitors. Glenda Bower and Sheila Jordan pitched in and aided Park Executive Director John Maier and Park employee Jim Sears with the tidal wave of purchases. We have posted pictures and text on the News & Events page of our web site "ussalbacore.org".

On Friday, 31 August, a group of 8 Chief Petty Officer selectees came to the Park to perform a portion of their community service as part of their initiation and training. The selectees were from the submarines USS Miami, USS Pasadena and the SERE and NSA Prospect Harbor commands. It was a beautiful day for working with very little humidity and not too hot. COB Norm Bower did his usual outstanding job of preparation and assumed a leadership role during the entire day. He got everyone going, working alongside them during the entire day and staying on to assist with the cleanup. The selectees painted (including trim) the remaining three sides of the Visitor's Center thus completing the building painting begun during the May Day of Caring. They also trimmed back to seven feet the tall shrub near the Visitor's Center and it looks great. The selectees chopped down the old tree in front of the Albacore and cut down all the cattails. All of the fence poles around Albacore's basin were painted

and rust spots touched up. A careful trimming job was done in the Memorial Garden around the Dolphin. While all this was going on, Norm and Park Executive Director John Maier found time to install a "Caution Children" sign near the entrance to the Park's parking lot. There are several pictures posted on the News & Events page of our website "ussalbacore.org". The Park treated all to coffee and coffee cake in the morning and MOES sandwiches for lunch. Every selectee received a gift of either an Albacore mug, hat or challenge coin. John Maier commented "they were a great group of guys and I feel honored to have been able to work with them. Thanks to all and a special thanks to Norm for making it all happen. There is no way that all this could have done it without him". Our congratulations and thanks go to this year's group of soon to be Chief Petty Officers as they continue their rise in positions of leadership and responsibility in our Navy.

The Fall Day of Caring, sponsored by the United Way, was Tuesday, September 11th. We had for a group of 3 volunteers from Public Service, New Hampshire and 6 from Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella Lawyers in Exeter who came to help give the Park a final clean up as we head into the fall and winter seasons. Following a tour of the boat, they set about cleaning up the last items on John Maier's wish list. Items accomplished were: A complete weeding of the Memorial Garden pathways, cutting down the tall grass in front of Albacore, painting the trim around the new museum window, painting around the exit door on Albacore, polishing brass plaques inside Albacore, assembling 100 children's grab bags for the museum store and touching up the white fencing and mail box post in the parking lot. They completely wiped out John's "wish list". Each participant was given a MOES sub sandwich for lunch and, at the end of the day, offered their choice of an Albacore shot glass, tumbler or challenge coin as a thank you and a reminder of their days efforts. Pictures have been posted on the News & Events page on our website.

I regret to report the departure on Eternal Patrol of long time Friend of Albacore and of Albacore Park John McCarthy on August 6th. John had been fighting for years the multiple effects of exposure to Agent Orange. An Albacore Condolence Card was sent to his wife Nancy in New Castle. "Sailor, Rest You Oar. We Have The Watch". Also sadly, Jeanine Milliken, wife of George Milliken who works at the Park with John Maier, passed away on 29 August after loosing her hard fought battle with cancer.

Our next Friends meeting will be at 1100, Saturday, 27 October 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. In addition to the 196 copies sent out electronically, there are 59 that go out as a hard copy. 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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