

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 47

July 2013

Dear Shipmate,

The United Way of the Greater Seacoast's Spring Day of Caring was held on Thursday, May 16th. During April and May, the United Way sponsors a Day of Caring whereby local businesses give their employees an opportunity to work for non-profit agencies. This year, 12 volunteers from Thermo Fisher Scientific Laboratory's Equipment Division in Newington reported to the Park for a full day's work. The group repaired the ruts in the grassy divider in the parking lot, raked the grounds cleaning up debris from the winter, applied herbicide in selected areas, gave the boat and propellers a good scrub down to clean off bird droppings, removed a small dead tree and picked up trash along the Route 1 By-Pass. That cleaned up the 'wish list' put together by Park Executive Director John Maier and COB Norm Bower. Our thanks go to the good people from Thermo Fisher for their efforts. (Photos and text can be found on our website "ussalbacore.org" on the News & Events page.)

The next significant event at the Park was the annual Memorial Day observance. Although sequestration has forced the shipyard (and the Navy) to forgo participating in many activities, this year's ceremony proceeded as usual. A good-sized crowd spent time under a large tent and enjoyed the service conducted by members of Thresher Base.

The downtown Portsmouth Memorial Bridge saw the final (center) span put in place on 17 June and is continuing to undergo testing of the lift span. The dedication of the "new" old bridge is slated for Thursday, 15 August. Work on the middle (Sarah Mildred Long) bridge is scheduled to begin sometime in 2014. Final decisions on bridge design and bridge orientation to the channel are slated for later this year.

PPMMA has received the lease payment from NHDOT to cover the right-of-way lease for the Albacore Connector Road through 31 October. There have been communications exchanged between PPMMA and NHDOT regarding finalizing the purchase of Park property. The decision has been made that there is no adverse impact on Albacore/Albacore Park as a consequence of the Connector Road. PPMMA has accepted this ruling and is preparing to open discussions on a sales agreement with NHDOT covering the road and the underlying land, the concrete bridge connecting to Market Street and the sale of land between the connector road and the Route 1 By-Pass. A price has been agreed upon but numerous details need to be worked out.

For the first time that anyone can remember, the Park has raised its admission prices effective 1 July for adults by \$1 to \$6 and for families by \$2 to \$12. Children's prices are unchanged at \$3 for those between 7 and 17 with those under 7 free. Active Duty military admission remains free.

Executive Director John Maier reported that visitation and gift sales for June was on par with June of last year and that July has seen an up tick in visitors through mid-month. The work of relocating ships plaques that were in the back museum room to the restroom hallway is underway. PPMMA Board member Ken Herrick has set several dozen plaques in place with many more to go. The flooded cableway problem that plagued the parking lot lights has been resolved. A much needed electrical outlet has been emplaced on a pole in the field forward of the ship's bow as our battery-powered weed-whacker wasn't cutting it (no pun intended). The Coast Guard training vessel Eagle will be moored nearby on 2, 4 & 5 August. PPMMA has offered to let them use half our parking lot for visitors at no charge. The Park expects to see some additional business during that visit.

John continues working on an August 17th Submarine History Day celebration to be centered on CDR Richard O'Kane, a Durham, NH native. CDR. O'Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service as a submarine CO during WWII. The town of Durham has been contacted and will be participating. Plans call for small tents to be set up on the Park grounds where crews from ships in overhaul at the yard will be

available to answer questions about life as a submariner. They will also have available items for sale to raise money for their ship's MWR programs. Other participants include: The Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, NH who will have some military exhibits at the Park; the local 'ham' radio club will set up a rig and provide demonstrations; and The Great Bay Sailors, a choral group, will perform sea chanties and other nautical music. Free admission for all shipyard personnel will be offered. The Marblehead Base of USSVI may have their cutaway model of the Thresher on display. John would like to have as many former Albacore personnel in attendance as possible to help with crowd control on the boat and to share Albacore experiences. If you can help, please contact John at "[albacorepark@myfairpont.net](mailto:albacorepark@myfairpont.net)" or (603) 436-3680.

The Fall Day of Caring sponsored by the United Way of the Greater Seacoast will occur on Wednesday, September 11th. As of this writing, no team has signed up but it is early. Mark your calendar and plan to stop by and lend a hand.

The family of Clifford Priest, a long time employee of the shipyard and a good friend of Albacore, has donated a granite bench to Albacore Park in his memory. The new bench will be placed alongside Albacore's port side toward the stern of the vessel. The bench will be in the same general area as three previously donated benches and will reside nestled under several trees.

Shipmates with new email addresses are: Conrad Aronson at "[rochellearonson@hotmail.com](mailto:rochellearonson@hotmail.com)"; Dick Higgins at "[dickhiggins11@gmail.com](mailto:dickhiggins11@gmail.com)" (Dick also reported the death of his brother Brian Nickerson earlier this year); Ernie Mallett at "[emallett@myfairpoint.net](mailto:emallett@myfairpoint.net)"; Richard Dzikowski at "[dzski45@gmail.com](mailto:dzski45@gmail.com)"; Bill (Greek) Apostolos at "[suebee44@yahoo.com](mailto:suebee44@yahoo.com)"; and Bob Harrie at "[bobh80@me.com](mailto:bobh80@me.com)".

Shipmate Clifford Carlson has surfaced and is living at 2709 Horton Road, Jamestown, NY 14701. His phone is (716) 483-5650 and e-mail is "[yanaa@windstream.net](mailto:yanaa@windstream.net)". Cliff was an ETR3(SS) during his time onboard from '66-'67. Cliff and his wife Susan visited Albacore on 1 July and toured a father and his son through the boat. Art Gimpelson has surfaced and is living in Homestead, FL. Art's email is "[agimpels@bellsouth.net](mailto:agimpels@bellsouth.net)". Art also was an ETR3 while on board from '69 to decommissioning.

Nancy Grossnickle reported that her husband Dave passed away on 16 May after a brief illness. Dave was a RM3 aboard from '67-'69. Dan Hixson departed on Eternal Patrol on 25 April. Dan was an EM3 aboard Albacore during '56-'57. Albacore Condolence cards were sent to both families.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 7 September. If you are in the area, plan to join us.

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. In addition to the 195 copies sent out electronically, there are 52 more that go out as a hard copy. We would prefer to be totally 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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