

ALBACORE REUNION 2006
Newsletter #6
30 September 2006

Dear Shipmate,

From all reports, we just had a successful and enjoyable reunion. Shipmates came from as far away as California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Florida. Beginning with the Early Bird check-in through to the Sunday O'Club breakfast, the Reunion Committee received only positive feedback. Both the embroidered sweatshirts and the Reunion Log Book (created at the suggestion of Valerie Wehrenberg) were well received.

The Reunion Committee wants to acknowledge again several organizations who helped to make our gathering a success. Foster's in York Harbor where Friday night's clambake was very enjoyable. The Shipyard Brewery Co. of Portland, ME who provided the hospitality beverages. Betty's Catering who prepared Saturday night's banquet buffet at the Portsmouth VFW. The Isle of Shoals Steamship Company who coordinated the cruises around the harbor and out to the Isles of Shoals. And, last but not least, the staff at the shipyard O'Club for an excellent breakfast buffet Sunday morning. Reunion check-in and hospitality operations were held under tents provided by MWR at the shipyard. Raffle items and memorabilia were spread out on tables also from MWR. And what a surprise when the shipyard Commanding Officer, Captain Iverson, met our buses during the shipyard tour arranged by the Public Affairs Office.

It was a treat to have five plank owners at the reunion - David Pinkham, Cal Green, Joe Dinelli, Patrick McGroarty and Bob Marschall. In addition to this distinguished group, former Commanding Officers Roy Springer, Tom Poole and David Kratch were present and shared some thoughts with us.

During Saturday evening's festivities, two individuals were recognized for their contributions to the Albacore. Jim Sergeant for his 12 years as manager of Albacore Park and Steve Cuff for his support of all things Albacore. Russ Van Billiard, who was unable to attend, will be similarly honored for his continuing interest in Albacore that began back in the drafting shop at the yard and continues today.

The raffle of donated items reached a peak when Bill Tudor won a beautiful carved model of the Albacore made by Dan Moss. Due to the generosity of shipmates in attendance, \$1027 was raised for Friends of Albacore projects and programs. The Friends thank everyone - item donors and ticket buyers alike.

Shipmate John Sgro presented the Friends with a beautiful stained glass rendition of the Albacore logo that he made. It will be proudly displayed in the museum.

A Tolling of the Bell ceremony to honor those shipmates on Eternal Patrol closed out the formal proceedings Saturday evening.

To all our shipmates, both those in attendance and those who could be with us only in spirit, the Reunion Committee extends our sincere thanks for your support. Without your encouragement, suggestions and participation, we would not have achieved the degree of success that we did.

Two separate items for you to consider. First, keep your eyes on the Albacore web site's Photo Galley. We are working to get that feature up and running. And second, Robert Largess (author of the book "USS Albacore) is continuing his research on Albacore would appreciate hearing from former crew members. Bob's e-mail is "rlargess@juno.com" or snail-mail Bob at 35 Montclair Ave, Boston, MA 02131.

Thanks to everyone from your Reunion (and Friends of Albacore) Committee:

Norm "COB" Bower	Howell "Howie" Russell
Harry "Bud" Fisher	William Seaward
Henry "Shakey" Graves	Jim Sergeant
Jack Hunter	Russ Van Billiard
Austin "Butch" Jordan	