

Albacore Newsletter #7
18 December 2006

Dear Shipmate,

The dust has finally settled from the September reunion. The Reunion Committee has wrapped up its work and is pleased to report that we had some money left over after paying all the bills. We will place this money in an account to earn some interest. The money will be set aside for the next reunion committee to support their start up efforts on a future get together. And a Lessons Learned book has been assembled to document what we did, why we did it, how we did it and what went right and wrong during the reunion. This book also will be made available to the next reunion committee.

The Friends of Albacore Committee continues its efforts to make visiting Albacore a more enjoyable experience. Using some of the money you contributed to the Steve Cuff Challenge Grant fund raising drive in 2004, we have several maintenance projects that will be undertaken. These include: caulking the leaky windows in the museum cupola, replacing the water damaged ceiling in the ladies rest room (after fixing the source of the water), adjusting the museum entry doors to better keep the weather on the outside, and purchasing 10 additional flash covers to replace deteriorated ones now on Bow Compartment bunks.

Also in the works is an expanded publicity campaign promoting Albacore as a tourist attraction. In recent years, visitation to the Park has been decreasing in part due to a lack of advertising. As part of a renewed marketing effort, the Friends are buying advertising space in the Portsmouth/ Kittery ResortMap (which illustrates places to go and things to see and do in the area) and in the Seacoast Guide (a widely distributed tourist booklet). Next Spring, we anticipate having more information cards printed and placed in hotels and motels throughout southeastern New Hampshire. And, if we can get authorization from the state, we will get these same cards into the New Hampshire Welcome Centers, too.

Those of you who were at the reunion will recall the dark, highly polish wooden tripod used to suspend the bell for our Tolling of the Bell ceremony. We had borrowed the tripod from the local SubVets chapter for the evening. By virtue of an earlier agreement, the Albacore museum had custody of the bell and the SubVets had the tripod. Each would loan the other what they needed for ceremonies. It was a workable but awkward arrangement. To simplify things, the museum has accepted custody of the tripod.

Thanks to Norm Bower, the September reunion received a good deal of interest and local press coverage. Articles on our gathering appeared in the Portsmouth Herald, Foster's Daily Democrat and the New Hampshire Sunday News. The Foster's article featured an extensive interview with David Pinkham, one of the plank owners attending the reunion. We will post copies of the articles on the News & Events section of the Albacore web site "ussalbacore.org". (For those of you who do not have internet access at home, check to see if your town library offers that service. Many libraries have computers for public

use and offer free internet access.)

And speaking of the web site, remember that the accuracy of the addresses (snail and e-mail) and phone numbers appearing in the Shipmate Directory section are only of value if they are kept up-to-date. If you move, change phone numbers or e-mail providers, please pass the new information along to Jack Hunter whose address appears below. And if you have information about any of our "missing" shipmates listed on the web site, please send that to Jack, too.

If you have visited the Photo Gallery portion of the web site recently, you have seen that shipmate Walter Sawka has taken charge of that feature. Walt has provided some instructions for us less than computer literate folks to help him in posting our pictures. Newly added to the gallery are a series of photos taken during the Saturday banquet by Earl Frost, a friend of Bud Fisher. We would like to have captions, comments, descriptions and/or names of those appearing in these photos. Please provide your information, keyed to a photo number, to Walter by following the instructions posted on the Gallery web page.

Now that Columbus Day has come and gone, the pace at Albacore Park has begun to slack off. Kids are back in school and family vacations are pretty much over until the ski season begins. With the Park now closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Jim Sergeant gets to take a couple of days off during the week. Or rather, he now has time to try to catch up on deferred projects that have accumulated since Memorial Day. Thank you Jim for your continuing service.

The Friends want to make you aware of several situations that will have an impact on Albacore Park. When the Route 1 By-Pass bridge over the Piscataqua River was OOC this Fall, the NH DOT laid down a temporary road off of the By-Pass that entered the Park forward of Albacore's bow and tied into the Park's access road coming in off Market Street. The traffic island on Market Street has been cut and a left turn lane has been created for traffic coming from Portsmouth wanting to enter the Park. As part of a long range project, the State plans to make that temporary road permanent and add a stop light and turn lane on the By-Pass. Presuming funding is available, these final modifications are scheduled to occur in the 2011 time frame. Should all this happen, the result will be easier access to the Park from downtown Portsmouth as well as from either direction off of the Route 1 By-Pass.

And the PPMMA Board of Directors is working to have one or more civic organizations relocate to a facility to be built on Park grounds. We'll keep you posted as plans progress on this venture.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

The Friends of Albacore Committee.

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