

USS ALBACORE (AGSS-569)
NEWSLETTER # 9
June 2007

Dear Shipmate,

The United Way's "Day of Caring" saw six volunteers from Liberty International Underwriters arrive at the Albacore Visitor's Center on May 22nd. Led by Holly Peterson-Yakovakis, her crew of Siva Cherukuri, Marita Fletcher, Kathy Hebert, Li Wu and Tom Waterman were soon heads down and butts up holding a civilian version of that famous Navy institution "Field Day" on the boat. Albacore Park provided buckets, rags, vacuum cleaners, sponges and cleaning compounds. Supervision was provided by Jim Sergeant, Jack Hunter and Norm Bower.

While Jim, Jack and Norm worked in the Visitor's Center cleaning windows, display cases and vacuuming the carpet, one Liberty team started in the Bow Compartment and worked aft while a second team started at the aft bulkhead in the Machinery Compartment and worked forward. With only a short break for lunch, everyone was soon back at it. The day ended with the two Liberty teams coming together in the Engineroom/Cubicle area. It was nice to have a clean boat for the Memorial Day weekend and associated festivities. As a reward for their fine effort, each team member was given a set of Albacore coasters. Our thanks to the hard working folks at Liberty International. We have told the United Way that we are interested in participating in their next Day of Caring which is scheduled for 12 September. If you can be here to help out, please contact Jim Sergeant at (603) 436-3680 or ["jbsergeant@aol.com"](mailto:jbsergeant@aol.com).

Two shipmates came to Albacore Park early this month to help out around the boat. Frank Lyons from Wayne, NJ and Jack Snodgrass from Apex, NC spent two days at the Park doing odd jobs. If you are interested in spending some quality time with the old girl, please contact Jim Sergeant.

As promised, the NH Department of Transportation came around and repaired the damage done to our lawn when they put in the road off of the Route 1 By-Pass. After filling in the ruts, they hydro-seeded the repaired areas. No sooner did they finish then a couple of visitors drove over the freshly repaired areas! The DOT folks were upset enough that they moved a bunch of large rocks over to form a barrier against anyone cutting across the lawn again. The barrier is effective and looks pretty good, too.

Also, the NHDOT has agreed to pay the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) "rent" for the use of the roadway property. This payment is made in lieu of an outright purchase of the land they have taken by eminent domain. The amount of compensation for the land taking and when PPMMA will receive it is still unknown. NHDOT plans to reopen the road later this year when a permanent replacement power cable is installed to the Route 1 By-Pass lift bridge. NHDOT plans still call for the installation of a turn signal and turn lanes on the By-Pass, but not until possibly as late as 2011.

On May 28th, our Memorial Garden was the scene for the annual SubVets of WW II Memorial Day ceremony honoring lost boats and shipmates. Thanks go to Norm and Glenda Bower for trimming flowers and pruning bushes to neaten up the area prior to the ceremony.

The Board of PPMMA, who committed the dollars to have the two leaky doors on the Visitor's Center replaced, came up with additional money to patch then topcoat a large section of the parking lot. Several places on the walkways were also touched up to get rid of low spots and to improve drainage.

As promised, Steve Cuff and Ted Davis provided photos and commentary on Steve's presentation of a Phase I model of Albacore to the Naval Academy Museum. Go to our website "ussalbacore.org" and look on the News & Events page.

Another plank owner has been heard from. Donald Gasmire's son found our website and sent along his father's address. Don can be reached at 230 E. Pike Street, Houston, PA 15342-1713. (724) 746-4780. Don provided a copy of a poem titled "The Shakedown of the Albacore" and we have it up on the web for all to enjoy. Look for it on a new page titled "Flotsam & Jetsam".

The Shipmate's Directory also has updated information on Marvin Bissonnette, Tom Keith, Keith Perry, Walt Sawka and George Wehrenberg. Also, Davis Emery, Bill Johnson, Earl Moore and Alfred Woodard have been reclassified as Missing since the last newsletters mailed to them have been returned as undeliverable at their given addresses. Also added to the Missing list is Timothy Butterfield (FT1). Does anyone have any information about where they are?

If you haven't read it yet, plank owner (and retired Navy Captain) Jim Ferrero provided us with an account of some of the interesting things that went on during the early days of Albacore's testing. Jim was a Lieutenant aboard Albacore from '53 to '55. We have posted Jim's account on our website on a new page titled "The Early Life of Albacore". If you have a test related incident, sea story or favorite Albacore memory that you would like to share, please send it to Jack Hunter at one of the below addresses.

And speaking of the website, there are still a number of photos from the reunion that are without captions and identification of individuals. Please send your titles/ identifying information to Walt Sawka following the instructions on the Photo Gallery page. Walt has added titles to that group of 121 historic photos, many of which are a part of Robert Largess and James Mandelblatt's book "U.S.S. Albacore, Forerunner Of The Future".

That's all for now.

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