

USS ALBACORE (AGSS-569)

NEWSLETTER # 11

October 2007

Dear Shipmate,

On September 12th, a group of 13 volunteers from the Portsmouth office of Heinemann Publishing came onboard as part of the United Way's Fall Day of Caring. Six of the volunteers tackled the interior clean up of the boat while the other seven worked around the Park grounds trimming bushes, cutting out creepers and cleaning out hedges. At the end of the day, we had a clean ship and a shipshape Park. Our thanks go out to those hard working folks from Heinemann. You can view the crew in action on the News & Events page on our website.

Mid September saw the mailing of nearly 250 letters to shipmates and friends asking you to respond to the latest fund raising challenge issued by Steve Cuff, former Albacore ShipSup. If we raise \$10,000, Steve will match it. The Friends of Albacore Committee has taken on this effort primarily to fund a marine survey of the vessel and initiate an oral history project. Details on these two projects were in the letter. Steve would welcome anyone joining him in the challenge who is willing to pledge an increase to the challenge amount. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve at scuff@calex.com or 2401 Stanwell Drive, Concord, CA 94520-48451.

Through the end of October, we have received 36 responses to Steve's challenge. We are off to a very slow start and have a long way to go to hit the \$10,000 mark. So shipmate, please send in your tax deductible contribution as soon as you can.

You may recall that Jim Ferrero, plank owner engineer, wrote an article on Albacore testing that was published in the Naval Submarine Review. Jim has donated the check he received for that article to the Friends of Albacore in honor of the five commissioning officers – Jim, Ken Gummerson, Ted Davis, Stan Hecker, and Thomas Cuddy. Thank you, Jim, for the article and the donation.

As a reminder, on September 12th, our Reunion Committee sent out a survey regarding the next reunion. The committee is anxiously awaiting your response to this survey and your thoughts on having our next reunion in 2010. There have been a relatively small number of responses (35) and the committee needs to hear from more shipmates before proceeding. Frank Lyons encourages everyone to return the survey as

soon as possible so they can get on with the planning process. Two years may seem like a long lead time, but the previous reunion committee was amazed at how fast the time passed and some activity opportunities were lost due to late planning decisions. If you misplaced your survey or never received one, you may contact Frank at 85 Pancake Hollow Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470 or go to our website www.ussalbacore.org and look on the News & Events page. Please mail your completed survey to Frank at the above address or send it via email to fplyons@optonline.net.

We have lost contact with Laurence Sheridan, David Lefabyre and Michael Nowicki. Their snail mail copies of the last newsletter have been returned as undeliverable. Does anyone have any information on their whereabouts? But there is good news. Tom McCue has found us. His address is 25710 Hopkins, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125. And Danny Hixson has surfaced at 2008 Stonecliff Court, Findlay, OH 45840. Tom Bachman is now at 5214 Lansdowne Way. Palmetto, FL 34221 and Gerald Mathews can be found at P.O. Box 201, Alamogordo, NM 88311. Dennis Spurgeon has moved to 9 Wharf Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and Gary Upham has relocated to 3358 North Key Drive, North Ft. Myers, FL 33903. And lastly, John Sgro has a new email address sgroj@embarqmail.com.

Earlier this month, the crew from the Perry Monument Company of Concord, NH came to the Park and set, opposite the Albacore's sail, the bench honoring Joe Sawtelle. At the same time, they relocated the monument from inside the fencing and also set in place the monument to the first submarine Albacore (SS 218) in the Memorial Garden. Dates for dedication ceremonies for these new additions to the Park are undecided .

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 deliver the newsletters electronically to save on paper and stamps. So, if you have recently gotten on-line, or had any changes of address, telephone numbers, e-mail providers or if you just have items you would like posted on the website, please pass that information along to Jack Hunter at one of the below addresses.

That's all for now.

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