

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 17
JULY 2008

Dear Shipmate,

The inspection of Albacore by NavSea went well. Several members of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) board conducted a pre-inspection brief relating the members experience and association with Albacore and their ongoing effort to update the 1985 maintenance plan. In addition to PPMMA board members, two Friends of Albacore Committee members also accompanied the NavSea team during the inspection.

Prior to the start of this year's inspection, the PPMMA Board corrected two major items noted last year - an eroded pin securing the after brow to the boat and an uncapped shore power hull penetration. Another previously noted discrepancy (several bilges having pockets of oil and water) is being corrected. A local environmental firm has been hired to clean up those areas. And with the installation of wire mesh screens in the limber holes, a lot of frustrated pigeons are looking for new places to roost, thus literally cleaning up another discrepancy.

The end of inspection critique did not bring up any critical or safety items that require immediate attention. The NavSea inspectors did suggest that PPMMA install a video system inside the boat to monitor visitors – a suggestion that PPMMA has taken under advisement. We are waiting for the written NavSea report that should be issued in the next several months.

Crewmembers of the USS Greeneville (SSN 772), currently undergoing overhaul at the Portsmouth shipyard, have been coming to the Park cleaning and painting Albacore's exterior. A letter expressing our thanks and appreciation has been sent to Greeneville's Commanding Officer.

We have received an inquiry from a shipmate's family saying they would like to memorialize him in some fashion at the Park since he has recently passed away. Until now, there has been no vehicle for recognizing departed shipmates other than a listing on the Final Patrol page on our website. The Friends Committee decided that something more substantial than that was in order. What we settled on is a series of granite blocks to be placed along the edge of the path in the Park's Memorial Garden. Each 4" high x 8" wide x 4" thick rough finished block will be engraved with a first name, last name, rate/rank and years on board (1959-1963). If desired, and as space permits, we can include a nickname (Tex, Frenchy, etc.) or specific position (COB, ShipSup, LPO, etc.). There will be three lines of up to 13 characters (including spaces and punctuation) on each block. The engraving will be highlighted in black. (A representation of what a completed block will look like appears on the back of the order form.) The best part is you don't have to pass away to get a block! Anyone can order one at any time. We have arranged with Perry Brothers Monument Co. to provide the engraved blocks for \$60 each. With this newsletter, we have included an order form to ensure we have your information correct. If you would like to purchase a block, just return the completed form with cash or a check made out to "Friends of Albacore" and write BLOCK on the memo line. We will do the rest.

Those who attended the 50th year get together in 2003 or the 2006 reunion are aware that former ShipSup Steve Cuff had a model of Phase I Albacore made which he presented to the Park's museum. It turns out that Steve had an identical second model made which the Friends are purchasing from him. Our intent is to use this second model to raise additional funds for our programs. We will keep you posted on what we decide to do with the model.

The Portsmouth Historical Society has taken over the former library building in downtown Portsmouth and renovations are underway. The Society intends to make their building a major visitor attraction by focusing on the rich history of the Portsmouth seacoast community. Albacore Park's museum has loaned a model of Albacore to the Society, which they have placed on prominent display in one of the building's ground level windows. Additional Albacore material has been loaned to the Society and will be displayed on panels inside the building as renovations progress and additional space becomes available. We anticipate that this added visibility for Albacore will lead more visitors to the park.

Ken Herrick, a board member of PPMMA and a member of the Friends Committee who knew Dr. Allmendinger, provided the following: "USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569) lost a dear friend, mentor and champion recently. Professor E. Eugene Allmendinger died on June 26, 2008. Professor Allmendinger taught at the University of New Hampshire where he was the Associate Director of the Marine Program and Director of Marine Operations. Professor Allmendinger was universally renowned as an educator, ocean technologies expert and civic leader. What may be less known to the general public is the major role Eugene Allmendinger played in the conception and birth of ALBACORE and the creation of Albacore Park.

During the early 1950's, Gene served as a technical consultant to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In this role he acted as the Shipyard's emissary to the Navy's Bureau of Ships, the David Taylor Model Basin and various defense contractors. Utilizing his unique abilities as a technical interpreter and educator, Gene provided the shipyard with a significantly enhanced capability for translating the Navy's conceptual design into that very special undersea test platform we all know as ALBACORE. Once ALBACORE's navy career was complete, Gene again stepped forward as one of the principals in the successful effort to bring ALBACORE back to Portsmouth.

Our sincere condolences go out to Professor Allmendinger's family, friends and colleagues. We would like you all to know that we consider Gene a charter member of the Friend's of Albacore family, and that we will always look upon the distinctive centerpiece of Albacore Park as a fitting monument to his life's work".

Several shipmates recently have been heard from. Specifically, George Elder has a new email address of ccfrye@windstream.net, Jim Martin's new email address is martieje@gmail.com and Robert Gerard also has a new email address of rg404a@gmail.com.

If you would like to attend a Friends meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100, Saturday, August 23rd in the museum building. The next United Way Day of Caring begins at 0900 on Wednesday, 10 September. Additional helping hands are always welcome.

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 a change of address, telephone number, e-mail provider or if you have something you would like to submit for posting on the website, please pass that information along to Jack Hunter at one of the addresses below.

Thanks shipmate.

Jack Hunter
37 Namquid Drive
Middletown, RI 02842-4569
Jhunter2007@cox.net

FRIENDS OF ALBACORE MEMORIAL BLOCK ORDER FORM

Please Print the Following

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Rate/Rank & Calendar Years Onboard: _____

Other (Nickname, position, etc.): _____

NOTE: If adjustments are required due to space limitations, we will obtain your approval before placing your order.

Your Address: _____

Your Telephone Number: _____

Mail to: Jack Hunter, 37 Namquid Drive, Middletown, RI 02842-4569



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