

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 18
SEPTEMBER 2008

Dear Shipmate,

Long time David Taylor Model Basin (DTMB) employee Howie Russell passed away on 10 August. Howie participated in numerous trials on Albacore over the years. He was a member of the Friends of Albacore Committee and also a board member of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) that runs Albacore Park. The date for his memorial service is 25 October. Time and place not yet confirmed.

On the 23rd of August, a group of 9 “boot” chiefs from the USS Louisville (SSN 724), USS Greeneville (SSN 772) and from the shipyard came to the Park and helped finish painting Albacore’s hull. For the prospective chiefs, this was a part of their pre-initiation service. We have sent letters of thanks to their commands and we offer our congratulations to these fine young men on their significant accomplishment in reaching this career milestone.

At our August meeting, the Friends Committee authorized a donation of \$500, which was added to an identical amount from PPMMA, provided to the USS New Hampshire (SSN 778) Commissioning Committee in support that group’s commissioning celebration efforts. The New Hampshire was christened on June 21, 2008 on the 220th anniversary of New Hampshire’s statehood. She will be commissioned on October 25th, 2008 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (the first US Navy shipyard -1800) and the first Navy shipyard to build a Navy submarine (1917).

Another team (the third) from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company came onboard for the United Way’s Fall Day of Caring on 10 September. Lead by Tammy Mason, the thirteen female team members tackled clean-up projects around the park grounds. Help was also provided in placing the first series of Memorial Blocks. Photos of the group are on our News & Events web page. Our thanks go to Liberty Mutual for another fine effort.

The Memorial Block program has gotten off to a good start. To date, we have received requests from eleven shipmates and friends. The first group of blocks is now in the Memorial Garden area of the Park. You can see some of the actual blocks by going to the News & Events section on our website. If you would like to order a block for yourself or would like to honor a deceased shipmate, a form is provided at the end of this letter and also on the website.

The Sea Coast Science Center, located in Rye, NH, has invited Albacore Park to participate in the Center’s Member Day festivities on October 18th. Their theme is “What Lurks Beneath the Sea”. We will conduct guided tours of Albacore while the Center will offer tide pooling, experiments in buoyancy and discussions on local phosphorescent species. The Park will have an information booth at the Center that will present information related to sound in the sea and on Albacore herself.

Robert Ball, erroneously reported as deceased, is in fact alive and well. Bob may be contacted at 5 Anagance Lane, Wolfeboro NH, 03894. Jack Venerable has moved and his new address is 5929 Deale Beach Road, Deale, MD 20751-9750.

Steve Cuff had a second, smaller model of Phase 1 Albacore made for presentation to the Naval Academy Museum. This is the model we will be buying from Steve after the model maker makes a small repair to the hull and places a more in-scale size flag flying from the boat's stern. You can see photos of the model if you go to our website, "ussalbacore.org" and open the News & Events page and click on "Naval Academy Museum Presentation".

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on October 18th in the museum building at Albacore Park.

Good news! Our photo of Albacore taken earlier this year after a snowstorm appears as the featured boat for December in the USSVI calendar for 2009. The full color calendar salutes the U.S. submarines on public display. Boats featured range from the USS Drum (SS 228) – the oldest on exhibit – to USS Blueback (SS 581) the newest. Individual calendars are \$11.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. Send a check or money order made payable to "USSVI" to the USSVI Storekeeper Huey Hahn, P.O. Box 122, Husser, LA 70442-0122.

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 following addresses.

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