

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 19
NOVEMBER 2008

Dear Shipmate,

As part of their ongoing improvement program, the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) had roof extensions erected over the three entrances to the museum building. These extensions will serve to protect the doors from the weather and help prevent rain and snow from coming in with visitors.

On September 18th, the Navy transferred the ex-DOLPHIN (AGSS 555) to the Maritime Museum of San Diego (MMSD). MMSD has a fleet of seven vintage vessels including a Russian Foxtrot submarine on display along the Embarcadero at North Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. After some modifications, DOLPHIN will be added to the fleet on exhibit. Go to "sdmaritime.com" for more information.

PPMMA has formally responded to NavSea regarding the status of PPMMA's efforts to address the high priority issues identified during the inspection. A copy of the response is available for viewing on the News & Events page of our website at "ussalbacore.org".

The Memorial Block program continues to grow. To date, blocks have been ordered for: Norm Bower, Robert Buzzard, Dick Carey, Jay Dietrich, Jim Donini, Henry Graves, Wallace Greene, David Grossnickle, Ken Gummerson, Robert Harrie, Ron Hines, Jack Hunter, Allen Hooker, Butch Jordan, Floyd Lee, John McAliney, David McGuigan, David Pinkham, Ken Pitman, Howie Russell, George Sawyer, John Sgro, Robert Thompson and Stan Zajechowski. You can see some of the actual blocks by going to the News & Events section on our website. With the weather turning colder and the ground becoming firmer (as in hard as a rock), we have asked our block supplier to hold onto all the new blocks ordered until next spring when we will resume placing them in the Memorial Garden. 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 our website.

On 18 October, Albacore Park joined the Sea Coast Science Center in the Center's Member Day festivities. Several members of the Center's staff set up a tent at Albacore Park complete with refreshments and information booklets about the Center. Norm Bower, Jack Hunter and Butch Jordan conducted guided tours of the boat from 2 to 4 pm. Afterward, several of us journeyed to the Center where there were lectures on tide pools, experiments in buoyancy, displays of diving equipment and discussions on local phosphorescent species offered to the Center's members and guests from 4 to 7 pm. Stephanie Render, a member of Albacore Park's staff, manned PPMMA's information booth at the Center which included a large display panel and a model of Phase IV Albacore. Going along with the Science Center's theme of "What Lurks Beneath the Sea", the display panel Stephanie put together presented information on sound in the sea and also highlighted some of the unique features of Albacore herself.

A tape recorder played sounds of sea life. Submarine sandwiches (what else!) were served to the Center's guests. (See photos on the News & Events page.)

Frank Lyons, Jerry Sliss and Jack Snodgrass have completed preliminary work on a plan for the May 2010 reunion. The FOA Committee has approved the plan and is working with them to keep the reunion ball rolling. More news in the New Year.

Norm Magee has surfaced and can be reached at "maconeta@sbcglobal.net". Gerrit Smith has checked in giving an e-mail address of "gsmith2@twcny.rr.com". Marty Lastovka's new email address is "lastovka@centurytel.net". We have received word that Clyde Brown of Alford, Mass. has departed on final patrol. And, if anyone remembers serving with EM2 Elmer Weisenfluh, please contact Jack Hunter.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on 13 December in the museum building at Albacore Park.

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 just have something you would like to submit for posting on the website, please pass that information along to Jack Hunter at one of the below addresses.

Since this probably will be the last newsletter for 2008, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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