

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 20
January 2009

Dear Shipmate,

The Phase I model of Albacore, created by renowned modeler Jerry Blair for former ShipSup Steve Cuff, is exquisite. The detail is amazing and even carries down to the weathering of the paint due to the effects of seawater. As noted before, Steve offered the model to the Friends Committee as a fundraising item. We've considered a number of options on how to best to use the model. First, we considered holding a raffle open to just our shipmates. We discarded this idea, as we would have to sell a large number of expensive tickets just to break even. We then thought of opening the raffle up to include the Portsmouth/Kittery community that has a number of people who might like to have the model as a reminder of their involvement through their work at the shipyard. We dropped this idea because of concern again of not covering expenses and having to cancel the raffle and send out refunds. After some additional thought and research, we are now looking into the possibility of placing the model up on eBay.

The 2010 Reunion is planned for 21-23 May at Albacore Park. Current plans call for having tents, tables and chairs set up at the Park on Thursday the 20th for early arrivals. Daytime activities would be centered at the Park with lots of time to renew old acquaintances. Evening programs under consideration include a dinner at Foster's Clam Bake Club in Kittery and a banquet at a facility in Portsmouth. If it can be arranged, we will offer a tour of the shipyard and the yard's museum. We are considering holding a brief Sunday morning service at the shipyard chapel for departed shipmates that would be followed by a late morning brunch at the O'Club. Because the Terrific Trio of Norm Bower, Bud Fisher and Shakey Graves are unavailable to help this time, we are in serious need of a couple of shipmates in the greater Portsmouth area to assist in making phone calls and helping with local arrangements. If you can lend a hand, please contact Jack Hunter. More reunion news as plans firm up.

The Memorial Block program continues to grow. The latest orders received include blocks for 'Doc Robbie' Roberson, James Organ, Mac Dixson, Sidney Hall, Cliff Johnson, Roger Kattmann, Dennis Kane and Dennis Grage. If you would like to order a block for yourself or to honor a deceased shipmate, a form is provided at the end of this letter and also on our website. Each 4 X 8 granite block has three lines of up to 13 spaces per line. The engraving is highlighted in black. The cost is \$60 for a block. You can view some of the blocks on our website on the News & Events page. Click on "Memorial Block Program."

We are moving ahead with our Oral History program. Our next step is to identify potential candidates to be interviewed. We want to have a group that will cover the life span of the ship. Once we have our list, we will send letters to determine everyone's willingness to be interviewed. Those volunteering would then be sent a Letter of Introduction that will serve to open contact with the oral historian who will conduct the actual interviews. Sounds complicated, but in this day and age nothing worthwhile is easy.

Walter Murphy has surfaced and can be contacted at P.O. Box 218, Red Rock, TX 78662 and walt@gvtc.com. Keith Perry has a new e-mail address of

uboat569@yahoo.com. Bill Parker's new address is labsecc@comcast.net. Doc Robbie is back on-line and can be reached at either papahoney5@awesomenet.net or papahoney5@yahoo.com. Keith Rost has a new address of kjrost73@hotmail.com and David Pinkham's new address is "pinkhamd@tvconnect.net". David Cahill's new email address is seangers@myfairpoint.net. A note from Jack Venable's daughter told of his departure on Final Patrol on 19 July 2008. And Rachel Glynn wrote that Michael Glynn departed on Final Patrol on September 17, 2008. Although he was not an Albacore shipmate, Carl Bryson, the last of the Squalus survivors, departed on Final Patrol in November.

Just a reminder that Albacore Park is in the "shutdown" or maintenance mode until 12 February as Jim Sergeant and crew expand the museum area and add several additional display cases in the Reception/Ship Store section.

Another United Way Day of Caring is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 May. If you would like to participate, please contact Jim Sergeant at 1-603-436-3680.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on February 28th 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.

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. Cost is \$60 for each block.

Your Address: _____

Your Telephone Number: _____

Make check payable to "Friends of Albacore"

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