

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 22
May 2009

Dear Shipmate,

On April 17th, the students from the Berwick Academy came through Albacore Park like a Nor'easter. They must have had a good time doing the clean up chores as they want to come back for a third time next year. Our thanks go to students Patrick Durkin, Juila Guimond, Kolbie MacCabe, Ben DelPrete, Sam Winters, Alex Zannos, Logan Bement, Elizabeth Duchene, Alexander Enescu and faculty advisor John Downey. Regrettably, there was a camera problem and so we have no pictures to post on our website.

Another United Way Day of Caring has come and gone. Once again, a group from the Dover office of Liberty Mutual (Liberty Mutual's fourth such effort) pitched in and made everything look fresh and clean. Pulling weeds, digging a trench for a gas line, scraping/priming/painting the trim on the museum building, pruning bushes, painting a hallway in the museum building and cleaning the boat kept everyone busy for the full six hours of their volunteer time. Our thanks go to Team Leader Jodi Karnes and her troop of 16 stalwarts for their aches, pains and blisters.

A special "Thank You" to shipmate George "Buzz" Sawyer for his very generous donation to the Friends of Albacore fund. And to shipmate Walt Sawka go our thanks for setting up, maintaining and paying the annual bill for the Photo Gallery section on our website. If you have photos you would like to share, see the instructions on the Photo Gallery page on how to get them to Walt.

The latest orders received for Memorial Blocks include ones for Joseph Dinelli, Jim Tyrell, Dave Cahill, Fred Conroy, Dennis Hays, Robert Krag, Dick Beachley, Tom Bachman, Lando Zech and Gerard Blanchette. The Friends Committee is donating blocks for deceased shipmates Donald Roberts, KIA in Viet Nam, and Wayne Lavoie and John Garner who were lost on the Thresher. If you would like to order a block for yourself or to honor a 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 a sampling of blocks by going to our website "ussalbacore.org", click on the "News & Events" page and then click on "Memorial Block Program."

Speaking of memorials, Sarah Perry and her crew from Perry Brothers Monument Company arrived at the Park on Saturday, May 9th and put in place a new bench honoring Gene Allmendinger. Gene was involved in Albacore's design and phased development and later was one of the men responsible for getting Albacore back to Portsmouth. This bench, donated by PPMMA, is located down in what is now a group of three benches across from Albacore's sail. And, since the ground has finally thawed, the Perry crew also laid down the bunch of memorial blocks we had been holding back over the winter. With those additions, the number of blocks in place now totals 51.

Shipmate Directory updates have been received for the following: Jim Knowles has surfaced at 2780 Coppock Road, Washington, IO 52352, (319) 653-3664, "jknowles@iowatelecom.net"; "family2006@windstream.net" is Roy "Luke" Riley's new email; Bruce Grief's new email is "digbag13@yahoo.com"; Jim Hayden has moved to 9 Spruce Wood Lane, Durham, NH 03824, (603) 292-6610, email address "haydenjimbo@yahoo.com"; Tom McCue's new email address is "tommyMcCue@att.net"; Paul Azarian's new phone number is (610) 517-0028 and his email is "pcazarian@peoplepc.com"; Robert Lyon's new email is "bob191@wildblue.net". Steve Atkatz and Grant Humphry have suddenly disappeared. E-mail and snail mail is returned as undeliverable. Does anyone know of their whereabouts?

Sad to report the departure on eternal patrol of shipmate John J. McAliney on May 5th. He served on Albacore during the 1955 to 1956 time period. John had attended our 2006 reunion and enjoyed meeting some of his former shipmates. An Eternal Patrol card has been sent to John's widow Irene on behalf of the officers and crew of the Albacore.

The Friends Committee sent out questionnaires to a number of shipmates and civilians who were involved in Albacore's life to determine their interest in participating in our Oral History project. After reviewing the responses, we have organized the initial interview effort by geographic areas. As a matter of convenience, the first series of interviews will be conducted in the southern New England area. Letters, e-mails and phone calls will soon be going out to set up appointments with our Oral Historian Bruce Stave.

Check out our website "ussalbacore.org" for a couple of new additions to the News & Events section. One is on the newest bench dedicated on Memorial Day and several articles will be forthcoming on the June 13th United Way Day of Caring.

A new artifact has been received and is proudly on display at the museum. Thanks to COB Norm Bower who wondered what happened to IT, and to Captain Dave Kratch who knew where IT went and to Captain Jim Organ for retrieving IT. IT is the commissioning pennant flown when Albacore set the speed record for a second time in February of 1966. IT was sent to the Naval Historical and Heritage Command when the boat was decommissioned. The Secretary of the Navy, at the request of Captain Organ, freed the framed pennant from the depths of a NHHC warehouse. Captain Organ, in turn, has given the pennant to the Albacore museum. Thank you Captain.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, June 27th 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.

Until next time 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