

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 23
July 2009

Dear Shipmate,

Since the last newsletter, we have added a couple of pieces to our website "ussalbacore.org". One on the Early Life page by Jim Ferrero speaks to some of the early instrumentation for the Pilot & Co-Pilot. On the News and Events page are a couple of articles on the United Ways spring Day of Caring.

As of July 4th, the ex-USS Dolphin is now open to visitors in San Diego. She is one of eight vessels that belong to the Maritime Museum of San Diego ("sdmaritime.com"). For those who can't make the trip to see her, go to the following link for a virtual tour of the "triple nickel".

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/arcticphotography/sets/72157620825128597/>

NavSea inspectors were back at Albacore Park this month performing their annual inspection. There were no significant discrepancies noted and those of a minor nature have already been corrected. Thanks to PPMMA members Norm Bower, Jim Sergeant, Dick Wilder and Ken Herrick for their assisting the inspection team.

The Albacore museum has another speed record pennant for display. This one is back from the time Albacore set the speed record in July of 1965 when Captain Springer was in command. Captain Springer had sent the pennant flown at that time to then Lt. Jack Williamson in recognition of his performance as the ship's engineer during Albacore's Phase IV conversion. Now Captain Williamson (USN Ret), in turn, has graciously presented the pennant to the museum. We will be proudly displaying this pennant also, recognizing that Albacore set a number of records during her lifetime.

Oral History interviews are underway. Bruce Stave, our oral historian, has completed the first series of interviews in the CT/RI area and will be moving on to the second group in MA & NH starting next month.

The latest orders received for Memorial Blocks include ones for Frank Lyons, Don Engle, Russ Schondorf, Floyd Sharp, Norm Pressler, Rick Bourgeois, Young Harvey "Red" Walker and Cliff Cormier. 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."

Preparation efforts continue for the 2010 reunion. We have reserved space at Foster's for a Friday night clambake and several catering companies have responded with suggested menus for our Saturday night banquet to be held at the Portsmouth VFW hall. We have also engaged the Tirante Tavern on the shipyard to provide a getaway Sunday brunch. And if enough reunion attendees are interested, we will firm up our tentatively arranged tour of the shipyard. The reunion may be 10 months away, but it's not too early to start going through your attic or other storage spaces and begin pulling out treasures to bring for the raffle.

Shipmate Directory updates have been received for the following: Norm Pressler's new email is "albacore1941@yahoo.com". Bob Couchon has a new email of "rwcouch@myfairpoint.net". Donald Ogram's new e-mail is "dbogram@sccoast.net". Dan Moss has relocated to 1207 East Rowlands Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4417 with a phone of (602) 866-8506.

We are saddened to report that Shipmate Richard 'Rick' Bourgeois (EM2, '64-'66) departed on final patrol on 30 June. Rick's family held a memorial service at Albacore Park for area friends and shipmates. And, we received word from his daughter-in-law that Thomas Lawn, a former shipmate, had passed away. Tom was an EN1 who served on Albacore in the early 60s.

The next United Way Day of Caring is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 September. Among other things, we want to clean "stuff" out of the forward battery well. If any of you electricians wish to renew old acquaintances with that space, you are more than welcome to join us that day. We will water you (bottled, not battery water) and feed you submarine sandwiches (what else?).

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, August 15 in the museum building at Albacore Park. All are 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 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