

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 27
March 2010

Dear Shipmate,

The Albacore Reunion Committee has completed the planning phase of our next reunion. The reunion will occur on May 21-23 in Portsmouth, NH. You should have received information from Frank Lyons in early January regarding the details and cost of the reunion. Please remember to send in your responses to Frank as soon as possible so we can complete the local arrangements and get the jackets on order. If you have not received either an email or letter from Frank, you can find reunion information and the registration form on our Albacore website at "<http://ussalbacore.org>", then open the News & Events page. If you need a hard copy of the registration form, please contact Frank at "flyons@optonline.net" or call him at (973) 628-1743.

Frank sends the following: "Our next reunion is about two months away. Due to age and health issues that some of us have, this is likely to be the last formal reunion we will have. To date, reunion reservations have been received from the following: Peter Adams, William Allen, Richard Beachley, David Beeson, Norm Bower, Tim Brady, Bob Couchon, Steve Cuff, Joseph Dinelli, John Gandiello, 'Shakey' Graves, Bruce Grief, John Hall, Richard Hauck, Jack Hunter, Robert Kempkes, Jim Kraut, Ken Latchaw, Floyd Lee, Dan Leefson, Frank Lyons, Walt Murphy, 'Buzz' Sawyer, Russ Schondorf, Scott Schumacher, Jerry Sliss, Jack Snodgrass, Roy Springer, Herm Stolzenburg, 'Frenchy' Tranchemontagne and Stewart White. If you are in contact with shipmates not on the list, please let them know about the reunion and encourage them to attend. And send in your reservation, too. For those ordering jackets, the vendor has offered to add the word "VETERAN" under the Albacore patch and will also add your name on the right side of the jacket at no extra cost". Please let Frank know if you want these additions to your jacket. If you have ordered more than one jacket, please specify by jacket size what additional lettering you want added. Jacket orders must be in Frank's hands no later than 30 April or delivery in time for the reunion cannot be guaranteed.

As a reminder, the University of New Hampshire is having their graduation ceremonies the same weekend as our reunion. We recommend you make hotel accommodations as soon as possible to avoid any inconveniences. We hope you are able to make this reunion and re-connect with your shipmates.

Several area hotels have set aside blocks of rooms and offered us special reunion rates that are good only if you book before the end of March. When making reservations, mention that you are part of the Albacore reunion group. These hotels are:

Best Western at \$105 per night per couple + 9% tax. Tele. 603-436-7600
Anchorage Inns at \$109.99 per night per couple + 9% tax. Tele. 603-431-8111
Holiday Inn Thursday & Sunday nights at \$129 + 9% tax; Friday & Saturday
nights at \$149 + 9% tax per night per couple. Tele. 603-431-8000.

To date, we have placed 68 memorial blocks in the Garden with two blocks being held until the weather warms up. Three additional blocks are being ordered for Bud Fisher, Dan Leefson and Tim Brady. 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 room for 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." Since the winter months still with us, any blocks ordered now will be held for placement until early spring. There is still time to have your block prepared and placed before the May reunion.

During the recent winter shutdown of the park, the two bathrooms in the museum building have gone unisex. The former men's room remains handicap accessible while the ladies room is not. Part of what was the ladies room has been converted into a badly needed workshop.

Shipmate updates received include a new email address for Dave Guerard of "dguerard@maine.rr.com". Scott Schumacher's new email address is "sailnekkid@aol.com". Former shipmate Richard Gritman has surfaced and lives at 93 Snowberry Lane, Sequim, WA 98382. His email is "rritman@olvn.com" telephone (360) 681-8544. Dick was onboard in '56. Carl Nici also has surfaced and

may be contacted at 4605 Lansing Drive, N. Olmsted, OH 44070, "engineworksinc@verizon.net", telephone (440) 779-4862. John (Jack) Bayley says he can be reached at 17 Highland Street, Norwood, MA 02062-1902, e-mail "ejbay1@aol.com", (781)769-0250(h) and (617)365-9110(c).

Charles Roberts, Stan Hecker's son-in-law has confirmed that Stan passed away in August of 2003 and is interred in the National Cemetery in Biloxi, MS. And sad to report that Shipmate Walter Sawka passed away in December.

Russ Van Billiard (a Friend of Albacore and a recently retired member of the PPMMA Board of Directors) has generously renewed our Albacore website domain name and also paid the web hosting cost for the next five years. Thank you, Russ.

Again this year, Berwick Academy will be sending a group of their students to the boat on Friday, April 23rd to help us to clean things up from the winter. And, the United Way's next Day of Caring event is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 May. We have asked for a group of up to 12 volunteers to assist in cleaning up the grounds, the museum building and the interior of the boat (emptying out the battery wells). If you would like to lend a helping hand at either of these events, please contact Jim Sergeant at (603) 436-3680. Bottled water and sandwiches (submarine, of course) will be provided.

With Walt Sawka's untimely passing, we are looking for someone to take over the posting of photographs on our website. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact Jack Hunter.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1000 on Saturday 10 April in the museum building. This earlier starting time is to leave time for attendance at the annual Thresher Memorial service at 1300 over in Kittery.

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 be **GREEN** and 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.

Look me up at the reunion, 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: There is room for 13 characters/spaces on each of three lines. 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