

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 28
May 2010

Dear Shipmate,

WOW! The reunion is over. We had a good group of shipmates, family and friends gather at Albacore Park for three plus days of renewing acquaintances. Things got underway Thursday morning when a team from the shipyard MWR set up two tents and delivered tables, chairs and picnic coolers. Thanks to Jim Martin, the coolers were soon loaded up with liquid refreshments. Early bird check-ins began just after noon. Friday saw hot coffee and pastries laid out for those checking in. That night we gathered at Foster's for the now traditional evening clambake. Saturday opened with more coffee and pastries before boarding a bus to the shipyard for a nearly three-hour tour of the yard and its museum. Saturday night was the catered banquet held at the Portsmouth VFW Hall. As a small token of our appreciation for all that they do to benefit Albacore Park, Board members of the Board of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) were invited to dinner as guests of the Friends of Albacore Committee. Those attending were: Jim Herrick, Dick Wilder, Bill Seaward, Russ Van Billiard and special guest Jim Sergeant - park curator and the Park's corporate memory. Distinguished guests and former crew members in attendance were: Plank Owner Joseph Dinelli, then a QMSN; former ShipSup Steve Cuff, (then a Ltjg); Captain Roy Springer (CO from '63-65), and at the time Lt. Paul Moses ('66-'68) now RADM, USN, Ret. A special guest (and neighbor of 'Red' Walker's) Ervin 'Wes' Weston was recognized for his making four war patrols aboard USS Blenny (SS 324). Sunday morning we wrapped things up with a farewell brunch at the Tirante Tavern. Many thanks go to the reunion committee of Frank Lyons, Jerry Sliss and Jack Snodgrass who's hard work and attention to detail provided us with a memorable time of good fun, good food and good fellowship. For those concerned that this might be the last reunion, take heart! A group of honest-to-gosh volunteers stepped forward to work on putting together the next shipmate gathering. Bill Freligh, Jim Kraut, 'Luke' Riley and 'Red' Walker are the key planners in this effort with many others offering support.

PPMMA has a number of initiatives under consideration. One that has a high degree of urgency is that of trying to stabilize the sides of the basin that Albacore sits in. Erosion is taking a toll of the riprap that was used to line the basin sides. This material is slowly sliding down to the bottom. PPMMA has hired a company to make test borings down through the basin sides to determine what lies under the surface. Once that is done, a determination will be made on steps to be taken to prevent further erosion. Stabilizing the sides is of increasing importance as the states of Maine and New Hampshire are nearing a decision on what to do with the Memorial Bridge (which connects downtown Portsmouth to Kittery) and the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge that carries Route 1 By-Pass traffic over the Piscataqua River. One set of options under consideration would be to rehabilitate the Memorial Bridge for pedestrian and bicycle use only and then replace the two lane Sarah Mildred Long Bridge with one of four lanes. If these options were approved, this would probably see the state of NH taking some Park property to accommodate the widening of the By-Pass as it runs past Albacore Park. The vibrations from the road reconstruction and increased flow of traffic would have an adverse effect on the basin's sides, so there is a priority in getting these test borings completed.

To date, we have placed 74 memorial blocks in the Garden. Several blocks were ordered during the reunion. If you would like to order a block for yourself to mark your time on board or if you would like 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."

Berwick Academy sent a group of their students to the boat on April 23rd to help us clean things up from the winter. Under the supervision of COB Norm Bower and leadership of faculty member John Downey, the crew of youngsters helped PPMMA & FOA members Ken Herrick and Norm to make a significant dent in clearing out the huge growth of brush forward of Albacore's bow. When the brush patch is totally gone, Albacore will be readily visible from the stop light on the Route 1A By-Pass when coming off the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge from Kittery. There is a group photo on the News & Events page of our web site "ussalbacore.org".

The United Way's Day of Caring event of 12 May saw another group (for the seventh time) of volunteers from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company arrive at the Park. Under the leadership and supervision of FOA members Norm Bower and Phil Munck, they helped clean up the Memorial Garden and the interior of the boat. PPMMA board member Jim Wakefield had several of the volunteers emptying "stuff" out the forward battery well. The dumpster company had a full load on Thursday morning! There also is a picture of this hard working group on our web site.

We think we have pinned Jim Goode down to P.O. Box 311, Collinsville, OK 74021 - at least the newsletters sent to him are not coming back. Tom Coulston can be found at 8622 224th Street, Woodenville, WA 98072. Please note that the email addresses on our web site for Russell Davis, James Henry and Walter Roberson are no longer current. Ernie Mallett has a new email of "ejmallett@roadrunner.com". Melvin Pistole's son says we can contact his father at 14083 Mariano Road, Bentonville, AR 72712.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday 26 June in the museum building.

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.

Until next time, shipmate.

Jack Hunter
37 Namquid Drive
Middletown, RI 02842-4569
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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