

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 32

January 2011

Dear Shipmate,

The debate and discussions continue over what will be done about the deteriorating downtown Memorial Bridge that carries Route 1 over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth and Kittery. The recommended "Skyline Replica" replacement for the Memorial Bridge is not acceptable to some residents of Portsmouth who want a modern bridge. Another faction (the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation) could object to anything but the Skyline Replica because as many as a dozen Historic Register eligible sites in downtown Portsmouth have a view of the bridge. Drastically altering these views could be considered a violation of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Construction of a "modern" replacement also could be considered a violation of historic criteria. And a "modern" bridge would cost more than the "Skyline Replica". More oars in the water stirring things up.

Because Albacore is an historic landmark, a series of Mitigation meetings are being held to discuss such things as: how much will PPMMA be paid for the Albacore Connector land taking (the small cut-off from Route 1 By-Pass to Market Street); what design steps will be taken to keep the "new" Sarah Mildred Long Bridge's southern approach away from Albacore; and what steps will be taken to lessen the proximity impact of the Albacore Connector on the National Historic Landmark itself. The NH State Historic Preservation Officer (NH SPHO) "may" insist that the Albacore Connector be "re-routed" to the west of the current Park parking lot. The thinking here is that this "mitigation" option would maintain Albacore's Historic Integrity of that of a waterfront location and still provide a connection to Market Street while the new bridge is being built. This action would mean that the By-Pass entry point would be moved from the boat's bow to the road that now enters the south parking lot section well behind the museum building toward the rotary. There are several problems with this approach: It takes more Park land than does the current connector (more costly to the State) and some members of the NH SHPO Organization have characterized Albacore's site as a Waterfront Location in keeping with the National Register definition as a "stretch". More to follow.

At the latest mitigation meeting, it seems NH DOT is no longer interested in taking Park property for the Albacore Connector as part of the Memorial Bridge construction project but will consider doing so for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Rehabilitation Project in the 2017-2018 timeframe. Stay tuned.

As mentioned in newsletter #30, PPMMA hired Geotechnical Consultants to make test borings in the area around the basin Albacore rests in. Those attending the last reunion saw that the basin walls were crumbling and in need of stabilization. PPMMA has received the report from Geotechnical Consultants that suggests several possible solutions to the deteriorating wall problem. PPMMA is carefully evaluating the alternatives as all are going to be costly to execute.

We have lost touch with John Reimenschneider, last address was 20 Conifer Drive, Lebanon, NH and George Verd, last address 5525 Sugarloaf Street, Anacortes, WA. Their email addresses have been unusable for several months and snail mail has been returned as undeliverable. If anyone knows of their whereabouts, please contact Jack Hunter.

Shipmate Directory updates have been received as follows: The correct email for Dick Beachley is "dickieb569@gmail.com". Rich Baines has a new email of "arb3cab@gmail.com". Dick Knox has surfaced at 5320 Garnett Pointe Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23320, "dknox5@verizon.net". Tim Brady has a new email "bradyts1@verizon.net". Lloyd Farris has a new mailing address of P.O. Box 245, Winters, TX 79567-0245.

LaVonne Pistole Bray informed me that her Father, Melvin D. Pistole, passed away on November 2, 2010. VADM Lando Zech departed on Eternal Patrol on January 12, 2011. An Albacore Condolence Card was sent each family. "Sailor Rest Your Oar. We Have The Watch."

The ex-Kittiwake (ASR -13) was sunk January 5th off Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach in 62 feet of water. She was purchased by the Cayman Island government and scuttled to serve as an artificial reef. For many years, Kittiwake was the Squadron 6 ASR operating out of Norfolk. Ellie & I saw her laid up on the Elizabeth River in November of 2009 when we traveled down the Intracoastal Waterway.

To date, we have placed 83 memorial blocks in the Garden with eight blocks waiting for the spring thaw. Jim Knowles and Theo Clarke have reserved the two most recent blocks. We have only 8 blocks of the original 100 blocks remaining. If you would like to order a block 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."

The winter shutdown of the Park began on 17 January and will end on 18 February. Please plan your visiting schedule accordingly. During this period, the ship and the museum building will undergo maintenance and minor modifications.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, February 12th 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 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
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