

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 34

May 2011

Dear Shipmate,

Introducing John Maier, the new Executive Director of Albacore Park. John was born in Boston and grew up in Melrose with summers in Rockport, MA. His love for the sea developed when he was very young and led to his enlistment in the Navy Reserve while he was in college. Some of that reserve duty was on the USS Reedbird (MSCO 51) out of Portsmouth and the rest was in Bouknadel, Morocco. John and his wife moved to Portsmouth while he attended UNH and they lived on Ceres Street opposite the tugboats. During that time, he had several part time jobs in the Market Square area. After graduating with an MBA from UNH, John went to work for General Electric in New York. He soon realized his true passion was with retail and was fortunate to get a job as a bookstore manager at UNH, which allowed him to return to the seacoast. During the next 30 years, John managed the bookstores of UNH and Exeter Academy and eventually became President of College Stores of New England. He also earned the designation of Certified Store Professional (CSP). Several years ago, John discovered an opportunity to manage the museum store at the JFK Presidential Library in Boston and started a new career in Museum Store retail. Since then, he gained additional experience at the USS Constitution and at Strawberry Banke Museums. John was attracted to the USS Albacore because of his love of the sea and positive experiences with the Navy. To quote John: "I think you will find me to be a Director who loves working with visitors as well as selling them something to remember us by. Most important is the desire to contribute a learning experience to our visitors about a significant ship in our country's history, defense and security. I want to thank all my new shipmates for the opportunity and the honor of being responsible for the Albacore and I look forward to meeting you." Welcome aboard, John.

Home Depot has changed its policy with regard to discounts for service members. To be eligible for a discount under their new policy, you must be on active duty, or be an active reservist or be a "service connected" veteran. The first two categories are obvious. To clarify the "service connected" requirement; any veteran that has a service connected disability incurred as a result of service in any of the branches of service and assigned a % from the VA after the claims process and has a VA ID card with "Service connected" under your picture, qualifies. Remember, if you were ever injured or hospitalized or medically treated during your career, you are eligible for submitting a claim with the VA to receive compensation, if approved, for these ailments. If you have any questions concerning the Home Depot policy, please call Home Depot at 1-800-559-3199 to express your concerns over the new ruling. Please be courteous when you call.

To date, we have placed 104 memorial blocks in the Garden. Recent orders from Bob Hurley, Ron Ripley and "Luke" Riley pushed us to the 100-block mark, which exhausted our original money saving, large lot purchase. With additional orders received from Fred Saunders, John Bayley, Roy Springer, John Moran and Jack Ilgenfritz, we are purchasing blocks on an "as needed" basis. Our supplier, Perry Brothers Monument Company of Concord, NH, has graciously offered to continue to honor the original pricing of the blocks for which we are most grateful. With the block program closing in on the three-year mark, we have decided to issue a LAST CALL for ordering blocks. We will accept orders only until the end of June. 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."

Michael Nowicki has surfaced and can be found at 701 Massachusetts Avenue, Unicoi, TN 37692, (423) 743-6583, "barnow08@embarqmail.com". Tom Bachman has a new email address of "core569@verizon.net". Ronald Poloske has a new email of "ka1ern@myfairpoint.net".

On Friday, April 15th, 10 students from Berwick Academy came to the Park as part of their annual Youth Service Day. On this day, Academy students go out into the local communities and lend helping hands to non-profit agencies. Again this year, they helped cleanup the grounds to get the Park in shape for the coming visitors season. A major accomplishment was the removal of a large brush pile from the Park's entry area. Five students, under the direction of COB Norm Bower, hauled the brush from off the roadway and loaded it onto a trailer and pickup truck for disposal at a local dump. The other five students went through the Park collecting trash and debris from the winter. All later joined up in the Memorial Garden area and gave it an initial going over as we prepare for the summer season. These youngsters expended large amounts of energy and we are fortunate to be able to enjoy the fruits of their labors. We thank them for their contributions to beautifying the Park. We have posted some photos of the group on our website on News & Events page.

At our 16 April Friends meeting, we were pleasantly surprised to have Captain Roy Springer join in our discussions. Several of the topics discussed during this and the May 21st meeting were:

1. The Friends are developing an addition to the existing audio tour of the boat. This will be a recording of the procedure for diving the boat, which would be automatically played every 15-20 minutes in the Control Room. Captain Springer refereed a discussion of when NEGATIVE tank is re-flooded as a part of the script. PPMMA recently has added to the audio tour sounds of CW radio transmissions heard in the Radio Room and also sounds of the sea emanating from Sonar.

2. PPMMA's request to UNH for help with the basin stabilization project was enthusiastically received by the Civil Engineering department and now awaits final approval by the school's administration. Approval is not expected until the start of the fall semester.

3. There is progress on the part of NHDOT in deciding what portion of Park property is to be taken in support of the Memorial and Sarah Mildred Long bridge reconstruction projects. It appears that only the small chunk of park land forward of the bow and the concrete bridge over the tidal stream connecting to Market Street will be taken instead of the longer strip of land running the entire length of the back section of our parking lot. Money seems to be the determining factor.

4. Our oral historians will be vacationing on the west coast this fall and plan on conducting several interviews with shipmates in southern CA while they are out there. A nice cost savings to the Friends.

5. The process for placing the Steve Cuff donated Phase I model of Albacore on eBay is almost complete. This is a 26-inch long model made by renowned model builder Jerry Blair who also made an identical model that resides in the display case in the Park's reception area. Satisfying everyone's paperwork requirements has been the biggest hurdle in getting all our ducks lined up.

6. Captain Springer encouraged us all to become involved in our local submarine birthday celebrations and made us aware of past and possible themes for future Submarine Birthday Balls in the Groton/New London area. The 2010 theme celebrated Triton's around the

world-submerged cruise and the 2011 theme was a celebration of nuclear propulsion. The 2012 theme has not yet been decided. For 2013, there are thoughts of either honoring the 60th anniversary of the commissioning of Albacore or recognizing the 50th anniversary of the loss of Thresher. Honoring the 60th anniversary of Nautilus' commissioning in 2014 would appear to be a no-brainer.

7. John Maier, the new Park Executive Director, outlined several changes to the museum reception/sales area. There will be a series of benches built into the wall under the front windows with lockable space for merchandise storage under these seats. A display island has been added between the new seats and the existing display cases. The museum has added several clothing items that carry the Park/submarine dolphin insignia including jerseys and sweatshirts. Additional small cost submarine related items have been included in the store's inventory.

8. The Friends recently purchased a 24-inch flat screen TV for the reception/sales area to replace the existing small 13-inch TV. The new TV is hooked up to a combination DVD/tape player and has resumed playing submarine related shows.

9. A large, wooden replica of Phase IV Albacore, carved out of a tree that currently resides in the museum display room behind the reception/sales area, is going to be relocated to provide more space for displaying submarine artifacts. The Portsmouth Regional Hospital is going to accept the replica for display in the lobby of the newest wing of their sprawling complex.

10. Captain Springer knows the incoming supervisor of shipbuilding at EB. He will ask if EB would make three additional models of Albacore in her Phase II thru IV configurations. These models will be given to the Submarine Museum in Groton for display in their case depicting the evolution of the US submarines from USS Holland to the Virginia class. (EB has made all the models in that display.) Currently, only Phase I Albacore is represented in that display.

11. On June 23rd, the Patriot Flag is coming to Albacore Park. Coming down from Cumberland, ME, the flag is touring the US in honor of the fallen of 9/11/01. The flag will have been flown in 50 states in 50 days, winding up in New York City on 9/11/11. If you would like to view the flag, it will be at the park between 1900 and 2100 on the 23rd. For more information about the flag, go to "www.thepatriotflag.us".

12. The Friends of Albacore Committee is looking for a few good men to join the group. The duties are not onerous. We hold a monthly meeting at the museum and, together with members of the Board of Directors of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association, discuss and implement ways of improving the experience of those who visit Albacore Park. Several of us make a 3-hour commute to attend the meetings, so if you are within a 150-mile radius from the Park, you are not too far away to be a participant. If you are looking for an excuse to do good work and spin a yarn or two, consider joining us at our 18 June meeting.

13. PPMMA has requested the annual NavSea inspection of Albacore take place in the fall. This will give the Park staff time to do the required self-inspection, get the local fire and safety inspections done and correct any discrepancies.

The United Way's Spring Day of Caring occurred on Wednesday, 11 May. For the ninth time, a group came from the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. After a tour of the boat, the order for the day was to prepare the grounds for the Memorial Day ceremony that is slated to commence at 1100 on 30 May. Branches were trimmed to provide clearance around the tent to be erected onsite in the Memorial Garden. Also in the Garden, dead plants were removed, weeds pulled and the lawn was cleaned of leaves and other debris. Trash was picked up all around the Park. A bicycle was rescued from an overgrown area and later picked up by the Portsmouth police. The wood trim on the museum building was scraped, sanded, primed and painted. The propellers in the propeller field were cleaned of bird droppings. All this was done at the cost to the Friends of 11 sub

sandwiches from Moe's. Our thanks go to team leader Kristy Seid and her crew of Matthew Rudell, M.J. Smets, Greg Taylor, Vernon Whicker, Joe Hempfling, Justin Goss, Ryan Elliot, Tyler Child, Lewis Janetos and Jeff Nolin. Our Albacore website has a photo of the group on the News & Events page. Check out the group's tour guide, fifth from the right.

Our thanks go to Norm and Glenda Bower for the fresh plantings in and around the memorials in the Memorial Garden. Things are blossoming just in time for the Memorial Day ceremony.

YANKEE magazine's editors, in their May/June 2011 issue, named five Seacoast attractions among 37 in New Hampshire as the Best Of New England. Among those five, they rated Albacore as the Best Hands-On Historical attraction in NH. As if we didn't already know that.

We have added "The Diving Alarm Ballet" by Mike Hemming to the Flotsam & Jetsam section of our website. Mike's recounting of the dance that goes on in various spaces when the diving alarm sounds should strike a few responsive chords in your memories.

If you would like to attend a Friends of Albacore meeting, the next one is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, June 18 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