

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 36
September 2011

Dear Shipmate,

John Maier, Executive Director of Albacore Park, put together one great day of events in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Albacore being open to the public. Saturday, the 20th of August was a bright, sunny day with temps in the low 80's. There was a nice breeze that made time spent out in the sun tolerable. There were several days of excellent publicity leading up to Saturday's open house including articles in the Friday Portsmouth Herald on the Saturday open house and the Sunday wedding. Local radio, TV and newspaper personnel were present to document Saturday's activities. Butch and Sheila Jordan were featured in an article appearing in the Sunday edition of the Fosters Daily Democrat.

John laid in a good supply of iced bottles of water that kept the volunteers well hydrated. Admission to the boat was free that day and 670 people toured the boat between the hours of 0930 to 1700. For safety reasons, the Portsmouth Fire Department limited the number of visitors onboard at any one time to 30. No one who wanted a tour was turned away, however. Several former Albacore shipmates manned stations inside and outside the boat to control the number of visitors, to help keep the visitors moving and to share some facts and sea stories about our times on board. Members of the Board of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) were on site lending assistance to keep things moving smoothly.

There were tent-covered booths set up so visitors could: meet with sailors from the USS Virginia, San Juan and Memphis - three of the boats in overhaul at the shipyard; try out robotic submarines; color subs and fish for kids; learn Morse code from amateur radio operators who were using an antenna strung from the ship's sail for sending and receiving messages; try out their newly purchased toys subs in a shallow kiddie pool; talk to subvets from the Thresher Base of USSVI or just sit down in the shade and relax. Silver balloons ringed the fence surrounding the boat in recognition of her silver anniversary of being open to the public. A short rededication ceremony paid homage to the group of volunteers who worked to bring Albacore 'home' where she belonged. After the ceremony, two large cakes with submarine images in icing were cut and served to those attending. The renowned Moe's sub shop sold submarine sandwiches and beverages. At the end of the day, everyone pitched in and tables and chairs were quickly put away, trashcans emptied and the Park was made ready for Sunday's visitors.

The Park closed at 1600 Sunday to get ready for a wedding ceremony that was to be conducted at 1730 on the forward brow. However, rain on Sunday moved the ceremony under the tent. The silver balloons were left ringing the fence to honor of the exchange of vows by the wedding couple. Go to the News & Events page on our website where we have posted photos from the days events.

The final blocks for Steve Hogan and Barry 'Tex' McCutchan were placed in the Memorial Garden on September 15th. There are 110 blocks in the walkway leading up to the flagpole in the monument section of the Garden. Thank you to all who participated.

Phil Barbour has contributed a piece from way back when. It appears on the Flotsam & Jetsam page of our website under the title of "Streaking New England Style". The Statute of Limitations has expired so the names of the actual participants are disclosed.

Thanks to John Maier, Albacore Park is now on Face Book. The link is:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/uss-Albacore-submarine-and-museum/190114764381681>

The local chapter of the United Way held its Fall Day of Caring on Thursday, 15 September. Once again, a group from Liberty Mutual Insurance volunteered to dig into the jobs John and the PPMMA board had developed. Under rain-threatening skies, weeds (don't they ever die?) were pulled, brush in front of the boat was removed and trash along the By-Pass to Market Street picked up. After a lunch of Moes submarine sandwiches, the gang pitched in to help John complete an inventory of museum merchandise. This was the tenth time Liberty Mutual has elected to help at the Park on these Days of Caring. Must be the Moes sandwiches that keep them coming back. Photos from that day are on the News & Events page of our website.

Russell Davis has a new email address of "ahveedee@yahoo.com". William 'Phil' Barbour has surfaced and can be contacted at "wbarbour@cox.net". Bob Noble has also surfaced. Bob was a RM1 when on board. He lives at 59 Jenen Lane, Belen, NM 87002. Phone is (505) 864-8090.

The following have invalid e-mail addresses as listed on our website: John Conlin, Fred Conroy and Stan Isquith. Corrected/current ones will be posted when received.

David Marshall reports that his uncle Karl L. Kruming passed away in August of 1982. Shipmate Bob Walker reported that Barry 'Tex' McCutchan passed away on 22 August. An Albacore Condolence Card was sent to Tex's wife Denise. RADM Ross Williams' son reported that his father passed away peacefully on 18 September. An Albacore Condolence Card has been sent to the family.

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

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