

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 40
May 2012

Dear Shipmate,

Winter always seems to deposit an amazing amount of debris in and around the Park. The initial attempt at cleaning up the area is always the most difficult. Once again this year, students from Berwick Academy were the first into the Park on 13 April to start the beautifying process. This is the fifth year that we have had the good fortune to benefit from the school's Youth Service Day. Returning for the second time were Alex Katz, Colin Gaynor, Nick Saulnier, Jon Malloy, Kelsey Hayden, Logan Bement and Hannah Murray. I guess either we didn't work them hard enough last year or else maybe they had too much fun and decided to come back for more. First timers were Clayton Jacques, Jake Greenspan, Andrea Zannos, Jillian Clark and Dana Brooks. Leading the group for the fifth time was faculty member John Downey. The students gave us their best effort in picking up trash, sweeping up leaves, painting, planting grass seed, cleaning windows and display cases, conducting clothing inventories and assembling grab bags for the museum store. As in the past, they left the Park looking far better for their labors. As a thank you for their days work, students were given an Albacore coffee mug. Check out the News & Events page on our website ("ussalbacore.org") for photos of the group.

On Friday, 20 April, a group of 8 graduate students enrolled in the Naval Construction and Engineering program at MIT visited Albacore Park. These active duty naval officers (and one civilian) are enrolled in a multi-year program, which, after graduation, will have them designated as Engineering Duty Officers. Their future assignments involve duty at naval shipyards, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, NAVSEA, etc., where a technical degree is required. The Park recently became involved with this group when one of their professors visited the park and PPMMA Board member Gerry Sedor (Capt. USN, Ret., an EDO) was invited to address the group at MIT. Several members of the group expressed an interest in seeing the boat and so Gerry arranged the visit.

Russ Van Billiard (PPMMA Board member emeritus) opened the session by describing how Albacore came to be back in Portsmouth. PPMMA board members Gerry Sedor, Ken Herrick, Jim Wakefield and Phil Munck together with FOA members Norm Bower and Jack Hunter were on hand to tour the group and answer questions about the boat and her operations. Rod Watterson (Capt. USN, Ret, also an EDO and author of "32 in '44" - a book documenting the production of 32 subs in 1944 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard) closed out the session by reviewing the highlights of his book and then holding a question and answer period. The visit was well received by the students and we expect to have additional interactions in the future. A photo of the group is on the News & Events page on the Albacore website.

The United Way's Spring Day of Caring was held on Thursday, May 24th. A group of 6 maintenance staff and 5 members of the chemistry department of the Seabrook Power Station came to work at the Park. They were joined by two members from a local FedEx office. Together, they painted the south wall of the museum, cut down the weeds and tall grass inside the basin and in front of the boat, raked up debris, trimmed bushes, pulled weeds, edged walkways and laid down mulch, flowers and plants in the Memorial Garden. On board Albacore, they cleaned bunk covers and replaced burned out light bulbs. Photos will shortly be posted on our website.

Beginning at 0800 EST on June 1 and running for 24 hours, there will be a Museum Ships weekend wherein amateur radio operators around the country set up and operate radios from

historic ships. Once again this year, the Portsmouth Amateur Radio club will be using facilities at the Park. For some historic information on the club's association with Albacore, go to our website "ussalbacore.org" and open the News and Events page. If you are in the area, stop by the Park and see what's going on.

Other Park News. 1. The old Albacore Park sign that used to be at the southern Route 1 By-Pass entrance to the Park has been placed off the port bow of Albacore and completely refurbished. Southbound By-Pass drivers coming across the bridge now get a good view of Albacore and the sign. 2. Two additional security cameras have been installed. One is aimed at the Memorial Garden and the second at the boat. 3. New lighting is being installed to better illuminate the displays in the museum area. 4. A link to the on-line display of merchandise available in the museum store is now available at "albacoreparkstore.com". Check it out. 5. The superstructure contains fewer pieces of junk than originally thought. Plans are to pressure wash away the accumulated dirt and paint the exterior of the boat in early June.

Garry Newcomer has a new email address of "sojourner7@comcast.net". John Moore's new email address is "jrmoore@natel.net". Steve Ward has relocated to 699 Tu Yu Mum Lane, Colfax, CA 95713, "spward@suddenlink.net". Larry Leppard has a phone of (603) 344-9900. Long time missing shipmate Chris Rider has surfaced at P.O. Box 930, Exeter, NH 03833 with an email of "rotorrider@comcast.net". We have lost contact with Larry Costa - his email of "lka1tuk@aol.com" comes back as "address rejected". Snail mail to 75R Derryfield Road, Derry, NH was returned as "undeliverable as addressed, unable to forward". Does anyone know of Larry's whereabouts? Jim Knowles' new email is "jknowles569@gmail.com".

At our meeting on May 26th, the Friends voted to give \$1,100 to PPMMA toward the purchase of an 8' x 12' shed to be erected behind the museum building. The shed will provide sorely needed storage space for tools and equipment. Prior to the meeting, we recorded a diving sequence for playback in the Control Room. Thanks go to PPMMA's Dick Wilder for getting the recording gear together and for serving as the QMOW. Other cast members were FOA members Phil Munch (CO), Butch Jordan (Lookout and Helmsman), Jack Hunter as OOD and Diving Officer and Norm Bower as Chief of the Watch. A few flubs and a stray cell phone ring tone have to be edited out before we are ready to go public.

Our next Friends meeting will be at 1100, Saturday, 16 June in the museum building and 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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