

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 43
November 2012

Dear Shipmate,

The Diving Procedure has been recorded and resides electronically in software and hardware located in the ship's Radio Room. A new red push button to activate the recording has been installed below the instrument panel in front of the Diving Officer's position. To draw visitor's attention to the button, a large sign has been placed next to the push button that reads as follows:

DIVING PROCEDURE RECORDING
Created By Former Officers
And Crew Of Albacore. It
Is The Actual Sequence
Of Events Followed In Diving
This Submarine And Includes
The Sounding Of Albacore's
Diving Claxon.

Thanks go to PPMMA board co-chairman Dick Wilder for enlisting a ham radio friend who designed and put together the electronics and helped run the cabling from Radio into Control. Dick and FOA members Norm Bower, Jack Hunter, Butch Jordan and Phil Munck made the recording with Dick later doing the editing and adding the sound effects.

PPMMA Board member Jim Wakefield, Head of Maintenance, designed a new and improved screening for placement in the limber holes to keep the local pigeon population from nesting in the superstructure. On 9 October Jim wrote, "The USS Albacore, which has served as a pigeon coop since her decommissioning in 1972, no longer welcomes our feathered friends. Today, Bob Hassold and I cleaned, screened and preserved all 57 superstructure scupper drains (limber holes). We did experience a small flock of 10 to 12 pigeons circling around with obvious displeasure. Unfortunately they will have to find alternate accommodations this evening and for the future. You cannot actually see the screens unless you are first aware they are there and you specifically look for them. The entire job came out even better than expected and only took five hours. The work could not have been accomplished without the assistance from Bob."

That should put an end to having to explain to visitors why grass is growing out of the limber holes. (There are pictures posted on the "News and Events" page on our website "ussalbacore.org"). Jim also repainted the sign that hangs outside the Memorial Garden after first firmly attaching a new set of dolphins that replace the ones stolen last year.

Albacore Park received a very complimentary letter from the NAVSEA Inactive Ships Program Officer stating that, because the museum has done such a very good job of maintaining ex-ALBACORE and considering there were no discrepancies to fix from the latest inspection, NAVSEA was placing the boat on an every-other-year inspection schedule to begin next year. Kudos to the PPMMA Board, and Jim Wakefield in particular, for their diligent work and attention to detail in having Albacore in tip top condition for these inspections.

Jim Wakefield also completed the cataloging of over 150 items on loan to the museum from the Naval History and Heritage Command. Each item was photographed and matched to its specific catalog number. In addition, another 180 items were documented as belonging to the museum's holding of artifacts. Over 100 man-hours were expended in the cataloging efforts.

The Park has been granted a variance from the City of Portsmouth to erect a storage shed next to the museum on the Route 1 By-Pass side of the building. If Hurricane/Nor'easter/Frankenstorm Sandy permits, the shed will be delivered and erected before Halloween.

Park Executive Director John Maier attended the September Historic Naval Ship Association meeting held in Key West. In addition to meeting representatives from other historic vessels and learning of their successes and problems, John brought back a citation that recognized Jim Wakefield as recipient of the 2012 Ship Maintenance Preservation Award for his substantial efforts on behalf of Albacore.

The FOA committee voted to provide half the cost of having a flag made of the USS THRESHER's crest. This flag will be flown at the Park during the time of the 50th anniversary of Thresher's loss. Afterward, the flag will be donated to the Thresher Memorial Project.

Next month, a local TV station (PPMTV) will be making a documentary on the history of the Thresher. They have selected Albacore's after battery space as the locale for interviewing and filming. Selected shipyard personnel, former Thresher crew and family members will be participating in this effort.

Frank Wichmann has a new email address of "fwick0123@gmail.com." Bud Fisher also has a new email of "harryfisher212@gmail.com." Jerry Sliss has new contact information as follows: 626 W. Chatman Drive NW, Calabash, NC 28467, telephone (910) 575-1948.

Our next Friends meeting will be at 1100, Saturday, 24 November at the museum. 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. In addition to the 195 copies sent out electronically, there are 60 more that go out as a hard copy. 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.

Please remember to vote on 6 November.

Until next time, shipmate, have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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