

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 49
November 2013

Dear Shipmate,

The Board of Directors of the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) has filed paperwork with the NH Secretary of State to change the name of their organization to that of the Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association (PSMA). PSMA was the original owner of Albacore Park and was organized as the successor to the Bring Back the Albacore Committee. That committee's objective was to obtain the ex-USS Albacore from the Navy and to place it on display in Portsmouth as a centerpiece for a submarine memorial.

Quoting from the Amended Articles of Association as submitted to the Secretary of State: The purposes and objectives of this (PSMA) Association shall, among others, be:

(a) To erect and perpetually maintain a memorial dedicated to the members of the Submarine Service of the United States Navy.

(b) To exhibit, interpret and preserve artifacts and documents pertaining to the naval and maritime heritage of the Piscataqua region - with emphasis on the region's involvement and in the development, construction and maintenance of the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet.

(c) To preserve, display and interpret the former United States Submarine ALBACORE (AGSS-569).

(d) To perform any other lawful activities consistent with the purposes above.

There has been some discussion with regard to constructing an additional museum structure. The Board has been and continues to be open to proposals for further and/or joint use of Albacore Park for compatible activities. Most members of the Board are not personally prepared to make a commitment required to establish a completely new museum. Most members of the Board are not opposed to a new museum provided it does not detract from the core mission of preserving, interpreting and displaying of the ex-USS ALBACORE. The Board is refocusing its efforts on the preservation and display of the submarine and closely related submarine artifacts. A portion of that refocusing effort has been in the relocation of ship's plaques from the wall of the museum room to the hallway leading to the rest rooms. The museum room has been cleaned, the walls patched and the entire room has been painted. A new exhibit is planned for the back wall that will depict the evolution of the submarine hull form from the fleet boat to today's SSN 21 class using ship models and silhouettes.

During the annual meeting of the Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association, the following items were presented by members of the Board:

1. Net income for the year was just over \$68,000.

2. The granite dolphin in the Memorial Garden has been surrounded by a decorative fence to preserve the finish of the dolphin and to prevent small children from climbing on the statue.

3. A company will be engaged to remove some oily liquids in the engine room bilges.

4. Wiring in the Visitor's Center/museum building will be upgraded.

5. The existing electrical system supplying power to the boat will be looked at with the idea of upgrading the system to allow running of the air conditioning system.

6. Numerous small repairs will be made e.g., fixing tears in Naugahyde covers, replacing fluorescent light covers.

7. The Albacore Connector Road lease by the State of New Hampshire has been extended to 1 May of 2014. It is expected that the sale of Park property to NHDOT will be completed before the lease expires.

8. The "current" proposed configuration of the replacement for the middle (Sara Mildred Long) bridge has it running approximately 300 yards west (up river) over Market Street from that of the existing bridge. This alignment will have an impact on Park property. The State of Maine is responsible for the design and construction of this bridge.

9. Ken Herrick, having completed his trial year as Board Secretary, was elected as Secretary for two additional years to complete his full term of office.

10. The new set of PNSA By-Laws was unanimously adopted.

A representative of NAVSEA conducted the bi-annual material inspection of Albacore. Only one discrepancy was noted (an uncapped hydraulic pipe) and that was quickly corrected. The Portsmouth Fire Department also performed its annual inspection of Albacore and the museum building. Discrepancies noted were exit signs in the museum did not have battery backup power and the crash bars on the exit doors were stiff to operate. All those discrepancies have been corrected.

Executive Director John Maier has been doing some long range planning. Since the special celebration of Cdr. Dick O'Kane was so well received, John is planning another event in September to recognize the contributions to the Navy, and the submarine force in particular, of Vice Admiral Charles Momsen. Among his many accomplishments, Admiral Momsen developed the Momsen Lung - an early submarine escape apparatus, laid the groundwork for the McCann Submarine Rescue Chamber (first used on the Squalus), conducted early trials of using mixed gas for divers and led the fight to develop a high speed submarine - Albacore. Plans are in the very early stage at this point.

Tom Bachman has a new email address of "tregg@verizon.net". John Sgro is changing homeports. His new address is 192 Bay Hill Road, Magnolia, DE 19962. His new email is "sgro@outlook.com". David Emery has surfaced at 52 Johnson Lane, Eliot, ME 03903, (207) 439-2353 with an email address of "emery800@comcast.net". Dave was a CSS3 (SS) and was onboard from 1965-1966. Bob Couchon can be found at 25 Claire Avenue, Derry, NH 03038. His phone number is (603) 434-2121. His new email is "couchon69@comcast.net". Stewart White has a new mailing address of P.O. Box 57, Assonet, MA 02702.

I regret to report that shipmate Alex Szymanski departed on Eternal Patrol last December. He was an SN while on Albacore and was a member of the decommissioning crew. On 11 November, we lost a second shipmate when Henry 'Shakey' Graves departed on Eternal Patrol. Shakey was a member of the crew from 1957 to 1969.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 18 January 2014. If you are in the area, plan to join us.

The winter maintenance and staff R&R period for 2014 will run from 1 January through 28 February. During that time, the Park will be closed to all visitors.

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 188 copies sent out electronically, there are 56 more that go out as a hard copy. We would prefer to be totally 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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