

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 52

May 2014

Dear Shipmate,

The new display on the back wall of the museum portion of the Visitor's Center is complete and was dedicated on 3 May as part the of Shakey Graves Day celebration. Those of you getting the newsletter electronically have already had a look at the final product. Those receiving hard copies will find pages illustrating the content of the display included with this newsletter. Our website "ussalbacore.org" also has the layout of the display on the News & Events page.

Park Executive Director John Maier outdid himself with his outstanding effort honoring our shipmate Shakey. From a large welcoming banner with Shakey's picture on it, to the dedication of the wall display to Shakey, the serving of Shakey's famous Lobster Newburg and ending with the cutting of a cake in Shakey's honor by the Graves & Mulloy families, everything was well conceived and executed. Among those shipmates in attendance and sharing Shakey stories were: Norm Bower (who acted as the Master of Ceremony), Dick Carey, Butch Jordan, Steve Hogan, " Frenchy" Tranchemontagne, Jim Tyrell, and Captain Roy Springer. VADM Joseph Mulloy, Shakey's son-in-law, shared some remembrances of his visits with the Graves family when he was courting Beth. Afterward, the crowd went into the museum for the dedication of the new Submarine Evolution display. A small plaque was unveiled which acknowledges the contributions of PSMA Board members Ken Herrick, who conceived the layout, and Jim Wakefield, who together with Ken put the display together. Once all the photos from the day are in hand, they will be posted on our website's Photo Galley.

I regret to report that former Albacore Park Administrator Jim Sergeant (1987-2011) departed on Eternal patrol on March 15th. Jim began working at the Park as a volunteer docent in 1987. Prior to coming to the Park, he spent 7 years in the Navy, which included a tour of duty aboard USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658). He left the Navy as an IC2 (SS). During his years at the Park, Jim was a member of the Historic Navy Ships Association (HNSA) and at various times served as their Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Treasurer and President. Jim valiantly battled cancer for a number of years before finally succumbing to its ravages.

Posted in the Photo Galley section of our website (ussalbacore.org) are two new entries. One is a photo taken of the boat in Key West and the second is the picture and listing of shipmates in the picture that resulted from the Challenge to identify those present. My thanks go to shipmate Alan Neel who provided the photo and who started the challenge with IDs of those he could remember. Shipmates Frank Reinhold, Tim Campbell, John Conlin, Tom Bovyn, Frank Sardinha, Gerrit Smith, Keith Perry and Mike Nowicki added names to Alan's initial list. If you can pin names on those not identified, please send me an email.

The annual Berwick Academy Day of Service was held on Friday, April 25th. Students from the Academy tackled items that John Maier and COB Norm Bower had identified as things that need to be done to start getting the Park in shape following the harsh winter. Leaves and twigs were raked up, sand removed from the parking lot, and trash removed from the grounds including the area along the Route 1 By-Pass. The Park was looking great for Shakey's Day on May 3rd. Photos from the day can be found on the News & Events page of our website.

Following the Berwick students will come the United Way's Spring Day of Caring on Thursday, May 22nd. A group of 12 community members will be digging into a number of projects in preparation for what promises to be another summer season of increased Park visitorship. Any additional helping hands that day will be welcomed and we will feed you lunch, too.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Albacore Park has joined with 14 other New Hampshire museums to form a group called "Experience New Hampshire Heritage: The Portsmouth to Plymouth Museum Trail." The museums' goal is to create awareness of the many exciting history and cultural heritage museums in the Portsmouth to Plymouth region. The Trail members are (south to north): Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth; Albacore Park, Portsmouth; American Independence Museum, Exeter; Millyard Museum, Manchester; Woodman Museum, Dover; New Hampshire Farm Museum, Milton; Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury; Belknap Mill Society, Laconia; Clark House Museum, Wolfeboro; Libby Museum, Wolfeboro; New Hampshire Boat Museum, Wolfeboro; Wright Museum of WWII History, Wolfeboro; Castle in the Clouds, Moultonborough; Remick Country Doctor Museum and Farm, Tamworth and The Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth. By taking the trail, visitors will encounter the authentic New Hampshire experience in diverse museums, historic sites and homes. Among the highlights to be explored on the Trail are an intact Shaker village, two historic farms, a Cold War era submarine, vintage motor boats, a WWII era Pershing tank and a restored knitting mill.

John Maier announced that Albacore Park would forgo holding its annual Memorial Day service this year so as to not interfere with the dedication of the new flagpole and Thresher memorial in Kittery on May 26th. The Park will resume its Memorial Day services in 2015.

Tom Bachman can be reached at (772) 485-9718. Gerald Matthews has a new email of "willys3377@msn.com". Stewart White has an email of "onestewwhite@yahoo.com".

I recently received word that Shipmate Grant Humphrey departed on Eternal Patrol in June of 2008 and Plank Owner Patrick McGroarty departed on 15 April of this year. Pat's wife Carolyn was sent an Albacore Condolence card.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, 21 June 2014 in the Visitor's Center building. If you plan to be in the area, please stop in and join us.

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 185 copies sent out electronically, there are 52 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, or 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 addresses listed below.

Until next time, shipmate.

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