

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
NEWSLETTER # 54
September 2014

Dear Shipmate,

The United Way's Fall Day Of Caring was observed at the Park on Thursday, 11 September. A team of 10 from Teledyne DGO located at Pease and a second team of 4 Portsmouth Music Hall volunteers gathered that morning to tackle Park Administrator John Maier's ever-popular "Wish" list. Before starting on John's list, a moment of silence was observed for the events of September 11th, 2001. Everyone turned and burned until the Moes sandwiches arrived at 1230. After the lunch break, everyone got right back at it. By the end of the day: trim on the museum building had been touched up; weeds removed from the hedges surrounding the building and throughout the Memorial Garden including the gravel path; brush pruned and/or cut out altogether; bushes removed from the former circular fountain in the Memorial Garden, and the propeller field area was weeded, raked and debris removed. Pictures from the event are posted on the News & Events page of our website "ussalbacore.org".

PSMA and the New Hampshire DOT have finally concluded the sale of the land NHDOT wanted for the Albacore Connector Road that ties the Route 1 By-Pass to Market Street. PSMA has deposited the money in CDs and money market certificates while they discuss and prioritize the projects under consideration within the Park's boundaries.

A new granite bench adorns the grounds alongside the boat and honors the over 33 years of collective active service on Albacore of Shakey Graves, Harry Fisher and Norm Bower. Norm and Harry cut a ribbon as part of the dedication ceremony on Submarine History Day. The bench was donated by Shakey's son Steven and daughter Beth (Graves) Mulloy.

Albacore Park honored the USS Squalus and VADM. Momsen on Sept. 20 when it hosted Submarine History Day. Rising to the rank of Vice Admiral, Momsen was credited as being the advocate and innovator of the modern submarine, best represented by Albacore, the centerpiece of the museum. Adm. Momsen's grand - daughter Helen Hart Momsen was in attendance during the event and gave a heartfelt presentation on her grandfather's service and accomplishments. USSVI representatives from Marblehead and Thresher bases also were present during the day and a " Tolling of The Boats" ceremony was conducted. Thresher Base conducted their monthly Base meeting that morning. Crew members from boats in overhaul shared information about life in the submarine force and set up booths selling items to raise money for their MWR programs. Local author D.Allan Kerr signed copies of his book "Silent Strength", stories of the men lost on Thresher. The Great Bay Sailors and Mudhook singing groups offered sea chanties and other songs during the afternoon. The Park offered pre-made Moes sub sandwiches and beverages for sale.

On display in the Park that day was a copy of a diving bell, initially conceived by Adm. Momsen (known as the McCann Submarine Rescue Chamber), similar to the one used in the Squalus rescue. The bell was taken back to the yard for some clean up

work. PSMA remains in negotiations with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to have the bell on permanent display at the Park.

John has sent out the annual Albacore Park membership renewal forms for the 2015 year. They are going out a little bit earlier than in previous years to allow paid up members the opportunity of voting at the annual PSMA meeting to be held on November 20th. To be eligible to vote, your membership renewal must be received at PSMA by November 1st.

Jack Snodgrass has relocated to 232 North Farm Drive, Clayton, NC 27527. His phone is (919) 755-7434 and his email remains as "b747crew2003@aol.com". Michael Filinuk has an email of "sternshot@verizon.net". John Gandiello has moved to 8914 Mario Creek Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46234. His new email is "gandiello@sbcglobal.net" and a new phone of (317) 441-8843. Tom Coulston has moved to 9710 200th Place SE, Snohomish, WA 98296-7981.

George H. Verd has gone missing. Mail to his 5525 Sugarloaf Street, Anacortes, CA 98221 address was returned as "Not Deliverable As Addressed. Unable To Forward." If anyone knows of George's whereabouts, please contact me.

I regret to report that shipmate Le Roy Hebbard Jr. departed on Eternal Patrol in December of 2012. Captain Hebbard was XO of Albacore '61-'63. MM2 Robert Arnold also departed on Eternal Patrol in June. Bob served on Albacore from '64 to '68. Plank owner David Pinkham departed on Eternal Patrol on 7 September. David was an EN1 while serving on Albacore from '53 to '58.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, 25 October in the Visitor's Center building. If you plan to be at the Park that day, please stop in and join us.

My thanks to Norm Bower and Floyd Sharp for their donations of cash and postage stamps that help to defray newsletter mailing costs.

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 182 copies sent out electronically, there are 49 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 by email, snail mail or telephone.

Until next time, shipmate.

Jack Hunter
11 Admiralty Drive, Apt 3
Middletown, RI 02842-6254
(401) 849-7282
Jhunter2007@cox.net