

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)  
NEWSLETTER # 56  
January 2015

Happy New Year Shipmate,

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association (PSMA) was held at the Discover Portsmouth Center on 20 November. In addition to Friends Of Albacore (FOA) and PSMA Board member Norm Bower, Albacore shipmates present were: Jack Hunter, Butch Jordan and Bob Kempkes. Several items came from the meeting concerning proposed improvements to the Park. These were: repairing the pavement in the back section of the parking lot; repairing dents in Albacore's hull (PSMA has approval from NavSea to do the work, they have located suitable plate and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will shape the plating. Several companies are prepared to remove and replace the dented steel); rebuilding the crumbling basin structure (3 companies have expressed an interest in doing the work - a September 2015 start is anticipated); repairing the flag pole in the Memorial Garden; replacing two deteriorated outdoor audio tour kiosks; possibly paving the existing crushed stone walkway in the Memorial Garden; purchasing a defibrillator for use at the Park; establishing a permanent display site for the Submarine Rescue Chamber (after PNS completes their refurbishment efforts) and replacing the museum's a/c unit.

Also worthy of mention are two maintenance items recently completed by the PSMA Board of Director (BOD) Jim Wakefield: the installation of a rebuilt sump pump in the basement of the museum building and the sealing of a gap around the periscope at the top of the sail to prevent pigeons from accessing the superstructure. Two outside contractor projects also were completed. One was the removal of three large stones from, sealing of gaps between bordering blocks and adding pea stone in the circle at the southern end of the Memorial Garden. The second was the clean up of oil and flushing of the bilges in AMS 3.

Perhaps the biggest news from the meeting was the pending retirement of Executive Director John Maier. John started at the Park in the spring of 2011. During his tenure, Park visitation had increased each year thanks to the many innovative ideas John introduced in advertising and marketing. John was the impetus behind celebrating 'special days' at the Park: Submarine History Day (honoring Dick O'Kane and "Swede" Momsen), a number of birthday celebrations (Al Woodard, the Greek and Shakey in particular), a wedding and several re-enlistment ceremonies. John planned to work full time through the end of the year and then part time until a replacement is found whom John will train. PSMA BOD Dick Wilder is heading up the search committee to find John's successor.

Shipmate Robert Ball has a new address of P.O. Box 393, Sanbornville, NH 03872-0393. The correct email for Joe Jackson is "[ji.jackson941@gmail.com](mailto:ji.jackson941@gmail.com)". Norm Bower has a new email of "[bowernorman@gmail.com](mailto:bowernorman@gmail.com)".

Shipmate Paul Slawson has disappeared. Mail to 32 Julius Street in San Francisco was returned "Attempted - Not Known Unable to Forward". Does anyone know where Paul might be?

I regret to report shipmates Russell V. Davis Jr departed on Eternal Patrol on 7 July, Robert P. Smith on 26 December and Herbert Zahn on 27 December. Sailor, Rest Your Oar.

Students from the University of New Hampshire came to the Park on Veterans Day and volunteered their service as part of the school's "UNH Serves" Program. The students cleaned leaves from the Memorial Garden, Propeller Field and the large bank behind the parking lot. They also picked up litter along the Albacore Connector Road and at the Park entrance. Theirs was to be the final volunteer clean up of the year.



Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, 21 February in the Visitor's Center building. If you plan to be nearby on that day, 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 180 copies sent out electronically, there are 45 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.

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