

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)
 NEWSLETTER # 57
 March 2015

Dear Shipmate,

The Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association (PSMA) has a new board member. Pete Smith is a retired Commander whose last boat tour was that of CO USS GRAYBACK. He also had tours on SALMON and BARBEL and two boomers. Pete lives in Portsmouth and is involved with the shipyard museum. Welcome aboard, Pete.

As reported in the previous newsletter, John Maier has retired from being PSMA's Executive Director. The PSMA Board has hired James Craig as his replacement. Jim began work in mid-January and learned the nuts and bolts of PSMA's operation from John who worked with him through February. Jim and his wife currently live in Gloucester, MA and are planning to relocate to the Portsmouth area. Jim has been the overseer of a historic house and a museum curator and is an author - one of his books is stocked in our museum store. While he has been concentrating on getting the business side of things down, he also has pitched in to help with projects on the boat. Welcome aboard, Jim.

Shipmate John Gandiello and his wife recently vacationed in Hawaii and provided the below photo taken at the lost boats memorial located near the Bowfin. Thanks John.



Reunion plans continue to come together. A Friday night lobster dinner at Warren's is on the schedule as is a Sunday brunch at the Tirante Tavern (old O'Club) on the shipyard. The process for identifying a facility for the Saturday night banquet is on going.

The City of Portsmouth's Planning Board has given approval to the PSMA suggested name of "Submarine Way" for the Albacore Connector Road. There are a few more hoops to be jumped through before the name becomes official.

PSMA has under construction a new monument to be placed in the circle at the far end of the Memorial Garden. It will honor the shipyard craftsmen who built and maintain our submarines, the crews that sailed in those outstanding boats and the countless volunteers who contribute so much time and energy to help keep the Park in top shape. The monument should be in place this spring.

PSMA has not been idle during the winter shutdown period. Torn arm rests on the wardroom settee together with a ripped seat cushion in Sonar and one in Control have been removed for repairs. New replacement fluorescent light covers are on hand and will be installed by the March reopening of the Park. The harsh weather (and snow half way up the hull in places in the basin) has delayed the start of replacing the dented portions of the outer hull until the basin floor reappears and warmer temperatures arrive. A supplier for outdoor speaker assemblies has been found and two will be ordered to replace the deteriorated units on the forward and after brows. Two new podiums are under construction to replace the crumbling assemblies located at the propeller field and the stern end of the basin. These speaker assemblies/podiums are all part of the audio tour system FOA had installed over 10 years ago. And the final item of note is that PSMA has selected a company to work up a final design and cost estimate for rebuilding the basin structure. Basin work is not expected to begin until after Labor Day.

Shipmate Ron Pool has surfaced and is living at 126 Dresden Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445. Telephone (843) 863-9545. His email is "ronpool@aol.com". Ron was an RM2/1 while on Albacore in 1963. Bob Hurley has a new email of "bobhurleyusnret@tds.net". Shipmate Steve Hogan has dropped out of sight. His email is no longer valid and mail sent to 6563 Redfield Street in Navarre, FL has not produced a reply. Does anyone have an idea of where Steve may be?

I regret to report that plank owner Alfred "Woody" Woodard departed on Eternal Patrol on 11 January 2015. Woody was a long time resident of Carmel, ME. As a plank owner, he was honored at the Albacore Museum on his birthday in June of 2012. Shipmate William "the Greek" Apostolos departed on Eternal patrol on 18 January and shipmate Robert L. White recently departed on Eternal Patrol. Bob was an SN while on board.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, 11 April 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 181 copies sent out electronically, there are 43 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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