

USS ALBACORE (AGSS-569)
NEWSLETTER # 8
May 11, 2007

Dear Shipmate,

Now that spring is finally here, we are looking forward to another busy year at Albacore Park. I know it must be spring because Jim Sergeant has returned from his annual "pillage and plunder" trip to the Philadelphia Reserve Fleet where the ex-Trout (SS-566) still resides waiting for disposition. Trout has been our source of hard-to-get submarine items for a number of years.

The maintenance and repair items mentioned in the last newsletter have been completed. The water leak in the ladies restroom has been taken care of and a new drop ceiling and lighting installed. The leaking windows in the cupola have been caulked (and water tested by a recent Nor'easter) and the new flash covers are in place on the bunks in the bow compartment. And, lastly, new entry doors and sills have been installed in the museum building.

Our 2007 advertising campaign has gotten underway with the initial delivery of the new Portsmouth/Kittery Resort Map which has a double space ad for Albacore Park. Starting in April and running to Labor Day, we will have "rack cards" advertising the Park placed in hotels and motels in the seacoast area. We also will have rack cards placed in six of the NH Welcome Centers. Finally, we have an ad in the widely distributed SeaCoast Guide.

When the State put in the temporary road from the Route 1 By-Pass to Market Street, they made a mess of the lawn off Albacore's bow, which they said they would fix up. The land for the "temporary" road was taken by eminent domain with a promise to compensate the Port of Portsmouth Maritime Museum Association (PPMMA) at a later date. This spring, the State has promised to level and seed the disturbed lawn areas. They plan to reopen the road later this year when permanent repairs are made to the Route 1 By-Pass lift bridge. The amount of compensation for the eminent domain land taking and when PPMMA will receive it is unknown at this time.

Just before our reunion last September, the United Way of Greater Portsmouth held a "Day of Caring" where volunteers devoted a day to tackling a number of projects. We were fortunate to have a dozen volunteers from the shipyard come and hold a good

clean up on the boat. The United Way is holding another Day of Caring on the 22nd of May and our project to clean up the boat has been selected for accomplishment. The Memorial Garden area will be tidied up in preparation for the SubVets of WW II Memorial Day ceremony honoring lost boats and shipmates. If you plan to be in the Portsmouth area, please feel free to either help with the boat clean up on the 22nd and/or attend the service on the 28th. Contact Jim Sergeant at (603) 436-3680 for details.

Last month, Steve Cuff (Albacore ShipSup '54-'56), in conjunction with then Lt. Ted Davis ('53-'56) (now Captain, USN, Ret.), presented a model of Albacore to the Naval Academy museum at Annapolis. Steve and Ted are working on getting photos and commentary on the event together for posting on our website. You may remember that it was in August of 2003 that Steve presented a Phase I Albacore model to the museum at Albacore Park. And, it was Steve's issuing of a challenge grant during that summer gathering that led to the formation of the Friends of Albacore.

Plank owner (and retired Navy Captain) Jim Ferrero has provided the Friends with an account of some of the interesting things that went on during the early days of Albacore's testing. Jim was a Lieutenant aboard Albacore from '53 to '55. In the near future, we will be posting Jim's account on the website on a new page. If you have a test related incident, sea story or favorite Albacore memory that you would like to share, please send it to Jack Hunter at the below address.

And speaking of the website, there are still a number of photos from the reunion that are without captions and identification of individuals. Please send your titles/ identifying information to Walt Sawka following the instructions on the Photo Gallery page. Walt has added a new group of 121 historic photos, many of which are a part of Robert Largess and James Mandelblatt's fine book "U.S.S. Albacore, Forerunner Of The Future".

That's all for now.

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