



Albacore Park

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Greetings from an improved Albacore Park

For those of you who have not visited us in the last few months this will attempt to bring you up to date on all that has taken place since spring. First and probably the most noticeable will be that the majority of the parking lot has been resurfaced thanks to the good work of Richard Sullivan and his crew from Bayside Paving. While some areas could be paved over, others had to be taken down to base level and then paved.

The crew from Green Acres has kept the lawn looking well and also brought the walkway in the memorial garden back to how it should look. They also extended the stones marking the edges of the driveway which has served to inspire people to use the reverse gear in their cars to turn around instead of driving over the lawn. We apologize for the inconvenience to those folks.

Ken Latchaw and crew did a beautiful job of putting portico's over the entry doors so that you can now get into the building without getting a shower in the process. And thanks to Dick Wilder we got all the new wood primed and the majority of it painted. Dick also put his talents to work on the siding of the building which had not seen fresh paint in quite a few years.

Don Stevens and his crew completed a mostly invisible job which involved replacing the large pin that connects the after gangway to the boat. Over the course of 22 years it had rusted considerably and had a bend in one end. After shifting the land end of the gangway so the holes all lined up Don made the pin replacement look easy.

Bob Hassold orchestrated the Albacore display in the new information center located in the old library building. Due to utility issues this will not be a year round exhibit but will return to Albacore Park for the winter.

Thanks to Don Littlefield and the folks from United Industrial Technologies for helping us to properly dispose of our waste oil and to cleanup the film left in AMS-3. It was amazing to watch how easy it was when you had the right material and training.

Ken Herrick and Jim Wakefield have taken on the task of formulating an actual maintenance plan for Albacore. This involved going back through many years of annual inspections by the Navy and organizing the information into a useful format. This will make the people at NAVSEA happy and provide guidance for the folks that maintain the boat.

Russ VanBilliard resolved the majority of the financial issues that have confused the board over the years so that there are now funds in place to accomplish work that needs to be done in a timely manner.



Fleet Member - Historic Naval Ships Association



We had a major sewer problem recently and found that not only do the folks at Bayside Paving know how to pave, they also know how to repair sewer lines.

Our new carpet is holding up well, and having learned the hard way, we will be having it cleaned next month.

In August the Chief Petty Officer Selectee's and their mentor finished applying a fresh coat of paint to Albacore and even managed to put the name back on the stern. It was noted that, contrary to popular rumor, Chiefs can not walk on water but some were seen wading through it to get to spots that needed paint.

As noted last year, our battery powered audio stations did not like below zero weather. To remedy this we converted 3 of them to permanent power from Albacore. Now if we can figure a way to convert the other 2 they will all be happy to work year-round.

~~The Friends of Albacore group are continuing to wrestle with the Oral History~~ Project. They have also come up with a way for folks to pay homage to Albacore crew members. They have started a Memorial Walkway at the base of the flag pole which will be paved with granite block giving the name and other information of people who served on or worked with Albacore. Plans are also progressing for another reunion in May of 2010 here in Portsmouth.

The Officers and Directors of Albacore Park wish you all a safe and festive Holiday Season.