



Albacore Park

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Greetings from Albacore Park

We had a good summer season in spite of prevailing conditions. The visitation numbers were up over last year but the gift numbers were down slightly.

On the Board of Directors front we have a good group at the table who bring a variety of experience to the group. Many are also willing to pitch in and work on park projects if needed.

Since spring we have had a group from Berwick Academy spend time with us helping to spruce up the place. We were also visited by folks from Liberty Mutual twice this year. During both visits some grounds work was done under the watchful eye of our master gardener, Norm Bower. Under the direction of Phil Munck they also cleaned out the forward battery well of all un-needed material which made the dumpster troll happy. Next spring they have their sights set on the after battery. Dick Wilder and "Bob" are working to get the Diving Alarm running on a limited basis so that it can be sounded but not abused. The after starboard crews head has been converted into a tool locker so tools and material could be centralized instead of spread out all over the boat.

The annual NavSea inspection was conducted in July and as usual there were no major problems. It is sometimes challenging to remind the Navy that, while they see us as a submarine, many government bodies see us as a round steel building and enforce various codes accordingly. Ken Herrick, Dick Wilder and Jim Wakefield have prepared the response letter which will go back to the Navy next week.

We updated our restrooms this year to the new ADA standards, which was interesting when you saw how many pages of information it took to properly mount the toilet paper dispenser. This helped us get more storage space and thus enlarge the display area of the museum so more of the collection can be enjoyed by our visitors. It also allowed us to put the large Albacore model done by R.A. Marcoux at eye level. The life lines and hull numbers were replaced and draft marks added. The model is surrounded by a Lexan case to insure it survives for many more years to come.



Fleet Member - Historic Naval Ships Association



With regular contributions now coming in to the park improvement and maintenance account from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation we were able to contract to replace the parking lot pole lights. While needed, it will upset the birds who are nesting in the cross arm of one of the poles. We have also arranged for a permanent repair to solve the leakage problem around the cupola. This will involve removing woodwork both inside and out to get to the pieces that have rotted over the years and get down to a firm base for the cupola to sit on. This will require a man lift which, when not being used on the building, will be used to get some exterior projects done on the boat which we would otherwise need a sky hook to accomplish.

Finally, as we knew it would some day, Russ Van Billiard has passed on the chair at the head of the table to Ken Herrick and Dick Wilder. This has been a gradual turnover with many meetings to bring the new folks up to speed. Russ will remain a source of information as needed but has turned over the daily items to Ken and Dick.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season.

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