

SLATER SIGNALS

The Newsletter of the USS SLATER's Volunteers
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The month of October started with the fall workweek, with fourteen out-of-town volunteers reporting aboard to do volunteer maintenance. Ed Zajkowski came up a few days early, to scope out the mast work. Sunday, his team of welder retirees arrived, including **Rick Espenshade, Joe Zygmunt, Bob Lalley, and Machinist Tom Sullivan.** Two Tin Can Sailors from Massachusetts, **Steve Why-not** and **Gene Byers,** supported them. But the two most important people in the crew were the cook, **Blair Sandri,** and his assistant, **Doug Zehr.** They did a great job of keeping the crew fed all week. **George Amandola** and **George Gollas** made the



The fall work week crew.

trip up from Pennsylvania. George spent a couple of days taking care of the messdecks. **Joe Stout** and **John Meeker** were back from Seattle, **Tom Skufca** arrived from Ohio, and **Ron Frankosky** came from Jersey, Trustee, **Gary Dieckman,** came up from Elmsford, NY and **Frank Heckart** arrived from Texas. Frank had a lot of documentation on his ship, USS LERAY WILSON, which he has been researching and donated to the museum.



Ed Zajkowski's extensive collection of blueprints has made much of the mast restoration possible.

Breaking into teams, George, Joe, and John worked on gun 33, and got the sight setter and electrical firing assembly back together. Gary and Ron drew the chipping and painting detail, scaling the 01 level deck around the 40mm guns, and getting two coats of primer down, in between rain showers. Gary also got the inboard side of the port spray shield and the waterway painted out. Tom welded up an electrical switch box, that will go in the pilothouse as part of the recognition light installation.



Removal of the sidelights for replacement during the fall work week.

Ed's crew was all over the place. Tom Sullivan completed the reassembly of the upper train hand wheels on gun 32, and cleaned up a lot of lifeline turnbuckles. As a group, they completed the welding on the IFF antennas that will go on the ends of the yardarm. They also removed the port and starboard running lights for replacement. In addition, they enlarged the 20MM rain drains on the amidships and fantail gun tubs, and made new scuppers. They repaired a hole in the portside B-4 engineroom hatch too. Then they continued work on both the SL radar maintenance platform and the ship's whistle platforms. These platforms will be installed in the shipyard.

When the workweek was over, Cathy Wheat was quick to get the aft berthing

spaces squared away. Our regulars continued where the out-of-towners left off. **Dave Wasson** and **Chuck Teal** did a great job of rebuilding the starboard breakwater watertight door. Now they are working on wave-guide brackets. Dave is headed to Florida in a couple of weeks for the winter, and I for one, am really going to miss him. **Danny Statile** has been trying to figure out how to fabricate the replica radar wave-guide with compound curves. Danny has also continued work on the fighting light control panel, and the supports for the sidelights. **Tim Benner, Dave Mardon, Gene Jackey, and Gary Sheedy** have been working on the whistle piping. **Doug, Dave, Gene, and Earl** have been dealing with leaks in the trailer roof, and replacing rotted wood on the shore head. Thanks to Trustee **Diane Watters**, we're making plans to recarpet the ship's store and classroom this winter.

Gary Sheedy has begun wiring the fighting lights. He and Barry had one fighting light that was fully illuminated and displayed to the public at the Ft. Orange Club event. **Jack Carbone** researched the masthead light platform, and **Brendan Lutz** and **Danny** fabricated it. **Alex Titcomb** finished the bullhorn turning gear coupling.



Cathy Wheat keeping the galley shiny.

Jack and Board Member, **Mike Clark**, collaborated to research and design the bull-horn turning gear. Barry, **Jake Weidman**, and **Dan Habermas** got the original mast-head light down from the mast in one piece, and are preparing to restore it. **Vince Montuori** installed the smoke screen generator control valve remote operator. Barry also tested the outlets needed for the anti-ice circulators. They also got the one under the 20mm mount, number 26, working for the first time since coming to Albany.



Part of the Regeneron Crew painting the 01 level amidships

We got a nice boost at the end of the month, when 15 volunteers from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals did a service day aboard the ship. Kevin Sage had gotten the amidships 40mm guns sprayed out, and the Regeneron volunteers finished painting the deck around the guns. They also painted out the fantail 20mm gun tubs, ready service lockers, and did a lot of cleaning. They left us with a pile of good paintbrushes, rollers, and frames, as well as pails. We hope this becomes an annual event.

Steve Syrotynski and Terry Yoder got together with Joe Breyer and Mike Wyles, and continued to bring renewed interest to the radio room. Steve has gotten into the RBB, which goes from the broadcast band up to 80 meters. He reports that the wafer switches were in good shape, but very dirty. They cleaned up well and are in good shape. He is planning to re-assemble things and test fire it. But the really big news is that our senior radioman, **ET1 Jerry Jones**, reemerged and paid us a visit. Jerry is recovering from complications following bypass surgery and a heart valve replacement. We are all hopeful that he can rejoin the team soon. Mike also purchased the VHF ground plane antenna that will be installed on the yardarm in the shipyard.



The Regeneron fantail crew.

The Capital District Chief Petty Officer’s Association celebrated the 224th Navy Birthday on Sunday October 13th. As has become their tradition, each year they honor a SLATER volunteer for their service. This year they selected **Paul Guarnieri**, who has been volunteering since 2005.

Relatively young by our standards, Paul is one of the few volunteers aboard SLATER who volunteers with both the maintenance crew, and the education crew as a tour guide, and he does each job very well. Today, Paul works for SUNY Albany within facilities, and spends his Saturdays aboard SLATER. He entertains the public with stories of these great ships, and the Greatest Generation. Paul also enhances his seamanship skills, under the wing of **Bill ‘Boats’ Haggart**. We’re lucky to have him as part of the crew.



Preparing to cut the Navy Birthday cake with Volunteer of the Year, Paul Guarnieri.

On October 17th, we held our annual Ft. Orange Club Gala Cocktail Party, to raise money for our upcoming shipyard overhaul. This year's event marked the 75th Anniversary of the launch and commissioning of the ship, and we had over one hundred guests join us for the festivities. We were especially honored to have **Doris Fischer** and **Bob Malesardi** in attendance. Doris was instrumental in organizing the first of these events. It was also great to see former Mayor, **Jerry Jennings**, who gave the green light to bringing USS SLATER to Albany 22 years ago. Our guest speaker was Captain **Phillip Malone**; the Program Manager of US Navy Carriers being built now. He shared the joy he experienced earlier in the day as he toured SLATER, and how quickly he thought she could pass inspection in today's Navy. He walked us through how shipbuilding has changed throughout history.



Ron Zarem was recognized for his twenty years of service to USS SLATER.

That was a very good precursor to the presentation SLATER Volunteer, Barry Witte, and RPI Midshipman, Jack Carbone, did on preparations for our shipyard visit. They walked us through the research and fabrication being done on SLATER's Mast Project, and how much preparation it takes to prepare for a dry docking process efficiently.

The Museum Trustees recognized two people who have been an important influence in my life. Ron Zarem has been the prime mover in the DESA Michigan Chapter workweeks since 1998. The group has been bringing as many as forty volunteers to the ship, twice a year. Their effort has been a major factor in making USS Slater the ship she is today. Ron was a storekeeper aboard USS BROUGH DE-148.



Interns Austin and Christian hand out dog tags to our overnight campers.

The Trustees also honored Rosehn Gipe, as she departs to become executive director at the USS KIDD, in Baton Rouge. There are no words to express the debt of gratitude I feel to her, for her sixteen years of service here at USS SLATER. I first met Rosehn Gipe in 1987, when she became a tour guide at USS KIDD. Our paths separated and then crossed again, when she joined the USS SLATER staff as our business manager. She has been a true partner in every sense of the word, and a major factor in the success we enjoy today. I have been fortunate to have her counsel for so long.

Our tour guides are busy with tours as usual this month. We had 39 members from the USS WITEK

DD-848 join us on the first, for a reunion and tour of the ship. On the 5th, Ninety-four-year-old Lt (jg) **JT, (Ted) Arenberg JR** visited the ship with his family. Ted served as the supply officer aboard USS THADDEUS PARKER (DE-369), in World War II. We were also the site of the reenlistment of NPTU Sailor, MMN 1/c **Fred Overbay**. He took the oath and shipped over on our fantail, with his family in attendance. Congratulations Fred, and we hope to see you back aboard one day with the Chief Selects.

Shanna spent the evening of the 16th with marketing students from Sage College. Their teacher, Will Trevor, is a SLATER Volunteer. The students are working on a project that encourages them to imagine they are marketing consultants for the museum. They will develop a strategy to market the ship on a set budget. It will give the students excellent practice, and maybe a few ideas for us to use in the future.

The 17th brought the Hallahan family out to donate some artifacts from their father, Joseph M. Hallahan, who served aboard the USS JACK MILLER DE-410 during WWII. Thirty students from Berlin Central Schools joined us for a tour on the 18th. In addition, Cub Scout Pack 105 visited us on the 20th. Overnights have kept us busy as well. From NY we had Cub Scout Pack 67 from Glenville, and Cub Scout Pack 5 from Galway. Also from NY, we had Trail Life Troop 7 from Albany, and Boy Scout Troop 50 from Jefferson. From Vermont, we had the Boy Scouts from Vericho. All groups stayed aboard SLATER, for a night in the Navy.



Fred Overbay. shipped over on our fantail, with his family in attendance.

Brace yourselves for the upcoming annual Winter Fund Drive. It will be announced next month. It's time to chip in to "Help keep a volunteer warm this winter."

Finally, how do you measure a man? One way would be to click on USS SLATER "Posts," and search "**Clark Farnsworth.**" Or you might type "Slater Signals," and "**Clark Farnsworth**" into Google together, to get a sense of Clark's accomplishments aboard USS Slater over the past 22 years. Loved and admired, our senior shipfitter, Chief Farnsworth, slipped the hook October 29th, at age 97. Clark was an inspiration to all who knew him. Fair winds and following seas, Chief. We have the watch.



Volunteer, Tommy Moore chats with WWII SLATER sailor, Dan Drummond at the Ft Orange Club.

See you next month!



Clark the way we will remember him, always the Chief.

Don't forget the donate button on our homepage www.ussslater.org

and to like us on Facebook for daily updates.