

# SLATER SIGNALS

The Newsletter of the USS SLATER's Volunteers  
By Timothy C. Rizzuto, Executive Director

Destroyer Escort Historical Museum

USS Slater DE-766

PO Box 1926

Albany, NY 12201-1926

Phone (518) 431-1943

Vol. 25 No. 7, July 2022



**It's July in upstate New York.** That means it's hot, humid, and the tourists are out in force. The weather certainly does not slow down our volunteers.

**The shipfitters are working on four projects simultaneously.** For **Doug Tanner, Warren Brozio, Earl Herchenroder, Chuck Teal, Tim Benner, Gene Jackey and Super Dave Mardon**, the primary focus is the port pilothouse watertight door. Working with **Danny Statile**, they completed the conversion from quick acting to a manually

dogged door, and successfully hauled it up two ladders from the workshop to the pilot house without anybody getting hurt. Then, they began the process of hanging it. All the hinges and swedges must be lined up with the existing dogs in the door frame. The only question now is how many times Doug will make them set the door in place in the frame, and then move it back to the sawhorses.



***Dave, Doug, and Chuck continue work on the pilothouse watertight door.***

**The second project they have going is the repairs to the foc's'cle hatch.** The same crew made a temporary hatch cover so they could move the original hatch



*Danny is working on repairing another wasted depth charge.*

to the work bench amidships. The hinges are being replaced, holes welded up, and a new gasket installed. They are totally rebuilding the quick acting dog mechanism. They also found a lot of wasted metal on the hatch frame itself on the foc's'cle, so that has been repaired.

**Thomas Scian found another wasted depth charge, so that became the third project.** The shipfitters hauled it back to the amidships work area. **Danny** is repairing this one with Devcon metal filler. Finally, the fourth project is the ongoing repairs to the gangway rollers. Previously, the rollers we purchased had no way of getting lubricated, so **Doug** figured out a way to install grease fittings on the five rollers, so regular lubrication should extend their life.

**While so much work has been focused around the pilothouse, we started to notice the portholes needed some attention.** **Doug** has taught his nephew **Chuck Tanner** how to replace porthole glass and restore the portholes. **Chuck** has now become quite an expert at porthole restoration.



**The engineers James Miles, Mike Dingmon, Jim Skewes, Jim Niemynski, and Charles Desrosiers have continued their bilge restoration.** They also removed the drain valve from the bottom of the ship's service generator oil filter. **James** has been documenting much of this restoration and compiling the footage into weekly vlogs on our YouTube channel. This month he released a special video explaining his preservation process as he crawled through the aft engine room bilge with his camera. Make sure you check it out!



***Chuck Tanner is restoring portholes.***

**The engineers continued to degrease three more sections of bilge.** At this point all the oily problem areas on the port side have been degreased and are ready to be coated with boiled linseed oil. The starboard side is much oilier. This process is pretty slow going, but progress continues. Everything so far has felt very solid, and there is pitting that we expected to see under the rust buildup. It's all looking promising, and we don't use any tool heavier than a putty knife.

**Finally, James took 151 photos in the forward engine room, B1, to document the current condition of**



***We can always count on Walt to washdown topside.***

**the space.** We eventually hope to get the space restored. First efforts will be to get it cleaned up and inventory what equipment is missing to determine what we need to procure. No paint will be removed until the entire compartment is cleaned and decluttered, but that's a long way out.

**Richard Burgeois is heavily into a MK-14 gunsight restoration project.** These compressor-driven gyro-stabilized gunsights were on all the 20mm guns and 40mm gun directors. This month, he got his first sight lit up and running. His son, **Henry** has taken ownership of the 40mm replica projectile. These were fabricated several years ago by **Stuart Scace**. They are fiberglass replicas made in three sections and occasionally, they come apart due to rough handling.



*Richard got the gunsight lit up for the first time!*



*Henry is repairing replica 40 mm shells.*

**Henry** continually checks for shells in need of repair and fixes them with PVC cement.

**The chippers continue chipping. Ron Prest** has been coming in on Tuesdays and has been scaling and priming under the depth charge projector roller loaders. **Bill Wetterau** has been scaling and priming in the gun thirty-one tub deck. **Charles Desrosiers** has taken on the aft 40mm gun tub deck and **Bill Holt** has also been painting when they finish chipping a section.



**Elsewhere around the ship, Jim Gelston and Dennis Murry keep the clocks wound. Dennis** also completed the restoration of the emergency steering compass. **Walt Stuart** keeps the decks washed down and the bulkheads scrubbed. **Mary Beth Mulligan** feeds the crew on Mondays with help from **Jo Ann**, and **Chief Smith** feeds them on Tuesday, and **Doug Tanner** can always be counted on for breakfast, with eggs provided by **Tony Esposito**.

**The tour guides have been keeping summer camp kids entertained this month.** We welcomed over 2,300 people aboard in July, right on par with our numbers from 2021. Wednesdays this month were crazy busy! Wednesdays have historically been one of the slowest days, the day that Shanna would recommend to the visitors that want to avoid the crowds. That

certainly was not the case this month! The volunteer guides on Wednesdays are **Bob Wheelock, Greg Healey, Alan Fox, Mike Marko, and Greg Bischoff**.

**Wednesdays have certainly been an anomaly this month, but that's not to say other days have not been busy as well.** All of our tour guides are doing an amazing job keeping our visitors engaged and educated

throughout the ship, even in the hot, humid, 90 degree heat. Thanks to the rest of our volunteer tour guides: **Carl Camurati, Tom Corigliano, Richard Wallace, Dennis Murray, Ken Kaskoun, Charles Starks, Fred Sirois, Scott Clayton, Paul Guallini, Don Cushman, Art Dott, Grant Hack, Chris Soulia, Bill Goralski, and Paul**



*Bill Wetterau continues to chip around the number 2, 3-inch gun.*

**Guarnieri.** Of course, we need to thank our college interns as well: **Austin, Andrew, Tyler, Kara, Cassidy, Aung, Gio, and Viktor.** They do so much to keep the museum running smoothly including cleaning, working the register, conducting tours, and researching ships for our podcast.

**Tyler, a first-year intern, researched, wrote and recorded our newest episode of DE Classified this month featuring USS STAFFORD DE-411.** Make sure you give it a listen on our website. You can download all 17 episodes wherever you get podcasts.



***Andrew passing around the 3 inch shell to his tour group.***



***Grant Hack shows his group the engine room.***

**Our Program Manager, Shanna found herself at Gloversville and Mechanicville Libraries this month.** She was teaching a lesson about Dazzle Camouflage to children at each of the libraries. The kids learned about the different kinds of warships and why destroyer escorts were built during WWII. Together, they read a book called “Dazzle” that explained all about why ships were painted in funny designs to try and hide from submarines. Everyone colored their own ship in a unique dazzle design and gave their ship’s a hero’s name.



**Alan Fox, Charles Starks, and Tom Corigliano** also gave presentations off-site informing their audiences to the significance of USS SLATER, and how she was saved to become the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum.

**Our Collections Manager, John** is continuing his work to ensure all our artifacts are entered into our database and easily accessible to the general public. The collections website has been updated with a few more ships this month so be sure to check out what's new.



*On our Stem to Stern tour visitors get to see the normal tour route, plus our Collections Space and Engine Room.*

**Donations related to WWII destroyer escorts haven't slowed down either.** We have received a few small pieces such as a multimeter and uniforms. But larger collections still come in such as documents related to USS RINEHART (DE-196). The donor's father was an officer aboard during World War II and she has been a strong supporter of SLATER for years.

**John continues his weekly journey of following SLATER through her deck log in 1944.** He releases a video each Wednesday. Take a look on our YouTube channel to see where in the world SLATER was, who was AWOL, and what the crew was up to in 1944.

**Also on YouTube, July was the first episode of a new podcast, Museum Ship Mafia.** This YouTube Livestream includes **John** representing USS SLATER, **Shane**



***SLATER from the whaleboat.***

**Stephenson** and **Steven Tedesco** from the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Military Park, and **Ken Stano** of the YouTube channel History X. Each month these men are getting together virtually to talk about their respective ships and other Naval topics. Coming up on August 10<sup>th</sup> they will be discussing the Battle of Samar, Taffy 3, and the discoveries of USS JOHNSTON and USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS. You can find this video and July's premiere episode on our YouTube channel.

**The first week of August always brings the birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard.** Our ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM this year. Our favorite Coasties have been hard at work planning the ceremony and hope that you will join us to celebrate and have cake! We will also be offering all active duty Coast Guard and C.G. veterans free admission to tour SLATER on Coast Guard Birthday, Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> as well as on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> following the celebration.

See you next month,

Tim