



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project

Sea Scout Ship 5544

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Tel: 800/ 694-7161 E: redbarn2@earthlink.net



www.scout544ptf.com

NEWS LETTER 30 APRIL 2005

PROGRESS

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, WE ARE COMPLETING THIS YEARS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. OUR APPLICATION IS DUE BY 31 MAY 2005, WE HAVE THREE WEEKS LEFT TO FINISH THE PAPER WORK. WE MADE A REQUEST TWO WEEKS AGO IN A SEPARATE LETTER THAT WE NEED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT. THE LETTERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, THEY PRESENT A CLEAR PICTURE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BUREAU, THAT OUR PROJECT HAS A BROAD BASE OF SUPPORT AND IS BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY.

WE NEED YOU TO CONTACT AS MANY RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, VETERANS GROUPS, POLITICIANS NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOR ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT. WE NEED A SHOW OF FORCE, AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE AT OUR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE PANEL REVIEWING OUR APPLICATION. THE PANEL WILL CONVENE 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2005 IN THE AUDITORIUM ON THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE R.A. GRAY BUILDING, 500 SOUTH BRONOUGH ST. TALLAHASSEE, FL.

WE NEED YOU AND ANY LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, CONGRESSMAN, ETC... THAT YOU CAN CONTACT TO BE PRESENT ON THAT DATE TO SPEAK BEFORE THE PANEL AND VOICE THE NEED TO FUND PTF 3. AS A GENERAL PRACTICE CONGRESSIONAL, LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER RANKING INDIVIDUALS ARE ALLOWED TO SPEAK OUT OF TURN DUE TO LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULES, OTHER SUPPORTERS PRESENT WILL STAND AND BE INTRODUCED. THE PANEL USUALLY KEEPS TIME SHORT AND ASK QUESTIONS REGARDING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT UNDER REVIEW. YOUR PRESENCE ADDS WEIGHT TO OUR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE PANEL.

WE NEED TO FILL THE AISLES AND AS MANY SEATS AS POSSIBLE, THIS IS AN ALL DAY EVENT, OUR PROJECT WILL MOST LIKELY BE ADDRESSED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 05, THE FIRST DAY OF REVIEW. WE WILL UPDATE EVERYONE TO THE EXACT TIME AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE SEPTEMBER DATE. THE RANKING OF THE PROJECTS WILL OCCUR LATER THAT SAME WEEK.

THIS PT BOAT HAS WORLD, NATIONAL AND STATE SIGNIFICANTS, IT WAS INVOLVED IN A COVERT MISSION THAT GENERATED THE TONKIN GULF INCIDENT, ESCALATING THE COMMUNIST BACK CIVIL WAR IN INDOCHINA INTO THE VIETNAM WAR. AN EVENT THAT HAS SHAPED WORLD AND U.S. POLITICS FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS.

PTF 3 WAS BROUGHT INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER SPECIAL ORDER SIGNED BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY, A PT BOAT SKIPPER IN WORLD WAR 2, WHO KNEW HOW EFFECTIVE PT BOATS WERE AGAINST COASTAL INSTALLATIONS AND ENEMY

SHIPPING. IN 1963, PTF 3 WAS THE FIRST WOODEN PT BOAT IN THE U.S. NAVY SINCE WORLD WAR 2 AND WAS THE FIRST PT BOAT INTO VIETNAM IN EARLY 1964.

THE BOAT IS A PHYSICAL REMINDER OF THE SACRIFICE OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONEL WHO WORK IN THE SHADOWS AND RARELY RECIEVE THE RECOGNITION FROM THE PUBLIC THAT THEY DESERVE. THIS BOAT WAS INVOLVED IN HUNDREDS OF MISSIONS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, INSERTING SEAL AND OTHER SPECIAL OPS TEAMS, RETRIEVING THEM AND BRINGING THEM HOME. IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVING SPEED AND A LOW RADAR SIGNATURE, THE PTF BOATS CARRIED NO ARMOR, THE BRIDGE IS STRUCTURED OUT OF 2x4 WOOD FRAMING AND HALF INCH THICK PLYWOOD COVERED BY A LAYER OF FIBERGLAS, AND THE HULL IS MADE UP OF DOUBLE PLANKED ONE INCH MOHEGANY BOARDS. IT TOOK A LOT OF GUTS TO GO UP AGAINST HARDENED SHORE BATTERIES STANDING ON THE OPEN DECK WITH NO PROTECTION.

ASSIGNED TO KEY WEST, FLORIDA AFTER RETURNING FROM VIETNAM, PTF 3 WAS SUPPOSEDLY CARRYING OUT THE BENIGNED DUTY OF A DIVER TRAINING BOAT FOR THE U.S. NAVY. IN REALITY THE BOAT WAS STILL WORKING AS A SPOOK BOAT, CARRYING OUT COVERT MISSIONS AGAINST CUBA, RUNNING GUNS AND COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE. RETIRED MASTER CHIEF E.M. FRANK, STATED THAT THE U.S. NAVY PATROL TORPEDO FAST BOAT WAS PAINTED WHITE AND A CIVILIAN NAME WAS PAINTED ON THE STERN OF THE BOAT, CREWED BY MANY OF THE SAME MEN THAT HAD OPERATED HER IN VIETNAM AND HEADED TO THE BIG ISLAND SOUTH OF FLORIDA.

THE BOAT HAS A LAYER OF HEAVY WHITE PAINT BETWEEN THE LAYER OF OLIVE DRAB GREEN AND HER LAST COAT OF HAZE GREY. THIS WAS DURING HEIGHTENED TENSION WITH CUBA OVER THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, AFRICA, DURING THE 1970's. MAKING PTF 3 A PARTICIPANT IN THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA DURING THE COLD WAR.

THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME SPENT IN TODAYS SCHOOL SYSTEM ON HISTORY, ESPECIALLY COVERING THE EVENTS OF THE LAST 50 YEARS. EVENTS THAT WERE LIVED BY TODAYS SCHOOL KID'S PARENTS AND GRAND PARENTS, TODAYS KIDS HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVENTS THAT SHAPE THE WORLD THEY ARE ABOUT TO INHERIT. THERE ARE OVER 58,000 NAMES ON THE 'WALL' IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND MOST SCHOOL STUDENTS DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHY THEY ARE THERE.

IN THE VIDEO VIRTUAL REALITY WORLD THAT MOST KIDS GET LOST IN, PTF 3 WILL PRESENT A TANGIBLE PIECE OF HISTORY THAT THEY TOUCH, WALK ON AND CRAWL THROUGH. FOR THE YOUTH THAT TAKE THE TIME TO BELONG TO YOUTH GROUPS INVOLVED IN STUDY OF THE SEA AND SEAMANSHIP, THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PTF 3 TO SEA ON CRUISE IS THE REWARD FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

TO MAKE THIS A REALITY, TO BRING THIS ALL TOGETHER, WE NEED A MAXIMUM EFFORT ON THE YOUR PART, PASS THIS NEWSLETTER AROUND, ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PARTICIPATE, CONTACT THOSE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL, AND ASK FOR THEIR LETTERS OF SUPPORT.

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORT THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING IN CONTACTING FLORIDA POLITICIANS REGARDING OUR RANKING BEFORE THE FLORIDA HISTORIC PRESERVATION BUREAU. KEEP APPLYING THE PRESSURE, CONTINUE TO CONTACT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN SHOW THAT THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE

PRESERVATION OF PTF 3. THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION, TO BE EFFECTIVE, **NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT FLORIDA LAWMAKERS**. WE NEED THEM TO BE PRESENT OR A STAFF REPRESENTATIVE AT THE GRANT REVIEW IN SEPTEMBER.

PLEASE ADDRESS LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC RESOURCES. THEN MAIL THEM TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 544. THIS WAY THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE GRANT APPLICATION. IF YOUR LETTERS COME IN AFTER THE APPLICATION DATE, WE WILL SEND A SECOND BUNDLE TO BE ADDED TO THE APPLICATION IN JULY.

ADDRESS LETTER TO:

DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
C/O BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GRANTS AND EDUCATION SECTION
500 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0250

SEND LETTER TO:

BOY SCOUT TROOP 544
PTF 3 RESTORATION PROJECT
P.O. BOX 740789
ORANGE CITY, FL 32774-0789

LOOKING AHEAD

AS WAS MENTIONED IN LAST MONTHS NEWSLETTER, THE BRIDGE IS RECEIVING A NEW SKIN, A FRESH LAYER OF MARINE GRADE PLYWOOD HAS BEEN APPLIED TO ALL SURFACES FROM THE HELM TO THE CHART ROOM. THE WORK TO REBUILD THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF TRIM WORK TO BE FINISHED. BOSTON WHALER IS WORKING ON A SCHEDULE FOR RE-GLASSING OF THE BRIDGE, WE WILL TRANSPORT THE BRIDGE WHEN THEY ARE READY.

THE DELTIC ENGINES WILL BE MOVING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE DELAND NAVAL AIR MUSEUM TO A NEW HANGER, THAT IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. ROBERT NASS OF THE 'MUSTANG POINT AERODROME' IS PROVIDING THE HANGER SPACE, PROVIDING OUR MASTER CHIEF, BILL MOREO WITH A CLEAN AREA TO WORK ON THE DELTICS. THE HANGER IS AT THE HALF-WAY POINT AND SHOULD BE DONE SOON.

THE MAIN ENGINE HATCH IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT MAJOR ITEM TO BE TACKLED, THIS WILL BE STRIPPED OF PAINT, REPAIRED AND REFINISHED WITH A FRESH COAT OF O.D. GREEN PAINT. THE HATCH WILL BE PLACED BACK ON THE BOAT TO SEAL THE BELOW DECK AREA FROM THE WEATHER.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE BOAT AND WE ARE SEEKING PHOTOS OF THE BOAT OR OF THE FIRST SERIES OF NASTY CLASS BOATS # 3 – 8 THAT HAVE THE EARLY BELOW DECK CONFIGURATION. THIS WILL ASSIST IN RECREATING FEATURES OF THE BOAT THAT WILL BE HISTORICALLY ACCURATE. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR ANY HISTORICAL ITEMS RELATED TO THE BOAT, THEY WILL BE COME PART OF THE MUSEUM FOR THE BOAT.

WE HAVE HAD MANY GREAT SUGGESTIONS IN OUR HUNT FOR THE DECK ORDINANCE, PLEASE KEEP LOOKING I HAVE STARTED TO FOLLOW UP SOME OF THE LEADS, THE REQUIREMENT IS THE SAME, A SINGLE 40mm GUN WITH MOUNTING RING, .50cal / 81mm MORTAR COMBO, AND TWO 20mm GUNS ARE REQUIRED. THREE TRIPLE LEG 20mm MOUNTS ARE NEEDED.

MONEY TREE

GERRY (BOATS) MILLHOLEN IS THE HEAD OF THE FUND RAISING EFFORT AND CAN BE REACHED AT PHONE 407/ 402-0190 AND AT E MAIL: f1husker@695online.com OR I CAN BE REACHED AT 800/ 694-7161 AND AT E MAIL: redbarn2@earthlink.net .

DONATION CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **BSA TROOP 544 - PTF 3 FUND**
AND MAILED TO

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 544
PTF 3 RESTORATION PROJECT
P.O. BOX 740789
ORANGE CITY, FL 32774-0789**

SCROUNGE DEPT-

IF ANYONE HAS A LINE ON A GRANT PROGRAM, WE FALL UNDER MUSEUMS, YOUTH PROGRAM AND YOUTH EDUCATION. I NEED PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACTS AS WELL AS WERE TO LOOK FOR THE REQUIREMENTS.

_FOR ANY PARTY WISHING TO DONATE, BOY SCOUT TROOP 544 IS A FLORIDA NON-PROFIT 501 C3 ORGANIZATION, DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.

TOOLS – TALK TO HARDWARE STORES, WE NEED BELT SANDERS, COMPOUND POWER MITERS, HEAVY ROUTERS, 4 ½ INCH RIGHT ANGLE GRINDERS, ½ INCH DRILLS AND BITS, A SOURCE FOR FIBERGLASS AND RESIN, AND CLEAR PENETRATING EPOXY SYSTEM (CPES).

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND CURRENT PHOTOS OF RECENT EFFORTS CAN BE FOUND AT www.ptfnasty.com.

FEEDBACK - PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS TO BOB MCCRAY AT redbarn2@earthlink.net

SINCERELY,



ROBERT MCCRAY
PROJECT MANAGER

BSA TROOP 544, INC; ROBERT MCCRAY; 1825 W. FRENCH AVE.; ORANGE CITY, FL 32763; TEL: 800/ 694-7161; FAX: 386/775-1130; redbarn2@earthlink.net