



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project
Sea Scout Ship 5544
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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www.ptf3restoration.org

NEWSLETTER 30 APRIL 2008

PROGRESS

A fresh layer of mahogany inner planking has been fitted into the six foot by seven foot hole on the port side of the hull, all of which goes over new ribs and a rebuilt bulkhead. This area was badly damaged during hurricane Andrew when the boat was docked in south Florida, the boat was slammed repeatedly against a piling breaking ribs and smashing the bulkhead. New frame ribs and a new section of the water tight bulked were reconstructed, providing a sound structure for the hull planking. Re-planking has moved to the starboard bow area recreating the graceful curve that sweeps down from the deck to the stem.

The next big step is to raise the boat up a foot above the steel frame to allow for access to the keel to remove the keel shoe. Since the keel is horizontally laminated with alternate layers of ash and white oak, any damage can be cut out in a staggered step cut. Replacement boards can then be installed one at a time, each glued and pressed into place with 20 ton jacks. The process is repeated until all of the layers have been built back up to the original thickness restoring the strength to the keel.

Welding, heating and bending metal were the order of the day recently for the 40mm BOFORS Anti-aircraft deck gun, the gun had received some damage in shipment. Work was centered on the barrel lock down support which prevents the gun from swinging around during transport and right side hand crank. The support was bent with broken welds, the hand crank was bent out of shape, both required re-heating with an acetylene torch and re-shaping. After the bent leg of the barrel support was pulled back into shape with a ratchet strap, a broken cross brace was welded back into place, returning the piece to its original appearance and function.

The 40mm BOFORS made its debut at the VietNam Veterans reunion in Melbourne, Florida on 20 April 2008 as part of the escort procession for the mobile VietNam War Memorial Wall from Cocoa to Wickham Park in Melbourne, Florida. The annual reunion took place from 20 – 27 April 2008, the PTF 3 deck gun was on display next to the National VietNam War Museum's PBR Riverine gunboat and a UH-1 Huey that saw service in VietNam. The gun drew a tremendous amount attention, it was a definite jaw dropper, 3 such configured BOFORS were used by the Marines in the Battle for Hue, as well as helicoptered to various fire bases, and noted for spitting out 120 rounds a minute.

We have recently acquired an 81mm directional mortar which also mounts a M2 Browning .50cal on top, it is in pieces thanks to a torch happy individual handling the de-militarizing of the mortar. Most of the 81mm Mortars were left with the riverine boats in VietNam, leaving very few in the U.S., some from PTF Boats and Coast Guard Cutters, of them, most have been cut up. All the parts are there, most of the cuts are through tubing structures and mounting brackets, the main section is intact, a little

welding, a little bondo for a clean appearance, some olive drab paint and it will look like new, sort of like that shiny freshly detailed car at Joe's Used Car Lot.

Completed the mortar will be mounted on the fore deck of the PT Boat and the 40mm BOFORS mounted behind the wheel house, as the boat was configured in VietNam. A 40mm was originally mounted on the fore deck, but was replaced with the directional mortar after a hang fire explosion when a shell that had failed to fire was ejected, injuring some of the crew and throwing shrapnel into the chart room of the wheelhouse. 40mm BOFORS were also removed from the fore deck of most of the boats for a weight reduction in order to add fuel and ammunition, the 40mm was returned to the fore deck later to meet the weapons suite set forth by the Bureau of Ships and Ordnance specifications of 1968.

LOOKING AHEAD

As soon as the weather allows we will finish painting the bridge, this was halted some time ago when we had to begin repositioning equipment in early attempts to accommodate the DNAS Museum. The bridge has been moved from trailer it has occupied for the most of 2007 to stand of cement blocks allowing for painting. The newly arrived 40mm BOFORS Gun will also receive a paint job to replace the faded finish on the gun, after a through clean up by the Scout Troop and Sea Scouts.

Sanford, Florida is presenting their Memorial Day Parade on 26 May 2008, PTF 3 will be represented by the wheelhouse and the 40mm BOFORS deck gun. This will be our first opportunity to show the Sanford public, the PTF 3 Restoration Project.

All of the hatches have to be rebuilt and re-framed, latching assemblies have to be re-built. The deck hatches that will allow the public to have an easy access to the below deck areas will be framed. Once the main deck receives another layer of marine grade plywood, aluminum frame work will be added to handle the foot traffic of visitors.

HISTORICAL

We are in the process of building of the historic record of PTF 3 and are seeking photos and history of the boat and / or the early series of Nasty Class Boats # 3 – 8 that have the early below deck configuration. This will assist greatly in recreating features of the boat that will be historically accurate as possible. Many of the items will become part of the museum display in the boat and permanent historical record. Much of this material will be housed with the boat and copies will be on permanent file with Florida Historic Preservation.

MONEY TREE

Gerry (Boats) Millholen is the head of the fund raising effort and can be reached at Phone No. 386/ 785-4502 and at E-Mail: fl1husker@bellsouth.net or I can be reached at Phone No. 800/ 694-7161 and at E-Mail: redbarn2@embarqmail.com . Jack Waples, our fund Coordinator can be reached at E-Mail: rjwaples@cfl.rr.com .

DONATION CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE PTF 3 FUND AND MAILED TO

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. WE NEED PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACTS.

_FOR ANY PARTY WISHING TO DONATE, PTF 3 RESTORATION PROJECT IS A FLORIDA NON-PROFIT 501 C3 ORGANIZATION, DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.

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@embarqmail.com .

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R McCray', written in a cursive style.

ROBERT MCCRAY
PROJECT MANAGER

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