



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project

Sea Scout Ship 5544

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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



www.ptf3restoration.org

NEWSLETTER 30 APRIL 2007

PROGRESS

NEW PLANKS OF OAK HAVE BEEN LAYERED ON IN A STAGGERED PATTERN MATING THE STEM TO THE KEEL MAKING FOR A ONE-PIECE BACKBONE FOR THE BOAT. BOB BONNER, AL SCHWIEZER, EL PEGRAM AND BILLY THOMAS HAVE BEEN WORKING IN A STEADY PACE RESTORING THE BOW. THE NOSE HAS BEEN PULLED TOGETHER WITH THE NEW BULL NOSE, WHICH HAS BEEN BOLTED INTO PLACE. THE STEM BUTTS UP UNDER THE NEW BULL NOSE AND MAKES A GRACEFULL SWEEP TOWARD THE KEEL.

WE HAVE A LEAD ON A 40mm BOFORS THAT RECENTLY CAME OUT OF MILITARY SERVICE OVERSEAS. THE U.S. CUSTOMS SEE NO PROBLEM IN BRING THE GUN INTO THE COUNTRY AS LONG AS IT IS PROPERLY DE-MILLED, WHICH IS A SHAME, THE 40mm IS IN FULL SERVICABLE CONDITION. WE HAVE SOME FRIENDS OVERSEAS THAT WILL LOOK OVER THE GUN AND MONITOR THE SALE. WE HAVE FOUND PLENTY OF .50 cal. M2 BROWNING MACHINEGUNS IN RESIN, PROPANE, AND INERT ORIGINALS, OUR BIGGEST HEADACHE HAS BEEN THE 20mm GUNS. THEY ARE HARD TO FIND IN GOOD CONDITION, MOST SEEM TO HAVE BEEN STORED AT THE BOTTOM OF A SEPTIC TANK, GOOD STUFF, WE'LL KEEP LOOKING.

WE REPORTED LAST MONTH THAT THE DELAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM, THE PRESENT LOCATION OF THE PTF 3 RESTORATION PROJECT HAS BEEN UNDERGOING AN INTERNAL SQUABBLE FOR ALMOST 4 MONTHS. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES FOR MOST OF THE MESS, THERE ARE TWO FACTIONS, A SELF-APPOINTED GROUP AND A DULY ELECTED BOARD, THE SELF-APPOINTED ONES HAVE THE KEYS TO THE MUSEUM. THERE ARE VERY STRONG CONCERNS AS TO THE HANDLING OF THE LAST ELECTION IN WHICH QUESTIONABLE PROXY VOTES TIPPED THE SCALES.

5 MEMBERS OF THE PTF 3 CREW SAT IN ON AN ATTEMPT BY MR. RON HERMAN TO MEDIATE THE MELT DOWN OF THE MUSEUM. THE DULY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS WHO ALSO MAKE UP THE REAL WORK FORCE AND RESTORATION TEAM FOR THE MUSEUM OFFERED THAT BOTH BOARD BE DISOLVED AND THAT NO BOARD MEMBER BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR. THIS WAS MET BY A STERN RESPONSE OF NO FROM THE SENIOR SELF-APPOINTED BOARD PRESIDENT WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS COMMENTS SPEAKING ABOUT 'HIS' MUSEUM, 'HIS' PLANES, 'HIS' YOU GET THE POINT.

THIS SENIOR 'GENTLEMAN' THEN TARGETED THE PT BOAT BY TELLING US TO GET OUR PIECE OF JUNK OFF OF 'HIS' PROPERTY, WHICH VIOLATES THE ORIGINAL SUPPORT LETTERS BY THE DELAND MUSEUM TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF THE PT BOAT. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT HIS VICE-PRESIDENT HAD TOLD US TWO

WEEKS AGO THAT "WE COULD STAY FOR 5 YEARS, THAT THERE IS NO HURRY TO MOVE AND THAT THE BOAT IS NOT IN THE WAY" OF THEIR PLANNED EXPANSION.

MR. RON HERMAN WHO WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DONATING A \$ 90,000.00 HANGER TO THE MUSEUM GAVE UP IN DISGUST, AND PLACED THE DONATION ON HOLD TILL THERE IS SOME RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. IN A FOLLOW UP MEETING, WHEN FACED WITH PROSPECT OF LOSING POWER IN RETURN FOR A NEW HANGER FOR THE MUSEUM, AND FOR A NEW AND FAIR ELECTION, THIS SENIOR 'GENTLEMAN' TOLD MR. HERMAN THAT HE DIDN'T NEED HIS HANGER.

A SIDE BAR ISSUE OF THE NEW WORK SITE NOT BEING READY FOR THE PT BOAT BRIEFLY SURFACED AT THAT MEETING, THE CITY AIRPORT MANAGER HAS ASKED US IF WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TURNING THE SITE BACK OVER TO THE CITY. THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST AS AN IMPOUND YARD FOR VEHICLES UNDER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION. THE GROUND WAS NEVER PACKED DOWN AS REQUIRED AND DIRT WAS HEAPED AND SMOOTHED OVER REBAR DEBRIS. A GUARANTEED RECIPE FOR BLOWN TIRES AND SINKING UP TO THE AXELS. THE OFFER BY THE CITY TO PAY FOR THE MOVE EVAPORATED WHEN WE RECEIVED OUR STATE GRANT AND THEY WANTED US TO PAY FOR BASE ROCK THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE USED TO MAKE UP FOR THE GROUND NOT BEING PACKED AND THE GROUND WOULD STILL NOT BE PROPERLY STABILIZED. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO LET THE CITY USE THE PROPERTY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THE ISSUE OF THE PT BOAT MOVING TO A NEW SITE, WAS PUSHED BY THE SAME SENIOR 'GENTLEMAN' THROUGH THE CITY ENGINEERING OFFICE. WE ARE SITTING IN WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE PART OF 'HIS' PLANNED PARKING LOT, WHICH IS ALSO PART PROPERTY EASEMENT. THIS MUSEUM IS LUCKY TO HAVE THREE CARS IN THE FRONT PARKING THAT ARE VISITING THE MUSEUM AT ONE TIME.

WE HAD MOVED THE ENGINES, SEMI-TRAILER, AND WHEELHOUSE INTO A POSITION NEXT TO OUR WORK AREA AT THE MUSEUM FOR STAGING THE ORIGINAL PLANNED MOVE TO THE NEW SITE. TO REDUCE OUR FOOT PRINT, WE HAVE MOVED THE THREE DELTIC ENGINES ACROSS THE STREET INTO A NEW HANGER AND REPOSITIONED THE OTHER EQUIPMENT OUT OF THE WAY OF THE DNAS MUSEUM PLANNED EXPANSION.

PLANE AND SIMPLE, WE ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, THIS EXERCISE IS NOTHING MORE THAN CHILDISH KINDERGARTEN CLAIMS OVER THE SANDBOX. THIS MESS HAS COST US MONTHS OF DELAY, BECAUSE WE HELD OFF OPENING THE HULL FOR RE-FRAMING AND STOPPED WORK ON OTHER EQUIPMENT TO FACILITATE THE PLANNED MOVE.

LOOKING AHEAD

THE BIG GUN HUNT IS ON, WE HAVE HAD BOB STONER BUSY LOCATING GUNS AND DECK MOUNTS, WE HAVE HAD MANY PROMISING LEADS AND CONTACTS. IF EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT WE HAVE BOB STONER PICK OUT SOME OF THE UNITS NEXT MONTH AND HAVE THEM SHIPPED TO OUR LOCATION. WE ARE WORKING ON THE 40 mm BOFORS DECK GUN AND HOPE TO HAVE IT SHIPPED SOON.

AT THE TOP OF THE FIRST PAGE YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED TO www.ptf3restoration.org FROM www.scout544ptf.com . BOTH WILL WORK, THE OLD ADDRESS WILL BE DROPPED AFTER A YEAR. THE CHANGE WAS MADE TO SIMPLIFY THE ADDRESS FOR THE PROJECT AND MAKE IT EASIER TO REMEMBER.

HISTORICAL

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.

COLUMNIST DAVID BARRY IS WRITING A BOOK ON THE TONKIN GULF INCIDENT AND IS IN NEED OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PTF BOATS AND HOW THEY OPERATED THROUGH OUT THE WAR. I BELIEVE THAT DAVID BARRY IS TRYING TO CREATE A SERIOUS PIECE OF WORK THAT WILL SHED LIGHT ON THE PTF BOAT OPERATIONS. HE CAN BE REACHED AT HIS E MAIL davidsbarry@earthlink.net .

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: fl1husker@bellsouth.net OR I CAN BE REACHED AT 800/ 694-7161 AND AT E-MAIL: redbarn2@earthlink.net. JACK WAPLES OUR GRANT AND FUND COORDINATOR CAN BE REACHED AT E-MAIL: rjwaples@hughes.net.

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. I 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.

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; redbarn2@earthlink.net