

CONSTRUCTION

Advanced American celebrates 25th anniversary

Milestone marked with barbecue dinner and tour of world's only operational U.S. Navy PT boat

By DAN CARTER

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Advanced American Construction Inc. turned 25 this year, and the Portland company that works in, on and around the water celebrated the milestone on Sept. 11 with a barbecue dinner for clients, friends and family. As part of the festivities, the assembled throng was invited to tour a very unique visitor that was also on the water.

PT 658, the world's only fully restored and operational U.S. Navy PT (Patrol Torpedo) boat, wowed the crowd with its restored hull, torpedoes, depth charges, machine guns and three original 1,850-horsepower Packard V-12 engines. Serving as tour guides on the historic, 80-foot, 50-ton boat were World War II

veterans and other volunteers who have spent thousands of hours over the past 13 years restoring it. They formed Save the PT Boat Inc. (www.savetheptboatinc.com) to help support the preservation and education effort surrounding the craft.

"The story of this boat and the Herculean effort that went into its restoration is truly amazing and inspiring," said Dee Burch, one of the owners of Advanced American Construction. "We are happy that we could introduce more people to the boat and its history."

The company, with operations in the shadow of the St. Johns Bridge, is a full-service general contractor for civil, heavy, marine construction throughout the Western United States. The owners of Advanced American Construction, Inc. are Dee Burch, Mike Johns, Jeff Harper, Grayson Hart, Tim Nelson, Sam Barchus, Jake Duyck, Kainan Bodenlos and Kyle Izatt.



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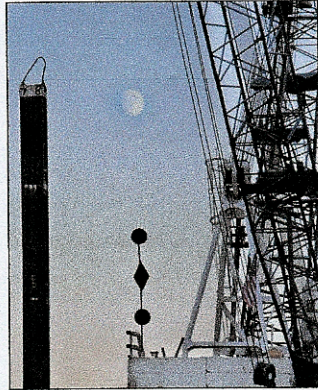
A highlight of the 25th anniversary celebration of Advanced American Construction, Inc. was a visit from PT 658, the only fully restored and operational U.S. Navy PT boat.

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Dee Burch, left, one of the owners of Advanced American, gets a tour of the boat from Jerry Gilmartin, one of the many volunteers who have contributed thousands of hours of work to restore the historic craft.