PT 658 Fall Newsletter



SAVE THE PT BOAT INC.(A NON PROFIT 501C3 ORGANIZATION) PO BOX 13422 PORTLAND,OR 97213
Telephone 503-286-3083 www.savetheptboatinc.com

Volume 6 Issue 4 Nov. 2016

Message from the President

We Salute Our Volunteers!

Thanks to the tireless hours spent by our volunteers, PT 658 is the only remaining PT Boat in the world that has been authentically restored to as-built condition and is operational with original Packard V-12 engines! Each Monday and Thursday, and many other days of the week (by appointment), a group of volunteers work on the engines, provide tours, research artifacts, prepare displays, keep the bills paid, and literally keep our floating museum afloat!



What!! Another "board" meeting?? (Bob Barnum & John Kihlstrum)

Not only do our volunteers bring a variety of skills and experiences to restoring the boat, they are also deeply committed to the organization's dual mission of preservation and education. Because volunteerism is the fuel that sustains Save the PT Boat, Inc.,

PT 658 is in good hands!



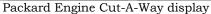
The "good hands" people. From left, Fred Juras, Bob Alton & Dick Sleeter

New Museum Display Area Will Feature Exhibits and Artifacts!

Volunteers have created a unique display and museum space in the boat house. We are excited that this new space will feature something for everyone! The space will feature exhibits and a small theater with a big screen to view videos. Maps and photos along the walls will be hung from picture rails. New spot, track and pendant/warehouse-type lighting will highlight artifacts and

displays. A new HVAC system and insulation are providing a museum-quality environment to protect and view artifacts and exhibits in comfort.







Typical 1940's office setup

Display cabinets are being built to showcase and protect artifacts, and the archive and research space contains files and flat map cabinets, along with a desk, chair, clock, fan, radio and other period artifacts. Bookshelves will hold a variety of books. The "Mail Call" exhibit features a letter sorter which holds copies of authentic WWII letters from the warfront and home front. Artifacts will be used for various exhibits featuring engines, weapons, bases of operations, daily crew life, PT 109, the "Plywood Derby", PT 658 before and after restoration, etc. The storage closet adjacent to the archive/research space will store additional artifacts and supplies for exhibits. Plans include seating, storage areas, a gift shop, and a WWII/PT Boat timeline along the internal walkway from the museum space.

Our thanks to the Crew for creating this space and making it an enduring place to remember and memorialize our PT Boat heroes!

PT 658 Host for Many Tour Groups and Reunions

Save the PT Boat, Inc. has increasingly become a destination for group tours, hosting thousands of visitors just in the past year! Small and large groups, including many naval ship reunions from all over the country, are able to tour the engine room, galley and crew's quarters, learn the intricacies of navigation, and have their photos taken at the helm and in the gun turrets.

Tours help us fulfill our educational mission. We are also honored that Veterans can relive their memories, and family members can learn more about their experiences. Tours also help us pass along information to younger generations about what it was like to live aboard a PT Boat and the harrowing experiences our WW II Veterans were thrust into to defend our nation's freedom.

Examples of group tours and rides during the last several months include:

- HOAC (Historical Automobile Collector's Club)
- Sea Scouts Tour & Sleepover
- LCI 713 Reunion Group
- Rose City Street Rods Car Club
- Urban Excursions Group
- Stevenson, WA Girls HS Volleyball Team
- LST 1083 Reunion Group
- USS Reunion Group
- USS Brush Reunion Group
- USS Rainier Reunion Group
- USS Eldorado Reunion Group
- USS McCoy Reynolds Reunion
- American Legion Riders (Harley Hall Chapter)



Harold Lil, 96 year old McCoy Reynolds WWII vet, visited and rode PT 658. With him is granddaughter Nicole Sherrod and our own Steve Dietz.



←←McCoy Reynolds Reunion Ride



Sea Scouts (future PT 658 Volunteers??)



Bob Cravens with Sea Scouts Sleep-over



Stevenson, WA Girls HS Volleyball Team



PT 658 escorts the USS Russell into port during Rose Festival 2016 Page 3 of 12



Al Skinner (left), XO of PT 595 & Skipper on PT 591 visited and rode on PT 658 during Fleet Week. With him is our own Frank Lesage, PT 202 & 658.



Al Skinner (top right) with his original crew on PT 595. After the war, Al "re-launched" himself with a Harvard MD degree and served 40 years as a Pediatrician on Mercer Island, WA.

In addition, PT 658 was an active participant in Rose Festival Fleet activities June 8-12, and the Lake Oswego Heritage Boat & Car Show August 27-28

For information or to schedule a tour or ride, phone 503-286-3083 or email ptboat658@gmail.com.

Note: PT 658 is now on TripAdvisor. Please consider reviewing us at: www.tripadvisor.com Once there, simply enter "PT Boat" in the FIND box and enter "Portland, OR" in the NEAR box.

Recent Additions to Artifacts and Archives

Original Wheel Donated to PT 658! The original wheel from PT 231 was generously donated by Karen Jepsen in honor of her late husband Ed Jepsen, skipper of PT 231, RON 17. Ed had the wheel removed from his boat before 231 was burned at Samar, PI, in late 1945. Ed was an active member of

Peter Tare (organization of PT Boat officers) and was a longtime supporter of the activities related to the restoration of PT 658. In 2006, Ed and his wife Karen took a ride on PT 658. Ed brought along the PT 231 wheel which was temporarily installed for the trip. Several years later, Board Member Bill Weaver contacted Karen who agreed to donate the wheel. Mrs. Jepsen also generously donated Ed's entire PT book collection, including several rare titles, and other



memorabilia. All artifacts are carefully maintained and protected in the boat house.

The crew of PT 658 is very grateful to Karen for this wonderful gift and we proudly display it as an original PT artifact on PT 658.

The son of Charles Vaubel visited us and donated the flag from PT 311, photos and other memorabilia. Charles Vaubel was a Motormac 2nd Class.



Commissioning Flag and Service Ribbons Donated to PT 658:

We gratefully received the Commissioning Flag from PT 498, Service Ribbons, and various PT memorabilia from Zolane Vaage. She donated these items in memory of her late husband Dean Bradford Vaage, Gunners Mate 2nd Class, PT 498, RON 34.

he Saga of YC-984

▲ YC-984 was constructed by the US Navy in 1944 and launched as a service or yard craft. To us she is the "BARGE", <u>essential</u> to the continued maintenance and operation of PT 658. Here's the story of how we gained ownership of her.

The Barge was excessed in early 1990 at the Naval Weapons Station Concord California to the Naval Historical and Heritage Command. Our 22-year marriage with the barge began when founders of Save the PT Boat, Inc. gained



ownership of PT-658 from a private party in Oakland California and were trying to determine ways to transport the boat to Portland Oregon. They learned that YC-984 was located nearby and would meet their transport needs (110' long, 35' beam, 8' draft and 470-ton capacity). The founders received permission to borrow YC-984 so they could ship PT-658 and her cradle to Portland Oregon and continue to use it to work on the boat's hull which would rest on the cradle.

Towing the barge from the Bay Area to Portland was arranged, but Sause Brothers (towing company) recommended that PT-658 should not to be transported on the barge as wave action could cause significant damage to the wood hull. As a result, PT-658 was hoisted onto her cradle and transported to Portland on an Army Landing Ship Vessel (LSV-3 General Summerville) which was making a training run to the Pacific Northwest.

Since 1994, the barge has been on loan to us by the Naval Historical & Heritage Command. Every 4 years, the barge has been inspected--the last inspection in 2012 found her seaworthy.

Fast forward to September 2014 when we were contacted by the U.S. Navy asking about our plans for the barge. We informed them that we wanted to gain ownership and the Manager of Service Craft Inventory and Fleet Modernization Program guided us through the steps. They were able to get the Naval Historical & Heritage Command to strike the barge and turn it over the GSA for disposal. We then worked with the State of Oregon Federal Surplus Property Center who

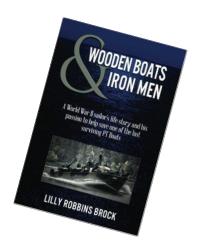
guided us through the various steps of qualifying for ownership by meeting GSA guidelines as a museum. The official transfer date was January 12, 2016, and the service charge was \$500.

Since 1994, the Barge has well-served PT 658 through numerous repairs of its hull and other projects!

Kudos to PT 658's Dick Sleeter, who successfully managed this acquisition from beginning to end.

News and Notes

Late Maury Hooper (former President of Save the PT Boat Inc.) is subject of new book. Lilly Robbins Brock has just released her latest book: "Wooden Boats & Iron Men: A World War II Sailor's Life Story and His Passion to Help Save One of the Last Surviving PT Boats." The 148-page book chronicles Maury Hooper's life and how his "love of the motor torpedo boat" has lasted over 70 years. "Wooden Boats & Iron Men" is available on amazon.com as an eBook for \$3.99 or in paperback for \$9.99. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to PT-658.



Save the PT Boat, Inc. to serve as Co-Sponsor of CAMP Conference: The 51st Annual Military History Conference of CAMP (Council on America's Military Past) will be held May 3-7, 2017 in Vancouver WA. The conference will include tours of local historic sites and presentations. For more information, go to: www.campjamp.org/Annual%20Conferences.htm.

Shop Amazon and Support PT 658! Save the PT Boat, Inc. is now a listed charity on Amazon. We will receive a donation equal to 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. It doesn't change the price you pay for your purchase—you just need to make purchases on www.smile.amazon.com. To activate this for your Amazon account, log in to your account and go to "Change Your Account Settings", then click on "Change Your Charity" and select "Save The PT Boat, Inc." Our account is: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1162295. You only need to do this once and future purchases will be covered as long as you start at www.smile.amazon.com.

Let your friends know how shopping on Amazon supports Save the PT Boat Inc!

Winter Projects

PT 658's "Honey-Do" list for this winter include the following (funding dependent of course):

• Finish museum/display space, including platform, ramp and entrance.

- Schedule and execute Grand Opening of museum/display space.
- Replace center engine supercharger seal
- Build permanent shelter for jeep and torpedo.
- Continue to evaluate reorientation of boathouse and barge to reduce wind load.
- Continue quest for new home for PT 658 to improve public access.

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Last Patrol

Maurice W. "Maury" Hooper

Longtime PT 658 crewmember Maurice W. Hooper, 90, passed away Oct. 14, 2016. Maury had a passion for bringing a piece of WWII history to life for generations to come, while taking part in the restoration of PT Boat 658. While not an original founder of Save The PT Boat, Inc., Maury came to us as a PT Boat veteran, having served during World War II as a Machinist Mate 3 aboard PT 238, RON 20. Maury was a true patriot, proud of his service, and the role that PT Boats played in U.S. military history. His timing was perfect, coming to PT 658 at a time when the boat was back in the water under its own power



but still needing extensive restoration work. Maury was a tireless champion for the boat and rose to lead the organization as president, overseeing major progress towards the boat as we know it today

Rolf Bruckner

Rolf Bruckner, 93, passed away November 25, 2015 in Placerville, CA. Petty Officer 1st Class Bruckner served aboard PT 127, RON 7, in WWII during combat in Surigoa Strait in 1944. Following WWII, Rolf continued his service to his country during the Korean War, overseeing the operation of the metal shop on Guam. Following a successful career as metalsmith and educator, Rolf became a founding member of a special group of PT Boat Veterans in

Portland, Oregon with the visionive of transforming PT 658 into the only fully restored and operational PT boat in the world – a daunting task. After thirteen+years and thousands of volunteer hours, it was christened and launched.

A special memorial service for Rolf was held aboard PT 658 on July 11, 2016.



Thank You to Our Generous Foundation and Corporate Funders!

We appreciate the support of the following for their generous support!

Quest for Truth Foundation: A very generous grant is providing significant resources that help to fund and secure all aspects of our operations. With Quest for Truth Foundation funding, we are able to sustain our restoration, preservation and education activities. Quest for Truth has generously supported our activities for at least the last 15 years. We sincerely appreciate this partnership which has been key to preservation of PT 658, a unique WWII naval artifact. If U.S. Coast regulations permitted, we would fire a 21 gun salute every year at the beginning of Fleet Week in honor of **Quest for Truth**.

Autzen Foundation: Grant funds are used to repair PT 658's boat shelter's doors. Built in 2008 to protect this one-of-a-kind historic WW II wooden boat from the elements, the boat shelter has endured significant wind storms which have torn off the roofing in several areas, and two sliding doors (12' x 24') and frames were bent and pulled out of the guide/sliding tracks.

The Collins Foundation: We were designated as a recipient of an unrestricted grant by Ralph Bolliger, Trustee of The Collins Foundation, upon his retirement from the Collins Foundation Board.

PT 658 to comply with new Coast Guard regulations that govern our operations. The Coast Guard is requiring all vessels 65 feet or longer that carry passengers to install an Automatic Identification System (AIS) an automatic tracking system used for identifying and locating vessels by electronic data exchange. The new AIS system also requires us to update our GPS unit, which was out of date. The new system is providing our skippers with up-to-date navigational and safety information.

Intel Volunteer Matching Grant: We have received a grant from the Intel Volunteer Matching Program, which matches volunteer hours contributed by an Intel employee. We are deeply grateful for Jerry Gilmartin's volunteer service and for making it possible for us to participate in Intel's matching program.

Jackson Foundation: This grant was used to purchase new U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) for both crew and passengers, making it possible to stay up to date with the latest USG safety requirements.

Tuser Sales and Service: Contributed a new CO2 Fire Extinguishing and Warning System which has been installed in the engine room. The system includes Strobe Lights to signal a 30-second delay before CO2 is released, and Auditory Alarms to signal the fire in the engine room. Eighty-pound pressurized tanks will release CO2 in order to eliminate all oxygen and suppress a fire in the engine room.

New Donor Board Honors Contributors to Save the PT Boat, Inc.

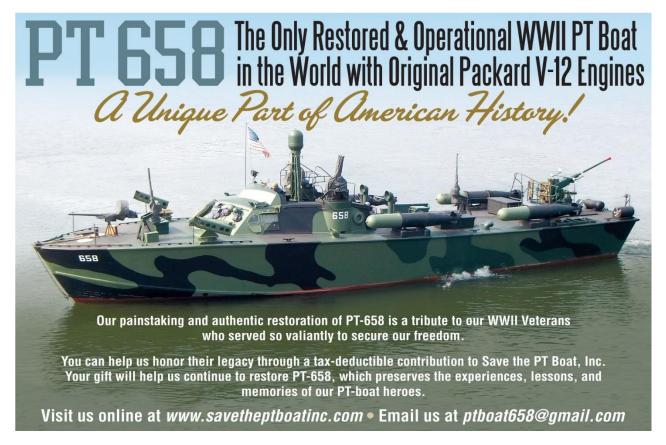
A Permanent Donor Board has been installed in PT 658's boat house. The Donor Board honors the many contributors to PT 658 over the years. It includes **Volunteers** (Founders, Current and Past Presidents, Current Board Members and Last Patrol), **Contributors** (Admiral (\$100,000+), Captain (\$25,000-\$99,999), Commander (\$10,000-\$24,999) Master Chief (\$5,000-\$9,999) and Petty Officer (\$1,000-\$4,999) and **In-Kind Contributors of Products and Services.**

Thank you to all those who have contributed their time, talents and resources to sustaining PT 658!



Jude Graham with new donor board

As the end of the year approaches, please remember us with your tax deductible donations. Also, you can help PT 658" by forwarding this newsletter to friends and by inviting us to your organization for a presentation.



Please continue reading for the names of our closest friends and supporters.

We deeply appreciate the support between Nov. 24 2015 through Nov. 18, 2016 from the following who helped significantly to sustain our efforts to restore and preserve PT 658!

Anonymous Rex Anderson

Neil Anderson (honor of Kenneth W. Anderson, Chief

Bosom Mate)

Steve Anderson (honor of Kenneth W. Anderson, Chief

Bosom Mate)

American Legion Riders, Harley H. Hall Chapter

J. Mark Atlas Ken Austin

David Baird (memory of Beaty Lay)

Edward L. Barnes

Gary Batchelder (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Ed Bennett John Blair Barbara Blubaugh Wally & Eileen Boerger

Thelma Bourbonnais (memory of Jim Bourbonnais)

Brad Bradburd
Dale & Carol Braman
John & Cheryle Briggs
Steven Briggs

David W. Brown (honor of Robert Ray Taylor)
Sharley Bryce (honor of Marc Janes, PT Commander)
Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Buchanan (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Joe Burger John Cameron Steven & Ronda Carey Marlow L. Carter Sandy Carter

William F. Casto (memory of all PT Boaters) Herb Chadwell (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Darlene M. Chambers (memory of Kenneth E. Morris)

Wing Choy

Columbia River Region VCCA

Patricia Corkill Doug Cormany

Rick & Debra Cox (memory of PT Boat Veteran Thurman Cox)

Robert Cox

Dave Danis (honor of all WW II Veterans)
Tudor F. Davis (memory of Harry Wiedmaier)

Bob Day Will B. Day

Patricia A. Devin (memory of Maurice W. Hooper)

Jill Duncan (honor of Jack Duncan)

Jack & Marlene Duncan Wayne & Pat Evans Bill & Ellen Farr Lt. Col James T. Faull

Sue Kellogg Ferrario (memory of Chuck Kellogg)

Chuck Fowler (memory of Beaty Lay)

Peggy Frazier (memory of W.W. "Tag" Frazier, RON 17)

Patricia Freitas (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Captain Albert H. Fu

Jim Gabriel

Gary & Alma George (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

George Golden Henry J. Grass, MD Douglas R. Grim Robert F. Grimm

David & Joyce Hall (memory of Rolf Bruckner)
John & Kathryn Hansell (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Richard & Joy Hanson (honor of Bob Alton)

Ken Harding Bob Harrison

Douglas Braun Harvey (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Erik Hauge Thomas Hayden Michael R. Heilpern

Ric Heinzen (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Roger Henderson

Kathryn J. Hofer (memory Dale Wm. Hofer)

Rick Holmes

Mary Hubbell (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Dale Johnson

Clarence "Bud" Juneau

Luther Kays James M. Keane

Jim & Eileen Keohane (memory of William F. Keohane

EM1, RON 6 & RON 30)

Aaron & Judy Koelsch (memory of Maurice W. Hooper)

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kohl, Jr.

John L. Krier

Scott C. Kuesel (memory of A.R. Kuesel JG, RON 34,

PT 505, RON 8, PT 188)

Maxine Layton (honor of Tom Cates)

Don & Laura Lee

Frank & Joanne Lesage (memory of Rolf Bruckner) Brian Lester, Vortec Tooling Solutions, Inc.

Harold Lill Don Lindberg, MD

Local 290 Plumbers & Pipefitters

Jim Lundak James Magee

Carol Marques (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Peter & Barbara Marsh Steven P. Martinson John & Peggy Massar

Bill May

Martha McCready (memory of Al & Connie McCready,

honor of Al McCready's 98th birthday)

Jeff & Andi McCusker Gus McClelland

Kenneth & Nancy McDonald (memory Rolf Bruckner)

Mark Miller Wade & Patsy Miller

Warren D. Mills (memory of Dick Lowe)

Jonathan Moody Rod Moore John C. Murdoch

Robert A. Murphy, Jr. (memory of Andrew Jackson

Higgins) P.M. Neal

Don & Diane Neet (memory of Bud Neet)

W.G. Nelson Lloyd H. Ness

Patrick & Carolyn O'Connor

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Richard & Jean Odonnell

Neal & Sally Patton

Robert Persichitti

Peters Family Fund

Andrew Petersen

Howard & Josephine Petersen

Petrofsky Charitable Fund (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Markus & Eileen Pfahler

Sandra Pfau

Mark Polloni

Cathy & Doug Prentice (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Dino Presutto

Doug Price (memory of PT CO LT A.E. Price)

Ronald Quiring Ken Ramsay Frank Ray

Glenn L. Ray

Stephen N. Richie, DMD

Fred Reck

Audrey Robinson (memory of Joseph Robinson)

Thad & Mary Robinson (honor of Frank Lesage)

Fred Ross

Ronald Ross

John A. Runyan (memory of Harry Wiedmaier)

John W. Russell & Mary E. Fellows

Craig Schmidt

Richard N. Scoates (memory of Richard W. Scoates)

Joseph R. Schreiner (memory of all Sailors lost at sea)

Michael Seewald (memory of Quarter Master Richard J.

Seewald)

John T. Sewell

Nikhat & Muneem Shaik (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

G.M. Shuford

Alfred L. Skinner, MD

Dick & Margie Sleeter (memory of Rolf Bruckner, Dick

Lowe, Chuck Kellogg)

William Smallshaw

David R. Smith

Geoffrey Scott Smith (memory of GM2C John W.

Smith, PT 453, RON 31)

James B. Smith (memory of Sgt. John P Dane, Jr.)

David & Carol St. Louis

Gary B. Streets

Paul Sturges

Henry T. Swigert

John A. & Ruth Talbott (memory of Harry Wiedmaier)

Dolores Trafton (memory Ward Trafton, RON 13)

James R. Trett

Everett Trout

United Way of Columbia-Willamette

United Way of King County

USS Eldorado Reunion

USS McCoy Reynolds Reunion

Richard Vanderhyde, STG1

John Van Huyck

Raquel Vanni (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Edd R. Vinci (memory of Paul Vinci, GM 1st Class, PT

142, RON 8)

Bob Wade (memory and honor of PT 305)

Elizabeth Ware (memory of Marsden Ware)

Hubert N. Weikart

Shari & Mark Weiss

Wilfred D. Wells (honor of Jack Duncan)

Harriet Werner (memory of Rolf Bruckner)

Murl S. Wescott

James L. West

Gene & Deanna White

Joe Whittington

Geraldine & John Willems

Owen "Obie" Williams

C.J. Willis

Randy Willis, MD (honor of C.J. Willis)

Dr. David & Susan Wisdom

Ernestine "Bebe" Zimmerman (memory of Harvey

Zimmerman)

Foundations, Corporations, Associations

Ouest for Truth Foundation

The Autzen Foundation

The Collins Foundation

ESCO Foundation

Historical Auto Club of Oregon

IBM Matching Grant Program (matches Liz Ware gift)

Intel Volunteer Grant Program (matches Jerry Gilmartin

volunteer hours)

Military Vehicle Collectors Club of Oregon

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Capt. Raymond

Thombs Memorial Fund

Oswego Heritage Council, Inc.

Russell Fellows Family Fund

Swan Island Business Association Members

Contributors of In-Kind Products and Services

Terry Crossley, "Navigation Wrinkles for Combat Motor Boats" from father Arthur W. Crossley's collection

Steve Dietz (lights, insulation)

FleetPride Truck & Trailer Parts (reline ring clutch)

Ralph Flint, USN Portable Signal Light, Infrared Scope

Brian Hallett, NavSource Marine Electronics

(installation of AIS)

Evergreen Machine Works, Inc. (aluminum hatch cover)

Huser Sales & Service, Inc. (fire extinguishers)

Byron Jacobus, Water & Air Works (cases of water)

Karen Jepsen (Ships Wheel from PT 231, books, etc.)

Chris Kellogg

Lorimar Group, Inc. (Headset, Microphone,

communications equipment)

McGuire Bearing Company (thrust bearing & seal)

Northwest Copper Works, Inc. (boarding ladder)

Northwest Spring Manufacturing (reverse gear springs)

Will Pollard (plywood)

Pearl Hardware (hardware)

Joseph Schreiner (subscription to WW II Magazine)

State of Oregon Surplus Property (YC-984 Barge)

Zolane Vaage (PT Boat memorabilia, in memory of

Dean Bradford Vaage)

We have made every attempt to compile an accurate list and appreciate learning of omissions or corrections. Please email updates to: pt.barb.1@gmail.com, or send to: Save the PT Boat, Inc., PO Box 13422, Portland, OR 97213.

DONATE TODAY TO PRESERVE PT 658 FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

We need your help! Your contributions are needed to help preserve and restore PT 658! Your donations assure that the restoration and preservation of our wooden PT boat (built in 1945) are conducted according to as-built condition, and meet today's operational codes and standards. *Please complete and return this form with your gift!*

Gift Amount: \$			
Giving Levels: Admiral (\$25,000+) Commodore (\$10,000 - \$24,999)		Ensign (\$500 - \$999)	
		Master Chief (\$250 - \$499)	
Captain (\$1,000 - \$9,999)	,,	Petty Officer (\$1 - \$249)	
Name		Phone:	
Address			
City	State _	Zip	
Email Address			
Newsletter preference:	via US Mail _	via E-Mail	
		e send your check, payable to:	
		Save The PT Boat, Inc.	
	PO Bo	x 13422, Portland, OR 97213	

Or go to our website (www.savetheptboatinc.com) and click on the "Donation" tab

We are a non-profit organization (EIN #93-1162295), and your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. For additional information, contact us at 503-286-3083, or at www.pt658heritage.org

THANK YOU!