

PT 658 Fall Newsletter



SAVE THE PT BOAT INC. (A NON PROFIT 501C3 ORGANIZATION), PO BOX 13422 PORTLAND, OR 97213
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A productive and exciting 2015 Summer Season

We had a great summer of 17 excursions, including the escorting of 9 ships into their 2015 Portland Rose Festival berths. One of the highlights of the summer outings was Master Chief Gunner's Mate Jack Duncan's 90th birthday party during Rose Festival with friends from all over the U.S.



Jack cuts his birthday cake
Assisted by Vice Admiral
Kenny Floyd (in uniform) and
Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus



A Slightly younger Jack



Jack, during Rose Festival, with Maury
Hooper, past President of PT 658.
Check out that PT Boat Cake!!

Tours and Excursions

During the spring and summer we hosted a number of tours and rides for navy reunion groups, including the USS Belle Grove (LSD-2), a WWII Mechanized Artillery Transport and the USS Wahoo (SS-565), a Post WWII & Vietnam era Tang-class submarine, the USS Seminole, AKA-104, a Tolland-class attack cargo ship and the USS Clarion River, LSM(R)-401-class medium-type landing ship. All were great veteran's events! Thanks to each of you for your service. We also hosted an excursion for ESGR (Employers Supporting Guard and Reserve) a great bunch of employers that support employment for Guard and Reserve men and women. Youth group tours included Boy Scout Troop 562, Washougal, WA, Boy Scout Troop 843, Tigard, OR and the Portland Oregon Sea Cadets. We were treated to a number of restored auto shows when we conducted separate tours when the Thunderbird Club, Studebaker Club, Austin Healy Club, Corvair Club, Plymouth Club and Vintage Chevrolet Club came to see PT 658. Other tours included the FBI-Oregon-Citizens Academy Alumni group, the Portland/Vancouver Too Tall Club, the Military History Vehicle Club, the Classic Yacht Club and Precision Wire Components, Inc.

Good News!

Save The PT Boat, Inc. has received approval from the State of Oregon of our eligibility for the Federal Surplus Property Program. This eligibility provides us the opportunity to gain access to surplus government equipment. With this goal achieved, our first intent is to secure title to the service barge (ex-YC-984) which we have had on loan from the U.S. Navy for the last 20+ years. The barge gives us dry dock capability when the boat needs significant repair and provides access to our boat house during normal operation. This acquisition will be a significant step toward ensuring the long term viability of our organization. Thanks to Dick Sleeter for a lot of hard work to make this happen.



Note the Boat cradle on the barge – the only remaining original PT boat cradle

Enhanced Shop Area and More

Construction is now in progress for enclosing our woodshop area (picture below) and to provide room overhead to construct a 700 sq. ft. area for display of PT 658 artifacts. Our goal is to create a self-contained, climate controlled viewing and display room to

preserve our artifacts and to enhance tours of PT 658. Also included will be an extended walkway from our main entrance to the display area with wheelchair access.

Kudos to Bob Alton, Jim Mitchell, Bob Barnum, Ron Taylor, Bob Herbst, Walt Haynes, Jan Wojciechowski, and others for their great work on this project.



Center Engine Frame Repair

The frames under PT 658's center engine had significantly deteriorated since the boat was built in 1945 and needed to be replaced to ensure safe operation of the boat.

During spring of this year, under the guidance of Port Townsend Shipwrights, Inc., our volunteers began work to repair these frames which are the main structural support under the 3,000 lb. Packard engine. Raising and supporting the engine to gain access to the framing was technologically

complex and safety was the uppermost concern throughout the work. Repairs were completed in time for PT 658 to join Fleet Week during Portland's June Rose Festival. Out-of-pocket project costs for the work totaled \$8,442 but would have been far greater if not for the 525 hours of work contributed by PT 658 volunteers – thanks, guys! Pictured From left to right are Lowell Gillespie, Ron Taylor and Tom Cates, a few of the volunteers contributing time to this project.



We also sincerely appreciate the support from the State of Oregon Historic Preservation Office and the Oregon International Air Show who provided generous grants to complete this work.

New Boarding Ladder (and the volunteer process)!

This boarding ladder looks a lot like the old one which was new for the Lake Oswego trip in August. However, we apparently tried to board most everyone in Lake Oswego at one time which didn't work well. Bob Alton redesigned and built the new ladder just in time for the next excursion. Thanks, Bob, for all the effort. **A work of art!**

This is a great example of matching up needs with skill sets, a process that's kept the boat afloat all these years. Our volunteers come to us with skill sets that we can always match up with needs, whether it's

woodwork, electrical/electronics, fabrication, engineering, carpentry, painting, millwrighting, mechanical skills, administrative skills, or simply a willingness to learn. If there's skill set needed that we don't possess and can't locate, we set about teaching ourselves. Our folks are talented!!! What about you? We need your talent. Our president says, *"If there's one outstanding weakness about this organization, it's that our volunteers are old; to survive, we need a regular infusion of new, younger volunteers."* **Consider becoming a PT 658 Volunteer today.**



Winter Projects

Of course all play and no work would make us dull boys and girls so we have a list of winter projects, including rebuild of the port engine transfer case, repair of the starboard engine cooling pump, maintenance work on the jeep, construction of a new gate in the pier fence to facilitate hoist operation and continued work on development of the above mentioned woodshop, display area and walkway.

Donors – Our Lifeblood

Our own Jim Mitchell, a 14 year volunteer at PT-658 is shown at right setting up a new state-of-the-art table saw in the new woodshop area. Nothing unusual about that except that Jim purchased this saw with his own money and donated it to the organization. This saw has many capabilities and safety features that were sorely needed. But wait, that's not all! In addition to the table saw, Jim also purchased and donated a new chop saw.

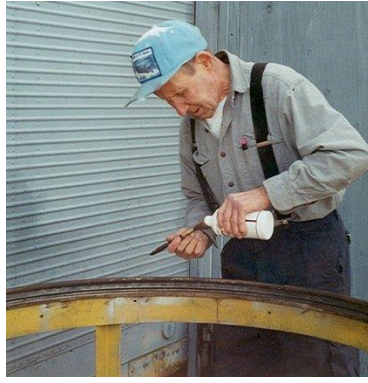
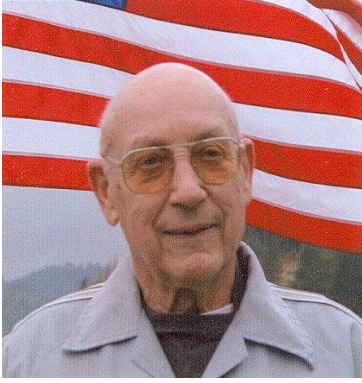
We are truly in your debt, Jim, Many thanks!!



Ken Morris was a machinist's mate on PT-364 (Ron 18) in the South Pacific. Among Ken's personal possessions when he passed away was a 48 star American flag (WWII era). Wally Boerger hosted a ride on PT-658 for the Ken Morris family this year and accepted the donation of this historic flag. Wally is seen here raising the "new" colors. Our sincere thanks to Ken Morris for his service to our country and many thanks to his family for this great donation, helping keep PT-658 truly authentic.



In Memoriam



Sadly, PT 658 crew members who had their last patrol this year were **Bob Dubay** (left) a tireless cheerleader for PT 658, **Beaty Lay** (center) shown working on the 50cal gun turret and **Bob Jackson** & family (right) a past crewmember and major benefactor to PT-658. We truly miss all of these gentlemen and their many contributions to PT 658.

As the end of the year approaches, please remember us with your tax deductible donations.

PT 658 The Only Restored & Operational WWII PT Boat
in the World with Original Packard V-12 Engines
A Unique Part of American History!



Our painstaking and authentic restoration of PT-658 is a tribute to our WWII Veterans who served so valiantly to secure our freedom.

You can help us honor their legacy through a tax-deductible contribution to Save the PT Boat, Inc. Your gift will help us continue to restore PT-658, which preserves the experiences, lessons, and memories of our PT-boat heroes.

Visit us online at www.savetheptboatinc.com • Email us at ptboat658@gmail.com

Donors: November 13, 2014 – November 23, 2015

We deeply appreciate the support from the following individuals, foundations and corporations who help significantly to sustain our efforts to restore and preserve PT 658!

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Elaine Fetterman (Copy of "They Were Expendable")
Ken Fisher Family (48 Star WWII era flag)
Chris Kellogg (Warehousing/storage for PT 658 Artifacts)
Greenwood Projects (plywood)
Huser Sales & Service, Inc. (Fire Suppression/Alarm System)
Jim Keys (Flag from PT Boat 227)
MSGT Regan Metcalf (Machine work- 72 40 mm A1
projectiles
Jim Mitchell (table saw, chop saw, shop equipment)
Les Schwab Tire Center (jeep services)
Frank Ray (uniform and photos)
Joseph R. Schreiner (WW II magazine)
Tidewater Environmental Services (fueling boom services)

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Please see donation form on next page.

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.

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THANK YOU!