



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project

Sea Scout Ship 5544

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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www.ptf3restoration.org

NEWSLETTER 30 JUNE 2007

PROGRESS

After all of the hard work that everyone put into achieving funding grants from The State of Florida, and receiving those funds in the beginning of 2007. Greed and envy, have raised their ugly heads to threaten our PT Boat restoration. The present sitting Board of the Deland Naval Air Station Museum along with Deland City officials are trying to force the removal of the PT Boat from it's restoration site.

The stated reason is to accommodate the construction of a hangar the DNAS Museum and a required drainage retention pond. The reality is much different, the retention pond is the basis of the real reason, a Hotel is Planned to be built on the same parcel as the DNAS Museum. To give the most benefit to this Hotel project the Property of the DNAS Museum is being sacrificed to meet the square footage needed to meet the water run off requirements for the amount of ground lost to construction.

The PT Boat is sitting on what is suppose to be the future parking lot of the DNAS Museum, based on the steady progression of conceptual drawings provided, the parking lot itself is expected to become part of the drainage retention pond. We are being told to move the PT Boat under false pretences, a move which will structurally endanger the integrity of the Hull, any movement at this time will cause the hull to rack out of alingment.

This retention pond will be of no benefit to rain water run off to this Hotel project, the DNAS planned retention pond is at an elevation 7 feet above the Hotel site. It looks good in the square footage department till you check the topography of the area, which shows that the need for this size of a retention pond is a sham. For this retention pond to be effective, water will have to run up hill, violating the laws of physics. Much of the area of the DNAS Museum that would be used in this retention pond is grand-fathered in under regulations that do not require this type of land modification.

Promises by the city and the museum have been thrown out the window, the present sitting DNAS Museum Board itself is under investigation by the State Attorneys Office regarding the election of the Museum Board as well as missing funds. The previous DNAS Board had supported the PTF 3 Restoration Project and continues to do so, the PT Boat was considered as an asset to the Museum drawing additional visitors. The present president of the DNAS Museum has a long history of professing a disliking of anything to do with the VietNam War and refuses to display anything related to the VietNam War. The history of PTF 3 is the VietNam War, this PT Boat served for the duration of that war and represents all who served in that war.

The City of Deland primarily represented to us through the city engineer, Mr. Keith Riger, who approached us early 2006 with the offer of a new site to restore the

PT Boat. We made it abundantly clear to all parties that we did not have the funds to cover the cost of the move. Mr. Riger promised in front of witnesses on several occasions that the City of Deland would pay for the move and for preparing the new site that is located ½ mile from our present location, based on this promise we accepted this new location. Later in the summer of 2006 when the Historic Preservation Grant from the Florida Department of State became official, Mr. Riger began denying that he had made any promises and the work by the city on the new site came to a virtual stand still and has not been completed. The ground at this site is too soft to support the weight of the boat and our boat mover refuses to endanger his equipment to move the boat. The ground was not properly compacted and pillars are needed to support the boat on unstable ground. It would be impossible to maintain a true alignment of the hull, effectively there is no place for the boat to be moved.

Mr. Riger is expecting us to pay for the move and the upgrades for the new site, money that is not available. Florida Department of State representative, Alicia Slade, stated in E-mail communications that State Funds could not be used for moving the PT Boat or improvements to this new site. We were scheduled to lease to site for 5 years after which it would be back on the market with improvements.

In a meeting at the PT Boat with City Manager Mike Ables and Keith Riger on Wednesday, 20 June 2007, Mr. Riger was confronted with his promises of paying for the move and he said, "IF I SAID THAT, I APOLOGIZE". (This meeting and statement was video taped and recorded with the knowledge of the participants.) Mr. Riger's promises are the bases of many of the problems that we have had regarding the boat and delays waiting on the promised new site to be ready.

We held off opening the hull based on Mr. Riger's promises, we waited till any further delay would cause us to run afoul of the Florida Department of State Schedule. Now the Hull frame work is under restoration, the hull can not be moved due to its weakened state. Now the City of Deland and the unpredictable DNAS Museum Board is pushing us to move the boat fully knowledgeable of the danger.

We feel that since the City of Deland misrepresented itself to us and that any plans to move the boat are null and void. The DNAS Museum in a span of one month told us that we had to move, then that we could stay for 5 years and then that we had to move. The DNAS Board has removed rear property fence exposing the project, then putting back up with our physical assistance and is threatening to take it down again, saying that they are not responsible for our security.

Below are the addresses and phone numbers to many of the individuals that are involved or need to be contacted to convey your opinion, if you do, please keep it professional and polite.

DeLand Commissioners	PHONE	E Mail Address
Mayor Robert F. Apgar	386/ 626-7105	apgar@deland.org
Willie Bright	386/ 736-0471	brightw@deland.org
Terry Dilligard, Sr.	386/ 822-9411	dilligardt@deland.org
Leigh Matusick	386/ 738-4556	matusickl@deland.org
Scott Price	386/ 740-8611	prices@deland.org

DeLand City Manager	Mike Ables	386/ 626-7000
DeLand City Engineer	Keith Riger	386/ 626-7000

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

President	Dale Alexander	386/ 736-8130
Vice-Pres.	Harold London	386/ 734-2295
Treas.	John Fuller	386/ 747-8355
	john.fuller@delandsystems.com	

On a lighter note, the work on the boat has continued without interruption, as each frame rib is set in place for the final time, a new anchoring bracket is fabricated and fitted. We have been able to recover many of the brackets from above the waterline, and recondition them by sandblasting and coating with zinc chromate before re-installing with new stainless steel bolts. Many of the braces and brackets located below the waterline have heavy pitting of the swiss cheese variety, now serve as a pattern for a new made version of the same part. Since many of the fuel tanks that are unsuitable for fuel or lubricants, they now provide an excellent source of heavy anti-corrosive aluminum plate to be cut and welded into a new part. The SP-175 Welder donated by the Lincoln Electric Co. and argon gas cylinder loan to us by ALMAR of DeLand have been put to good use, and at a tremendous cost savings for the project.

With many of the bow frame ribs in place, the shipwrights have been busy strengthening the structure and working around the keel. The stem has been mated to the keel, much of the original keel is a little rough in outward appearance but is very sturdy. The area where the hull planking meets the keel will be stiffened with an added layer of marine plywood that is saturated with waterproof epoxy. This provides a stronger tie in point between frame structure and hull covering.

Bob Stoner has made contact with the Navy regarding deck ordnance for the Boat, the necessary paperwork is being created to request the smaller deck guns. There appear to be some of the needed mounts and guns at the Crane Navy Weapons Lab in Indiana. We have lost contact with people connected with the 40mm BOFORS gun in England, we are trying to find out what the problem is and get things moving again.

LOOKING AHEAD

We feel the more the public knows of the high jinks of the City of Deland and the DNAS Museum the better. Close scrutiny and exposure to the light of day will do more to stop the opposition and behind the scenes activity threatening the PT Boat. We are trying to notify all of the appropriate parties for assistance, and need all we can get. We have been completely honest and honorable with all parties, only to be stabbed in back and have rug pulled out from under us the moment that we received actual funds for the project. Any proper assistance regarding our plight is greatly appreciated.

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 historically accurate as possible. Many of the items will become part of the museum display in the boat and permanent historical record.

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@earthlink.net. Jack Waples, our 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

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