



PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

Restoration Project

Sea Scout Ship 5544

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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www.ptf3restoration.org

NEWSLETTER 30 NOV 2008

PROGRESS

On November 8th, 2008 the Deland Main Street Assoc. and the Deland Naval Air Station Museum hosted the 10th annual Deland Veterans Day Parade which recognized the service of all veterans and each branch of service. Several restaurants were designated as Head Quarters for each branch of service in the first all day celebration of Veterans Day for the City of Deland. The PTF 3 crew presented Bob Weeks with his restored M151 Jeep with Mike Bradley and Smokey, pulling our 40mm BOFORS deck gun which was manned by PTF 3 VietNam Vets John Rapp and Blas Mojica. Next was our float with restoration crew members and family members which was followed by the bridge of PTF 3. On the bridge were Col. Bill Adams – (wrote Operation Plan 34A) he was head of unconventional warfare PTF operations CINCPAC in VietNam, PTF 3 VietNam Vets Master Chief Bill Moreo and Rick Shepard, PTF Veteran Robert Mandt and Debbie Waterman representing her husband Charlie Waterman a veteran of PT Boat operations in World War 2. Last but not least was Billy Thomas with his PTF 3 ½ jet ski, which is built up to resemble PTF 3 and is a real show stopper. The parade had a large turnout as the public honored the Veterans with several rounds of applause and a lot of participation by Veterans organizations and civic groups, the all day display was centered in the old historic section of Deland, groups that missed this year are planning to be there next year.

This was the first time that the PTF 3 VietNam crew Veterans had been back together as a group in 40 years. We recognized the crew with a presentation of M90 flight jackets embroidered with PTF 3's insignia along with hats, patches and pins that carry the boats insignia. The VietNam crew presented the restoration crew with a U.S. Navy flag that will be flown from the boat.

We will be working with the PTF 3 Vets to put together a more complete picture of PTF 3 history and casualties that were suffered aboard the boat. Our desire is to have a photographic record of those who were lost aboard the PTF boats that will be on display aboard the restored PTF 3 along with the operational history of the boat and a

record about all of the crews that served on PTF 3 and the other PTF Boats.

A week after the parade 6 members of the restoration crew, Al Schweizer, Billy Thomas, DNAS President Pete Lowenstein, David Carter, Jim Vough and Bob McCray, traveled to Chesapeake, Virginia to remove parts from the one remaining PTF located at Chesapeake yachts. We enjoyed the hospitality of Chief Neal Kaplan and his family during our stay, we had a great time and the food was great, can't ask for better than that. Neal and his son Jason started breaking loose bolts and hardware in the weeks prior to our arrival. The boat's new owner came in from California to supervise the removal of equipment, the 40mm BOFORS base deck mount, the base ring mount for the 81mm Mortar, the starboard 20mm base ring mount, the canopy and windshield assembly, deck air vents, a passageway hatch, 6 bunks, an ammo box, a complete engineers chair, exhaust bells and most importantly 2 very complete and smooth working Vee Drives.

The work on the boat went smoothly with all of the parts removed in an organized fashion, we would like to have retrieved more but that wasn't in the cards. The new owners is still looking into converting the boat as an offshore racing yacht, but we can't see it with the amount of framework repair that will be required. The owner sanded down some paint off of the bridge and found the hull identification for PTF 10, we have understood that the boat is PTF 18. Some of the boats seem to have been re-numbered at some point after VietNam, the interior of the boat has features that point to a Trumpy built boat. Some parts were marked PTF 10 and PTF 11, our boat has parts from PTF 10, 11, and 7, we did not find any ID tags and time was limited, so for now we just don't know hull number of this boat.

We hope to get another opportunity to salvage more from this boat, there is a significant amount of equipment that will not be use when the boat is re-configured. We feel that we were very fortunate with the haul that we brought back, Christmas came early. AL Mar aluminum who provided an enclosed trailer and some of the funding for this trip will duplicate the missing port side 20mm ring mount. Base on the quality of their work, you won't be able to tell the difference .

Work on the boat has made steady progress, the last plank has been installed in the bow, the planking for the bow has been completed. Screw holes need to be filled, then the bow planks will have to sanded to even out the boards, and then coated with epoxy. Removal of the last of the bottom coating in underway and should be completed in a few weeks, our shipwright has brought in some extra help to speed up the process.

SCROUNGE DEPT-

Aerial Gun Sights for the 40mm BOFORS Anti-Aircraft and 20mm Orlikean deck guns are the subject of our latest scrounge effort, the sights have the appearance of a giant fly swatter that are usually seen on the World War 2 Memorial Ships. Our 40mm has optical sights with a range calculator, we are concerned that they will not hold up to the constant outdoor use, and the open aerial sights would be historically correct for the boat. We are still looking for 20mm Orlikeans and their deck mounts, they will be positioned on each side of the bridge. If you locate any of these items or anything that might be of use for the PT Boat, please let us know.

LOOKING AHEAD

One of the big areas of future concern is our need for a Marine Electrical Engineer to set up the wiring and a Marine Pipe Fitter to plumb the boat. We have to locate new potable water and waste water tanks then fit in the associated piping. Even though the historical aspect of the boat is being retained we still have to be concerned with environmental rules regarding waste water. While we have many skilled crew members working on the boat, everyone is beginning to be spread too thin and we are close to the point of having to work in parallel.

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 be as historically accurate as possible. Much of this material will be housed with the boat and copies will be on permanent file with The Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation. A photographic record of the restoration is an ongoing effort that will document the process of restoring the PT Boat as well as building up a library of historical photos, architectural drawings and interviews with veteran crewmembers all of which will become part of the continuing history of PTF 3.

MONEY TREE

The Project can be reached at Phone No. 800/ 694-7161 and at our E-Mail: ptf3restore@embarqmail.com , Jack Waples, our fund Coordinator can be reached at E-Mail: rjwaples@cfl.rr.com .

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

IF ANYONE HAS A LINE ON A GRANT PROGRAM, WE FALL UNDER MUSEUMS, YOUTH PROGRAM AND YOUTH EDUCATION. WE 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.

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 ptf3restore@embarqmail.com .

SINCERELY,



ROBERT MCCRAY
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