



# PATROL TORPEDO FAST 3

## Restoration Project

### Sea Scout Ship 5544

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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[www.ptf3restoration.org](http://www.ptf3restoration.org)

NEWSLETTER 31 JULY 2008

#### PROGRESS

Yeah, it's hot, that means an earlier start on the day and finishing up a little earlier in the afternoon. With the tarps down due to the storm last month and the canopy frame that has to be elevated four feet to accommodate the raising of the hull, it has been a hunt for shade while trying to get the job done. The outer planking above the water line, on the port side is now down to installing the screw fasteners in the stern area. The boards have been fitted and tacked in place, next is drilling, countersinking and installing the stainless steel wood screws. As soon as this is completed, work will move to the starboard side to finish up all of the outer planking above the water line.

Tom Youngblood of Youngblood Building Movers will come in after Labor Day and raise the boat. PTF 3 is setting on an "I" Beam steel frame, we have to lift the boat and the frame straight up 14 inches, then position temporary jack stands to hold the boat, and then drop the steel down freeing the keel. New supports will be positioned to tie the boat and steel frame back together and then the temporary jacks can be removed. It sounds simple, but when you have 50 tons spread out over 80 ft. hanging in the air, it isn't. The keel will be supported with "C" channel structural steel to spread out the load and new cribbing will be added. The keel is sound and we have been repairing the keel shoe which is located underneath the keel with new material so that it can take the weight of the boat.

After the boat has been raised, the fun of attacking the bottom planking begins, planking bordering the keel at the bottom of the hull has to be removed to provide full access to the bottom of the keel plate. The keel plate is the top part of the keel on which the boat frame rest, the top of the keel plate looks good, but in order to prevent any nasty little surprises, we want a good look at bottom of that board. With the hull re-supported, we have the option of placing the load on the keel or on the hull, on each side of the keel.

That added 12-14 inches of clearance gives us much need room to maneuver tools so that we can replace planking near the chine and underwater exhausts. We could not touch this area until frame repairs were completed enough to proceed with the bottom of the boat. There is a lot of bottom coating that has to come off, there is a combination of a rubberized coating and a PRC waterproof barrier that does not react to paint, urethane or bottom coat removal chemicals, we've tried. So, it's 'scrapey' time, sanding and grinding tend to gum up equipment, we are using an oscillating scraper which walks under the coating, it's slow but it works. Made by Fein in Germany, this same tool, using another attachment with a hook shape does a nice job of removing the caulking between the planking, it has a lot of features that lend it to boat repair.

Other work has been geared around organization, both materially and the paperwork side of the project. Our equipment trailers are in the process of re-shuffling

to gain as many extra inches of space as possible for storage and the office trail is back on track after taking a bad spill from the recent high winds that dumped the trailer on it's side. New windows and wiring have been installed, soon ceiling and wall panels will go in to provide usable on-site office space for operations, documentation and building prints. Bill Bramer and El Pegram will run this end of the project in order to cope with the widening scope of the PTF 3 Restoration Project.

### **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 no 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**

The forward deck that was removed during the re-framing of the bow will be replaced and a fresh layer of marine plywood will be laid down over the full length of the boat soon after the boat hull is raised. Two teams will then be able to focus on the main deck and bottom of the hull at the same time and not be in each others way.

### **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](mailto:ptf3restore@embarqmail.com) , Jack Waples, our fund Coordinator can be reached at E-Mail: [rjwaples@cfl.rr.com](mailto: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](http://www.ptfnasty.com)

FEEDBACK - PLEASE SEND SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS TO BOB MCCRAY AT [ptf3restore@embarqmail.com](mailto:ptf3restore@embarqmail.com) .

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McCray', written in a cursive style.

ROBERT MCCRAY  
PROJECT MANAGER

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