

SLATER SIGNALS

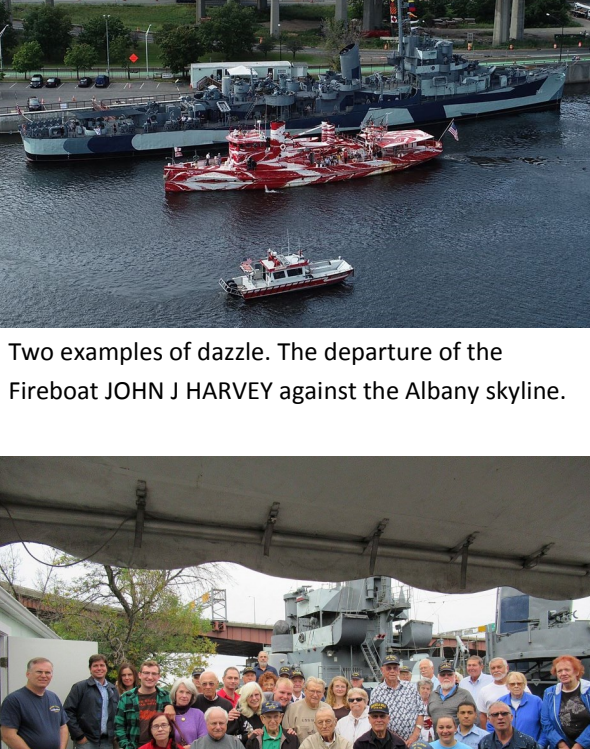
The Newsletter of the USS SLATER's Volunteers
By Timothy C. Rizzuto, Executive Director

Destroyer Escort Historical Museum
USS Slater DE-766
PO Box 1926
Albany, NY 12201-1926

Phone (518) 431-1943, Fax 432-1123
Vol. 21 No. 9, September 2018



The high point of the month happened early on with the arrival of the Fireboat JOHN J. HARVEY. Under a special arts grant, the HARVEY was sandblasted and repainted in an artistic interpretation of a red and white



Two examples of dazzle. The departure of the Fireboat JOHN J HARVEY against the Albany skyline.

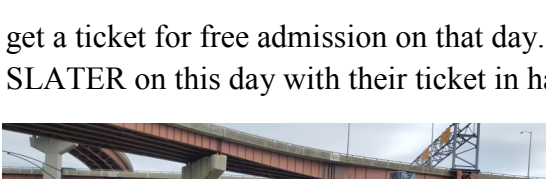
dazzle camouflage pattern. The work was the creation of New York artist, **Taub Auerbach**, and having the two dazzled ships side-by-side made for striking photos. Photographer **Liz Ligon** captured the ships from every angle, and our crews exchanged tours. We took advantage of having the HARVEY alongside to do some side cleaning of our own dazzle. The following day, Friday, HARVEY got underway to lead the tugboat parade up to Waterford for their annual Tugboat Roundup.



It's a rare day when we get the whole crew together at the same time.

That Saturday the 8th, we served up Chiefs Smitty and Art Dott's lasagna for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It's

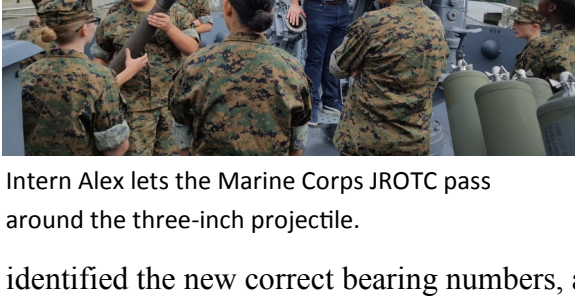
always nice to have so many volunteers together at the same time, where we can thank them for being so committed to the ship. Many of them bring their significant others, as well, so we can thank them. As always, a good meal and great company is shared.



The Girl Scouts retiring the colors at the start of an overnight encampment.

Fall is here and that means that our Overnight Program is back! It was "Ladies Night" on the 15th with Girl Scout Troop 1032 from Slingerlands. The girls manned the guns, ate in the mess decks, slept in forward berthing, retired the colors, and learned a thing or two about life in the Navy.

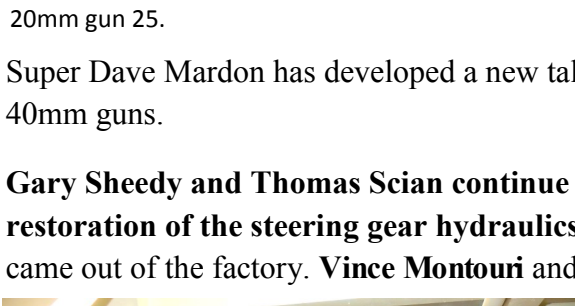
On the 19th, we had 90 members of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC from Amsterdam High School take a tour. This was our first big group of the new school year, and our guides showed up in force! We participated in the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day on the 22nd. During this event, patrons can choose a participating museum and



Intern Alex lets the Marine Corps JROTC pass around the three-inch projectile.

get a ticket for free admission on that day. We had nearly 100 visitors come to SLATER on this day with their ticket in hand, many of whom left a donation or bought a souvenir in the Ship's Store. Also, we were visited by Boy Scout Troop 24 for a tour as well!

Maintenance wise, the 40mm elevation drive repair ground to a halt, due to confusion over the bearing numbers. Doug Tanner finally took the old bearings to the bearing house and, with their help, identified the new correct bearing numbers, and all the bearings and new hardware are aboard, awaiting installation during the fall work week.



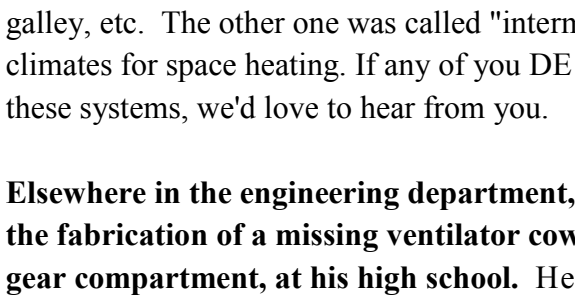
Welder Dave Wasson installing the new foot rail on 20mm gun 25.

The shipfitters have several projects going. They completed a deck drain in the storage space under gun 33, to drain off the water that collects in the center of the gun mount. **Danny Statile, Tim Benner, and Dave Mardon** have been repairing the spent shell cage, under the starboard 40mm mount. **Dave Wasson and Matt Clifford** have tackled the 20mm pipe stands that **Ed Zajkowski** started with his team. Dave completed the stand on gun 25, and Matt is well into the stand on gun 24.



Progress continues on the smoke generator replica project.

Gary Sheedy and Thomas Scian continue the disassembly and the restoration of the steering gear hydraulics. The pieces shine like they just came out of the factory. **Vince Montoui and Jack Carbone** continue to make progress on the smoke generator, assisted by **Ken Powers** and **Devon Urbano**. Devon also teamed up with **Justin Bopp**, to indicate what piping system labels need to be painted by our stencil pro, **Vic Consiglio**. They made an interesting discovery that Cannon-class DEs had two separate steam systems - one called "continuous" that was on all the time for hotel loads, such as laundry, potable water heating, galley, etc. The other one was called "intermittent" and was only used in cold climates for space heating. If any of you DE sailors have any knowledge of these systems, we'd love to hear from you.



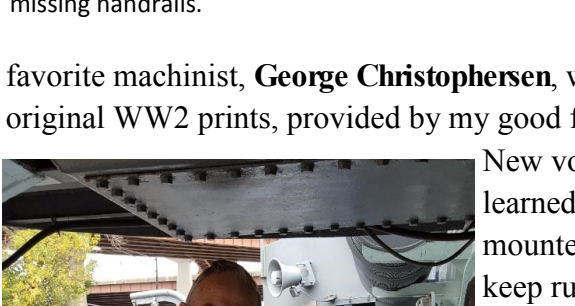
Barry Witte instructing students on replacing missing handrails.

Elsewhere in the engineering department, Barry is supervising the fabrication of a missing ventilator cowl above the steering gear compartment, at his high school. He also coordinates the efforts of our younger (i.e. less than 40 years old) volunteers aboard. In both



Machinist George Christophersen continues to supply us with hand-crafted machine parts.

aft machinery spaces, active duty Sailors **Alex Metzger** and **Daniel Killen** have been installing missing handrails on the lower levels of both B3 & B4, having learned the WW2 art of handrail pinning. Once painted, these new handrails will be indistinguishable from the original ones. Why those original ones were not present is a mystery. Of course, that project would not have been possible without the talents of our



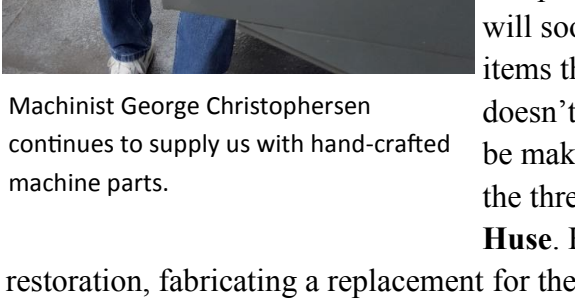
Machinist George Christophersen continues to supply us with hand-crafted machine parts.

favorite machinist, **George Christophersen**, who fabricated replica parts from original WW2 prints, provided by my good friend **Ed Zajkowski**.



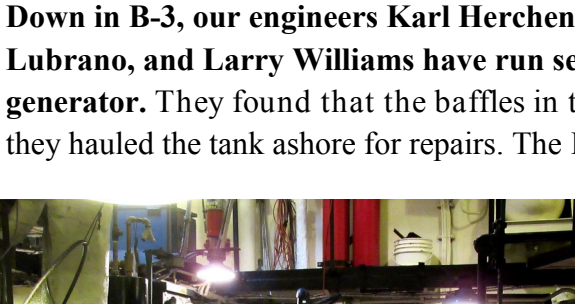
Machinist George Christophersen continues to supply us with hand-crafted machine parts.

New volunteer, **Mauro Agnellini**, has learned how to overhaul bulkhead mounted vent fans, ensuring that these will keep running in the warmer times of the year.



Machinist George Christophersen continues to supply us with hand-crafted machine parts.

Speaking of George, our Connecticut machinist has several projects going: First, he finished fabricating all the handrail fittings for the



Machinist George Christophersen continues to supply us with hand-crafted machine parts.

engine room handrail restoration project. Now he's supervising fabrication the eighteen mounting brackets. They will hold down the replacement 40mm shell chutes that **Hal Hatfield's** shop had fabricated. We e-mailed George the blueprints for the fighting lights, and he will soon begin making the long-lead items that need to be machined. And, he doesn't know it yet, but he's going to be making a few more missing pieces on the three-inch gun sight setters for **Guy Huse**. He also did a little micro-restoration, fabricating a replacement for the broken telescope bracket on Captain Marcel Blancq's original Plath sextant.



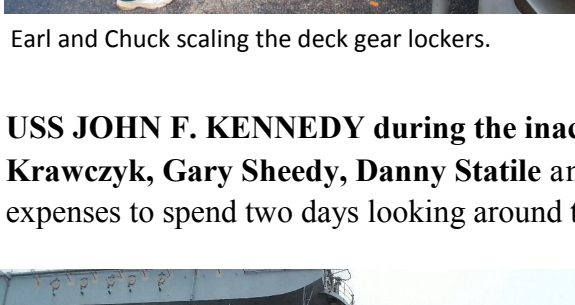
Volunteer Mike Dingmon running a diesel test.

Down in B-3, our engineers Karl Herchenroder, Mike Dingmon, Gary Lubrano, and Larry Williams have run several tests with the ship's service generator. They found that the baffles in the surge tank had rotted out, so they hauled the tank ashore for repairs. The **Ballston Spa Chief Selects** gave them a lot of cleaning help.



Earl and Chuck scaling the deck gear lockers.

The deck gang has done a lot of chipping and painting. Bill Holt and Carl Camurati have continued maintenance painting on the 01 level forward. The deck around the 20mm guns is complete, and they are now working on the floater net baskets. Carl also got the deck painted out under the aft supply vent, where all the welding and fabrication took place over the



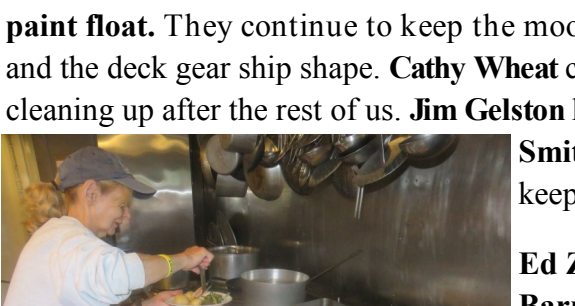
Earl and Chuck scaling the deck gear lockers.

summer. We've been having a tough time color-matching the deck paint. Fortunately, for now, we can explain the different shades as just more "Dazzle Camouflage." **Ron Prest** and **Tommy Moore** have been scaling under the director 42 tub. And, while waiting for the 40mm bearings to come in, Earl and Chuck have been scaling deck gear lockers. In addition, **Bob Tomlinson** is taking the time to repaint all our 40mm shells and clips.



Danny, Gary, and Steve prepare to board the ex-USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

We sent a team to Philadelphia to strip parts off the ballier ex-



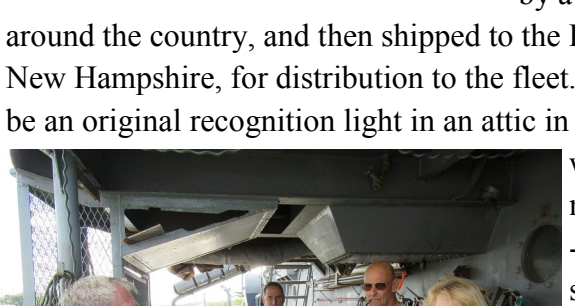
Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

Boats Haggart and Walt Stuart wrestled with a huge log that got hung up on the



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

paint float. They continue to keep the mooring lines tight, the awning tight and the deck gear ship shape. **Cathy Wheat** continues her thankless task of cleaning up after the rest of us. **Jim Smith** keeps the clocks wound, and **Chief Smith, Angelo Bracco** and **Cathy** keep the crew fed.



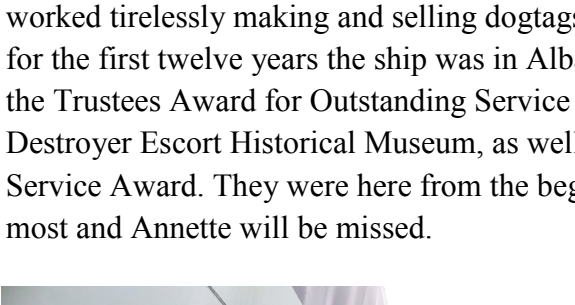
Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

Ed Zajkowski, Chris Wright, and Barry Witte have continued their in-depth research into the mast restoration and the fighting lights. Each day, Ed seems to come up with new information, as a flurry of emails are exchanged daily. They have learned that the individual parts were fabricated by a plethora of small contractors



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

around the country, and then shipped to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, in New Hampshire, for distribution to the fleet. Ed is convinced that there has to be an original recognition light in an attic in Portsmouth or Kittery. And he wants to find it. Relating to the mast project, we got a call from All-Lifts here in Albany that the back stay and yardarm lifts had been completed, so Super Dave graciously loaned us his pickup truck, and drove down to pick them up.



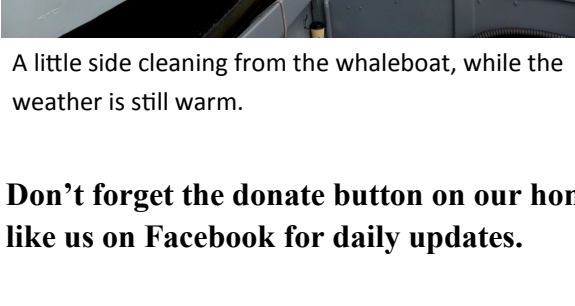
Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

Sadly, not a month goes by without the loss of another volunteer. This month, it was our



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

beloved **Annette Beauchaine**. Annette was on the pier selling souvenirs when the ship arrived in Albany in 1997. Working alongside her husband **Les**, she worked tirelessly making and selling dogtags every weekend at Crossgates Mall for the first twelve years the ship was in Albany. Annette and Les were awarded the Trustees Award for Outstanding Service by the Board of Trustees of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum, as well as the President's Volunteer Service Award. They were here from the beginning when we needed help the most and Annette will be missed.



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

We're standing by, as our fall workweek crew will arrive on the last day of the month, ready to go to work. Planned projects include working on the gun 33 sight-setter mechanism, reassembly of the port 40mm gun, painting waterways, painting the deck around the fantail 20mm guns, and painting on the 01 level forward. It should be a great and productive week!



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

Don't forget the donate button on our homepage www.ussslater.org and to like us on Facebook for daily updates.



Our volunteer custodian Cathy Wheat is also one of our back up cooks.

See you next month!