

History of the USS Albacore

The Albacore holds a place in history as the first Navy-designed vessel with a true underwater hull of cylindrical shape that has become the standard for today's submarines worldwide.



Designed, built, and maintained by the skilled engineers and craftsmen of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Albacore served as a sea-going test platform from 1953 to 1972. Albacore's tear-drop-shaped hull was the prototype for the Navy's nuclear powered submarine force and was the first boat built specifically to operate underwater. Used for testing control and propulsion systems, sonar equipment, dive brakes, escape mechanisms, and various innovative theories and equipment, Albacore was truly a unique Navy floating laboratory.

Commissioned: December 1953

History Making Event: 1966 - she set the record as the world's fastest submarine.

Decommissioned: September 1972

Return to Portsmouth: 1982 - efforts began to return USS Albacore to her place of birth as a permanent display. 1984 - Albacore was towed from Philadelphia to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. 1985 - Albacore was maneuvered through a dismantled railroad bridge and a cutout section of four lane highway toward her final resting place on a concrete cradle in a dry basin at Albacore Park, 569 Submarine Way, Portsmouth, NH.

Program Founder

Kevin Galeaz is a Cold-War Submarine Veteran who served aboard the USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN 630), USS Will Rogers (SSBN 659) and the first Trident Submarine, USS Ohio (SSBN 726) as a Plankowner.

Kevin volunteers his time in retirement for numerous Veteran and Sea Services support organizations including the Naval Submarine League (NSL), the Navy League of the United States and the United States Submarine Veterans, Thresher Base.



To Schedule a Rig for Dive

Contact : **Kevin Galeaz**
kevin.galeaz.nsl@gmail.com

Program Costs:
Youth: \$5
Adults: \$9.



Hands-On Rig for Dive Aboard USS Albacore



Hands-On Rig For Dive is an engaging program for children (ages 8 and above) and adults that provides a unique opportunity aboard the USS Albacore.

This four-part program combines an interactive classroom experience held when your group meets and the hands-on portion aboard the USS Albacore on a Saturday morning from 0730-0930.

Part I Sub School

All submariners must attend Sub School to learn about their submarine before they report for duty. This includes the basics of submarine operations, the color-coded valve system, and how to locate the valves used to rig the ship for dive.



Part II Scavenger Hunt

Now that you have successfully completed Sub School, it is time to board the USS Albacore. In order to get a good understanding of the boat, you will receive a Qual Card and go on a Scavenger Hunt. With the assistance of volunteer active-duty and veteran submariners, you will locate the color-coded valves needed to rig the boat for dive.



Part III Rig for Dive

It is now time to take all of your new found knowledge and man your assigned station and prepare the USS Albacore to dive.



Part IV Simulated Dive

As soon as all compartments have reported "rigged for dive", it is time to submerge the boat via a simulated dive conducted with Submarine Veterans.

