



# SLATER SIGNALS

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

Destroyer Escort Historical Museum

USS Slater DE-766

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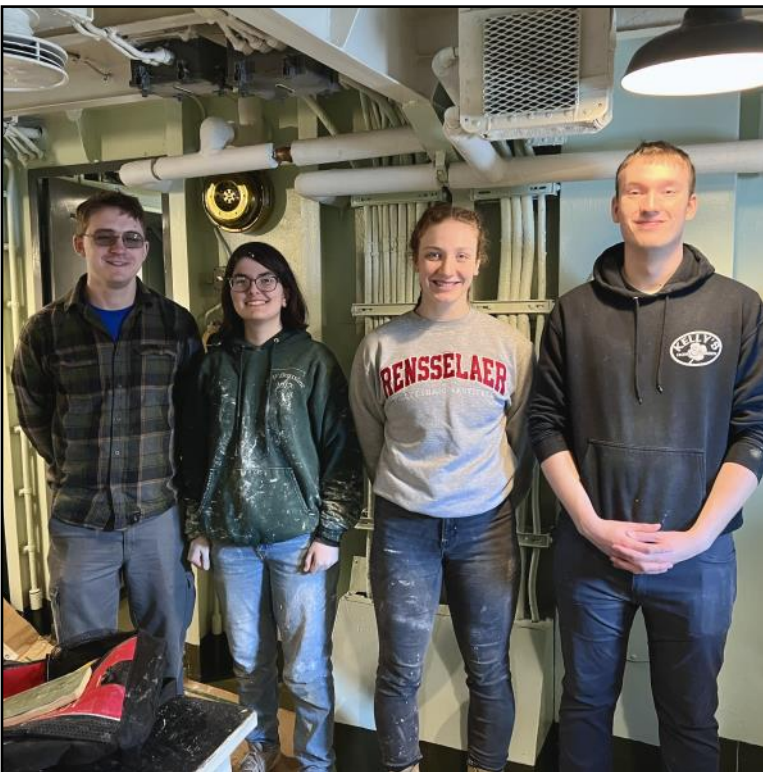
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**As we head into our 25th season in Albany, we had one of the most successful restoration winters ever.** Thanks to our Save America's Treasures Grant, we were able to completely restore and paint the Wardroom, Officer's Country, the forward cross passageway, the CPO Quarters and passageway, and the forward berthing compartment, A-205-L. The interior has never looked so good for opening day. We are also indebted to all of you who sent donations so we could exceed our \$176,000 Grant match.

**Following completion of the contract work, our volunteers masked the compartments, in preparation for spray painting.** Our paint contractor, **Kevin Sage**, began spray painting the compartments on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and finished the third week of March. He also painted all the of trim work and the decks. The whole repainting project was paid for by

**Tin Can Sailors**, from the **Thomas J. Peltin** Restoration Grant they awarded us in 2021. We owe a great debt to that organization for their support.

**Barry Witte has been working with the RPI Midshipmen to reinsulate the pipes with fiberglass pipe covering for authenticity of appearance.** It's interesting to note that the new RPI Officer in charge is **Dave Latta**, who volunteered here at SLATER many years ago, when he was going to school at NPTU. He already sent in a donation and a nice note, so I think we can expect more involvement from the Midshipmen.



***RPI Midshipmen continue to assist Barry in the reinsulating of the pipes in Officer's Country.***

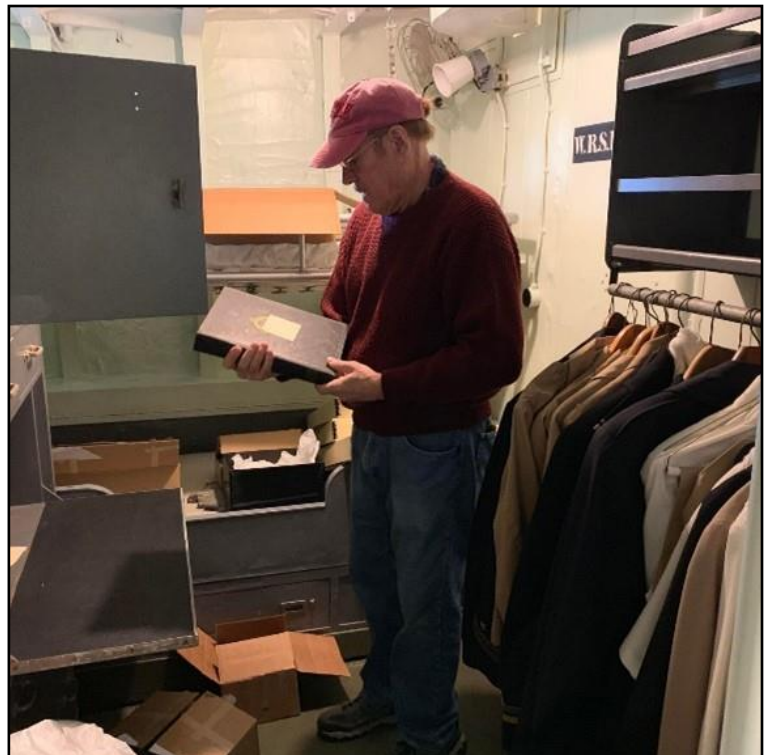


*Gary and John install the first of the racks back into the Officer's Staterooms.*

The volunteers are now in the process of cleaning all the compartments, rehangng all the bunks, and setting up all the displays for tours. Gary Sheedy, Thomas Scian, and our Curator, **John Epp**, have taken a load of work off my plate by taking ownership of this process.

**John** was excited with the completion of painting in Officer's Country, because it was finally time to return everything from storage back to their places in each of the staterooms and the wardroom. With the help of **Dennis Murray**, **Ed Nowik**, and **Tom Corigliano**, John coordinated the setting up of all these rooms in preparation for the upcoming tour season. New intern **Tyler** also joined us to get some hands-on experience.

Other work going on to get the ship ready for opening day include lifting, cleaning, and stowing the



*Ed unpacking boxes and getting the stateroom displays back in order.*

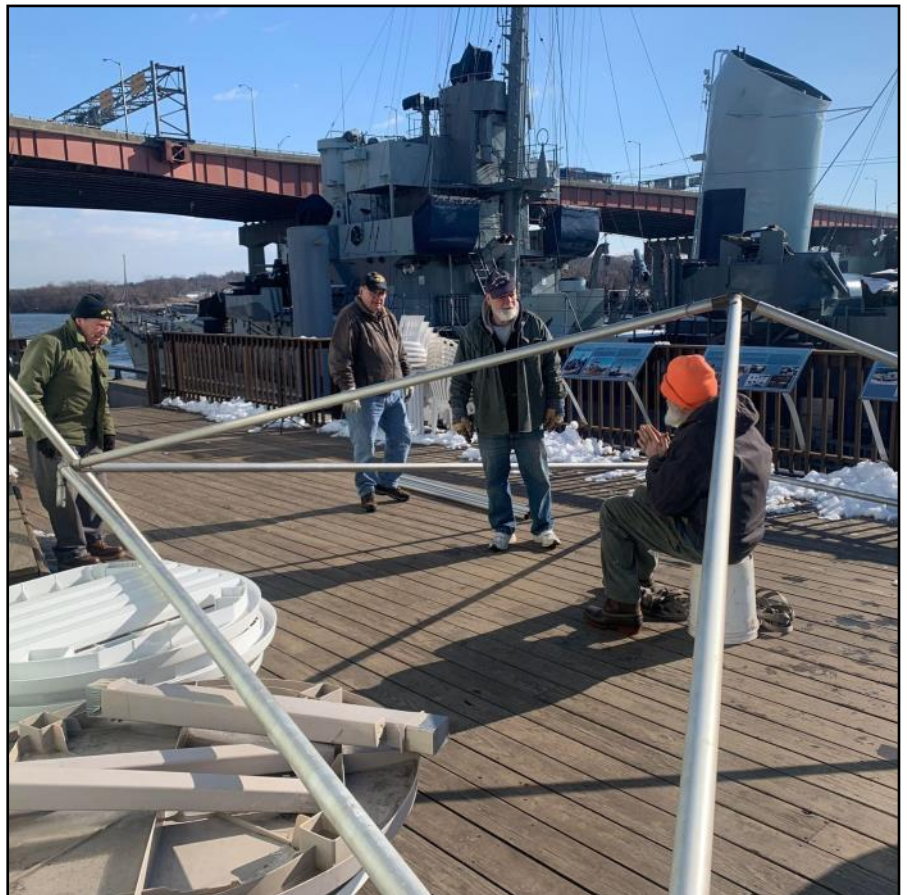
**circulators. Gary, Ed, and Paul Guarnieri** took care of that. **Doug Tanner, Tim Benner, and Dave Mardon** took charge of pressure testing, repairing, and reactivating the fresh water and sewer systems. They discovered a bad flushometer and leaky wax ring in the aft head commode. **Gary Sheedy** also did some plumbing repairs aft. That man is everywhere! The forward head has yet to be activated but will be up and running by the date of **Shanna's** first overnight on 9 April.

**Because of the contract work going on aboard ship, we moved the volunteer break area from the CPO mess to the classroom for the winter.** The crew is now back on the ship, but they left behind an extremely dirty carpet. **Gary Sheedy** again stepped forward to rent a carpet cleaning machine, and cleaned all the carpets in the classroom, office, and Ship's Store. They also, optimistically, put up the observation deck awning in early March, and fortunately it hasn't collapsed under the weight of an early spring snowstorm - yet.

**Doug Tanner and his shipfitters, Dan Statile, Dave Mardon, Chuck Teal, Warren Brozio, Earl Herchenroder, Gene Jackey, and Tim Benner** worked to repair rotted out areas of the bulkhead in the aft head. To access the rot meant removing the safety gear locker.



*Ed and Gary stow the circulators. Hopefully it will be warm enough we won't need them!*



*An optimistic group, Gene, Warren, Earl, and Tommy put up the awning on the observation deck.*

Once removed, it was found that the locker was badly deteriorated, so repairs included replacing the bottom of the locker, then cropping and renewing wasted sections of the bulkhead behind. They also made new mounts for the locker, to keep it from sitting directly on the deck, thus preventing rust build up. The locker is now back, firmly in position.

**The ongoing restoration of our 48 hedgehog projectiles is nearly complete. Danny Statile** is presently fabricating tail sections for seven projectiles that have no tails. **Warren and Earl** got all of the remaining projectiles painted and stenciled. **Thomas and Chuck** got them loaded onto the projector, which was no easy



***Let's get this locker back in place. All hands on deck!***

feat, because these weigh about sixty pounds each.

**The watertight door on the starboard side of the pilothouse is nearly complete too.** All that remains to be done is to finish welding on the swedges and hinges, install the gasket, hang the door, and paint. Then that project will be complete, and it will be time to start on the portside door, the last door we need to repair.

**You recall last month the story of the valve that leaked, and the 200 gallons of heating oil that flowed into the B-4 Bilge. Doug Tanner** supervised the recovery and set up a pump and filtration system. **Mike Dingmon, James Miles, Jim Skewes, and Jim Niemynski**



***Dave and Warren finishing up installing this watertight door in the Pilot House.***

pumped the oil back into the heating oil tank. They are now in the process of wiping down the bilges with rags and Biosole, to remove any remaining oil.

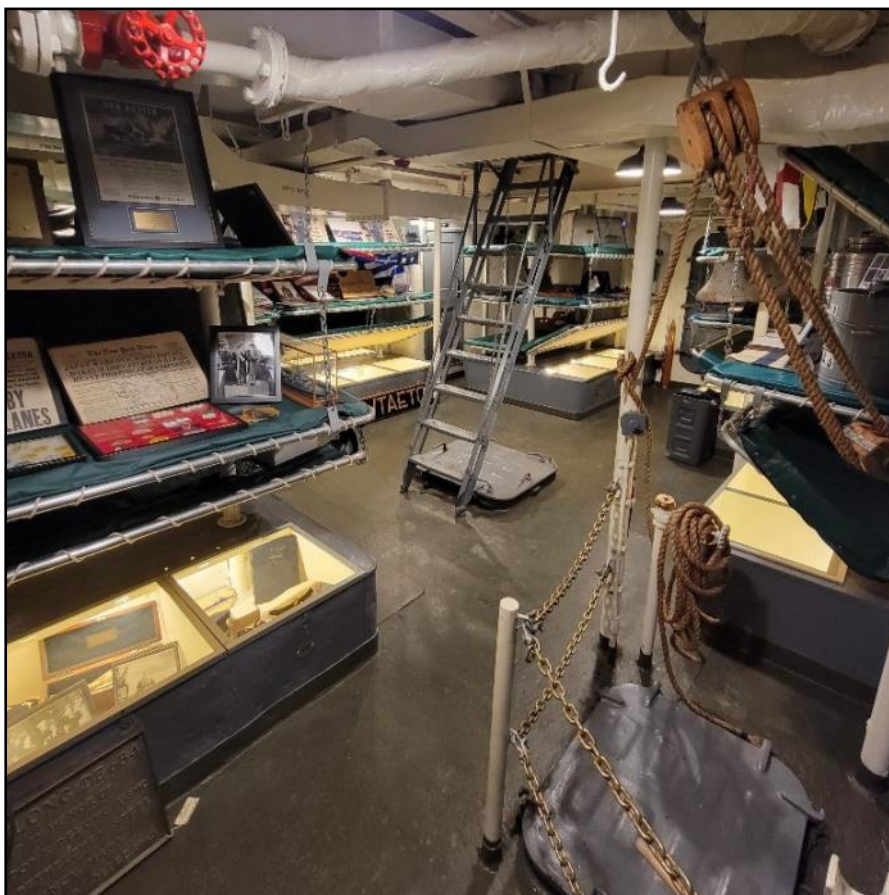
**The last surprise Doug had this month was the furnace exhaust stack.** The ductwork had rotten out in the uptake spaces, just above the muffler room. **Thomas Scian** had the unpleasant task of vacuuming out the uptake, so that forty years of accumulated dirt and rust wouldn't fall through the grating into the beautifully, freshly painted, muffler room. **Doug, Dave,** and **Chuck** got the ductwork replaced without making too much of a mess.

**Richard and Henry Burgeois have been working to restore a MK14 gunsight to operational condition.** However, as they progressed into the project, they realized that the complexity of the sight and high maintenance made the project impractical. They have since reverted to doing cosmetic restoration of our gunsights.

**Up in the radio shack, repairs to the TBL transmitter have been completed, and Steve and Chuck have made several radio contacts using the vintage unit.** Steve has also been refurbishing the entertainment speakers around the ship, and he got the radar display in CIC functioning again.

**Elsewhere, John has cleaned the Collections Space and has it set up, ready for visitors.** Each footlocker display was emptied and cleaned allowing for our new volunteers and interns to learn up close about the destroyer escorts they will be teaching visitors about. In the past month, we also received a donation of a silver candy dish and 20 mm shell casing from USS BASSETT (DE-672/APD-73). New pieces from our collections have also been added to the *Collections & Exhibits* tab on our website, so be sure to check that out!

**Inside the trailer, our Program Manager, Shanna has been busy preparing for**



***The Collections Space is looking nice!***

**opening day.** The Ship's Store is now bursting with merchandise ready to please our visitors. We even have brand new t-shirts and fleece jackets sporting a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo! She has created new water bottles, coffee mugs, stickers, patches, pencils, and our newest friends the Hedgehogs. Check out the merchandise on our website or stop by. Remember, every dollar spent in the Ship's Store goes directly back to the restoration and preservation of SLATER.

**Shanna has hired three new interns this month and the training has begun. Tyler, Andrew, and Viktor** are

on a crash course of Destroyer Escort history, and we can't wait to have them knowledgeable enough to give you a tour next month!

Speaking of DE history – Shanna also wrote the latest episode of “*DE Classified*” that aired this month. Featuring USS ULVERT M. MOORE, a DE that served in the Pacific Theatre of WWII and made six tours through the 1950's and the Korean War. She sunk subs,



***New volunteer Dennis is training to be a tour guide and also setting all the chronometers.***



***Kevin Sage did a great job with painting all the spaces we restored this winter.***

splashed planes, had a famous skipper, and may or may not have had an ice cream maker aboard. You'll have to listen to find out!

**On the 26th we invited our tour guides back for their annual Refresher Lunch.** We had thirty volunteers and interns aboard to get updates on what is new this season, refresh what we knew from previous seasons, and celebrated our successes of 2021 together. **Austin and Barry** gave an instructional tour of the Engine Room, **John** led the crew around the Collections Space, **Carl** conducted a tour for the three new interns and **Dennis**, our new volunteer. **Shanna** made sure everyone was up to date on our policies, ticket prices, and got their pizza lunch.



***Carl is training our new interns. They are waiting for you to visit!***



***Our brilliant tour guides were back in force! They are ready for next week and kicking off our 25th season in Albany!***



***Danny did so much work on our hedgehogs this winter. They look great!***

After a difficult couple of prior seasons, we are looking forward to getting back to “normal” with you all. Things are starting to look promising! School groups and summer camps are starting to contact us to book tours. We’ve got a very busy spring scheduled with an Overnight booked every weekend. Displays are being set up and lectures scheduled at area libraries. **Shanna** has also continued our partnership with nearby libraries with the USS SLATER Family Pass. Over 50 area libraries have purchased a pass, that their patrons can checkout and visit the ship for free. Ask your library if they are participating or check our website for the list of participating libraries.



***Cathy is making sure that everything is nice and clean before we open next week.***



**We have many goals for this, our 25th season in Albany.** One of which is to grow our YouTube channel. **James Miles, Thomas Scian, and Shanna** have been working together to add a weekly vlog featuring the efforts of our volunteers. Its free to subscribe to our channel and you will get notified every time we post a new video. Our goal is to reach 4,000 subscribers this season.

**In the middle of all that, Shanna found time to take a vacation with family to Hawaii for a week.** The family went to the island of Kauai, but **Shanna** and her husband made a detour to Oahu to visit the Pearl Harbor Memorials. These are her thoughts. “It is so important to remember the sacrifices that were made on that dreadful day and the consequences that we all still live with that came out of the attack. The war that followed is the inspiration for countless books, movies, and stories of



***Shanna made it to the Pearl Harbor Memorial this month.***



***Earl, Gene, and Angelo are repairing the call colors before opening day!***

heroes. It sparks so much interest in the weaponry used, technology invented, and intelligence utilized. It’s so fascinating, that sometimes we forget about the normal men and women who simply fulfilled their duties, worked through their fear, enlisted because it was the right thing to do, and grew up a lot quicker than they should have had to. I’m grateful we have museum ships like the MISSOURI and SLATER to remind people 80 years later, that ordinary people are capable of extraordinary things.”

See you next month,

Tim