

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



March 2016

Greetings Shipmates:

It's been too long since the last newsletter and we apologize. We hope everyone is doing well and winter hasn't been too bad where you live.

Don Johnson has been working on preparations for the San Diego reunion in September. The reunion will be at the Four Points Hotel. Reservation information will be on the next page. **Note that the deadline for reservations is July 1, 2016.** If you do not make your reservation by then, you may not get the reunion price. You should make a reservation. You can always cancel if for some reason you won't be able to attend.

The only thing we don't have "cast in stone" is the welcome buffet. On the next page will be a list of the events planned. In the next newsletter, which we plan to put out in less than a month, we'll have event sign-up sheets with pricing.

If you are in contact with a shipmate who is not on the roster, please send us the name and address so we can add him and send newsletters. A lot of guys have told us they were out and about wearing their ship's baseball cap and were approached by someone who also served aboard. So if you have a cap, be sure to wear it! If you don't have one and would like to order one, ordering information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.

If you're on Facebook, please join the USS Porterfield group page. It's a place where you can keep up with your shipmates. Lots of photos posted there. Family members are also welcome. Just type USS Porterfield in the search box and click on "ask to be added" when you get to the page. There is also a lot of useful information on the page about Asbestos and Agent Orange exposure and filing claims with the VA. Several guys have been successful and are willing to help others negotiate the red tape. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to www.facebook.com and sign up. It's easy and free.

If you know of a shipmate or the wife of a shipmate who is ill or has passed away, please let us know.

**** IMPORTANT ****

If your address or email address has changed, please be sure to send us the change as soon as possible. Each time we send out newsletters, we get several mail and email returns. Some of the mail returns have new addresses, but many don't. Postage is a large expense for the association, so returns are costly. If there is no forwarding address, we have to remove that person from our mailing list. If an email gets returned, we then have to add that person to the list of people to receive paper copies, increasing postage costs.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,
Jim & Pat Siler



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Reunion 2016—San Diego, CA

Four Points Hotel San Diego
8110 Aero Drive
San Diego, CA

Reservations: 858-810-5619, be sure to mention the Balch-Porterfield Reunion

Dates: September 11-17, 2016

Room Rates (taxes and service charges are not included):

Single \$109.00

Double \$119.00

Rates are good three nights before and three nights after the reunion.

Breakfast is included.

Monday: Board Meeting
Welcome buffet (this has not been finalized yet)

Tuesday: Tour (to be determined) *

Wednesday: Tour (to be determined) *

Thursday: Memorial Service and Tour (to be determined) *

Friday: Business meeting, raffle and 50/50 drawing. Please bring an item for the raffle.
Banquet

Saturday: Farewell breakfast

There will be tours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contracts haven't been signed as yet, but they might include downtown San Diego and Gaslight District, Shelter Island, Mt. Soledad. The Memorial Service might be at Mt. Soledad. The next newsletter will have full details. The price for each tour is \$69.00.

Don Johnson has been working with a reunion planner/tour operator who we've worked with before. The first reunion we ever attended was in 1998 in San Diego. The owner met the buses at each stop to be sure everything went smoothly. We were so impressed that we used his company for a USS Henry W. Tucker reunion in 2002. His service again was top notch! He was at each stop. When our Memorial Service was rained out (a "monsoon"), he was there. It was at Shelter Island and we were to have lunch after at the restaurant there. Within minutes, he arranged to have the memorial service inside the restaurant. We know that this time will be no different. We will be in good hands.

Financial Report for 2015

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance October 31, 201			\$ 12,371.00
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 274.00	
Donations		<u>\$ 250.00</u>	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 524.00	
Balance			\$ 12,895.00
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap expenses	\$ 227.00		
Newsletter - printing & postage	\$ 816.00		
Plaque engraving	\$ 165.00		
Pens (printed w/association name)	<u>\$ 209.00</u>		
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 1,417.00		
Balance			\$ 11,478.00
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Registrations		\$ 280.00	
Kitty		\$ 1,475.00	
Raffle		\$ 215.00	
50/50		\$ 85.00	
Silent Auction		\$ 150.00	
Activities		<u>\$ 7,591.00</u>	
Total reunion income		\$ 9,796.00	
Balance			\$ 21,274.00
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Monday night banquet	\$ 2,372.00		
Friday night banquet	\$ 2,293.00		
Friday entertainment	\$ 200.00		
Tuesday activities	\$ 252.00		
Thursday activities	\$ 672.00		
Bus	\$ 1,521.00		
Quarterdeck food & beverage	\$ 625.00		
College of the Ozarks	\$ 150.00		
Reimbursements	<u>\$ 448.00</u>		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 8,533.00		
Bank balance October 31, 2015			\$ 12,741.00

Additions to the Roster

Michael Allomong
P, BMSN, 63-64
288 N Hartford St. Apt. 2
Chandler, AZ 85225
mallomong@cox.net

Leo Armenta
P, GMG3, 65-69
1801 Aspen St.
Broomfield, CO 80020
lwarmenta@comcast.net

Adam von Dioszeghy
LTjg (ASW Officer), 65-66
Lives in Hungary
adamandaliz@yahoo.com

Rufus Graham
P, SN, 66
7833 The Lakes Dr
Fairburn, GA 30213
313-268-0610
rbgra14@sbcglobal.net

Additions to the Memorial List

John Blumenthal
P, MM2, 43-46

Kent Carmain
B, TM, 42-43

James T. Franklin
P, MMC, 52-55 & 67

Robert Gewinner
P, GM3, 43-45

Robert Guerra
B, GM3, 42-43

Donald A. Hamilton
P, BMC, 52-53

Brian Hoffman
P, SN, 51-53

William Marinese
B, GM2, 43-45

Ray Stikeleather
P, RD2, 51-54

Change of Address

Donald Bartels
P, LT, 66
1742 Parkland Dr
College Station, TX 71845
409-722-7014

Carol Laycock (widow of Cliff)
496 W 350 S Unit C
Springville, UT 84663-5815
801-423-6529

Contact Information

Jim and Pat Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway, VA 24067-4524

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer

Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com
Phone: 260-632-4019
(cell) 260-415-3555

Website (<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>)

Pat Siler is the webmaster. She is planning to overhaul the site, so please have patience while this is being done. If there is anyone with experience and would be interested in working with the photo gallery on the website, please contact Pat.

Newsletters are posted on the website. Email notifications are sent out when a new one is posted. The crew roster page is being updated and we hope to have it online soon.

Facebook

We're on Facebook. Type USS Porterfield in the search box and click to get to the page. Then look for "ask to be added" at the right. We'll add you and then you can start having fun. You're welcome to post photos, which everyone loves to see. And there's some useful information regarding dealing with the VA in getting disability for Agent Orange and Asbestos exposure. Family members are also welcome to join the group.

Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on. We have solid cloth and mesh back caps available. Please indicate which you prefer. To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** payable to James W. Siler, Jr. at the address above. Caps are available at reunions as well.

Patches and Decals

We have two patches and a decal for sale. The first patch, with the Pacific Ocean globe with Pride of the Pacific on it, was issued during the Korean Conflict (price \$4.00) and the second patch, with a seahorse and trident came out in the 60s (price \$5.00). The decal is the same design as the 60s patch, with the seahorse and trident (price \$3.00). Please note the increase in price for the 60s patch and decal. We've had to order new at an increased price. To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler at the address above. Patches and decals are available at reunions as well.