

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



March 2018

Greetings shipmates:

As you know, our 2017 reunion, scheduled for September 2017 in Jacksonville, FL had to be canceled due to Hurricane Irma. We had hoped Irma would not affect Jacksonville, but it came right up through Florida and hit Jacksonville right at the time the reunion was to begin. The storm surge actually came up the St. John River and overtopped the Riverwalk and flooded the parking garage under the hotel!

Tom & Ruth Hamilton had been in Florida visiting Ruth's sister before the reunion. They actually checked in to the hotel a few days before the reunion was to begin and had to check out and go back to her sister's. They were with her sister for over a week with no power until their son arrived with a generator. They finally made it home safe and sound with their dog.

We've been working with Tom and Ruth on the 2018 reunion and settled on Knoxville, TN. Hopefully, that's far enough inland to not be affected by hurricanes! We visited the Best Western Plus Cedar Bluff Inn in Knoxville in early November with Tom and Ruth, which had been recommended by a person who had run a ship's reunion there last year. The hotel is really nice and can meet all our needs. We found the entire staff to be very attentive to our needs. Their hospitality room is spacious and really nice. They do not have an in-house restaurant, but have a good continental breakfast available every day. There are many restaurants nearby and we have chosen one of them to cater our banquet at the hotel. There is also shopping in the area. One day while we were there, we took the Hamiltons to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. We ate at one of our favorite restaurants and Tom said, "We have to come here during the reunion." We have added that and a show to the itinerary.

Best Western Plus Cedar Bluff Inn
420 N. Peters Road
Knoxville, TN 37922
Toll Free: 800-780-7234
Local: 865-539-0058
www.bestwestern.com
September 9-16, 2018

Room Rate \$98.00 + tax (17.25%) Mention Balch-Porterfield Reunion
Room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion.

Event sign up sheets and pricing are included in this newsletter. We are hoping for a good turnout. There is much to see and do in the Knoxville area. At this time, we haven't scheduled entertainment for the banquet. We had asked the hotel sales person to recommend something, but haven't heard anything. In the interest of getting this newsletter out as soon as possible, we may have to forego entertainment at the banquet. In recent years, attendance has been lower and very few people participated in dancing to a DJ or a band's music.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Reunion Itinerary

- Sunday, September 9, 2018: Check in to hotel, pick up name badges and welcome packets. Free day and evening to visit and catch up.
- Monday, September 10, 2018: Free day. Welcome pizza party in the evening.
- Tuesday, September 11, 2018: Free day and evening. There will be sightseeing information available in the quarterdeck for those who would like to explore the area on their own. There is much to see and do in Knoxville and the Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg area.
- Wednesday, September 12, 2018: Dinner at Applewood Farmhouse in Pigeon Forge followed by a show at the Comedy Barn.
- Thursday, September 13, 2018: Worlds Fair Park in Knoxville for Memorial Service and then to West Town Mall for lunch on your own and shopping.
- Friday, September 14, 2018: Board meeting followed by business meeting and raffle. Banquet in the evening.
- Saturday, September 15, 2018: Farewell Breakfast.

There will be a board meeting as well. Historically, it has been held on Monday, but some board members will not be arriving until later in the week, so it will likely be Friday before the business meeting.

We've included a questionnaire in this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it with your sign up sheet. Even if you aren't able to attend, please send it back. It will help with planning for the future of the association.

***** Important Notice *****

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, PLEASE let us know as soon as possible. Each time we send out newsletters, we get MANY postal returns and several email bounces. We want to continue sending you newsletters, but can only do so if you make sure your address, phone and email information are current with us. We will have the roster available at the reunion for you to update and we encourage everyone to take a look and make sure we have full current information.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

Jim & Pat Siler

Additions to the Memorial List

Robert Allard, P, WT2, 43-46

Raymond P. Avery, P, CS3, 58-61

Rollin Baptist, FC3, 43-45

John Bosler, P, FN, 68-69

Carl E. Brandt, B, Radarman, 43

John A. Carsten, B, LT 43-45

John Clark, P, ETN3, 66

August M. "Bub" Erwin, B, TPM3, 41-42

Robert Guerra, B, GM3, 42-43

Ray Leith, P, BT1, 51-54

Leonard R. Perri, B, YN3, 43-44

Additions to the Crew List

No additions at this time.

Address Changes

John "Jack" Chapman, EM1, 51-55
oneiron30@gmail.com

Fred Fleetwood, P, BT3, 62-65
9999 E 121st St. S, #117
Bixby, OK 74008-2351

Larry B. Gordon, P, MM2, 66
7980 Spot Light Rd.
Lyleston, TN 37098-1650

Jeff Tessier, P, 51-55
The Haven #105
8225 YMCA Plaza Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
225-383-3113
crdst881@cox.net

Joe Zmudka, P, FP2, 51-54
1709 6th St.
Peru, IL 61354-2649

USPS Returns

William Coke, BT3, 40s
7318 Oakstone Dr.
Dallas, TX 75249

Jess Gunter, GM2, 52-54
2405 Danciger Ln
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Edward L. Thornton, CS2, 58-59
1816 Cartier Dr
Livermore, CA 94550

If you receive word of the passing of a shipmate or change of address of a shipmate, please let us know.

If you have address information on the USPS Returns, please let us know.

Balch Porterfield Reunion Association

Expense Report

Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2017

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance 10/31/16			\$ 13,023.00
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 71.00	
Donations		\$ 100.00	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 171.00	
Balance			\$ 13,194.00
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap expenses			
Imperial Trophy	\$ 25.68		
Newsletter - printing & postage			
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 25.68		
Balance			\$ 13,168.32
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Activity registrations from registrants		\$ 9,451.00	
refund from Active Escapes		\$ 10,090.00	
Total reunion income		\$ 19,541.00	
Balance			\$ 32,709.32
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Refunds to registrants	\$ 9,451.00		
Active Escapes	\$ 10,840.00		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 20,291.00		
Bank balance Oct. 31, 2017			\$ 12,418.32

Questionnaire

Please fill out this questionnaire and return it to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway, VA 24067. If you plan to attend the reunion in Knoxville, you can return it to Jim with your sign up sheet to save postage.

These are YOUR reunions and we want to know what you think.

Do you usually attend reunions: _____

Have you attended before, but not any more? _____

Why have you stopped attending reunions? _____

Reunions usually last 7 days and consist of a welcome dinner, one or two tours, a memorial service, a banquet, and a farewell breakfast. There is also a board meeting (anyone who has hosted a reunion is a board member) and a business meeting. Is this satisfactory? Do you have suggestions for changes/improvements. _____

Currently, reunions are held every year? If they were every two years, would you be more likely to attend?

Do you have suggestions of places to have reunions? _____

If you would like to see a reunion near your home, would you be willing to help find a hotel and help host the reunion: _____

Do you want to see reunions continue? _____

Please put any comments/concerns/suggestions below.

Thank you! We appreciate your participation.

Please complete all **the information below** and return with your check, payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn. to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774-9726.**

Time	Sunday, September 9, 2017	\$ per Person	# of People	\$ Total
1300 (1p)	Quarterdeck opens Pick up name badges, programs, etc. Free afternoon and evening	Registration: \$5.00 Kitty: \$25.00		
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
	Monday, September 10, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens Free day			
1700 (5p)	Quarterdeck closes			
1800 (6p)	Welcome Pizza Party	\$20.00		
	Tuesday, September 11, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
TBA	Dinner at Applewood Farmhouse & show at Comedy Barn in Pigeon Forge	\$80.00		
TBA	Return to hotel			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
	Wednesday, September 12, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
	Free day and evening			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
	Thursday, September 13, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
TBA	Memorial Service at World's Fair Park, Knoxville	\$20.00		
	Lunch on your own and shopping at West Town Mall			
TBA	Return to hotel			
2200 (10p)	Quarterdeck closes			
	Friday, September 14, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
TBA	Board Meeting			
TBA	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1650 (4:30p)	Quarterdeck closes			
1800 (6p)	Banquet Buffet	\$60.00		
	Saturday, September 15, 2017			
0700 (7a)	Quarterdeck opens			
0730 (7:30a)	Farewell Breakfast			
	Total \$			

Name: _____ Rate/Rank _____ Years 19 to 19 _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Guest(s): _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes _____ No _____ Will you be staying at the hotel? Yes _____ No _____

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Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Guest(s): _____

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Contact Information

Jim Siler, Secretary
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 (Tom)
Cell: 260-348-7213 (Ruth)

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

Newsletters are posted on the website for those who have email. Email notifications are sent out when a new one is posted. If you receive your newsletter via USPS and have an email address, please send us your email address so we can send you the email notifications.

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.