

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



April 2013

Greetings Shipmates:

Plans have been finalized for this year's reunion in Salt Lake City. Gaylen and Idonna Robison will be our hosts. They've put together a really nice reunion.

You may make your hotel reservations now. Be sure to mention you are with the Balch-Porterfield Reunion to get the reunion rate. If you're not sure you'll be able to attend, make a reservation anyway. You can always cancel if you need to.

Place: Hampton Inn & Suites
307 North Admiral Byrd Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
Tel: 801-530-0088
Fax: 801-530-3108

Dates: Sunday, September 8, 2013 to
Saturday, September 14, 2013

Room Rate: \$99.00 per night plus 12.6% tax
Room rate available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion.

Deadline: August 1, 2013

Utah state law and hotel rules prohibit us from bringing alcohol for the quarterdeck. There will be a cash bar set up just outside the quarterdeck and there is a restaurant and bar in the hotel. Because we won't have to buy alcohol for the quarterdeck, the kitty will be reduced to \$15.00, which will cover lunches, snack food, bottled water and soft drinks.

Please fill out the event sign-up forms and return by August 1. There are two forms. Follow the instructions at the top of each page to send one to Tom Hamilton, Treasurer and the other to Gaylen Robison, our reunion host. Please be sure to fill out the bottom of the form completely, so we can make name badges for everyone.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682



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Not included in the itinerary, but something people might want to do on their own: the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearses on Thursday nights and the rehearsals are open to the public. We'll have information on time, place and light rail schedule for those who might like to take that in. The Robisons also recommend Fort Douglas, which has an excellent museum. Salt Lake City has an extensive light rail and bus system. We'll be sure to have copies of the routes and schedules available.

We'd also like suggestions on how to find crew members. We currently have 1,183 people in the database, which includes 416 who are deceased. We know there must be thousands of men out there who served on the Porterfield, and maybe a few still living who served on the Balch. If you are in contact with shipmates who aren't receiving our newsletters, or remember the names and hometowns of shipmates you don't have contact with, please send them to us. 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, 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. Be sure to "friend" us on Facebook as well. Jim is James Bill Siler and Pat is Patricia Anderson Siler. 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 have news about yourself or your shipmates, or if you know of anyone who is ill or has passed away, please let us know so we can include it in newsletters.

**** 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. When we get returns, we have to resend the newsletter to your new address, which adds to the postage costs. If we get a return with 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. If you have a new address for anyone on the list, please send it to us.

Fair winds and smooth sailing
Jim & Pat Siler

Additions to Memorial List

Barton M. Coble
Porterfield, RDSN, 65-67

Gerald "Jerry" Peterson
Porterfield, TMT2, 52-56

Lawrence Colwell
Porterfield, BMSN, 58-60

Brian E. Sams
Porterfield, MM3, 65-68

Mary Hutten
Widow of Augie DeWolf
Balch 43-44

Additions to Roster

Nebert A. "Frenchie" LeJeune
Porterfield, MM3, 61-65
Wife: Vicki
298 Grape St.
DeQuincy, LA 70633
Home: 337-786-2748
Cell: 337-540-1167
nlejeune@dunhamprice.com

Address, Phone, Email Additions and Changes

Ted Griffith
Balch, GM3, 43-46
1045 Acacia Dr.
Placentia, CA 92870-4492
No phone listed

John Kinkead
Balch, SN1/c, 44-45
498 Lisbon Rd.
Darlington, PA 16115
No phone listed.

Michael R. Judd
Porterfield, ETN2, 61-64
Wife: Anne
110 Greywolf Rd.
Sequim, WA 98382
mrjudd@aol.com

Junior R. Lowe
Porterfield, rate & years unknown
371 N Wilson Rd
Lowgap, NC 27024
Phone unchanged.

Postal Returns

George Coenen
Porterfield, ETR2, 63-66

Donald D. Shafer
Porterfield, 54

Louie Lucas
Porterfield, rate & years unknown

Please complete this form by August 1, 2013 and send with your check to **Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774.**

Time		Price Per Person	Number Of People	Total
Sunday, September 8, 2013				
1200 (noon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens Registration Kitty 	\$5.00		
2200 (10 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick up name badges & welcome packets Free day and evening Quarterdeck closes 	\$15.00		
Monday, September 9, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens Free day 			
1800 (6 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome buffet 	\$32.00		
2200 (10 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck closes 			
Tuesday, September 10, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens 			
0930 (9:30 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board buses for Heber Creeper 			
Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heber Creeper Train Ride, includes transportation and lunch 	\$45.00		
1530 (3:30 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free evening 			
2200 (10 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck closes 			
Wednesday, September 11, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free day and evening 			
2200 (10 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck closes 			
Thursday, September 12, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens 			
1000 (10 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Service 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free afternoon and evening 			
2200 (10 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck closes 			
Friday, September 13, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck opens 			
1000 (10 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business meeting and raffle 			
1500 (3 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterdeck closes 			
1800 (6 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banquet 	\$30.00		
Saturday, September 14, 2013				
0700 (7 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farewell breakfast 			
			Total	

Name _____ Spouse _____

Ship: _____ Rate: _____ Years Aboard: 19 to 19

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email Address _____

Names of Guests _____

Please complete this form by August 1, 2013 and send with your check to **Gaylen Robison, PO Box 72, Woodruff, UT 84086.**

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Names of Guests _____

Contact Information

Jim and Pat Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway, VA 24067-4524
Phone/Fax: 540-483-5727

Email Jim: jwsilerbtc@gmail.com
Email Pat: silerpugs@yahoo.com

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer
Phone: (home) 260-632-4019
(cell) 260-415-3555

Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com

Website

<http://www.balch-porterfield.org>

The Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association website was created by Jeff Shaffer and maintained by him for many years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work. Pat Siler has taken it over and is in the process of updating the site. Please be patient while this is being done.

If there is anyone with website expertise, especially working with photo albums, I'd welcome some help setting up a page (or fixing the links on the current page, most of which aren't working) with links to the various albums that are on the site. I'd like to see a really user-friendly page so that visitors to the site can find things easily. I hope that person would be willing to manage the photo section of the site going forward, uploading new photos, etc.

This newsletter will be posted on the website along with previous newsletters.

Baseball Caps

We have baseball caps for sale. The price is \$12.00, which includes shipping. Please indicate which ship you were on.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to:

Jim Siler
835 Claybanks Drive
Callaway VA 24067-4524.

Patches

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.