

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



April 2014

Greetings Shipmates:

Plans have been finalized for the reunion in Buffalo in September. David & Marie Lesh have really put together a wonderful reunion. We are really looking forward to it. The dates are September 7-13. Below is the hotel information.

Hotel Reservation Info: Millennium Airport Hotel
2040 Walden Avenue
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
Toll Free Reservations: 800-866-8086 or
800-323-3331
Local Number: 716-681-2400
Website: www.millenniumhotels.com
Rates: Room: \$109.00 plus tax (breakfast included)
Suite*: \$159.00 plus tax (breakfast included)
* Specifically ask for a sofa bed if extra bed is needed
in your suite.

Make your reservations before August 1. Prices are good two days before and two days after the reunion.

There are two sign-up sheets. One goes to Tom Hamilton, Treasurer (with your check) and the other goes to the Leshes so they will have an accurate count. Their addresses are at the top of each sheet. Please be sure to fill out both forms completely and send them in.

If you plan to go to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, be sure to have a valid passport with you.

On Monday, the Buffalo/Niagara Falls Visitors Bureau will have a **manned** table for information on things to do in your free time. On Tuesday, they will have an **unmanned** table.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Notes:

- The Kitty (\$25) covers lunches and snacks on the Quarterdeck as well as alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and paper goods. Lunch will be from noon to 1pm on Monday and Friday. We will be on tours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- The price of Tuesday's tours (\$90) includes driver gratuity, tour guide and lunch with tip. The trip includes a boat ride on the Erie Canal and lunch in Lockport, NY and Niagara Falls. There will be a boat ride on the Maid of the Mist. Time permitting, we will visit Goat Island for other photo opportunities.
- The price of Wednesday's tours (\$28) includes driver gratuity and tickets to the museum. Lunch is on your own and not included in the price. In East Aurora, NY, we will visit the Made in USA Store and Viddlers 5 & 10 Cent Store. Lunch will be in Aurora. We will then go to North Tonawanda, NY to tour the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum.
- The price of Thursday's trip (\$62) includes tickets to both sites, driver gratuity and lunch with tip. The trip to the Buffalo Naval Park includes visits to USS Sullivans (destroyer), USS Little Rock (cruiser), USS Croaker (sub), and museum with lunch and memorial service. The lunch buffet will be served on the canopied fantail of the USS Little Rock. Then we will go on a tour of the Wilcox mansion, the site of the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt following the assassination of President McKinley in Buffalo on Sept. 14, 1901.

Note from Pat: We have many additions and address changes to the roster as well as news of some who have passed away. In the interest of getting this newsletter out, I will save those for the next newsletter. I apologize for the delay. I will make sure all the new people will receive newsletters and the people whose addresses or email addresses have changed will receive them as well.

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. If you know of anyone who has passed away, we'd like to hear about them as well. We currently have about 1,200 people in the database, which includes over 400 who are deceased. We know there must be thousands of men out there who served on the Porterfield, and maybe some still living who served on the Balch. 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. Dick Syslo, MM3, 64-68, has been working on the roster, contacting people and finding some we haven't found before. We thank Dick for his hard work.

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.

**** 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 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

Please fill out this form and return it **with your check (payable to Balch-Porterfield Reunion Assn.)** to Tom Hamilton, 17004 Doty Rd, New Haven, IN 46774.

		Price per Person	# of People	Amt. of Payment
	Sunday, September 7			
1300	Quarterdeck opens	Reg. \$5 Kitty \$25		
2200	Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package Pay Registration & Kitty; Free day and evening Quarterdeck closes			
	Monday, September 8			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$57		
1000	Continue registration			
1200-1300	Board of Directors meeting			
1800	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
2200	Welcome buffet & entertainment Quarterdeck closes			
	Tuesday, September 9			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$90		
0900	Board buses for Erie Canal Boat ride and lunch; board buses for Niagara Falls (US side)			
1600	Return to hotel; free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Wednesday, September 10			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$28		
0900	Board Buses for Aurora, NY. Visit the Made in USA Store and Viddlers 5 & 10 Cent Store. Lunch on your own. Board buses for N. Tonawanda, NY to tour Herschell Carousel Factory Museum			
1700	Return to hotel; free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Thursday, September 11			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$62		
0930	Board buses for Buffalo Naval Park with lunch and memorial service. Board buses for tour of Wilcox mansion. Price is all inclusive.			
1700	Return to hotel. Free evening.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Friday, September 12			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
Time TBA	Business meeting & raffle			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1700-1900	Cash bar			
1800	Banquet & entertainment (chicken \$47, seafood \$48, prime rib \$54) Circle your choice.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Saturday, September 16			
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			

Name _____ Rate/Rank _____ Years 19 19 Spouse _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____ First Reunion? Yes No

Guests Names _____

Please fill out this form and return it to Dave Lesh, 5808 Forest Crossing, Erie, PA 16506.

		Price per Person	# of People	Amt. of Payment
	Sunday, September 7			
1300	Quarterdeck opens	Reg. \$5 Kitty \$25		
2200	Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package Pay Registration & Kitty; Free day and evening Quarterdeck closes			
	Monday, September 8			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$57.00		
1000	Continue registration			
1200-1300	Board of Directors meeting			
1800	Lunch Quarterdeck; Free day			
2200	Welcome buffet & entertainment Quarterdeck closes			
	Tuesday, September 9			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$90.00		
0900	Board buses for Erie Canal Boat ride and lunch followed by Niagara Falls (US side)			
1600	Return to hotel; free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Wednesday, September 10			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$28.00		
0900	Board Buses for Aurora, NY. Visit the Made in USA Store and Viddlers 5 & 10 Cent Store. Lunch on your own. Board buses for N. Tonawanda, NY to tour Herschell Carousel Factory Museum			
1700	Return to hotel; free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Thursday, September 11			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$62.00		
0930	Board buses for Buffalo Naval Park with lunch and memorial service. Board buses for tour of Wilcox mansion. Price is all inclusive.			
1700	Return to hotel. Free evening.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Friday, September 12			
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
Time TBA	Business meeting & raffle			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1700-1900	Cash bar			
1800	Banquet & entertainment (chicken \$47, seafood \$48, prime rib \$54) Circle your choice.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Saturday, September 16			
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			

Name _____ Rate/Rank _____ Years 19 19 Spouse _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____ First Reunion? Yes No

Guests Names _____

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 is recreating the site. Once the crew pages are done, she will publish part of the new site and link it to the old site. Then as new pages are added, they will be published. Please be patient while this is being done.

If there is anyone with experience working with photo galleries on websites, contact Pat. She would send the "gallery" pages for the new site and the photo files to that person and give the person a password for the website so he/she could upload files.

This newsletter and all newsletters will be available on the website.

Facebook

We're on Facebook. Type USS Porterfield in the search box and click to get to the page. Then look for "Join Group" 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.

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.