

## BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



January 2013

Greetings Shipmates:

The Salt Lake City reunion was a success by all accounts. We were sorry to have to miss it but we are glad everyone had a good time.

We were asked to include this from the reunion hosts, Gaylen and Idonna Robison: "Thank everyone for coming to Salt Lake City for this 2013 reunion. They all made the success of the reunion by helping us at every turn; by planning extra tours that they wanted to take and by helping put out the food for lunches. We are looking forward to seeing everyone next year in Buffalo, NY. Thanks! Gaylen and Idonna"

Plans are well underway for the 2014 reunion in Buffalo, NY.

From David & Marie Lesh, our hosts for the 2014 reunion in Buffalo, NY: "We learned a lot at the Salt Lake City reunion. I now refer to it as **command under fire**. The contract has been agreed to and signed.

We have had discussions with the Buffalo-Niagara Visitors Bureau. A person has been assigned to the reunion group to assist in any way possible including but not limited to finding entertainment, tours and tour bus rentals, and to providing a table, in the lobby, with a representative the first couple of days to work with attendee's to provide any and all information relative to sightseeing, dining and shopping in the Buffalo/Niagara area.

We spoke to a number of people, in SLC, about their interests in New York. The 2 big things brought up were Niagara Falls and the Buffalo Naval Museum. The great thing about the Buffalo Naval Museum is the U.S.S. Sullivans (DD-537). She is a Fletcher class destroyer in a post WW2 configuration. She is very similar to the way I remember the Porterfield during my tour aboard. Just about everything is open or available to be seen with the exception of the forward fire-room and the forward engine-room. Besides that, you can also tour the U.S.S. Little Rock (CLG) and the U.S.S. Crocker (a WW2 submarine). Within the confines of the museum grounds there is a small museum, a river patrol boat, several airplanes and a helicopter, and a BAR and for those who wish to take a break during our visit. Also let the group know that their membership card in Tin Can Sailor gets you free access. It may also include family members, BUT do not quote me until I can confirm.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

Our plan is to work out an arrangement with the museum organization so that we can have the memorial service aboard the Sullivans. The ship sits at deck level to the pier so that access is easy. It is also possible to have lunch there, as well. In your newsletter, please emphasize that this would be a great opportunity to bring your family so that the veterans can show where they worked, fought, slept and ate. I don't know of another opportunity that we may have in the near future. Buffalo is also a great place for a SECOND honeymoon!!

Doing Niagara Falls will be fun. It is handicapped accessible. Our intention is to go out on the Maid of the Mist, which gets you pretty close to the falls. They issue rain gear for a reason.

We have many other sites to explore including a barge ride on a section of the old Erie Canal, which includes going through a couple of locks.

One last note: Should you wish to visit the Canadian side of the falls you MUST have a valid passport. There are also other forms of ID that qualify, however, you must check out the U.S. Customs web site. Remember that the proper ID requirement is mandated by the U.S. There are a number of sites to see on that side of the falls. AAA and the internet can help you there. There is a casino on both sides of the falls should that strike your fancy.

Marie and I will be visiting Buffalo a number of times to ensure that our group has a memorable experience.

We will keep you updated.

Dave & Marie”

Sam and June Thomas celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 4. There was a party and several shipmates and family members attended.

We (Jim & Pat Siler) celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 16. On that day, we renewed our vows, which was very moving. Our children had a party for us on October 27. We had a great time. There were about 130 people there, including Tom & Ruth Hamilton, who came from Indiana.

Jack Spradlin had a fall and is in rehab. If you would like to send him a card, the address is White Oak Manor, Rm #108, PO Box 629, York, SC 29745.

Dick Syslo had a request from Emmett Hoyt, P, RD3, 67-68. “I was on the Porterfield for a very short time. About 3 months as I remember. Got on board in San Diego and only left port for exercises. Actually, I hardly remember anyone I met there. I would like to know who it was that bailed me and two other shipmates out of Tijuana Jail back in maybe March of 1968. It was an Officer and I owe him \$25 for bail. Gladly pay him if I knew who it was.”

There are a lot of additions to the roster. Dick Syslo has taken on the task of finding crew members and updating information on people we already have. Some of them are in this newsletter and more will be in the next one. The newsletter will be sent to all the new people. We welcome all these people! If any of your information is incorrect, please contact Dick or us with corrections. THANK YOU DICK!!!!!!!!!!

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 are thousands more. 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. If you're not on Facebook and would like to be, go to [www.facebook.com](http://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, phone number 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 printing and 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 printing and postage costs.**

Fair winds and smooth sailing,  
Jim & Pat Siler

## Additions to Memorial List

Briggs, Bernie, P, SM2, 65  
Chellis, Ken, P, RD, 50-52  
Clark, Marvin, B, TM2, 41-46  
Dunston, Wayne E, P, MM1, 64-69  
Goode, Charles, P, FT3, 43-46  
Griffith, Ted M., B, GM3, 43-46  
Hegg, Harris E., P, MM3, 66

Ammon, Marie  
Widow of Les, P, WT3, 43-46

## Additions to Roster

Aaron, Harold, P, Deck Hand, 43-45  
1010 NE Lake St., Apt 2267  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
952-933-0973

Autry, Robin, P, MM2, 66  
2233 Glencoe Way  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
916-383-0898

Biancone, Donald "Tony"  
P, RD3, 55-57  
1279 Alder St  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
503-429-4648  
poppa1b@hotmail.com

Breece, Erle E.  
P, Carpenter's Mate 2, 43-46  
146 Princeton  
Pueblo, CO 81005

Burgess, Orville, P, SA, 66  
25610 W 51<sup>st</sup> St  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918-695-8188

Campbell, Jim W. P, BT3, 67-69  
8615 E Main St., Lot T29  
Mesa, AZ 85207  
jimc46@cox.net

Jones, Chester H., P, EM3, 43-45  
Kopeski, Jr Stanley C., P, BT1, 64-66  
McGinnis, Donald H. B, RM2, 41-43  
Piworski, William F., P, SFP1  
Rose, Ronald J., P, BT1, 64-69  
Shelton, Harold L., P, BT2, 64-66  
Wallace, George, P, RD2, 51-55

Cavanagh, Jr., Charles "Charlie" P, FN, 66  
17090 Redwood Hwy  
Selma, OR 97358  
541-597-4764  
oldchuckalucka@gmail.com

Chase, Tommy W., P, BMC, 63-67  
Wife Tsaiyun  
20002 Serrano Rd.  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
760-242-0908  
Tomitom2@verizon.net

Clark, Therman, P, FN, 66  
630 Burge Rd.  
Prim, AK 72130  
870-615-1660

Collins, Chuck, MM2, 63-64  
PO Box 341  
Anchor Point, AK 99556  
H: 907-235-6271  
C: 907-339-1432  
pales@ptialaska@net

Fielding, Everett E. "Ed", P, MM2, 66  
Wife Lana  
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Paulden, AZ 86334-4609  
Ed C: 928-308-2555  
Lana C: 928-308-2556  
eefielding@gmail.com

Frix, Richard F., P, MM2, 66  
12930 Grand Ln.  
Orlando, FL 92825  
407-273-2316

Gordon, Larry B., P, MM2, 66  
116 Monument Cir.  
Summertown, TN 38483  
931-964-4316

Hightower, Alton, P, MM3, 60s  
4338 Hwy 485  
Robeline, LA 71469  
Cell: 318-332-8123

Hoyt, Emmett L., P, RD3, 67-68  
14117 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Burien, WA 98166

Hugo, Dave, P, SFP2, 66  
2017 Comstock Ct  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
661-266-2500  
davehugo@att.net

Jones, Thomas, P, MM2  
Wife Rhonda  
17532 Gothard St  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647-6214  
precisionworksproducts@verizon.net

Jones, Jr., Hinton B., P, DC1, 66  
7717 Bevin Dr  
Macon, GA 31216  
478-778-8729

Lavergne, Robert L., P, MM3, 66  
5920 Morton St  
Metairie, LA 70003  
504-888-7100  
boblav39@yahoo.com

LeJeune, Nebert A. "Frenchie"  
P, MM3, 61-65  
Wife Vicki  
208 Grape St.  
DeQuincy, LA 70653  
H: 337-786-2748  
C: 337-540-1167  
nlejeune@dunhamprice.com

Noel, Porter Ron, P, BT2, 63-65  
PO Box 2005  
Snowflake, AZ 85937  
H: 928-536-2234  
C: 928-385-0223  
rnoel01@yahoo.com

Scherer, Bruce, P, DC3, 66  
374 Sherrow River Rd  
Shallotte, NC 28470  
910-755-6967  
suandbru@atmc.net

Selvig, Richard E., P, 66  
PO Box 363  
Clear Lake, WI 54005  
715-263-2551  
reselvig@yahoo.com

Schwebel, Donald R. "Don", P, YN2, 67-69  
517 US Hwy 278  
Warren, AR 71671  
870-226-6461  
donschwebel@me.com

Wickett, Robert J, P, EM2  
Wife Rilla  
7224 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave South  
Minneapolis, MN 55423  
6120866-7157  
rimwick@gmail.com

Wojtowicz, Ronald F., P, SL3  
Wife Victoria  
6605 Pacific Overlook Dr  
Neskowin, OR 97149  
503-392-4929  
Wogee37@embarqmail.com

## Address, Phone, Email Additions and Changes

Barni, Wayne, P, MM3, 64-67  
wayne71vette@gmail.com

Noel, Ron, P, BT2, 63-65  
928-386-0223

Black, John W., P, LT  
732-928-7321

Prisendorf, Richard, P, RD3, 55-58  
10632 Hwy U  
Mora, MO 65345-2024

Bopp, Larry, P, SN, 67-68  
856-461-4158

Tuter, Ed, P, MM3, 66  
C: 719-557-1189

Howard, Denis, P, E3, 61-63  
2543 Skipper Ln.  
Lk Havasu Cty, AZ 86403-5032

Thweatt, Frank, P, LT, 60-63  
2400 Grandiflora Blvd, Unit E310  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408-7096  
frank3t@earthlink.net

Leith, Ray, P, BT1, 51-54  
PO Box 310493  
Birmingham, AL 35231-0493

Underwood, Rodney, P, GMG3, 68-69  
RodneyUnderwood@cox.net

David E. Lesh, P, MM2, 66-69  
dmlesh@icloud.com

Whitacre, Richard, P, EM3, 65-69  
C: 727-692-6872  
RickWhitacre@ymail.co

Mike Lundy, P, RD2, 62-65  
Bmlundy6789@sbcglobal.net



# Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association

## Expense Report

Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2013

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Balance October 31, 2012			\$ 11,530.00
<u>Income - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap & Decal sales		\$ 269.00	
Donations		<u>\$ 155.00</u>	
Total non-reunion related income		\$ 424.00	
Balance			\$ 11,954.00
<u>Expenses - non-reunion related</u>			
Cap expenses	\$ 1,505.00		
Newsletter - printing & postage	<u>\$ 591.00</u>		
Total non-reunion related expenses	\$ 2,096.00		
Balance			\$ 9,858.00
<u>Reunion Income</u>			
Registrations		\$ 235.00	
Kitty		\$ 705.00	
Raffle		\$ 163.00	
50/50		\$ 105.00	
Activities		<u>\$ 6,632.00</u>	
Total reunion income		\$ 7,840.00	
Balance			\$ 17,698.00
<u>Reunion Expenses</u>			
Wreath	\$ 214.00		
Bus Transportation	\$ 500.00		
Monday night banquet	\$ 1,209.00		
Friday night banquet	\$ 1,459.00		
Quarterdeck - food & beverages	\$ 1,739.00		
Entertainment - Friday	\$ 350.00		
Tuesday activities	<u>\$ 1,920.00</u>		
Total reunion expenses	\$ 7,391.00		
Bank balance as of 10/31/13			\$ 10,307.00

## 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 creating a new site. Please be patient while this is being done. We realize that many links are not working.

If there is anyone with experience working with photo galleries on websites, contact Pat Siler. 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 will be posted on the website along with previous newsletters.

## 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. There are other Navy and destroyer related groups on Facebook that might be of interest to you.

## 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. Please indicate which you prefer.

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler at the address above.

## 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.