

BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION



July 2012

Greetings Shipmates:

The reunion in Kerrville, TX begins Sunday, September 9, which is less than two months from now. If you haven't made your hotel reservation or sent in your sign-up sheet, be sure to do it as soon as possible. If you've never been to a reunion, this would be a good one to attend. Mini-Reunions have been held at this hotel for years over the Memorial Day weekend with a visit to the Nimitz Museum for their annual Memorial Service. This is a place near and dear to the hearts of Balch and Porterfield Sailors.

**Y O Ranch Hotel
2033 Sidney Baker St
Kerrville, TX 78028
877-967-3767**

The rooms are \$89.00 which includes a full Breakfast Buffet for 2 each morning. The rates are good 3 days before and after our reunion dates. When contacting the hotel for reservation, please state you are with the USS Balch/Porterfield Reunion. The cut-off date for reservation is 7am 9 August 2012. If you are computer savvy, you can see the Y O Ranch's website at www.yoresort.com.

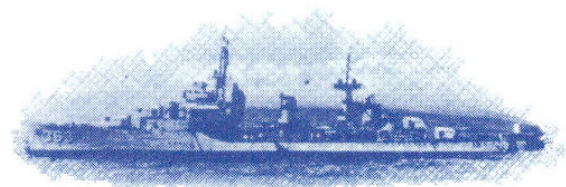
Hello Shipmates and family,

It is hard to believe it is already July and a mere 2 months from the reunion. Desiree and I have worked hard and we think we have a good reunion planned. As for transportation from the airport. In order for us to provide a plan, we need to know which airport you will be arriving and the dates and times. When you send us your registration please note on it your travel plans for arrival in Kerrville if it is by plane. Speaking of registrations, they are coming in verrryyy sllooowwwlllyyy. I hope to see everyone in Kerrville this year. So please, if you are planning on attending send your registration forms to me so I have an accurate count. Remember, the money goes to Tom Hamilton, I only want to know you are coming and what activities you are going to participate. Take care for now, hope to see you in Kerrville.

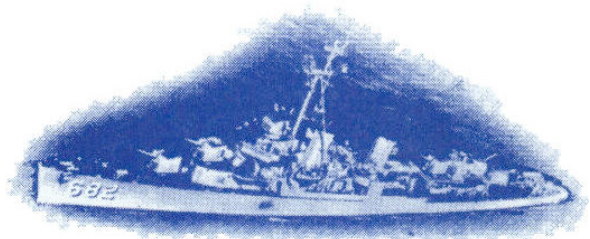
John and Desiree

Note: There are two registration forms. Please fill both out and mail the first one (with your check) to Tom Hamilton at the address on the form. The second one goes to John Bryan and Desiree Centalanza, address on form, who are our reunion hosts this year.

Email John and Desiree at sgtdes@comcast.net or call them at 904-272-4298 with questions.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

We received word that Dan Brown, RM2, 51-54 passed away. Dan lived in New Zealand but did attend some reunions, the last being Chicago. He was a really nice guy and sent the most wonderful email newsletters about his family and life in New Zealand. Dan will be missed.

From Sam Thomas: It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to report the loss of another old shipmate – Dave Spencer. Dave's first reunion was #5 at Owensboro, KY in the year of 1980. Dave and his wife Hazel made all of the reunions after that until their health failed. They still attended all the mini reunions in Kerrville, Texas. In fact, they hosted all of the minis for years. Dave and Hazel hosted the 1984 reunion at Santa Rosa, CA. when he was president. I believe it was the biggest reunion as far as attendance goes. It certainly was the best. They made arrangements after the reunion for a group of us to fly over to Hawaii, board a cruise ship and tour several of the Islands. About forty shipmates and their wives made the trip. Needless to say, we had a great time. Dave was also treasurer for several years and only gave it up when Hazel's health failed, she had cancer. Dave has two daughters. If you would like to send a card, one of the daughters address is listed below. My family, along with many other families, will miss Dave. He was not only a good shipmate but also a dear friend.

Linda North [daughter]
502 Hastings Drive
Peach Tree City, GA 30269

The 2013 reunion will be hosted by Gaylen Robison in Salt Lake City, UT. It will be at the Hampton Inn Airport hotel, dates Sunday Sept. 8 to Saturday, Sept. 14. The room rate is \$99 per night plus tax. More information will be available in the first newsletter of 2013.

If you know of anyone who served aboard the Balch or the Porterfield who isn't a member of the association, please send us any information you can about him. 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. 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. And be sure to "friend" us. Jim is James Bill Siler and I'm 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 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. 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 those are returned, we have no way of getting newsletters to you. If you have a new address for anyone on the list, please send it to us.

If you have news about yourself or your shipmates, please let us know so we can include it in newsletters.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,
Jim & Pat Siler

Additions to Memorial List

Jesse Ashcraft
Porterfield, Chaplain, 52-53

Dan Brown
Porterfield, RM2, 51-54

Ray Dunn
Balch, LT, 43-45

William Glasson
Porterfield, MMC, 58-59

Harold Hall
Balch, YNC, 40-44

Neil MacIntosh
Porterfield, CDR, 43-45

Leonard F. Simons
Balch, LTJG, 43

David Spencer
Porterfield, GM3, 43-45

Norman Vogel
Balch, RDM2, 42-45

John Watterson
Porterfield, SFP, 65-68

Address, Phone, Email Additions and Changes

Estle E. Brunton, Porterfield, IC2, 51-52
PO Box 5049
Topeka, KS 66605-0049

Donald A. Hamilton, Porterfield, BMC, 52-53
3201 Plumas St., Apt. 281
Reno, NV 89509-4799

Clarence Hughes, Porterfield, TM2, 51-52
155 Serral Dr #312
Greeneville, TN 37745-3067

Robert B. Hutchins, Porterfield, BTFN, 65-58
106 11th St #3
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-922-3504

Frank M. Paxton, Sr., Porterfield, MM2, 65
263 Ridgeview Dr.
Clarksville, IN 47129-9146

Charles C. Sutherlin, Porterfield, QM3, 51-52
420 Teton Dr.
Farmington, NM 87401-8600
505-564-9338

Vernon B. Ulrich, Porterfield, BT3, 53-57
PO Box 1201
Riggins, ID 83549-1201

William T. Young, Porterfield, CDR, 64
6125 Sweet Ln.
White City, OR 97503-9589

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

All prices include tax and gratuity, including for the coach drivers. Entertainment at the banquet included in cost of banquet.

Sunday	September 9, 2012	Price Per Person	Number of People	Total
1300	Quarterdeck Opens	Reg. \$5.00		
	Check in, pick up name badges and welcome packages	Kitty \$25.00		
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Monday	September 10, 2012			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day			
1500	Board of Directors Meeting			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1730	Cocktails, cash bar			
1800	Welcome Buffet	\$45.00		
Tuesday	September 11, 2012			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
0830	Depart for San Antonio, Tour Alamo & Menger Hotel			
1200	Lunch at Rio Rio			
1300	River Boat Ride			
1630	Return to Hotel	\$51.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Wednesday	September 12, 2012			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
	Free Day and Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Thursday	September 13, 2012			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
TBA	Depart for Fredericksburg			
1100	Memorial Service at Nimitz Museum			
1200	Lunch at Nimitz Museum			
1330	Tour Nimitz Museum			
TBA	Return to Hotel	\$45.00		
	Free Evening			
2200	Quarterdeck Closes			
Friday	September 14, 2012			
0700	Quarterdeck Opens			
TBA	Business Meeting & Raffle			
1700	Quarterdeck Closes			
1800	Cocktails, cash bar			
1830	Grand Banquet (circle your choice(s))			
1900	Chicken Marsala	\$42.00		
	Shrimp Scampi	\$44.00		
	Prime Rib	\$52.00		
	Music & Dancing			
Saturday	September 15, 2012			
0800	Farewell Breakfast	No charge		
	Total			

Name _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____ Email _____

Names of Spouse/Guest(s) _____

Your rate or rank when aboard _____ Which ship? _____ Years Aboard 19__ - 19__

Please fill out the form below and return it to **John Bryan, 2644 Rosewood Ct., Orange Park, FL 32065.**

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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 or
patricia.siler67@gmail.com

Tom Hamilton, Treasurer Email: twrahamil2000@hotmail.com
Phone: (home) 260-632-4019, (cell) 260-415-3555

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 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 spear came out in the 60's (price \$4.00). The decal is the same design as the 60's patch, with the seahorse (price \$1.00).

To purchase, send a check payable to **Balch-Porterfield Reunion Association** to Jim Siler, 835 Claybanks Drive, Callaway VA 24067-4524.