


BALCH/PORTERFIELD REUNION ASSOCIATION

July 2015

Greetings Shipmates:

The 2015 reunion will be September 13-19, 2015 in Denver, Colorado. Our reunion host is Richard Gomez, assisted by his daughter Vivian Noe. They have some excellent tours planned.

Hotel:	Holiday Inn Denver East - Stapleton
Address:	3333 Quebec Street Denver, CO 80207
Local Phone:	303-329-2873 (do not call this number for reservations)
Phone Reservations:	855-914-1373
Online Reservations:	http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&regionCode=1&localeCode=en&GPC=NR7&hotelCode=DENST&_PMID=99801505
Reunion Code:	NR7 (be sure to mention this code when making reservations)
Room Rate:	\$109 per night + tax (includes breakfast every day)

You may call to make reservations now. The online link is two lines long. When typing it into your browser, type it all with no spaces. A clickable link is on the ship's Facebook Group page as well. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. The hotel is located at the old Stapleton Airport and there is shuttle service from the new airport.

At the welcome buffet on Monday night, the choir from the school where Vivian works will perform. There is no charge, but we will "pass the hat" for donations.

If you would be interested in a "casino night" during the reunion, please let Vivian know (vlnoe@live.com). If there is enough interest, she can arrange it and collect payment when you arrive at the reunion.

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. 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, ordering information is on the last page of this newsletter. They are also available at reunions.



U.S.S. BALCH DD363



U.S.S. PORTERFIELD DD682

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.

If you know of a shipmate or the wife of a shipmate who is ill or has passed away, please let us know.

One of our shipmates saw this patch on eBay. None of us have seen a patch that looks like this. The original was obviously not of high quality. The one below has been designed by Prism Patches, the company we've been dealing with for other patches. If you have ever seen this patch, please contact us and let us know more about it. Particularly, we are interested in the years it represents. Those who receive your newsletter by email will see it in color, but those who receive paper copies will see it in black and white and it will probably be quite dark. The background is red, the ship, of course, is grey (as is the submarine), and the lettering and boxing gloves are gold.



**** 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. Postage is a large expense for the association, so returns are costly. 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

Additions to the Roster

James Keeling
Porterfield, BT2, 60-64
1233 Ogden St. Apt. 407
Denver, CO 80218-1941
303-83a-7827

Ron Wojtowicz
Porterfield, SM2
6605 Pacific Overlook Dr.
Neskowin, OR 97149
Email: wogee37@embarqmail.com

James Kennedy
Porterfield, GM3, 66-67
Email change: jjkennedy1944@yahoo.com

Address Changes

Charles Eversole
Porterfield, Late 50s
3801 Berkman Dr. Apt. 166
Austin, TX 78273-4527

Don Hall
Porterfield, TM3, 62-64
Email: 1ahiskids@gmail.com

Fred Fleetwood
Porterfield, BT3, 62-65
14651 S 82nd East Ave. Apt. 2107
Bixby, OK 74008-3725

Denis Howard
Porterfield, E3, 61-63
865 Cashmere Dr. Apt. Q05
Lk Havasu Cty, AZ 86404-2823

Additions to the Memorial List

Alva Bowen
Porterfield, CDR, 63-64

Paul McKee
Balch, YN2, 36-38

Fred Burns
Porterfield, FN1/c, 43-45

Tom Sammartino
Porterfield, ET3, 54-59

Oscar Fairfield
Balch, MM1, 42-45

Donald K. Sterling
Porterfield, GM3, 51-54

Robert Guerra
Balch, GM3, 42-43

Jim Switzer
Porterfield, CDR, 67

Dave Hamilton
Porterfield, LT, 57-59

Robert T. Thurston
Porterfield, ENS 44-45

Donald Hamilton
Porterfield, BMC, 52-53

Arnold D. Vezzani
Balch, LT, 43-45

Forrest Harter
Balch, 43-45

William T. Young
Balch, EM3, 41-44

John "Jack" Kinkead
Balch, SN1/c, 44-45

Rosemarie Corcoran, wife of Jack Corcoran, Porterfield, BM3, 59-63
Mary Sanford, wife of Phil Sanford, Porterfield, Porterfield, BT3, 64-66

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 13			
1300	Quarterdeck opens	Reg. \$5 Kitty \$25	_____	_____
	Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package			
2200	Free day and evening		_____	_____
	Quarterdeck closes			
	Monday, September 14			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$40.00	_____	_____
	Continue registration			
1000	Board of Directors meeting			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck			
	Free day and evening			
1700	Quarterdeck closes			
1800	Welcome buffet & entertainment			
	Tuesday, September 15			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$20	_____	_____
	Board bus for Railroad Museum in Golden, CO			
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Wednesday, September 16			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$15	_____	_____
0900 tentative	Board bus for Denver Mint			
	Free evening			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Thursday, September 17			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	\$15 1 \$18.00 2 \$10.00	_____	_____
0900 tentative	Board bus for Memorial Service at Ft. Logan National Cemetery			
1200 tentative	Lunch at Famous Casa Bonita: 1: all you can eat, 2: senior meal.			
	Free evening.			
2200	Quarterdeck closes			
	Friday, September 18			
0700	Quarterdeck opens	Beef \$40 Chicken \$35 Pork \$35 Fish \$40	_____	_____
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1330 tentative	Business meeting and raffle			
1600	Quarterdeck closes			
1700-1900	Cash bar			
1800	Banquet & entertainment: London Broil, Chicken, Pork Chops Tilapia			
	Saturday, September 19			
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			
	Total Payment			

Please fill out all information below. This information will be used to make name badges.

Name _____ Ship/Rate/Rank _____ Years 19 19

Spouse _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ First Reunion? Yes No

Guests Names _____

Please fill out this form and return it to Richard Gomez, PO Box 114, Bennett, CO 80102.

		Price per Person	# of People	Amt. of Payment
Sunday, September 13				
1300	Quarterdeck opens Check in, pick up name badges & welcome package	Registration \$5	_____	_____
2200	Free day and evening Quarterdeck closes	Kitty \$25	_____	_____
Monday, September 14				
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
1000	Continue registration			
1200-1300	Board of Directors meeting Lunch on Quarterdeck			
1700	Free day and evening			
1800	Quarterdeck closes Welcome buffet & entertainment	\$40.00	_____	_____
Tuesday, September 15				
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Railroad Museum in Golden, CO	\$20	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes			
Wednesday, September 16				
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Denver Mint	\$15	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes			
Thursday, September 17				
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
0900 tentative	Board bus for Memorial Service at Ft. Logan National Cemetery	\$15	_____	_____
1200 tentative	Lunch at Famous Casa Bonita: 1: all you can eat, 2: senior meal.	1 \$18.00	_____	_____
2200	Free afternoon and evening Quarterdeck closes	2 \$10.00	_____	_____
Friday, September 18				
0700	Quarterdeck opens			
1200-1300	Lunch on Quarterdeck; Free day			
1330 tentative	Business meeting and raffle			
1600	Quarterdeck closes	Beef \$40	_____	_____
1700-1900	Cash bar	Chicken \$35	_____	_____
1800	Banquet & entertainment: London Broil, Chicken, Pork Chops Tilapia	Pork \$35	_____	_____
		Fish \$40	_____	_____
Saturday, September 19				
Time TBA	Farewell breakfast			
Total Payment				

Please fill out all information below. This information will be used to make name badges.

Name _____ Ship/Rate/Rank _____ Years 19 _____ 19 _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

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>)

Pat Siler is the webmaster. She is planning to overhaul the site, so please have patience while this is being done. If there is anyone with experience and would be interested in working with the photo gallery on the website, please contact Pat.

Newsletters are posted on the website. Email notifications are sent out when a new one is posted. The crew roster page is being updated and we hope to have it online soon.

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.