

SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES

NEWSLETTER



Hope everybody is staying warm these days. When it snows this early in Atlanta it usually means we are going to be in for a long winter. I talked with Bob Wrobel last week in Minneapolis and he is just very happy when it is above 0°. Anyone want to move our reunion in San Diego up to next month?

WEB SITE UPDATE

The updates to our web site are almost done. Nearly all the pages have been updated and lots of new pictures have been added. This is an ongoing project and we will try to devote more time to keeping the web site fresh. We did request that the members who went to the Georgia Aquarium and Coca Cola Museum in Atlanta send us some pictures, as we did not get a chance to go. We would like to add them to the web site. We would welcome any reunion pictures from Atlanta.

REUNION 2011

The roster of the attendees who have already registered for the reunion has a new look. We have added a column for each of the venues that attendees want to visit. If you have Excel all the columns

MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 2010

will automatically total to the "TOTAL" amount column for each of the venues and the registration fee. For all the attendees who have already made their hotel reservations, your column of "ROOMS REQUESTED" & "NIGHTS BOOKED" is highlighted in green. If you made your reservations and your name is not highlighted in these two columns, please e-mail me so we can check with the hotel. The hotel is issuing us notification lists every two weeks. We are very glad that some of the attendees are staying beyond the five nights. Thanks are in order for Nancy Lourens, Paul Judge, Ralph Kiesling, Bob Wrobel, Harold Gruver, Larry Cato, Norman Bentley, & Pat Grillo. These additional nights increase the total of number of nights sold and we receive one FREE night stay for each 50 nights sold and the free night stays will be raffled off at the reunion. We hope to see more members from California sign up for our reunion in San Diego.



We have only received a handful of sign-up sheets for the reunion, which are indicated on the roster. Please help us out and send in your sign-up sheets. We are not asking for any money now; we just need an idea of the tours and venues you would like to see. This helps us negotiate with the vendors and we realize that you may change some of

your selections before the reunion. So please be nice and not naughty this holiday season and send in your sign-up sheets or Santa will not visit you. We already have 3 members who have sent in their fees and they received a rebate of 5% as stated in the By-Laws. To receive that rebate the envelope had to be postmarked by November 30, 2010. Gregory Koczur of Colstrip, Montana used all of his rebate funds and signed up 4 members of his family for five years as Auxiliary Members. This is an example of how you can use your rebate funds or credits you may have.

REUNION SIGN-UP SHEET

Pete Klestinec has devised a new sign-up sheet that you can type on and the amount column will automatically total down to the sub-total line. After the sub-total line, you must enter the Credits as a **positive** number and it will subtract those figures from the sub-total. Here is how it works. After you type in all the pertinent information on the top of the form, please indicate the number of persons on your sign-up sheet on the registration line. Then use the TAB key and tab over to the next tour or venue that you want to register for and indicate the number of persons. Continue to use the TAB key. You will notice that when you enter the number of persons for each tour, the amount will automatically be entered after you hit the TAB key. When you get to the choices for the banquet, you must indicate the number of each type of entrée you would like then type in the total number of persons. The form will not give you the total number of persons but will continue to calculate the total column. Also, if you have credits on the books, please take them. If you attended the first reunion, please take your 1% discount of the sub-total line, then indicate your pre-

registration fee amount, if you have already sent it in and this will give you the net amount. Please note you **CANNOT** save a copy of the completed sign-up sheet on your computer. Be sure to print out your completed form and save a copy for your records. You can also click on the highlight box in the upper right-hand corner of the sign-up sheet and all the fields will be highlighted. This may help you check to see if you have filled in all the fields on the form. If anyone has trouble with this, please call.

Remember, you can bring as many guests as you desire to the reunion and there is no need to ask us. We only ask that you submit one sign-up sheet per person so we can keep the nametags straight. The sign-up sheets are really designed for one person or one couple.



MEMBERSHIPS

Now the updates to the web site are nearly complete, we are gearing up for a mass mailing to potential members. We gain new members every time we do this. Last month we had our first Non-Charter, Lifetime Member join from USS FDR. Mr. Edward Schaffstall will always have that distinction. He could have been a Charter Member but the ugly head of procrastination got the better of him and instead of paying \$42.00 for a Lifetime Membership, he paid \$102.70. He still feels it is an excellent deal so all the Charter Lifetime Members should feel they got a great deal. While we are on the subject, I have been frequently asked what is the amount for a Lifetime

Membership if you are already a Charter Member? The price is still the same and all Charter Members may become a Lifetime Charter Member at any time as long as we have Lifetime Memberships still available, \$41.00 for Midway and \$42.00 for FDR.



REUNION 2012

Raleigh Plesko and Doug Micklon will be signing the final contract soon for the 2012 reunion in Branson, Missouri. We have some good news and some not so good news. The reunion dates will be September 4-9, 2012. Please mark your calendars now (that is if you can find a 2012 calendar). The hotel will be the Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel and most everything is within walking distance from there. The room rate is a little "pricey," compared to other hotels in Branson but the nightly rate will still be only \$99.00. Hilton has a nationwide policy that they do not include a complimentary breakfast at their hotels; the Hilton Garden Inn in Atlanta was an exception to that policy as we were able to include a complimentary breakfast in the room rate. The rate of \$99.00 per night is \$4.00 less than the room rate in San Diego and this is still nearly 2 years away. I think Doug Micklon did an excellent job negotiating this price

and taking into account the fact that prices usually do go up due to inflation. Also, he did have to concede to a \$5.00 increase in the price of the meal at the banquet from \$37.00 to \$42.00 per person. Hilton claims they have the best banquet in Branson and they have to get their price. Doug tried very hard to negotiate the price down but they would not budge. You will still save \$20.00, plus tax, on the room if you spend 5 nights at the hotel. This will also save us from renting buses if the venues are within walking distance.



The 2012 Reunion will start the day after Labor Day Holiday. We wanted to see how this would work out. Labor Day weekend is very popular in Branson. Yes, it will probably be crowded but you can all enjoy a super vacation because the room rates will be the same for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion provided there are rooms available. There are very few reunion groups that use Branson as a location for their reunions. This is supposed to be the best location in Branson. We now have to work on the venues and tours and Doug will be taking the lead on this. We would like to know what you think about the city, the dates and the prices.

REUNION 2013

We are now looking for a location for our 2013 reunion. We are leaning towards the Northeast, as we want to give the members in that area a chance to be able to drive to the reunion. While we are on the subject of reunions, we

would like to mention that we know every member cannot attend all the reunions. Some of us are not able to travel very far and others have financial concerns. We hope everyone will attend when they can. Even if you think you may not know anyone, come and make some new friends. The more reunions you attend, the more friends you will make. Remember, even if we don't know each other, we have a lot in common. For one thing, we were all very lucky to have served aboard or been a part of the history of these two great sister ships. We are trying to offer the best venues and hopefully an opportunity to see places you may have never seen before. We are always open to ideas for new reunion locations so let us hear from you. We always love to hear from our members, so don't be a stranger.



TEE SHIRTS

All the tee shirts have arrived in Las Vegas and California. All the white tee shirt orders should have been received by now. The blue tee shirts are being shipped today. If you do not have your order by the end of the year, please let us know. For those of you who have had to wait for a while to receive your tee shirts, we thank you for your patience.

HATS

We now have hats in all styles and

sizes, except for CV-41 in small. This is the slowest seller and we cannot order any more until our present inventory is depleted. We have to order a minimum of 12 hats in any of the five styles we have available. We do not stock CV-42 because we do not have any members from those two years when the FDR was just a CV. If you ordered a hat and you did not receive it yet, please let us know.

PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM

Attached to this newsletter is a Preliminary Registration Form for the new members. Please fill it out and return it if you plan on attending the 2011 reunion.

Please keep Al in your prayers for December 22nd. His surgery was postponed from December 1st because of medication he was taking. He has never had surgery or spent a night in a civilian hospital since he was born.

May you and yours have a wonderful and safe Holiday and our best for all good things to come in 2011.

Al & Sue Wedemeyer

