

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



News Letter

Vol. II, No. 31

August 2012

CHIT-CHAT From the PRES

Hi Gang: Well, the next time we talk, I hope it is in San Diego. It's getting pretty close now, but the numbers aren't coming in all that fast at this point and time. I know that the economy is having a hit on most of us, so we might have to cut back on a tour or something to make it all happen. Even if we don't go to everything we would like to, we can still spend some quality time at the hotel and just hang out and B.S. with the troops. There are many other things to do on our own if need be. I really, really hope to see a bunch of you in October.

For those that will be there for sure, your officers are thinking about a new thing for the 2014 reunion. The amount of work involved in setting these things up is very large and it is hard to find someone in the area that we might want to go to, so we are going to bring it to your attention this year to see if we can find a company that does reunions and has a good track record, and see if it would work out for us. If we do this, we will still have to vote on were to go, so keep thinking about neat places we could try. We have never been South (Texas, New Orleans), North West, (Seattle, Portland) or North East (Maine). Give it some thought guys and we will make it happen if we can.

Once again, if it is at all possible to join us in San Diego, please get those applications in so we can get some numbers. Thanks a ton!

Dick Becker

New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Depue, Glenn D.	OI	60-61

San Diego Reunion 2012

RESERVATIONS FOR THE REUNION, HOTEL AND TOURS, MUST BE IN BY AUGUST 28th

The time for registering for the Reunion is upon us. Now we need shipmates who are going to attend, to make their registrations with the hotel, and send in their Association Form with tour(s) and banquet requests to Joe Hill. The Horton Grand Hotel will host our reunion from Monday, October 8 thru Friday, October 12. This is not a large hotel, like the main chains, but more on the boutique style...more intimate and friendly. **Reservations must be made via the telephone 800-542-1886.** You must indicate you are registering with the Rochester Reunion. The rate for the room is \$125.00 per night. If you try to register on line, you will get a message there is no rooms available for those dates. We have blocked them for reunion members attending.

PARKING

For those driving to San Diego there are various areas for parking. The Horton Grand Hotel has valet parking at \$25.00 per day with in and out privileges. There are also a number of parking garages and open lots that have parking with varied parking rates. Rates vary by the time of day during a 24 hour period but average out to be between \$18.00 to \$25.00 but do not have in and out privileges.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH A PARKING GARAGE AT **289 6TH AVE.** THAT IS LOCATED 5 BLOCKS (TWO BLOCKS IN ONE DIRECTION AND THREE IN ANOTHER) FROM THE HOTEL. THEY WILL CHARGE A FEE OF ABOUT \$13.00 PER 24 HOUR PERIOD WITH NO IN AND OUT PRIVILEGES. PARK YOUR CAR UPON ARRIVAL AND PICK UP WHEN YOU LEAVE BEFORE 6PM ON FRIDAY.

San Diego Reunion 2012 (con't)

The Hotel is located in the heart of the Gaslamp District of downtown San Diego. This is the prime location for many fine restaurants, watering holes, and activities all within walking distance of the hotel.

The various tours and activities that have been set up for shipmates were selected to try to appeal to all attending. The San Diego Visitors Bureau has indicated that they will try their best to provide excellent weather for our reunion.

As with past reunions, there will be a requirement for volunteers to help man the registration desk. Jerry McCloskey has agreed to set up the registration table and assign members to help with this task. He will set up the schedule and the hours each volunteer will assist in checking in attendees. It is a very important task that will provide the information each attendee will be required to have for the reunion. If you would like to assist in this task, contact Jerry at 949-495-2919 or email Jerry at geepeem@cox.net.

Donations Received

The Association wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

- * \$25.00 from Bob Rowe in memory of Charles Wilson
- * \$100.00 from W R Systems, Ltd., Fairfax, VA
- * \$75.00 from Carl E. Lee

Association Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's Officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill, 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127-1229. If you would like to submit an item of information or a story to the newsletter, mail it to the address above or email it to: scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net.



TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
Frank J. Collins	NY	1989	B	56-57
Dewitt H. Miller	VA	2012	T	47-48
Gilbert J. Ochoa	CA	2012	4 th	51-54

Association Dues

The 2012 dues came due on January 1, 2012. Folks have been pretty good about sending in their renewals, but we still have some outstanding. PLEASE look at the mailing label and slightly to the right of your name the year in which dues were last credited will be indicated such as 2010 or 2011. If there is a 2010 or 2011 after your name, please send in your current dues for 2012. If dues were not paid by July 31, 2012, your name was removed from the active list for News Letter mailings and you have been put on the inactive list of shipmates.

Chaplain's Corner

CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS

One writer has stated, "We are the product of the books we read and the people we meet." Shipmates I met aboard the Rochester were a positive influence and some of them introduced me to some excellent reading material. I have learned to gain fresh insight from different translations of some scripture passages. For example, Proverbs 18:24 translated by Dake states, "A man who has friends must maintain their friendship through feast and entertainment but there is a friend that will stand by him in adversity". Our last reunion was a great time of being with old friends and making new ones. Our "Feasting and entertainment" was helpful in cultivating those friendships. Let us be reminded there is always a Friend that stands by us in adversity.

Our time together in San Diego provides an opportunity to cultivate relationships. The people we meet and associate with are important. I look forward to seeing you there.

Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

USS ROCHESTER REUNION - SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
Monday, October 8, 2012 – Friday, October 12, 2012

*****PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY *****

Horton Grand Hotel

311 Island Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 544-1886

(800) 542-1886

www.hortongrand.com

We have secured a guaranteed Room Rate for Reunion guests until September 1st, or when our room block is sold out, for \$125.00 for single bed room, \$165.00 for double bed room, and \$265.00 for suite. For a third and fourth person in the room there is an additional charge of \$20.00 per person. This rate is guaranteed for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion dates based on availability. Check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out time is 12:00pm. This is a smaller hotel located in the Gaslamp District of downtown San Diego and the reunion will take up most of the hotel.

Reservations MUST be made by calling 800-542-1886 (make sure you tell them you are with the USS Rochester Reunion). ***Reservations CANNOT be made online.***

*****PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY *****

Overflow Hotel: Hampton Inn San Diego—Downtown, 1531 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 233-8408

www.sandiegohamptoninn.com

We have a few rooms on hold at the Hampton Inn with a guaranteed rate of \$125.00 for a single/double room. This rate is guaranteed for 2 days prior and 2 days following the reunion dates based on availability. Check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out time is 12:00pm. The hotel is about 1.5 miles from the Horton Grand Hotel. This hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle and American Buffet Breakfast. Self-parking is \$12.00/day.

Reservations MUST be made by calling 619-233-8408 (make sure you tell them you are with the USS Rochester Reunion). ***Reservations CANNOT be made online.***

*****PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY *****

Airport Transportation: San Diego International Airport is located about 15 minutes from the Horton Grand Hotel. Shuttle transportation can be provided by following GROUND TRANSPORTATION signs in the airport and then SHUTTLE FOR HIRE signs. We have special rates with Super Shuttle for \$7 each way per person. Reservations can be made by at www.supershuttle.com or 800-258-3826 and using discount code **Y3QR6**. Taxis cost about \$15 each way for up to 4 people.

Hotel Parking: There is hotel valet parking at the Horton Grand Hotel for \$25.00 per overnight with unlimited in and out privileges and \$14.00 for day use. There are also parking lots and garages within a 4 block radius from the hotel. We have secured a rate at a nearby Parking Garage. Please see Newsletter for more information.

RV Facilities:

Admiral Baker Campground: Mission Valley, San Diego 92120. Call 619-487-0019 for reservations or for more information please visit www.mwrtoday.com/sandiego/ and clicking on RECREATION.

Campland on the Bay 2211 Pacific Beach Dr. San Diego, CA 92109 ~ (800) 4 BAY-FUN for reservations or visit www.campland.com

Everyday, Monday, October 8th through Saturday, October 13th

SAN DIEGO TROLLEY

\$29.00

Discount Tickets are available at the Registration Desk each day for \$29.00 per person.

The trolley stop is at the corner of the hotel and runs approximately every ½ hour starting around 9:00am. You can stay on board the trolley and get a fascinating narrative and a great overview of America's Finest City, until you return to your starting point in about two hours. Or you can hop off the trolley at any of the 11 stops (another trolley will arrive at each stop at least every 30 minutes) then re-board and continue on with the tour until you return to your starting point.

Tuesday, October 9th

TOUR #1

SAN DIEGO CITY TOUR

0930 – 1530

\$ 29.00

The best way to introduce you to San Diego and all it has to offer. You will embark on a comprehensive journey that highlights San Diego's most notable points of interest:

- ~ visit inspiring landscapes and seascapes in the upscale seaside community of La Jolla;
- ~ see breathtaking views of San Diego, Mexico and the Pacific Ocean from atop Mount Soledad;
- ~ visit Cabrillo National Monument with spectacular views from the Point Loma Lighthouse;
- ~ view the Embarcadero Park which lines the San Diego Bay and is the home to the USS Midway, Maritime Museum, and the majestic Star of India, then pass by Seaport Village and the Convention Center;
- ~ visit *A National Salute to Bob Hope and the Military*, an interactive and personal grouping of 16 sculptures to experience some sense of the connection and bonding that Bob Hope had with the service people he entertained;
- ~ drive across the bridge to Coronado, surrounded by the San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean, and home to a National Historic Landmark, the Hotel del Coronado;
- ~ explore Old Town State Historic Park, birthplace of California and the first European settlement on the West Coast.

The tour will stop in Old Town for you to enjoy lunch on your own. Price includes trolley transportation, fully narrated city tour, and driver/guide gratuity.

TOUR #2

BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

0930 – 1630

\$ 69.50

Cross the "busiest international border in the world" to Baja California where you will see some of the most beautiful beaches with pleasant sea breezes of a Riviera style climate, modern hotels, world class restaurants, pulsating day and nightlife and is a shoppers paradise. Your tour begins with a drive through the revitalized downtown Tijuana along Avenida Revolucion, then pass the Tijuana Cultural Center, Famous Old Bullring, Tijuana Zoo and Tijuana Tower. The 18-mile drive on the Rosarito-Tijuana Scenic Road will take you to Rosarito Beach, once the Mexican Hollywood during the 1920's and now a blooming beachside community with many shops for you to bargain with the vendors for great deals. Next it's on to Puerto Nuevo for a delicious lobster feast and includes a welcome margarita. English is spoken by almost all merchants in Baja and US currency is accepted by almost all merchants.

Price includes deluxe coach transportation, professional driver-narrator guide and gratuities, lunch, direct border crossing permit, applicable taxes, and restaurant gratuities.

US citizens need a valid US Passport, US Passport Card, Trusted Travelers Card or state issued Enhanced Driver's License to get back into the US.

Each visitor to Mexico is allowed to purchase up to \$800 US dollars of duty-free merchandise free including up to one liter or one quart of alcoholic beverage or beer. Additional items can be purchased by paying duty and IRT on these items. Upon return to the United States from Mexico, US citizens need a valid U.S. Passport, U.S. Passport Card, Trusted Travelers Card or state issued Enhanced Driver's License. A valid passport, I-94, Multiple Entry Visa or Resident Alien Card is required for non-USA citizens. Canadian citizens should have identification required when entering the U.S. from Canada. The U.S. Border Agent must ask each guest to state his/her citizenship and tell about his/her purchases. Before getting off the motorcoach, guests will be instructed to collect all of his/her possessions -- nothing can be left of the motorcoach. You will be escorted through the check area and met at the exit door. The motorcoach will be checked by the Border Agents and proceed to pick you up on the American side of the border. See www.cbp.gov for more information.

Wednesday, October 10th

TOUR #3 SAN DIEGO SCENIC LUNCH CRUISE 1015 – 1400 \$ 68.50

Get out in the San Diego sun on this beautiful Luncheon Cruise. Enjoy a seated lunch on our private deck as you watch the spectacular views of San Diego's ever changing water views aboard this 2-hour fully narrated cruise aboard the Spirit of San Diego. Entrée options are:

- Choice #1 *Grilled Chicken Breast*** – marinated breast of chicken served with a rosemary cream sauce
- Choice #2 *Grilled Swordfish Medallions*** – grilled swordfish medallions brushed with an herb citrus butter
- Choice #3 *Flat Iron Steak*** – grilled flat iron steak served with a caramelized shallot demi-glaze
- Choice #4 *Jumbo Stuffed Shells*** – jumbo stuffed shells Florentine in a tomato cream sauce

All entrees are served with fresh baked rolls and butter, baby greens salad with herb balsamic vinaigrette, fresh seasonal vegetables, rice pilaf, cheesecake, coffee, and iced tea.

Price includes private deck aboard public 2 hour cruise on San Diego Bay, lunch, transportation, applicable taxes and gratuities.

TOUR #4 JULIAN TOUR & LUNCH AT WINERY 0930 – 1630 \$ 54.00

Welcome to Julian, a premier mountain getaway, in the beautiful Cuyamaca Mountains. Julian is an historic gold mining town located approximately 1 ½ hours east of San Diego and in the Fall, Julian is famous for their apple orchards and fall colors. Take a step back in time to the days of Julian's beginning rooted in the 1870s gold rush. Get away from the hectic rush of city life. . .Discover the charms of Julian. . .See where gold was discovered... Shop in stores housed in historic buildings, some dating back to the 1870s. . .Ride down Main Street in a horse-drawn carriage. With such a variety of activities you can create your own memorable Julian experience. From mid-September thru mid-November is Julian's Fall Apple Harvest celebrating their famous apple pies and ciders.

Before you head back down to San Diego you will make a detour to the Menghini Winery where you will enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch along with a wine tasting overlooking the vineyard. Lunch includes Tri Tip and Chicken BBQ, salad, rolls, dessert and water.

Price includes deluxe coach transportation and driver gratuities, lunch of your choice and wine tasting at the Menghini Winery, complimentary wine glass, applicable taxes, and restaurant gratuities.

Thursday, October 11th

TOUR #5 VIEJAS CASINO / OUTLET CENTER 0900 – 1600 \$25.00

Viejas is one of California's premier Indian Casino's with a showroom, shopping outlets and, of course, 24-hour gaming. Run by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians – one of the original inhabitants of what is now Southern California and Baja Norte – Viejas Casino and Turf Club offers all the best in poker, bingo, Indian black jack, and video poker. Directly across the street is the Viejas Outlet Center – the most unique shopping experience in San Diego. Completely themed with a rich Native American heritage, Viejas offers the most popular names and values in outlet shopping. Complimenting the great savings are two large entertainment areas, tranquil streams and a specialty food court. Upon arrival you will be given a Casino Fun book, Outlet Center Discount Book and \$20 cash to spend however you like.

In order for the Association to have their deposit refunded -- once you arrive at the Casino you MUST go to a V Club Booth, show a valid ID card & have a V Club Card made for you. Your V Club Card needs to be used for gaming of at least \$1.00, & then bring your card with you when you board the bus back to the Hotel.

Price includes deluxe coach transportation and driver gratuity, Casino Fun Book, Outlet Center Discount Book, and \$20 cash upon arrival to Casino.

TOUR #6**STARS & STRIPES USA-11 SAILING****1100 – 1630****\$99.00**

This is a once-of-a-lifetime opportunity to go sailing on an authentic America's Cup Class racing yacht – Dennis Conner's Stars & Stripes USA-11 – from the 1992 America's Cup held in San Diego. This 78-foot boat with an 11-story mast is the most exhilarating and interactive sailing experience available on San Diego Bay. A first-class, multi-million dollar, technically-advanced yacht and one of the fastest sailing vessels ever built, zips around San Diego Bay at up to 14 knots, twice the speed of the average sailboat. Take the helm of Stars & Stripes, USA-11, and live the dream for yourself. Once on board you can either choose to just sit back, relax, and enjoy the action or you can help the crew raise the sails, take the helm and steer the boat, assist with navigation and tactics, tack and jibe, or grind the winches to trim the sails. This 3-hour trip is one that you will never forget. No sailing experience is necessary to be a part of this unique and exciting adventure. Due to the design and weight of this boat the ride is amazingly smooth and getting seasick is not a concern. There is a minimum of 15 passengers and a maximum of 24 passengers for this tour.

****DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$99.00 PER PERSON**** Price includes transportation and driver gratuity, 3-hour private charter aboard the Stars & Stripes USA-11 boat, soft drinks, bottled water and light snacks (peanuts and pretzels), and partial crew gratuities. (The crew includes the Captain/owner and a dedicated team of volunteers who have been sailing together for years. The volunteers rely on tips and the price of this tour includes only a minimal tip. It is encouraged to leave an additional tip at the end of the sail.)



Thursday, October 11th

EVENT #1**BANQUET DINNER****1930 – 2300**

Prior to the annual banquet dinner there will be a cash bar and time to visit the photographer and have your formal portrait taken.

Your banquet meal will be served with a garden salad with dressing, rolls and butter, chef's accompaniments, dessert and coffee, tea and decaffeinated coffee.

Dinner choices are:

Choice #1 *Herb Crusted Salmon* **\$47.50**

Herb crusted salmon served with red pepper tomato coulis

Choice #2 *Filet of Beef* **\$46.50**

Horton petite cut roasted filet of beef served with Cabernet glaze and Shitake mushrooms

Choice #3 *Horton Grand Stuffed Chicken Breast* **\$42.50**

Stuffed chicken breast with cous-cous, sundried tomato, mozzarella cheese and Chardonnay cream sauce

Friday, October 12th

EVENT #2**FAREWELL BREAKFAST****0630 – 0930****\$22.00**

Breakfast buffet to include eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, fruit, juice, coffee and tea.