



U.S.S.  
U.S.C.G.C.

# FINCH



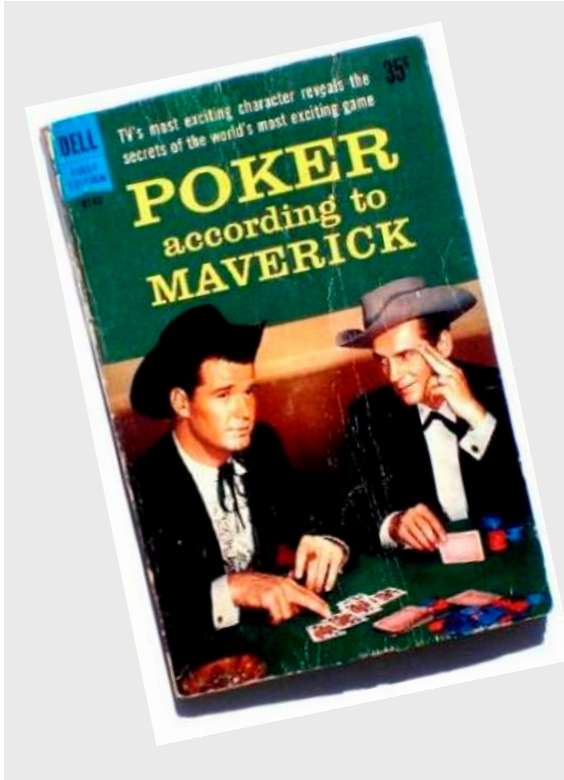
**DE 328 – WDE 428 – DER 328**

*Distinguished Service Through Three Decades and Three Wars  
World War II, Korea, and Vietnam*

Twenty-Seventh Year No. 4

July 2014

## Poker According to Maverick



Shipmate and fellow radioman Dave Stidham, DER'60 bought this book and it was our poker training manual during our Finch days. We studied this book and tried to play according to it's philosophy. If my memory serves me right, we kept statistics to try to prove or disprove the Maverick brother's basic philosophy on poker strategy. I expect that their basic strategy is still valid today, but perhaps scoffed at by today's sophisticated professional gamblers.

Regardless of the source, it is good to have a guide and philosophy to assist you in gambling in the casinos. Whether it is your homespun approach or one of the more contemporary strategies you can find by researching the internet, you need to know what you are doing when you put your money at risk.

I still enjoy a good poker game today. Of course it's got to be either five card draw

or stud, so I can better understand the odds and my chances. But whatever your choice, you will be able to find it at one of the many tables on the Silver Legacy Casino floor. Games range from Texas hold-em, five card stud and draw, and blackjack to a myriad of other card games and gaming options such as roulette and craps. All you have to do is bring your money - they will be happy to teach you the games! Be sure to read and memorize "Maverick's Ten Rules for Poker" found on page 2 of the newsletter.



Now that you're ready to play, you have to make your room and travel reservations to ensure you've got a room booked at these fabulous prices. In case you've forgotten, the reunion is **5-8 October (Sunday through Wednesday.)** You can get a nice room for \$49 a night and a suite for only \$89. Be sure to mention that you are with the USS Finch Reunion (CODE KKUSF14) or they won't give you a room at this rate - ACT NOW and call the number below to book your room. This is also the prime window to get your flight reservations. This is the time when rates normally drop for a month or so before rising to their last minute rate structure. Book your room today and then let our 2014 host, Bob Piazza, [rwpiazza@comcast.net](mailto:rwpiazza@comcast.net) know that you will be attending.

**Call the Silver Legacy today to make your reservations: 800-687-8733**

## The Week's Plan

**Sunday** finds us arriving and checking into the resort. There is not a lot planned for the day other than to find a shipmate or two to join for dinner. The hospitality room will be open so the opportunity to meet and visit shipmates will be easy to accomplish. Bring your Finch memorabilia. This is a fun part of the reunion, looking through the pictures and admiring how slim, trim and young we once were! And then admire the hair!

There are six unique restaurants on the resort property so you will not have to leave the casino to find a place to eat. This really makes it convenient and the dining options range from sandwiches to four course gourmet meals.

In addition to the dining options, there are more than 85,000 square feet of casino excitement, top name entertainment in the Exposition Hall and the comedy club. The resort has a roof-top pool that faces west providing great vistas of the setting sun and provides us with the opportunity to dance the night away!

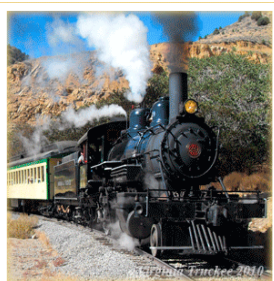
### Monday and Tuesday

we will be up early and boarding buses for two very different trips. On Monday we are off to see the NAVY in action at Naval Air Station, Fallon. In addition to being the host base for the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), it is also home to the Naval Strike and Warfare Center. This will be an opportunity to look into and get an understanding of some of the exciting things today's Navy is doing. A must take trip! Cost for all this including lunch on the base is only \$60.00. We will board the bus at 0900 hours and be back at the hotel around 1530 hours.



**IMPORTANT: If you are going on the trip to Fallon NAS we need your first and last name, plus your date of birth and the last four numbers of your Social Security Number for access to the base. (see registration form).**

Tuesday finds us again boarding a bus for another trip - totally different than Mondays trip. This one will take us to an old historic western town, Virginia City, and then we will take a train ride through Carson Canyon and back to Virginia City. As highlighted in the last issue, Virginia City was one of the true boom towns of the old



west, having at one time over 15,000 residents. It was built virtually overnight. Today it is a quiet little city of approximately 3,000 residents, with a lot of shops and historic sites to visit. The cost of this trip is only \$50.00.

Upon return to the casino, you will have a couple of free hours before our traditional spaghetti dinner. The dinner will be at the Silver Legacy and will be preceded by a no-host cocktail party at 1730 hours.

### Wednesday

This is a free day with the opportunity to hit it big in the casino or find a traveling buddy or two and see some of the sights around the greater Reno area. South Lake Tahoe, about 60 miles southwest of Reno, has several things that will make for a memorable visit.



The lake itself is beautiful and to look across it from any of a hundred vistas is a memory you won't soon forget.

There are boat rides across the lake and many interesting places to see on a trip around the lake. The 1960 Winter Olympics was held at Squaw Valley on the western side of the lake. There is also a Scandinavian style castle, Vikingsholm, on the western shore of Lake Tahoe that is worth a visit. You can take a boat ride to the castle from South Lake Tahoe and enjoy lunch aboard the boat.

In addition to these sights, TripAdvisor lists 69 things to do in Reno including the National Automobile Museum (once known as Harrah's Collection.) There is lots to do, so plan on spending an extra day or so.



### Maverick's Ten Commandments of Poker

1. If you don't have a fighting hand, drop it and wait for another.
2. In five-card stud, never draw a third card unless your hole card or your open card either equals or tops the highest card showing around the table. (Unless you draw a pair on your first two cards, of course.)
3. In draw poker, "Jacks or better" to open, never call an opener unless you have the pair of Jacks beaten. (Exceptions will be pointed out later.)
4. Never draw to an inside straight.
5. Never draw to a three-card flush.
6. Always call a known bluffer if you have better than an average hand.
7. Don't play poker with women.
8. Don't play with players who can't afford to lose.
9. Don't play yourself if you can't afford to lose.
10. If you find yourself in a losing streak, relax and wait! There will always be another hand or even another game.

**Call The Silver Legacy today to book your room  
800-687-8733**

## TAPS



No TAPS to report again for this issue. We do not have a system that notifies us if a shipmate dies. We count on you to notify us if you are aware of the death of a shipmate. Please let us know if you are aware of any deaths. You can notify our memberships chairman, Richard Resnick (richard@computerconsultingla.com) or the Assistant Membership Chairman, Warren Marshall (warren@oronet.com). Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



## Time to Cowboy Up!

Of all the experiences a man will encounter in his life, military service stands apart as the most unique. Intense bonds are formed between warriors that will endure the rest of their lives. Memories of military service are so vivid and charged with emotion, that

they will continue to permeate a man's dreams for decades following his discharge. The camaraderie shared with old military friends is meant to be held and cherished forever.

Unfortunately, time is not kind to old friendships. As we continue to age, old friends will continue to fall by the wayside with alarming frequency. In the short few months since our last ship's reunion I have lost three more good men with whom I sailed the Pacific aboard the USS Finch. I have little doubt that there will be more lost over the next year.

Nineteen years ago a few dedicated, hard-working shipmates created a venue – an annual shipmate reunion – to allow us all to once again travel back in time and rekindle old friendships. The reunion has grown steadily, but too many of you have failed to take advantage of the opportunity provided to share quality time with past shipmates. It is easy to procrastinate, but it is hard to learn that we will never again be able to visit with Hinton, Mitchell, Caminitti, or dozens of other sailors who have now set sail for a distant port.

As a lifelong cowboy, and Chairman of the 2006 reunion, I issue the following challenge to all of you survivors: COWBOY UP! Get off your dead butts and register to join us to laugh, to cry, or to laugh until you cry, with old buddies. This is probably the last chance to see some old mate, or worse yet you may miss the opportunity to visit with an old friend you haven't met yet. Time is slipping steadily away, my friend, so act now before it is too late.

*E. Z. Earl Griener (Reunion Co-Host 2006)*

*Reprinted from our May 2006 Newsletter.*

## Help Needed.

I am looking for someone to back me up and ultimately take the helm in publishing the newsletter. It has been fun, but 10 years is long enough. If you are interested, please give me a call and I would be happy to talk with you and hopefully work out an agreement where we can work together for a while then transition the editor/publisher job to you. I can be reached at 704-882-0570. Thanks, Bob Bumbulucz, DER'60



## Finch Reunion Association

### 2014 Reunion Chairman

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rwpiazza@comcast.net

### Executive Board Chairmen

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### DESA Representative/Publicity

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rwpiazza@comcast.net

## Reunion Contacts

To take advantage of the great rate of \$49 or \$89 for a hotel suite that our hosts have arranged for us at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno, call the hotel directly at 1-800-687-8733 use code KKUSF14 to ensure you get this great rate!



Now that I've made my room reservations how do I get from the airport to the hotel? The best way is to take the hotel shuttle. You can meet it at door "D" in the baggage area, it runs twice an hour and leaves the airport at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour! Such a deal!

## 2014 Dues Are Due.....

If your dues are paid up there will be a \$ sign next to your name on the mailing label. If you are in arrears on your dues please send your properly completed check to Robert Cragg (DER'57). See page 3 for Robert's mailing address.



Dues should be paid annually based on the calendar year and are due the first of January. The dues we collect at the reunion are for the upcoming year. Annual dues are \$10 per year, but you can also make a one time payment of \$100 to cover your lifetime dues.

We're on the web!  
[ussfinch.com](http://ussfinch.com)

Thank You !

## The USS Finch Spent D-Day Enjoying a Well Deserved Break in Convoy Duty

*An excerpt from the USS FINCH History.*

**FINCH** arrived at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on 2 June 1944, remaining only overnight and then getting underway at 0544 with *USS T. J. Gary* enroute to Key West, Florida. The two ships arrived and moored in Key West on 4 June, the same day that Rome, Italy fell to the Allies. On 5 June, 32 of **FINCH's** crew departed on leave, with most having ten days to relax and visit with friends, wives and relatives. Among those in this lucky first group were: Leo Dube, Richard Long, Donald Reel, Ernest Rounseville, James Anderson, Arnold Banta, Roy Carlson, William Condron, James Dal Santo, Robert Dorsey, Asa Evens, and Glenn Griffin. On 6 June 1944, as these members were enjoying leave, and the ship was engaged on local area exercises, the Allies launched the invasion of France across the beaches of Normandy. The ship was underway again on the 7th for local exercises, returning to Key West and mooring at 1513. At 1810 hours, **FINCH** would receive its largest group of new personnel reporting for duty since the date of commissioning. A total of 34 new personnel were reporting for duty, including: Charles Austin Baughman, S2c; Elmo Walter Boone, RM1c; Henry Clinton Jenkins, S2c; Clifford Lee Parks, F2c(EM); and, James Edward Winebarger, S1c(TM).

*Editors note: The Finch was returning from Curacao after completing escort duties for a convoy.*



Can you identify the officer or the ship  
in this picture?

If you can, you could win \$25 - simply write your answer on your registration form. A winner will be chosen at the reunion banquet.

Complete and mail your registration form today - Please do not put this off!

# FINCH 2014 REUNION RESERVATIONS

October 5 - 8, 2014  
Silver Legacy Resort Casino  
Reno, Nevada

Name: _____	Guest: _____
Spouse: _____	Guest: _____
Arrival Date: _____	Departure: Date _____
I will be staying at: _____ Rental Car Yes _____ No _____	

## Monday, October 6th

Time: 8:45 am - 3:00 pm

Bus Tour - Fallon Naval Air Station Bus Tour (Includes lunch at NAS Fallon)  
Meeting place for both bus tours will be the main entrance near the Valet Parking

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Need for Bus  
Trip to Fallon

_____	_____	____/____/____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 numbers of SSN
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 numbers of SSN
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 numbers of SSN

## Tuesday, October 7th

Time: 9:45 - 4:15 pm

Bus Tour - Virginia City and Train Ride to Carson Canyon  
(This tour does not include lunch)

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5:30 pm

No Host Cocktail Party

6:30 pm

Spaghetti Dinner at Silver Legacy

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Both dinners and both cocktail parties will be in the Silver Baron room

## Wednesday, October 8th

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

No Host Cocktail Party

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Annual Banquet (buffet) at Silver Legacy

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration, Administration, and Miscellaneous Expenses

Number Attending Reunion \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the officer or the ship in the picture  
- see the back page of the newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Submit This Registration Form  
And Check To Robert Cragg  
So They Are Received by August 31, 2014**

Make checks payable to:  
**USS Finch Reunion Association.**  
Mail to: Robert Cragg  
PO Box 353, Emigrant, MT 59027

Part 2 (Continued from Issue 3)

As reported in the last issue, The Donner Party (sometimes called the **Donner-Reed Party**) was a group of American pioneers who set out for California in a wagon train. Delayed by a series of mishaps, they spent the winter of 1846–47 snowbound in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Some of the emigrants resorted to cannibalism to survive, eating those who had succumbed to starvation and sickness.

*We rejoin them on their journey after they had made a fateful decision to take a new and as yet unproven route.*

The Donner Party decided to follow the Hasting Cutoff route across the southern portion of the Great Salt Lake.



This proved to be a mistake resulting in lost lives and much of their supplies and cattle. Their remaining cattle and oxen now exhausted and lean, the party crossed the next stretch of desert relatively unscathed, and the journey seemed to get easier, particularly through the valley next to the Ruby Mountains.

Two months after embarking on the cutoff, the Donner Party rejoined the traditional trail along a stream that became known as the Humboldt River. The shortcut had probably delayed them by a month. Along the Humboldt the group met Paiute Native Americans, who joined them for a couple of days, but stole or shot several oxen and horses.

The trials the Donner Party had so far endured resulted in splintered groups, each looking out for themselves and distrustful of the others. Grass was becoming scarce, and the animals were steadily weakening. To relieve the load of the animals, everyone was expected to walk. They had little time to rest, and the company pressed on intending to cross the Sierra's before the snows came.

They reached Truckee Lake (now Donner Lake) on October 20, 1846. Faced with one last push over mountains, that were described as much worse than the Wasatch, the ragtag company had to decide whether to forge ahead or rest their animals. After

several attempts to cross the (Donner) pass snow began to fall and block further attempts.

They decided to winter at Truckee Lake but were short of supplies. After consuming their livestock they resorted to eating their cow and ox hides supplemented by rats, field mice and whatever else they could find.

There is a lot more detail than can be covered in this summary as to the trials and tribulations of the Donner Party. Several attempts were made during the winter of 1846-47 to cross the pass and reach Bear Valley which is east of Sacramento. There was no food so, to stay alive, they resorted to cannibalism. In one instance two men were murdered for their food value.

Of the 87 people who entered the Wasatch Mountains on July 20<sup>th</sup> only 48 survived. Although the Donner Party episode was insignificant in light of the hundreds of thousands of emigrants to Oregon and California, it has served as the basis for numerous works of history, fiction, drama, poetry, and film.

The attention directed at the Donner Party is made possible by reliable accounts of what occurred and the fact that "the cannibalism", although it might almost be called a minor episode, has become in the

popular mind the chief fact to be remembered about the Donner Party.



The base to the memorial is 22 feet high, equal to the total snowfall during the winter of the Donner Party's travails.

If you have time and a car, take a 30 minute drive from Reno to the city of Truckee and

visit Donner Lake and the pass. The Donner Pass is just 15 miles West of Reno on I-80 and is named after the Donner Party.

A special thanks to Bob Piazza for this article.

**Finch Coffee Mugs**  
You Can Order Your Finch  
Coffee Mugs From Gerald Gardner  
[nuttynuts@centurytel.net](mailto:nuttynuts@centurytel.net)  
or pick one up at the reunion  
and save the shipping costs!  
**\$3.00 + \$2.75 Shipping**