



USS
USCGC

FINCH



DE 328 – WDE 428 – DER 328

Distinguished service through three wars from 1943 to 1970

Twenty-ninth Year Newsletter No. 2

May 1, 2017



The 2017 Finch reunion has been set for the 9th through the 12th of November, 2017 at Branson Missouri. This period will include the Branson's annual Veterans week celebration. It is not known yet exactly how the Finch will participate in said celebration, but at a minimum expect to be present during the opening ceremonies and to observe the parade on Saturday, November 11th. The tentative schedule of events is as follows; **THURSDAY:** arrival and spaghetti dinner. **FRIDAY:** Wilson Creek battle Field tour and museum, and time permitting, the Missouri Conservation Department Nature Center. Lunch at famous Lambert's "Throw'd Bun" Cafe, with Pizza dinner that evening. **SATURDAY:** Participate in Veterans Day celebration. **SUNDAY;** Church and/or shopping, with the Finch Business meeting at 1:00 P.M. Just to mention a few features of why Branson is an appropriate reunion site: It is a very clean city where you can take your grandchildren and they will not be offended; overflowing trash containers, and panhandlers are not tolerated. The police keep a very low profile, and yet crime is extremely low. The city is a veteran friendly city year round with many of the various entertainment shows free to veterans. The citizens have voted down the effort to bring gambling to the county. The College of the Ozarks is located nearby which is a "work your way through college" institution that is also very veteran friendly. There are many recreational opportunities, depending on the weather, including great trout fishing, Don't forget to bring your Finch or other veteran hats. If staying for an extended period be sure to enjoy one of the two train rides; the one into Arkansas being the better. They last about two hours. Also plan to visit to the Ralph Foster museum located on the campus of College of the Ozarks.



Reunion Message From Host Gerald Gardner:

I wish to clarify and offer suggestions concerning the "Now Hear This" notice in the January newsletter. My offer as quoted still stands, but I believe any member wishing to host a reunion should be given the opportunity. As a democratic organization I don't believe the intent of the Executive Committee was to preclude any other member of the organization from hosting. I feel Branson is a good home base for our organization for several reasons. It is centrally located, with numerous other considerations as mentioned in the previous January newsletter. I also wish to modify the stated distance from Branson I would travel to host reunions. I hereby extend the 150 miles to 300 miles or one day's travel by POV. This is based on the fact I only fly in emergencies. Reunion sites for consideration would be Hot Springs Arkansas where you could try your luck at diamond hunting, bathing in the hot springs, or maybe take in a day of horse track. Another would be touring Hannibal Missouri to visit the Mark Twain museum, or take a ride on the Mississippi in paddle wheeler, or visit a local brewery. Saint Louis Missouri offers a main attraction with its world renowned botanical gardens. Or you might even take in a pro baseball game. In Kansas City, Missouri, you can visit the Harry Truman Presidential Library, or tour the WWI memorial. Or in Bentonville Arkansas, Home of Wal-Mart visit several points of interest in the area including the original Wal-Mart store. In Claremore Oklahoma, visit Will Rogers museum and other points of interest.

(Ed. Note: If any shipmate does choose to volunteer to host a reunion send me your request)

2017 Registration Form:

The complete 2017 Registration form will be presented in the July newsletter. At this point a reservation of 20 rooms has been made plus 3 handicap rooms. Based on this 20 room reservation, I am contracting for a 40 passenger bus for the Wilson Creek Battle Field tour. If there is more than 40 persons then we will need to utilize POV's. This will be the same hotel we used for the 2012 reunion. Remember the evening ice cream socials, or the great breakfast menu? I am recommending a final get-to-gather Monday morning in the breakfast room, especially for those traveling by POV or with late flights. This farewell breakfast was well received by many at the last reunion.

Puzzle Question of the Month

A DRUNKEN SAILOR IS OFTEN REFERRED TO BY HIS SHIPMATES AS BEING "THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND".

HOW DID THIS PHRASE ORIGINATE?



If you can't afford a doctor, go to an airport - you'll get a free x-ray and a breast exam, and; if you mention Al Qaeda, you'll get a free colonoscopy.

SEA-TALES by EZ: In One Era and Out the Other



USS ENTERPRISE (CA 65)

1962 – 2017

The Mighty E introduced a new era and a new class of super battle carriers in 1962. She then ruled as the “Queen of the Seas” for the next twenty-five years. She actively fought throughout the Vietnam War and then the multiple Middle East conflicts. She was deactivated in 2016, and will next be decommissioned in the Spring of 2017. With her retirement she passes on the torch to the newest class of super carrier the Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) (see below)



USS GERALD R. FORD CVN 78

Sea Tales by Robert Buck , LTjg (59)

I remember serving with Bob Buck for several years. Our wardroom was a collection of 120 day wonders from the beatnik generation, none of whom were seriously interested in a navy career (except Daryll Lizer who went on to become a Captain). Therefore, life was rather boisterous which tended to drive the Captains and XOs crazy. I asked Bob to give me a couple of fun or funny things he recalled from his life aboard the Finch. Two occasions stuck in his mind.

First was the time he had the Conn and was attempting to enter the channel back to port. He was struggling when Capitan Burke yelled at him, “Well, Buck, do something even if it’s wrong!” Buck said so I did something and Burke yelled at me even louder, “No – that’s wrong!”

His second recollection involved his good friend Lynn Armel, LTjg, who was OOD during an ASW exercise. Armel was on the headset speaking with CIC, which was providing wrong data. Burke got so pissed he grabbed Armel’s speaker phone and began dragging him by the neck all over the bridge while he was chewing-out the CIC officer.

By the way, Buck just learned from me a couple of reunions ago that the other J.O.s had secretly nicked name him “Black Bart Buck” because every morning he showed up in the wardroom with a nasty scowl and a fierce look in his eye. The word was, “you don’t mess with Buck till he has had his first cup of coffee, then he mellows –out”.

DUES ARE DUE

Dues are paid annually based on the calendar year and are due January 1st, but can be paid any-time. If your dues are paid up for 2016 there will be a \$ sign next to your name on the mailing label. If you are in arrears on your dues please make out your properly completed check to USS Finch Reunion Association and mail to Ann Cragg. (See Finch Association Box below for Ann's mailing address. Include current registration update if needed for Resnick's files).

The dues we collect at the reunion are for the upcoming year. Annual dues are \$10 per year, but you can make a life-time payment of \$100 if you prefer. Dues paid at, or after, the reunion are applied to the following year.



Editor's Corner:

"Bear With Us Men"



The transition of the Finch Association to new leaders, new editor, new reunion locations and new reunion hosts is a complicated process. It has tended to mess up the timing of the newsletters. I am asking you to just bear with us for awhile. The continuity will return as our experience grows. I believe the new Branson affiliation for this and future reunions will prove to be a fruitful one for a ship crew that is getting long of tooth.

LOGISTICS FOR REUNION ARRANGEMENTS

Camden Hotel/Conference Ctr.
800-335-2555 or 417-355-2555

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY — ASK FOR SPECIAL FINCH RATE

- > HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL BE OPEN : **7:30 AM TO 11:PM**
- > SPAGHETTI DINNER IS PLANNED FOR THURSDAY EVENING
- > INFORMAL PIZZA DINNER PLANNED FOR FRIDAY EVENING
- > DINNER BANQUET IS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY EVENING
- > BUSINESS MEETING SATURDAY AT 8:30 AM
- > CHECK-OUT TIME IS MONDAY AT 11:00 AM
- > OPTIONAL CHURCH SERVICE SUNDAY AT 11:00



Finch Reunion Association

2017 Reunion Chairman
 Gerald Gardner/Carrol Clingan
 nuttynuts@centurytel.net
 ccncmav@aol.com

Executive Board Chairmen
 Bob Piazza (DER '66)
 rwpiazza@comcast.net

Membership Chairman
 Richard S. Resnick (WDE '52)
 3175 Coolidge Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90066
 richard@computerconsultingla.com

Treasurer
 Ann Cragg
 PO Box 353,
 Emigrant, MT 59027
 abcragg@yahoo.com

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
 Dave Stidham (DER '60)
 DWST820@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
 Earl Greiner (DER 61)
 P.O. Box 58214
 Renton, WA 98058
 ezeal137@gmail.com

FINCH REUNION “2017”

5

Richard S. Resnick
3175 Coolidge Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90066

TO:

We're on the web!

Ussfinch.com

TAPS



“...oh hear us when we pray to
thee for those in peril on the sea”

Navy Hymn

- ◆ David G. Poe , DE (1943-45) Gunners Mate 3rd class . Set sail for a distant port in January, 2017.
- ◆ Chief Petty Officer Lon Jay Caffey also et sail for a distant port on April 4, 2016.

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Spouse: _____

Guest: _____

This page has not been completed yet by the hosts. When it is finished it will be placed in the next newsletter, probably as Page 5. Meanwhile, be sure to save the reunion on your personal schedules, and to phone for room reservations !!

**Please Submit This Registration Form
And Check To Ann Cragg
So They Are Received by Sept. 30, 2017**

Make checks payable to:

USS Finch Reunion Association

Mail to : Ann Cragg

PO Box 353, Emigrant, MT 59027