

See reunion Coordinator section for tour info. In the portion newsletter notes, please read item about Harold Haas. If anyone wishes to contact them, I have their address. Read question asked by Rick Banks. We reissued a couple of notes from previous newsletters please read them or check them out. bob

“The challenge coins are now available in the ship’s store!”

See President desk for information

As of 10/07/13 active members stand 645 (578 who have verified their info and 65 waiting for response). We added 2 members this month please welcome Richard Wass (62-63;sogsn); Gary A. Marshall (59-60; sn). I have their information for anyone who wishes to contact them. Richard came to us by facebook, and Gary was on the crew list only before joining. We have 122 on your memorial page. A lot of us have friends who we have kept in touch with who are not members. We are asking you to contact them and get them to join us.

I From The President’ s Desk

Here is a little information on what will be going on in San Francisco for the 2014 Reunion. One of the optional tours is called the “Big Bus Tour” or the “hop on, hop off” tour. Ralph Draeger has been able to secure a three day pass for us. You will board the Big Bus downtown and begin a two and a half hour tour of the city. You can get off the bus at any of the twenty sites, and explore the area. When you are done, you can re-board another bus and continue on. Buses run about an hour apart depending on traffic. The charge for this outstanding tour will be about \$69.00 for adults and \$38.00 for children between the ages of 5 to 15 years old. It sounds like a lot but remember, this is a three day pass, which also includes admission to the Aquarium near pier 39. If you would like further information on this tour, go to “bigbustours.com” on the internet.

Day one of the reunion will feature a tour of Alcatraz. It will be necessary to divide our group into at least two groups. We have secured 120 tickets and the ferry boat to the island can hold only sixty people. The first group will depart the landing at 10:30 am followed by group two at 11:00am. The thing to note about this tour is that from the landing up to the prison itself is about one quarter of a mile, uphill. There is a small tram available for those who are handicapped. [We may be able to get more tickets should we need them.](#)

Later, on day one, we will all gather at Neptune’s restaurant on Pier 39 for a buffet style dinner. The restaurant offers beautiful views of San Francisco bay.

Day two will begin at the hotel with buses boarding for the Muir Woods/ Sonoma all day tour. This is an optional tour. The hop on-hop off tours will also be running.

Also on day two, we have scheduled a harbor cruise. Since we have chartered the boat for our group, our tour will last two hours as opposed to a normal one or one and half hour tours. The boat is equipped to handle up to two hundred people, but we need one hundred in order to meet the minimum number of participants. We can always add more. This should be a beautiful time of day to cruise San Francisco Bay.

Dinner will be on your own.

Day three will once again have an all day tour. This tour will begin with boarding buses at the hotel and then take us to three points of interest. These stops include Ft. Point, Crissy Fields and the USS Hornet across the bay in Alameda. While on the USS hornet you may partake of a hot lunch which is optional. This tour is an option to the hop on- hop off tour.

Sometime around 4:00PM we will have returned to the Pier 39 area and have boarded the buses back to the hotel. We will gather for pictures sometime before 6:30 pm. After pictures we have our banquet/business meeting, election of officers and finally selecting the site for the 2016 reunion.

Ralph Draeger and Lee Baly will be providing additional information and details about what they have arranged for us.. They have put together lots of options for us and left us with decisions on which tours we want to take.

We should be posting the registration form on the website very soon. The form will include the costs of tours etc. It won't hurt to make your hotel reservation well in advance. Twenty rooms have already been reserved out of the 85 set aside for us and adding more rooms later on might not be possible.

JJ

From your Reunion Coordinator

Here's the best we can get as far as R.V. parks are concerned. Treasure Island R.V. park, located at 1700 El Camino Real. It the closest, as well as the cheapest, at \$65 per night. People can register online @ "Treasure island r.v. park.com." They can give all the vital info. about their rig. They can also call 650-994-3266 and speak to Vince. Tell them to mention they are part of the R.S. Edwards reunion.

Greetings Edwards Association members, family and friends,

I am Ralph Draeger (Wolfman), your 2014 reunion coordinator. I would like to provide you with information that allows you to make your tour and activities choices easy. San Francisco has too much to see and do in our timeframe, so with the help from shipmates Lee Baley and Hernando Cuenca, I have put together a three day itinerary that allows you to see the most during our stay and accommodate you and your families' interests.

My wife Cathy and I have made three scouting trips and have found the most enjoyable, cost effective way to see most of the city in a short or long trip is to purchase the hop on/hop off bus tour. Essentially, you could just take the bus tour, or you can hop off at a location you would like to explore further, and then hop back on as the next double decker bus comes by. For example, if you want to spend a couple of hours at Union Square, you could. This would be a personal choice and there are three

different tour routes from which to choose. The least expensive group rate I could get for 24 hours was \$28.50 per person.

I was able to get a 72 hour hop on/hop off tour with 20 stops. This includes going over the Golden Gate Bridge. The price for the 72 hour tour is \$69 for adults and \$38 for children (5-15). A savings of \$16.50. This is quite a site to see, and as shipmates, you will appreciate its history. This includes admission to the Aquarium on Pier 39 as well. Lee is putting together a guide of what you can see and do at each of the 20 stops. One suggestion is to take the hop on/off on Thursday and ride the entire time, making notes as to what to see the next time you ride. The 20 stop tour takes about 2hours & 40 minutes, provided you don't get off. You can browse Fisherman's Wharf, visit the Jeremiah O' Brien, where shipmate Tom Bernard volunteers, as well as the WWII sub SS Pompalito. Pier 39 is a few minutes' walk from Fisherman's Wharf

Thursday is also the day we start with the Alcatraz tour. Because we got a group rate, we are able to board with 60 people each, saving quite a bit of \$. Just to inform you, tickets are being reserved for non group organizations up to 90 days in advance. For example, if you were in San Fransisco tomorrow, you would not be able to get tickets. Dept. of National Park runs the island. We are confirmed for tickets for Thurs. the 29th. Dinner will be at Neptune's, which offers a beautiful panoramic view of the bay. Kodak moment, have a camera ready. Dinner is included with registration.

Blue and Gold harbor tours offers 45-1hr. tours. Again, because we are a large group, we will have a private boat for a 2hr. tour. 100 people, the cost=\$32.50 ea. The more we have over 100, the more we will credit each person for cold drinks or snack onboard. We can have up to 200 on the boat.

The Sonoma/Muir Woods trip requires we use 36 passenger buses because of the narrow road to Muir woods as there is no parking for a 56 passenger bus. The original plan was to go to the Sonoma Wine country and hit some wineries for tasting. After much thought, we felt we were losing valuable time with all the winery hopping. Instead we will go to downtown Sonoma, where we can do the Sonoma Plaza winewalk around historical Sonoma Plaza. There are 18 different wineries represented, where you can taste (for a fee), shop and eat lunch at your convenience. California history was made in Sonoma-and Lee will be providing the information for us as we stroll through the tasting rooms, "cute" (Cathy's word-not mine) shops and eateries. From Sonoma we will bus to beautiful Muir Woods. The trail is actually a boardwalk that provides you with breathtaking views of streams running through meadows that are covered in towering redwood trees, hundreds of years old. It is not uncommon to see the salmon spawning in the streams. You don't have to do the whole walk- you can stop and relax to take in the majestic woods. Another National Park, admission is \$7.00.

Saturday will be the Ft. Point, Crissy Field, USS Hornet, located in Alameda. Ft. Point is a very historical fort, dating back before the Civil War. A lot of cannons and other artifacts surround the fort. The Golden Gate Bridge was actually built over the fort and one of the best camera shots is looking up at Ol' Glory waving under the Golden Gate. On to Crissy field, where you can sit with a soft drink and light snack as you enjoy the view of the Bay and the GG Bridge. Lot of aviation history is linked to Crissy Field. On to Alameda-across the Bay Bridge. Thanks to shipmate Hernando Cuenca, who lives within view of the carrier, we were able to get great rates for the tour, which includes lunch in the hangar bay. We will be too many to fit in the Wardroom. Buses back to Best Western for pictures and our dinner. Dinner is included in the packet.

One last point. I know the registration is higher than in the past, but your Association included all the transportation cost into the city and back on a daily basis. I worked with 10 hotels in the city, and the cheapest was \$207, with no breakfast, and a parking fee of \$40.00. As you've seen on the web site, we are paying \$134.40, with a full breakfast, and parking at \$7.00. The savings on the room is \$72.60 per night Parking is a \$33 difference.

We will be coming out with an updated agenda, as the times of some tours have changed due to time constraints. The registration packet will have all cost of tours and activities.

Thank you for allowing me to coordinate for you!

Ralph Draeger

Hope this helps,

Web Site change

We are adding something to our web site under ship information history. Looking for some, who was on board the Edwards when it was hit by the carrier to add something about it also to this portion of the ship's info. Please contact me if you wish to do the write up

Secretary Desk

I am asking for any leads of shipmate that you are in contact with, who are not members of the Edwards' Association. If you have not verified your address and phone number please take a few minutes and email me at bulcs3@hotmail.com. On Face book there is a face book page for the Richard S Edwards. On it is 102 names of people who were on the Edwards or related to Edwards' crew members. 14 of them are not members to this association.

We sent 103 newsletters, sent 5 applications from membership leads this month. Received 4 corrections this month. 4 letters were returned as not able to forward and were return to sender

Again thank you to all shipmates that responded to the records verification updates.

Treasures Report

July1, 2013 – July31, 2013

Beginning Balance \$3882.05
Income \$261.50
Expenses \$789.95
Ending Balance \$3,353.60

Jim

Memory

Ship's Store

If you have not visited the ship's store please do so. Need a new tee shirt?

Missing shipmates

If you are in contact with them please have them email me with their information

Newsletter Notes

The free guestbook service that was used on the website was discontinued by the vendor. For the interim, the guestbook buttons have been removed from the website.

We are currently looking for a suitable replacement. Once we locate one, the buttons will be restored.

Thank you,

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/ships/list.asp (united States Department of Veteran Affairs

> Does any one know how to get in touch with MMC Smith on board 79 to 82

> Paul Binette

> BRR Refrigeration

Please remove me from your list of potential members. I have suddenly developed a medical problem that prevents traveling - and maybe even living much longer.

I regret both, and thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Harold. E. Haas

LCDR, SC, USN Ret.

Last weekend I had the opportunity to visit the Military Sea Services Museum in Sebring, FL. It is a small place, but very well maintained. It is run mostly by retired navy volunteers who are doing a fantastic job. It has models, plaques, hats, and

memorabilia from hundreds of navy ships. I was disappointed to find that there was nothing to commemorate DD-950. I think it would be great to send them something from the ship. Got any ideas? I could help with the cost if necessary.

Rick Banks

Jack Sanders is planning a mini reunion in Branson, Mo. for Oct. 17th - 19th .

Small world after all

Always knew that a lot of crew members served on the Edwards' over the ships' length of time in service. For years I knew that Bernie Laforest (mm3; 81-82), who works for the same company, We-Energies. I was surprised when going on to face book I found a third person who served on the Edwards. Michael Wallingford (bt 3; 78-80). To find three guys who served on the same ship different years working for the same company does make it a small world after all. Bull

CANCELLATION POLICY: Should cancellation of the rooms become necessary, the Hotel must receive cancellation notification in writing prior to the cancellation date indicated on the Rooms Contract. If a cancellation occurs after that date, the refunding of any deposit or money received, as payment will be made at the discretion of the hotel. The customer may also be liable for the payment of additional penalties if the hotel's opportunity to resell the sleeping rooms or meeting space is impaired because of late cancellation.

HOTEL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: Check-in time is at 3PM and Check-out time is at 12:00N. Any requests for early check-in or late check-out will be considered, based upon the Hotel's occupancy, but not guaranteed. For late check-outs that are granted, a fee of \$50 per room will be charged, for no later than a 5PM check-out extension.

EXTRA PERSONS, ROLLWAYS, AND CRIBS: There is no charge for children 12 years of age or younger, providing they share the same room with their parent(s) with existing bedding. There is an extra charge per person for more than double occupancy in a room with maximum of 4 people for a double bed accommodation only. Rollway bed charges are net per night and taxable. Cribs are provided at no charge.

27 September 1964 to 8 March 1965, I was there for temporary duty for the Crypto equipment TSEC/KW7. I really enjoyed serving aboard the Reddie Eddie and I still have contact with Bill Davis who was in the ET gang today. I made advancement in rating from ETRSN to ETR3 while aboard the Edwards. Donald Dodson

I was aboard the RSE when we collided with the USS KEARSARGE. I was below deck and I was on head phones, as I was part of the refueling detail. Rick Banks

Just wanted to share a great experience I had today at my farewell luncheon.

As we were all being seated, I noticed a ship's bell and stand being set up behind me.

I had no idea what the Navy LT was planning. Since it was close to the noon hour I suspected someone would be giving me twelve o'clock reports! At any rate as we got into the formal part of the lunch, the LT announced the bell came from the Naval Archives, with special permission from a Flag Officer at United States Special Operations Command where I am currently working. To my total surprise, the bell was from USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS, my first ship! As you can probably guess, tears immediately formed in my eyes and I said: You have got to be kidding me! I was shown the paperwork and it is in fact the Ships Bell from DD-950. True Story and a memory that will last a lifetime.

As mentioned in the news letter, I close 38 years of Naval Service during a ceremony on Friday, 28 June on MacDill AFB. I will retire as the Navy's most senior Limited Duty Officer (Silver Eagle). I attribute my selection to Chief Petty Officer, and follow on selection as an LDO to my tour on the USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS. On DD 950 is where I was the Radio Central LPO, Sailor of the Quarter and the DESRON 25 Sailor of the Year. The bell used for bonging on the official party and my last request to go ashore will be the Ready Eddie's!

V/R,
Gerry
CAPT, USN

From Barry Emerson came a note to check out you tube called delta honor guard

I was aboard the RSE from 1966 to 1969. RD 2 CIC, naval gunfire support during Vietnam offense. I am proud to have served aboard the RSE. Robert Ogden