

USS Benjamin Stoddert (DDG-22) Association



The Stoddert **SITREP**

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WINTER EDITION

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JACKSONVILLE, FL

Reunion Sep. 28 – Oct. 2, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Riverfront



The Crowne Plaza Hotel will be our “home” for the 2011 Stoddert Reunion. It is located on St. John’s River. The hotel offers many amenities such as:

- Free wired and wireless internet service
- Free, 24-hour business and fitness centers
- TempurPedic Dream-Spa mattresses in king bedded guest rooms
- Signature Sleep Amenities - including a satin eye mask, lavender linen mist, ear plugs, night light, and a drape clip
- All guest rooms feature walk-out balconies
- Several dining options: Two restaurants and bars, including Ruth’s Chris Steak House, the American Grill, Starbucks Coffee Bar, and In-Room Dining



One of the rooms at the Crowne Plaza (maybe yours?)

President Zorn has a **block of rooms** reserved at the Stoddert Reunion group rate of \$90 per night for a Standard sunset-view room (2 double, a queen, or king beds), \$100 per for the Standard river-view rooms, and River-view Junior Suites for \$140 per night. **Hotel reservations should be made by calling 904.398.8800.** Be sure to ask for the Benjamin Stoddert discount! The hotel staff advised to NOT call the 1-877 reservation number, but to call direct to the hotel to ensure your discount. The cancellation policy requires notifying the hotel by 6 pm 3 days prior to your reservation to cancel or change. Failure to cancel in time can cost one night’s rate.

The reunion discount rate is also offered for 3 days prior to and three days following the reunion, based on availability. When working up the budget for the trip, remember that the room rates do not include 13% in state and local taxes.

Parking is available both in self-service or valet parking. The self-serve is no additional charge (normally \$10 per day) for hotel guests. Valet parking is \$14 per day. There is limited RV parking at no additional charge—check with the hotel.

The Crowne Plaza is just 15 miles from the Jacksonville Intl. Airport, but—according to the information provided by the hotel—it is a \$40 taxi ride, each way. There is also the Express Shuttle which goes to all the downtown hotels for \$35 each way. The most economical ride is to make a reservation for the Express Shuttle through the Destination Planning Corp., which offers a \$20 ride each way. I’ll try to get more precise information on this, but for now you might be able to get the reservation form by calling the hotel directly, or email reservations@destinationplanning.com.

Tours have been set up for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The cost for Thursday’s tour is \$60 which includes lunch. Friday’s tour of St. Augustine is set at \$90. More details are available on the Reunion registration.

Naval Station Mayport is the tour set for Thursday, September 29th. The first stop is at the Veteran's Memorial Wall in Downtown Jacksonville. Dedicated in 1995, this memorial is the largest of its kind and honors veterans from all branches, from WWI to Operation Desert Storm and the current war on terrorism. The next stop is Naval Station Mayport. Commissioned in December 1942, this station has grown to the 3rd largest concentration of the fleet in the United States. The station covers more than 3,400 acres and is the home of helicopter squadrons, 70 tenant commands, 20 other naval ships, as well as the training HQ for Seahawk LAMPS. Lunch will be provided at the Officer's Club—and this is included in the tour price.

Saint Augustine Historical Tour is on Friday and will take us to the birthplace of Christianity on this continent, Mission of Nombre de Dios, the Castillo de San Marcos (which is the oldest of our national monuments), and to the heart of the city rich with the Spanish Renaissance architecture. The tour will conclude with a visit to St. George Street: a shopping "Mecca" pedestrian walk-way with over 240 shops, ice cream parlors, and restaurants, which is an excellent place to have lunch on your own. While the price may seem steep, the tour is priceless...where else can you visit the first settlement in the USA? This tour will be directed by the ghost of crazy Ida Shroud Flagger—an expert in local history and lore.

So, whether your tastes run to exploring history, shopping, or eating fine food (now we're talkin'!), the 2011 reunion site in Jacksonville will have something for everyone. More information will be in this newsletter in the Spring and Summer editions of this newsletter.

Reunion pictures provided by Ted Waypa. **THANKS, TED!**



"This is no \$@%#. . .it was this big"
That might be what Ron Zorn is telling Lou Turilli and Art Hansen after the buffet dinner. Really have no idea what was being said here.

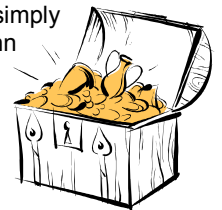
Get in on the 50-50 Drawing

We will be selling 50/50 drawing tickets right up to a few minutes before the drawing at the 2011 reunion banquet dinner, so if you didn't win in 2010, you can try again. Tickets will no longer be mailed out with newsletters: instead you need only send your check in along with some of those pesky return address labels that regularly appear in your mailbox. Our treasurer will take care of the funds and will even stick the address labels on the tickets. (Thank you, John, for doing this!!)

Remember, the drawing is always open to everyone, regardless of whether or not you attend the reunion. **You do not have to be present to win.** The winners who are not at the reunion will have a check mailed to him or her immediately after the reunion. Ticket sales for the 50-50 will continue until just before the drawing.

Help support our Benjamin Stoddert Association. If you want to purchase 50/50 tickets, simply mail \$10.00 for each 12 tickets to John Dishaw at the address below and include 12 address labels so we can place them on the tickets for you. Make your checks payable to USS Benjamin Stoddert Association and mail to:

John Dishaw
 3035 Charlotte Street
 Newbury Park, CA 91320



FIVE RM PLANK OWNERS!

Here is a picture of 5 Radiomen who attended the San Diego reunion and stopped long enough for a photo on the patio area of the Hacienda Hotel.

Seated are Randall Montelbano, and Dickie Nowak. Back row are Johnnie Richard, Maurice Perkins and Monte Newberry. All plank owners!

Side note; Montelbano has a small role in "True Grit" which came out in December. He has acted in several movies.



One of the tables at the Luau, a seated dinner.

Benjamin Stoddert Association, Minutes from 10/16/10 Business Meeting

0849- Association President Ron Zorn called Meeting to order.

Old Business: 2009 minutes read and approved.

New Business:

Greater inclusion of women in the Association was the first subject. Ron proposed that women be more fully included in the association. It was Ron Zorn's and John Dishaw's thoughts that women were not being included in the decision making process such as choosing locations for our future reunions.

During the discussion of the subject, the question of women paying dues was brought up. It was pointed out that there are attendees at the reunion who had not paid dues and that there is no requirement for anyone to join the association to attend.

A general consensus seemed to be that all people with a connection to the Benjamin Stoddert, i.e. sons and daughters of crew members, are eligible to enter into discussions and vote on motions at business meetings.

A proposal was made to establish a non dues paying auxiliary.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to end discussion of women's status in the Association with the understanding that women are aware of their status and that no change to the by-laws is needed.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report. (See Fall Edition, 2010 SITREP)

We discussed methods to increase the Association's income: first, buy generic (not location specific) hats and cups to limit losses when they are not sold. Discussion took place to have location pins made or get them from local chambers of commerce. John Dishaw mentioned a possible arrangement with the vendors to produce hats and cups on demand and the Association receiving a small amount on each sale. Motion made, seconded, and approved to order generic hats and cups; and second, to have members bring donations for raffle prizes and reduce the cost of the raffle. Motion made, seconded, and approved to encourage members to bring donations for the raffle.

It was suggested that a choice be given on the registration forms for cups, hats and patches or none.

To encourage early registration, offer to give the first 25 a chance to win a night or two free at the reunion.

Discussion of raising the dues this year tabled for next year.

Post dues on registration forms and in the newsletter.

Registration packages to be collated by Mike Rigdon for a small fee. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Put on the registration form a place for volunteers to sign up to run the check in desk. Motion made, seconded, and approved

Next reunion site options: Charleston, SC; Savanna, GA; Jacksonville, FL; Pensacola, FL; and Mobile, AL

Herman Chambers reported Jacksonville has voted to accept the USS Adams, DDG-2 as a museum ship and suggested we go to Jacksonville this year.

Frank Chesla reported that he had good experiences in Jacksonville, Pensacola, and Mobile, but Savanna had not seemed interested in hosting a ship's reunion

Motion made, seconded, and approved to close discussion of sites for the next reunion and to accept the

president's selection of Jacksonville, Pensacola, and Mobile as candidates.

President Zorn requested permission to check out the beaches (Jacksonville Beach or Atlantic Beach). A straw poll indicated a strong preference for staying at the beaches.

Frank reminded us that it will be in the hurricane season, and suggested that someone attend a ConFams seminar as resource.

John Dishaw expressed a strong need for the physical presence of a co-chairman to assist him and Ron with the set up of the next reunion. Linda Ellington volunteered to be co-chairman for Jacksonville and was accepted by acclaim.

We discussed setting a date for a Hawaii reunion. 2014 was originally scheduled as it will be the 10th year of the association and the 50th anniversary of the ship's commissioning.

Seattle was discussed for the anniversary of commissioning with (a) groups to fly out CONUS for group rates, or (b) group cruise from CONUS.

Mac McCandless is going to check on prices for the cruise option.

Mike Tribble volunteered to check on charter flights and hotels.

Check on 2012, 2013, or 2014.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and approved.

Present at the meeting: Frank Chesla, Mary Chesla, Tom Sindorf, Mac McCandless, Johnny Collins, John Basolino, John Lekwa, Art Hansen, Jim Saunders, Henry Koopman, Joe Romero, Michael C. Tribble, Al Mullen, Mary Mullen, Dave Saunders, Myrtle Saunders, Linda Ellington, Wayne Ellington, Bob Brown, Pete Rolloson, Dalma Jacob, Marc Jacob, Bernie Hansen, Robert Schue, Karen Schue, Art Burciaga, Bill Moore, Maureen Moore, Jim Hinton, Sue Hinton, Ted Waypa, Herm Chambers, Diane Chambers-Johnston, Bernadette Dishaw, David Nicholson, Joseph N. Patz, Chuck Griffis, Carole Bryan, Ron Zorn, John Dishaw, Lou Turilli.



Trolley Tour #1, ready to depart.

This was one of two trolleys that took us on our tours in San Diego. The drivers/tour guides were BTC Ron Zorn's son and daughter-in-law. They were both a hoot, sometimes at Ron's expense.



This was most of the tour group—taken at the Military Memorial at Cabrillo Park

**DDG-22 Benjamin Stoddert
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