



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

February, 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

Here's hoping that this winter of bad weather almost everywhere hasn't risked the life or destroyed the property of anyone near and dear. Up North, it has been life at 26' below zero with the usual icy roads and dangerous wind chills.

That makes it easy to start focusing on a fun reunion in sunny Colorado in September. The exact details aren't finalized, but it looks like a scenic train ride with an excellent onboard meal will be the main group event. We will also have one day with several small group tour options and lunch offsite from the hotel, with personal time Thursday and Sunday. This format has worked well over the years and we are continuing with it.

Colorado Springs has a multitude of attractions for individual/couples activities, from an aerial tram up Pike's Peak to white water rafting and trout fishing. For the less adventurous, there are historical districts, many smaller museums, and other attractions close to the hotel. Based on the whiskey consumption records from the bar in Minneapolis, I know there are some folks who will be interested to know there at least six local distilleries making quality product that have tasting rooms.

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All Hands on Deck!



SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016
Imperial Beach FRA Branch 289
659 Silver Strand Blvd
Imperial Beach, CA 91933

The San Diego Mini Reunion Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 12 noon at the FRA in Imperial Beach.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this fun filled afternoon to catch up with friends, hear more "sea stories" and to mingle with each other in the New Year. The mini reunion is hosted once again by Janet Romero (daughter of Jake Romero – USS FB Parks 1948/1952). We are hoping for another great turnout. The FRA will once again serve up their delicious Swiss steak pot roast with side dishes and salad along with dessert. The cost for the lunch will be **\$14** per person which will be collected at the door.

Since the luncheon will be upon us soon, please **R.S.V.P. to Janet Romero** as soon as possible so she can keep a head count for the lunches to be served. You can call Janet at **(626) 483-1263** and **leave word or email her directly at jlromero311@verizon.net**.

Please be sure to leave your full name and the name(s) of your guest(s) that will be joining you at the luncheon. Come early to sign in and mingle with old friends. I am looking forward to seeing all those who can make it to the event, and will miss those who cannot.

Janet Romero, Mini Reunion Coordinator
P: 626.483.1263 / Email: jlromero311@verizon.net

(Message from the Assoc. President, continued)

If you're new to West, you can contact George Marlar on proper attire, but for starters, tall heels aren't just for women, real shirts have snaps and two pockets, and you don't have to own cattle to wear a big hat.

We are trying to keep costs reasonable and still provide quality accommodations, events, and entertainment. For instance, the hotel rate is higher than past years, but remember it includes round trip transfers from the Colorado Springs airport (\$100) and the best breakfast buffet your well-travelled Event Planner has ever seen (\$16 per person per day). Additionally, the Hotel has agreed to give reunion room rates for three days before and after the actual reunion dates. For those of you who want to get together before Colorado, Janet Romero has again graciously agreed to host the San Diego mini- reunion April the ninth. See her contact information in the Events Section and on the website.

On behalf of the Association, I want to again thank all who helped to make Minneapolis a success. In particular there are three who stepped up to the plate and were a tremendous help in the day-to-day operation of the hospitality room and the raffle: Kate White, Nancy Hall, and Janet Boudreaux. BZ to all of you.

Finally, please help us be more efficient by directing all reunion hotel/event questions to Pamela Smith.

See Ya All in Colorado Springs

Jim Smith, Your Association President

ASSOCIATION DUES

From the Treasurer

Sincere thanks to the 115 shipmates who have lived up to (and in many cases more than lived up to) their dues commitment. Dues are \$10 for 2016 – very reasonable and affordable.

There are 59 shipmates who are now three or more years without paying dues and they will receive a personal note from me in their newsletters. The Association policy continues to be: *If you have not paid dues for the most recent 3 year period you will be removed from the active list and not receive mailed newsletters in the future.* Please get current with your dues.

We continue to honor our deceased shipmates by offering free Honorary Membership to their surviving wives. There are currently 61 honorary members in the Association.

Note: I will be filing the Association's not-for-profit tax return this year with the IRS and State of California. No action needed from you – just for information.

Some are clinging to old habits and mailing their dues to Bill Birdsong – please update your mailing address for dues. The dues for 2016 are \$10; please write your check or money order payable to "FLOYD B PARKS ASSN" and mail it to FLOYD B PARKS ASSN, c/o Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Drive, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940.

Dennis Allion, Your Association Treasurer

**USS Floyd B Parks 2016 Reunion
Colorado Springs, Colorado
September 14 -19, 2016**

We are pleased to announce our stay will be at the Colorado Springs Marriott. We have AMAZING VIEWS. Nestled at the top of the foothills overlooking beautiful Pikes Peak, **5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919.** www.marriott.com/cosmc Hotel services and amenities include free parking, complimentary wireless internet, on site restaurant & lounge, Starbuck's, fitness center, indoor pool/whirlpool, laundry onsite, safe, coffee maker, refrigerators, handicap accessible rooms. This is a no smoking hotel.

We have blocked rooms under the name **USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion Block.** You can call the 24 hour reservations line at 1-800-932-2151 or call the group housing coordinator at 719 268-4218. Be sure to ask for USS Floyd B. Parks DD884 Military Reunion Block when you call. We will have the hotel web reservation link on the Parks website for those who would like to book online.

The cutoff date for reservations is **Friday, August 12, 2016.** **Please do not wait. Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. The cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival.**

You have 2 options: The Standard Room rate is \$122.00 and the Junior Suite is \$152.00. The rooms can be viewed on the hotel's website. www.marriott.com/cosmc **Both rates include shuttle service to/from Colorado Springs Airport as well as a hot breakfast buffet each day for 2 person room.**

Big Moments – Colorado Springs.... Are You Ready!

Activities will start on Friday mid-morning with our big group activity. On Saturday we will have three tours starting mid-morning. You can sign up for any one of the 3 tours. There will be more details in the May newsletter for cost and actual time agenda.

Friday, September 16, 2016

❖ **Royal Gorge Route Railroad.** Breathtaking views aboard Colorado's #1 scenic train. We will depart from the historic Santa Fe Depot for an unforgettable journey through the Royal Gorge, Colorado's grandest canyon. We will have a wonderful Oktoberfest lunch onboard with cash bar and be back to the hotel around 3:30pm. Friday evening will be on your own for dinner. www.royalgorgeroute.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **Garden of Gods #1 Best Park in the Country.** Guided bus tour through the park with red sandstone formations and views of Pikes Peak. Beautiful and majestic. We will then have lunch in Historic Manitou Springs. www.gardenofgods.com www.manitousprings.org
- ❖ **U.S. Olympic Training Center.** The dream starts here. State of the art athletic complex for 14 different sports, with the Olympic Hall of Fame. The tour starts with an inspirational 12 minute film and then a 45 minute outdoor walking tour of the training complex, including the weightlifting and wrestling facilities, the Aquatic center and the Sport center Gymnasiums. We will have lunch before returning to the hotel. More information visit www.teamusa.org
- ❖ **The National Museum of World War II Aviation.** A Museum where you can touch, see and learn about America's heroes. There is no other museum in the U.S. focused solely on the important story of World War II aviation. We will have lunch before returning to the hotel. More information visit www.worldwariiaviation.org

Saturday Night Dinner - Get your cowboy hat and boots ready..... You are invited to a country hoedown dinner at the hotel. Be sure to wear your country western digs and don't forget those boots. We are going to dance until the cows come home.

Sunday, September 18, 2016

- ❖ Sunday morning will be the regular schedule. Men's meeting and worship service in the morning and then gather for pictures, banquet, and raffle in the evening. Times will be announced in May newsletter.

Things to do in Colorado Springs area!

- ❖ **Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railway.** Highest cog railway in the world ascends to summit of 14,110 feet Pikes Peak. Consider any personal health issues because altitude can affect your medications. More information visit www.cograilway.com
- ❖ **Seven Falls.** Cascades 181 feet in seven distinct steps down a solid cliff of Pikes Peak granite. More information visit www.sevenfalls.com
- ❖ **Royal Gorge Bridge.** One of the world's highest suspension bridges an unforgettable 1/4 mile journey through the clouds above the Arkansas River www.royalgorgebridge.com
- ❖ **Glen Eyrie Castle.** Tour this Tudor castle built by General William Jackson Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs. More information visit www.gleneyrie.com
- ❖ **Pine Creek Golf Course.** This golf course is the finest public golf course in Colorado Springs and is consistently ranked among the top ten public courses in Colorado. More information visit www.pinecreek.com
- ❖ **US Air Force Academy and Chapel.** 31,600 square foot facility offering information and exhibits on Academy history and cadet life. More information visit www.usafa.af.mil

**More information to come in the May newsletter along with the activity form.
Hope to see everyone in Colorado Springs.**

Officers

President - Jim Smith, STG2 '72-'73	jwsmith@paulbunyan.net	218-224-3581
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Master at Arms – Michael Shoen, MMFN '70-'72	mikelschoen@gmail.com	608-788-1589
Chaplain/Ships Store - David Lewis, MM '70-'73	idawdle@nemr.net	660-216-0055
Historian – Marie Sigmon, HON. MEM.	Marie.sigmon@yahoo.com	330-461-2534
Event Planner – Pamela Smith	ppog3_52@yahoo.com	612-290-4465
Newsletter – Theresa Allion	tjallion@sbcglobal.net	831-402-2764

From the Chaplains Corner
David Lewis,
PARKS Assoc. Chaplain

Diana and I had a quiet time this winter. We had a Florida trip planned and met up with a few shipmates for a fun time. However, my dad is not to well so being a responsible son, I feel I should stay around. Out in the far away land where I live, I am the back bone of clearing country roads into the farm. I like that where I live, we are self-sufficient and the town is 20 miles away. But it slows us down when trying to get away at times.

Don Porter told me today, Jane's father is having health problems, but may be improving. So as I look at my older family, I can see how each of us will one day be having health issues of our own. We all need to keep in touch with each other as much as possible and keep faith that our time spent with friends will always benefit each other. Let us all keep shipmates and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Since our last newsletter, I was informed of one loss to our group JOHN GRIFFITH 45-46. I hope all of you will keep in touch with me of any news about shipmates that need a word or thought for their lives and loss.

Sounds like a fun time coming in Sept. So rest up and be ready. I have spent a lot of time in Colorado and each day you will always remember. May God bless and keep us all safe for our next reunion.

David Lewis, MM3 '70-'73

(If you know of someone that is ill or has passed away, please email or call me so I can share with the Parks Family idawdle@nemr.net, 660-216-0055)

TIN CAN TRIVIA

This World War Two submarine commander chose not to abandon ship with the rest of his crew. Instead he chose to stay with his ship and he gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country by going down with his ship. His gallantry was later explained by his shipmates, who said the Captain chose to remain onboard the ship rather than be taken prisoner by the Japanese. The Captain reasoned that if captured he would be tortured and possibly be given drugs to extract the truth from him about current submarine tactics and strategy, possible fleet movements and the important plans for the impending invasion of the Gilbert Islands. This heroic officer earned the Medal of Honor posthumously for his brave actions. This trivia question asks the name of the ship christened in his honor, and the name of the submarine he so heroically went down with after saving his crew.

Answer: DE 1014, Dealy Class Destroyer Escort and SS 191 USS Sculpin.

Captain John Phillip Cromwell born 11 September 1901, he graduated the US Naval Academy with the class of 1924. Prior to his submarine commands he served on the battle ship Maryland BB-46. He was flying the pennant of Commander Submarine Division 44 onboard the USS Sculpin, when after repeated Japanese depth charge attacks, Captain Cromwell was forced to quit the fight in order to save his crew.



*Colorado
Springs Reunion
September,
14-19, 2016*

**U.S.S. FLOYD B. PARKS
DD884 ASSOCIATION**

Dennis Allion
4 Los Encinos Drive
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

FEBRUARY, 2016