



Time to mark your 2013 calendars for Charleston!

Charleston, SC is the site for your Firedrake Reunion 2013! We will be meeting at the ***Sheraton Charleston Airport Hotel with arrival on Sunday March 24th and departure will be on Thursday morning March 27th.***

Of course we will have many activities and loads of time to greet your fellow shipmates, renew old acquaintances and make new friends as we enjoy the charm and warm southern hospitality offered by the fine folks of Charleston.

Our hotel is a great location that offers free shuttle service from and to the Charleston Airport and for those who are driving they of course offer free self parking. We have been able to negotiate an excellent room rate of only \$86.00 per night plus state and local taxes.

You are to coordinate your own room reservations with the Sheraton by phoning in your reservation request to **1-888-747-1900**. It is very important that you identify yourself as part of our group (USS Firedrake). You will need to provide your name(s), requested type of room, requested bed type (i.e. king, double/double), and your check-in and check-out dates. Deadline for making room reservations is February 23, 2013, but please call the hotel and make your reservations as soon as possible. Guest check-in time 3:00 pm and check-out time is 12:00 noon. At the time you make your reservations the hotel will require a valid credit card but you will not be billed until you settle up your account upon departure. Cancellations require at least a 72 hour notice or you will be charged one night room and tax.

I am still working on arranging the schedule of activities and will be issuing another newsletter as soon as those arrangements are finalized and costs are known. The

registration form and information will be included in that newsletter. Our banquet will be at the Sheraton on Wednesday evening March 26th. Look for another Newsletter soon!

Web Site and Information Sharing

Your ship's web site www.USSFiredrake.org has been updated with many photos taken during the last reunion at Baton Rouge, LA including a set of various shipmates as they board the USS Kidd for our 2011 Memorial Ceremony that were taken by Patrick Dennis, the photographer who took our group photo. All attendees received a copy of the group photo. For those of you who were unable to make the 2011 reunion there is a copy of the group photo posted on the web site. Click here to go directly to the photo listing page, <http://ussfiredrake.com/photos.html>

If anyone has photos that you took and would like to see added to our web site please contact Dick Tracy at USSFiredrake@gmail.com to arrange it. All of your photos of the reunion are welcome so we can all enjoy them.

Also, if anyone has any stories about times when you were on the Firedrake that you would be willing to share, and or other photos from your Firedrake days please pass them along by email or US Mail. If you have any questions or want to just chat about anything concerning the Firedrake call me at 610-207-2016.

Firedrake Merchandise Available

There are a limited number of Firedrake items available for sale. These items may be ordered by contacting Dick Tracy at USSFiredrake@gmail.com

Ship's Patches – a 5 inch diameter cloth patch (photo)- \$8.50 each includes postage

Firedrake Ceramic Tiles - 6"x6" with stand (photo below) - \$10.00 each plus postage

Reunion 2011 Firedrake Ball point Pen - \$0.75 each includes postage

Firedrake Golf Shirts (Navy) –only 4 available (1 Med, 2 Lg, 1 XL) - \$20 each plus shipping

Firedrake Ball Caps – one size fits all - \$10.00 plus shipping



Help find your Shipmates

The whole purpose of this newsletter, web site and our reunion is to allow all Firedrake Shipmates to be in contact with and to enjoy sharing good times with one another. That can only happen when we know about one another and share that information. So if you know the whereabouts of any shipmates and you don't see their names on the listing of shipmates on the website, <http://ussfiredrake.com/shipmates.html> then send the information you have on them to us at USSFiredrake@gmail.com so we can contact them and get them listed.

If you find a shipmate listed on our web site that you don't have address or phone or email information for, and you want to contact them, just send an email to USSFiredrake@gmail.com asking for their contact information. We don't publish it on our web site for privacy purposes but freely share contact information between shipmates.

Special Request for Korean Era Shipmates

I received an unusual request from a sailor, Radioman Willard Adams, who was stationed on the USS Camano AKL-1 and he is seeking any photos that any of you might just happen to have of an AKL berthed alongside the Firedrake. He was on the USS Camano AKL1, USS Hewell AKL14, USS Repose AH16 in 1951/54 and had some Deck Logs from those ships that say the Firedrake was berthed together with the Hewell and other AKLs. Thought I would pass the question along on the chance any of our Korea Era shipmates could help him out. By the way an AKL is a small cargo ship (Light). If you happen to have any photos please let me know at USSFiredrake@gmail.com