



# USS FIREDRAKE AE-14

Reunion 2011 Newsletter

Issue #1– December 2010

## **FIREDRAKE REUNION 2011**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana - May 10 through May 13**

**Hi Shipmates,**

**Here is the information and registration form for our next Firedrake Reunion. Make your plans now to join in the fun and share some more great times with shipmates and their spouses as we all gather once again to share in the camaraderie, catch up on each other's lives and see a new part of the country.**

**Plans are being finalized for all the great events and the details are below on Page 2. We have made efforts to keep costs low while planning an exciting and enjoyable time. Be sure to read all the way through the information and then to RSVP with your intentions on attending.**

### **WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR "LOST" SHIPMATES**

The mailing list has over 280 names of shipmates who served on Firedrake from 1944 through 1971. We know there are more shipmates out there we need to locate. Please contact all shipmates you know and tell them about Reunion 2011. Ask them to attend and if they are not on the mailing list, send their name, address, phone, and email addresses to our new email address [USSFiredrake@gmail.com](mailto:USSFiredrake@gmail.com). Please use our new email address if you have address changes, reunion inquiries, news items, inquiries about shipmates, etc. Please do not use it for any other purpose.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

Reunion 2011: Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Court, Fleetwood, PA 19522  
email [USSFiredrake@gmail.com](mailto:USSFiredrake@gmail.com) or phone 610-207-2016.

### **DUES AND FEES**

Presently there are no dues, although we may soon need to form a formal organization for tax purposes. Many shipmates however send \$10 checks to help on newsletter costs. If you have not sent \$10 during this 2-year "reunion cycle" and can help, please send check to Dick Tracy, (as above). Make checks payable to "USS Firedrake Reunion".

# USS Firedrake AE-14

## Reunion 2011 Information

**For this reunion we are again offering a single price to include all of the following events. Lodging is not included and you need to make your hotel accommodations. If you are not able to attend for the whole reunion period call or e-mail Dick Tracy for pricing information to accommodate your special needs:**

### EVENTS

**Tues. May 10:** Hotel check in at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel after 12 Noon. Evening Welcome Reception

**Wed. May 11:** Breakfast at the hotel. Take our bus trip to New Orleans to visit the National World War II Memorial. This visit will include a special buffet luncheon musical show featuring the Victory Belles. We will also enjoy the Solomon Victory Theater screening of Beyond All Boundaries, the Museum's signature cinematic experience. Then stretch your legs on your self guided tour of the National World War II Museum's exhibits that will encompass the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy, the Home Front during WWII and D-Day and the Invasions in the Pacific. Exhibit galleries incorporate text panels, artifacts, and Personal Account stations in which visitors may listen to the stories of WWII veterans and others who supported the war effort. Following our visit to the museum we will board our bus to go to our group Creole dinner at The Gumbo Shop in French Quarter restaurant. We will then take a brief riding tour of New Orleans to include Super Dome, historic St Charles Avenue, Garden District accessible by larger coach, Magazine Street lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward and areas affected by Katrina, and parts of the Quarter accessible by the coach. We will then return to our hotel where you may choose from enjoying chatting with friends in our hospitality room, trying your luck in the adjacent casino or just retiring to your room to relax for the night.

**Thur. May 12:** Breakfast at the hotel. Take a bus trip to the LSU Rural Life Museum to see what life was like for most folks in Louisiana in days gone by. We will then take the bus for a short ride to Nottaway Plantation, in White Castle, Louisiana area. It is one of Louisiana's grand old plantation homes to see the opulent lifestyle of the plantation owners. There we will have lunch and a guided tour of Nottaway followed by time to tour the grounds and gift shop. On way back from Nottaway we will take a scenic route along The Great River Road to view other plantation homes and make a stop at historic Donaldsonville, the second capitol of Louisiana. We will have a 5 PM group dinner at Boutin's Restaurant, one of Baton Rouge's fine restaurants. Lastly we bus back to our hotel after dinner for evening on your own in our Hospitality room, the casino or wherever.

**Fri. May 13:** Breakfast at the hotel. No bus today! We will take a very short group walk to the USS Kidd Memorial at 9:30. We will be greeted and have a brief orientation in the lobby. Then the ladies will be escorted onto the ship after which the sailors will be rung on board. We will then hold our memorial service and traditional Two-Bell Ceremony remembering departed shipmates. After the ceremony you will tour the ship and the museum at your own pace. Following the ship tours it will be time for lunch on your own with friends. Many of us will likely walk to nearby *Shucks on the Levee* for lunch. Your afternoon is free for individual activities and socialization. You will be asked to return to the hotel for a 5:30 All Hands meeting to discuss where we want to hold our Reunion 2013. We will wrap up the day and our reunion with our dress up 2011 Firedrake banquet. As those of you who have attended prior reunions know, the banquet is a special event to close the Reunion and leave all of us with warm memories and firm resolves to convene again in 2013.

**TOTAL cost for all events above including the Banquet, two dinners and two lunches....\$410 per person\***

\***Note:** a minimum of 50 reservations are required to maintain the above price. Bus Tour maximums may limit the number of participants or increase costs at some events so register early to be sure to get in on all events at this price. Although unlikely, you will be advised of any cost adjustments necessary.

**PLEASE make reservations NOW by filling in and mailing the form on the next page. Deposits of \$100 per person, by check payable to USS Firedrake Reunion must accompany your registration. The balance is due no later than Wednesday, March 23rd. We must have all final numbers for activities by March 25th.**

***All Reunion reservations must be received by March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011***

***Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel As Soon As Possible. See details in this issue.***

e-mail: [AE14.2009@gmail.com](mailto:AE14.2009@gmail.com) (Dick Tracy)

pg 2 of 3

Issue #1- December 2010

# USS Firedrake AE-14 Reunion 2011

## Registration Form

Reunion dates are arrival Tuesday, May 10, 2011 through departure Saturday, May 14. Location is at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Print out, complete and mail this form along with your check for your deposit ASAP to:  
Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Court, Fleetwood, PA 19522**

If you need to wait to send in your deposit please at least email your intent to attend to  
USSFiredrake@gmail.com

**If you know you will not attend please email your regrets.**

**YES!!!** I (we) plan to attend USS Firedrake Reunion 2011 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NAME (+ Guests): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement of receipt of your registration will be made by email to your email address.

Dates on AE-14 (which years): \_\_\_\_\_ Highest Rank/Rate while on AE-14 \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee for the reunion is \$410 per person.**

My deposit in the amount of \$100 per attendee included. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make check payable to USS Firedrake Reunion)

**Please be sure to make your hotel reservations soon – see next page for hotel info.**

### Banquet Note

In order to keep expenses to a lower level this year our banquet will be a Buffet dinner offering choices of salads, entrees and desserts

For questions phone (610) 207-2016 or email to [USSFiredrake@gmail.com](mailto:USSFiredrake@gmail.com)

# USS FIREDRAKE 2011 REUNION BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms is reserved for shipmates and guests at our 2011 Reunion hotel, the.  
*Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Special Reunion Cost \$95/night + 13% Hotel tax,  
for your choice of King size or Two Full size beds.

**Make your reservation NOW!**

**No reservations at Group rate after May 1<sup>st</sup>**

You need to make your own hotel reservations DIRECT with the hotel

*by calling Belle of Baton Rouge Call Center at 1-800-266-2692 and  
referencing the USS Firedrake AE-14 Room Block.*

For those who might want to extend their stay and see more of the beautiful Baton Rouge area or to use the hotel as a base to visit New Orleans, the special reunion room rate will be available up to 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion.

**Deposit or credit card is required at the time you make your reservations.**

Reservations after May 1st will be accepted based upon availability.

**Parking:** Complimentary parking available to the guests in the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel's key accessed guest lot or two covered parking garages. They also offer the option of overnight valet parking at \$10.00 per night.

**Airport & Transportation:** Complimentary Shuttle service is offered by the Belle of Baton Rouge to and from the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, symbol BTR. American, Continental, Delta, and US Airways operate frequent jet flights from BTR to hubs in Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Houston, and Memphis. This airport offers a pleasant atmosphere with convenient flight times and connections to hundreds of destinations.

Please NOTE: We are trying to arrange the 2011 Firedrake Reunion events so it is NOT necessary to have a rental car, however for those desiring to rent a car for your own convenience the following car rental firms offer service at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport: Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz and National. Links providing detail contact information for both airlines and car rentals may be found on the Web Site for the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport at <http://www.flybtr.com>