

USS FIREDRAKE Reunion 2009
c/o Jack Meyer
11252 Brookbridge Drive
Cincinnati OH 45249-2201

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Shipmates – Here’s the update, registration and
reservation info on our next reunion!**

Set sail for Jacksonville!

FIREDRAKE REUNION – November 6-8, 2009

See inside for preliminary information

Your Shipmates are looking forward to seeing you there

Visit us on the web at www.USSFIREDDRAKE.org

FIREDRAKE Polo Shirts, Ball Caps and Patches

We will be ordering some Polo Shirts, Navy Blue with Firedrake Logo, Ball Caps and Ship’s Patches for shipmates to pick up at the Reunion. We need your orders soon. See details inside.

USS FIREDRAKE AE-14

Reunion 2009 Newsletter

Issue #2- February 2009

FIREDRAKE REUNION 2009 November 6 – 8 in Jacksonville, Florida

It's time to sign up for this year's FIREDRAKE Reunion! In this issue of the Newsletter you will find all the information needed to sign up and make sure you are there with us as we celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Firedrake near the site where the Firedrake was commissioned in 1944.

The FIREDRAKE was commissioned in Jacksonville, Florida on 27 December 1944 having been converted from a newly built merchant ship the SS Winged Racer.

The plans are moving well along. On page 2 you will find hotel reservation details and all the various ways you can make your own hotel reservations and take advantage of our special group rates. You will also find specific information on such things as transportation from the airport, parking, early departure and cancellations. Our reunion will be held in the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront hotel, a great place to meet.

Jacksonville, located in northeast Florida, is a great Navy town, home of Naval Station Mayport, the third largest fleet concentration area in the USA. Jacksonville is also home to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the third largest naval installation in the United States. The Jacksonville area also has many great places to visit and things to see and do as well as being the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars, an NFL Football Team.

Dick Tracy and Skip Fallon are finalizing the details for your reunion. Look for more details and a specific detailed agenda in our next Reunion 09 newsletter and check for updates on our web site www.ussfiredrake.org

HELP NEEDED IN LOOKING FOR MORE "LOST" SHIPMATES

The mailing list now has grown to 250 shipmates who served on Firedrake from 1944 through 1971. We know there are still many more shipmates out there we need to locate. Please contact all shipmates you know and tell them about Reunion 2009. 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 AE14.2009@gmail.com If you're looking for a shipmate, we do not distribute the complete address list, but are happy to answer inquiries for contact information on shipmates. 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. **PLEASE do NOT send jokes, petitions, or anything not involving AE14 to our new address.**

POINTS OF CONTACT

Reunion 2009: Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Court, Fleetwood, PA 19522 phone 610-944-9675 or e-mail dtracy@ptd.net or Skip Fallon, 3643 Eunice Road, Jacksonville, FL 32250 phone 904-223-9462

Newsletter: Jack Meyer, 11252 Brookbridge Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249, Phone (513) 489-7361

Finance: Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Ct., Fleetwood, PA 19522, Phone 610-944-9675 e-mail dtracy@ptd.net

Note: Dick & Pat Tracy are often on the road in their RV so call his cell phone 610-207-2016

DUES AND FEES

There are no dues. However, many shipmates 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).**

FIREDRAKE JACKSONVILLE REUNION
HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms is reserved for shipmates and guests at our 2009 Reunion hotel, the
Crowne Plaza Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida
Special Reunion Cost \$99/night + tax, or, \$109/night + tax for Riverview rooms

Make your reservation NOW!
No reservations at Group rate after October 5th!

Please make your hotel reservations DIRECT with the hotel
Take your choice from the following means to make reservations

Crowne Plaza Worldwide Reservations at 1-800-2-CROWNE (1-800-227-6963), Or,
Crowne Plaza Riverfront (local) phone: (904) 398-8800 Ext 4141 Mon - Fri 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Be sure to give them Our Group Booking Code UFE ,
Or, you can also go on line to www.cpjacksonville.com and follow the below directions
to make reservations.

- Click "Reservations" to make reservations.
- Enter arrival and departure dates.
- Click the drop-down menu next to the heading "Corporate, Group, & IATA Identification"
- Next to Group Booking Code enter UFE
- Finally, select your room type and complete reservation.

Or, Finally you can make your reservations using our Firedrake Web site at
www.USSFiredrake.org using the link and information found there.

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

Reservations after October 5th will be accepted based upon availability.

Parking: The Crowne Plaza offers complementary (usually \$10 per day) on site self parking to all our Reunion Attendees. Valet parking is available for \$14 per day.

Airport & Transportation: The Crowne Plaza is conveniently located only 20 minutes/miles from the Jacksonville International Airport. Transportation to and from the airport is available via the Express Shuttle (904) 353-8880, \$35 each way or Taxi fares run approximately \$40 each way. For downtown transportation, the Skyway Express is available around town and across the river for \$0.50 (fifty cents) per person each way; as well as the Water Taxi, (904) 733-7782, for \$3.00 - \$5.00 per person each way.

Early Departure/No show Fee and Cancellation of Reservations; In the event a Reunion Attendee who has requested a room from our block of rooms checks out prior to his or her reserved departure date, the Hotel will add an early departure fee of \$50 to that guest's individual account. Members wishing to avoid an early departure fee should advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.

Canceling your reservations after 72 hours prior to arrival or failing to show on your day of arrival will result in a charge that is equal to the first night's stay to your credit card for each room reserved. Failing to call or show before 2:00am after the first night of a reservation will result in cancellation of the remainder of your reservation.

USS Firedrake AE-14

2009 Reunion Registration Form

For this reunion we are 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

Thurs. Nov 5: Hotel check in and evening Welcome Reception at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront

Friday Nov 6: Possible breakfast with member of Blue Angles flight team. NAS Mayport Tour & Lunch and St. Augustine, FL Tour and group dinner

Sat. Nov 7: Firedrake Commissioning Remembrance Ceremony at Lone Sailor, Sea and VIP seating for Sky Spectacular at Jacksonville Beach, includes lunch. Dinner on your own with friends and shipmates,. Water taxi is available to cross the river to Jacksonville waterfront area.

Sun. Nov 8: Jacksonville City Tour, followed by Lunch and show at Alhambra Dinner Theater. Following a few hours break after our return the Firedrake Banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront. This is a special event to close the Reunion and leave all with warm memories and a firm resolve to convene again in 2011. Good program and traditional Two-Bell Ceremony remembering departed shipmates

TOTAL cost including all events above, the Banquet, one dinner and three lunches.....\$440 per person

Note: a minimum of 50 reservations required to maintain the above price. Tour maximums may limit the number of participants at some events so register early to be sure to get in on all events.

PLEASE make reservations NOW by cutting off, filling in and mailing the form below to help planning. A deposit of \$100 per person is needed by July 30th, but may be made when you mail this form. You may pay the balance by check or cash on arrival. We must have all final numbers for the activities by October 3rd.

(The "honor payment donation" system will apply for refreshments to be available in the hospitality room.)

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

----- cut here and mail -----

Mail ASAP to: Dick Tracy, 6 Cambridge Court, Fleetwood, PA 19522

For questions phone (610) 207-2016 or email ae14.2009@gmail.com

YES!!! I (we) plan to attend USS Firedrake Reunion 2009 in Jacksonville, Florida!

NAME (+ Guests): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ E-MAIL: _____

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

Deposit in the amount of \$100 per attendee needed by July 30th. Amount enclosed \$ _____
(Make checks payable to USS Firedrake Reunion)

Banquet menu choices: Please mark your Banquet choice by putting the NUMBER of dinners by choice(s)

Prociutto wrapped Chicken Breast with wine sauce and wild mushrooms - **Quantity** _____

New Your Strip Loin Steak au poivre (10 oz) with peppercorns and cream sauce - **Quantity** _____

Florida Grouper with Citrus Buerre Blanc - **Quantity** _____