

# USS Firedrake Reunion 2017

## Rapid City, SD

Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center

### Reunion Agenda

#### Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>

**Our Hospitality Room, Rooms 1702 and 1703, will be open starting at Noon for Reunion check in and socialization. There will be beverages and snacks provided. Bring your memorabilia to the Hospitality Room to share and enjoy! (Please put your name on items you bring)**

**6:30 – 8:30 PM** - Hosted Welcome reception in the Sylvan Room for everyone to enjoy and get together. Reception will include hors-d'oeuvres with a beer and wine bar at the Ramkota, followed by more time in the hospitality room or dinner on your own if you are still hungry. **Hospitality Room will be open until???**

#### Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mount Rushmore National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park and Fort Hays Dinner Show

**6:30 – 8:15** Breakfast buffet in the Sylvan Room – Cost included in your room fee

**8:30 AM** – Load on bus at back door near Sylvan room. Tour today includes a trip via Hill City to **Crazy Horse memorial**, an awe-inspiring carving of an entire mountain in the shape of Chief Crazy Horse on his horse. This memorial honors the living heritage of the North American Indians with the Indian Museum, Native American Education and Cultural Center, collections and more.

From Crazy Horse, we will depart for **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** via **Custer State Park**, one of the largest state parks in the country that offers a tremendous amount of wildlife including buffalo, antelope, begging burros, prairie dogs and more. Next we will have **lunch at Carver's Café at Mount Rushmore**. Enjoy an entrée, a side and a beverage from a broad menu. **After lunch, we will take our GROUP PHOTO on the Patio with the Mount Rushmore as a backdrop.** Then you have free time to visit the exhibits, photos or stroll down the trail at the base of Mount Rushmore.. We will return to the Ramkota about 4 PM.

**5:15 PM** depart the Ramkota and travel to **Fort Hays** for a **chuckwagon supper and western music and comedy show**. Estimated return to the Ramkota 8:30. – **Hospitality Room open until???**

#### Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ellsworth AFB South Dakota Air & Space Museum, Badlands National Park and Wall Drug

**6:30 – 8:15** Breakfast buffet in the Sylvan Room I.

**8:30 AM** – Depart for Ellsworth Air Force Base to tour the **South Dakota Air & Space Museum**, continue our travels to **Wall Drug**, the world's largest drug store, where you will have time to wander this unique shopping emporium filled with many fun activities and displays. Try not to get too lost!

**We will have a group lunch at Wall Drug.** For lunch enjoy an entrée choice from a menu to be provided. Beverages choice of soda or coffee and a dessert of a plain or frosted donut.

We will then proceed to **Badlands National Park** where rains, wind and frost have carved steep canyons, sharp ridges, gullies and pinnacles providing a glimpse into the relentless pace of geological change. This is a truly amazing National Park. Estimated return to the Ramkota 3:30 PM. Hospitality Room open until 5.

**5:15 PM** depart the Ramkota to downtown Rapid City for **Murphy's Pub and Grill** for an unforgettable dinner in a private dining room prepared by Chef Itterman. We will have a menu of choices to choose from including Mango and Berry Salad, Dakota Pulled Pork, Buffalo Meat Loaf, Grilled Salmon and Shepard's Pie. Choice of non-alcoholic beverages. Dessert will be Salted Carmel Cake and Ice Cream with Berries. After dinner, we will take a short drive around downtown Rapid City to view Main Street Square, the City of Presidents, etc. Estimated return to the Ramkota 8 PM. Hospitality Room open until???

### **Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 – 8:15** Breakfast buffet in the Sylvan Room I. **NOTE - Today** let the Hotel Front Desk know if you will need the shuttle to the airport tomorrow and time you will leave so they can coordinate shuttle runs.

**8:30 AM** – Travel via beautiful **Spearfish Canyon** with roadside view of Bridal Veil Falls, then continue to the town of Lead. Take a short break and comfort stop at **Sanford Lab Homestead Visitor Center** to view the exhibit hall with historic photos, videos, science and mining artifacts, and a 3-D model of the underground from the surface down to the 8,000-foot level. From the deck, view the 3,000 foot Open Cut.

We will continue to **The Wild West that Never Stops**, the city of **Deadwood** with 3 hours' free time for and included lunch, gaming and touring. We will enjoy group dining at the **Deadwood Social Club**. You will preselect your choice for this meal from menu to be provided on Monday on the bus. Non-alcoholic beverages included. Load for return at 2:30 PM with estimated arrival back at the Ramkota 3:30 PM. Hospitality room will be open until shortly before we gather for our meeting at 5 pm

**5:00 PM All hands Firedrake Reunion Business Meeting** in the Sylvan Room II where we will plan our next reunion.

**6:00 PM Cocktails - two-hour cash bar** in the Sylvan Room.

**7:00 PM –FIREDRAKE REUNION BANQUET** at the Ramkota in the Sylvan Room.

### **Thursday October 5th**

**6:30 – 8:30** Breakfast buffet in the Sylvan Room I. **Remember to pick up your memorabilia!**

**Departure** – Hospitality room open 8-11 AM for time to say our good-byes to shipmates and friends until we meet again in 2019. Check out time is 12 noon.

**If you have questions don't hesitate to contact me!**

Call on my cell anytime - 610-207-2016 **DICK TRACY**