



USS Yosemite AD-19 Association
President Report From
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To All Hands

The Yosemite Reunion At Sea was a great success. We had seven great days on the ship (Carnival Magic) and it allowed us to have lots of time to interact with one another. The Ports of Call (Liberty Ports) were a great opportunity to shop and share experiences with other members. Amber Cove, St. Thomas, San Juan, and Grand Turks and Caicos Islands came one day after another, and the time just flew by. The ship was its own ongoing liberty port. The casino was frequented by many and for the most part if you wanted to find any Yosemite people you could always stop by the "Red Frog Pub". The food was off the chart and as much as you want anytime you want. We held our meetings in the Piano Bar that we had to ourselves, and from what I could see, things went very smoothly. The highlight of our Reunion is always our raffle, and we had a great dinner and managed to sell raffle tickets for some great items that were brought by our guests. If you have not been to our new website lately, ussyosemite.net, please take a look at the pictures ... and there are a lot of them. We were able to have a group picture taken on a grand staircase in the dining area. I did not meet anyone that did not feel the Reunion At Sea was a spectacular event. It was a pleasure to see so many long time members and some new faces as well. If you were not able to make it... we missed you. With some luck perhaps we can do another one in 2020. We will vote on that in 2018.

Now it's time to look forward to the next big event, "Philadelphia". We have a solid plan in place to make sure you have a great time and all your needs are met. Please encourage all your friends in the Association to come out and have a great time. We will be setting up an online sign up on the Yosemite website and will have a form in the next newsletter that you can mail in if you like. My thoughts are with this as an East Coast, land based event, and we should be able to have a strong turnout. I will give you an overview of the Philadelphia event as it currently stands.

Reunion 2018 Philadelphia Event Agenda

We are excited to invite those that once served on the Yosemite and family members tied to those individuals to join us for a great time in Philadelphia, 2-6 May, 2018. The Valley Forge Casino Hotel Resort/Radisson Hotel will host our



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group. The complex is stunning. You will stay in the Radisson and enjoy rooms with 31 inch flat screen TVs, and a lush atmosphere. It is like being in your own individual city. Gaming entertainment with a world class Casino right where you are. Fine dining and a great nightlife. Seven restaurants within the complex. Unparalleled night life with shows and events going on all around you. Philadelphia offers great museums, golf courses, Valley Forge National Historic Park (.5 miles), art galleries, great shopping at the King Of Prussia Mall (2 miles...one of the Nation's largest), with the Old City and Center City close by full of great things to see. Expect our Hospitality Room at the hotel to be top notch. When you are with our group you will enjoy beer, wine, mixed drinks, soft drinks and snacks for our Reunion guests Wednesday through Saturday.

Our itinerary is as follows:

- We start with a "**Welcome Event**" **2 May**, the first afternoon with hors d'oeuvres and drinks.
- We have a tour each day of the Reunion starting on **2 May, with "Independence After Hours"** which includes dinner (4:45 -9:15 PM). A journey back in time as you walk the cobblestone streets of Philadelphia on the eve of July 4, 1776. With your evening beginning at the City Tavern for drinks and dinner as you interact with towns people and learn the history of Philadelphia in the late 1700's. Then we will sneak into the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) and eavesdrop on the goings-on as the Founding Fathers put the finishing touches on a revolutionary document.
- **Colonial Philadelphia Experience on 3 May**, leaving the hotel at 9:30 AM and arriving back at 3:15 PM. Combination bus and some walking tour through the heart of Philadelphia's Historic District, visiting Market Street with all the shops and stores, Independence National Historical Park, and visiting the neighborhoods where our Founding Fathers lived. With tiny courtyards and back alleys of the Old City. Sights may include the Liberty Bell Center, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, Christ Church, Ben Franklin's Print Shop, Betsy Ross Home, Franklin grave, and Elfreth's Alley. With lunch at the famous Reading Terminal Market.
- **Longwood Gardens with Chaddsford Winery Tasting on 4, May.** Departing the hotel at 8:30 AM and returning at 3:00 PM. At the gardens there will be one guide per 15 guests. The tour length will be approximately



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4 hours long. Longwood Gardens is known as America's premier multicultural center with 1,050 acres of majestic gardens. You will enjoy lunch at the Cafe' (\$20 prepaid voucher) as part of the tour. The Winery was established in 1982, and is one of the oldest and most admired in Pennsylvania. They produce 30,000 cases of wine annually of whites, reds, sweet and dry wines. Enjoy tasting the wines while you are at the winery.

- **Battleship New Jersey with lunch on 5 may.** This will be a 3.5 to 4 hour tour of America's most decorated battleship. Private fire power tour of the battleship, with a great understanding of what life was like for a sailor on the battleship New Jersey. Finally, before it is all done, an Andrews Sisters show by the Romano Sisters will get you singing and dancing with music from the '40s and '50s.
- **General Meeting Saturday Afternoon.** We will have our General Meeting at 2 PM Saturday afternoon, which will last 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **Saturday Evening Banquet.** Saturday evening we will have our Banquet Dinner, and of course our Raffle where the items the guests bring are sold by drawing tickets. This evening event is always the culmination of our Reunion.

So make a plan to come and have a great time with us. You have no requirement to be at the reunion for all of the days. While we welcome you to enjoy being together starting Wednesday 2 May and leaving Sunday morning 6 May, if your time is limited we will be happy for whatever time you spend with us. If you have missed some of the recent reunions, then we will be glad to have you back again for this East Coast event.

Member note: Anyone that has served on the USS Yosemite is eligible for "Regular Membership" in the Yosemite Association. The dues are minimal at \$15.00 a year, and if you are interested in "Lifetime Membership" as you get older the deal is even better. Our website has details. Anyone that supports the objectives of the Association can be granted Associate Membership with the sponsorship of a regular member. If you wish to be a part of our group, make it known to us. We will find someone to sponsor you. Many of us have been on other Tenders, some in the "Dixie" Class (sister ships). We are happy to have a large Yosemite family! We look forward to seeing new faces. We have a great Scholarship program for families that have had people on the Yosemite.



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Last but not least, I want to thank the team of people that have been involved in not only the October Teleconference, but also helping to tie up loose ends for a successful Reunion At Sea. This includes the Board of Directors, and special efforts by Mike Polyniak, Cooper Gilbreath, and Alan Koepke to help fill in the blanks where needed. Having a great team makes working for all of you much easier. Congratulations to our newest Board member, Raymond G. Schortemeier. We look forward to your input to keep us going in new directions. Additionally I would like to recognize Howard Fields who stepped up to become our Master At Arms. I am thankful for our Treasurer, Mike Polyniak, as his involvement is a necessity for all we are doing from paying money toward the hotel contract to getting the required liability insurance to support our Philadelphia event.

This November I hope to be in Mayport, Florida with Capt. Tuck (the last seagoing Commanding Officer), and whoever else I can round up, for a Coffee Break to pull in some new members from the Jacksonville/Mayport area. With the Ship home ported in Mayport for so many years prior to decommissioning, it is a place to find lots of prior Yosemite sailors. When Capt. Tuck was on the Yosemite we had a unified crew that worked as a team and supported one another. His Officers and Chiefs were dedicated to supporting the mission of the Ship, and that meant our most important asset was our people. We counted on them, and they counted on us. Together we fixed ships. The atmosphere we had on the Yosemite was different than any other ship I had been on. That included my prior crew members on the USS Sierra AD-18. So we will in the spirit of a unified ship, work to get prior crew members to join our group. I would encourage all of you to do the same. Bring in those people you know from past years. They will add to the experience you have when you come to a Yosemite reunion.

A priority for our Association must be to grow and add new members. If you have any ideas or suggestions in this regard, please send me an email. Also please continue to look at our website and share the website with people you know.

<http://ussyosemite.net>

I will look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Valley Forge Casino Resort. your stay at the Radisson will be a memorable event. Philadelphia will be a great place to hang out with old shipmates.



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Till next time.

Respectfully

Bill Krug III