



USS YosemiteAD-19 Association

From Bill Krug

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USS Yosemite Reunion 2022



March 3, 2022

Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Friends, & Family,

I want to start by wishing all of you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

As Charles Dicken wrote in the first line of his book, *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I think Dickens knew something about the future. When the Yosemite was first being built in 1941, it was no ordinary time. While her large keel was laid on January 1942 in Tampa, I found it interesting to learn that the building started in 1941. Every effort was made to complete this ship as soon as possible. Yet, it took until May 16, 1943, to accomplish the construction. It was, at best, a very challenging time back then too. We had a war going on, and it was no easy task to build a ship 520' long and 73'4" wide with a thick hull and so much capability.

The ship was thought of as two separate functional entities: Ship's Company and Repair Department. It was clear as the Repair Department that all personnel were trained at Philadelphia Navy Yard, while the crew was trained at Newport, Rhode Island. The job of Ship's Company was to get the Repair Department where they needed to go!

While I was on the Busy Lady as an Assistant Repair Officer, we were, in my mind, only one group with a joint mission. Capt. Tuck kept us all focused on that mission. We worked as a team and did it all, as well as we could. There was no Ship's Company & Repair Department. We were one.

It has been a challenging year for all of us. Just today, my state, Florida, has inoculated 2,895,170 people with the COVID-19 vaccine, and the numbers are going up. Finally, we have some light at the end of this challenging period. Please ensure you make arrangements to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

So now I want all of you to start thinking about the USS Yosemite Reunion to happen 4/27/2022 through 4/30/2022. The hotel has assured me they will be ready to welcome all of our special Yosemite People. It is not often that we skip Reunions. Now it is time for us to get together once again and perhaps make up for some lost time.



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I wish we could have gotten together in 2020 and 2021, but it would have been too great a risk, as you know. I was not willing to take on that risk on your behalf. So, the time to "make a plan and act on it " is now.

Some of you, myself included, have already booked a room. I am glad to see that. But most of all, we have been waiting to see just how things were going to turn out, and I clearly understand that. Think of it this way. We are starting to turn the corner as large shipments of the vaccine are being sent in all directions. Once that state delivers the vaccine become shots in the arm, we are good to go!

Please mark the dates April 27 to April 30, 2022. It is time for us to get together again and enjoy the company of those that are tied to "the Mighty Y" (plank Owners and Original Crew called her), "Battle Tender", or "The Busy Lady" or "The Ship with Helping Hands". That and the motto "We Fix 'em To Fight". No matter how you like to refer to this ship, this Reunion is about all of us from all different time-periods coming together to share our memories and enjoy one another's company.

Now for our Reunion to be a success, we need you! I have been tripping over the gift I bought for the Reunion over a year ago. I can't wait to put it on the table so that it can go home with one of you. Our Reunion is a family event, and I have found each year leaves me with new friends and unforgettable memories of having been with all of you.

Now, most of you have seen the following information before, as I have put it out previously. But we always have new people looking at our website and new people that will be joining us. So please bear with me as I recap some important details.

The cost of the Banquet Dinner is \$40.00 per person.

The Banquet Dinner Banquet dinner menu will also include assorted bread, salad, and dessert.

Main Entrees:

- Rosemary Breast of Chicken, Oven-Dried Tomato Barley, Crispy Summer Squash, Reggiano Sauce
- 6 oz. Grilled Flat Iron Steak, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Asparagus and Baby Carrots, Cremini Mushroom Reduction, Chimichurri Sauce
- Atlantic Salmon, Braised Lentils, Sweet Pea, Cremini Mushroom, Bay Leaf Shallot Sauce

Tours for Thursday & Friday Thursday Tour

Thursday Tour (April 28, 2022) Amelia Island and Fernandina Experience Tour



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We start the day with stories of the first inhabitants of the area, the Timucuan Indians. Our destination is Amelia Island which was founded by the French, settled by the Spanish, named by the English, and tamed by the Americans. It is the only area in the U.S. to have been under eight different flags!

Our first stop will be at Kingsley Plantation to hear the amazing story of Anna, a former slave who rose to become a property owner. We explore the grounds which include the slave quarters, barn, waterfront, kitchen house, and interpretive garden.

We take the old buccaneer trail across Ft. George Island and the Talbot Islands following the picturesque Atlantic coastline. Next we go to the quaint town of Fernandina on Amelia Island to hear the stories from the Fairbanks Folly to Florida's oldest tavern and resident ghost. The turn of the century town is filled with Victorian architecture and has the appearance of being caught in a time capsule. Your guide creates an interactive tour atmosphere which is fun for everyone.

Price: The tour is priced per person and includes motor coach transportation, driver gratuity, cooler of bottled ice waters, escort and tour guide. \$52/person is based on a minimum of 40 people in a 56-passenger motor coach. Max of 54 people.

Kingsley Plantation National Historic Site Fairbanks Folly Centre Street Shopping

Sample itinerary 9am – 3pm (6 hours)

- 9am Depart from hotel
- 9am – 12noon Kingsley Plantation, Barrier Islands, Fernandina tour
- 12noon – 2pm Lunch on your own, free time
- 2pm – 3pm return back to hotel

Friday Tour (April 29 2022) St. Augustine

Enjoy your day in the Nation's Oldest City! The various architectural styles, narrow brick streets, and European flavors combine for a unique escape. Your professional tour guide meets the group dressed in period costume and weaves a tapestry of stories from the early colonial years to the Victorian Flagler era.

We tour all the major sites, including the Fountain of Youth, Spanish Mission Grounds, City Gates, Spanish Plaza, Cathedral-Basilica, Spanish Government House, Flagler Memorial Church, and the old Ponce de Leon Hotel. We disembark for photos at the Castillo de San Marcos, the stone fort that was never captured in battle. On the fort grounds, listen to the story of how the early Spanish survived under siege from the English attackers.



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The tour includes one more stop at the old 1888 Alcazar Hotel or Flagler Memorial Church. Lunch today is on your own combined with shopping and free time exploring the historic district. During your free time, you can visit attractions such as the free Government House Museum. Your personal tour guide in colonial attire creates an interactive tour atmosphere which is fun for everyone.

Price: The tour is priced per person and includes motor coach transportation, driver gratuity, cooler of bottled ice waters, church donation, escort and tour guide. \$52 per person is based on a minimum of 40 people in a 56-passenger motor coach. Max of 54 people.

Sample itinerary 9am – 3pm (6 hours)

- 9am Depart from Embassy Suites Baymeadows hotel
- 9:40am Bathroom break in St. Augustine
- 9:50am – 11:45am St. Augustine tour with 2 stops (Castillo, Flagler era site)
- 11:45am – 2pm Lunch, free time
- 2pm - 3pm return time back to hotel

Register Now for the Reunion

Please take a moment to fill out our Yosemite Reunion Registration Form. A registration fee of \$25 is to accompany the completed Yosemite Reunion Registration Form. Please mail the completed form and check for total of the registration fees to:

Mike Polyniak, USS Yosemite Association Treasurer

PO Box 20863

Bakersfield, CA 93390-0863

The registration fee will be used to support our Hospitality Room, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, snacks, and other costs. Please note our registration fees are separate from the hotel reservations. Keep in mind, you need to make Hotel Reservations directly for yourself.

Tours and paying for our Banquet Dinner are handled directly by the Treasurer, Mike Polyniak. Your Hotel Reservations are made directly by you.



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Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservation must be made directly with the hotel. The USS Yosemite Association doesn't make any hotel reservations and doesn't take any payments for the hotel.

I think you will find the \$119.00 you spend per night for you and your wife or significant other will be well worth it. Also a double occupancy room with 2 large beds is \$129.

Please call (904) 731-3555 to make your reservation at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Jacksonville for the USS Yosemite Reunion from April 27 through April 30, 2022 and mention the group code of "USY".

Also, you may also click on the link below to make your Hotel reservation to support your Yosemite Reunion booking that is part of our room block. Our group code is "USY"

The link is:

To be determine.

If you have trouble booking your room please let me know right away. Worst case you can contact the Group Sales Manager (Karen Howell) and get her help. One thing to keep in mind is that most of our good deals are with the expectation that our members will show up. We will not be able to book any rooms at this rate after March 25 of 2022.

But I truly hope most of our people book rooms now and do not wait till the last minute. Part of our planning is also trying to support the correct number of guests we will have attending. We look at numbers often to try to stay ahead of the curve. Booking impacts our planning for hors d'oeuvres, chips, dip, snacks, and wine, beer, and alcohol for the Hospitality Room.

Reunion Arrival and Length of Stay

The full Yosemite Reunion experience is from April 27 to April 30 2022. We encourage our attendees to arrive on April 28 Wednesday during the day and sign-in and pick up your name tag, welcome bag, and meet the Yosemite Reunion crew at 7:30 PM for hot hors d'oeuvres. Some will be flying in to Jacksonville, some will drive cars/ trucks. Parking at the Hotel is free for guests. If you have special parking requirements please share them with me and I will have an area marked off for your vehicle.



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Next, stay and enjoy tours, attend the General Meeting, and be with new people. In a perfect world you will be leaving like most on Sunday morning. This suggestion provides a leisurely stay with no rush or stress.

Some of you have jobs and you can't take the time off to attend the entire Yosemite Reunion. I understand. Please try to take all the time off as possible, even if that means attending just one or two days. Remember Friday and Saturday are key days. Saturday being the most important. Whatever time you can dedicate to being with the group will be important.

Saturday is the Banquet Dinner. Following that we have our Raffle. Lots of people have expressed a desire to arrive Friday and be with us Saturday for the festivities.

Reunion Raffle – Bring a Gift to Ruffle

Most people attending bring a gift for our Raffle, with the proceeds used to support our Association. The gift may be a bag of small gifts, or a single gift. In any case, the gift should be of interest of the group and what you think is best. The gifts will be put on a table in a designated secure area. Gifts are displayed until the Raffle that follows after our Banquet Dinner Saturday evening. We will take our time and raffle the whole table of gifts to the Reunion attendees.

You may buy raffle tickets. You can place as many tickets as you want into the container associated for each gift. Then, sit back and we will draw tickets for each item on the table. Some people leave with a whole pile of things. I have seen some really special gifts, paintings, ships clocks, naval memorabilia, brass compass, ships sextant, or items that are directly tied to the ship that were given out to crew members (Yosemite Belt Buckles made in the foundry & Yosemite Yo – Yo's made in the machine shop.) So take your time and bring something special that some lucky person will cherish.

Bring Your USS Yosemite Stories

I want you to walk away, remembering stories, and having shared yours. Remember collectively, we are all linked to the USS Yosemite History, and hoping that I will hear them and we can talk together at our next event. I do not need to remind you that life is short.

You are an important asset and living testimonial of Naval History. So, please don't put off connecting with Yosemite People. We want to hear all your stories. This year we will capture



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some of those stories with a digital recorder and then our Webmaster, Alphonso, will post them on our website and save these valuable stories for posterity before they're lost.

Now, I know most of you remember the fond experiences, stories, drama of battle-stations, and history of the "Busy Lady". We share a common history of the USS Yosemite and when we tell our stories the room lights up. Think about some of the really unique things you were involved with that very few know about. Think about your funny stories, finest moments, challenges that you met, first port you visited with your buddies, etc. Bring them to the Yosemite Reunion, and if you want, we will capture them and share them.

In closing, I am hoping this finds all of you safe, in better spirits, and looking forward to our planned Yosemite get together. This is not a single person event, it is accomplished in concert with the help of Key people like Mike, and Alan, and Cooper that are always busy doing the business of the Association. That includes our Board Members as well. When you come out, it makes it all worth the effort.

If any of you have any issues that I can help with please email me at w.krugiii@gmail.com or call me on the home line 352-419-6620. I do have an answering machine.

All the Best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association