USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association

Newsletter - January 2013*

2013 MACDONOUGH ASSOCIATION REUNION AT SPRINGMAID BEACH RESORT, MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Fun and festivities for the 2013 U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association will begin the afternoon of Sunday, April 28th, and conclude after breakfast on Thursday, May 2nd, 2013.

This time of year is normally a great time to be at Myrtle Beach. Warm days and cool evenings and just before the huge crowds invade the Grand Strand. This is our third reunion at Springmaid and Myrtle Beach. The first two reunions held here attracted the two largest turnouts of all our reunions. Our only reunion with over 100 attendees was our second reunion here in 2007. We have reserved 50 rooms. Don't miss out, make your reservations now.

Our low resort rate is good only until March 13, 2013. After March 13, you will be charged the going rate, usually significantly higher than our rate. The reservation numbers are 1-843-315-7100 (main number), 1-866-764-8501 or 1-800-770-6895. The reservation code is 10188. The building we will be staying in is being completely refurbished. Some of our members will probably be the first to stay in some of the new rooms. I think you will be pleased with the upgrades.

I have had several inquiries about the reunion which I would like to address.

Cost of the Reunion. Reunions are not cheap and we realize that we have members who cannot afford to attend. This has been a concern since the inception of the Macdonough Reunion Association. Over the years, we have always tried to keep the cost as low as possible, while providing a reunion that offers the best value for your money. At Myrtle Beach, we feel that you receive outstanding values. Most of our activities are optional. The vast majority of attendees look on the reunion a vacation. Most attendees participate in all organized activities as well as other activities that are available in Myrtle Beach. We try to find activities that will be the most fun for the majority of people attending. We also give ample free time for you to explore other venues in and around the area.

Dress code. The dress code for Myrtle Beach and Springmaid Resort is casual for all functions except the banquet. The preferred banquet dress is coat and tie for the men and dressy for the ladies. The weather in the latter part of April in South Carolina will normally be warm allowing for short sleeves and shorts. Evenings are cool. Most people are more comfortable with long pants, long sleeve shirts and maybe even a light jacket or sweater.

Spouse Participation. All reunion activities are designed to include our partners. However, you will have a good time regardless of coming with someone or coming alone. This really is one big happy family.

Attendees list. And finally the most often asked question is "Will (*place a name here)* be at the reunion?" The answer is that we do not know and will not know who all is attending until Thursday morning's farewell breakfast. We have people come at the last minute and we have people who have to cancel at the last minute. Also, first time attendees may be concerned about coming and not knowing anyone. That could and does happen. The good news is that by the time you leave, you will have met and become friends with some of the finest people in the world. That I can guarantee!!

DLG8 and DDG39 Members. I have been asked if we will have separate meetings for DLG8 and DDG39 members during the reunion. It has been our policy that we do not differentiate between the two. We believe that the Macdonough was the Macdonough. With that said, if someone wants to organize a meeting for just the DLG8 or just the DDG39 shipmates during the week, I see no problem with it as long as the meeting is held when no other activity is scheduled.

Business Meeting and Auction Items. On Wednesday afternoon we will have our annual business meeting to determine where we will meet in 2015. Wednesday, at a time to be determined, we will also have our annual auction. This is always one of our most entertaining events. If you have something to donate to the auction, you can bring it with you or you can send it to me before the reunion and I will see that it gets there.

*Published by the U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association for its members.

2013 MACDONOUGH ASSOCIATION REUNION (cont.)

Other Activities:

Other things that are planned and that are optional are:

Sunday	Welcome dinner (scheduled for 6 PM)
	Third-Not-Quite Annual Miniature Golf Tournament (directly after dinner)
Monday	Dinner/show (leave hotel about 4 PM)
Tuesday	Dinner/show (leave hotel about 4 PM)
Wednesday	Business Meeting (to be determined)
Dressy Banquet	(cash bar starting about 5:30 or 6)
Thursday	Farewell Breakfast (sometime before 10 AM)

The optional activities are an outstanding value and will greatly enhance your reunion experience. Although the shows are optional, a majority of attendees will participate in all the planned activities. They are an outstanding value and will greatly enhance your reunion experience. Come on and have a great reunion with a built-in great vacation!

In closing, let me reiterate that rooms are limited. Don't procrastinate. If you plan to attend, make your reservations early. Don't miss out! The reservation form with costs is in this newsletter. Mail the form and your check back to me as soon as possible.

See you in April!

Larry Wessinger & Peggie Wessinger Reunion Hosts



Please Note: New and Corrected Reservation Form

Unfortunately, there were a few errors on the registration form in the fall newsletter. Please disregard that form and use the form attached to this newsletter.

Preliminary planning costs for the Sunday evening dinner ($20) were inadvertently used instead of the final cost ($30) quoted by the resort. The cost for the custom t-shirts ($10 each) was omitted from the form. These t-shirts are first quality shirts and are being screen printed with a custom design by our own Sparky Wilson. I think you will be pleased with the shirts both as a good looking, comfortable shirt but also as a souvenir of the reunion.

For the people who have already submitted their registrations, there is no need to send a corrected form. You may also call me, (803) 364-1778, or contact me via email at macdonougdlg8@gmail.com and I will make any changes you desire on your registration. There is no reason to send the additional funds, unless you want to, as we can settle up once you get to the reunion.

Larry Wessinger

Dues and Other Money Matters

Thank You to all of you who have paid your 2013 dues. Your contributions keep us on a firm financial footing. Recently, a member called to inquire as to how far he was behind in his dues. He wanted to attend this year's reunion at Myrtle Beach and understood that he needed to be current on his dues. The answer he received was not what he expected.

For the first seven years of the organization only dues-paying members received this newsletter (one per year) or were allowed to attend the reunions. This policy changed beginning in 2002 as we felt that it was contrary to our goal of having an organization that included all former shipmates of the Macdonough (DLG8 – DDG39). Later, at the request of several veterans of the Macdonough DD351, we added them also. Also, the $20 dues amount presented a problem to some of our former shipmates and therefore it was decided to make the dues voluntary. The dues were kept at $20 per year or whatever a person could pay. This included paying nothing at all if the member did not want to pay.

After being involved with the business part of this Association for the past 12 years, I sometimes forget that everyone does not know what we use the dues for. The primary use of your dues is the production and mailing of this newsletter. We currently produce, copy, and mail over 800 copies of this newsletter twice a year. This is not an inexpensive undertaking with the copy and mailing costs. The cost of the newsletter accounts for most, if not all, the money collected in dues. Without your support, we would not be able to provide this newsletter to all of our members.

The costs of the reunions are paid for by the attendees, with some supplemental and incidental cost covered by the registration fees and the annual auction. Our goal is for every reunion to be self-sustaining. The annual auction is used both as a fundraising event and high entertainment at the reunions. We auction off items donated by members. The proceeds go into the Association's bank account. Most years, the auction meets or surpasses the amount we collect in dues. I should add here that after I explained to the member, who made the call, that his dues were not funding the reunions, he sent a check covering his dues from the time he was found by our membership chairman until present.

The reunion registration fees are used by the host to buy things consumed during the reunion. This includes everything from water, soft drinks, various snacks, cups, napkins and other disposable items. The proceeds are also used to supplement things like the cost of renting a bus or in the case of this year's reunion, two buses.

Everything accomplished by this association is done by volunteers for the benefit of our shipmates. With the growing number of members we have and the increased cost to sustain this organization, please consider helping us keep on a financial firm footing. Even more important is to attend a reunion. You will be glad that you did!!!

Larry Wessinger, Treasurer
U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association

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Membership Corner

Current Membership Information

- **Active**: 812
  Of which 11 are Associate Members. Members come from as far West as Hawaii and East as far as Oslo, Norway. All states are represented except for Alaska (we had a member there who resigned), Idaho, North Dakota and Wyoming. There were 793 at last newsletter.
- **Deceased**: 122 (121 last Newsletter)
- **Missing**: 43 (up from 38 as of last newsletter)
- **Not Interested:** 65 (up from 62)
- **Potentials:** 2175
  These are people I have on my "To Find" list. There may be more ex-crew members but these are all the names I have at this time.

Please inform someone on the Executive Committee when you move so we have your updated information.

Bob Kahle
Membership

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c/o Bob Kahle
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Reunion 2014
Bremerton/Seattle

The 2014 Reunion is slated for the Pacific Northwest. Some possible highlights:
Bremerton/Kitsap County: Tour of historic destroyer USS Turner Joy DD-951;
Keyport Undersea Warfare Museum
Shopping in Norwegian-esque Village: Poulsbo
Golfing –Three of Washington's top five courses.
Seattle: Space Needle, Pike Street Market
Museum of Flight, Puget Sound ferry ride; dinner at Native American Tillicum Village.
Other possibilities before or after the reunion:
Mt Rainier and/or Mt St. Helens,
San Juan Islands; Victoria, British Columbia;
Alaska Cruise from Seattle.
The best time to visit the Seattle area is late summer or fall. We are aiming for a September reunion. Would that work for you?
Gary Beanland 360.990.9295, sdaniel537@aol.com

