



LEE'S SHADOW

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THE REBEL YELL

USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN/SSN-601)

www.decklog.com/ssbn-601.asp Vol. 2016

From your President - Joe White

We are already four months into 2016 and it's already time to start making plans for the 2017 Robert E. Lee Association Reunion that will be held in Laughlin, Nevada. Those that attended the reunion in Branson in 2015 voted to set the next reunion in Laughlin. This was a close vote between Laughlin and San Diego and as always we go with the location that got the most votes. There has been some discussion and concern about this particular location that I would like to hopefully answer and explain. Some members suggested that the location was too hard to get to and others didn't like the location because there wouldn't be anything to do there. I made a special trip to Laughlin back in October along with my wife Donna to check it out and see if it was a good fit. I went to Laughlin with an open mind because I didn't want to prejudge the location and I wanted to report back to the membership my findings.

The first thing I want to report is the City of Laughlin is very friendly to military reunions and they have gone the extra mile in my opinion to really work with us to make this an excellent reunion.

Here are few questions that I would like to answer and I would be glad to answer any others that anyone has, but for now these seem to be the main concerns:

- How hard it is to get to Laughlin?

The answer is you fly into Las Vegas on any number of airlines and you rent a car. It is a 90 minute drive on a 4 lane highway from the airport to the hotel. The distance is really not that far but getting out of the airport and on the highway to Laughlin might take 15-30 minutes so I say count on 90 minutes. There is only one town between Las Vegas and Laughlin and it is a speed trap, so slow down, but other than that the drive is very easy.

- I'm not a gambler so I don't think I would have anything to do?

We chose the Tropicana Hotel that is farther way from the strip, close to shops and easy walking distance to the Colorado River. The Hotel was very generous with their room rate and the way the hotel is situated we will not be walking through the Casino and we have a very nice meeting room and suites. If you don't want to gamble then I say don't go into the Casinos.

- Is there anything to do in Laughlin?

The simple answer is absolutely. We will be putting together a least two tour options that will be very exciting and everyone should enjoy.

- What is the weather like?

We chose to go in early April to get there before the really hot weather kicks in. We expect the climate will be dry but evenings cool.

I'm sure there are other reasons why someone would not choose to come. I heard from one member that had never been to a reunion and he lives in San Diego. He said he wouldn't be coming, but he would go if it was in San Diego. I'm sure he meant well and I will not reveal his name, but I think we would all go if it was right in our back yard. My point here is we can all find excuses to not go, from it's too far, I don't like the area, I'm not a gambler, I don't fish, I don't like country music, I don't like rock and roll music, it's too hot there, it is too cold there, I've been there before, etc., etc. I think you get the point and this wasn't intended to make fun anyone, just pointing out that we don't go to reunion for the above mentioned reasons.

Why do we go to the Robert E. Lee Association Reunions or to just be blunt, to any reunion?

I believe we go for the following reasons:

- To reconnect with old friends and meet new ones that served on the Robert E. Lee.
- To hear Sea Stories that of course have been embellished but that's okay.
- To show support for our Association that is aging and to show support for continuing this Association.
- To honor those are on Eternal Patrol.
- To support the Submarine Service through honoring those that have served and are serving now.

Why not consider bringing a family member as your guest and make this a family vacation. In the past some of our members have invited their grown children or grandchildren to be a part of the reunion. We want to encourage family members to come and be a part of this event. For more information concerning the cost and what to expect if you bring a family member please contact me at 405-410-9206 or e-mail me at: joewhite727@gmail.com

**Reunion Hotel & Rates
Laughlin 4/2/2017 - 4/5/2017**

Tropicana
2121 S. Casino Drive
Laughlin, NV 89029

\$36 room rate only applies Sunday through Thursday. Weekend nights, Friday and Saturday, room rate is considerably higher.

Room Rate: \$36/night + 12% Hotel Tax,
Free Parking Garage

To make Reservation:

Toll Free # 1-800-782-9946
Local Phone # 1-702-298-6386

Hotel Website:

<http://www.troplaughlin.com>

We have plenty of rooms blocked for our Association at \$36.00 plus applicable tax. I was very diligent in seeking the best Hotel and location that would be convenient for everyone but not overpriced.

**Vice President - Dale Thompson
(thompsondale@sbcglobal.net)**

Thank you shipmates for allowing me to serve this great association as your vice president. I am humbled and honored. I am looking forward to the 2017 reunion in Laughlin. I will be responsible for getting items for sale and for our raffle. At the last reunion Jim started a plan to let shipmates display products and donate projects for our raffle. I would like to continue that this year. If you do not know or remember how it works, you can look at the 2014 Rebel Yell or email me and I will send you the information. My wife Sue will have another quilt (and may have a second if she has time) for raffle at the next reunion. I would like to have items for sale that you are interested in purchasing.

Please email me and let me know if you are interested in hats, shirts or coffee cups. If there are other items you would be interested in let me know and if there is enough interest I will try to oblige. For those that do not remember me I served aboard the Lee from April 1964 until April 1968. I went on the last patrol before the first overhaul in Mare Island. I was an aft ET (that is why I have no hair). I served aboard the Lee, commissioned the Bergall (SSN 667) and then served aboard Daniel Webster (SSBN 626). I first heard of the Lee Association through my daughter. She worked with Wes Calloway and saw his dolphin coffee cup. That is why I wear a dolphin ball cap and carry a Lee coffee cup.

Have met several sub sailors and am still waiting to run into someone who served on a 598 class boat. Looking forward to a great reunion in Laughlin. See you there.

Current Association Officers

President	D. Joe White 1704 S. Blvd, Suite A Edmond, Oklahoma 73013 (405-410-9206) Mobile (405-340-5606) Office joewhite727@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dale Thompson thompsondale@sbcglobal.net 11 Schooner Lane Modesto, CA 95356 (209-324-4654) Mobile
Secretary/Treasurer	Chuck D. Horvath 435 Somerset Ct., Apt B Aurora, IL 60504-4088 (630-638-1840)

Laughlin, Nevada – Small Town, Big on Hospitality

Approximately ninety minutes outside of Las Vegas, the beautiful oasis of Laughlin is bordered by desert mountain ranges and the most pristine segment of the Colorado River you'll ever see. Sunny skies prevail more than 300 days a year with an average temperature of 78 degrees. Visitors can enjoy the spectacular Southwest landscape that surrounds Laughlin and its outstanding casino resorts. The nine resorts are conveniently clustered along a mile and a half stretch which makes getting around town easy by using the river walk, stepping on board a pontoon water taxi, or using ground transportation.

Laughlin is popular among visitors and residents for the outdoor and recreational activities available such as boating, kayaking, fishing, river boat tours, golfing, hiking and horseback riding. Pot A Gold Adventures offers guided horseback tours on trails that crest the mountain ridges for spectacular panoramic views. Desert River Kayak and Canoe leads group kayaking trips on the Colorado River and Lake Mohave. London Bridge Jet Boat Tours conveniently departs from three of the hotel boat docks for excursions to Lake Havasu and the London Bridge. Passengers enjoy the views of million-dollar riverfront homes, rugged Topock Gorge's emerald waters, area wildlife and a two-hour layover for lunch and sightseeing. Golfers love to hit the links at the area's six courses which cover three states. Nearby attractions give visitors another reason to explore the area. The Colorado River Museum and Lil' Red Schoolhouse display artifacts depicting early life on the Colorado River. The old western mining town of Oatman sits on Route 66 and takes you back in time with historic buildings, mock gunfights, western galleries and souvenir shops, plus feral burros that freely roam the street. You can easily catch a tour from Laughlin to any of these attractions or even take a day trip to explore nearby Hoover Dam.

Back in Laughlin you can listen to toe tapping live music in the hotels' lounges or catch the hottest names in music and entertainment at any of the showrooms or amphitheaters in addition to the new Laughlin Event Center. From headliners like Carrie Underwood, Toby Keith, Bill Engvall, ZZ Top, Paul Anka and Rascal Flatts, to stage shows like "Defending the Caveman," "Cirque Shanghai" and "Masters of Illusion." Laughlin knows how to entertain. The hotels roll out the

welcome mat for several classic car shows, BBQ and chili cook-off competitions, Blues & Brews Festivals, and also host larger town wide events like the annual River Regatta which attracts more than 28,000 people for an inner tube float and the spectacular Rockets Over The River July 4th fireworks display.

When it's time to eat, Laughlin has more than 50 restaurants with enough variety to please any palate. Steaks, seafood, salads and sandwiches, breakfast to Sunday Brunch there are signature eateries created by the chefs as well as familiar national chains. Choose from Claim Jumper, Outback, the Loading Dock or Pints Microbrewery, and Laughlin's first celebrity chef restaurant Guy Fieri's El Burro Borracho to name a few. Can't decide? The bountiful buffets at the resorts are sure to satisfy your appetite.

Comfortable resorts, outdoor recreation, history and adventure, great dining and entertainment, whatever reason brings you to Laughlin, you'll appreciate the town's relaxed pace and friendly atmosphere. It's the destination that doesn't leave you feeling like you need a vacation. You can find more information and start planning your visit at www.visitlaughlin.com.

The Meaning of Naval Sayings--Reprinted with the permission of the Plymouth, UK City Council

Above board: Honest; legal

Cargo was stowed properly on board (on the decks) so that customs officials could easily check for contraband.

All at sea: Bewildered

Describes a ship out of sight of land and having lost its bearings.

All sewn up: Completed; concluded

The bodies of sailors who died or were killed at sea were sewn into bits of sail canvas. Stitching would begin at the feet and end at the head, with the last stitch passing through the sailor's nose. The bodies went overboard, with cannonballs attached to the canvas ensuring that they sank.

At a loose end: Unoccupied The original saying was 'at loose ends', and described the task of splicing and repairing broken and frayed ropes on board ship, which sailors did when they had no other duties.

USS ROBERT E LEE ASSOCIATION
2017 CONVENTION - OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
Monday, APRIL 3, 2017 and Tuesday, April 4, 2017

The Association will be choosing two of the options as the official tours for our group and will post them later this year. All tours depart from your Laughlin hotel.

Departs 10am
Returns 4 pm
(6 hrs)

1) *London Bridge Jet Boat Tour to Lake Havasu and the London Bridge*
Experience the thrill of riding in a 900 hp diesel jet boat that cruises at speeds of over 40mph. The two-hour trip travels 58 miles on the pristine Colorado River through the rugged and beautiful Topock Gorge. Only accessible by river, Topock Gorge features breathtaking views of volcanic rock faces, enchanting emerald waters, ancient Native American petroglyphs, along with a variety of desert wild life. Next, spend an enjoyable two hour layover at the world famous London Bridge for sightseeing, a delectable lunch, and souvenir shopping. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.



Departs 8 am
Returns 2 pm
(6 hrs)

2) *Kayak or canoe trip on the Colorado River*
This trip is a diverse exploration of urban and undeveloped land which follows the Colorado River Greenway Heritage Park and Trails. It begins at historic Davis Camp and winds down past the casino row of Laughlin. Once you pass the casinos it is a leisurely paddle through the residential area of Bullhead City and the Laughlin Lagoon area, where it is common to spot a variety of waterfowl and other wildlife. Comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes which can get wet are recommended.



Departs 10 am
Returns 2 pm
(4 hrs)

3) *Guided horseback riding on Heritage Trails*
The professional wranglers at Pot A Gold Adventures will guide you on a one-of-a-kind three-hour spectacular tour where you ride on horseback along the river with Davis Dam as your backdrop and atop desert ridgelines to see gorgeous views of Nevada, Arizona, the Laughlin resorts and Lake Mohave. Comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes are recommended.



Departs 8 am
Returns 3 pm
(7 hrs)

4) *Hoover Dam Tour and Historic Boulder City*
Built during the Great Depression, coming in under cost and ahead of schedule, the Hoover Dam is considered one of the greatest engineering marvels of the modern world. The tour includes a trip 530 feet down into the dam for a guided tour of the power plant, a walk across the dam, viewing of the O'Callaghan / Tillman Memorial Bridge, and scenic overlook of Lake Mead. The next stop is the Boulder City Historic District to have lunch and browse the quaint shops and galleries.



Departs 9 am
Returns 3 pm
(6 hrs)

5) *Old West Mining Town of Historic Oatman*
This historic mining town is located on Route 66 with plenty of memorabilia found in the many souvenir shops and artist galleries. An authentic wild west experience, you'll find two buildings listed on the National Historic Register, the Oatman Hotel which was the location of Clark Gable and Carol Lombard's wedding night, a bar covered in dollar bills, and a raucous town history. The descendants of the miners' burros roam the streets freely and are regarded as Oatman residents.



Branson, What A Surprise!

The 2015 R E Lee reunion was held in Branson, MO. Many crew members seemed to have reservations about the location selection. Donna and I, with our son Roger, had spent many a good time in Branson, mostly Silver Dollar City. After we moved from southwestern Missouri to the Dallas area, Branson began the transformation from what we enjoyed to what it became, a big time entertainment venue.

I've thrown together a picture montage of the Branson reunion and many of the entertaining venues the Association officers had arranged, along with a few off the agenda things some of us did.

I think, looking back, the reunion attendees would say they had at least a good time, if not a great time. Next year is fast approaching and your Association officers are working overtime to make the coming Laughlin, NV reunion another great get together for the Lee crew. As the old saying goes, "Be there or be square!" (How quaint.) Don't miss the big, "Dust up in the Desert!"

2015 REUNION IN PICTURES



Reunion Banquet



Before Dinner Entertainment



I think We Will Fit In

RIDE THE DUCKS!



Elvis Was In The House!



Santa Has A Part Time Job!



Yikes! I think they are sinking!

SHOWBOAT DINNER CRUISE



Yum!



The Really Big Show!



Oops! Wish My Grandson Was Here



Mike Bradish--
Am I having A Good Time?

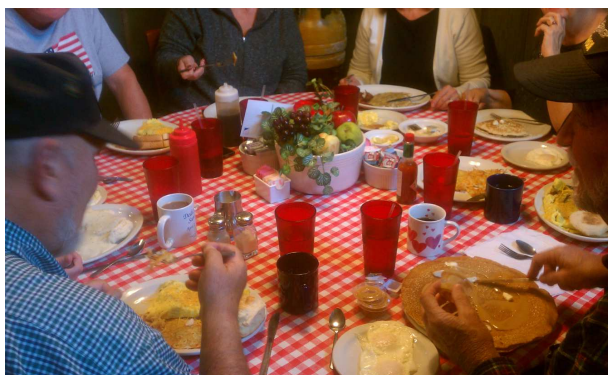
ON OUR OWN



Billy Gail Don't Take No Plastic



Waiting on Billy Gail's breakfast: around the table, Jim Boman, Mike Jensen, Carolyn Jensen, Marsha Bowman, Donna Williams, Lee Hartung, Mike Hartung and Fred Williams



A Heart Healthy Breakfast at Billy Gail's



Yes, We Are Qualified!



Lunch At "Hard Work U" (College of the Ozarks)



Missouri Vietnam Memorial on the campus of the University of the Ozarks

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the Association with your current mailing address and your current email address so we make sure each member of the Association is getting all of our correspondence.

Association Membership Dues for 2016 are now due.

Please mail in your 2016 membership dues to Chuck Horvath at the address listed in this newsletter and make the check out as follows:

USS Robert E Lee Association
C/O Chuck Horvath
435 Somerset Court, Apt B
Aurora, IL 60504

We always appreciate dues paid in advance and any extra you want to donate to the Lee Association to help cover future expenses. All monies receive by the Association are used exclusively for the Lee Association and no Officer takes any compensation. The yearly dues will remain at \$10.00. Contact Chuck if you unsure if your dues have been paid at the address on this newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT CHUCK HORVATH

Annual Report 2015

Beginning Balance	\$10,828.83
Deposits	\$14,131.25
Expenses	\$10,553.28
Ending balance	\$14,406.80

Have you paid your dues for 2016 yet? Check the date on the address label to see when your membership expires. Mail to:

USS Robert E Lee Association
C/O Chuck Horvath
435 Somerset Court, Apt B
Aurora, IL 60504

Joe White
1704 S. Blvd, Suite A
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013

SSBN 601 ASSOCIATION ENLISTMENT FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Years Aboard _____ Rate/Rank _____ Crew Blue or Gold

Is this a renewal? Y N

Number of years renewing for _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Make check payable to: USS Robert E. Lee Association

Mail to: USS Robert E Lee Association
c/o Chuck Horvath
435 Somerset Court, Apt B
Aurora, IL 60504