

USS R E Lee (601) News

Spring 2024

Reunion News

Absolute Latest News

POD (tentitive)

Wednesday September 25th:

8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. (Early Registration) Evening Free

Thursday: September 26th

We will tour the Maritime Museum with opportunity to take groups on the USS Cobia. Lunch will be provided by the Association. Evening Free

Friday: September 27th (TBD)

Evening Banquet and Opening Ceremonies

5:30 p.m. (Cash Bar and pictures of group)

6:30 p.m. (Opening Ceremonies/color guard/Banquet/Speaker/Eternal Patrol-reading of names of members that have passed since last reunion).

8:15 p.m. (Entertainment) Elvis in concert

Saturday: September 28th:

9:00 a.m. Business Meeting in Hospitality Room/Old Business/
New Business/Elect New Officers/Vote on next reunion location/

Afternoon free time

Saturday Evening September 28th:

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Last night event at the Hotel) (To be announced)

Key Note Speaker

John Lindstedt is a nuclear submarine officer having "Qualified in Submarines" on 19 Feb 1974 on USS Kamehameha SSBN 642 Blue attached to Submarine Squadron 16 in Rota, Spain. While attached, Kamehameha engaged in the First

Yom Kippur War of October 1973 when she was ordered to patrol the Straits of Gibraltar for a month, and then proceed into the Mediterranean Sea for Deterrent Patrol 20. John also had two years of sea service in the Merchant Marine as a marine engineer sailing to Northern Europe and South America. He is an Honorary Plank Owner of the USS Hyman G. Rickover SSN 795 and a member of the Commissioning Committee of the USS Wisconsin SSBN 827.

After his naval service, John returned to his home state of Wisconsin, and joined Advance Plating Technologies, a surface finishing engineering firm. The company provides surface finishes in gold, silver nickel, tin, and lead in addition to engineering services to a large array of US companies. He is especially proud of the components that his company provides to the US military.... SSTG catch bearings in the current Virginia class SSNs, EMALS Launch System currently operational on the USS Gerald R. Ford, CVN 78, and the carry ammunition to all service branches.

John also has an avid interest in the history of the US Submarine Force. This has resulted in his development of a series of lectures that present the accomplishments of the Force, and the key role that it provides to our national defense. He provides these lectures free of charge to universities, maritime museums, veteran groups, high schools, grade schools and senior citizen groups. It was because of his teaching that he was invited to spend an evening with Eleonore Rickover, the Admiral's second wife, at her home in Arlington Virginia. It was a special evening that he captured in an article, "The Hidden Rickover" (copies available).

John is married to his lovely bride, Cindy of 55 years. Yes, 55 years!!! They have three children, Jennifer, Matthew (US Air Force veteran; O-3) and James (US Navy veteran; E-6).

Registration Form R E Lee Reunion 2024

Badge Names

Amount

Crew Member

Name/Nick name

19 - 19

Years on Board

Rank/Rate

100.00 *

Guest Name

100.00 *

Association Dues

Years Paying

Cost/YR

(Must be current member to attend)

10.00

Mail To: (Check payable to)

U.S.S. Robert E Lee Association

C/O Dale Thompson

1011 S. Blue Bonnet Dr

Deming, NM 88030-4415

TOTAL:

* 120.00 after: 7/24/2024

Reunion Hotel

Holiday Inn

One of the biggest hotels in Manitowac is the Holiday Inn. Some key features we need for a reunion, in addition to the room count, are things like a large banquet room, meeting room space, hospitality room, on site restaurant and bar and other amenities. Many hotels in the area just do not have the things we need.

The Holiday Inn has them all covered. We have had quite a few past reunions at Holiday Inns and those host hotels have all meet our needs.



Hotel Information:

40 rooms at Rate:

\$129.99 single/double occupancy

(5% state tax + 8% room tax) = \$146.89

Block rates apply: September 23 - October 1, 2024

Note:

Room rate includes free breakfast for the reunion dates (24-29)

Hotel Amenities:

Coffee stations throughout the Hotel

Starbucks in the lobby

Movie theater that runs movies all day

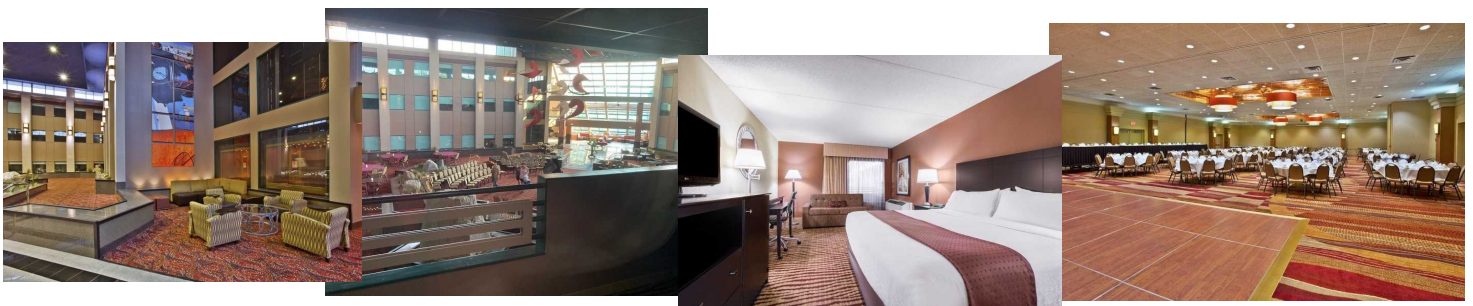
Indoor swimming pool

Workout room

Reservation information:

Calls should be made direct to Hotel at 920-682-6000; **DO NOT** call the 800 number. ID self as for R.E. Lee Association Reunion.

If arriving or departing outside above dates, members must make a separate reservation for those times.



Things of Interest

USS Cobia and Museum

History

USS Cobia (SS 245) was launched November 28, 1943, in Groton, CT. In June 1944, it began the first of six war patrols in which she sank thirteen Japanese vessels. By July 1944, Cobia had established itself in the annals of World War II sub history by attacking an enemy convoy bound for Japanese-held Iwo Jima. Cobia sank two vessels, including a troop transport carrying a Japanese tank battalion of twenty-eight tanks. U.S. Marines considered this sinking critical to their success in capturing Iwo six months later.

In 1970, Cobia was brought to Manitowoc to serve as an international memorial to submariners. In 1986, Cobia was incorporated as a part of the Manitowoc Maritime Museum, declared a National Historic Landmark, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a National Historic Landmark, Cobia has been restored to its original 1945 configuration. Visitors of all ages can enjoy a guided tour through the boat and see where the crew slept, ate, and prayed to make it out alive.

Restoration

USS Cobia is a major exhibit at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, requiring thousands of man-hours of maintenance and restoration. Cobia was dry docked in 1996 and went through an intensive interior restoration over the next few years. Staff and volunteers focused on returning the submarine to her 1945 look. In 1998, the Museum was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP). This grant helped underwrite interior restoration that included installation of WWII era flooring, bunks, metal trim, and crew lockers.

After many years of meticulous research, cleaning and repair, some of the submarine's systems have come on-line. Two specific volunteer-led projects was the installation of a DC power drive on board the submarine and the rebuilding of main engines #1 and #2. Other recent successes include the restoration of Cobia's SJ-1 radar, thought to be the oldest operational radar in the world, and the return of the WWII radio shack to operational status.

MUSEUM HOURS

Thursday & Monday
(Labor Day & Memorial Day , Closed Tue-Wed) 10AM - 4PM

Summer Hours

Open 7 Days A Week Memorial Day - Labor Day 9AM - 5PM

The museum is closed New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There are special holiday hours for the weeks of Christmas and New Years.

ADMISSION

Adults:	\$20
Youth (Ages 4-12):	\$13
Ages 3 & Under:	FREE
Seniors (Ages 65+):	\$17
Veterans:	\$17
Active Military	Free

Receive a \$5 discount for Museum-only admission!

Museums For All Program: \$8 (for guests with a valid EBT, BadgerCare, FoodShare/Quest, Medicaid, and/or WIC card.)

SUBMARINE TOURS

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is proud to be home to USS Cobia, a World War II submarine. USS Cobia is moored in the Manitowoc River next to the museum. Guests may tour the submarine during normal museum hours.

Guided tours are the primary way to experience the submarine. In the summer months, guided tours are available every day on a timed basis. Guided tours are normally 45 minutes long. Tour capacity is limited, so we strongly encourage purchasing your tickets ahead of time, as tours do sell out. You can purchase tickets online or by calling the museum. Masks are required on guided submarine tours.

During the winter season, self-guided audio tours are available on weekdays and on Sundays. On Saturdays, guided tours are available on a timed basis. Guests using the audio tour may download the mobile app on Android or borrow a tablet from the front desk. The audio tour may also be accessed online at any time here. Masks are recommended on audio tours.

We recommend allowing for two to three hours to fully explore the Museum and tour USS Cobia. The last entry to the submarine is one hour before the museum closes.

Accessibility note: USS Cobia is maintained largely in its historical arrangement. This means it is not accessible to people with limited mobility. To complete the tour, guests must cross a sloping walkway, descend two sets of stairs (26 total steps), pass through 7 watertight hatches measuring 38 x 20 inches (0.9 m x 0.5 m), and climb 22 steps. A video recording of a submarine tour is available at any time. Speak with front desk staff for video tour options.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Caregivers

Free admission is offered to caregivers accompanying an individual with disabilities.

Active Duty Military

Military personnel on active duty are free.

Blue (Gold) Star Program

Additional Things To Do

I suggest y'all request a copy of the area visitor's guide by clicking on the image on the right of this text. I am only going to summarize some of the area's things to do and see highlights here. I know our crew's variety of interests are broad and varied, so I can't possibly cover what everyone finds interesting and entertaining. Thumbing through the visitor's guide, I suddenly realized this reunion will have a lot more "other things" to do than I ever imagined.

For instance, there are no less than five golf courses to pick from, and I know they have to be at least as pretty as the one we had in Bainbridge, Md when I was in "A" school. If you are into the other kind of golf, there are an additional five "Disc" golf courses for your playing enjoyment.

For the fishermen among us, I found five area charter fishing guide services to pick from. The great lakes are known for their trout and landlocked salmon fisheries. Donna and I will most likely give one of them a try as we had a really great day trip on the Alaskan Cruise the crew took after the Silverdale reunion.

For those who are known to bend an elbow, there are a number of wineries and craft brewers that look appealing. I know someone will tell me how great they are, as I am well known for my strict abstinence.

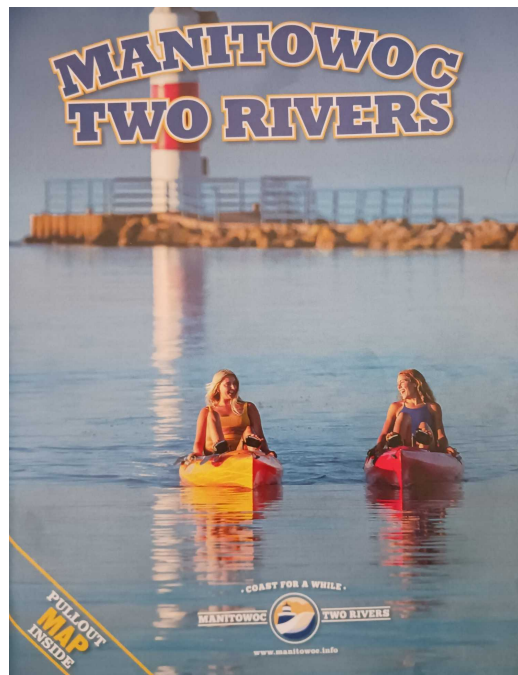
The area seems to have an abundance of camping and parks for those who plan to stay in the area before or after the reunion, and love the smell of a campfire and the buzz of mosquitoes. I'll have more detailed information in the pre reunion newsletter for our RV crowd's needs.

For the ladies, there is a broad range of shopping experiences to pick from. I know Donna and her chums will cause more than a little local economic activity.

For the intellectuals and history buffs, there is an interesting number of museums and galleries in the area, with subjects from cows to fine art to pick from.

And finally, if we don't feed you well enough at the reunion, there are pages of dining and drinking establishments to pick from.

For the stay before and after, guys and gals, B&B's and hotel/motels abound.



Bet You Didn't Know

Lake Michigan Triangle

Now for something a little different.

The Lake Michigan Triangle is a region in the northern part of Lake Michigan that has gained a reputation for unexplained disappearances and strange occurrences, similar to the Bermuda Triangle. It is sometimes referred to as the "Michigan Triangle" or the "Great Lakes Triangle." While not as well-known as the Bermuda Triangle, it has still captured the interest and intrigue of many people.

The boundaries of the Lake Michigan Triangle are not precisely defined, but it is generally considered to encompass a large area in Lake Michigan, roughly stretching from Manotwic Wisconsin, to Ludington, Michigan, to Benton Harbor, Michigan, in the northern part of the lake.

The Lake Michigan Triangle is associated with numerous accounts of disappearances of ships, aircraft, and even people. Many of these incidents involve vessels that have vanished without a trace or have been found in unusual circumstances. Some of the notable disappearances include:

The disappearance of the O.M. McFarland: In 1893, the schooner O.M. McFarland set sail from Chicago and was never seen again. Despite an extensive search, no wreckage or any sign of the ship or its crew was ever found.

The Northwest Airlines Flight 2501: In 1950, a DC-4 airliner carrying 58 people disappeared while flying over the Lake Michigan Triangle. The wreckage was never recovered, and the cause of the crash remains a mystery.

The Rose Bell: In 1971, a luxury yacht called the Rose Bell disappeared without a trace while sailing on Lake Michigan. No distress signals were received, and the vessel and its passengers were never found.

These incidents, along with other unexplained phenomena reported in the area, have fueled speculation about the presence of supernatural forces or unidentified phenomena within the Lake Michigan Triangle. Some theories attribute the disappearances to magnetic anomalies, underwater vortexes, or even extraterrestrial activity.

The Lake Michigan Triangle's reputation for mysterious events is largely based on anecdotal evidence and folklore. Skeptics argue that the reported disappearances can often be explained by natural causes, human error, or the harsh weather conditions that can occur on the lake.

Regardless of the true nature of these incidents, the Lake Michigan Triangle continues to capture the imagination of those intrigued by mysteries and the unknown. It serves as a reminder of the vast and unpredictable nature of our world's waterways and the mysteries that can still remain unsolved.