



Dear Shipmate:

Beginning on page 3 of this letter is all of the information for the

USS Chikaskia 37th Reunion

April 26 – 30, 2017

Radisson Hotel Branson

Branson, Missouri

Make your hotel reservation and register for reunion activities NOW

Deadline for hotel reservations and reunion registration is March 26, 2017.

*Visit our website at www.usschikaskiaao54.com for all the latest information
Information will also be available on the Chikaskia/Mispillion web page on the website
of our planner GatheringsPlus at www.reunionpro.com*

Dues: In order to keep your membership current and to continue receiving our newsletters, we encourage you to pay your annual dues. The dues year runs from April 1 – March 31. If you have not paid your dues for this year (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017) please complete and mail the dues coupon on this page to our Treasurer, Bob Wilson. We would like to thank the following shipmates who have paid their dues through this year and, in several cases, beyond: (note: dues are waived for all 1940s shipmates and spouses). The below list includes payments received and recorded on or before January 10, 2017:

Albert Avoian – 50’s	Louis A. Escher – 40’s	Jerry L. Maynard – 60’s	Alan E. Schein – 60’s
Frederick H. Bailey – 60’s	Al Gordon – 60’s	Harold Northrop – 60’s	Terry R. Shaw – 60’s
Lester Bangle – 50’s	Robert A. Grant – 60’s	Charles E. Peterman – 60’s	Frank Sheehan – 60’s
George A. Bauer – 60’s	George A. Gyure – 50’s	Edward J. Peznowski – 60’s	Hugh J. Shevlin – 60’s
Sam Bunch – 60’s	Donald D. Hays – 60’s	John L. Raiter – 60’s	G. Darrell Stephens – 60’s
Bud Carpenter – 60’s	Fred Holland – 60’s	William E. Rapp – 60’s	Felix H. Strozski – 50’s
Kenneth J. Cramer – 60’s	Lionell D. Johnson – 60’s	Bruce A. Raymond – 60’s	David E. Wantuck – 60’s
Paul W. Croeber – 60’s	Ron Kik – 60’s	William F. Ripple – 60’s	Robert C. Wilson – 60’s
Martin (Ed) Crowell – 60’s	Michael D. Lattery – 60’s	Lloyd H. Rowland – 40’s	Kirby L. Wright, Jr. – 60’s
Henry C. Daigle – 60’s	John D. Lavallee – 60’s	Gary Rowles – 60’s	

We sincerely appreciate dues payments and the additional contributions shipmates send in to help defray the costs of mailing our newsletters and the other expenses necessary to sustain our organization. We have received generous donations from several shipmates specifically designated for stocking the Hospitality Room. Because of that, we have not had to assess a Hospitality Room charge for attendees.

USS CHIKASKIA DUES \$20

If you have not yet paid your dues, please clip this notice and send with your payment. We send this notice with every mailing. Additional contributions are gratefully accepted. **NOTE: Dues are waived for all 1940s shipmates and spouses**

NAME _____ YEARS ABOARD _____ RATE/RANK _____
 (e.g. 1960-62)

ADDRESS _____
 Street City State ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please make your check payable to: USS CHIKASKIA AO-54 and mail to:
 Bob Wilson, 6533 Wood Thrush Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-4857

Ship’s Store

The following Chikaskia items are available at the reunion and by mail. If you wish to order, please mail your order with your check made payable to USS CHIKASKIA AO-54 to Bob Wilson. His contact information is at the top of page 1 below the masthead and at the bottom of the dues coupon above.

<u>Items</u>	<u>Prices</u>
Short sleeve polo shirts (XL, M, S)	\$10.00 (\$13.00 if mailed)
40’s & 60’s Photo Sets	\$5.00 (\$7.00 if mailed)
Blue Hats with ship’s name lettering only	\$10.00 (\$13.00 if mailed)
NEW! Blue Hats (photo at right) with silhouette of ship	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if mailed)



New blue hat



sweatshirt front



sweatshirt back

Sweatshirt Orders Only: Shipmate Harold “Bud” Northrop is taking orders on an individual basis for new blue sweatshirts with name and silhouette of the ship on the back, and the two ship’s patches on the front as seen in the above right photos: Sweatshirt cost is \$30 plus postage. Postage cost will be determined by your shipping destination.

FOR SWEATSHIRT ORDERS ONLY CONTACT:

BUD NORTHROP 331 S. LUBEC ROAD LUBEC, ME 04652 PHONE: 207-733-0053



Reunion Organization of the USS Chikaskia (AO-54) www.usschikaskiaao54.com January 2017

Executive Board

Bob Grant, Vice Chairman & Communications Coordinator 2252 Valley Oak St The Villages, FL 32162 352-753-7552 bobgrant1942@gmail.com	Bob Wilson Treasurer 6533 Wood Thrush Way Stone Mountain, GA 30087 770-469-3489 RWLW3489@bellsouth.net	Al Gordon Secretary & Editor 9235 Osceola Ave Morton Grove, IL 60053 847-965-7274 chikaskia@sbcglobal.net	Ron Kik Board Member 1126 Crescent NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503 616-451-8948 leonardkik4309@gmail.com	Richard Fiorentino Board Member P.O. Box 7973 Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-207-9142 rmf1999@yahoo.com
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Ahoy Shipmates: Our 37th Annual Reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri from April 26 – 30, 2017. The reunion will be held jointly with the USS Mispillion (AO-105) Shipmates Association. Anyone who’s ever been to Branson can tell you that the variety and sheer quantity of things to do here is astounding including shopping, dining and the Silver Dollar City theme park and a variety of other attractions. But nothing in Branson compares to the sensational selection of more than 100 live shows! Music has always been a way of life in the Branson area, but eventually visitors who came for the scenery, the water recreation, and Jim Owens’ famous float-fishing trips, started sticking around to listen to the wonderful music which entertains thousands every year in state-of-the-art theaters on Branson’s famous Strip – Highway 76.

Hotel Information

Our host hotel is the **Radisson Hotel Branson, 120 South Wildwood Drive, Branson, Missouri, 65616**. For hotel reservations call 417-335-5767 and mention you are with the **USS Mispillion and USS Chikaskia Reunion Group** to get the special rate of \$90.00 plus tax. This rate is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion, based on hotel availability, and includes a hot buffet breakfast during each of the reunion days. **The group block will be released on March 26, 2017 and reservations requested at the group rate after that date will be based on hotel availability.** Radisson Hotel Branson offers free parking and access to the best of Branson’s countryside and the most popular parts of the city. Located in the heart of the Theater District, close to an array of artistic entertainment, you’ll find plenty of shopping nearby and exciting attractions like the Silver Dollar City Theme Park, the Titanic Museum, Stone Hill Winery, Ripley’s Believe It Or Not Museum and others within one to seven miles of the hotel.

Transportation

The primary airport serving the Branson area is the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF), located in Springfield, Missouri, approximately 55 miles north of the hotel, with scheduled flights from American, United, Delta and Allegiant airlines providing service. Car rentals and shuttle service to Branson are available. Shuttle services the hotel recommends are Ryde With Us (phone 417-336-2525 or www.rydewithus.com) and Branson Coach/Tri-Lakes Shuttle (phone 417-339-4888). Branson Airport (BKG) is located about 12 miles from the hotel. No scheduled flight information is currently available. You can contact the Branson Airport for 2017 flight information by phone at 888-359-2541 or at www.flybranson.com. Car rentals and taxi and shuttle service from the Branson Airport to the hotel are available.

USS CHIKASKIA 2017 REUNION EVENTS

Wednesday April 26th

Captain L.J. Hasse Golf Tournament (depart hotel 9:00AM) - Golfers should plan to arrive and check-in on Tuesday April 25th. Call Bob Grant at 352-753-7552 or email at bobgrant1942@gmail.com for golf tournament information and registration. He is arranging for the tournament at one of the Branson area golf courses. Open to all shipmates, spouses and guests. **Pay greens fees upon arrival at the golf course.**

Other Early arrivers have the day to explore Branson and the surrounding area on their own. The Hospitality Room will be open at 3:00PM Wednesday April 26th or earlier if available, and all day Thursday April 27th through Noon Sunday April 30th.

Welcome Reception (6:00PM) – Be sure to register for the Welcome Reception which will kick-off Reunion proceedings in the Hospitality Room. Meet and greet, exchange sea stories, and catch up on the latest from everyone. We will have turkey, ham and cheese trays with rolls, plus meatballs, wings, little smokies, chips and salsa, veggie trays and dip, cake, coffee, tea, water, soft drinks, beer and wine. **\$18 per person.**

Thursday April 27th

Branson Area Tour and Top of the Rock (10:00AM – 2:00PM) – A sightseeing tour of the Branson area will culminate at Top of the Rock, located on a spectacular bluff overlooking Table Rock Lake and the surrounding Ozark Mountains. We will explore the Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave & Nature Trail in 2 or 4-person golf carts (each group choosing a designated driver) for an exhilarating 2.5 mile nature trail journey overlooking Table Rock Lake, passing through covered bridges, and viewing dramatic natural rock formations and waterfalls. You begin by driving into the jaw-dropping, four-story, Lost Canyon Cave. Stop along the way for a specialty drink like the signature John L's Lemonade (except for the designated driver, of course) at the Cave Bar tucked among the cascading waterfalls, and enjoy the rest of your journey through the nature park and cave. **\$47.00 per person**

Dinner at Charlie's and "it" Show (6:00PM – 10:30PM) – Enjoy dinner at Charlie's Steak, Ribs & Ale, a local favorite on the Branson Strip, followed by the "it" show at the Hughes Brothers Celebrity Theater starring the five Hughes Brothers and their families. SEE "it" - where over 50 amazing singer, dancers, and musicians combine their astonishing scope of talents to create "Branson's Ultimate Entertainment Experience." HEAR "it" - everything from Broadway to country to comedy to patriotic to gospel to rock-n-roll. FEEL "it" - the energy & emotion of over-the-top production numbers. **\$55.00 per person**

Friday April 28th

Showboat Branson Belle (11:30PM – 3:00PM) – Experience the tranquil environment and the exquisite scenery of Table Rock Lake on a two-hour cruise aboard a historical paddle wheel boat. Enjoy a three-course gourmet meal and a spectacular show in the 700-seat dining theater - a stellar salute to the Stars and Stripes with The ShowBelles quartet, pianist Julie McClary, fiddler Dean Church, The Castaways Band, and hosted by magician and comedian Aaron Radatz. **\$69.00 per person**

Grand Country Buffet Dinner and Grand Jubilee (5:30PM - 10:00PM) - Following a buffet dinner at the Grand Country Inn, you'll adjourn to the Grand Country Music Hall for the Grand Jubilee, featuring performances of the New South Quartet as they showcase their talents with hot country hits, gospel music, oldies, and more. Other performers include the power vocals of Jackie Brown and Todd Bradshaw, and the comedy team of Jamie Haage as 'Jim Dandy,' and emcee Mike Patrick. **\$55.00 per person**

Saturday April 29th

Reunion Organization Business Meeting (10:00AM): In the Hospitality Room.

#1 Hits of the 50s & 60s (1:30PM – 4:30PM) - This fun and exciting show takes you through the 60's with hits from the British Invasion, Motown, California Surfin', the Age of Aquarius and more. The cast reminisces with audience members as they sing and dance to tracks from The Beatles, Beach Boys, The Temptations, and others. Dancers bring back the grooves of classic crazes like The Pony, Mashed Potato, and The Batman. The show takes you back in time with over 100 costume changes, groovy songs, dance numbers, and video segments highlighting historic moments of the 60's with an included tribute to our veterans. Test your knowledge in the trivia segment, and enjoy the upbeat, uplifting, and one of a kind fun for all ages. **\$35.00 per person**

Reunion Banquet Dinner at hotel – Festivities will start at **6:00 PM** with the traditional Early Times Toast in the Hospitality Room and group photo opportunities followed by the Reunion Banquet Dinner at approximately **7:00 PM**. Entrée choices are listed on the Registration Form. **\$45.00 per person**







Sunday April 30th

Fair winds and following seas until we meet again in 2018.

Important Reunion Notes

- Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and, in some instances, to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.
- Be sure to bring photo identification (driver's license, state ID card, etc.) with you at all events.
- All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary will be available at the reunion.
- Shows listed in the itinerary are based on currently available date and time information. If the listed show schedule changes before the reunion dates, a different show will be substituted for that time slot.
- **Registration Deadline is March 26, 2017.** Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis.
- **Refunds: No refunds will be made after April 19, 2017.**

**USS Mispillion AO105 and USS Chikaskia AO54
Branson, Missouri Reunion
April 26-30, 2017**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p align="center">Check in at the RADISSON HOTEL BRANSON \$90.00 per room per night plus tax including breakfast</p> <p align="center">8:00 a.m. CAPTAIN L.J. HASSE GOLF TOURNAMENT</p> <p>Golfers should plan to arrive and check-in on Tuesday April 25. Call Bob Grant at 352-753-7552 or email at bobgrant1942@gmail.com for golf tournament information. Greens fees paid upon arrival at the golf course. Open to all shipmates, spouses and guests</p> <p align="center">3:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open & Reunion Registration Desk Open</p>  <p align="center">6:00 p.m. WELCOME RECEPTION \$18.00 per person</p>	<p align="center">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p>  <p align="center">10:00 a.m. AREA TOUR and TOP OF THE ROCK!! Take a cave tour in a golf cart! \$47.00 per person</p> <p align="center">6:00 p.m. DINNER at Charlie's Followed by</p>  <p align="center">IT SHOW at Hughes Celebrity Theatre \$55.00 per person</p>	<p align="center">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p>  <p align="center">12:00 Noon THE SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE Lunch, Cruise and Show \$69.00 per person</p> <p align="center">5:30 p.m. BUFFET DINNER at Grand Country and</p>  <p align="center">THE GRAND JUBILEE! \$55.00 per person</p>	<p align="center">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p align="center">10:00 a.m. BUSINESS MEETING</p>  <p align="center">2:00 p.m. #1 HITS OF THE 60's & 50's \$35.00 per person</p> <p align="center">6:00 p.m. GROUP PHOTO</p>  <p align="center">6:30 p.m. EARLY TIMES TOAST & SOCIAL HOUR Followed by BANQUET DINNER \$45.00 per person</p>	<p align="center">Hot Buffet Breakfast</p> <p align="center">Depart</p> <hr/> <p align="center">All pricing includes tax, gratuity and shuttle service</p> 

**USS Mispillion AO105 and USS Chikaskia AO54
Branson, Missouri Reunion
April 26-30, 2017**

NAME (for name badge) _____
 SPOUSE/GUEST _____
 GUEST _____ GUEST _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

**HOST HOTEL: RADISSON HOTEL
FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS CALL: 417-335-5767**

Be sure and mention you are with the USS MISPELLION and USS CHIKASKIA reunion group to get the special rate of \$90.00 plus tax. That rate is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion, based on hotel availability. Group block will be released on March 26, 2017.

Call Bob Grant at 352-753-7552 or email at bobgrant1942@gmail.com for golf tournament information.

REUNION ACTIVITIES:

Golf Tournament (Pay at Course)

Welcome Reception _____ # of attendees x \$18.00 pp = \$ _____
 Area Tour & Top of the Rock _____ # of attendees x \$47.00 pp = \$ _____
 Charlie's Dinner and IT Show _____ # of attendees x \$55.00 pp = \$ _____
 Showboat Branson Belle _____ # of attendees x \$69.00 pp = \$ _____
 Dinner and Grand Jubilee _____ # of attendees x \$55.00 pp = \$ _____
 #1 Hits of the 60's _____ # of attendees x \$35.00 pp = \$ _____
 Banquet _____ # of attendees x \$45.00 pp = \$ _____
 Banquet Meal Choice _____ Chicken _____ Beef _____ Fish _____
 _____ Vegetarian

Registration Fee (REQUIRED) _____ # of attendees x \$10.00 pp = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

A 50% deposit is requested by February 26 with final payment by March 26. No refunds will be given after April 19, 2017.

Any dietary restrictions? _____
 Confined to a wheelchair? _____

Mail Registration Form and Check Payable to:
GATHERINGS PLUS
 3000 Green Mountain Drive, Ste. 107-204, Branson, Missouri 65616
 417-338-4048 Reunion Website: www.ReunionPro.com