



USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN627) ASSOCIATION

*A 501c Veterans Organization
Winter 2022-2023*

Happy Holidays!

We hope to see you at the reunion!

Dear Shipmates and Friends,

2023 USS James Madison Reunion Galveston, TX:

Hopefully you have made your travel plans and reservations for the reunion scheduled for March 20 – 23, 2023. If not, it will be at The Clarion Pointe Hotel. Please see Hotel web site and Hotel manager information below for details. Registration form is attached.

Board positions:

Treasurer needed. Time to relieve the watch. Our association treasurer, Don Hix, after multiple years of service, has requested a watch relief. It's time for someone else to step up. Duties include accounting for moneys from our membership dues and reunion fees, disbursement of funds to vendors, donations, etc. and dealing with the bank (currently Wells Fargo). In addition to the transactional nature of the treasurer's position, the treasurer is a key influencer/decision maker in the governance of our association. If you would be willing to consider the position, feel free to contact any current board member before the reunion business meeting to ask questions or discuss duties.

JD Walton, our ship's historian is also seeking replacement for that position.

All officer positions will be elected at the meeting.

Contact information:

We keep a database of shipmates for our mailings and need to ask that if you have moved please send Sam Walton secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com your new information so that we can update our spreadsheet and keep you informed. We sometimes share information by email so it is appreciated if you keep us advised when you change your e-mail also.

Missing shipmates:

An on-going issue for us is to locate and reach our shipmates. Any help in identifying and locating

remaining shipmates is appreciated. There is a list of shipmates on the website showing some of the missing, but we still know that there are still some that have not been identified.

Membership Dues: The Membership Form is attached. If you've already paid up through 2023, you can disregard. The date can be found on your current membership card. Dues are \$10 per year, even if you miss a year. Dues can also be paid in person at the reunion. The dues help to support the association and the Reunions. If you're unsure about your status, please contact Sam Walton at:

secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Historian: JD Walton is our ship's historian and continues to collect sea stories and memorabilia that have been saved. If you have things to share with him, please contact him at w1140@msn.com. These memories are available to share at our reunions. Also note that JD is looking for relief so that he may pass this important role to someone else.

USSVI: United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated is a nationwide organization of Submarine Veterans. Visit their website at www.ussvi.org and "Find A Base" or "Join Us" for more information.

Current Board of Directors:

President: Keith Holman,

keith.holman@verizon.net

Vice President: Aaron "Bubba" Gehm,

juluvsusc@aol.com

Treasurer: Don Hix,

vcahix@hotmail.com

Secretary: Sam Walton,

secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Volunteers of Merit:

Historian: JD Walton

Webmaster: Keith Holman

Memorials: Charline Huwe

ANNUAL MADISON ASSOCIATION DUES

Name _____

Wife's Name (for Assoc. Membership and/for our records) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Yrs. on Board 19 ____ to 19 ____ Crew _____ Rate/Dept. _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Yr./Yrs./ Pd. For _____

Dues are \$10 per year. (If not sure, contact Secretary, at secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com, who maintains a current list.) Associate Members (Wives) are \$10 per yr. (We are limited by the IRS to 25% of our membership for Assoc. Members; therefore, it is first come, first serve.) If you wish to pay in advance, add \$10 for each year and note above. Make check payable to: USS JAMES MADISON ASSOCIATION, INC. Mail to: Don Hix, Treasurer: 4911 Albert Lane, Rapid City, SD 57703. PLEASE REMEMBER, by being a paid member of the Association, you are helping to finance the continuation of the USS James Madison SSBN627 Association and the reunions it sponsors.

Welcome to Galveston!

March 20-23, 2023

USS James Madison Reunion

Clarion Pointe at 2300 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX, 77550-7940, Phone (409) 356-9853

Our reunion room rate is \$105 per night during the main event days. Other James Madison Rates; Sunday through Thursday is \$105 per night, Friday's rate \$217.35 Saturday \$274.85. **Reservations must be made by Feb. 6, 2023.**

Please use <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/KJ36Q6> if you plan to book for the event days of March 20th – 23rd and scroll down to select your room option.

If you will be enjoying Galveston for additional days, we ask that you to call the Hotel directly and ask for Brooke, (Mon-Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm Central time) She will book your dates manually. She can be reached at her cell - 409-795-4774. You can leave a voicemail, just mention that you are with the **USS James Madison group** and she will call you back. **Escalations for any issues for the event** can be directed to your private Concierge and shipmate – David Morton - 262-349-0116 or Dmorto3@gmail.com

Room rates cannot be guaranteed for rooms after February 6, 2023.

Please register for the reunion and make payment no later than February 6, 2023.

<p>Monday- registration/check in- hospitality room will have pizza, sub sandwiches or similar.</p>	<p>Tuesday Visit to Moody Gardens Rainforest and Aquarium. Group rate is \$50 per person for the Rainforest, Buffet Lunch and Aquarium. Please indicate and pay with reunion registration. 10:30 Rainforest, 11:30 Buffet followed by Aquarium.</p>
<p>Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday Duck boat tours. Unstructured day. Galveston offers many options for entertainment. You can schedule your own day with a smaller group of shipmates to meet your own interests. Visit the Pleasure Pier, a Tall Ship, the Oil Rig Display, a Railroad Museum, Moody Pyramids. Rent a Model T-styled Golf cart for up to 8 or pedal bikes. A sample list of options is included elsewhere in this newsletter. (Duckboat tours are \$30 per person)</p>	<p>Thursday 1st Bus departs beginning at 9:30 am to Seawolf Park. 10:30 am 2nd bus departs hotel. 11:30 Tolling of the Boats Memorial Service Bus back to the hotel around noon. (Bus with handicap access provided as a gift by plank owner H.L. CARES, MD) Lunch on your own. 2:00 pm - Business meeting/election in hospitality room After meeting/election, Clear hospitality room for banquet setup 6 pm cash bar before banquet 7 pm banquet.</p>

Registration fee is \$40 per Madison sailor/family. Thursday evening banquet is \$40 per person and will include Italian style meaty lasagna, Sicilian chicken, green beans, bread, salad. Each morning, a continental-style breakfast selection will be available for hotel guests. The Banquet room will be open each morning from 7:00-10:00. and each evening until 11:00. The hotel bar will also be open and you can bring drinks in from there but local liquor laws will prevent the association from providing beer and wine in the banquet room as we have sometimes done in the past. Banquet room will have: snacks, water, and soft drinks daily.

Name of crew member attending _____
 Which years were you onboard 627? _____
 Rank & Rate _____ Gold / Blue Crew or both _____
 Address & Phone # _____

Guest names _____
 Email: _____

Please indicate staying at Clarion Pointe _____ or other (RV, Friends or other hotel)

	Price	Number	Total
Registration fee (per Madison sailor/family)	\$40 each		
Moody Gardens Aquarium	\$50 each		
Banquet Thursday	\$40 each		
Annual membership dues (primary for the sailor)	\$10		
Total enclosed			

Please submit check by February 6, 2023 If you have questions- email to reunion2023@ssbn627.com

Make check out to James Madison Reunion Assoc.

Mail to Don Hix, Treasurer, 4911 Albert Ln Rapid City, SD 57703

Suggestions for free time and/or before and after the reunion:

For those interested you can even rent electric golf carts styled as 1908 Ford model t's; 8 seaters and 5 seaters available. Carriage Haus Rentals, 2007 Strand, Galveston, TX 77550, 409-572-9797 www.carriagehausrentals.com for more info

You can also get around Galveston on the trolley system. <https://www.galvestontrolley.com/>

You can request a Galveston Visitor Guide. <https://www.visitgalveston.com/plan-your-trip/visitor-guide-request/>

Here is a list in no specific order.

1. The Pleasure Pier directly across from the hotel <https://www.pleasurepier.com/>
 - a. Rides and amusements
 - b. Dining
 - c. Shops
 - d. 5d theatre
2. The tall ship Elissa and associated museum. <https://www.galvestonhistory.org/sites/1877-tall-ship-elissa-at-the-galveston-historic-seaport>
3. Moody Gardens pyramid <https://www.moodygardens.com/>
 - a. Rainforest Pyramid
 - b. Aquarium
 - c. IMAX theatre
 - d. Lazy river and wave pool depending on weather conditions.
 - e. Colonel paddle wheel boat
4. Walking along the seawall or renting bicycles or 4 wheel covered surreys <https://www.saltwatergiftshop.com/>
5. <https://www.galveston.com/rosenberg-treasure-galvestons-world-war-i-memorial/> (this will also be a stop on our bus tour).
6. Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum: <https://www.energyeducation.org/museum>
7. Galveston Rail Road Museum. <https://galvestonrrmuseum.org/>
8. Ride the ferry from Galveston Island to Bolivar and back. Depends on weather conditions and season.
9. Pirate Museum: <https://www.galveston.com/whattodo/arts/museums/pirates/>

Further away by car:

1. Kemah Boardwalk
2. NASA
3. Challenger Seven Memorial Park <https://www.hcp1.net/Parks/ChallengerSevenMemorial>

The closest airport to Galveston is [Hobby Airport in Houston](#) .

The area is also served by [George Bush Intercontinental airport](#)

The hotel does not provide transportation to the airports, there are several shuttle companies that one can use if flying in.

Two shuttle companies serve the airports and Galveston.

Galveston Limosine is one of many companies in Galveston that provides affordable one-way or round-trip shuttle service between Houston and Galveston Island.
<https://galvestonlimo.com/airport-shuttle/>
Round-trip from Hobby: \$50 if booked online.
Round-trip from Bush: \$60 if booked online.
Also note Senior and Military discounts. Phone number: 409-762-4397. Email: info@galvestonlimo.com

There are multiple RV parks nearby as well.

[List of local RV parks:](https://rvshare.com/blog/top-10-campgrounds/galveston-texas) <https://rvshare.com/blog/top-10-campgrounds/galveston-texas>